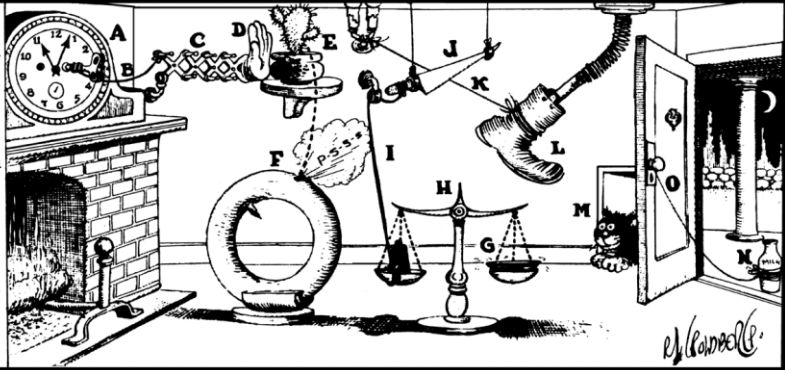


Putting the Cat Out At Night by Rube Goldberg

PROFESSOR BUTTS TRIES TO PLAY THE XYLOPHONE WITH TWO STICKS OF DYNAMITE AND WHEN HE IS PICKED UP THREE MILES AWAY HE MUMBLES INCOHERENTLY ABOUT A SIMPLE IDEA FOR PUTTING THE CAT OUT AT NIGHT. AS YOU WIND CLOCK (A) IT TIGHTENS STRING (B) CAUSING IT TO EXTEND COLLAPSIBLE HATRACK (C). GLOVE (D) PUSHES CACTUS PLANT (E) FROM SHELF. CACTUS NEEDLE PUNCTURES INNER-TUBE (F) CAUSING HISsing SOUND WHICH CAT MISTAKES FOR SOMEONE CALLING. AS CAT APPROACHES SHE DISCOVERS SAUCER OF MILK (G) STANDING ON SCALE (H) AND AS SHE DRINKS MILK WEIGHT BECOMES LIGHTER, CAUSING SCALE TO PULL CORD (I) AND DRAW KNIFE (J) ACROSS STRING (K) RELEASING BOOT (L) WHICH PUSHES CAT OUT THE DOOR. AS CAT IS PUSHED OUT SHE UPSETS MILK BOTTLE (M) WHICH ROLLS AND PULLS CORD (O) CLOSING DOOR. IF BOOT MISSES CAT, THEN PUT BOOT ON RIGHT FOOT AND KICK THE CAT OUT YOURSELF.



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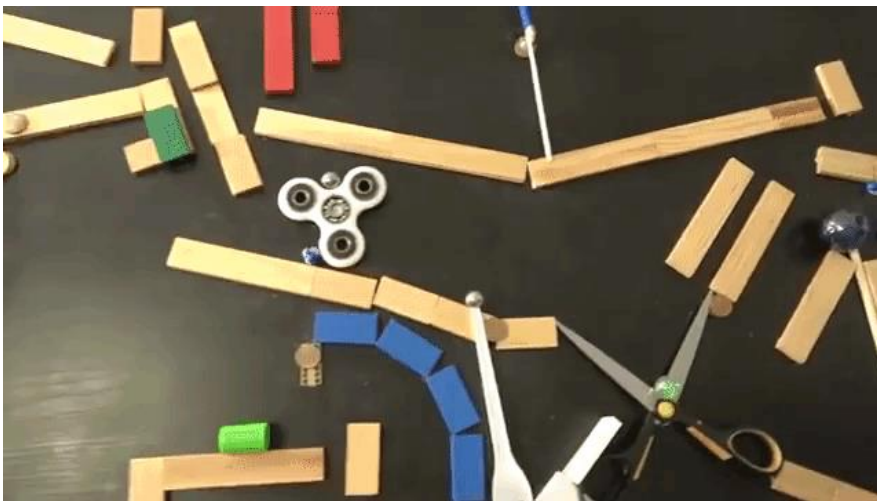
Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge

Rube Goldberg (1884-1970) was a Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist, best known for his nutty chain reaction inventions. A Rube Goldberg machine is a machine intentionally designed to perform a simple task in an overcomplicated way. These machines may consist of a series of simple devices that are linked together to produce a domino effect, in which each device triggers the next one, and the original goal is achieved only after many steps.

Your challenge is to build a Rube Goldberg Machine to pop a balloon in a minimum of 10 steps, and maximum of 20 steps. There is also a maximum footprint for your machine, it must fit into an area no larger than 3 metres x 3 metres x 2.4 metres high.

NOTE: a step in the machine is the transfer of energy from one action to another action. Identical transfers, eg. 20 dominos hitting each other in succession, should be counted as one step. And the only human interaction should be starting the first step.

You are to use every-day objects to create your Rube Goldberg Machine™ and to integrate as many recycled or repurposed items as possible. Imagine the kinetic component of everything in the world around you and put it into motion in your Rube Goldberg Machine.



For advice and assistance
on this task about see:
Mr. McRae