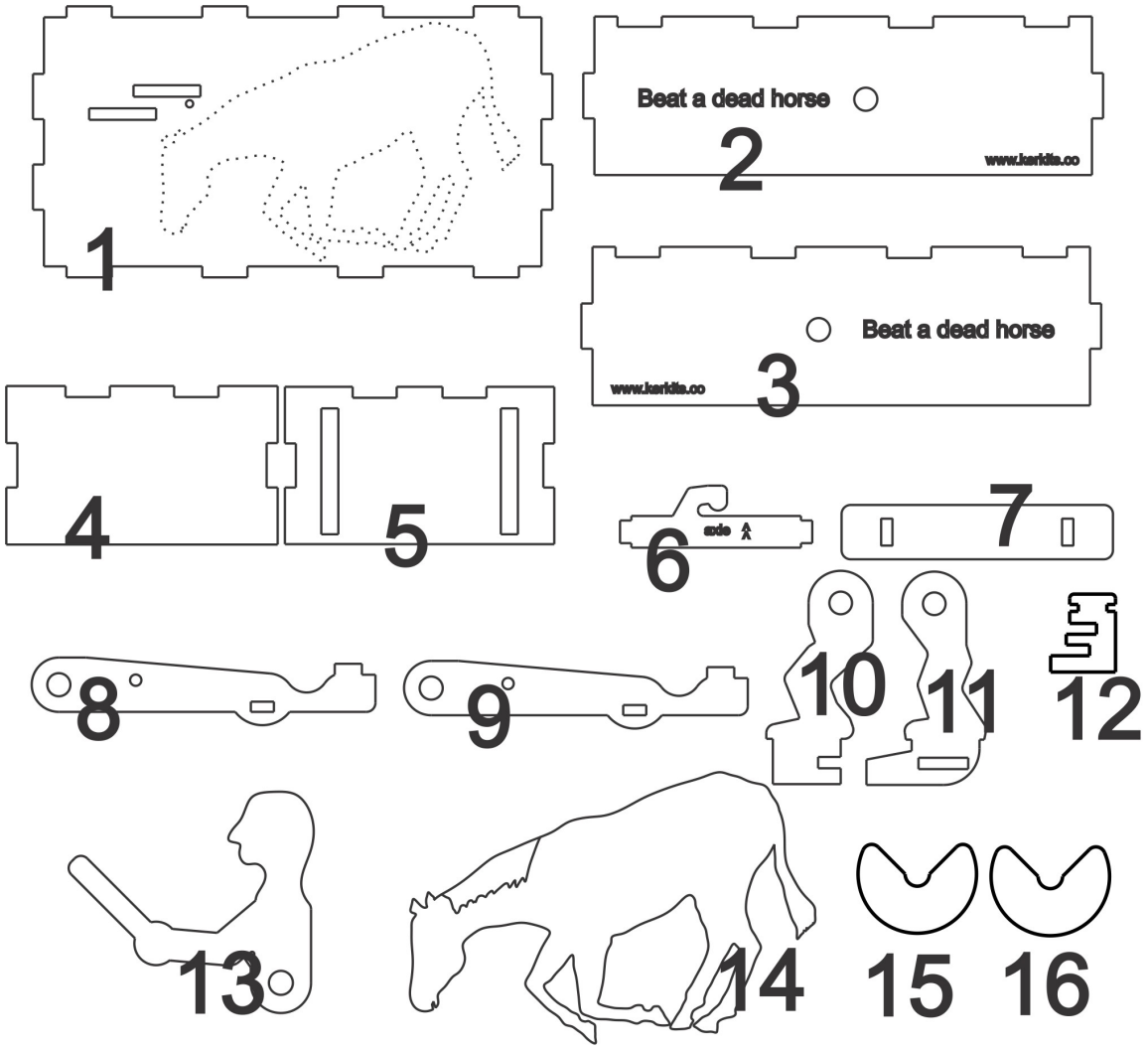
Beat a Dead Horse Assembly Instructions

In English, the metaphor of "Beat a Dead Horse" means to waste energy on something when there is no chance of succeeding. In the past few years, it has taken on additional meaning, being used to indicate that a person is speaking about a topic that has already been settled.

"Beat a Dead Horse" by KerKits brings this metaphor to life. It is a humorous – albeit darkly so- item, well suited for office cubicles or meeting rooms. It is a mechanical toy, sometimes called "automaton".

Assembly is relatively simple. It should take on average 30 minutes or less to glue together, and then let it sit for about 2 hours to let the glue cure.

Laser cut plywood parts – These parts are precision laser cut in the shapes shown below (not to scale). The assembly instructions will refer to the part by the number shown as Part 1, Part 2, etc.



Other parts:

¼ inch (6mm) diameter wooden dowel, 3 inches (76 mm) long

1/8 inch (3mm) diameter wooden dowel, 2-1/2 inches (63 mm) long

1/4 inch (6mm) diameter wooden dowel, 3/8 inch (9mm) long

Bent wire with loop

Rubber band, small (used as a spring in Beat a Dead Horse)

2 Rubber bands, large (used to clamp parts together during gluing)

Not included but necessary: Wood glue. Commonly available glue like the popular Elmer's brand is needed to assemble Beat a Dead Horse. Such glue is easy to find in hardware stores like Home Depot or similar.

Assembly notes:
You should assemble on a flat surface like a table. Put down some paper or similar material to protect the surface from any spilled glue or scratches prior to starting.

Note about "sides" or orientation. Some of the parts must be positioned exactly in order for Beat a Dead Horse to work. The instructions below call this out very specifically. Be sure to follow these directions closely.

Assembly Steps:

1. Locate the parts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. First, do not apply any glue and just test fit the parts to understand how they go together. Illustration A below shows the parts viewed from rear and to the left side.

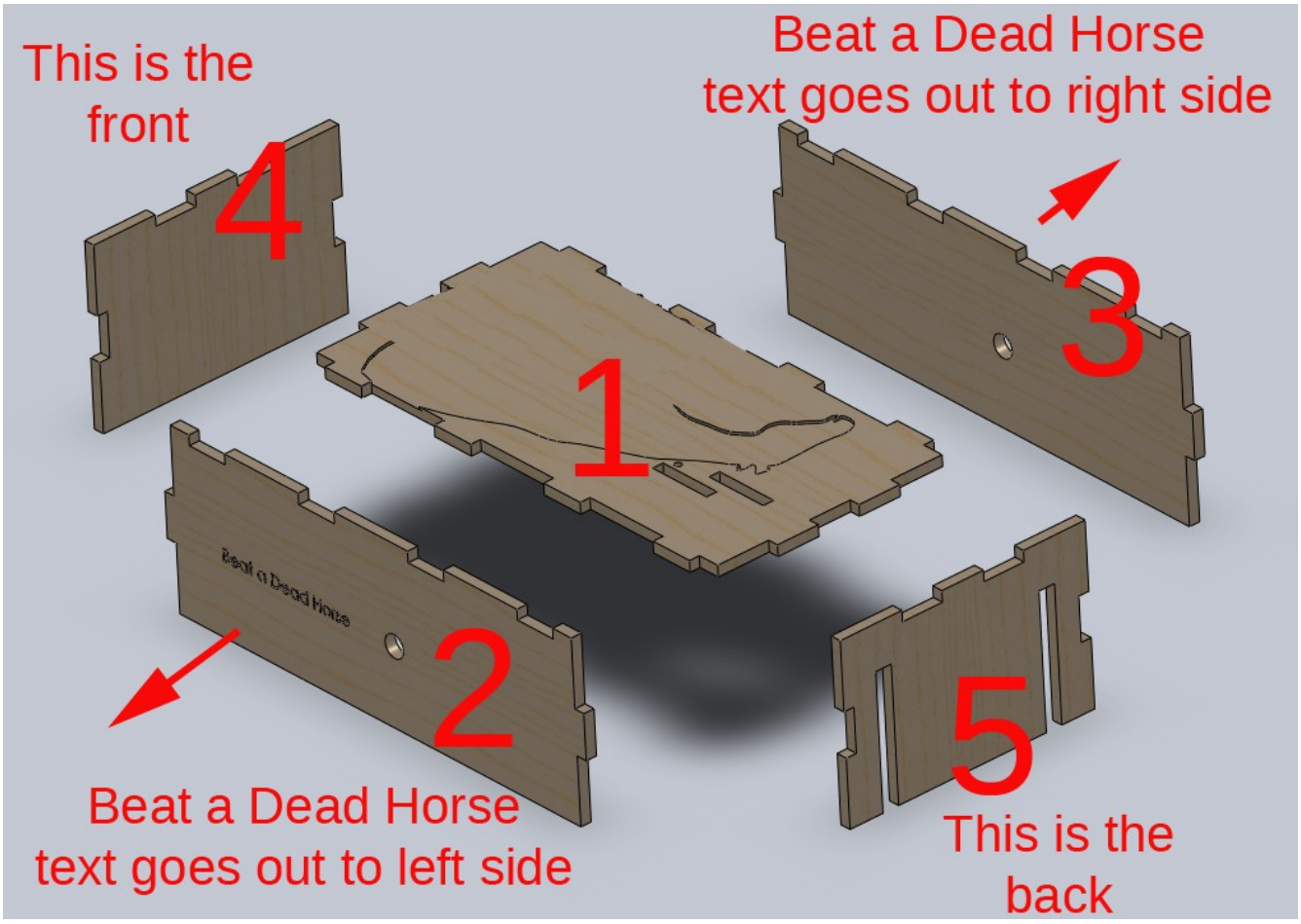


Illustration A

Note the following points about position and orientation:

- Part 1 has the outline of horse facing up. The horse's head points toward part 5 at the back.
- Part 2 has the text “Beat a Dead Horse” facing out to right side, and that text is closest to front end.
- Part 5 has the slots cut into it. This is the back end.
- Part 3 has text facing out to right side and closest to the front end.

Illustration B shows the parts dry fitted together, no glue yet, from the right side and to rear. The part numbers are shown with large red text.

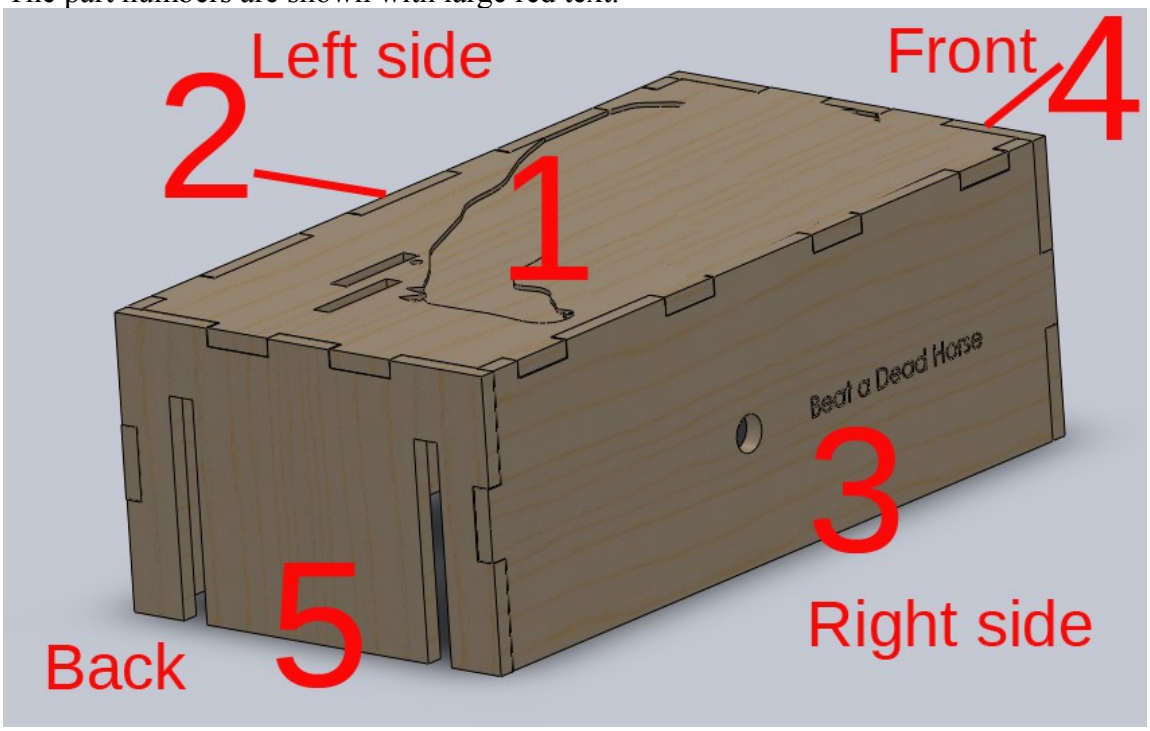


Illustration B

2. Ease the parts apart and apply glue as shown by yellow areas in illustration C below. Apply glue in the areas shown in yellow, so that the glue will not be visible. It is best to apply glue onto two parts then fit them together, then apply glue to next part, etc.

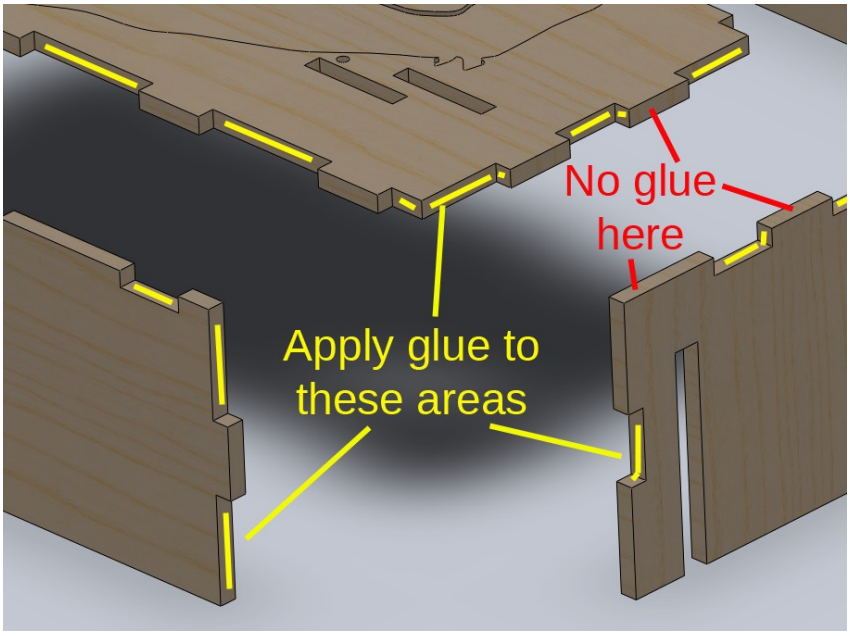


Illustration C

3. Stretch the large rubber band and fasten around the box, near the top to hold the base box together while the glue dries. Set aside.

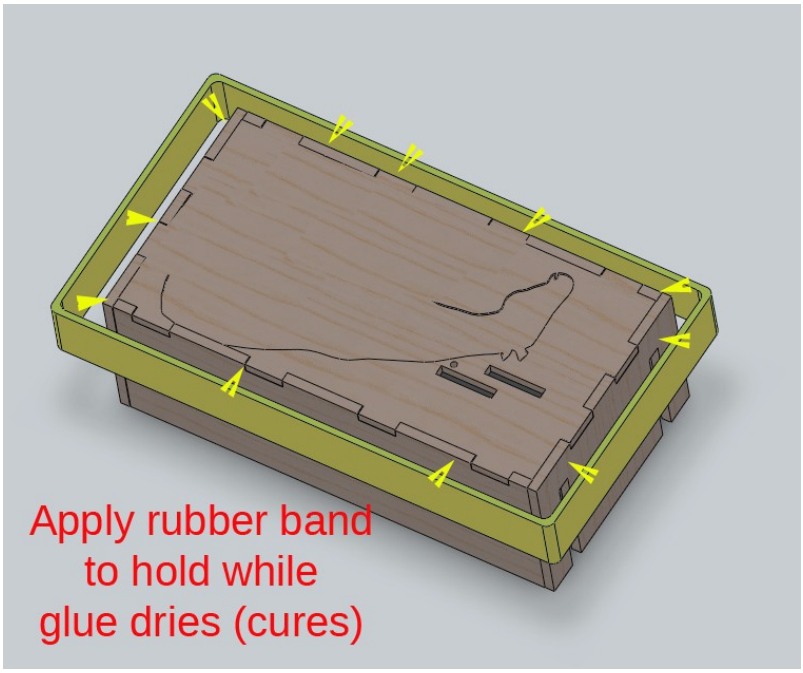


Illustration D

4. Find parts 8 and 9 (they are identical, no left or right side) and part 6. Apply glue as shown in yellow areas below. This part will not be visible so you do not have to be as careful with glue application.

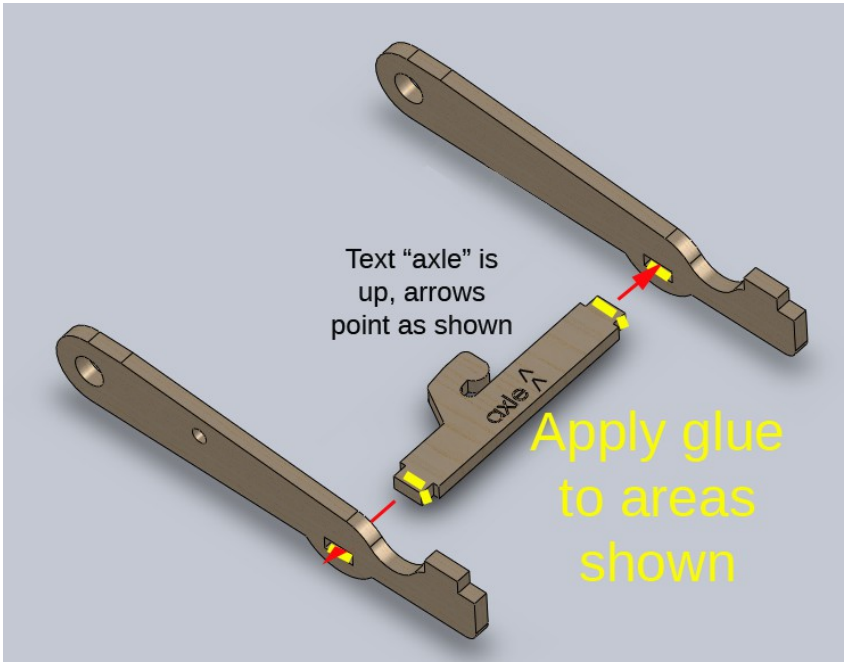


Illustration E

5. Locate part 7 and apply glue as shown in yellow below. Apply glue carefully as part 7 will be visible. Then assemble part 7 with 8/9/6.

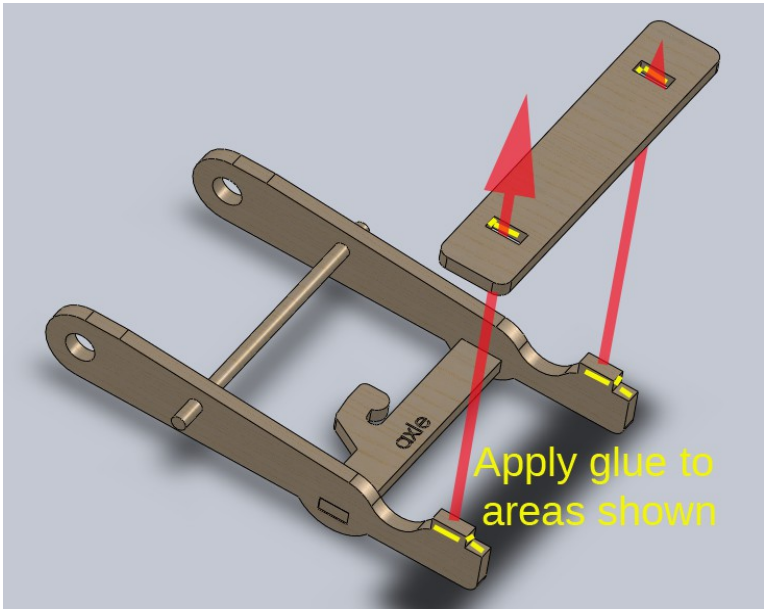


Illustration F

6. Wrap rubber band around the assembled parts 6/7/8/9 to clamp them together while the glue dries. You can then place a weight like a book onto part 7 to hold it down. Set this aside and let the glue dry, about 2 hours.

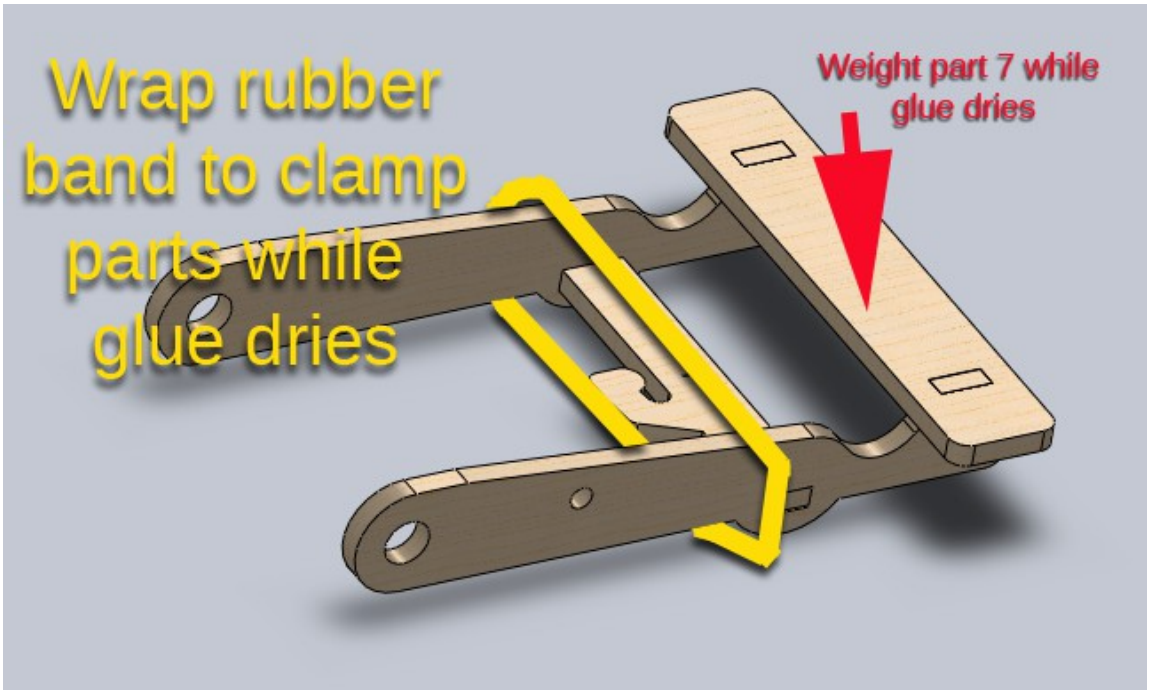


Illustration G

7. Locate part 10. Part 10 is the man's right leg so it will go into the right side hole. Carefully apply glue where shown including the small rectangular slot. Tilt then insert part 10 into the assembled base. Insert the “toe” first then rotate to seat the part fully.

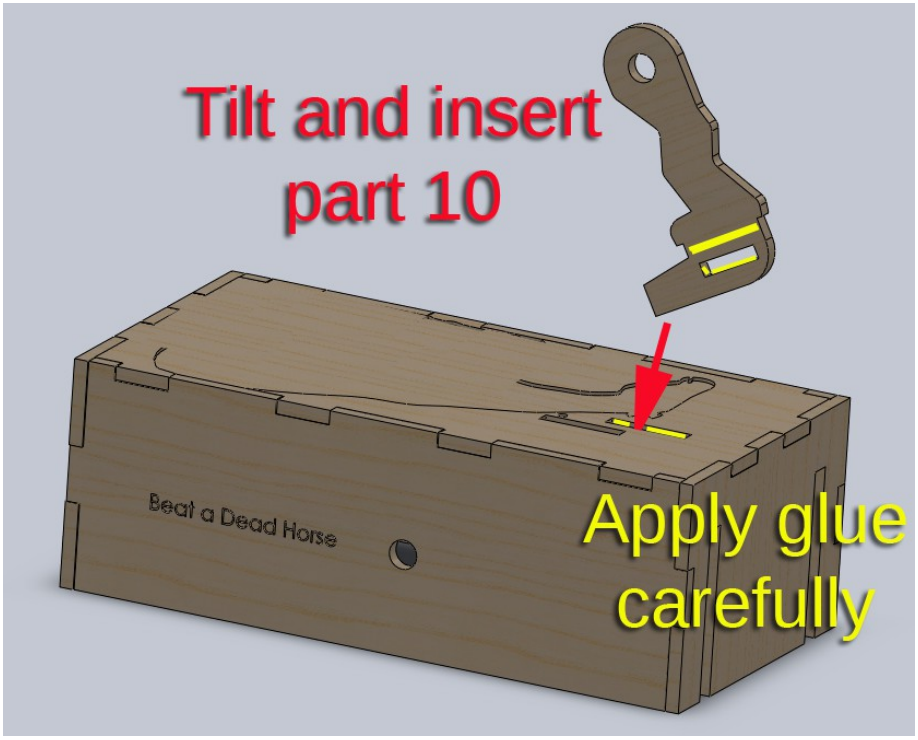


Illustration H

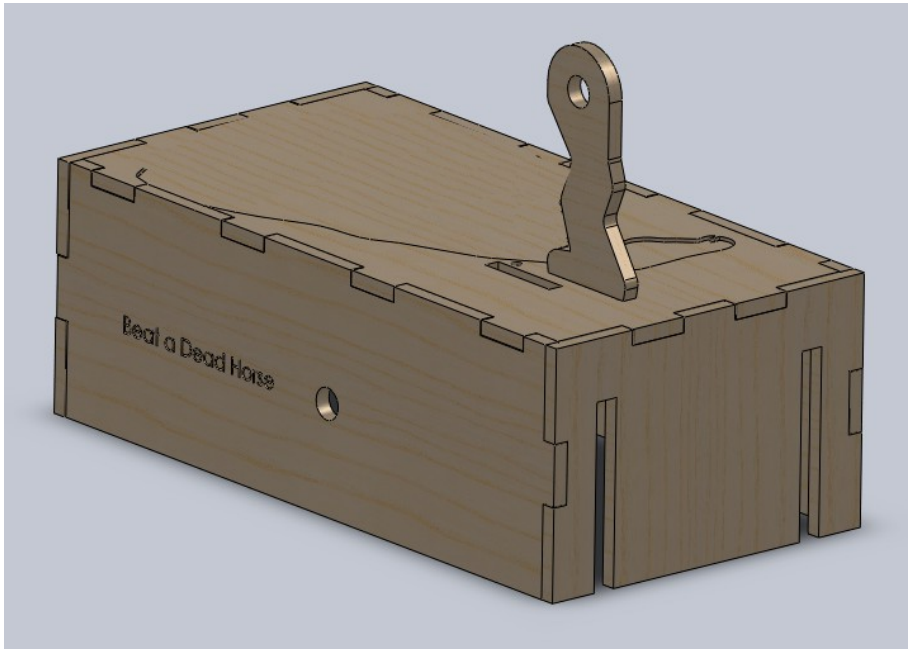


Illustration I

8. Locate part 11, which is the man's left leg. Apply glue carefully as shown in yellow and insert this part straight into the left leg hole in the base.

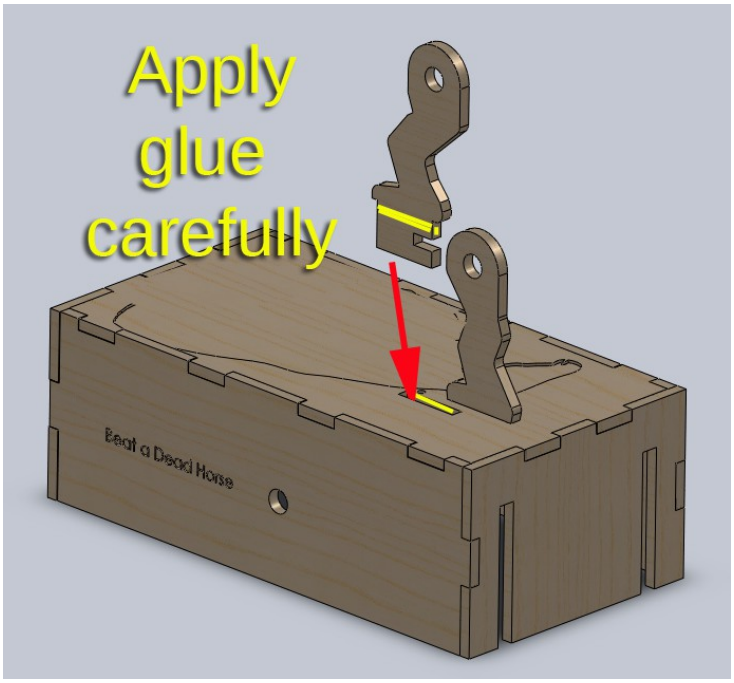


Illustration J

9. Locate part 12. Apply glue as shown in yellow.

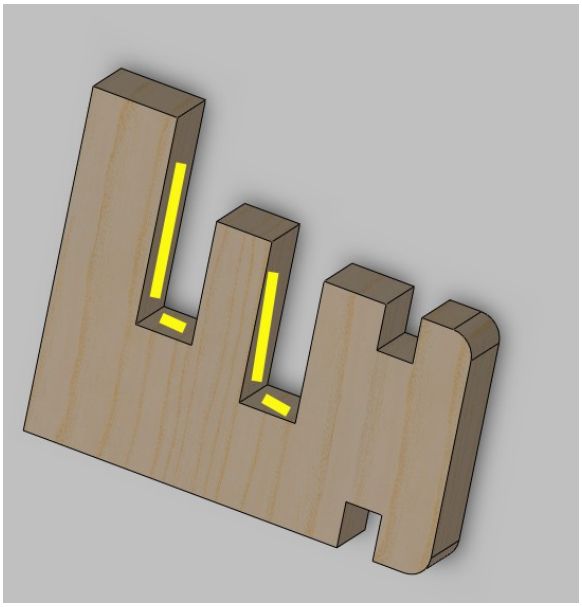


Illustration K

10. Hold the base upside down and place part 12 (shown in green for clarity) inside as shown in preparation of inserting it into parts 10 and 11.

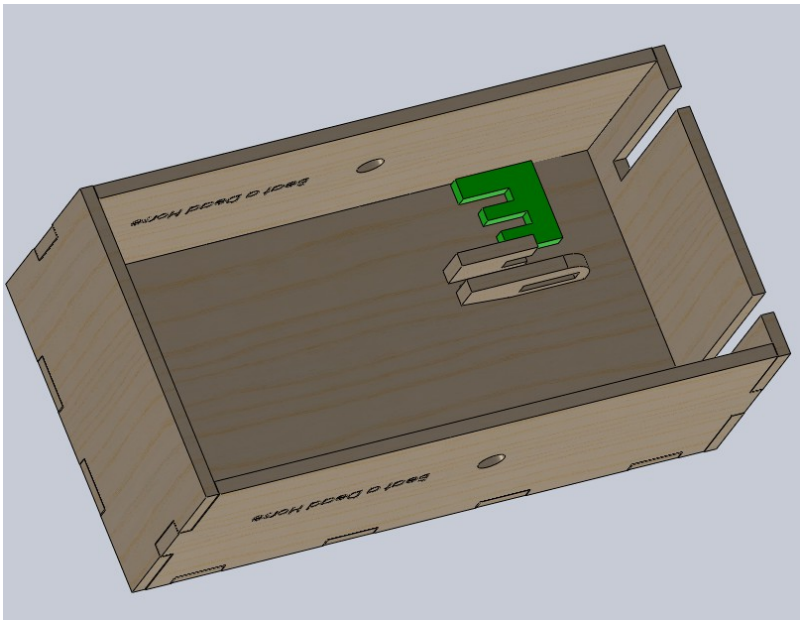


Illustration L

10. Insert part 12 through the slots of parts 10 and 11.

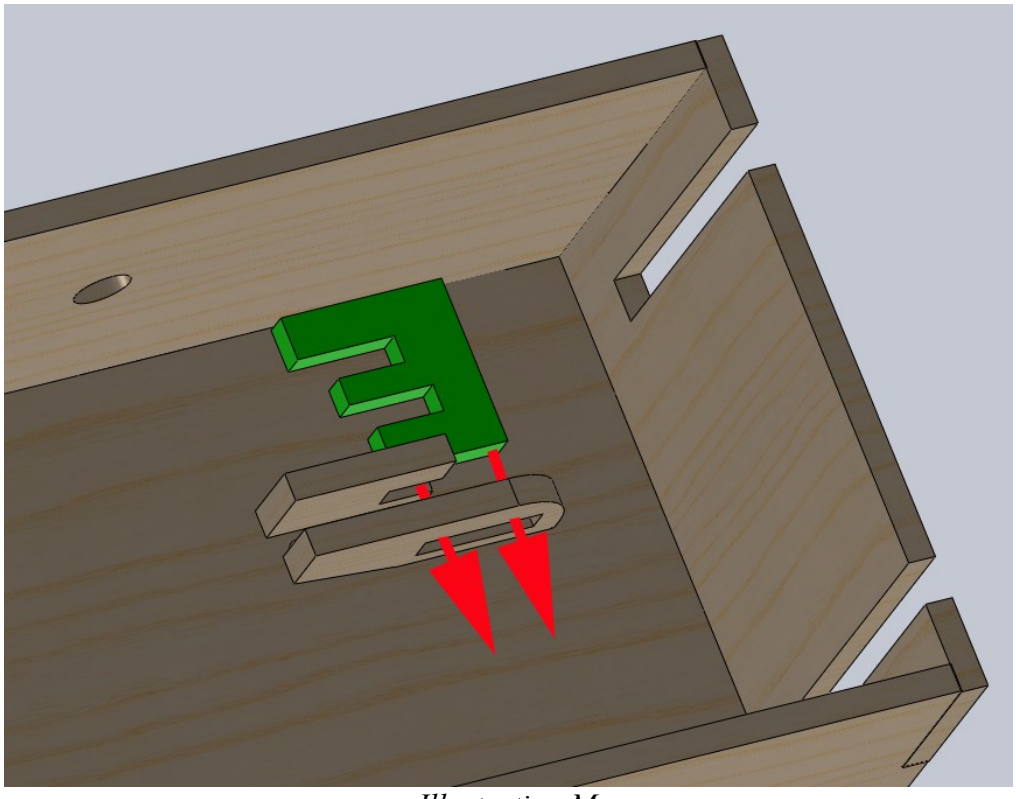


Illustration M

11. Slide part 12 fully forward until it locks. Part 11 will lock parts 10 and 11 into the base and make the “man” much more stable than simply gluing parts 10 and 11 into place.

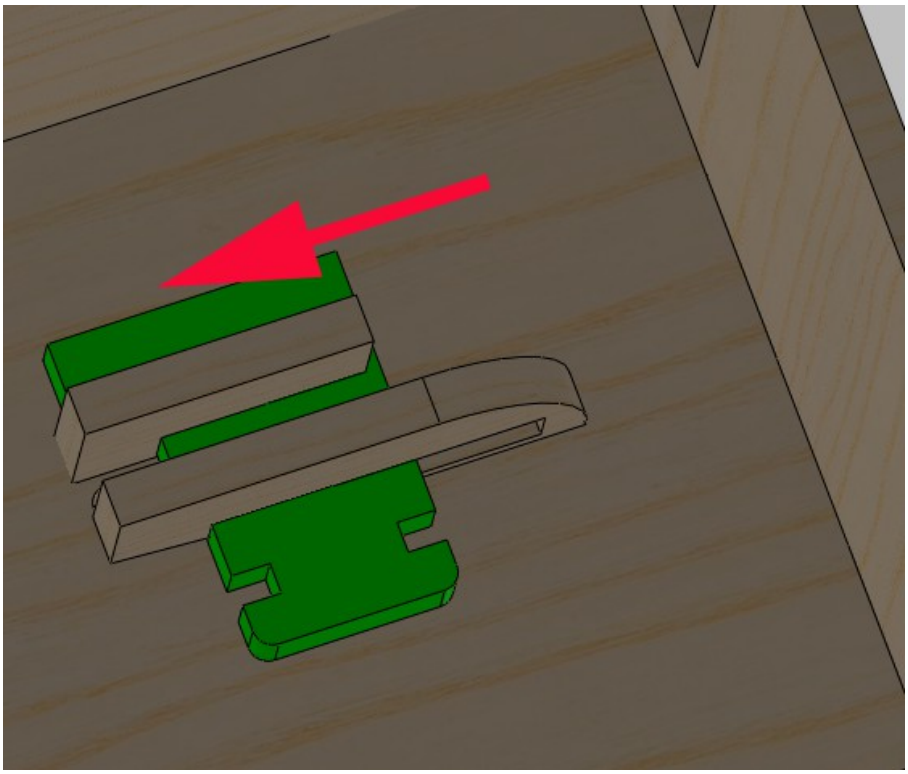


Illustration N

12. Loop a small rubber band around the tabbed protrusion of part 12.

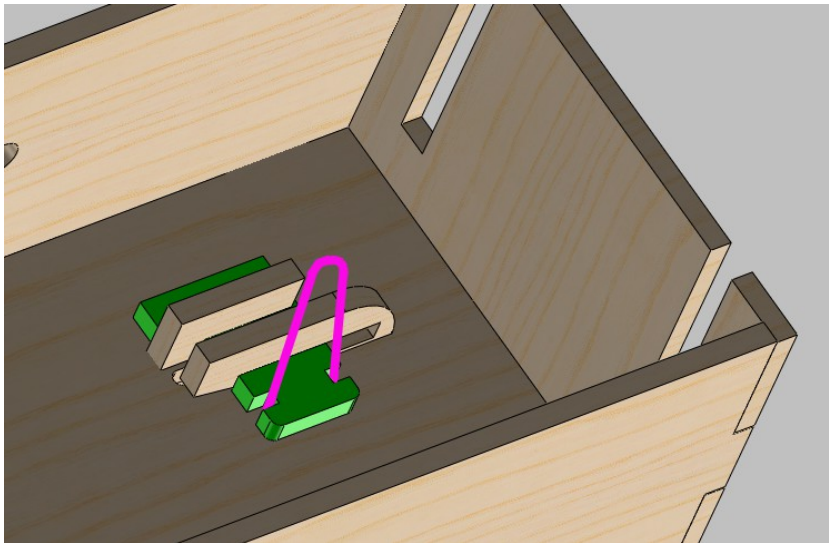


Illustration O

13. Locate the control wire and insert the 90 degree bent end up through the hole in the base, near part 10.

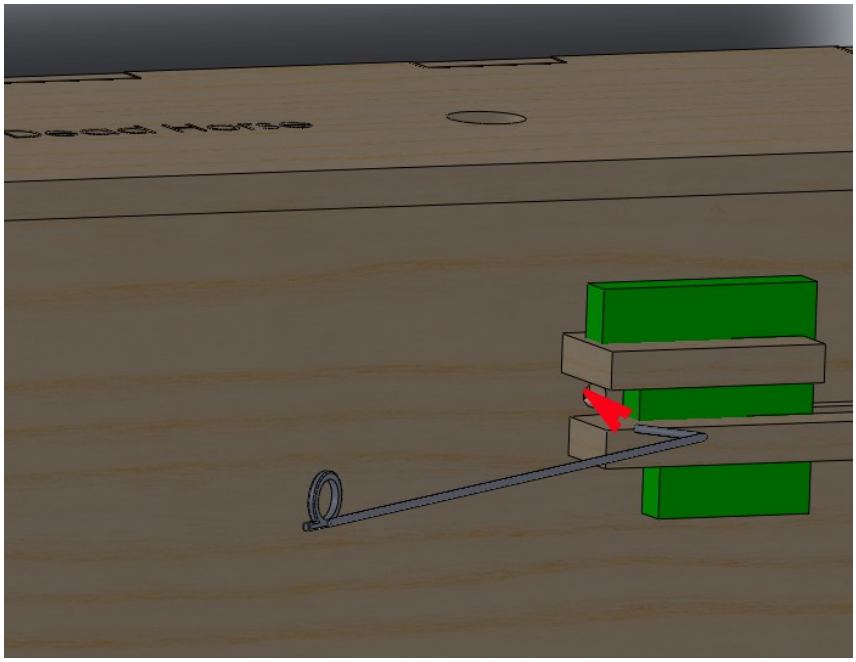


Illustration P

14. Locate the 1/8 inch (3mm) diameter dowel. No glue is needed for this step. Insert it into the assembled parts 6/7/8/9, sliding through the circular hole in the control wire. Illustrations Q and R do not show the base with hire hanging for clarity. The wire will still be hanging down inside the base. Then continue inserting dowel through the other side of parts 6/7/8/9. The dowel will stick out about ¼ inch (6mm) on each side. You do not need to use glue for the this dowel.

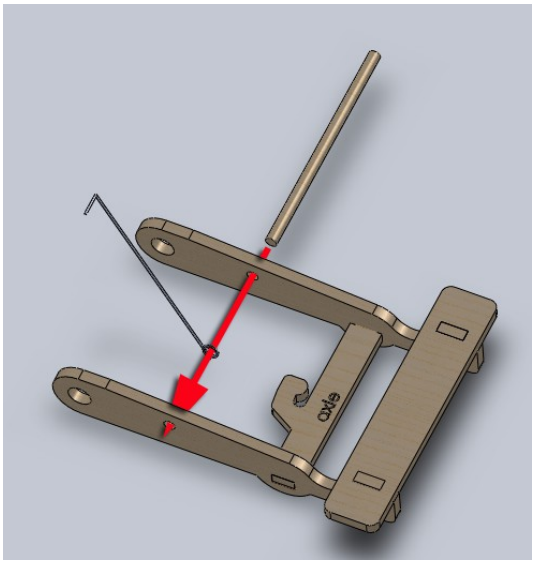


Illustration Q

Completed assembly with the control wire captured by the dowel.

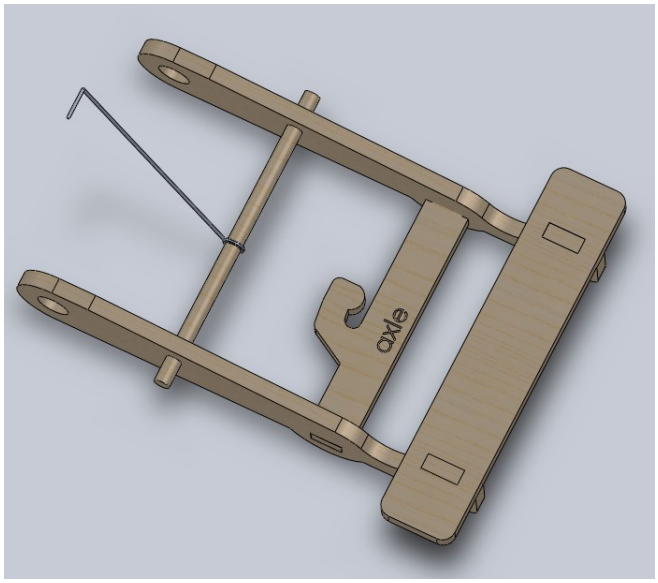


Illustration R

15. Insert the ¼ inch (6mm) diameter dowel through the base and through the axle holes of assembly parts 6/7/8/9. Do not use glue yet.

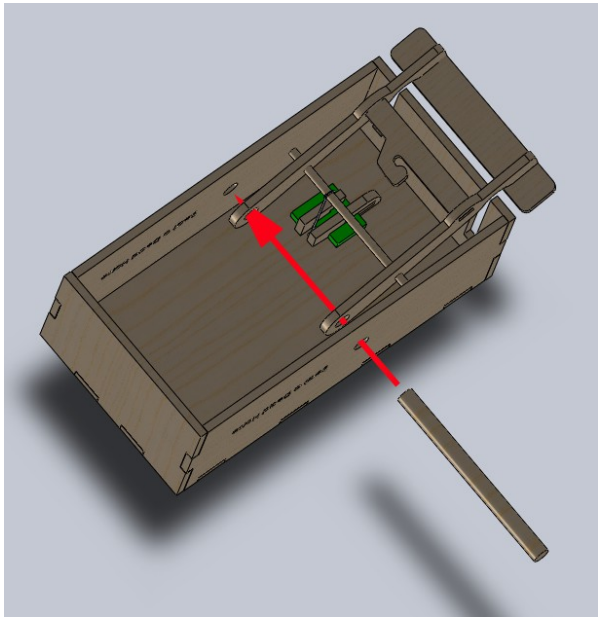


Illustration S

16. Apply glue to parts 15 and 16. Glue one face and inside the axle hole area.

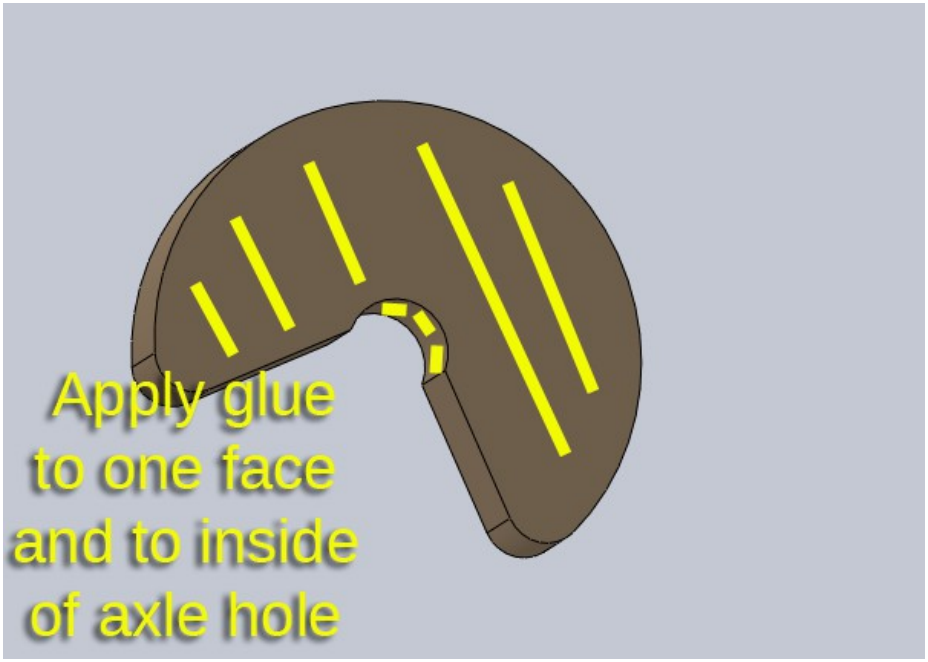


Illustration T

18. Place the glued parts 15 and 16 onto the axle (¼ inch or 6mm diameter dowel). The purpose of parts 15 and 16 is to ensure that you have ample gluing surface area for the axle. It is not necessary for the axle to rest "on top" of parts 15 and 16.

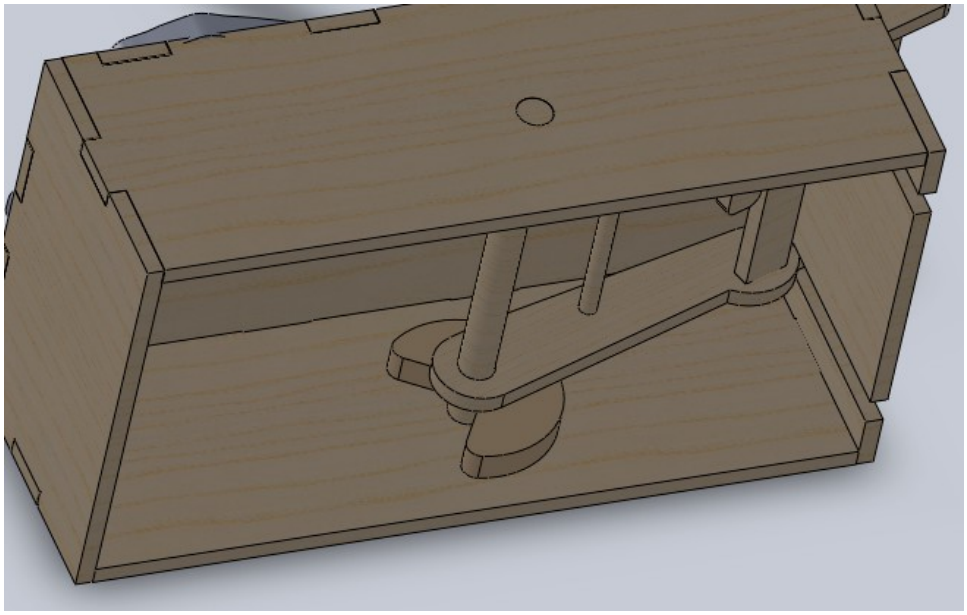


Illustration U

19. Hook the loose rubber band loop over the curved part of part number 6.

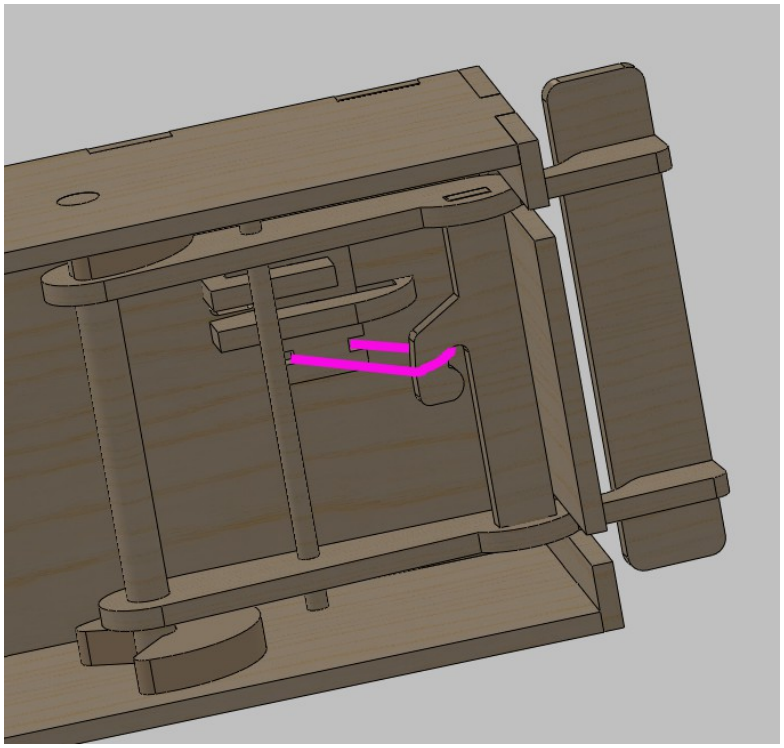


Illustration V

20. Apply glue carefully to the short dowel (¼ inch or 6mm). Insert part 13 between parts 10 and 11 and then insert the short dowel to hold it in place. Be careful that you do not allow glue to get onto part 13 since it must rotate on the short dowel.

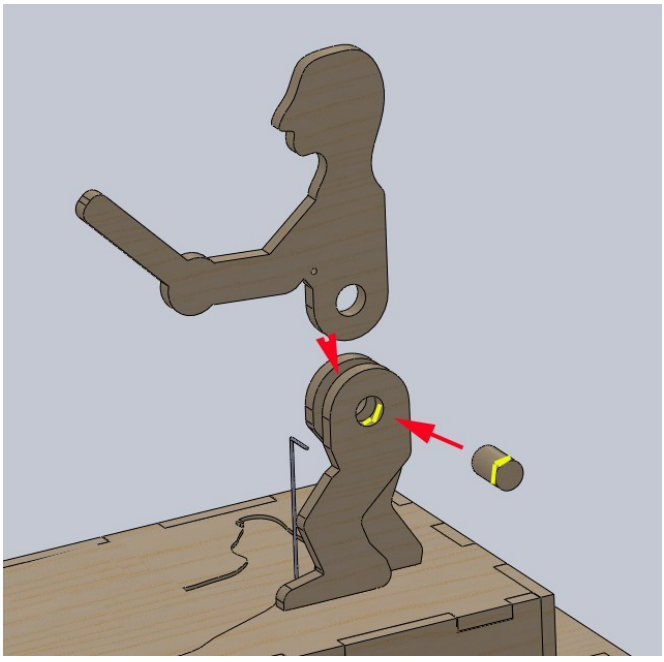


Illustration W

21. Insert the control wire into the small hole of part 13.

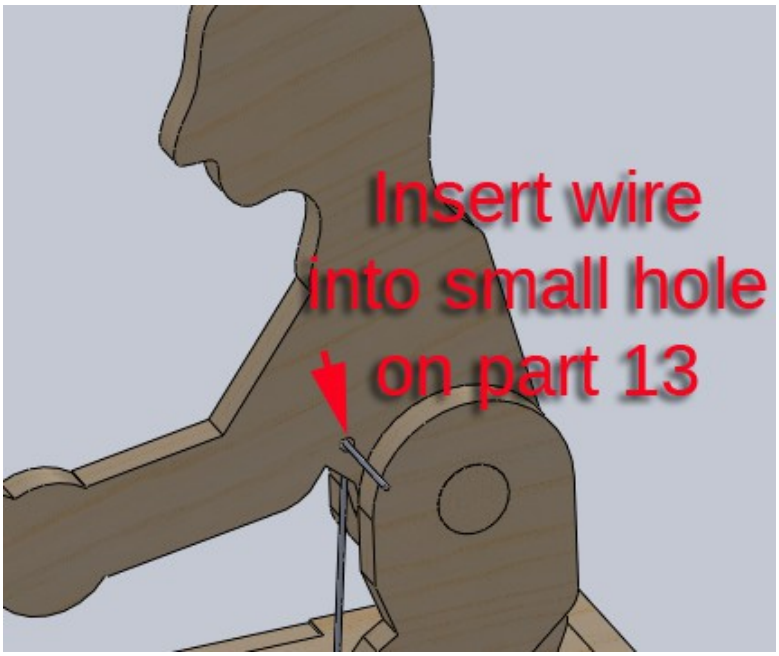


Illustration X

22. Glue the “horse” into place, using the rough outline on top to position it properly.

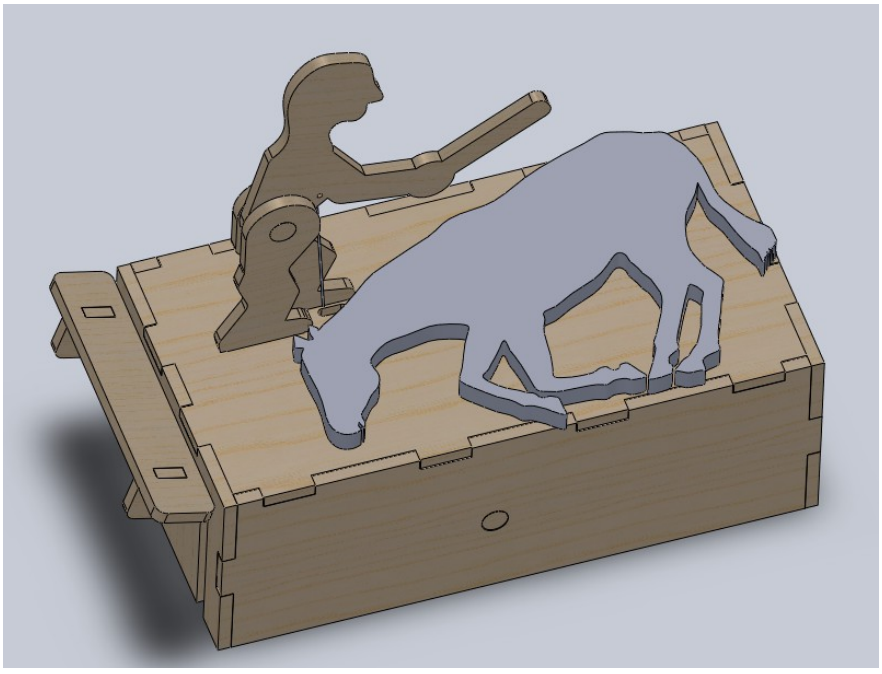


Illustration Y

23. You can then let glue set. Recommended time is 2 hours, but follow directions for the glue that you use.

Operation: Press down on the finger board (part 7) and release to “beat the dead horse”