

Catapult instructions

My Bear den made catapults just a few weeks ago. Each boy made one and then my son and I made 5 more Heavy Duty ones from thicker wood to use as our game at our annual Cub Scout Carnival. We used a pattern in the April '96 PACK'O'FUN magazine, but here's the basic instructions.

Start with a board 9 inches long, 2 inches wide, and 3/4 inch thick. (I used a 1x6, which is really 5-1/2 inches wide and just cut it in half width-wise.)

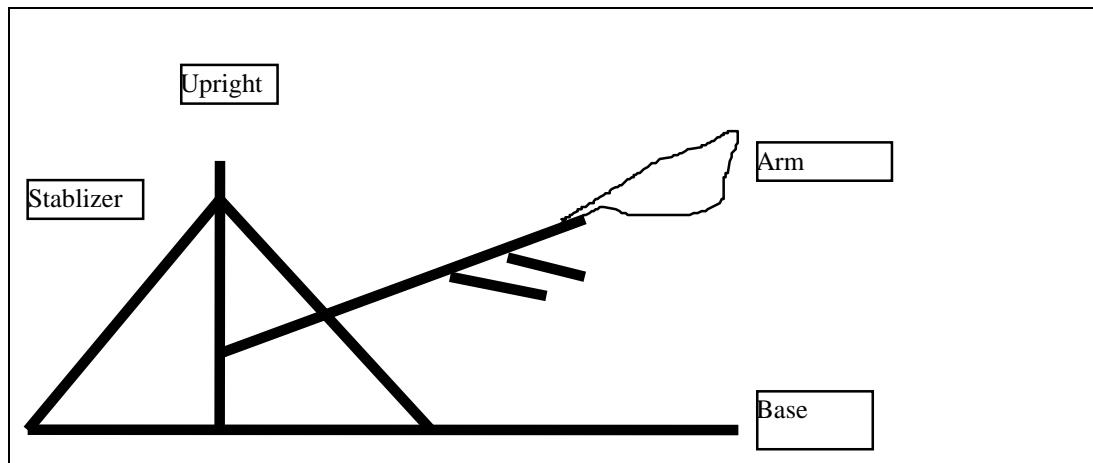
Make a mark 3 inches from one end on both sides of this board.

Use 6 jumbo craft sticks to form the uprights and stabilizers (1 upright, 2 stabilizers per side). On the 4 stabilizers, drill a 1/4" hole 1/2" from one end. On the 2 uprights, drill 2 1/4" holes, one of the 1" from the top, and the other 2" from the bottom.

Cut 2 pieces of 1/4" dowel, each about 3-1/2" long.

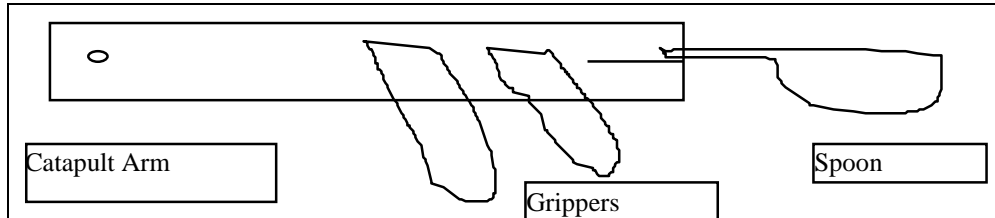
One one of the dowels, thread Upright, stabilizer, stabilizer on one side of the dowel and then the other (upright should be to the inside).

Using a hot glue gun, glue the uprights to the base at the 3" marks on the base. Glue the stabilizers to base at the end of the base and about 3 inches from the other end. (See picture). Then hot glue the uprights and stabilizers to the dowel to secure.



Construct Catapult arm as follows. Stack 2 jumbo craft sticks together and drill a 1/4" hole 1/2" from one end. Use a saw to cut a 1" long, 1/8" wide horizontal slit thru both sticks at the opposite end.

Cut 2 short pieces of scrap (about 1-1/4" long) for grippers. Sandwich them in between the two jumbo sticks for the arm as in the picture. Glue catapult arm together. Cut of the handle of a plastic spoon leaving about 1-1/2" of the handle. Insert the spoon in the slot and glue in place.



Finally, attach the arm to the base with the last dowel by inserting it thru the bottom hole in the upright, the arm and then the other upright. Then hot glue the ends of the dowels where they connect to the uprights to secure.

Attach a rubber band with a larkshead knot to the top dowel. Slide opposite arm over the arm and place between the grippers.

Good Luck

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