

Infento: DIY construction kit lets kids build their own bikes, sleds & scooters



Kimberley Mok (@kimberleymok)
Transportation / Bikes
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Due to their general non-durability and potential for toxic ingredients like **phthalates** and **worse**, many eco-conscious parents will try to avoid accumulating cheap plastic kids' toys at home as much as possible. It's a difficult task indeed, and some may find some plastic toys sneaking in anyway (myself included). So it was a pleasant surprise to come across **Infento**, a DIY kit for kids and parents to make a range of kid-sized rides, from balance bikes, scooters, to tricycles, recumbent bikes and sleds (and there's even an option to add an electric motor).



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Created by Dutch designers Spencer Rotting and Sander Letema as the "world's first real constructible rides," the name Infento is derived from the Latin phrase for "infinite makes," and that's the idea behind this kit, which is a cross between a set of LEGOs and Meccano, but larger. All the models are built from a series of three progressive kits, Junior, Creator and Master, which can be assembled and disassembled into different designs as your child grows older, until age thirteen.

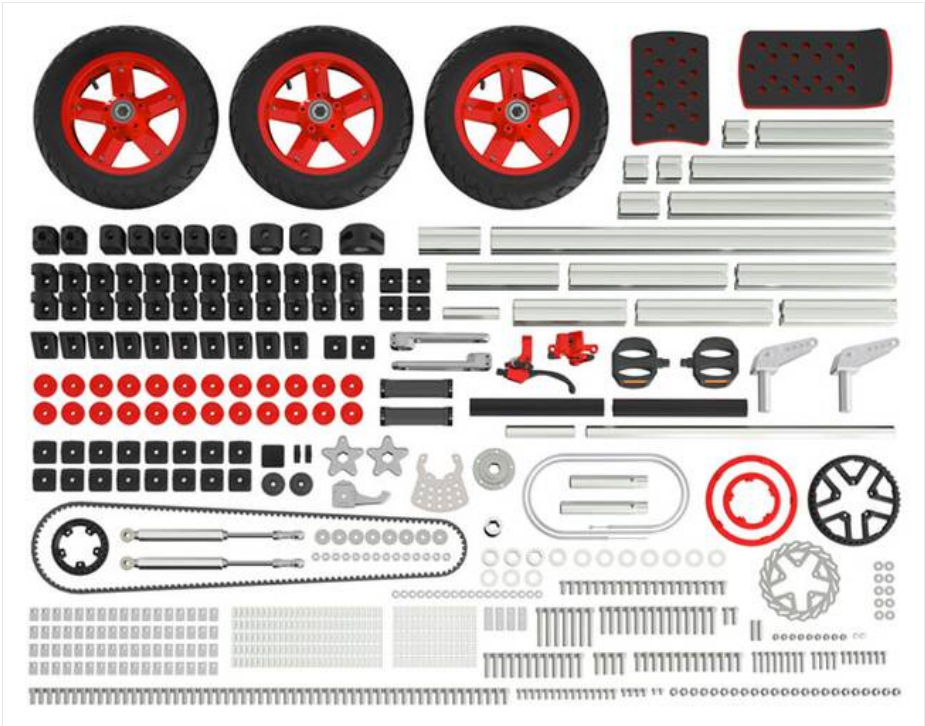


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The materials consist of sturdy, machined aluminum metal bars, plus sturdy modular connectors, stainless steel bolts, reinforced plastics and rubber components. Best of all, they can be put together with only a simple Allen key -- the same that one might use to put together IKEA furniture.



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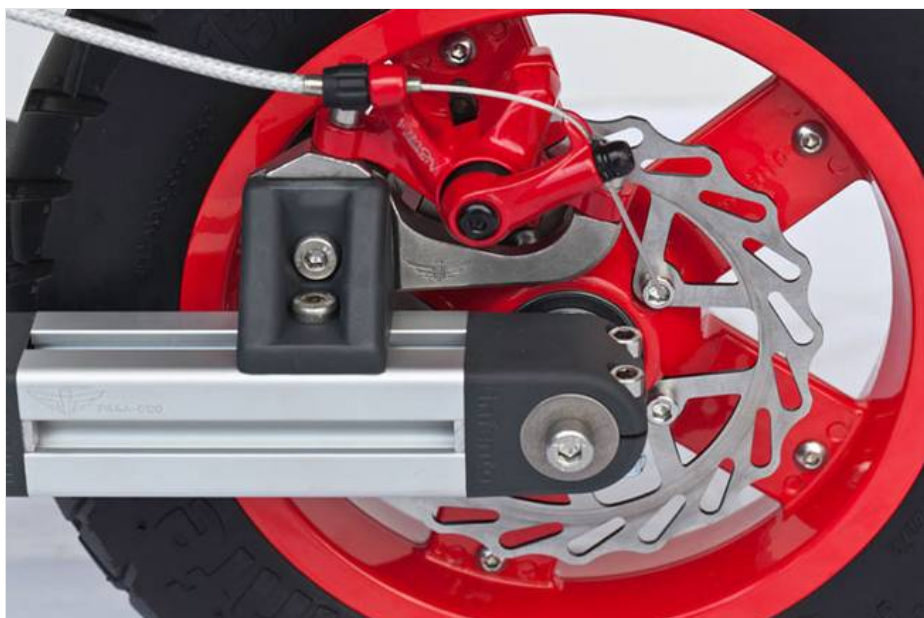


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The emphasis here is on a modular design that promotes ease of use and assembly, and do-it-yourself goodness that sure to inspire curious youngsters to tinker and make more of their own stuff. It's not dirt cheap, with the Junior Kit starting at \$299, but the versatility and the durability of the kit and materials may be well worth it. Infento has already surpassed its crowdfunding goal on [Kickstarter](#), with a little over a week left to go, so check it out before the deadline. More over at [Infento](#) and [Kickstarter](#).

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**EricHunting** • 2 years ago

I think this is a fine introduction to the use of aluminum T-slot profiles and the principles of modular design and adaptive reuse. The parts these kids would use to make bikes are the same parts most of the manufactured goods in the world pass through and which they could later use to make everything from robots to machine tools, furniture to housing.


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

Fascinating how many goods are making it to the crowdfunding sites and how many of those would never exist much less make it into any department store.

This one is far cooler than the erector set I got and explored the principles of non-thinking when constructing stuff. I told myself not to plan ahead but just close my eyes and grab a piece and then construct a crane using random pieces. I learned more about the principles of balance and counterbalance... Here a kid learns how to watch his father try to follow the instructions... :)


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**Blue_Oak** • 2 years ago

Damn that's cool. Would have obeyed for at least a month for that Master Creator kit as a kid. Suspension and disc brake bits! Just look at all those wonderful parts neatly laid out!

Wish my kids were younger. Justification for the \$600 price: \$100 for the bike/whatever functionality + \$500 for the educational value. A no-brainer. Heck, I want one. Hmmm, do you think my future grand kids would mind me making sure it works first?

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**Tarrant** Mod → **Blue_Oak** • 2 years ago



I have a grandchild and am eyeing it for him. Surely I need to check it out first. Just to be sure.


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**WBrooke** → **Blue_Oak** • 2 years ago

Yes, that phrase "...until age 13" is a little too ominous. I would totally love to tinker around with a kit like this and I'm 39!


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**Uncle_Stan** • 2 years ago

...because a hammer, nails and parts from the neighborhood garbage are just not good enough anymore.



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**Jack Rodgers** → **Uncle_Stan** • 2 years ago

The neighbors in the half-million dollar housing projects would look asance at those old wooden carts that the kids used to make. You can bet the condo commanders would be posting notes on doors...

Middle class plus folks love pulling out the credit card rather than using their brain as can be seen in any art gallery.


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**Matthew S.** • 2 years ago

This is the best kid toy ever. We adults have to use welding torches.

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