

Zimbabwe Wire Toys: issued 30 September 2024

Two years ago, members of the Philatelic Bureau in Harare (with Buster Schemper of the Mashonaland Stamp Club in an advisory role) sought designs representing the imaginary world of children for a new issue. It was felt that the construction of wire toys by children in Zimbabwe displays awareness and practical use of available materials as well as developing practical skills. The published bulletin described the design thus:

'Wire toys provide a type of play that supports STEM learning - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

STEM learning focuses on translating real world applications into a way which is accessible for children. Wire toy vehicles help to teach children about distance, spatial awareness, velocity, weight and gravity.

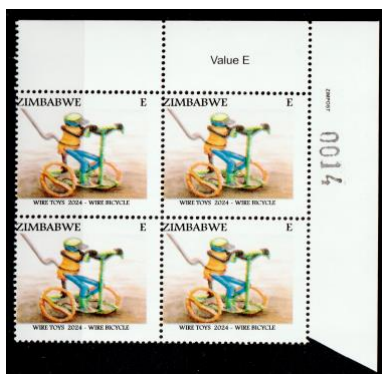
On the other hand, vehicle wire toys have traditionally been targeted at boys, much like the traditional targeting of dolls houses towards girls. This notion is generally deemed as outdated and both boys and girls can now enjoy the benefits of playing with toy vehicles.'



Wire Truck toys provide hours of fun and interactive eye-hand coordination and helps to establish relationships with siblings.



The **Wire Helicopter** promotes fundamental cognitive development and aerodynamics skills.



This is a type of **push bicycle** using galvanised wire, colourful plastic and tube rubber. The stark simplicity conveys the functional characteristics of complex real objects. ('E' value printings often show leftwards perforation shifts).



The **Wire Bulldozer** vehicles offer open-ended play, allowing children to exert some form of pressure and control on the objects around them.



Denominations: Z – Zimbabwe; A – Africa; E – Europe; R – Rest of the World
Sheets printed: 10 000 of each value (sheet numbers are shown in the top right margin)

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