

## NUTS ANYONE

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Haywood Turner, up to his elbows in shattered pecan shells, demonstrated last month a new version of his patented nutcracker to some assembled critics in the lounge. The original nutcracker, a solid, handsome affair of polished brass and steel, was the product of more than three years of thought and work and entailed more worry, negotiation and cross-country entanglements than Haywood would care to experience again. It is not easy to get a brainchild perfected, patented and finally produced to specifications that satisfy a meticulous inventor. However, there has been some satisfaction and reward in that all of the two hundred models on hand before Christmas sold like popcorn at a children's matinee. Lest you think that a gold mine in sales ended up in Haywood's pocket, it should be pointed out that the proceeds realized have amounted to only about one quarter of the investment and production costs to date. Haywood has also observed that the market for nutcrackers took a decided slump after the holiday season.

The principle involved in cracking nuts by this method is that of "inertia impedance," and a fuller explanation of it can be gotten from Haywood by merely asking. The original upright model requires what its inventor calls "a stout blow" delivered in the vertical axis by a hand-wielded mallet of sturdy hickory. The new refinement, a Model T number, that it is hoped can be produced at a greatly reduced cost, is horizontally oriented and less glamorous in appearance. Like the original, the new model also requires a sharp mallet blow as the initiating force, but delivered with a flat swing and good wrist action in an arc parallel to the floor.

It was interesting to watch the attending and house-staff doctors try their hands at nut cracking. Pediatricians and radiologists seem to have a wavering wrist action, and the clumsiest stroke. By far the handiest mallet swinger, who consistently delivered the stoutest blow with just the proper amount of dexterity and élan, was George Whatley representing the orthopods. No doubt, long familiarity with the less delicate tools of the trade is good basic training for cracking pecans by Haywood's mass, inertia and limited-stroke principles.