

VBS 2013

Roller Coaster Track

How to guide:

This guide will explain how to build a rollercoaster track to use for your VBS decorations this year! The final product is a roller coaster track which may be suspended from a ceiling. It is also wide enough to place Lifeway's inflatable coaster cars for an added effect.

Materials:



1" poly insert coupling (2 per 6 ft. section of track, buy an extra two for the end of the track)



3/4"x6' Polyethylene Pipe Wrap Insulation (2 per 6 ft. section of track) I personally chose the style where the slit does not completely cut through the foam.



4' x 8' Sheet of Corrugated plastic or "Coroplast". Often sold by plastic suppliers and sign shops. Comes in many different colors. For this project I chose black.



Metal Ceiling clips (2-4 per 6 ft. section of track). It may be possible to hang the track without these clips but they do make it much easier.

Other Materials: Rubber Cement, Fishing Line, Matte Cutter or Utility Knife, T-Square or a straight edge (such as a yard stick).



Instructions:

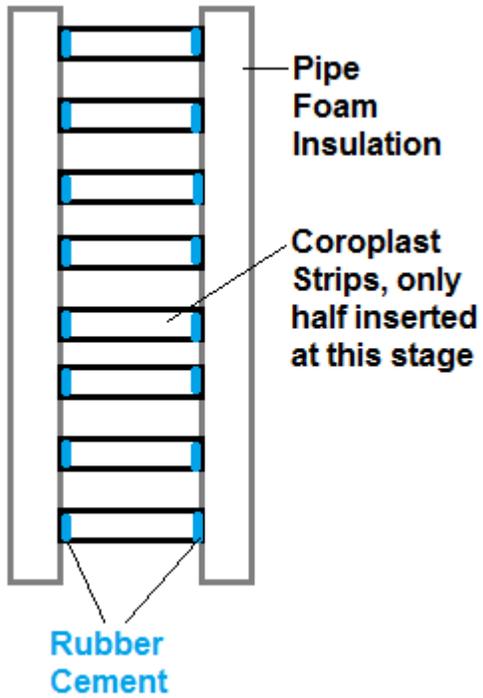
Cut the corrugated plastic sheet into strips 10" long and 1.5" wide. It is far better to cut the 10" along the channel in the plastic sheet for strength as well as ease of cutting. This will form the slats for the track.

When working with the pipe insulation, it is recommended to cut along the pre-slit portion of each piece. Starting on one end of the pipe insulation, measure and mark 1.5" from the end. Now measure another 1.5" along the slit and mark it again. Now between your two marks cut inside of the slit, completing the cut through one wall of the foam. Measure from the second mark 3" and then cut another 1.5" slit in the pre-cut slit of the foam. Continue making 1.5 inch cuts down the foam pipe every 3" until you reach the end of the pipe. Since the rails are connected end to end, there only needs to be 1.5 inches on the end to keep the track consistent and even. It is likely you will need to cut an inch or two off of the end of each pipe to keep the gaps equal on the ends.

Now, it's time to assemble to tracks. Line up two foam pipes and place the cut plastic sections in the slits you cut in the foam, if you measured correctly the cuts should line up. Only place the plastic slats half way into the slit at first, then use a generous amount of rubber cement on every plastic slat. If you use too little adhesive, the track may come apart when you are hanging the track. Once rubber cement has been applied to every slat press the track completely together.

For the 1" poly insert couplers, drill two small holes in the middle of each coupler so that the ceiling clip can clamp it's ends into each hole. Then attach the ceiling clips and insert two couplers into the foam pipes on one end of completed track. Refer to the diagrams on the next page for more clarification.

Assembling the roller coaster track:



After applying rubber cement to each section press the track together.

