Jeannie’s Silent Wooden Trap

The wooden trap measures 30” Long X 18” Wide X 17” Tall. Metal brackets and screws are used throughout to join the wooden frame together at the corners and cross-members. The sliding door is made of masonite and operates like a guillotine. It should be kept lubricated with candle wax so that it slides freely in the guide slots. The slots are made simply by screwing 1-1/2” wooden strips to either side of the main opening. Wooden shims of half that width are positioned between the strips and the outside edge of the trap frame to form the actual slots. See close-up below right.

Hardware cloth with ½” squares is stapled to the outside of the completed frame. The door is held open with a steel rod that is stuck through a hole in the masonite door. The steel rod is held in place with small eye-screws on top of the trap. A ball of strong twine is tied to a loop on the opposite end of the steel rod. The extraneous white cord you see on top of the trap is clothes line attached for a carrying strap. Springing the trap is simplicity itself: simply pull the cord from any distance.

The photo on the left is a little closer view of the top of the trap, showing the metal rod, eye-screws, carrying strap, and hardware cloth. On the right you see a close-up of the slot fabrication located on the upper left-hand side of the door opening. The slot is outlined with white lines for clarity.

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