

Research Area: Promotion of craftsmanship using a traditional means of transport | Project Timespan: 2023-ongoing

's Pöckl

The aim of the reseach project 's Pöckl is to familiarise young people with skilled crafts and to motivate them in a playful way to design, build and finally drive their own Pöckl.

Team

PI: Kuno Prey Collaborator: Sarah Troi External partners: lvh.apa Wirtschaftsverband Handwerk und Dienstleister

Pubblication: https://www.unibz.it/assets/Profiles/Kuno-Prey/Publications/15-09-2024-s-Poeckl-Kuno-Prey.pdf Last update: 15/09/2024

The Pöckl has been an object of South Tyrolean tradition for several decades now - in the past as a means of transport for the children of mountain farmers to get to school in the valley during the winter months, and today as a piece of sports equipment. At the time, it was an intelligent solution for transport, as there were not enough funds on the high-altitude mountain farms to provide every child with an expensive sledge.

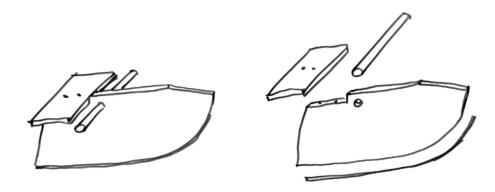
It consists of a horizontal and a vertical wooden element, which are joined together to serve as a seat and runner for gliding and a transverse wooden pole to hold on to. The runner was reinforced with a discarded saw band (toothed). The Pöckl could be easily made by any farmer. Nowadays, the most common version is the ski-pöckl, where an old shortened ski replaces the runner; a derivation of the original pöckl that emerged in the 1970s. The Ski-Pöckl is still an integral part of winter sports in some South

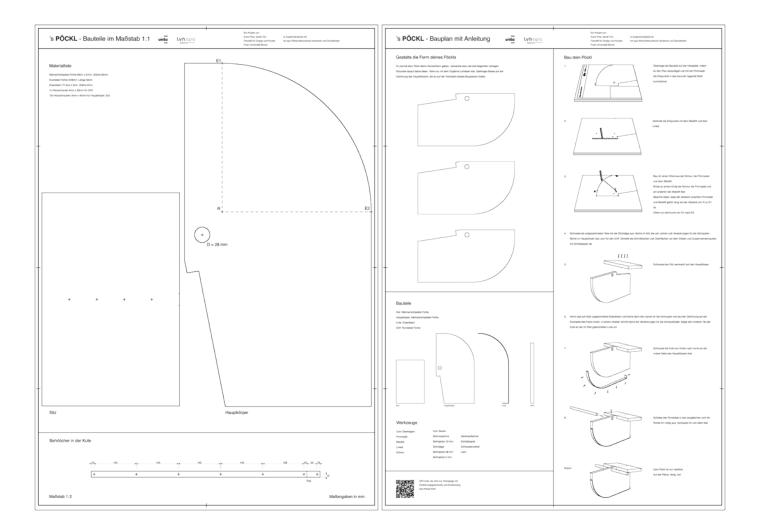


Extracts from the Rai Südtirol report Lernen, wo die Hennen Steigeisen tragen (2020, Kofler, Lechthaler)

Tyrolean valleys out of nostalgia and for fun.

This traditional object shows what can be done with little material input and a little craftsmanship. It also symbolises the connection between the village community and the carpenter's craft - which was more present in the past, but which has unfortunately been lost over time. This research project is an attempt to re-establish this connection to the craft, with the Pöckl serving as a catalyst.





The construction plan for a Pöckl was developed by Prof Kuno Prey and AR Sarah Troi. The lvh.apa Wirtschaftsverband Handwerk und Dienstleister distributed the plan as an attachment of their magazine "Manufakt".





In December 2023, Pöckl workshops were held at the secondary schools in Eppan and Olang, South Tyrol, in close collaboration with the lvh.apa and the respective crafts teachers. Prof. Prey taught the pupils about the cultural history of the Pöckl and encouraged them to design their own Pöckl. The Pöckl were then built by the students as part of the technical lessons. The workshops also included a visit to a local carpenter. There, the pupils were given a detailed explanation of the carpentry trade and given the wood for the Pöckl.







The workshops concluded with participation in the Pöckl Race, which took place as part of the lvh.apa Winter Sports Festival 2024 in Feldthurns. There, the young craftspeople at lvh.apa organised a special race in the categories speed and style.

