

Bluenose Bill

Whirligig Construction Instructions

Welcome to the small world of Whirligig building. You may not be surprised to learn that you will be one of the elite few who have chosen this arcane field of endeavour. It's beginnings are cloaked in the mists of history and may go back to the times of ancient China, Egypt and certainly the old guy - my grandfather - bought a spinning, winged duck from back in the 1940s. **Bluenose Bill** is a direct descendant of the former (the duck) and is built on exactly the same principles, ie. the wind blows and things move.

Here are any number of variations on this theme and generally they are all quite simple. Bill is certainly one of those. He was conceived and born in Nova Scotia, (in far off Canada, if you're from elsewhere) and is built of pine grown on those same rocky shores. (The screws come from Taiwan, hence a possible link to China.) By the way, if you're from away, a Bluenoser is the nickname attached to all Nova Scotians, apparently because of the effect that the very cold weather has on those portions of the human body exposed in winter's cold, while these extremely tough people fished the wild waters of the Grand Banks in dories (a small-oared boat also made of pine). Hence, the oversized nose on the gig, but not necessarily a hallmark of all Nova Scotians.

Bill is cut out in profile, clad in complete wet weather gear that includes a Sou'wester hat (with Cape Anns battened down) tied beneath his chin and a pair of rubber boots. He is standing on a box-shaped object that was intended to be a lobster pot, but may be completed as whatever your imagination can come up with. (It's very hard to paint netting.) A plinth block supports Bill on his pot. The arms are cut so that one turns clockwise and the other counter-clockwise. One will be marked with a small penciled 'R'. This arm is to be placed on his right side as he stands in profile looking to your right. If you get them on backwards, it doesn't make a great deal of difference, his arms will go around anyway. Bill should best be placed where the wind has access to him and not sheltered in the lee of buildings. The winds blow free in his homeland, so should he.



www.WhirligigFestival.com

Box 677 , Shelburne , NS Canada B0T 1W0

Tel: 902-875-3205 Fax: 902-875-2585 Email: oscarj@eastlink.ca

THE BUILD

Step #1: After checking to make sure all the items listed below are in the bag, mark the centre of the box Bill is standing on and hammer in the small tack. This becomes the pivot point that he rotates on and is a very important part of the process.

Step #2: The plinth block is glued to the bottom of the box with the center hole directly aligned with the tack head. (When the block is in place, insert the metal rod in the bottom of the plinth and tap to hear if you have the tack in line.) If not, it may cause the rod to jam if you put the pointed end up.

Step #3: Decide how you are going to paint Bill. Two coats of loud paint of your choice and a couple of coats of varnish are recommended. As mentioned, he is in wet weather gear and his collar and hat can be painted either turned up or down. This allows you to show as much or as little of his face as you wish.

Step #4: Now, the arms can be attached. Find the arm with the small "R", insert the screw through the metal collar in the centre (with the "R" on the inside), then the washer on the screw. With a #2 Robertson screwdriver (not included), screw the assembly into the hole in the right side dowel, making sure that it goes in straight. Tighten until it stops, then reverse slowly until the arm spin freely. Repeat on the left arm.

SAFETY NOTE - Caution must be used concerning the metal rod that Bill pivots on.

When the gig is taken down for winter or other extreme weather, the rod should also be removed if it is in a position where it could be a danger to passers by or where children have access to it. Make the hole just big enough to fit the rod snugly and leave about half an inch of space between the mounting base and the plinth block.

The gig is made up of ten separate pieces - 11 if you count the dowel that is already attached at his shoulders. The parts are listed as follows:

- body
- two arms
- plinth block
- metal rod
- one tack
- two washers
- two screws



Download copy of color instructions with painting suggestions at:
www.WhirligigFestival.com/bluenosebill.pdf