

Mouse (or Rat) Trap Car

The following materials were used to make the car at right.

- 1 Rat Trap with wooden base
- 4 wood screw eye hooks
- 4 pull caps from a coke can or equivalent
- 2 round shafted biros
- String about 30cm long
- 1 triangular pencil grip – cut into 4 sections
- 2 balloons
- 4 old CD or DVD's
- 1 toothpick or match



← Step 1

Screw the 4 eye hooks in as shown approximately 15mm from each side edge.

Step 2 →

Remove the ink refill from the biro and test that the shaft can spin freely within the eye hooks. Widen the eye hooks if rotation is not smooth with virtually no friction. Add a pull cap to each end of the axles to act as locking nuts – ensure each axle can still rotate freely.

← Step 3

Make a small hole in the centre of the rear axle (biro) and thread the string through it. Push the string down to one end and tie it to the centre of the toothpick. Push the toothpick and string back inside the biro. Pull the string through until the toothpick stops you. Tie the other end to the traps catching arm.

Step 4 →

Cut the 2 balloons across the centre and then cut again about 15 to 20mm from the first cut parallel to it. With each piece stretch over the CD or DVD wheel to give traction to the wheel on smooth surfaces.

← Step 5

To each end of the axle place one of the 4 Triangular Pencil Grips (balloons wrapped around and around can also be used). Now in a rotating manner insert each CD or DVD over the pencil grip.

To complete the car either push the car backwards to cause the string to be wound around the back axle or do it by hand – now set the trap. Your car is ready to run. Drop a rubber onto the section where cheese would normally be put and watch it travel. The length of string will govern how far it will travel. Experiment by trying the car on different surfaces etc.

