

Home Made Litter Picking Trolley.

After several years of litter picking (both solo and as part of a group) I found that my arms were starting to suffer from the weight of the bag. I was also somewhat frustrated by the fact that just using a single hoop and bag meant that everything went in together with no facility for collecting recyclables separately.

I know that professionally made trolleys are available, and I am sure that they are very good, but I have never used one because of the cost. That being the case I decided to have a go at making my own.



The basis is a two wheeled trolley such as the one pictured here.

There are several different types on the market, sold as camping/festival trolleys or (together with a bag) as shopping carts.

Some fold and some have telescopic handles but it really doesn't matter.

Ideally the trolley will be used but redundant, rather than being bought specially (always great to reuse or repurpose something).

I designed the trolley to use a round hoop such as the one pictured right, simply because I had one and it appeared that it would mount easily.

I subsequently tried out one of the newer design (far right). Both work well.



For my first attempt I drilled through the handles of the hoop and trolley and simply bolted them together, but found it inconvenient for transport.

I then worked out that the handle of the hoop would clip neatly into a couple of 22mm pipe clips (easily obtained from hardware shops), meaning it would be removable.



To stop the weight of the bag dragging the hoop down, some sort of “shelf” was required. The pictured one is an offcut of fascia board from a job some time ago but I have also used scrap plywood. Dimensions are 14 x 8 cm with holes drilled 7 cm apart. The 8 x 4 cm cut out makes it easier to hold the trolley to pull it along.



Also required is a box to contain the recyclables separately from the general litter.

This one is a 27 litre storage box from Home Bargains, as a bin bag fits it easily, but any convenient size can be used (especially if one already has a redundant one).

The “shelf” is used as a template for marking where to drill the trolley handle and the clips, “shelf” and trolley are simply bolted together using bolts of a convenient size depending on the depth of the handle.

A locking nut or a second nut is used to stop everything coming apart.



The storage box is attached to the back and base of the trolley using tie wraps.

Positioning of the tie wraps isn't critical, so long as they stop the box from moving. All depends on the trolley being used.

It's best to drill small pilot holes before drilling holes large enough to take the tie wraps.

The job is then complete and the trolley is as pictured below, all ready for your existing hoop to be clipped in and off you go.

