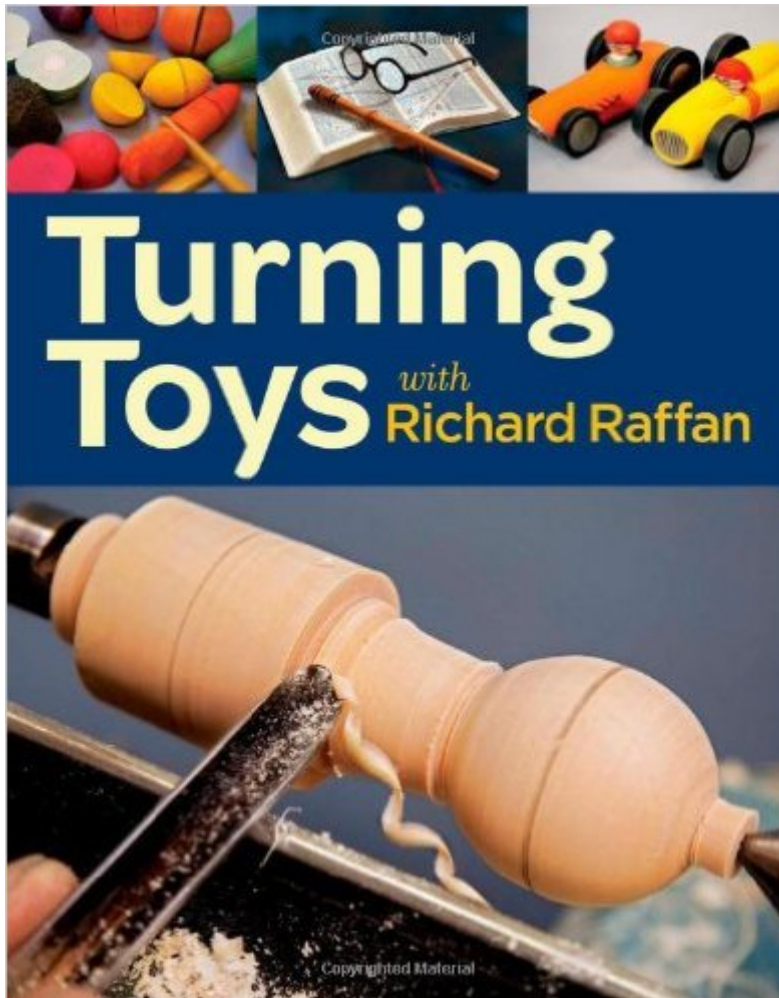


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# Turning Toys With Richard Raffan



## Synopsis

Most woodturners have children in their lives who would appreciate a hand-turned toy (or several). The projects in *Turning Toys* can serve as a base for almost limitless variation, so you can put your own stamp on each object you create. Repetition is the key to mastering any craft, so these projects are in part skill-builders that you can repeat and thereby hone your turning techniques. You can get plenty of practice when small kids can't have too many peg dolls, balls, or things on wheels. You'll see ways of salvaging a situation when things go wrong, as they inevitably do when you have a catch or the wood splits. Disasters become design opportunities. The photos and drawings show you what to do, step-by-step; you'll see exactly how the tools are used, how the cutting edge should relate to the surface you're cutting, and how to stand to support and hold the tools so that working at your lathe is a comfortable and pleasurable activity. Few things can be more satisfying than making stuff for people you know, let alone love, especially when you can watch them using and enjoying the products of your labors. This book will bring you many happy and fruitful hours at the lathe creating heirlooms for future generations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Richard Raffan is a world class turner. More importantly he can explain what, why and how on any aspect of woodturning. I have four of his previous books so when *Turning Wood* came out a discount price on I ordered it immediately. His explanations are pitched at a level appropriate for a beginner but I suspect most experienced turners will learn something about the why or how of some

technique. I bought the book in order to get some ideas for turned toys for my grand daughters. I have already made two and look forward to making the third one. His photo illustrations of technique are excellent and support the text well.

Turners know that Raffan's books are clear, complete, well written and very well worth the money. This new book falls in the tradition. All of the projects shown are interesting, complete and carefully presented with good pictures that are well explained in the text. I believe I have every book he has written and have seen him demonstrate twice so arguably am a bit of a junky.

Mr. Raffan's book is meticulously written. He provides clear succinct instruction. Safety is stressed in lathe operation and creating toys that do not present choking hazards. As a general pediatrician, I need my hands and sight intact to work. Further, I must first do no harm to the children I take care of. I purchased this book to create age appropriate safe toys. "Turning Toys" instructions are clear and images are excellent. The project selection is good, but does not offer as many projects as I would have liked. For older children: I would have appreciated an emphasis on kinetic or spinning toys, especially thrown tops: "Duncan" type, of various sizes, hollow centered, tops that flip over when spun, ones with hollow centers, creating ones which from multiple hardwoods. A section for turning dazzling yo-yos would have been great. These were the rugged toys from my childhood. Mr. Raffan's toy plans are selected to allow progressive skill development. I suggest reading the entire book, (with careful emphasis on the illustrations) and completing all the projects as well as well. This would provide the skills and criterion to create design and create safe new toys. An improvement for future issues or an addendum to this one would be online access to a video to use with the text. Finally a web site for students of this book to show their creations would be very nice.

Our woodworking club makes toys for distribution to children's service agencies at Christmas and I was looking for new suggestions. In addition, there are several that I am sure my grandsons will enjoy. The text is clearly written and the illustrations are clear. Expert turners may find the text simplistic but beginner and intermediate turners such as myself will learn several techniques.

Nice! It's worth the cost. Raffan really goes to town on a lot of toys. The instruction itself is clear and lengthy! There is a lot of information from a true master.

I love Richard Raffan's books and videos. The guy is a great teacher and I picked up a few things from this book though I have yet to make a project.

Great book for a beginner (like me). It uses some cool projects to teach some important skills. I definitely recommend it!

I have looked at it and plan on making some of the toys but haven't started any yet. It seems to give good directions.

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