

# Milk carton boat

A kid's sailboat is one of the oldest of the traditional toys. It can be anything from a three-masted schooner model to a wooden shingle with a handkerchief sail. Without much difficulty, a kid and a boat somehow always find a pond, puddle, or park fountain. And two kids with boats will always devise races or imaginative ways of transporting goods from one shore across to the other.

The MILK CARTON SAILBOAT design is clearly as simple and elegant as it is seaworthy. The two halves of the milk carton act as large pontoons to keep the boat upright and sailing straight—they also make good compartments for carrying cargo. Milk cartons are made of plastic-coated paper which is waterproof, but most paper plates are not. If you accidentally get the sail soaking wet, you had better have a spare handy. Unless you intend to sail in a puddle or small pond, it's a good idea to tie a length of sewing thread to the end of the boat so you can pull it back.

## MATERIALS

milk carton  
paper plate

## TOOLS

penknife

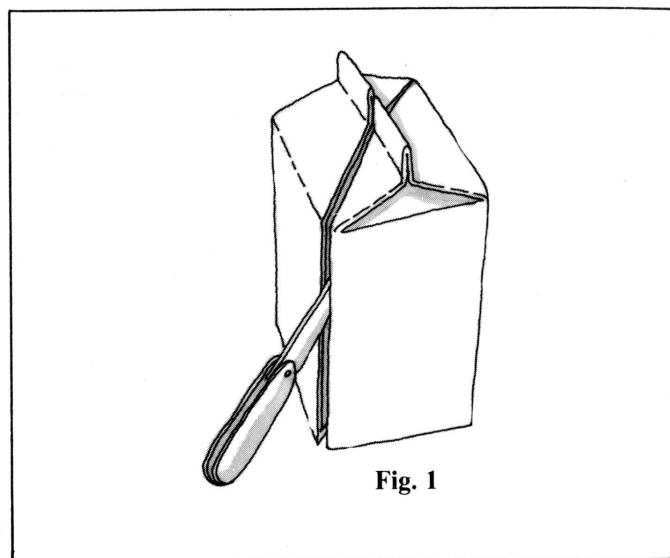


Fig. 1

## CONSTRUCTION

Save a paper milk carton—either the quart or half-gallon size will do. Rinse it out thoroughly. Using a penknife, cut down one long edge of the milk carton, and diagonally across the top and bottom, Fig. 1. Hinge open the carton, Fig. 2. Continue to fold the carton back on itself and make a knife cut about one third of the way back

from the front of the boat to accommodate the paper plate sail, Fig. 2. The slot should go half-way down through the two thicknesses of the carton, and be angled slightly to match the angle of the paper plate edge.

Fold open the two boat halves and fit the paper

plate into the slot to form the sail. Many boats have sails with colorful decorations. That's easy enough. Just crayon, paint, or use color markers to create a sail design. Now take to the water and wind.

Fig. 2

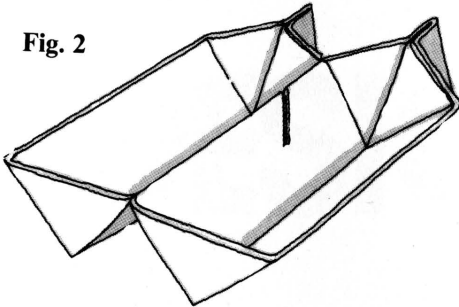


Fig. 3

