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Roping Dummy DIY

The purpose of this project was to see if a durable and motorized roping dummy could be designed and engineered for less money than a manufactured one. I hypothesized that while this is possible, it would lack the mobility and quality a manufactured roping dummy possesses.

This experiment involved gathering materials for the dummy. I first welded the chassis, then welded the body and legs. Then I mounted the head to the front of the body. A frame needed to be welded for the 12 volt motor. There is a gear box on the motor which makes the motor stronger and faster. The gear box is hooked to a v-belt,a rubber belt 12 inches long. That runs to a drive wheel in the center of the body. From the lawn mower battery I wired the motor and a charging system. The motor is wired to a switch on the legs, so when you pull the legs back, it kills the motor.

The data collected did support the original hypothesis. My roping dummy cost me about $40.00 total. The only other roping dummy that is ground driven is the Sparky, which runs for $3,695.00.

These findings lead me to believe a durable and motorized roping dummy can be designed and engineered for less money than a manufactured one.