

The mastermind behind *ÜberStix*: Dane Scarborough



The idea for *ÜberStix*[™] came to Dane Scarborough one day when he was just being a good dad. He bought his son a construction toy kit and they built a hang glider together—a hang glider that could not be flown. His son was upset that he was left with a toy that did nothing, so Scarborough gathered some straws, swizzle sticks and other items and made a hang glider that his son played with for hours. “It struck me that the current construction toys on the market were missing something,” Scarborough said. He felt that the play value should not end with the creation—gliders should fly, sail boats should float, dragons should move. He wanted to design a construction system that was more functional, that worked after it was built.

Scarborough, while wanting to give kids a fun new toy to build and play with, also wanted to make *ÜberStix* accessible to as many families as possible and wanted to eliminate the creative restrictions of most other construction toys. “When you consider that building toys are a critical component of developing spatial skills, problem solving and visualization,

as well as building confidence and self esteem, it is unsettling to realize how many kids never have the opportunity to realize and develop some of their potential.”

ÜberStix are engineered to be used with all major build systems such as *Lego*[®], *K’NEX*[®], *Erector*[®], *Zoobs*[®] and *Zome*[®]. Kids and parents love this because toys they already have will not be forgotten or wasted—*ÜberStix* will just add to them! An *ÜberStix* collection can also be expanded using everyday items such as paper clips for connection points, *Popsicle*[®] sticks as foundations for tall buildings, plastic bottles as floatation devices and spoons for catapults. It allows for limitless creativity and is a greener way to play. Scarborough points out that it’s easier and better than recycling, which usually involves costs and energy. He likes to “encourage kids to use existing products for a higher purpose—upcycling.” They get to make use of disposable items by turning them into building materials for toys. Upcycling also allows kids to get bigger models for less money, and that’s another plus for parents.

Before becoming an inspired toy inventor, Scarborough experienced other great things such as studying marine biology and becoming a certified scuba diver, playing drums in several bands, working with functional art and graduating from the Santa Monica College of Design, Art and Architecture, succeeded in business and teaching drawing classes.

Creating toys is not a new concept to Scarborough. As a kid, he made toys out of scraps of wood his grandfather brought him. The sense of accomplishment from his projects is something he still remembers, and now he has helped bring that to so many more children. Scarborough certainly enjoys being creative and exploring new ideas. “I look at things and imagine the possibilities.” He continues to follow through on new ideas to develop products the world has been missing. One thing Scarborough has learned as an inventor is to, “Stay focused.”

[For more information about Dane Scarborough or to set up an interview, contact:](#)

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