

Pinewood Derby Construction

In my opinion, the most important tip to remember is this: You are building a racecar *with* your scout, and not building a car for your scout. It is a time to work together. Your scout should be encouraged to do as much as possible on his own. This is not to say he should be using power tools on his own, but design, filing, sanding, and painting, can certainly be done on his own. Where possible, use hand tools, so that he can do even more.

1. Trace wood block onto paper to create a template for the car design. Design your car on the paper, then cut out and trace onto the wood block. If designing a car for speed, simple works best. A car based on a "wedge" shape is easy to cut, and performs well. Keep in mind, the "long" end of the block is the nose, or front of the car.
2. Check axle grooves to make sure they are square with the block.
3. Take an axle (nail), and drive it into each slot $\frac{3}{4}$ the way in. Then gently remove.
4. Locate placement for added weight in car. Drill holes or carve out bottom BEFORE cutting design into wood block.
5. Cut block into desired shape
6. Sand car smooth as possible
7. Paint. More than one coat will be needed. Be sure first coat is dry before applying next.
8. Place axle through wheel and press with thumb into car.
9. Race.