

PASTAMOBILE

Description:

To construct a vehicle entirely out of glue and pasta that, when released from the top of a ramp, will travel the greatest distance within a 1.5m wide "lane" before stopping.

Number of Participants: Up to 4

Approximate Time: 60 minutes

Procedure:

1. Any supermarket variety of fresh (soft) or dry pasta uncooked and unaltered. Samples of the pasta used should be brought in the event of a challenge. Any commercially available glue is permissible. Only minimal use of glue is allowed. No "sculpting", joint, or gap filling of the glue will be allowed. The pasta may be shaped by filing, sanding, or other dry machining techniques.
2. The cart must be able to fit into a closed "shoe box" 30cm x 15cm x 10cm. There are no mass restrictions. The device must make and maintain contact with the surface on which it rests on at least three points. (Simple spheres, cylinders, etc. will not do.)

The Competition:

The racers will be placed on the ramp so that the rearmost part of the racer is in contact with a horizontal barrier at the top of the ramp. It is then released by the contestant (no helpful nudges allowed!). The ramp itself is a curved surface that is, at its highest point, 1m high. The entire ramp must fit in a space that is 1m high x 1m long x 0.5m wide.

Scoring:

Scores will be based on:

1. Presentation of a pastamobile that meets the specifications as outlined above.
2. Its ability to complete the run essentially intact.
3. The distance that pastamobile is able to travel within the 1.5m lane out from the ramp. Should the pastamobile lose its structural integrity (fall apart) during its run, the distance factor will be determined by the largest surviving structural component.
4. The highest scores will be awarded to pastamobiles that remain basically intact and travel the greatest distance, followed by those that do not remain intact but do meet all other requirements. If the pastamobile rolls outside of the 1.5m wide lane; its distance will be measured along the edge of the lane to the first point where any part of the pastamobile crossed the boundary line.