

### THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE'S TRAIN WHEEL COASTER

Keep engines running smooth on their branch lines with fun and functional train wheel coasters. It's also a great way to recycle old or scratched CDs.

*The following activities are designed for parents and children to do together. Supervision of children with materials such as glue, scissors, etc is strongly recommended.*

**Time:** 10-15 minutes

**To prepare Thomas' Train Wheel Coaster, you will need the following cargo:**

- Old CD(s)
- 2 Sheets stiff Black felt
- 3 Sheets stiff Royal Blue felt
- 1 Sheet stiff Grey felt
- Glue
- Scissors
- Black Sharpie marker

#### The Right Track:

1. Trace the CDs on the royal blue felt and cut out two circles, wide enough to cover the top and bottom of the CD (approximately 5" in diameter). Glue in place and let dry. *(Note: by covering the bottom of the CD you prevent any possible scratching on wood surfaces)*
2. Cut 10 thin triangles out of black felt, approximately 2" tall and  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, to represent the black, underside of the train, visible through the blue spokes of the wheels *(note: Thomas has more spokes, but it is tricky to cut such thin slivers of felt!)*. Glue them at even distances on the train wheel, the apex of each triangle meeting at the middle of the CD.
3. Cut 1 circle out of the grey felt, 5" in diameter -- the same size as the CD.
4. Fold the grey circle in half and cut a half-moon out of the middle, leaving a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " perimeter. This piece will create an "O" when unfolded and will be glued to the top of the CD to represent the wheel rim.
5. Cut a small circle out of the royal blue felt, approximately 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. Glue this piece in the center of the wheel, overlapping the tips of the black triangles.

*You are ready to "coast" full steam ahead!*

