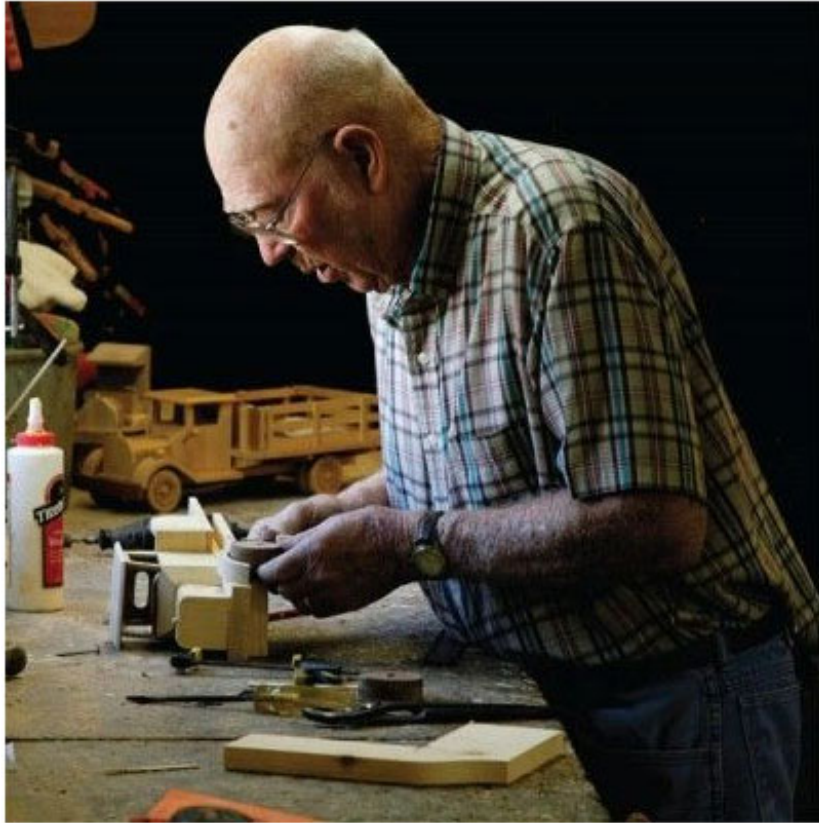


Toy Makers Have All the Fun

Summary: *Being a toy maker may seem like a difficult job because kids' attention spans are so short, but if you have the right stuff, you will get to have fun designing and testing toys all day.*



Working the typical nine to five job isn't a good fit for a lot of us. We want freedom and we want fun. We like to let our creative juices flow and play around with our work. Toy makers get all of these perks.

The technical name for this job is often a commercial or **industrial designer**, but being able to tell your friends and family you are a toy maker is more fun. You have to understand kids and be able to design products that they like.

The best toy makers have the artistic skills needed to create concepts, management skills to coordinate production, and presentation skills to pitch and market their idea to manufacturers and investors. Mathematics and engineering are often important strengths to have. Jobs with major companies as a commercial or industrial designer require a four-year degree, but not all. You will likely need some on-the-job training for a few years if you don't have a college degree.

Working as a freelancer will give you the freedom your own hours and design a variety of things,



but you will need sales and marketing skills to get manufacturers to buy the design. The big downside is if no company likes your design, then you don't make money or get reimbursed for the initial costs.

The job is not a big paying one. The national average for toy makers falls just under \$40,000. For some, this is not a big deal, because being able to play with toys all day is more important.

Photo: saturdayeveningpost.com