

The Skeffington Symposium on Vision 2021

The Mort Davis Saddle Ring Device

About 50 Years ago A brilliant behavioral Optometrist by the name of Mort Davis designed a very simple but very useful training device that he called the Saddle Ring device. A Saddle ring is simply a large metal ring with a large hole in the center. Obviously large "O" rings or metal washers would do just as well and can be gotten in all kinds of sizes. I had tried to duplicate his device with the easiest parts locally available, so that any of you can build a similar device for yourselves. You need a heavy base to support it. And there are several ways to put the "arm" on it to suit your needs. The device when completed looks something like a gallows with a well supported ring hanging from it and the ring can swing back and forth or just be stationary. Pencils, pointers, pick up sticks can then be thrust into the ring. With the ring either oriented frontal to the patient or perpendicular to the patient. Once the patient can successfully thrust the pick up stick in the ring that is stationary. Then the Doctor can let the ring swing, as a more challenging task. Also since the rings are easy to be changed. We can use smaller or larger rings to vary the difficulty.

I'm now going to give you a list of parts and instructions on how to build this device with simple hand tools and Home Depot parts. Lets start with the base, particle board is very heavy and it makes a great base. You can go into the store "Shelving" Dept. and find just what you want. A very small, pre finished shelf lets say 12" Wide and 14-16" long. The store will cut it to the desired length for a small fee if needed. Now you have to decide if you want the vertical arm in the center of the base, so you can rotate it 90 degrees or nearer the longer end of the base, so that the horizontal arm hangs over more of the base. I find that the second choice is more stable since the device is easy to pick up and turn as needed.

Then comes the vertical and horizontal arms. Although you can use other wood, such as a big dowel pins, the 1" by 2" rectangle wood they sell is very easy to screw together with 2 long screws. And it is not going to work itself loose. I choose Radiata select pine 1x2x8 feet long. It is beautiful and only costs about \$6.00.(vin#9-421905-888022) Get the store to cut this also. And you'll have perfect square ends to put together. A white base with "clear" wood is a fine looking device. You could even make the top board a "t" with 2 targets.

Next you'll need some string, 2 Alligator clips and multiple "O" rings or metal washers as the target. Alligator clips are available in electronic supply stores but any strong clip will work and if needed can be drilled for the string. Now you have everything except a few long flat headed wood screws and 4 feet to attach the base to keep it from slipping around on the desk. (I got everbuilt "clear bumpers" 3/4 inch in Home Depot. This is for the feet, a small drop of instant glue helps make the self-stick feet hold on much better. You will need a drill and screw driver to assemble the project. You must pre-drill the holes straight in the center of the wood or the screws will come out the sides. So have the store make you extra cut piece just in case. Also I find laying the wood on a table helps to allign the pieces for drilling and final assembly.

You now have built your own Vision Therapy device. And think of all the fun you will have swinging other targets, Polaroids, etc. As well as "Saddle Rings". Also remember it was the late Mort Davis who designed this over 50 years ago.

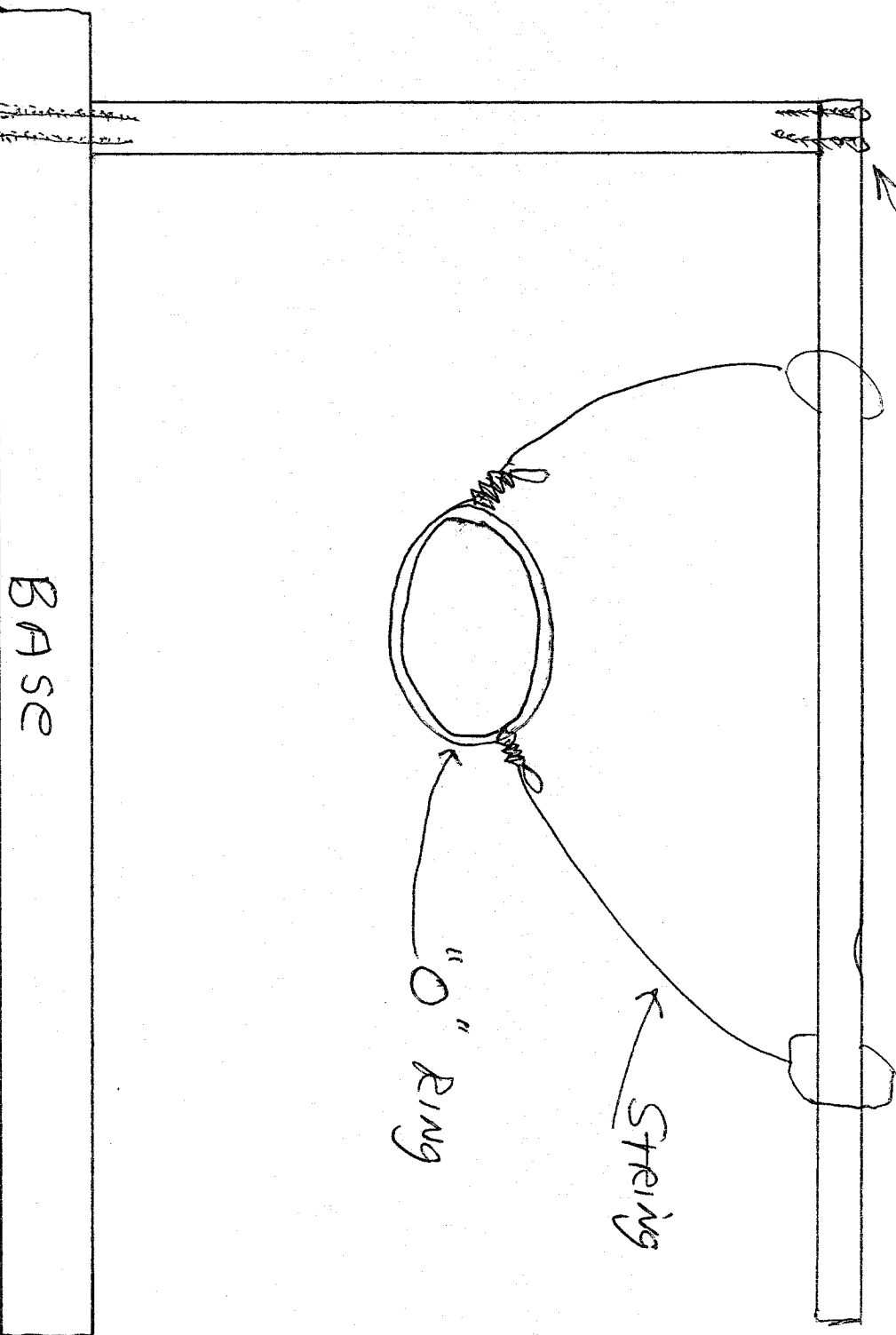
Thank You
Dr Ted Sober

HORIZONTAL ARM

Screws

Vertical Arm

Screws



Alternative Design

