

## LOW COST PORTABLE STREAM TABLE

Here is a Rube Goldberg for people wanting a low cost portable stream table.



The construction is fairly inexpensive and simple.

Item	Amount/notes	Approximate Cost
Small Batch mortar mix tub	2 @ \$ 5.00 each	\$10.00
Small Table Top Fountain Pump	1@ \$ 15.00	\$15.00
½ “ tubing	1 precut length from mega hardware store (Less if custom cut) about 2-3 ft	\$ 6.00
Ground Walnut Shells	Available from sandblasting or polishing suppliers Unknown cost as I have an old bag about 1/3 to 1/4 ft <sup>3</sup>	About \$6/ft <sup>3</sup> and \$ 20 shipping from internet supplier(Very Rough Guess)
Misc. Bits of plastic	Scrap from other projects	\$10.00 or free
Hot Melt Glue	About 5 short Sticks but you end up getting a whole package	\$ 5.00
Total Estimated Cost	Costs are easily reduced if you are frugal	\$66 if you pay top \$

The outlet has an adjustable opening made out of strips of plastic from a bucket to allow for changes in elevation and to simulate drops in channel base level. Note the free and copious use of hot melt glue on the outside 1/2 and outside edge of the two pieces that hold the inner moveable piece (near fingers) in place.



The pump is located near the upper end of the bottom tub behind a screen to allow the media to drop out and remove any floaters that might gum up the works.





The upper support is made out of a section of down spout, the bottom two short lengths of PVC pipe with an opening between them for the drain hole from the top pan. The holder for the hose on the top pan is made out of a section of tubing with its ends cut at an angle and a fair amount of hot melt glue.



When running, stream channel features will form. The bottom opening can be dropped to create features such as head cuts and scour holes.





The movement of the water and material makes the features more evident than in these still photographs.



When finished, allow everything to dry before storing. It can take a week or more for the media to fully dry. A cloth bag to store the media will help if the device cannot be left out in the open to dry.

Happy Building

If you can think of a better way, go for it.