Sugar Brick: The Manual Briquette Press

2.009 Blue Team B October 21, 2004

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Development – Iteration 0

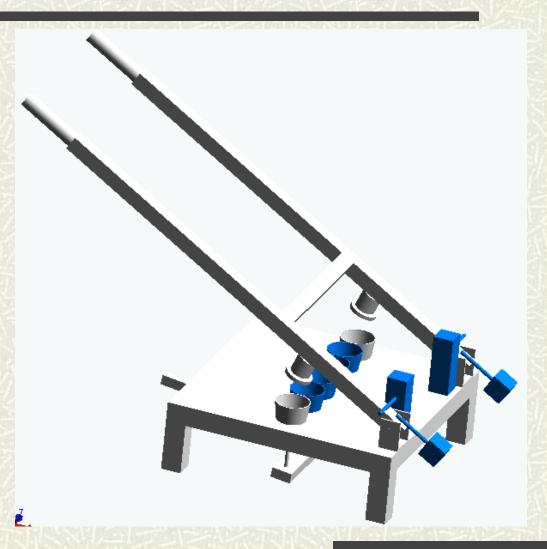
Problems

- Involves heavy use of arms
- Uncomfortable to use
- Requires "three" hands to operate
- Slow process



Development – Iteration 1

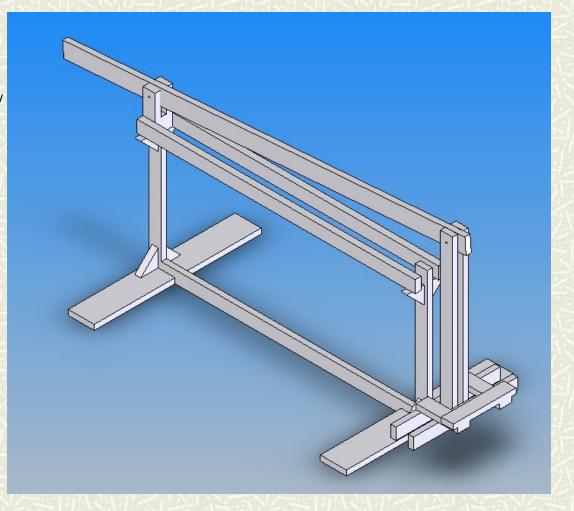
- # Problems
 - Difficult to load
 - Still relies on arms
 - Painful repetitive motion



Development – Iteration 2

Successes

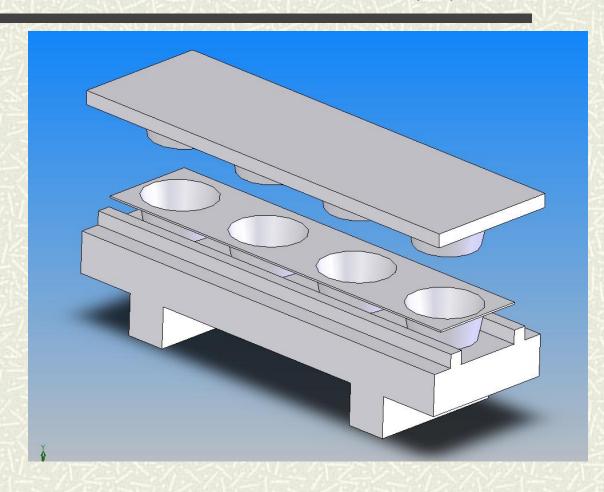
- Powered by foot/ body weight
- Increased mechanical advantage
- Counterweight improves stability



Development – Iteration 2 (2)

Successes

- Easier loading process
- Trays allow preparation of multiple batches
- Notches mark placement



Validation – Compression

 ■ compression.avi

Validation - Compression (2)

Results

- 47 psi for each briquette (8 briquettes) from 160 lb. man
- 25 seconds loading mixture
- 5 seconds of compression
- 30 seconds loading, unloading, and ejection

Improvements

- Too much draft angle
- Loading
- Cleaning
- Optimize mixture

Validation - Combustion



Wet mixture – machine compressed



Dry mixture – machine compressed



Final mixture – machine compressed



Final mixture – hand compressed

Validation – Combustion (2)

Results

- Needed to use lighter fluid
 - Used in Haiti
- Machine-compressed burned the hottest
- Hand-compressed died quickly

Critical Issues – Ease of Use

- **#** Solutions
 - Slide through tray
 - Muffin tins
 - Foot pedal

- # Further Investigations
 - Heavy duty trays
 - Various step methods
 - Better Loading
 - One person operation

Critical Issues – Local Materials & Technology

- **#** Solutions
 - Simple geometry
 - Modular Approach
 - No complex Mechanisms

- **♯** Further Investigations
 - Using other readily available materials
 - Creating press from steel oil drum

Fin

Thank you, goodnight and...

GO SOX!!!