

Rube Goldberg™ Invention II

Sent in by: The ZOOMers

Complicated contraptions! Rube Goldberg designed inventions that made simple tasks much more complicated. Now you try to create one that pours milk into a glass.

Materials

- Different things from around your house. That's the beauty of it! The ZOOMers used vinegar, baking soda, various fishing weights, springs, rubber toy wheels, a drinking glass, 1/2 gallon milk carton, 2 large tables on wheels, a straight-backed wooden chair, and a whole bunch of other stuff.

Instructions

1. Go crazy! Build the most complicated contraption you can come up with that pours milk into a glass.

Did your Rube Goldberg invention take a long time to build? Did you make lots of modifications and changes as you built it? What did you use to build it? Think of another problem you want to solve Rube Goldberg style. Make a design -- it doesn't have to be as complicated as one that pours a glass of milk. Try setting up a row of dominos. When they fall, they could knock over a ball balanced at the top of a folder. Or, a ball could roll down a folder and knock over a balanced soda bottle. Then, test out your invention, make some changes so that it works really well, and send your results to ZOOM! Each week, we'll publish a whole bunch right here.

Sample Results:

Hisham, age 8 of Aurora, IL wrote:

I rolled a golf ball which knocked some dominos which moved a baseball which fell on a lever and flung a die.

Ana, age 9 of Anchorage, AK wrote:

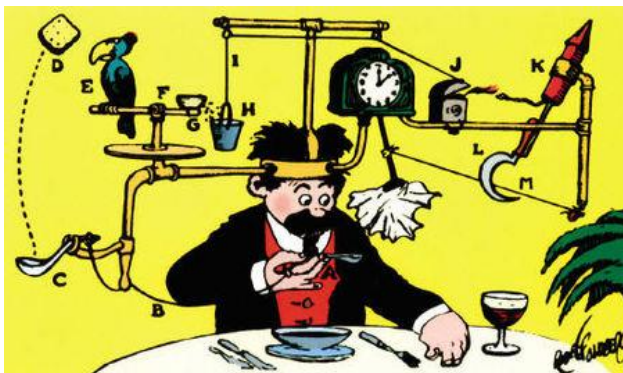
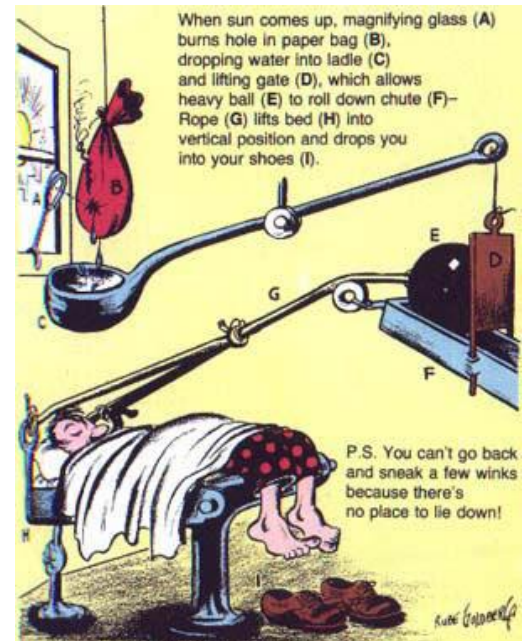
The balloon did not pop when the scissors hit it.

Victoria, age 13 of Lake Jackson, TX wrote:

I am working REALLY hard on this contraption that does all of the simplest tasks in the house. Picking up a soda!!! It sits on a little table until it lifted to the person it is going to. So far it's really cool!

Andrea, age 12 of Burien, WA wrote:

Instead of a glass of milk, I tried to do one that waters a plant. The first five steps were easy. But it gets really hard when you have to connect it all and make it work every time. I'm not done yet, but so far it's really cool. My favorite part is when a giant marble knocks a role of tape over a ledge and the weight of the tape tips up the watering can, since their both attached to a pulley. What a cool experiment!



Mason, age 5 of Sherwood, OR wrote:

We set up some dominoes that hit one book. The book then pushed another book that shut a dresser. Shutting the dresser released a string that was attached to a block. When the block moved, a ball went down my marble racer.

Aniesha, age 6 of San Diego, CA wrote:

It worked but it took a long time to operate, about 1 business week that's a long time was able to operate on a t. v too turn it on and my cable box also allowing it turn up a certain volume, so loud that it rocked the baby swing. JUST LIKE I WANTED IT TOO!!!

Peter, age 11 of Orchard Park, NY wrote:

It was simple, but hard. I turned on a lego train, which hit a car. The car rolled down the track, and onto a chair. The car then hit a golf ball, and the ball rolled off the chair onto a lever, and sent the bunch of legos I set up flying!

Alexander, age 8 of Lutcher, LA wrote:

I rolled a ball down a ramp then it bounced off a bucket knocked over my toy lap top pulling a shoe lace pulling a pencil knocking over a sign so I can read it.

John, age 6 of Bexley, OH wrote:

I turn on a train, witch rolls onto a catapult, which turns on another train, that pulls the string that's tied to a hammer that pushes the button that launches the catapult that sends the train flying that knocks over some dominoes, then the last domino turns on a train that's tied to a string that's tied to a bird cage. When the train moves down the line, the cage door is pulled open, witch knocks over a gallon of milk, witch pours into a glass!

Baxter, age 8 of Rockmart, GA wrote:

Using toys, cups, and a shoebox: I built 1 by pushing a truck into a book; the book hit another truck, pushing a cup full of blocks over; the blocks landed in the other cup.

Jake, age 6 of Frenchtown, NJ wrote:

When I did it, I tried to put my book in the drawer. A string was tied to the knob of the drawer and the book had the string through it. When I opened it up, the book slid into the drawer!! It was so cool!

Matthew, age 9 of Willow Springs, NC wrote:

First I pushed over a domino which caused a chain reaction knocking over more dominoes. The last domino fell off of a table pulling a string that started a toy train. The train went down a track and at the end knocked over books. The last book landed on a whoopy cushion letting out enough air out that it knocked over more dominoes. The last domino knocked off 4 dominoes attached to a string. The string pulled up a gallon that was somewhat filled with milk. The milk poured into a funnel that then went down a tube. All ending up in a glass of milk. Boy was it good!!!

Coral, age 14 of Greenwood, IN wrote:

My eighth grade science class had to come up with a Rube Goldberg machine. I partnered up with my friend, and we had to make a bottle of water sprinkle on a plant. We had to have at least 10 steps, and one month to finish it. I'm still working on it, but here are some of the steps: You push a button, which turns on the car and moves it forward, hitting the dominoes, which do a cool trick. Then, they hit a marble, which zigzags down a slide and falls into a mousetrap. It sets off and pulls a string. The string is pulled off and the cap of a bottle full of marbles spills out into a cup, so when it gets full, it pulls down a tire, which release a spring and bounces a row of marbles down a tube and into bucket. The weight makes the bottle on the ramp heavy, and it tips over and waters the plant. The best part was doing it with my friends and having a good time doing it. I hope you have just as much fun!!!

PROFESSOR BUTTS WALKS IN HIS SLEEP, STROLLS THROUGH A CACTUS FIELD IN HIS BARE FEET, AND SCREAMS OUT AN IDEA FOR A SELF-OPERATING NAPKIN. AS YOU RAISE SPOON OF SOUP (A) TO YOUR MOUTH IT PULLS STRING (B), THEREBY JERKING LADLE (C) WHICH THROWS CRACKER (D) PAST PARROT (E). PARROT JUMPS AFTER CRACKER AND PERCH (F) TILTS, UPSETTING SEEDS (G) INTO PAIL (H). EXTRA WEIGHT IN PAIL PULLS CORD (I) WHICH OPENS AND LIGHTS AUTOMATIC CIGAR LIGHTER (J), SETTING OFF SKY-ROCKET (K) WHICH CAUSES SICKLE (L) TO CUT STRING (M) AND ALLOW PENDULUM WITH ATTACHED NAPKIN TO SWING BACK AND FORTH THEREBY WIPING OFF YOUR CHIN. AFTER THE MEAL, SUBSTITUTE A HARMONICA FOR THE NAPKIN AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ENTERTAIN THE GUESTS WITH A LITTLE MUSIC.

