

Mousetrap Marshmallow Catapult

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Enjoy building your own working catapult, but please note: Mousetraps are dangerous! If one snaps back on your hand it could break a finger.

This project requires adult permission and supervision.

Step One

With pliers, carefully remove any metal teeth or staples from the trap.

Carefully pull back the snapper arm until it reaches the other side of the trap. Have a helper wrap the strong rubber band around the end of the snapper until it holds it down to the base of the trap, preventing the trap from springing.

Step Two

Use a loop of duct tape to attach one of the erasers to the base of the trap so its long side is right next to the fulcrum (the spring in the middle of the trap).

Tape the second eraser on top of the first one, letting it hang over the fulcrum slightly. Secure both erasers to the base with duct tape, then carefully remove the rubber band and slowly let the snapper arm move up until it rests against the erasers.

Step Three

Tape one of the tongue depressors horizontally along the top of the snapper arm. Place the second tongue depressor perpendicular over the first and tape it so it extends vertically above the snapper arm.

Tape the spoon to the second stick. Make sure that the arm of the catapult will hold. You may need to reinforce it with more duct tape.

Fire Away!

Hold on to the base, then pull the arm back, load a marshmallow into the spoon, and let go! (Keep your fingers out of the way of the snapper arm!)

Materials:

- wooden snap-back mousetrap
- 2 long erasers
- duct tape
- strong rubber band
- two tongue depressors
- plastic spoon

