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\* The famous Rainster-proofing is the secret of the praise everywhere for Rainster by the men and women of the Forces.

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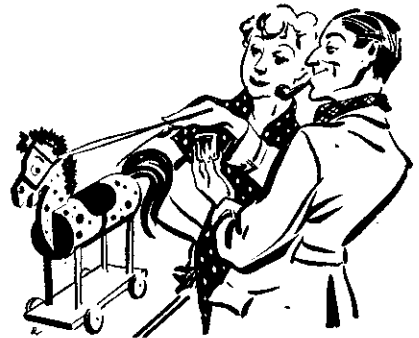
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## MAKE YOUR OWN TOYS

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pull away at the seams nor stretch out of shape. Skins are good, but I'd suggest making the toy in cloth first before cutting a furry skin, as it would be simpler to learn on cloth than in the skin. Note that the fur or the nap in a cloth-with-pile must run in the right direction, and lie from head to tail and from the top of the legs towards the feet.

You will need also material for stuffing, which can be "wood wool," coarse dry sawdust, rags, flock, or scoured wool. These firmer toys stuffed with scoured sheep's wool are rather heavy, as so much packs in. However, it is ideal for the lightly-stuffed cuddly toy I spoke of a few moments ago. I think a fine wood wool is one of the best things to use for stuffing the firmer



toys if it can be procured. Also needed are some lengths of fine fencing-wire. The wrapping wire from around fruit cases can be used if it is twisted to form a double strand. This is needed to stiffen the animal's legs and neck and backbone. A piece of fine cardboard is needed to cut ovals for the soles of the feet, and you will need strong thread, sharp needles and scissors, a pair of pliers or tinsnips for cutting the wire, and if possible, a long double-pointed upholsterer's needle.

After cutting out the toy, stitch the pieces together, following the stitching line carefully, as this helps to give the animal a good shape. Leave the seam along the body undone from front to back legs, otherwise you will have difficulty in putting the stiffening wires in place. Snip the seams along all concave curves, otherwise they will not stretch. Also cut away bulk at the corners. Then turn the cover inside out and see that all seams are properly stretched and flat. Cut the cardboard discs for the soles of the feet and slip them into place. Now take your wire and measure a piece long enough to reach from the sole of one front foot to the other with a wide curve across the thickness of the animal's body. Add 2-3 inches at both ends. Cut this off and then turn the 3 inches back to form small loops at both ends. Twist the ends tightly around the wire so they cannot work free. Next tear some strips of cloth and thread it repeatedly through the loops so that they are well padded. Bend the centre of the wire to form a hairpin shape and then put it inside the cover. The padded loops should reach down to the cardboard soles. Similarly make a hairpin-shaped wire

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