Baiting and trap placement - have posed a problem with some trappers. I recommend tying a small wad of cotton firmly on the trigger approx. 3/4 inch in diameter regardless of baiting regimens and placing the trap in such a manner that the coon can readily peer into the trap. I generally place sets whereas the trap is tilted at a 45-60 degree angle be it in the ground, partially under a log or stapled to a log or planking. When stapling to a log or plank, I will staple the cable to the top of this structure and pull the cable end so the trap is snug against the staple. Care is exercised to provide proper tension of the staple over the cable to allow this sliding motion. This procedure can be duplicated on large trees and building walls. Place traps about 15 inches up. When caught, the coon will pull the trap out until the duplex ferrule is against the staple. When stapling to small trees, bend a small nail over the cable; pull on cable end to snug trap against the nail and staple the cable loop as high as possible. This allows the coon to separate the cable from the nail and prevents him from achieving good footing with his hind legs. Fixing the trap to the base of any stake where the coon can wrap around it and gain good footing for his hind legs should be avoided.

When cats are of no concern, sardines or smoked fish are excellent baits. I will place some inside the trap, some on the lip of the trap, and some in front of the trap. I will also smear a call lure near the trap, usually 3-4 feet up in a tree or side of a building. When cats are a concern, I will use a sweet sticky bait such as strawberry ice cream topping. This gets applied to the cotton wad and the lip of the trap. I generally place 1 or 2 large marshmallows inside the trap. Two marshmallows get wedged into the lid opening and 1 or 2 laying in front of the trap. I sometimes will place sardines or fish near the trap and will always use a call lure, again near the trap. Don't contaminate the trap with these cat attractants. I have not caught any cats with the aforementioned regimen but a starving cat or the peculiar cat could prove to be the exception. My aim is not to dissuade you from experimenting with varying baits but just sharing what works for me.

*Call lures used near the trap should be elevated. When sniffed it may prevent the raccoon from smelling your food type baits.

*One gentlemen said he used a chunk of fish too large for the coon to pull out of trap, it resulted in catching the coon by both paws. (I'd still use the cotton on the trigger).

Pre-season baiting should consist of foods raccoons like and frequently applied to avoid the coons losing interest in trap. Generic marshmallows work well. Reserve call lures and favorite food lures for in-season use. Set housing out only.

This trap is a visual attractant. It's best to hide trap from thieves while keeping it visible to raccoons. This is generally possible. If good concealment is used, use bait scattered around trap and a smellier bait such as smoked fish with shellfish oil and/or a good call lure in a nearby tree or post. Vasoline or propylene glycol around trigger pivot & around trigger catch of spring-holder should be adequate in wet freezing weather. You may wish to make ice proof by hanging trap upside down with vasoline around the cable hole.

Ground sets seem to work about 50% better than suspended traps but mice can be a problem. Suspended traps are more mouse proof and weather proof, therefore I usually use at least two traps per site; one on the ground and the other suspended. Double catches are common.

*Do not leave trap-plate set unless in housing- warpage of trap-plate may occur.

* If trap-plate won't seat in lower housing when in loaded position, the spring arm may be too long. Grind off (dip in cold water during grind process), or notify us and we'll replace it. A slight bowing of the trap-plate is normal-this will straighten when locked in the housing.

*If you over-tighten the nuts on the U-bolt, the housing may not close. ie:legs of U-bolt extend past the nuts. It's best to grind off the legs down to the level of the nuts rather than loosening the nuts.

*The trigger can be adjusted up or down by heating then bending. Remove trigger from trap plate and avoid scorching.

*Nuts on loaded U-bolt should be snug enough to have the nylon sleeve flat on trap-plate. Periodic adjustment is necessary. Don't over tighten nut below spring (on U-bolt). It may cause the spring to bend or slow the closing of the spring arm. If nuts on U-bolt work loose after capturing a coon; lightly crimping the U-bolt threads will prevent this (use your vise grips).

*Hair-trigger setting is possible by exerting pressure on thumb-flap while gripping set vise-grip and moving the trigger down into the hair trigger setting. Filing or buffing the metal trigger-catch with a fine emery cloth will provide a smoother trigger release.

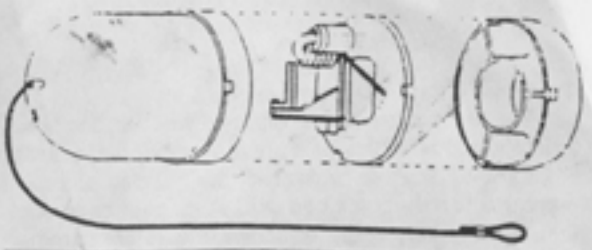
*Removing 1/4 inch sq. piece of nylon below the trigger catch will convert trigger into a two-way trigger. This may reduce pet-resistant qualities of trap.

*Tension of trigger is adjusted with a small screwdriver.

*Roll pin is left protruding for easier replacement of steel spring-holder. Just attach vise-grip to roll pin and pull out.

*Dry firing may damage trap, especially in extreme cold. It's best to spring trap with a padded stick or manually unload using vise-grip and steel tube.

*Do not store trap when set



Egg Trap Manual

READ BEFORE TRAP USE!

Only your imagination will limit the various ways of using this trap. Good luck and congratulations for purchasing what I believe to be the best raccoon trap ever made.

Dr. Robert Thompson
President
EGG Trap Co., Inc.

IMPORTANT

Soak trap(s) overnight in water before use.

Designed to be used with 5 WR Vise-grip and a setting tube.

Constructed of durable white nylon and steel where you need it. Approximate Size: 3 3/4" diameter X 4 1/2" long

Approximate Weight - 5/8 lb.

Patent 4,633,610

WARNING!

Never insert fingers through trap plate.
Dry firing may damage trap.
Rough handling may cause breakage.
Never leave the steel tube on a loaded trap unless firmly gripped.

To Open Trap - Remove screws & lift lid. These traps are rigged with two screws (don't twist lid into lock position) to help prevent accidental opening of lid and to facilitate removal of the trapped animal. I recommend their continued use. A magnetized socket for use on battery operated screw drivers are commercially available and makes the screw placement/removal a quick and easy job. A number 8 slotted hex head screw is used so you can use the above mentioned tool, a socket and rachet, a screw driver or your 5 inch vise grips.

To Close Trap - Align the lid's three fixed tabs with their respective channels of the bottom housing (flexible tab should be near and to right of collar opening). Depress the flexible tab and push lid into the bottom housing. Apply compression of lid to bottom housing while placing screws. This will remove warpage of the trap-plate.

Cable Assemblage - Thread cable through the bottom housing with the fixed buttom stop inside. Thread and crimp the other buttom stop approx. 1/8" from the trap to provide a free swiveling action. A large vise grips can be used to fix the button stop if one corner of the vise grips is used to crimp one end of the button stop. Don't try to crimp the entire button stop. The duplex ferrule is crimped to provide an anchoring loop. I usually crimp just one side of the duplex ferrule to provide a sliding loop. You may wish to add accessories to this loop before crimping. ie name tag, washer, swivel, drowning-set-up, spring etc.

Setting Trap Plate -Firmly clamp the vise-grip in the corner of the trap-plate post tight enough to avoid slippage. Insert the steel tube over the spring arm to the junction of the trap-plate opening as illustrated in Figure 1. Lower the trigger so steel spring-holder is free to rotate back and forth to the post.

Hold the vise-grip in left hand while holding the spring-holder back with your left thumb enough to allow the spring to slip under the toe of the spring-holder. Swing the spring-arm back to the post using the steel tube as leverage in right hand. Push the spring-holder forward by exerting pressure by the left thumb on the thumb flap of the spring-holder. Maintain pressure both on the steel tube and with the forward pressure on the thumb-flap while pushing down on the back catch of the trigger with your right thumb. (See Figure 2) This will trap the metal catch of the spring-holder between the top of the post and the back end of the trigger.

Ease pressure off thumb-flap and steel tube. Remove steel tube by sliding off the spring. Always maintain a firm grip on the steel tube until released from spring. **NEVER LEAVE THE STEEL TUBE ON A LOADED TRAP UNLESS FIRMLY GRIPPED. IT CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DAMAGE IF TRAP IS ACCIDENTLY DISCHARGED.**

Remove vise-grip, handle trap-plate by its perimeter and insert, post-first, into bottom housing. Using the nuts, turn plate until housing tabs align with plate notches locking it into place. Apply lid. Ready for set location.

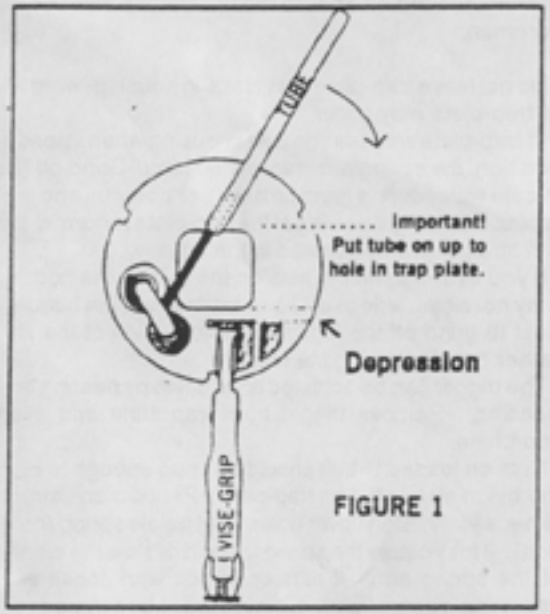


FIGURE 1

Know your local game laws.

To Remove Raccoon: Dispatch coon - remove lid - pull out trap-plate - clamp on vise-grips - slide spring back using setting tube - shake coon from trap-plate. For live animal release, a 5 gal. bucket works well. Make a 5 inch slot 1 1/4 inch wide starting at the rim. Place bucket over coon leaving the trap outside via the slot. Sit on bucket while removing trap.

*If finger is ever caught you may need to use your belly to stabilize the vise-grip while your free hand uses the steel tube. You should contemplate your finger release now. Should it ever happen, you will know what to do and it should reduce risk of panic and unnecessary damage to your finger.

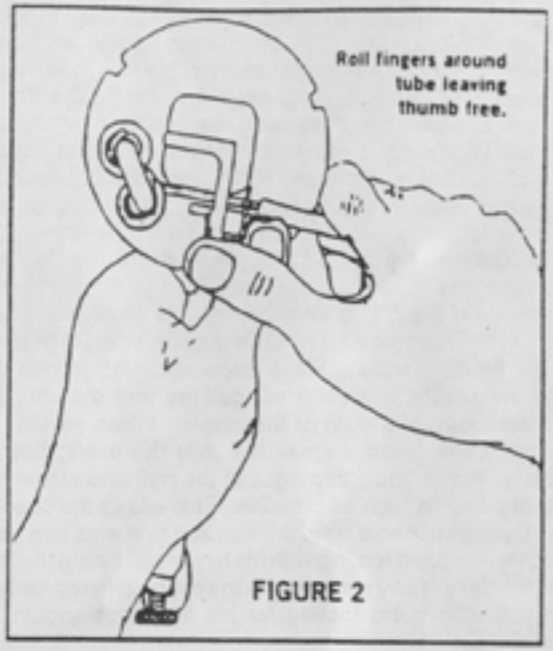


FIGURE 2

Random trap placement - should yield 50% pad catches (spring arm across bottom of pad) which even 40 lb. coon should not be able to pull out. Some coon will pull out when caught by the back of the paw. This occurrence can be minimized by placing the trap with set spring arm on the down side. (Many coon will still fondle the trap before being caught but at least some improvement in pad catches should be noted). Another important factor is to have the spring arm ride tight to the plate. If not, the spring arm may snap on and ride over the back side of his foot resulting in pull outs or finger catches. I have bent the spring arm down so it will ride closer to the trap-plate but further adjusting may be required. When tested on a padded stick; it shouldn't ride up much more than 1/8 inch from the trap-plate. I usually adjust the spring arm by clamping the rounded portion of the U-bolt with the vise grips or vise and prying the spring arm down using the steel tube (spring arm should be fully inserted). Removal of U-bolt and spring from trap-plate is necessary. If you over bend the spring arm, reinsertion can be difficult but not impossible. You may wish to thread the nuts on to force the spring and sleeve higher unto the U-bolt to aid in replacing it back onto the plate. Avoiding trap placement where entanglement occurs will further reduce pull outs.

*If steel spring-holder is bent or toe wears down, a pliers or screwdriver can usually correct the problem, by using them to bend or adjust trigger into place.