

## How to create a *snow pounder* to compact snow into a pail:

# The QP7000

1. Trace the bottom of the pail you plan to use onto a piece of scrap 1/2" plywood. Since you have traced the entire bottom of the bucket, why not make four pounders?! They make great gifts to others and the incremental cost in materials and time is almost zero! Other plywood thicknesses can work too!

Ensure that the pounder surface is about 1/4 of the pail. That makes it easier to call it a **Quarter Pounder**. Calling it a *Third Pounder* or an *Eighth Pounder* would just sound weird. I have made pounders that covered almost the entire bottom of the pail, but this led to less than ideal compaction. This smaller pounder ensures that any voids are busted up.

2. Cut out the shape using a jig saw or other method. Make sure you are wearing safety glasses and ear protection. As I get older, I realise how important this suggestion is. Safety first! If you don't have access to tools, consider exploring tool lending libraries. In Kitchener-Waterloo there is a tool lending library called: [KITCHENER-WATERLOO Library of Things](#).

3. Sand the edges using rough sandpaper. 80 or 120 grit works well but use what you can find.

4. Find a scrap piece of wood for the handle. I think 18 to 20 inches is about right for length. I used hardwood for my first set. A piece of 2x2 could work or even 1x1. Do some testing. You don't want much flex. When I made a batch of 50 pounders, I started with a good quality spruce 2x4. Sand smooth.

5. Find a little wooden 'block support' measuring roughly 2" x 2" x 3". Sand off some of the sharp edges except for the bottom where it will meet the pounding surface.

### Assembly:

**A)** Plan where the block should be screwed onto the pounding surface by viewing my included pictures on the website or here. Put wood glue on both surfaces and use your finger to push it around to cover all surfaces that will come into contact. Next, screw through the bottom of the pie shaped pounder surface into the block using one rust free screw such as a 1 1/2" deck screw. No predrill is required. The glue will provide most of the strength. The main purpose of the screw is to hold the two parts tightly together while it dries.

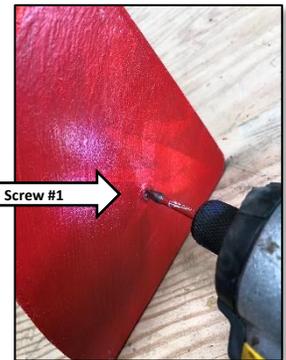
**B)** Next, drill a generous pilot hole about a 1 1/2" from the end of the handle for the one screw that will attach it to the support block. If possible, use a **countersink drill bit** so that the head of the screw seats nicely into the handle without splitting your new handle. Apply wood glue to the attachment area and then carefully screw the parts together ensuring proper alignment. If you have used a fairly slim piece of wood for the handle, do the final tighten by hand as an *impact driver* would blast right through. Allow a 24 hour dry time for every glued set. Dry your work inside if it's cold out.



### Optional:

Paint with the colour of your choice. Avoid white so that you don't lose it in the snow. If you desire to use two or more colours, use painters tape to help make a nicely defined edge. You could consider primer included paints. A value conscious sampler paint can from a big box store is a good option here. Or scope out some used paint from many sources. Then again, leaving the wood natural might be better for the environment.

**Time to get outside and have fun in the snow!**



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