

Presentation Proposal:
Scaled Down Guillotine

Anthony Rego
Technical Writing

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Proposed Inventory	1
Proposed Procedure	2
Bibliography	3

Introduction

A guillotine, for the uninitiated, is a tall, usually wooden structure that has a blade on tracks that falls on the victim, decapitating them. The blade of the guillotine is held up by a rope that is released and pulled back up after every execution. The guillotine became famous in France during the French Revolution when it was used in many executions. Dr. Joseph-Ignace Guillotin was a French medical doctor that came up with the idea to use the device as a punishment. It should be noted that he did not actually invent the device.

Proposed Inventory

1. Lego - (unknown amount)
2. Silk Thread – 4 feet
3. Standard Razor Blade - 1Blade

Proposed Procedure

Since I do not have access to wood working or metal working tools to make the frame of the guillotine, nor do I have the skills to operate said tools, I decided to work in a medium that I am more used to. So I choose to use Lego to make the frame and top portion of the blade mount. A silk thread will be used to attach the top of the blade mount. Silk would provide a smooth fall when the thread is released. Also attached to the top portion of the blade would be two lead weights on either side. This would provide the weight necessary for the blade to come down with sufficient force. My ultimate goal is to have enough force to cut an unfrozen hot dog. For the blade I plan to use a razor blade and secure it to the bottom of a Lego piece that would be attached to the thread and the lead weights.

There are a few things I am concerned about in the making of this project. For the most part I am concerned about being able to build up enough force to actually cut something. In terms of the frame and blade, I believe I should be able to recreate them in Lego. I don't anticipate any problems with that. In terms of dimensions, I plan to make the frame 2 feet tall and wide enough to accommodate a razor blade to be used as the blade. Upon inspecting my Lego stockpile, I have determined that I may need to purchase more Lego to complete this project.

Bibliography

R. Po-chia Hsia, Lynn Hunt, Thomas R. Martin, Barbara H. Rosenwein, and Bonnie G. Smith, *The Making of the West, Peoples and Culture, A Concise History, Volume II: Since 1340*, Second Edition (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007), 664.

"Dr Guillotin". *Chambers's Edinburgh Journal* I: 218–221. January - June 1844.