

K'NEXions

Fall/Winter 1997

News about K'NEX
for Builders from 5 to 105

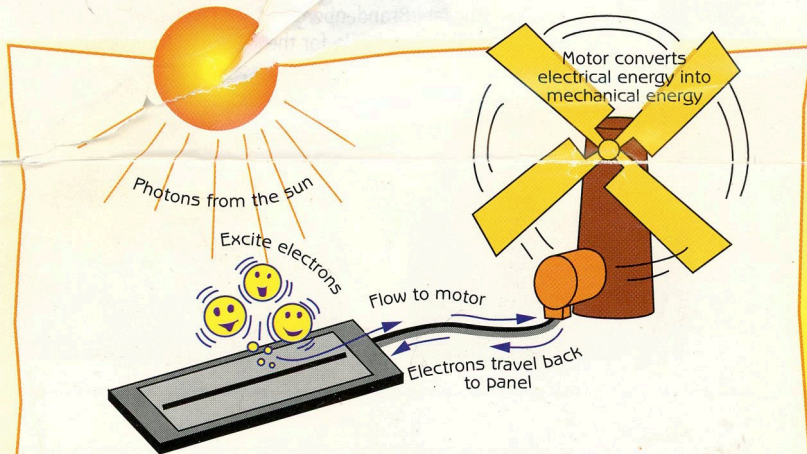
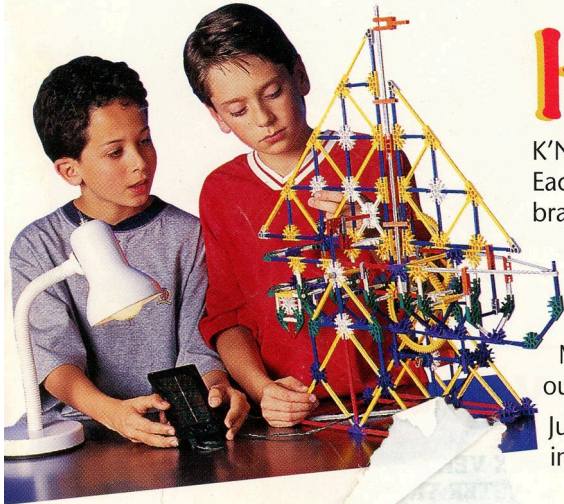
It's So Hot, It's Cool!

K'NEX has two new solar powered building sets – **Solar 10 and Solar 20 Model Sets**. Each set includes a Solar Panel, Motor, 12 foot long Power Cord and instructions for brand-new models that all “move”.

Imagine having a Windmill in the middle of your room and the Solar Panel hidden on the window sill. When the sun streams through your window, your Windmill will start spinning and spinning, almost like magic! And you never need batteries!

Models go until the sun goes down or until you make them stop. If it's dark or raining outside, you can still power up your models with an incandescent 100-watt light bulb.

Just think of all the projects you can do for school. Your teacher will love your ingenuity and you'll have all the fun!



How Solar Power Works

Sunlight (photons) gets absorbed into the cells of a solar panel and excites the electrons that are present. When the electrons are excited they jump from the positive side to the negative side of the panel. These electrons are full of energy and are ready to power something up—they just need a conductor, such as a metal wire. The wire directs the flow of electrons (current) into the motor, which converts electrical energy into mechanical energy. Once the electrons have helped to create the energy, they travel back into the panel and start the cycle all over again.

Sun + Power = Fun

Eight minutes! That's how long it takes for sunlight to travel from the Sun to the Earth. That's not very long, when you consider that the sun is about 93 million miles away.

Without sunshine, Earth would be a very different planet. Besides helping us all thrive and grow, the sun also provides us with a free energy source – Solar Power.

Solar Power is used all over the world to drive things like motors, lighthouses, radios, water pumps and much, much more. Using Solar Power helps keep our environment clean and doesn't deplete any of our natural resources.

Start Your Solar Engines!

On August 6, 1997, K'NEX sent the designers of six of the fastest solar-powered model cars from around the country to compete in the **1997 K'NEX National Junior Solar Sprint** race in Dallas, Texas. Over 100,000 students raced in preliminary heats across the country.

Racers sent their cars down a 20 meter-long track, the standard used in regional races. The winner, **Yohana deLeon**, from San Rafael, CA, had the fastest overall time of 5.4 seconds. Other impressive speeds were set by racers from Iowa, Illinois, New Hampshire, Florida and Colorado.

K'NEX worked with the Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory and The Science Place to host this very exciting event.



Visit our
website at
knex.com

Measure a Mile Contest Winners

Hundreds of our website visitors put their math skills to work to determine how many Red K'NEX Rods laid out end-to-end would measure one mile. We measured the Red Rod at 5.112 inches. With 12 inches in a foot and 5280 feet in a mile, **it would take 12,394,366 Rods to equal one mile.**

The ten contest entries closest to that number have been awarded K'NEX Big Wheel Racers. *Thanks to all participants!*

Congratulations!

We were swept away by these nine shining sailors, winners of the **Fall/Winter 1996 Boat Contest.**

Wackiest Design

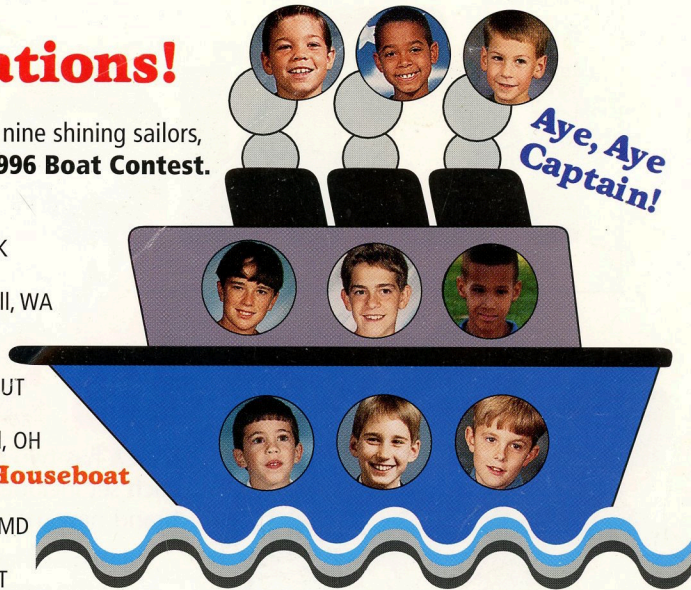
Top photos from left to right
Mark Aldridge, age 11, Owasso, OK
Craig Dancer, age 10, El Paso, TX
Geoffrey Busby, age 6, West Bothell, WA

Racing Sailboat

Middle photos from left to right
Shane Jensen, age 13, Tremonton, UT
Jeff Garrick, age 13, Oak Park, IL
Manuel Labourdeth, age 9, Hilliard, OH

Most Family-Oriented Houseboat

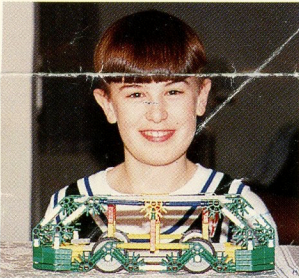
Bottom photos from left to right
Stephen Tawa, age 5, Ellicott City, MD
Sam Fladung, age 11, Hollis, NH
Francis Switzer, age 10, Billings, MT



Winners of the Spring/Summer 1997 Vehicle Contest.

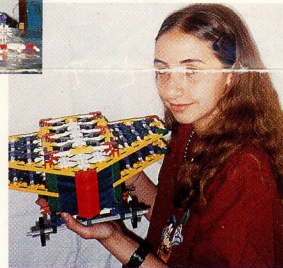
K'NEX VEHICLE BUILT FOR THE YEAR 2020

"Nexpress - The Future in
K'NEXportation" designed by Chris
Hilbert (11) of Allentown, PA.



K'NEX VEHICLE MOST LIKELY TO MAKE IT TO THE MOON

A tie between these two awesome space
machines ... The "X-Wing" crafted by Eddie
Moran (10) of Haddonfield, NJ and the
"Super Space Shuttle" invented by Jessica
Advocat (12) of Brooklyn, NY.



K'NEX VEHICLE BUILT TO COMPETE IN A MONSTER TRUCK DERBY

Michael Brandenburg (12) of Bradenton, FL simply
called his vehicle for the derby a "Monster Truck".



Collect
K'NEX
and we'll help bring
K'NEX to your School

K'NEX
BUILDING
KNOWLEDGE

You already know how much fun it is to build with K'NEX. If you think K'NEX are fun to use at home, imagine the fun you could have with K'NEX in school.

Did you know that...

...The K'NEX Roller Coaster can teach you all about physics?

...K'NEX can demonstrate the anatomy of an ant?

...K'NEX can show you why some bridges are stronger than others?

Participation in the K'NEX **Building Knowledge** program is a snap! Your school collects cash register receipts for K'NEX purchases made between September 5, 1997 through April 30, 1998 to earn points redeemable for K'NEX education sets.

Ask your principal or PTO/PTA leader if your school is already participating.

For more information, or to register your school, call **1-888-ABC-KNEX.**

Remember, let the Power of K'NEX create learning that's fun!

Enter the K'NEX Picture yourself in Outer Space Sweepstakes

You Could Win:
A trip to US Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, where the winner will participate in simulated training missions in the shuttle cockpit and mission control – just like a real astronaut!
Or have a real star named after you, authenticated by the International Star Registry

Here's how to enter:

Fill out the entry form or write your name, age and address on a 3"x5" piece of paper.

Mail to: K'NEX Picture Yourself In Outer Space Sweepstakes
P.O. Box 8571
Prospect Heights, IL 60070

All entries must be postmarked by 2/28/98 and received by 3/10/98
Sorry – This contest is for U.S. residents only.
Entrants from 7–18 years of age only.

GOOD LUCK!

K'NEX Picture Yourself In Outer Space Sweepstakes

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

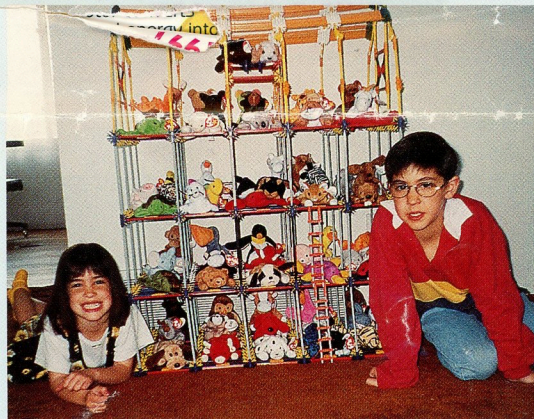
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. To enter, complete this official entry form or hand print your name, address, age and daytime phone number on a plain piece of 3" x 5" paper and mail to K'NEX Picture Yourself In Outer Space Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 8571, Prospect Heights, IL 60070. Entries must be postmarked by 2/28/98 and received by 3/10/98. Drawing will be conducted on or about 3/16/98. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. One (1) Grand Prize: Trip for two to space Camp at U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama. Approximate retail value: \$3,500.00. Fifty (50) First Prizes: Star named for winner with a framed Star Registry certificate. Approximate retail value: \$65.00 each. Total approximate retail value of all prizes: \$6750.00. Open to legal U.S. residents 7 through 18 years of age. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited. For complete Official Rules, send self-addressed stamped envelope (VT & WA residents only need not affix return postage) to: K'NEX Rules, P.O. Box 8419, Dept. KN, Prospect Heights, IL 60070.

Hey Kids! Are you looking for a way to organize and display your prized possessions? Check out what these fans built with K'NEX. As their collections grow, so can their K'NEX models.

You Did It!

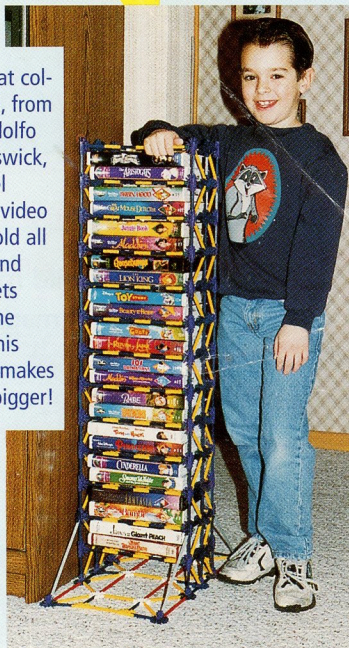


K'NEX Collections: A K'NEX "Beanie Baby"™ Bungalow built by Jacob (8) and Elana (6) Siegel of Eagan, MN, to house their expanding Beanie Baby collection! Soon it's going to be a Beanie Baby apartment building.

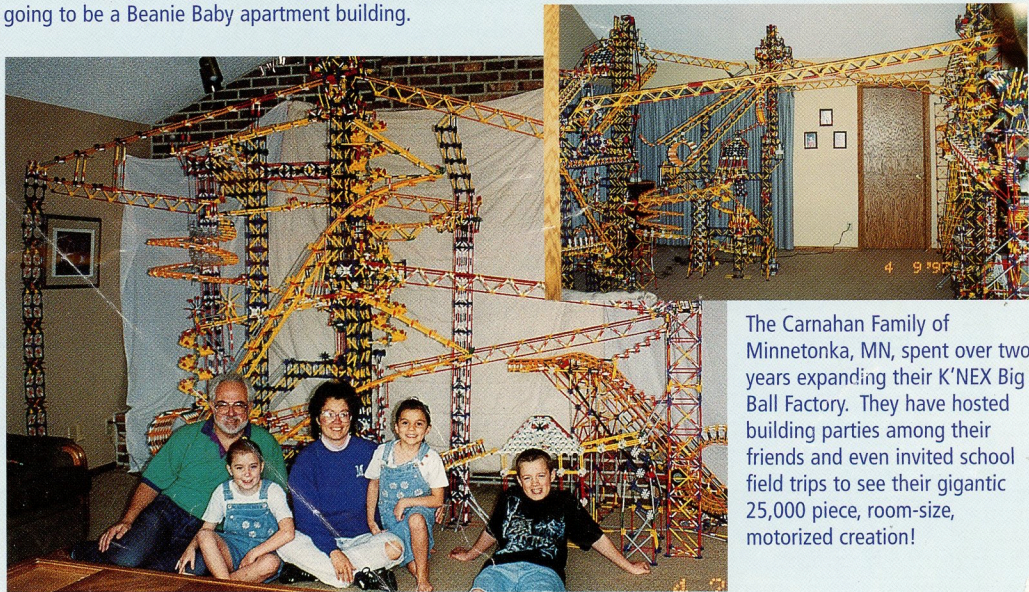


Kodie has it made in his new K'NEX Dog House built by Sean Connolly (12) of North Reading, MA. The house can grow with the dog.

Another neat collection idea, from Michael Ridolfo (8) of Brunswick, OH. Michael designed a video Tower to hold all his tapes. And when he gets new ones, he brings out his K'NEX and makes the Tower bigger!



Beanie Baby is a registered trademark of Ty, Inc.



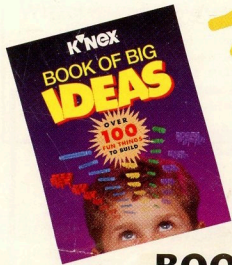
The Carnahan Family of Minnetonka, MN, spent over two years expanding their K'NEX Big Ball Factory. They have hosted building parties among their friends and even invited school field trips to see their gigantic 25,000 piece, room-size, motorized creation!

K'NEX®

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Fall/Winter 1997



F.P.O. (For Parents Only)

Each year, many parenting magazines and toy testing organizations evaluate toys to help adults take the guesswork out of selecting the right toy for a child. Toys are tested with the experts – kids! This process is often very rigorous and can last for several weeks. Some of the attributes testers look for are:

- Quality
- Easy-to-follow instructions
- Durability
- Set up and assembly
- Short and long term interest in the toy
- Learning value
- Safety
- Fun/play value

Last year alone, K'NEX won over 28 of these awards in North America!

Some of the publications and organizations that have recognized K'NEX include:

TIME magazine ★ Business Week magazine ★ Duracell Kids' Choice National Toy Survey ★ Child magazine
Sesame Street Parents magazine ★ Parents magazine ★ Family Fun magazine ★ Black Child magazine
Canadian Toy Testing Council ★ Working Mother magazine ★ Today's Parent magazine ★
Oppenheim Toy Portfolio's — "The Best Toys, Books & Videos for Kids" ★ American Foundation for the Blind

1997 Awards include: (More awards will be announced in the coming months)

Parenting magazine ★ Dr. Toy ★ Parent and Child magazine

As we enter our fifth year, we continue to strive to make K'NEX the best it can be. It provides kids with unlimited building options, and shows them that creating is only limited by the imagination. It teaches children about

geometry and physics and how to build simple machines, like pulleys, that make work easier. K'NEX teaches younger kids about self esteem, cooperation and problem solving. And best of all, K'NEX is a blast!