Wildcat Stick

Information and Technique

Information

Also known as: Whimmy diddle (Appalachian toy), Hoodoo stick (Cherokee Indian toy), Voodoo stick, Whammy doodle, Hooey stick, or Ouija windmill. This toy has ties all the way back as far as ancient China.

One stick is notched and has a propeller attached to the end. The other stick is rubbed over the notches, causing the propeller to spin left (gee or counterclockwise) or right (haw or clockwise). Gee and haw commands are the ones used to guide the horses while plowing farm ground. These commands are proclaimed to be the secret to guiding the rotation direction of the propeller. The real secret is to rub your thumb or index finger on the side of the notched stick while you rub the other stick back and forth over the notches.

Technique

Rubbing your thumb on the right side of the notched stick causes the propeller to spin counterclockwise.
Rubbing your index finger on the left side of the notched stick causes the propeller to spin clockwise.