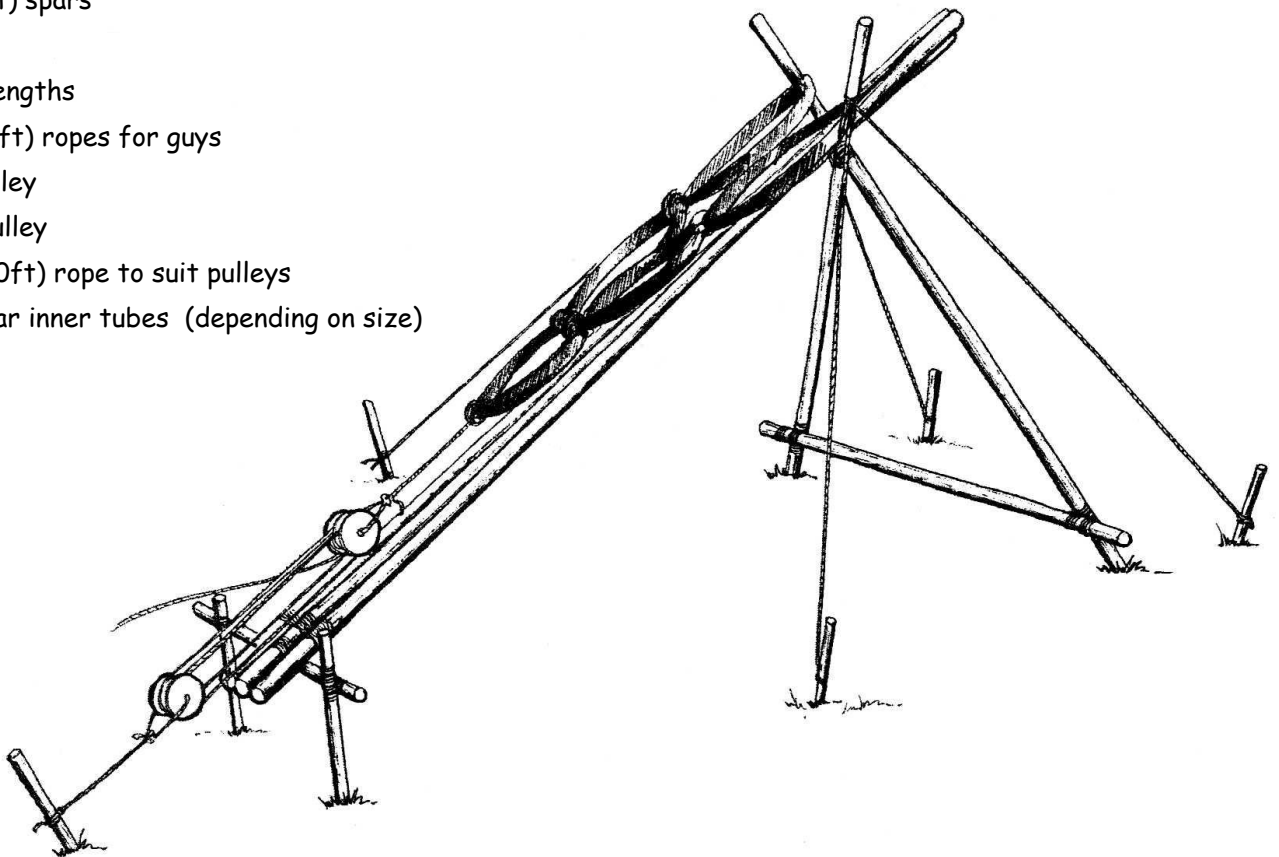


The Long Range Bolt Shooter

Some years ago a Patrol of Scouts built a giant catapult and fired a stave an incredible 99 yards (90.5m). Fortunately they had allowed plenty of room.

Equipment

- 5 x 2.4m (8ft) spars
- 1 x 1.8m (6ft) spars
- 3 x 1m (3ft) spars
- 5 pickets
- 6 lashing lengths
- 4 x 5m (15ft) ropes for guys
- 1 single pulley
- 1 double pulley
- 1 x 15m (50ft) rope to suit pulleys
- 3 - 4 old car inner tubes (depending on size)
- Sisal



Method

- Construct an A frame using 2 x 2.4m (8ft) and 1 x 1.8m (6ft) spars.
- Attach the guys (2 x 5m (15ft) ropes) to the top of each side of the A frame using round turns and two half hitches.
- Join the inner tubes together into a chain by binding them using plenty of sisal. Hang the two ends of the tyre chain over the top of the A frame spars.
- Stand the A frame up, heel in the butts and then drive in the pickets. The guys should be adjusted so that the A frame leans at approx 20° to the vertical.
- Set 2 x 1m (3ft) spars into the ground vertically approx 2.4m (8ft) from the A frame and parallel to it.
- Lash the third 1m (3ft) spar across the previous two about 0.3m (1ft) down from the top.
- Lay one of the 2.4m (8ft) spar in the crutch of the A frame and lash the other end (the butt) on top of the horizontal 1m (3ft) spar.

- Lay the other two 2.4m (8ft) spars alongside the first with one end in the crutch of the A frame and the other resting on the horizontal bar. Join the three together at the lower end using a figure of eight lashing.
- Drive in the remaining picket in line with the sloping spars and about 1.8m (6ft) away from the support for the butts of the 2.4m (8ft) spars.
- Rig the pulleys and the 15m (50ft) rope into a handy billy. Attach one end the handy billy to the centre of the tyre chain using sisal and the other end to the fifth picket.

To fire the bolt shooter

- Prime the firing mechanism by tensioning up the handy billy and then make off to the rear picket.
- Load a light spar or stave.
- Check that the coast is clear and everyone is behind the line of fire.
- Cut the sisal.