Dice Popper

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**TOOLS:**
- Electric drill and drill bits (1)
- Hammer (1)
- Hole saw (1)
- Saw (1)
- Screwdriver (1)

**PARTS:**
- Plastic capsule (1)
- Compression spring (1)
- Wood (1)
- Flathead wood screws (4)
- Finishing nails (4)

**SUMMARY**

This is my version of a classic way to "roll" the die for a board game. The key to making this special die agitator is the clear plastic capsule. I found the right size, 2" diameter and 1" tall, in a vending machine — it’s the kind that holds inexpensive toys or trinkets.

*Illustrations by Julie West*
Step 1 — Cut the wood and drill the holes.

- Parts A, C, and E are cut of 1/4"-thick wood, while parts B and D are 3/4" thick. Cut all 5 pieces to 3-1/2"×3-1/2".
- Holes have to be drilled in all pieces except part E.
- For part A, cut a large hole in the center, anywhere from 1-7/8" to 2" in diameter, depending on the size of the domed half of your capsule. Then drill 4 countersink holes about 1/2" in from each corner, for the wood screws.
- For parts B and C, cut a 2-1/8"-diameter hole in each center. These holes will house the bottom part of the capsule. For part D, drill a 3/8"-diameter hole in the center, which provides a guide for the spring.
Step 2 — Assemble.

- Nail together parts B through E with the finishing nails, avoiding the corners where the screws will go. After this bottom block is assembled, insert the spring.

- Place a die into the capsule, snap it, and lower it into the wood block. Part A will cap everything. It requires a slight push to keep it in place as you screw in the wood screws.

- After that, you're ready to go. Good luck!

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