



# Peter Markey

An appreciation of a well-known artist

by Paul Spooner • Stithians, United Kingdom • Drawings and photos as noted

It was typical of Peter Markey that, when he showed up for a visit, he'd bring a present—always something he'd made. This was typical in at least two ways: first, that he was overflowingly generous, and second, that he was explosively productive. His friends must have received car loads of Peter's machines during the time he was hyperactive as a maker of mechanical "models" (as he insisted on calling them).

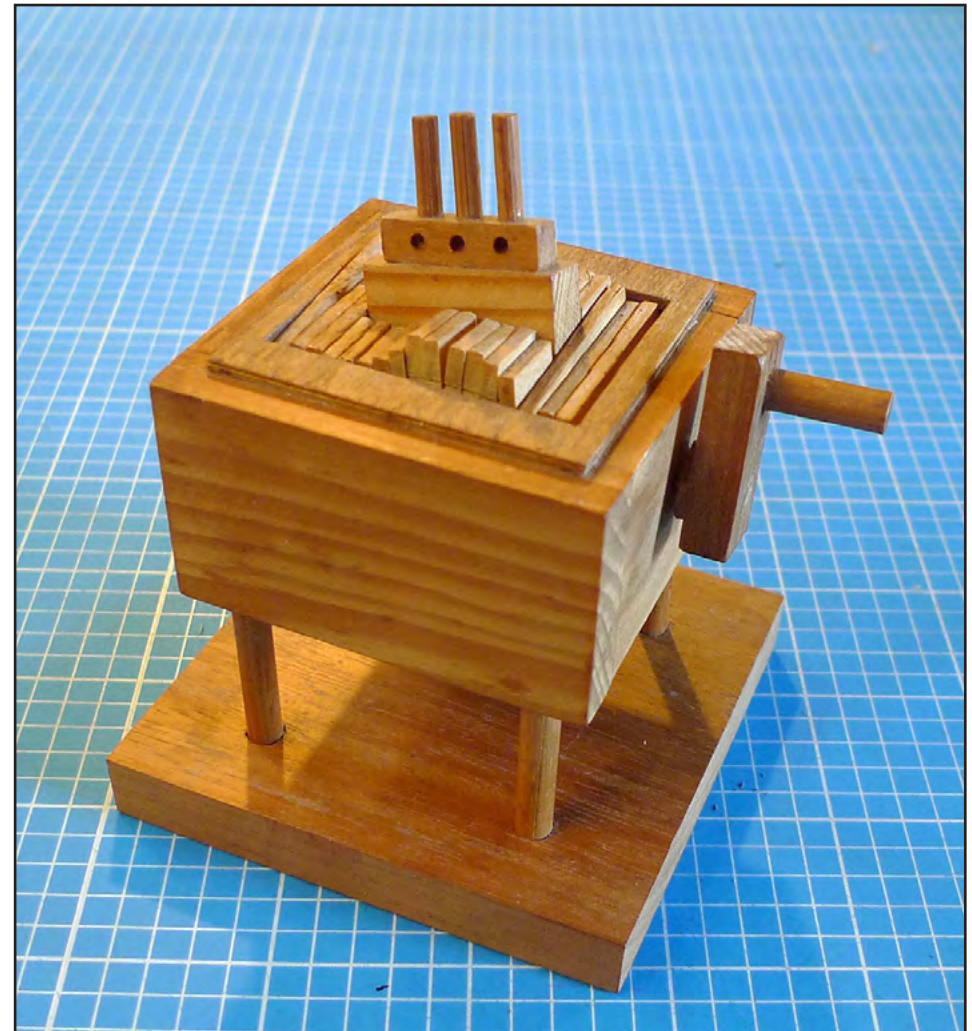
Readers of *Automata Magazine* stated in a recent survey that they wanted more articles about construction, with plans, if possible. So, before a discussion of Markey the man, **photo 1** shows a picture of one of his signature products, a wave machine. This one is special in that it's probably the smallest he ever made. Special also, because it's one of my most precious possessions. The drawing in **figure 1** might help anyone who wants to make their own.

You can see that there's a row of 18 piano-key-like slats. The slats fit



Peter Markey (1930-2016) in the 1980s. —  
*Photo courtesy of Peter Markey's family*

loosely into the box, flush with the upper surface, and are prevented from dropping through by two bars glued just below them on the inside of the box at the front and



1. The very small wave machine. —*Photo: Paul Spooner*