

Like elevators, yo-yos have their ups and downs. Unlike elevators, Yo-yos are versatile.

Yo-yos are fun to move around, to turn this way and that way. You can string them together, turn them frontward or backward, or pile them on top of one another.

Yo-yos make good quilts as well.

Some yo-yos move up and down on a string. These are wooden or plastic with flashy names like Duncan, like Dunlop, and like Madhouse. There are numerous brands. In the 1950's my shiny yo-yo was orange plastic that was attached to a string. I could wind the string around the double disk which it was attached to the center axle with a healthy knot. Once the string was wound, I could let it unwind by throwing the shiny orange disk toward the ground. But first I had to tie the other end of the string to my middle finger. Now I would be able to "WOW all my friends with daring feats," says the instructions. Swinging the orange disk into the air with a swift heave would allow the momentum to unwind the string from the disk and in seconds return to the disk all rewound. It would become a circus-like act. With my yo-yo act I would become the talk of the neighborhood from the grade school to the tiny grocery and knick-knack store to the tree park.

My act flopped. My circus act was a clown act. The orange plastic double disk string just uncurled and the disk thumped my right foot big toe. (I was shorter than the five-foot one-inch grown-up that I am now.)

It was not a complete flop; however, I was still the talk of the neighborhood. I made a whole lot of people happy, too. Whenever friends saw me, they would giggle and laugh.

The name "Yo-Yo" was registered in 1932 by Sam Dubiner in Vancouver, Canada. Years later different meanings brought the use of the word "yo-yo" more popular.

As an adult, my yo-yos are of the fabric variety. These multi-color fabric circle edges are gathered with needle and thread and pulled toward the center. They can range from one-quarter inch circles to 1 ½ inch circles and even larger. These disks are stitched to form an art piece, a placemat, or a quilt of any size needed to cover a person, a wall, a table, or a mattress. And they are made into a boat load of craft designs.

Yo-yos can be sewn together with the gathered look on top or with the smooth look on top, or each one alternating in your design. My quilt filled yo-yo's look like flower blossoms measuring the size of my little fingernail. The quilt measures 10 inches by 12 inches. It took me just as long to make the yo-yos and place them in the proper garden row as it did to craft a queen size flying geese bed quilt.

Be aware that when you purchase a double-disk yo-yo there is the pull to play all day. It is your choice...you may "Walk the Dog" or you may allow the "Dog" to stretch out on fabric yo-yo quilt for doggy dreams.

Lately, already crafted fabric yo-yos have been priced at twenty-five cents each or at a garage sale shoe box filled bargain price starting at \$10. Any kind of yo-yo will surely brighten your smile and lighten an up and down day.

Fair Warning: The neighborhood may smile right along with you.

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