

FLAPPING BUTTERFLY

This toy was first shown to me by Robert Race, a British toy-maker. I have tried making it with tetra packs and other junk material. First, flatten out a tetra pack and then mark out the butterfly on it (Fig.1). Cut the butterfly and fold its wings on the dotted lines. Make five holes by using a divider point — one on the midrib and two pairs near the wings. Make two more holes near the head for the antennae. Pass a 10 cm long V-shaped wire through these holes (Fig.2). Twist the wires together to make the butterfly's antennae (Fig.3). Take a thin piece of rubber and make a hole in it (Fig.4). Press fit a long ball-pen refill in the rubber. Apply Fevibond on the rubber (Fig.5). Bend a thin wire of length 22 cm into a V-shape (Fig.6). Make a loop at the bend as shown in Fig.7. First insert the refill in the mid-rib hole of the butterfly and then stick the rubber to the underside of the butterfly. Weave the wire loop through the refill and pass each wire end through the two holes in the wings. The wire ends are bent and pressed to hold them in place. The butterfly is now ready for flapping its wings (Fig. 8). Hold the refill with one hand and slide the wire loop up and down with the other. The butterfly will flap its wings majestically (Fig.9).

If a tetra pack is not available then any thick card-sheet can be used. By using the tetra pack this non-biodegradable waste can be recycled. In the process, not only can you make a lovely toy but also help keep the environment clean.