

# GATORTRAX

## Instructions for Making a Simple Mousetrap Car

GATORTRAX – Material List for Mousetrap

For each kit, you will need the following:

#	Item	QTY	Description
1	Mousetrap – approx. 2”x 4” base area	1	Mousetrap powered with spring
2	2” diameter wooden/plastic wheels with ¼” axle holes	4	Connected to axles
3	4” long, ¼” diameter wooden dowel/rod	2	Used as axle
4	3/8” screw-eye hangers*	4	Used to hold axle in place
5	1 foot of string (fishing or thin rope)	1	Tied to bail on mousetrap and tied to rod

\*Eye hangers are used normally as anchors for hanging items. They look like “question marks”. They also have screw thread at the bottom to screw into a ceiling or fixed wall. Usually made of metal. Hole of eye must be slightly bigger to hold rod.

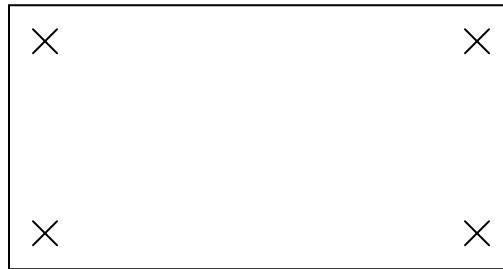


Instruction on constructing a Mousetrap car

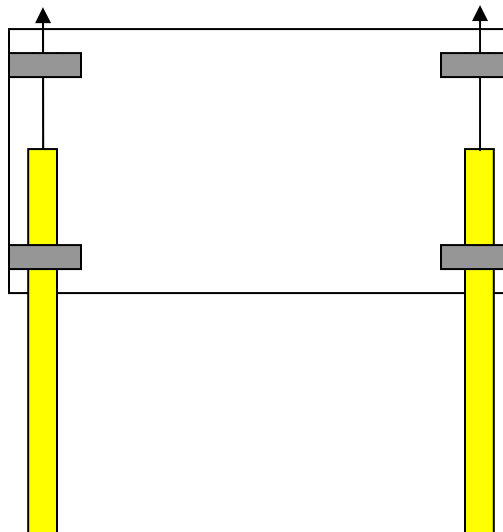
**CAUTION!** - Mousetrap contains sharp pieces, and the spring can cause harm to a person's fingers or hands. Caution and Safety is required when doing this Mousetrap Car.

You may choose to remove excess pieces from the mousetrap, or use them to release the spring when running the mousetrap car.

1) Insert 4 eye screws at the bottom mousetrap at the given locations. The eye screws should be carefully inserted into the wood so that wood does not crack.

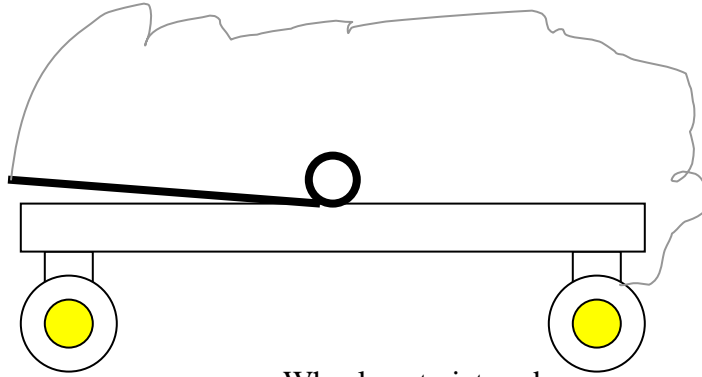


2) Align eye screws to allow wheel axles to enter both openings parallel to the short end of the mousetrap. Insert dowel into eye screws.



3) Attach wheels on axle ends. Tape or glue can be used if the wheels do not stay on axle.

4) Attach string to bail and attach other end of string to rear axle. (You may either tie or tape the string to the axle)



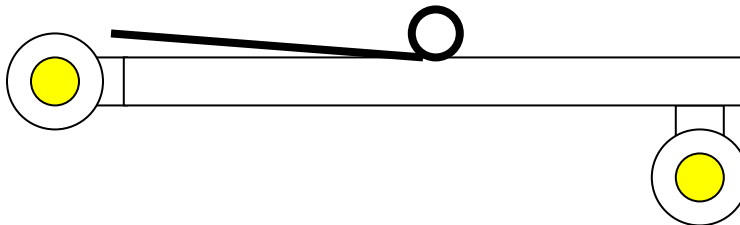
Wheels not pictured.

Suggestions for a successful run:

- Add tape (with sticky side out) or rubber bands on rotating wheels to create more friction between wheels and surface.
- Keep string as close to center of axle as possible.
- Use the metal “spring release” parts of original mousetrap to release spring to rotate wheels.
- Mousetraps are designed for a single use. Take note on how many times the bail is pulled and released due to part failures after several pulls.
- Try to find ways or other materials that will make the mousetrap run better.

Variations on construction:

The front axle may be placed on front (as shown below). Mousetrap wood base may crack.



Change the length of the front axle to 2 ¾ or 3 inches. This allows more motion stability when running the car.

String does not have to go directly over the mousetrap to run.