

Contact Trainer – a revised version by Tom Francis

Never2Old2Weave@yahoo.com

These notes are a modified version of those found on AgilityBassetts.com credited to Jennifer Madrid, 2001. You will find several variations on the theme either for purchase or do-it-yourself by doing an internet search for "contact trainer".

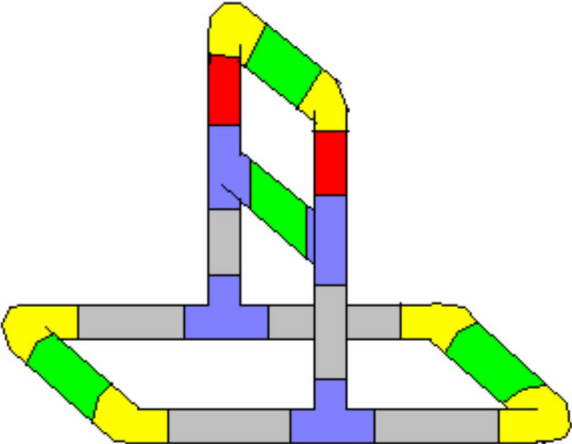
These instructions make a contact trainer that has (2) 1 ft wide ramps - one on each side.

If you wish to build a contact trainer that has a 1' ramp (like a dog walk) on one side and a 2' ramp (more like an A-Frame) on the other, see instructions at: <http://agilitybassetts.com/agilplans.htm>.

Materials

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| Ramps for dogs less than 40 pounds (2) 1"x12"x5' boards OR Ramps for dogs greater than 40 pounds (2) 2"x12"x5'boards | (2) 1.5" x 10' PVC cut into the following pieces: (4) 17" pieces (2) 8" pieces (6) 10" pieces (1) 11.5" piece (This will be the gap filler) |
| (2) 2x4 x 11.5" boards | (6) 1.5" PVC elbows |
| (2) strong hinges | (4) 1.5" PVC T-connector |
| Primer, paint (yellow preferred) and Sand | |
| 3" or 4" paint roller | |
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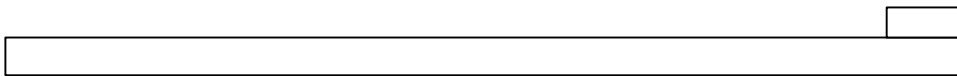
1. Assembly the base as follows:

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|  | <p>Yellow = Elbows Blue = T Connectors Green = 17" pieces Grey = 10" pieces Red = 8" pieces</p> <p>The (1) 11.5 each piece (not shown) will be used as a removable "filler" between the ramps. The edges of this piece may come in contact with your dog's paws so sand the edges smooth.</p> |
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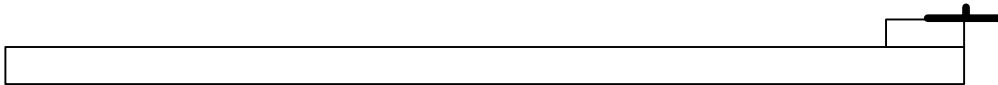
2. Sand any rough edges on the boards, then paint with primer... followed by yellow paint.

You will want your dog to have good traction on the top surfaces of the ramps. These should be sand painted accordingly. (After primer coat dries, paint with yellow paint... while still wet, sprinkle sandbox sand through a fine sieve covering the entire surface of the board. Let dry overnight. In the morning shake or lightly brush any loose sand off the boards. Apply final coat of paint with a roller.

3. Attach the 2'x4"x 11.5" pieces to the bottom (un-sanded side) as shown. The screws should come from the top (sanded side) of the ramp down into the 2"x4".



4) Mount the hinges as shown to both ramps



5) Your contact trainer should now look like this:



6) Important: the large "V" gap between the ends of the ramp needs to be filled in... we simply drop in the 11.5" PVC piece.

For storage purposes, I have put Velcro strips on the filler piece on the base, so everything stays in one place. The yellow tape also identifies the filler bar as being part of a matching piece of equipment.



You may notice that when you pick up the hinged wood boards of your contact trainer that it is easy to put a lot of pressure on the hinges. An optional add on takes care of that... I call the add-on “Jaws”.



I have mounted extra pieces of 2 x 4 as shown.

When the legs are folded for storage, the “Jaws” close on each other.

To keep things closed I use a spring loaded hook and eye (available at most local hardware stores)

With the “Jaws” interlocked, there is little, if any, twisting pressure put on the hinges... which means your contact trainer is less likely to be damaged when moving or in storage.