

## The Shopping Cart

*By Marilyn Reeves*

Kung Wen Fu Manufacturing Co.

ORDER # 65432 – Shopping Cart

I am having difficulty putting together the shopping cart I ordered through Smith & Jones Distributing Company of Los Angeles, California. Obviously the cart did not come from them, however, as the big box it came in was covered with Chinese hieroglyphics. The only thing on the box that was printed in English was “ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE.” Oh boy. I should have sent it back right then without even attempting to open it. But attempt I did.

After breaking off six fingernails and uttering a few choice phrases (my apologies to your mother) I found that my butcher knife would be needed to hack through all that molded Styrofoam, even though the only thing worse than the sound of Styrofoam squeaking against cardboard is the sound of a knife cutting through it! And the tip of my knife tore open the plastic bag containing all the tiny gadgets and gizmos, so I had to pick all the little pieces out of my carpet and lay them out on my coffee table, one by one, before assembly could begin.

But once I set out the big pieces – like the handle with its extended ‘arms’ and the metal grids that were apparently to become the four sides of the basket, I found it was too difficult to manage working on the floor (I can get down but I can’t get up). So I had to clear off my kitchen table and cover it with a plastic cloth and place all those large items on top, then transfer all the little gadgets onto a tray to take them out to my new work space in the kitchen.

Now I was ready to read the instructions, which were on a long narrow piece of paper that had been fan-folded like a map. Printed in Chinese. Oh, no, wait – the English instructions were on the reverse. Except that they weren’t really in English. While English words were used, some of them didn’t make sense, so I need an interpreter to explain what “part line tool good” or “nut not go happy” mean, for instance.

Thankfully there was an illustrated diagram with all the various parts labeled from AA – NN. All items seemed to be accounted for, except for one of the little pin-type-thingies that feed through the gadgets that hold the wheels in place.

Needless to say, I struggled to follow the diagram but finally got the cart put together. Except that it won’t roll, and there’s some kind of little arm that dangles down from Part D that looks like it should be attached to something, but I can’t figure out what.

Can you help? I would like to be able to actually use the cart if I can ever get it put together right, since I can’t afford the cost of shipping it back to China.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Not-So-Happy Camper