Mechanics and motion have always fascinated me. During college I studied physics, engineering and chemistry to further my understanding of how things worked. I graduated with a degree in physics from Boston University in 1974. This intuitive understanding of motion and mechanics combined with the artistic influences of my wife, Marji, led me to the creation of kinetic sculptures. In 1975 we started "Wood That Works" and I became a full time sculptor. Since then I have designed and handcrafted over 80 different limited edition and one-of-a-kind kinetic sculptures. I have exhibited in numerous juried, invitational and group events. My work is displayed in galleries and private collections around the world. I currently maintain a studio in rural northeastern Connecticut.
Hello,

Welcome to the world of Wood That Works. This Vortex is number ______ out of a possible 150 pieces. It was made by me during the month of __________ in 1998. I build, test and pack each sculpture myself, doing 6-12 pieces of an edition per month. It takes several years for me to complete an edition and some are never finished as I move on to new designs. Designing and building kinetic sculptures like Vortex has been my full time occupation for more than 20 years. I hope Vortex brings you and other viewers as much enjoyment as I've found in making it.

Vortex has been mounted on a wall in my shop and running for at least 2 complete windings (several hours) before I pack it. I make every effort in design, construction and packing to make sure the piece will perform problem free for years to come. I use only the finest materials.

It leaves me happy and satisfied to find that my work has made it's way into new lives. I hope it brings you years of enjoyment.

David C. Roy
Directions:

To Wind
• Turn the large pulley wheel clockwise 20 turns.

To Start
• Gently push down on which ever arm is in the upper most position.

About Vortex:

Vortex is a small sculpture that creates some fascinating patterning effects. The two overlapping wheels turn in opposite directions at the same rate of speed. During one phase of the motion, the pattern appears to collapse and shrink in upon itself. The wheels then slow and reverse direction giving the perception of a growing and expanding form.

The drive mechanism is one I developed many years ago and have used extensively. It’s very quiet and reliable. In this version I’ve “split” the pin wheel into two parts and use a smaller drive pulley between them. This extends the run time to nearly 120 minutes.

Specifications:

Limited Edition of 150
Size: 22”h x 19”w x 6”d
Power Source: negator spring
Approximate Run Time: 2 hours
Materials: hardwood plywood, brass, bearings, string
Vortex © 1995
Directions:

To Mount on Wall:
- DO NOT remove the tape holding the strings in place
- Hold the backboard in the desired location against the wall. Level the bottom edge.
- Place a sharp instrument through the screw holes, marking their positions on the wall.
- Drill pilot holes. If the wall is sheetrock or plaster use plastic anchors.
- Screw the sculpture to the wall.
- Remove the tape holding the strings in place.

Note:
Tape the strings in place before repacking or moving the sculpture. This will save a lot of aggravation when it is time to set the piece up again. See the diagram for the best tape locations.