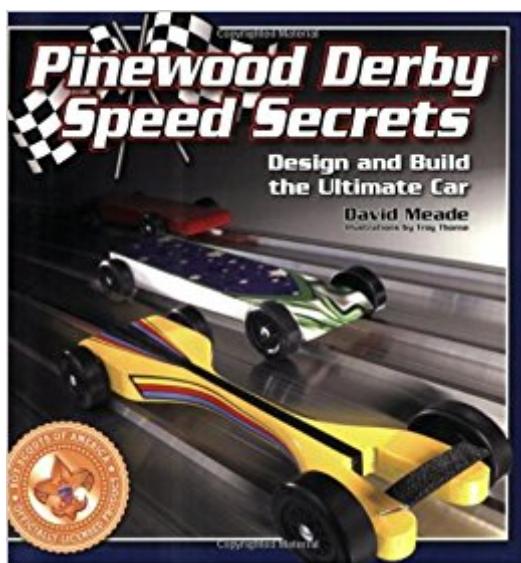


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# Pinewood Derby Speed Secrets: Design And Build The Ultimate Car



## **Synopsis**

For new competitors or seasoned racers, this informative, step-by-step guide reveals all the secrets to building a championship car. This officially licensed product of Boy Scouts of America, and written by a research scientist and father of two undefeated Derby Champs, this valuable and education manual features full-color, easy-to-follow instructions and is perfect for parents and kids alike. "I've seen a lot of first-time participants since founding the Pinewood Derby in 1953. If you want to compete successfully your first time out, or improve on last year's finish, this book is for you." -Don Murphy, founder of the Pinewood Derby and author of *Pinewood, The Story of the Pinewood Derby*

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 120 pages

Publisher: DK publishing (November 20, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0756627338

ISBN-13: 978-0756627331

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #200,867 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Crafts & Hobbies > Woodworking #13 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Toys & Models > Wood Toys #61 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Wood Crafts & Carving

Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

David Meade has been involved in the Pinewood Derby for over 20 years, and David's own sons have earned 13 first-place finishes over the past seven years. In addition, he runs Derby Champ, an online Pinewood Derby supply company. When not designing the ultimate Pinewood Derby car, he works as a research scientist.

Last year, prior to owning this book, I built a derby car for my son using free tips I picked up on the net. Let's just say our car was less than competitive, loosing all three heats we raced. My son was pretty disappointed. This year we were determined to do better and we started with purchasing this

book. After reading through it, we purchased some additional supplies recommended and set out to make a better car. What a difference good advice and guidance can make. My son won 2nd place in his den and 3rd place overall in his pack of 65 scouts. That earned us a trip to the local mall for the county race. We didn't win, but did place 19th out of 63 cars. My son was just thrilled to make it there. The preceding certainly speaks for the quality of the content, as far as the quality of the writing and layout, the book is exceedingly easy to read and follow. The major sections are broken down into three categories of difficulty and makes great use of illustrations. It also gives nice explanations as to why you are performing each step. My son and I really enjoyed using it to make a better car. Pick a copy up before your next derby race, you will not be disappointed. Update: The next year using the same process learned from this book turned in a 1st finish in the den and 2nd finish in the pack. Awesome.

Our scout and my husband are not real handy folk so we felt we needed a little hand holding when they built the car together for his first derby last month. We had never done the derby or built a car, and we have very few tools. This book was fantastic and they referred to it many times while building. It really spells it all out for you from the basics to all the little tips you can use to make your car faster. You can take what you want from the book and make a basic no frills car that will do well up to a derby winning car. The most important thing that this book does is encourages you to do this with your Scout, not FOR your Scout. It's all stuff that anyone can do if you have a saw and a drill. This book covers the shape of the car, has patterns and measurements for that. It covers how to prep the wheels (small things you can do to make them faster). It also covers how to prep the nails (axels) in order to maximize speed. We didn't do everything it suggested but we did take many of the tips. Our Scout WON the derby out of 52 cars! We were shocked. If only they knew how un-handy we are! We totally credit this book and the determination of our son (and Dad's help too!!).

I'm not a handyman or good with tools by any stretch, and this was my first pinewood derby. I had no clue what to do or what I needed. This book gives you three different levels of construction depending on how much you want to or can do, and the pictures and well-written text make it pretty easy to follow. I went with the mid-level type designs and won our pack race. More than that, we set a new track record, and I really owe it all to this book. The guy running the race said with the speeds he clocked we have a good chance at winning the district. I didn't do anything special except follow the directions in the book to the best of my very limited ability, so there it is. Next year I might use some of the more advanced tips now that I've got some experience under my belt, so the book will

be helpful next year too. If you've had sub-par results or if this is your first derby I can't recommend this book more highly. Could easily be named "Pinewood Derby Cars for Dummies." Heck, if I can do it...

Booklets by the Boy Scouts of America are usually pretty predictable. This booklet tells the reader ideas for success, how to design parts of the car, and models that are fantastic! I think that it was about \$10. I remember working on a pinewood derby car back when I was a cub scout, with my dad. We didn't have the benefit of such a book, so, my car looked very primitive and it won one in 20 races! With this booklet and a son much smarter than me, maybe we'll put together a winning car. Either way, it's great for bonding between son and dad. I give everything that I review a grade. As this provides outstanding information, worksheets, photos of some really awesome cars, I give it a solid "A". I recommend this for purchase by dad - son teams, pack / troop libraries, and perhaps children's libraries or school libraries.

My son and I have been using this book to build our cars over the past 2 weeks. It's a GREAT book! My 7 1/2-year-old likes it and he got lots of great ideas for his car design from it (and the \*extensive\* pictures!). I really appreciated the easy-to-follow step by step approach of the book. The layout of the book is perfect and approachable for any level of experience. Because of all the pictures and how well it's written, the book will be equally suited for the coffee table or the work-bench! Thank you for the very helpful informative book! I'll update my review after the race (next Saturday!) Update: My son won \*every\* race in his class! In the "overall" races, he only lost one race to a much older kid, and only lost by a inch! We had a blast!

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