

COURSE DETAILS – LONG WEEKEND LW0168

TITLE: MAKING AUTOMATA AND MOVING TOYS

TUTOR: IAN MCKAY

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

AIMS OF COURSE:

This course aims to introduce you to basic types of mechanical movement, coupled to aspects of good design, both mechanical and visual, to make interesting moving toys.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE:

You make at least two pieces of work. One to practise some basic techniques; the second, a unique piece designed and made by the student.

MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES COVERED:

The principal material used is wood; also metal, especially wire, sheet and tube. Other natural materials and found objects can also be incorporated.

Techniques include manipulating and joining different materials, metal/wire bending and fastening, simple wood forming – using a fretsaw and carving knives. Other demonstrations of other specific techniques are given or requested according to the needs of participants projects. Simple designing skills are also discussed.

TEACHING METHOD:

Everyone starts by making a version of a simple mechanical toy. Subsequently you are encouraged to design and make your own, individual pieces. Techniques and mechanisms can be demonstrated. Some students may like to try mechanisms rather than a finished piece. Others may bring in work in progress for discussion, if they have any.

EVENING SESSIONS:

First evening session – attendance is an essential part of the course:

This offers a chance for everyone to examine and play with a large collection of toys and to discuss aspects of good design with a view to thinking about their own toys.

Other optional evening activities:

You may work on agreed aspects of your piece during the evenings, the tutor is then in the workshops for at least some of the time in the evenings.

GENERAL TIMETABLE:

Day 1: am Make a working mechanical toy in time for lunch.
 pm Planning and making of student's own pieces in discussion with the tutor.
 Day 2: all day Work on own pieces.
 Day 3: am Work on own pieces.
 pm Discussion/play with finished pieces.

STUDENT PREPARATION FOR COURSE IF ANY:

Bring images, found objects or works in progress. You must not worry about how your toys will work – that's what the course is about!

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ON PRACTICAL COURSES YOU MAY WELL NEED TO PURCHASE MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE TO COMPLETE PROJECTS.

Included in the non-residential fee for this course: general materials used by the group as a whole.

Carving knives, other tools may be borrowed from the tutor. Materials and timber will be available for purchase.

Please bring the following materials:

- Pliers, thin-nosed ones are especially useful
- Any favourite hand tools you have (marked with your name)
- Images, found objects or materials you may wish to incorporate

COURSE TIMETABLE (unless otherwise stated above or agreed with the tutor during the course)

Course timetable for 2–9 day courses – each course starts with a welcome session on the first evening of the start date of the course and is followed by 2–9 days depending on the length of the course.

Arrival Day	From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students. Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner.
	7.00	Dinner.
	8.15–9.15	First teaching session.
Daily Timetable	9.15am	Morning classes.
	10.30	Coffee.
	12.45pm	Lunch.
	2.00pm	Afternoon classes.
	3.30	Tea.
	5.00	Classes finish.
	7.00	Dinner.
	8.15	Evening working – students may have evening access to certain workshops in the absence of their tutor, but only with their tutor's permission and provided it is safe to do so.
Departure – last day	10.00am	Residential students are asked to vacate rooms.
	3.00pm	Classes finish.
	3.30	Tea then departure.