

AGES 8+

LEONARDO DA VINCI

Genius is Timeless

Bombard



Instruction manual

LEONARDO DA VINCI

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LEONARDO DA VINCI

Leonardo Da Vinci

(April 15, 1452 - May 2, 1519)

*“Iron rusts from disuse; stagnant water
loses its purity and in cold weather becomes frozen;
even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind.”*

Leonardo

Leonardo da Vinci was born April 15, 1452 in Vinci, Italy. Da Vinci was an artist, scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, sculptor, architect, botanist, musician and writer. He has often been described as a perfect example of a Renaissance man, a man whose unquenchable curiosity was equaled only by his powers of invention and observation. Da Vinci is widely considered to be one of the greatest painters of all time and perhaps the most diversely talented person to have ever lived.

At an early age, Da Vinci's talent for drawing became evident, and his father apprenticed his young son to a noted period artist, Andrea del Verrocchio. Through the coming years, the young Leonardo learned much from his mentor and at the age of thirty, Da Vinci left Florence and settled in Milan and established a workshop of his own. During the following years, he earned his living painting commissioned pieces. He soon came to the conclusion that it was not possible for him to earn steady income doing this and began his search for employment. He began by writing a letter to the Duchy of Milan, Duke Ludovico Sforza, known by the nickname, the Moor. In this correspondence, Da Vinci stated that he had studied machines of war and had come up with improvements that would

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strengthen the Moor's position in battles. The letter hinted at inventions that included portable lightweight bridges and improved designs for bombards, mortars, catapults, covered assault vehicles and weapons. The Moor eventually became Da Vinci's patron and kept him busy with everything from designing a heating system to painting portraits, to overseeing production of cannons and even decorating the vaulted ceilings in his castle.

It was during this time that Da Vinci began writing and drawing in his journals. These volumes became repositories of the outflow of Leonardo's gifted mind. He was a voracious student of the universe and his observations led to magnificent plans and concepts. Da Vinci's notebooks consist of more than 20,000 sketches, copious notes and detailed drawings. Some of his conceptual designs led to the greatest inventions of his day, while others came to fruition hundreds of years after his initial concepts were penned, simply because the machinery needed to build and power them were not yet invented. Leonardo's notebooks clearly illustrate his genius of not only improving upon existing inventions, but also conceiving a myriad of new ideas and designs.

Ultimately, the Moor was captured by the French and Da Vinci left Milan in search of a new patron. He traveled through Italy for more than a decade, working for several Dukes and rulers, including Cesare Borgia, a General intent on conquering central Italy. Leonardo traveled with Borgia as a military engineer, designing weapons, fortresses and artillery, but became disillusioned and quickly left his service with the General. It seems that despite Da Vinci's design for artillery and weaponry, he was actually a pacifist and detested war and its destruction.



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Da Vinci later took positions with King Louis XII and Pope Leo X and ultimately with the King of France, Francis I. It was the King who offered Da Vinci the title, Premier Painter and Engineer and Architect of the King. Francis I valued Da Vinci's great mind and his sole function was to engage in conversations about Renaissance culture and art with the benevolent royal.

ARTISTIC MASTERPIECES OF LEONARDO DA VINCI

It is important to remember that Da Vinci is not only and great inventor, but is considered to be one of the most acclaimed artists to ever have lived, creating such masterpieces as The Last Supper (c.1498) and the Mona Lisa (c.1503). Leonardo's drawing of the Vitruvian Man is also regarded as a masterpiece. Unfortunately, only a small number of Da Vinci's paintings have survived. Leonardo experimented with new techniques, most of which did not yield



Vitruvian Man (circa 1487)

long-lasting results. The master painter was also somewhat of a perfectionist with fastidious attention to detail. It is believed that when painting the Mona Lisa, the artist spent ten years perfecting the lips of this masterpiece.



The Mona Lisa (circa 1503)



The Last Supper (circa 1498)

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NOTEBOOKS OF LEONARDO DA VINCI

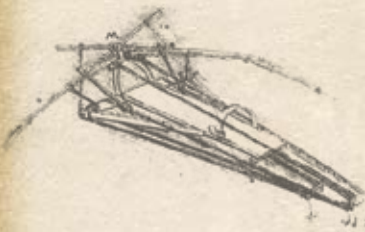
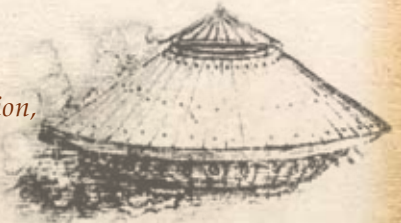
Da Vinci's notebooks are now more than 500 years old. They are not bound the way a typical book would be today, but rather comprised of loose sheets of paper gathered into collections and wrapped with fabric. Paper was scarce in Da Vinci's time, so he used every available space in a page for drawings, observations, even recipes and shopping lists, making them somewhat difficult to interpret. Adding to the difficulty in deciphering his works was the fact that Da Vinci's scripted notes were written backwards, or in a mirror image, and read from right to left. His reason for this remains a mystery, but it is thought that Leonardo's theories sometimes went against church teachings and his secret writing could have been a way to avoid scrutiny. Da Vinci also might have feared that someone

would steal his designs and publish them under their own name. Ironically, Da Vinci addressed an imaginary readership in the margins of his notebooks urging the reader to make sure his work was printed into a proper book. It is presumed that he meant for the notebooks to be published after his death.



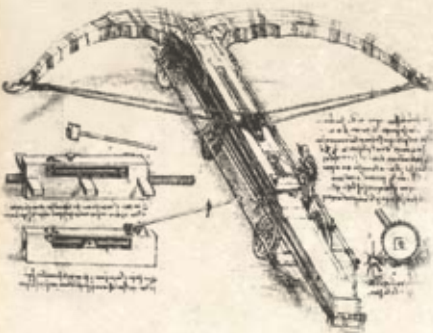
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Several common themes recur in the now fragile notebooks: Nature, Technology (including gears, cogwheels, screws and pulleys), aviation and vision, to name a few. Upon the death of Leonardo Da Vinci, the notebooks were given to his long-time friend, Count Francesco Melzi. Melzi did not fully comprehend the value of the information and published only a portion of the volumes. He placed the notebooks in his home where they were viewed by guests who sometimes took pages with them as souvenirs. After Melzi's death, an additional 13 Da Vinci notebooks disappeared and soon pages were scattered across Europe. Da Vinci's notebook



extracts were published in 1883 and about half of them have not yet resurfaced so far. It is easy to imagine that had the notebooks been published earlier, the history of science might have been completely changed.

In his drawings, Leonardo strived for *saper vedere* or "knowing how to see." Da Vinci's illustrations are unparalleled and some experts believe that no one has since been better.



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❧ CANNONS AND BOMBARDS ❧

The word Cannon is derived from the Old Italian word “Cannone,” meaning large tube. A cannon is any piece of artillery that uses gunpowder or other explosive-based propellants to launch a projectile. Cannons vary in caliber, range, mobility, rate and angle of fire, and firepower. Different forms of cannons combine and balance these attributes in varying degrees, depending on their intended use on the battlefield. First used in China, the cannon was among the earliest forms of gunpowder artillery, and over time replaced siege weapons of the day (including catapults) for breaking through fortified walls.

❧ Da Vinci's Bombard ❧



A bombard is a large-caliber, front-loading medieval cannon, used chiefly in sieges for throwing heavy stone balls into enemy fortifications.

In 1346, the English first used cannons, which fired stone balls propelled by exploding gunpowder. Hundreds of years later, Leonardo Da Vinci made the bombard (or cannon), even more effective by designing large projectiles, comprised of round shells fitted around iron spacers and stitched inside a pliable casing. Once fired, the device exploded into fragments, which had greater range and impact than a single cannonball.

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Leonardo also designed the breech-loading cannon, an improvement of muzzle-loading cannons that required a fast means cooling before another firing. Da Vinci planned for the use of several cannons in rotation so one could be fired and one loaded while the third one cooled.

Da Vinci also measured the penetrating power of a missile, and varied it by changing the attitude. During these tests he launched a rocket-powered cannonball that is thought to have shot ten thousand feet into the air.

Da Vinci also made improvements to the steam cannon and in his new design, had the breech of the canon built into a brazier of burning coals, heating it to very high temperatures. Following this, a small amount of water would be added just behind the iron ball. When the water turned to steam, it would drive the ball out under pressure. In his handwritten notes, Leonardo quoted how large a cannonball this weapon could fire, and how far it would travel. It is quite quite possible that the inventor actually built and test-fired this cannon.

When it came to projectiles, Leonardo wanted to have more effective ones and designed shells filled with gunpowder which exploded upon impact; others contained projectiles which would scatter over the area. One design sees a large ball split into two pieces as it leaves the mortar. This sends smaller balls in all directions and they, in turn, explode upon contact.

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Cannons have been used for military purposes throughout the centuries, but have now been adapted to two unusual civilian purpose:

DID YOU KNOW ?

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture is performed using an artillery section, along with the orchestra. The real cannon fire simulates Russian artillery bombardments of the Battle of Borodino, a critical battle in Napoleon's Invasion of Russia, whose defeat the piece celebrates.

Ski resorts sometimes employ cannons to fire into snow-covered mountainsides to intentionally trigger avalanches in hazardous areas.

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Components

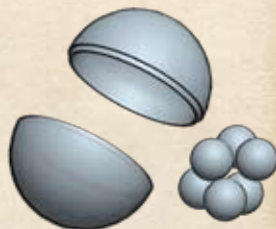
(A)



(B)



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(D)



(F)



(G)



(E)



(E) x 2

(H)



(I)



(J) x 2



(K)



(L)



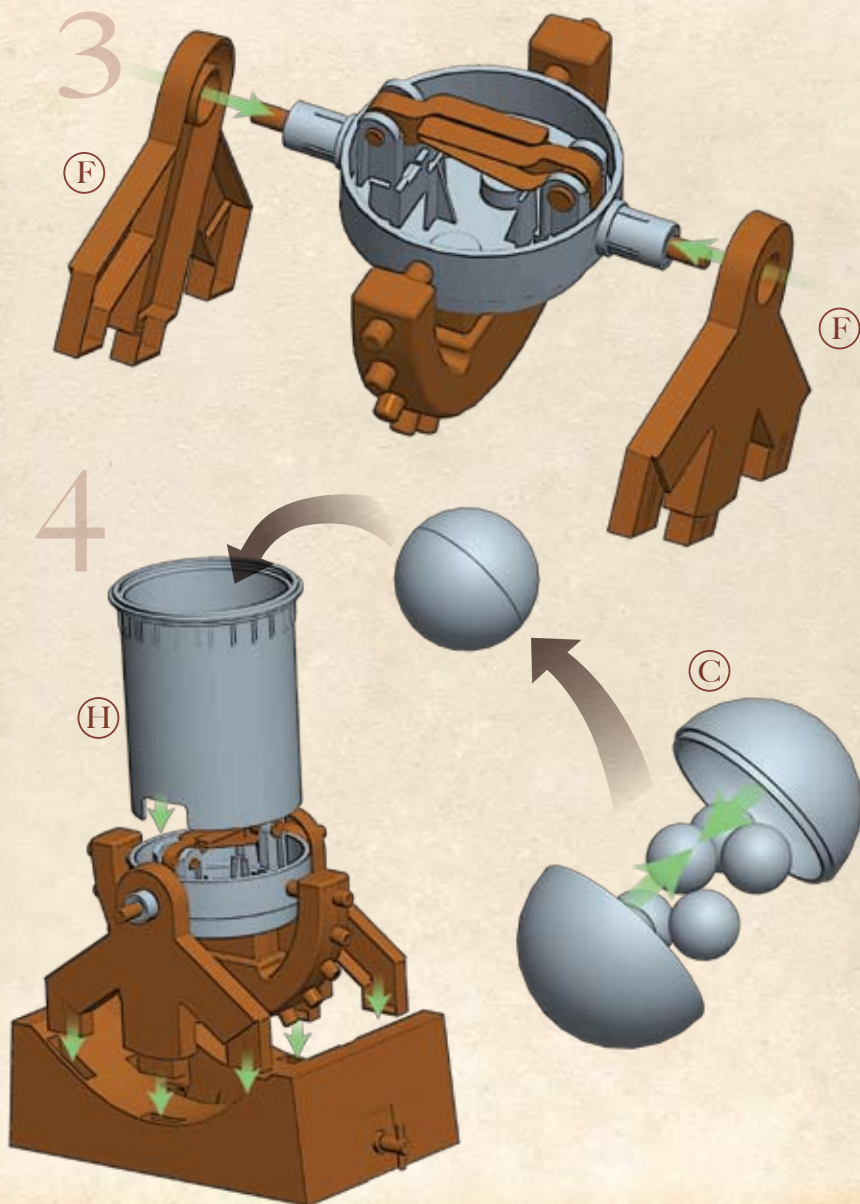
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How to Assemble



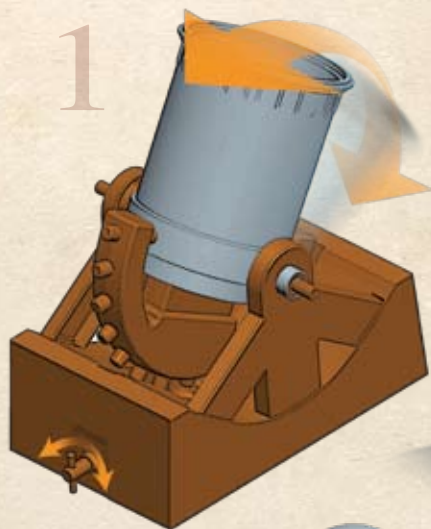
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How to Assemble



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How to Operate the Bombard



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The scientific genius of Leonardo Da Vinci is brought to life through articulated models offered by Edu-Science. The inventions that inspired these snap-together replicas are taken from the pages of Da Vinci's priceless and awe-inspiring notebooks.

Edu-Science Da Vinci Series Kits



DV001

Mechanical Drum

Leonardo da Vinci's mechanical drum was designed as a cart equipped with an amply sized drum. When pulled by its handle, the gears turn the two lateral drums, which are fitted with pegs. The pegs move a total of ten drumsticks that cause them to beat the large drum.

Aerial Screw

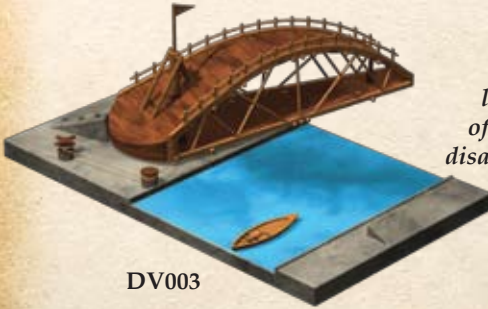
The Aerial Screw design is a precursor of the modern day helicopter.

The drawing of Da Vinci's concept illustrated the compression of air that was intended to lift the device off the ground.



DV002

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DV003

Swing Bridge

The Swing Bridge was a portable, lightweight bridge intended to span a body of water for armies to cross, and then quickly disassemble in order to tow away. Equipped with a rope and wheels, the lightweight bridge was designed for easy transport.

Printing Press

Leonardo da Vinci studied the Gutenberg printing press and finely-tuned it for greater efficiency. In his design, he used a hand press with an automatic system that moved the type-saddle forward and back along a tilted surface, making printing faster and easier.



DV005



DV006

Multi-barreled Canon

The 12-barreled gun carriage was developed to give the traditional canon additional firepower and was a potentially effective weapon against a line of advancing troops.

Armored Car

A precursor to the modern-day tank, the armored car was capable of multi-directional movement and was equipped with cannons arranged in a 360-degree firing range around its circumference.



DV007

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DV008

Paddleboat

In Da Vinci's time, nautical expedition was the most expedient method of communicating with the world and his design for a boat with large wheel-shaped paddles that would propel it through water offered a faster and easier method of water transportation.

Self-Propelled Cart

Da Vinci's self-propelled cart was the first to be capable of moving without being pushed or pulled manually. This precursor to the automobile was one of the many inventions that Leonardo created dealing with locomotion and transportation.



DV009

Catapult

Improvements were made to the age-old military launching device called a catapult.

The new design employed a hand-crank that caused tension on the throw arm.

The spring design produced a large amount of energy in order to propel stone projectiles or incendiary materials over great distances.



DV010

Bombard

This improved cannon was designed to include projectiles that contained a quantity of mini gunpowder shots packed into petal-shaped iron pieces that formed a ball.

The device exploded into fragments that had greater range and impact than a single cannonball.



DV011



Notes

This image shows a single sheet of cream-colored paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

WARNING: CHOKING HAZARD-
Toy contains small ball. Not for children under 3 years.

WARNING: CHOKING HAZARD-
Small parts. Not for children under 3 years.





Interpretation of the original Leonardo da Vinci's design/
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