



St. Some Times

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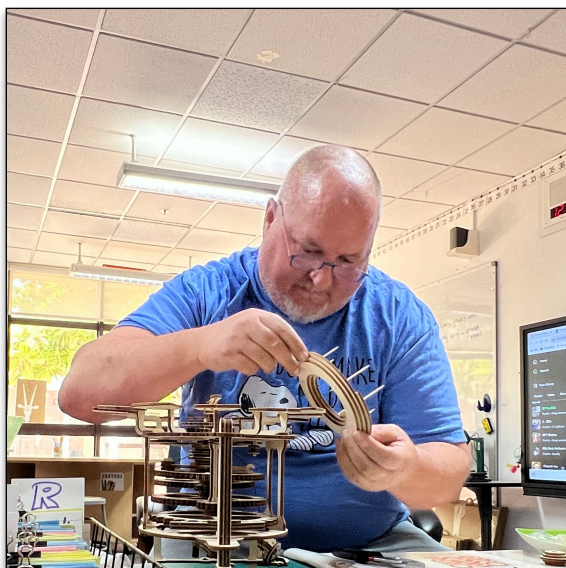
IT'S ABOUT TIME

GETTING INVOLVED WITH DIY MODELS



This atomic clock is on my tinker desk right now.

There is a little company called WoodTricks (<https://woodtrick.com/>) makes wooden DIY models that you can put together without any tools or glue. All you need is patience, a few small prayers, and extra effort with the sandpaper.



Dad and I started putting together the roller coaster model when I visited Florida for his 80th birthday. That was so much fun to spend all that time with Dad. The pieces were small enough to need glasses. I got hooked on these puzzles.

Fast forward to now. I've already finished my copy the marble run like dad's in Florida. I moved on to the clock on the cover. It's a monster to put together. Imagine, instead of glue or just snapping pieces together, most of the pieces are held together with toothpicks. The toothpicks are like wedges. Slide one in. Break off both edges. Trim. Done.

The pendulum clock doesn't work for more than 15 seconds, but while it is working, it's awesome. I just lost patience at the end. It will require a few lunch sessions to go back into the gears with more wax (lubricant) and sandpaper. According to many of the WoodTrick fans, this clock isn't meant for continual use. The working gears are completely wooden and not designed for "around the clock" use. Pun intended.

I spent about 3 weeks putting it together. The caveat: I only dedicate school lunchTIME for building models. It demonstrates the idea of process (little bit at a TIME) for my students.



IT'S ABOUT MORE TIME

TIME FOR DELIVERY?

I'm addicted to ordering from Amazon. Why? The stores just don't have the same stuff here. Especially backup stuff. I also don't drive, don't enjoy shopping here, don't venture off the island much, etc. Amazon gambling is the answer.

The Amazon deliveries ARE getting better. A while back, I ventured into the [amazon.sa](https://www.amazon.sa) shopping world by setting up my account to deliver to the school. I don't have a maid. Deliveries rarely make it to the correct address and usually require a signature or specific text code. (I simply don't trust anything to be delivered to my apartment while I'm gone.)

I figured, since there is someone always at the front desk, I could direct couriers to the big elementary school - where I spend all my time - rather than my little apartment among hundreds of other apartments. *(The drivers don't always understand English nor understand the roman Alphabet. Just part of the overseas living excitement.)*

Now the process has morphed into one of no less than twenty different courier services texting me to ask me where to bring the amazon delivery. These are not Amazon couriers. Random drivers. Once in a while, you'll get an amazon van. Rare. So after I text back and they translate it, the driver always asks me to send a pin (location). Even though there is an address right on the box from Amazon. Even though my address (the school) hasn't changed in the past three years, when I started using the local Amazon.

No, I don't order from Amazon.com. I'd have to ship it through another international courier. Considering the fact I might get a package delivered after three tries, it's quite magical. Hmm. I'm very grateful and willing to pay more for local delivery.

Amazon deliveries are quite different on the island. Sometimes the orders make it. Many times they don't. Oh well. It's a gamble every time you order something.

Will it ever make it?



This model is from a company named SteamPunk. My order is "lost".



TOO MUCH TIME ON MY HANDS

I FINALLY GAVE IN AND BOUGHT ONE

Fidiculous! That's all I need. One more Apple product! One more thing to update and charge! Oh well. I LOVE my new iWatch. You may ask, "Greg, you haven't been to the states since July. The Ultra 2 just came out a few days ago, how did you get it? Do they sell it on the island?" Nope. I didn't buy it in a store on the island.

Funny you should ask. For the first time, I had a magical delivery. A courier texted me from the school gate. "I am here." I ordered it off Amazon for way too much money on Saturday. On Monday, the watch was delivered via Amazon to the school. Probably a one-off success delivery. I won't get my hopes up.

Now you might ask why. Why did I finally get an iWatch after eight years? The answer is: **40 meters**. This is the first iWatch is rated for more than 40meters underwater. Dive watch? Nah. Backup. Definitely. But, "holy watches Batman!" I absolutely have to try it out.

I was actually struggling. The iWatch ultra has been out for a year now. It hit the market in 2022 for more rugged users. By chance, I didn't skip over an article about iWatches in MacWorld magazine. The article featured the most expensive, rugged version of the Apple Watch world, called the Ultra. My debate started with that article. I started researching the Ultra online. Everything and anything written about the watch. I dig deep if I know nothing about something techie, especially if it costs over \$500. The ultra is around \$800-900. My debate was whether to wait for an improved Ultra 2.

By the time I made up my mind to get one, the Ultra 2 was announced and available. Wham. Two days later I've got time on my hands. Literally. I'm still learning how to use it. "Kit, meet me out front. I'm ready!"

MY APPLE HISTORY

I GOT TO THINKING ABOUT HISTORY



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Keeping with the time theme of this issue, I started to think about the iPhone. I certainly stopped wearing a watch for time keeping back in 2004. That was the year of my first Motorola V3 Razor purchase. No more watch wearing. Time was always in my pocket. I still miss that phone.

Yet, the era of the iPhone was born in 2007. I didn't enter the world of iPhone until 2009. Yes, I was started my Mac addiction in 2007, thanks to my school in Cambodia! But I was using a Nokia phone around then.

Venezuela was my home in 2009. iPhone and Blackberry were neck and neck in the cell

phone competition at school. The "one-percenter" could afford anything. I ended up buying a second hand iPhone 3G and someone gifted me a used Blackberry (version unknown). For the next three years, I taught a grade 11 Tech class and included a cell phone unit. The Blackberry and the iPhone both came in handy. I also learned the process of "jailbreaking" iPhones and replacing the screens on different versions. Now I am steadfastly 70 percent Apple. I retain an interest in Google and Windows just to keep up with trends to support staff that use them. Shit. Now I own an iWatch.

iPone 1- 14Pro Max

2007

iPhone Series 1



2023

iPhone 15 Pro Max



FUNNY!

Yes, this is an image of the original iWatch from 2015 but don't let the watch face fool you. This is Google Maps a few days ago. I just wanted to present it in a TIMEly fashion. If you take notice of the route and places featured along the route, you will see what

my friend was referring to when she texted me this image.

Greg, I thought you might enjoy this new restaurant in Khobar. It was on my route. The name made me think of you. Hah!