

Robo cot

Rock-a-bye baby meets the 21st century in this clever little invention.

IF, AS the saying goes, the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world, does this new invention mean that machines are about to take over? The Lullabub is a remote-controlled cot rocker designed to help babies and their parents get some much needed sleep.

Master builder and inventor Chris Mitchell got the idea for the Lullabub while his wife was in hospital suffering postnatal depression. At that stage the Mitchells had two children and both of them were restless sleepers.

"It was two in the morning, and I was up on the lounge watching the formula one on TV," Mitchell recalls. "Our newborn, Charlotte, was awake and sitting on my knee. I had my arms around her, pretending to be a car, jiggling my knees up and down, and it was that motion that eventually sent her off to sleep.



"This got me thinking. I'd always noticed that babies fell asleep easily in cars, so what if I could harness that same lulling motion and use it in the nursery? Three years of R&D [research and development] later, I arrived at a solution with the Lullabub."

The Lullabub uses four spring-based modules to produce a car-like independent suspension. The cot is stabilised on these modules and moves with them as they sway up, down, left, right, backward, forward and diagonally. The Lullabub is preset for a 30-minute action.

When the unit isn't electronically active,

the baby can initiate the gentle swaying motion itself, simply by moving.

There are four motion-simulated settings: mother's womb; mother's heartbeat; a drive in the car; and a boat on the water. (Hopefully the drive in the car setting won't be anything like the childhood drives in my father's Valiant Pacer, or the kid will be in for the ride of its life.)

The modules are powered similarly to a

spotlight

Slow lane Sleepless nights inspired Chris Mitchell to create the Lullabub, which gently rocks a baby's cot by imitating the soothing motion of a car.



mobile phone, and the plug pack converts home power to six volts to operate the unit.

The Lullabub is suitable for most new and used cots and comes with a night light. It is also portable, making it ideal for travelling.

The Lullabub recently won a design award from Standards Australia.

It is available in most independent baby shops and retails for \$249. For more information see www.lullabub.com.

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