

Make your own kayak trolley

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Materials required

100x50mm framing timber 1 length 5-600mm, 2 lengths 250mm and 2 lengths 500mm.

Optional 100x50mm framing timber tow bar 1400-2100mm depending on kayak length.

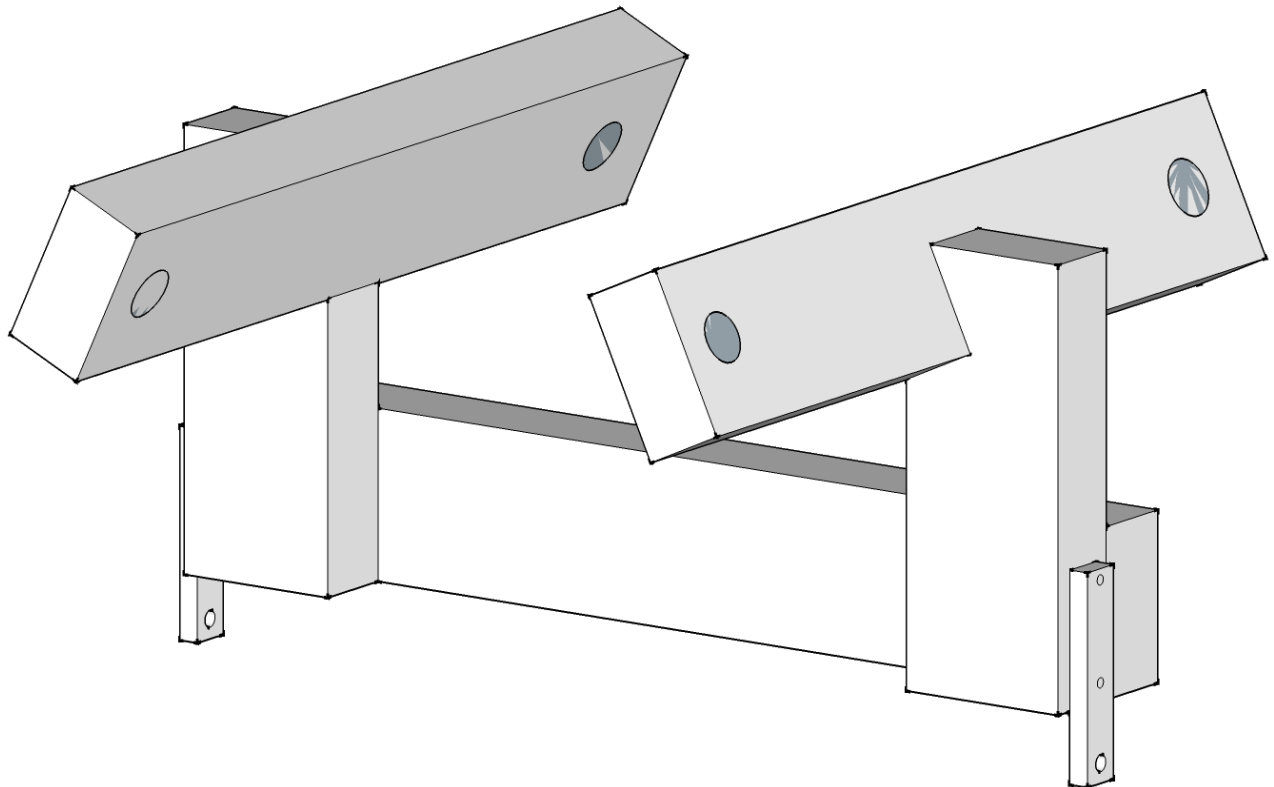
Strong wheel dropouts e.g. 6-8mm steel bar or 10-12mm aluminium bar and 4 strong coach screws (\$20).

Glue and screws or nails.

2 Wheels, 12, 16 or 20".

Optional towbar and quick release ball joint hitch (\$45).

Step 1. Construct a frame as shown below. Use plenty of glue and screws or nails to make it strong. The width of the axle should be such that the struts the kayak sit on are approximately 150 mm narrower than the kayak (75mm overhang each side +/- 50mm). The wheels usually stick out slightly beyond the edges of the kayak which makes it more stable. The height of the struts should be set so the edge of the kayak sits just above the wheel. The kayak supports are angled so the kayak doesn't sit on a sharp edge which can leave an indent in plastic kayaks. You will need to estimate this angle to suit your kayak. 10-15 degrees is usually about right. Hand sawing the angles is easiest. Alternatively you could make them square and use lots of padding. Drill 4 holes at each end of the kayak supports to run the straps through.



Step 2. Attach the dropouts on to the upright using strong coach screws. Standard wood screws will not be strong enough. It is better to screw into the side grain of the upright rather than the end grain of the axle.

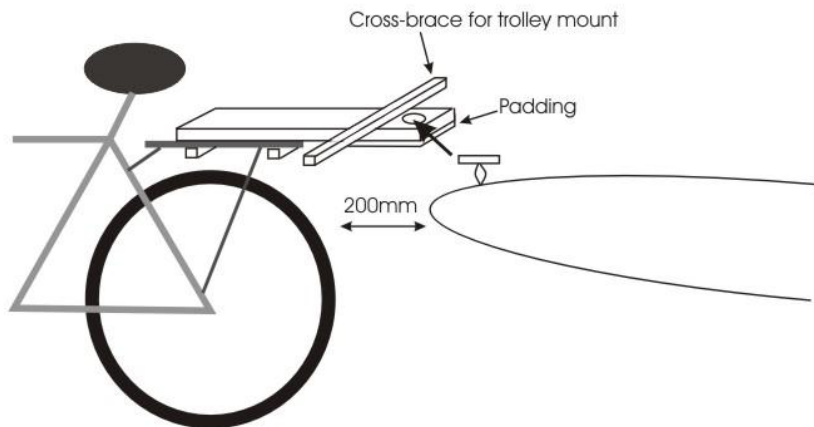
Step 3. Attach the wheels. A lock washer of some sort is highly recommended to stop the wheel vibrating loose. For narrow kayaks (<600mm) use 16" or 12" wheels only, 20" will be too likely to roll.

Step 4. Put some padding on top of the struts, an old bike tyre, pipe insulation or sleeping mat works well.

Step 5. Strap the trolley securely to your kayak.

Step 6. Attach your kayak to the bike

Option 1. Tie the front handle of your kayak to a wooden extension bolted to your pannier rack. If you want to be able to carry your trolley without the kayak, a cross brace is helpful to keep it steady.



Option 2. Build a towbar extension from the axle to the front of the kayak with some supports for the nose of the kayak to be strapped onto. The nose supports are important to prevent oscillations when moving. Purchase one of my towbars and hitches and screw it securely to the tow bar extension. You might be able to rig up your own but it's a lot of work getting it to work nicely.

