ONE-STRING FIDDLE

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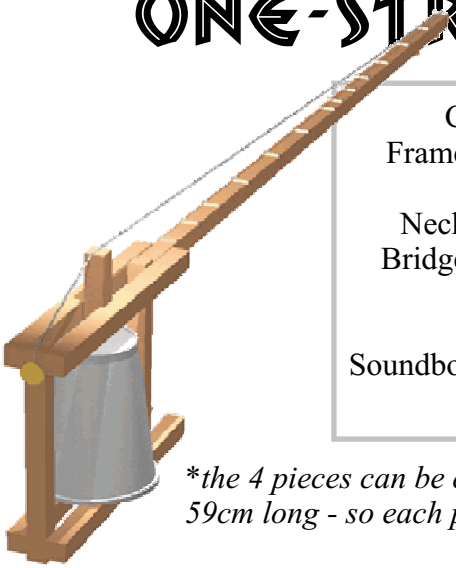
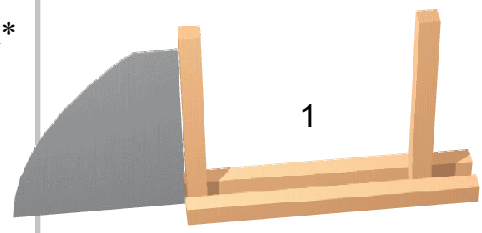
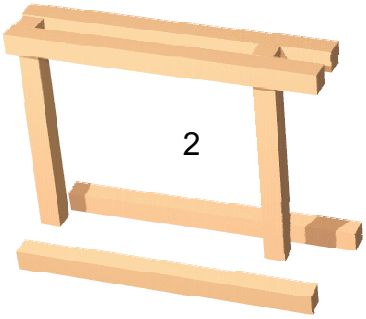


CUTTING LIST

Frame	- 4 pieces softwood 1 x 1 x 15cm*
	- 2 pieces softwood 1 x 1 x 11cm
Neck	- softwood 1 x 1 x up to 59cm
Bridge	- softwood 1 x 1 x [to suit]
	- string, thread or fishing line 1m
	- 2 or 3 drawing pins
Soundbox	- plastic cup or similar

**the 4 pieces can be cut from ONE length of wood which is only 59cm long - so each piece is a little less than 15cm*

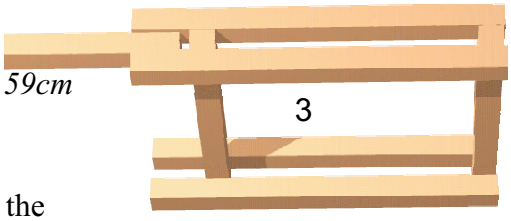




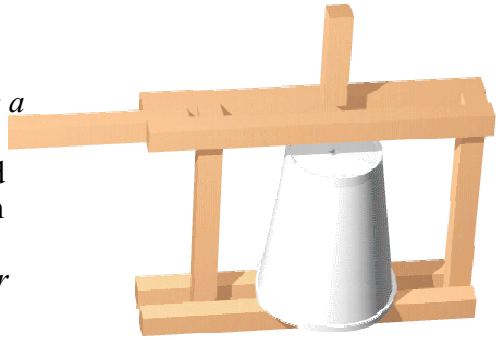
BUILDING THE FRAME

There are several ways to organise the building of the frame - the one shown is probably the best, but you will need patience - the glue needs to dry properly between each stage.

1. On a flat surface pinch the 2 uprights between 2 of the 15cm pieces [as shown] Notice that one upright is about 3cm away from the end. Use a card or similar with a right angled corner as a guide - then WAIT!
2. Turn all this over and repeat with the other 2 pieces. WAIT!
3. Push neck into 'fork' at the top. Glue firmly. *The neck could be a whole 59cm length of wood or it could be shorter.*

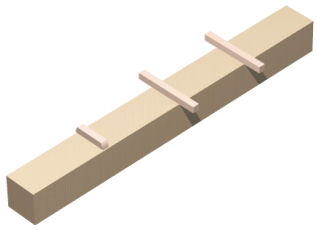


The model shown is fitted with an 8cm high standard plastic cup. To make the bridge stand clear of the frame it needs to be 3 - 4cm long. If you are using some other container as a soundbox you will need to cut the bridge to fit. It will still need to reach past the frame.

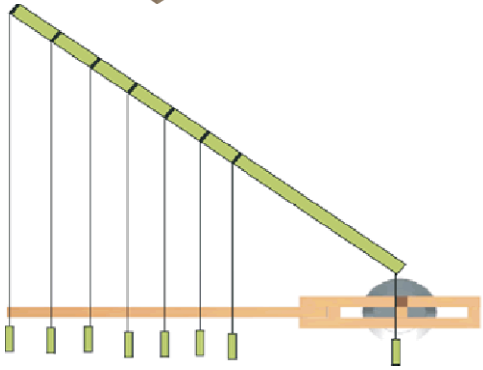


The bridge is a push fit between the two top frame members. It shouldn't be glued - *in fact you could sand the sides of the bridge a little so that it is quite a loose fit.*

It is the string that keeps the bridge and soundbox in place. Stretch the thread or fishing line from one end of the instrument to the other. Use a drawing pin in the end of the frame for one end and another UNDER the end of the neck for the other end. Pull it very tight! *Do not have the string over the bridge for this operation. When the string is secured lift it onto the bridge - this will stretch it a little more.*



Shortening the vibrating part of the string with your finger will produce a higher note. This can be made easier by making FRETS - little ridges across the neck (look at a guitar if you can). Matchsticks make ideal frets. Glue them then trim them ONLY WHEN THE GLUE HAS SET!



For the instrument to play a proper musical scale the frets need to be in the correct place. It is possible, though not easy, to transfer the intervals from a guitar. The guitar will be longer than your fiddle so you will have to use a method such as this.

Remember the important measurement is the distance between the ends of the vibrating string, ie the end of the neck [the nut] and the bridge. Copy this full-size, together with some fret positions, onto a length of thick card or wood. Tape threads to each mark and weight with something convenient so they can hang straight down. Hold this above you fiddle and slope it until the end threads match the nut and bridge. Get someone to mark where each thread crosses the neck of your instrument. OK? This is where to position the frets.

A 'Rude Mechanicals*' production for NCC