



# **THE ASSIST**

ERIK JAMISON-EKELING

# THE ASSIST

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## VISUALIZATION

## Parents & Volunteers





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## VISUALIZATION

Parents &  
Volunteers

Players  
waiting





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## VISUALIZATION





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VISUALIZATION

Parents & Volunteers

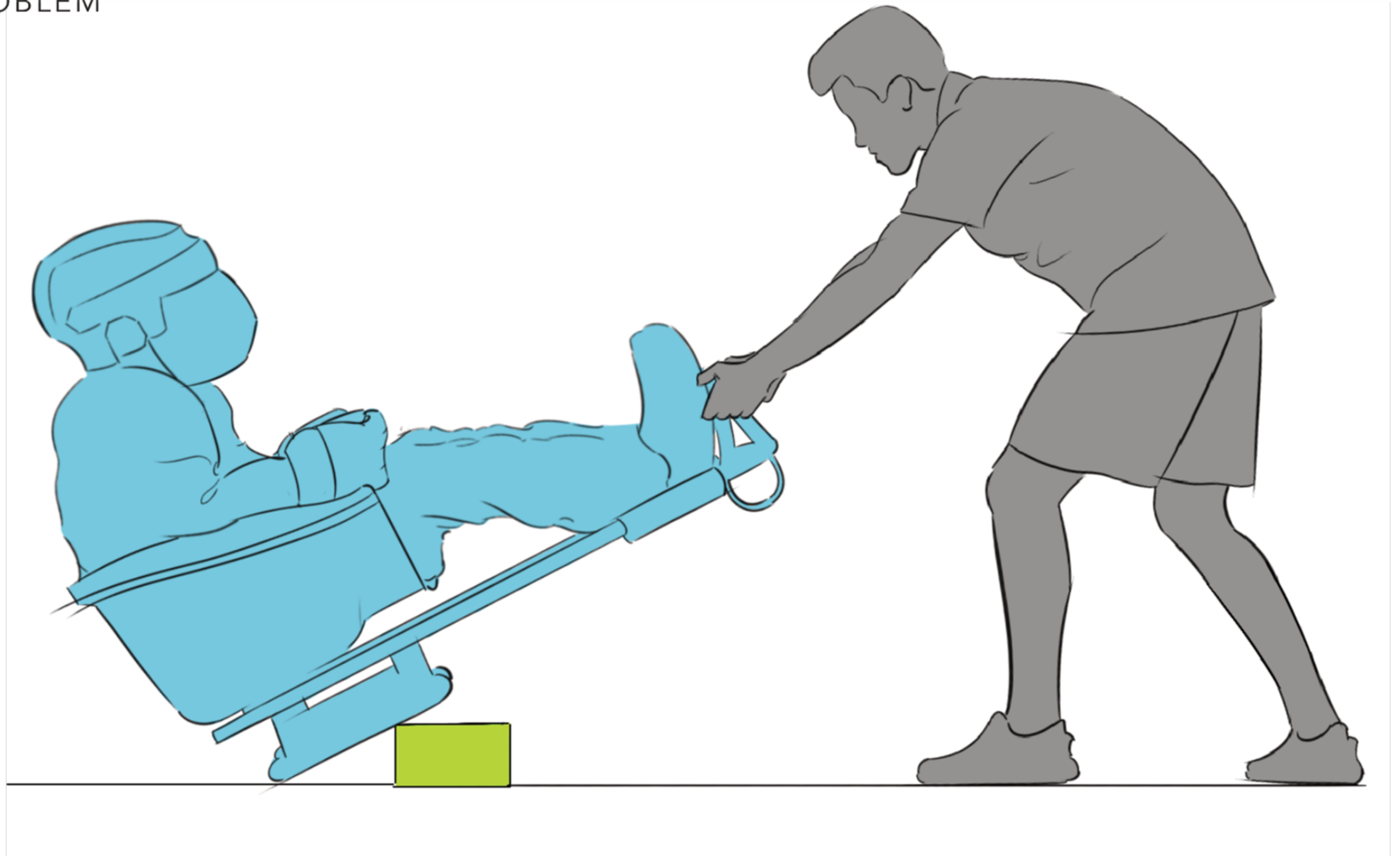
Players waiting



RINK ACCESSIBILITY

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## PROBLEM



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## PROBLEM



Not being able to get on or off the ice by myself



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## PROBLEM



Not being able to get on or off the ice by myself

The most frustrating part for me is that I need getting help on the ice because I like to be independent





## HOW MIGHT WE

How might we make a more independent and empowering rink entrance experience for casual Sled Hockey players?

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HOW DID WE?

**how did we get here?**



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## USER RESEARCH



- Surveys
- Interviews
- Card sorting
- Contextual Inquiries
- Fly on the wall observation



\$199

Not specifically for  
mobility at rinks



\$219

Not specifically for  
mobility at rinks



\$100

Used to move players at  
rinks

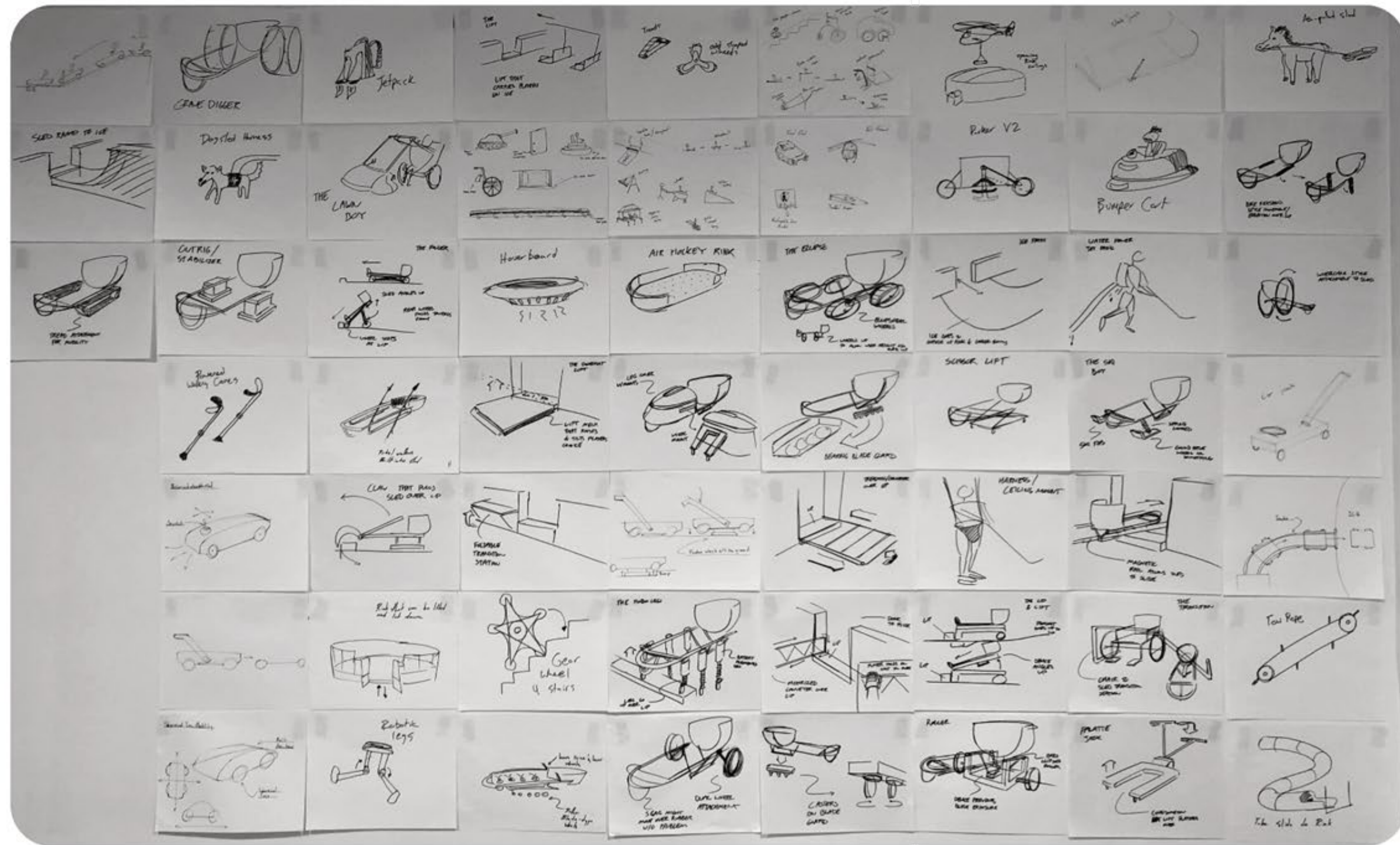


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## BRAINSTORMING

80  
Ideas

6  
People



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## IDEATION 1

### THE WHEELIE

#### Type of concept:

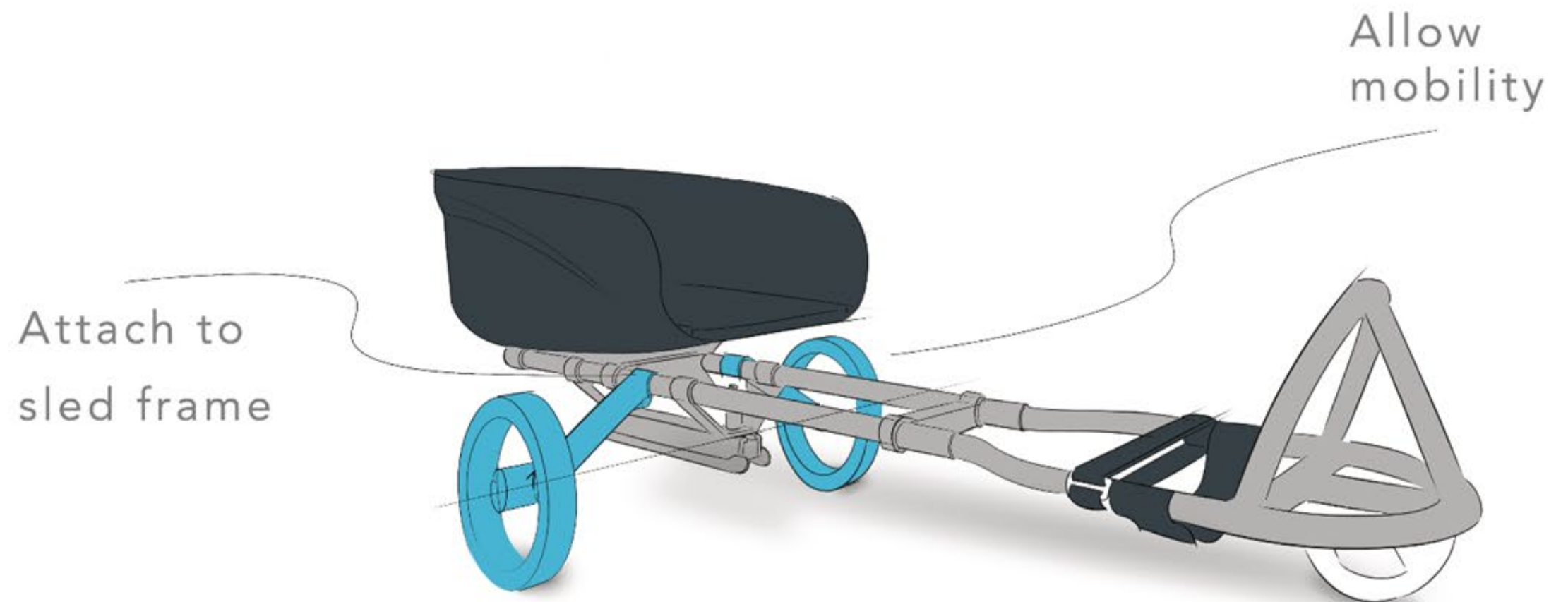
Clip mount / attachment

#### Considerations:

Strength of mounts

Difficulty of usage

#### Analogous Image:





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## IDEATION 2

### THE FOLDER

#### Type of concept:

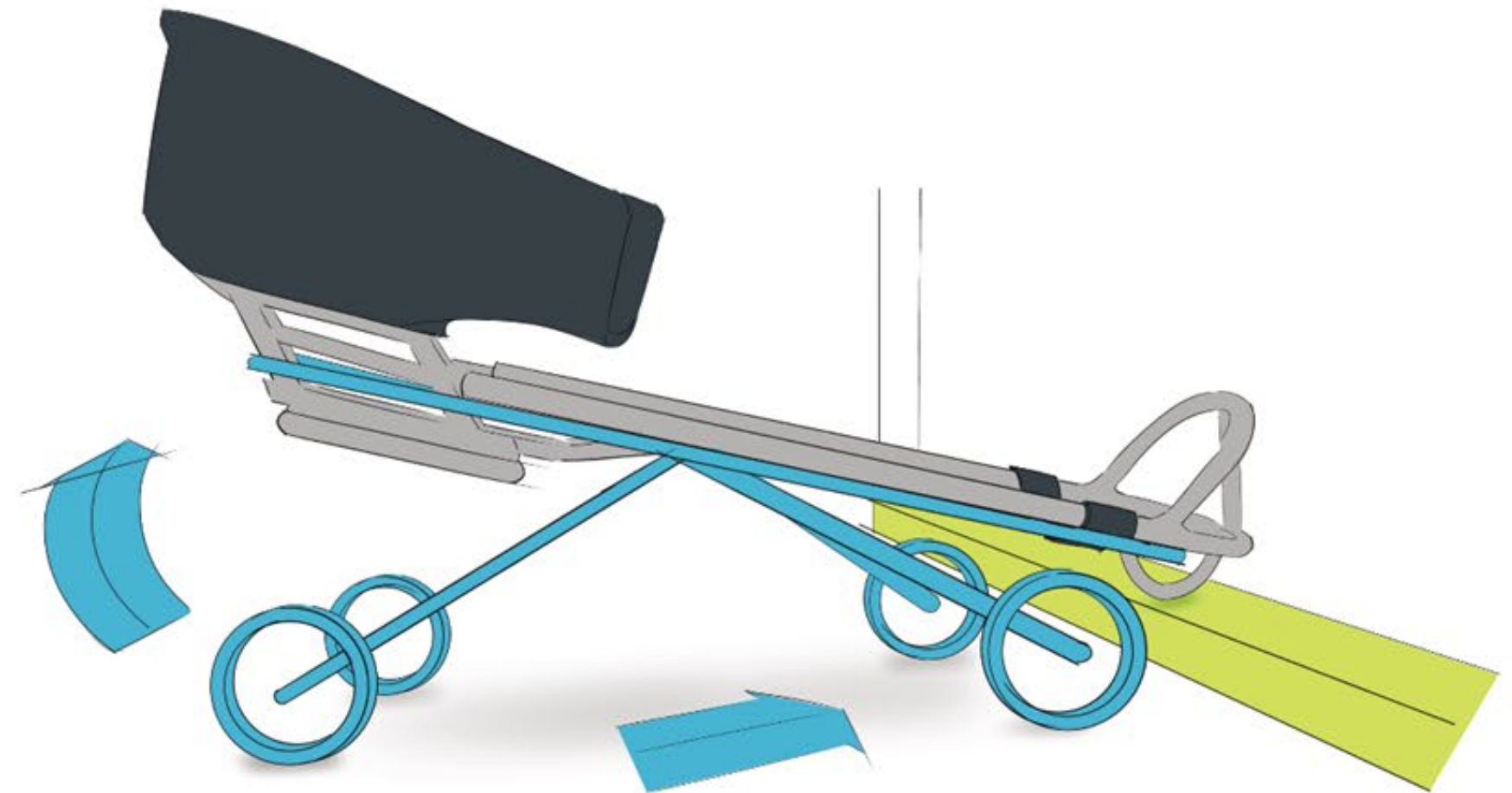
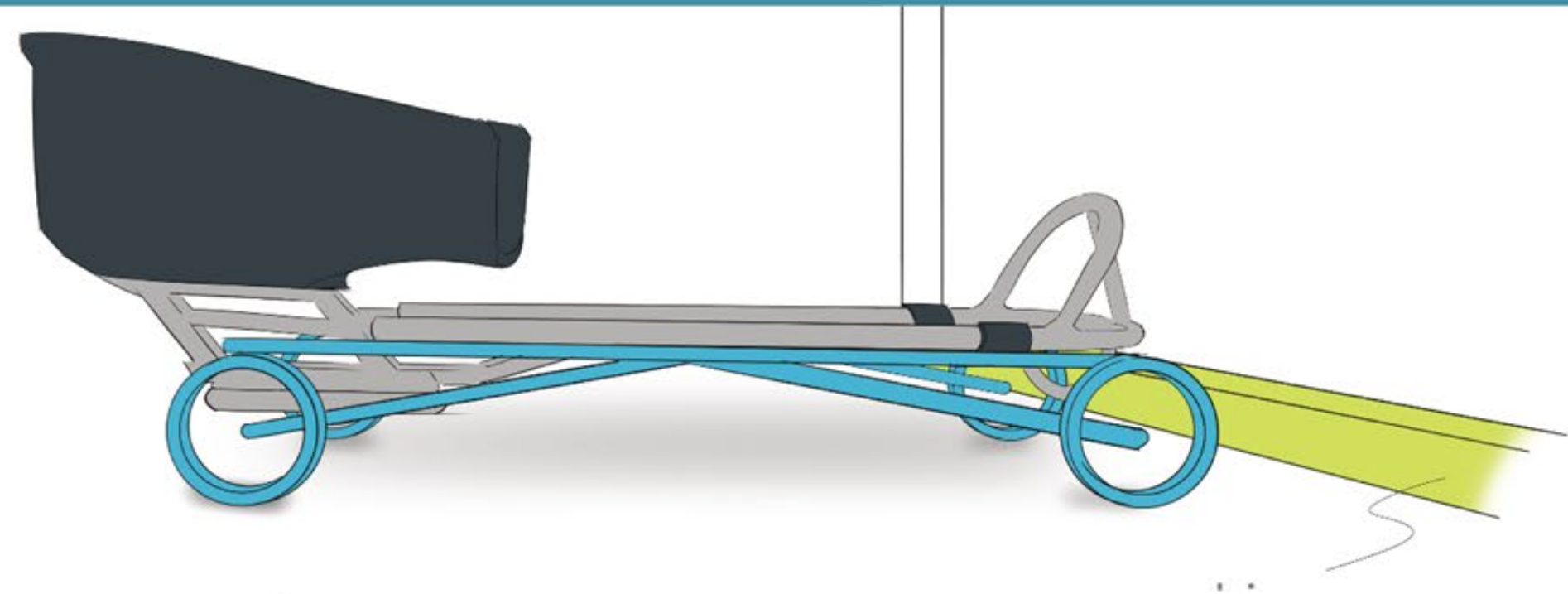
Folding mech

#### Considerations:

Lift process

Placement when not in use

#### Analogous Image:



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## IDEATION 3

### THE CASTER

#### Type of concept:

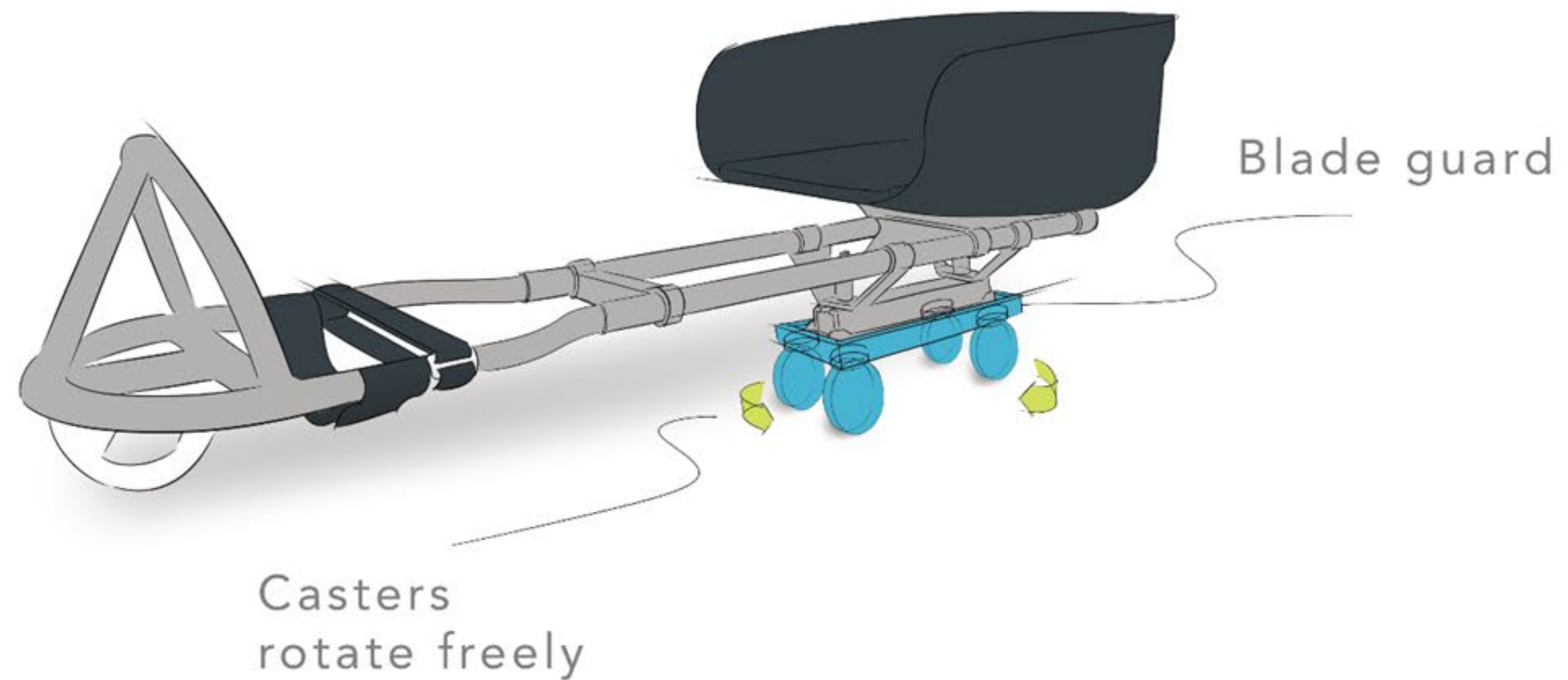
Attachable blade guard

#### Considerations:

Ease of use when in bucket

Differently spaced blades

#### Analogous Image:







It would be nice to make it so the caster portion comes off when it hits the lip of the rink. Then the skater can wheel up to it and have a seamless transition onto the ice

I'd add a way that it can be removed with gloves on

I'd like it to break away once you hit the lip



It would be nice to make it so the caster portion comes off when it hits the lip of the rink. Then the skater can wheel up to it and have a seamless transition onto the ice

I'd add a way that it can be removed with gloves on

I'd like it to break away once you hit the lip

**Easy to attach & exit from**



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CAD



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CAD



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CAD

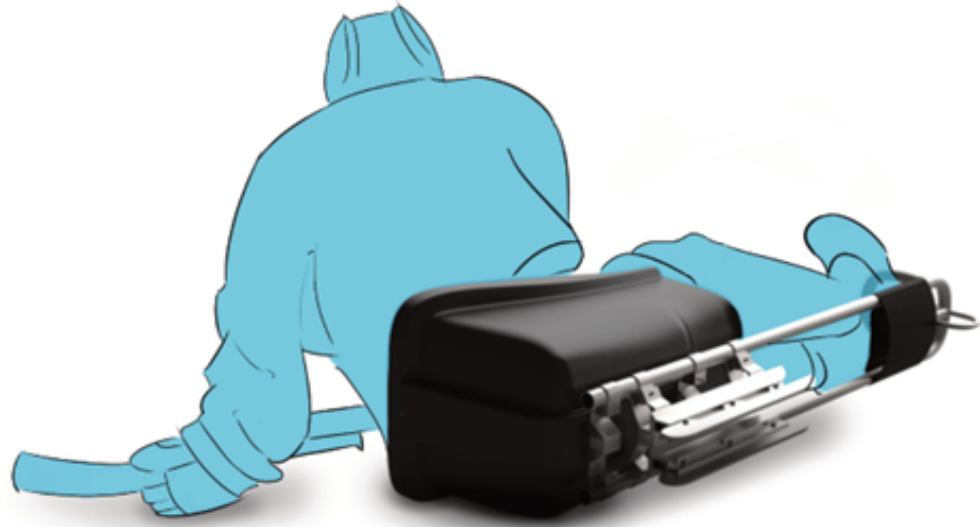


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## USER WORKFLOW

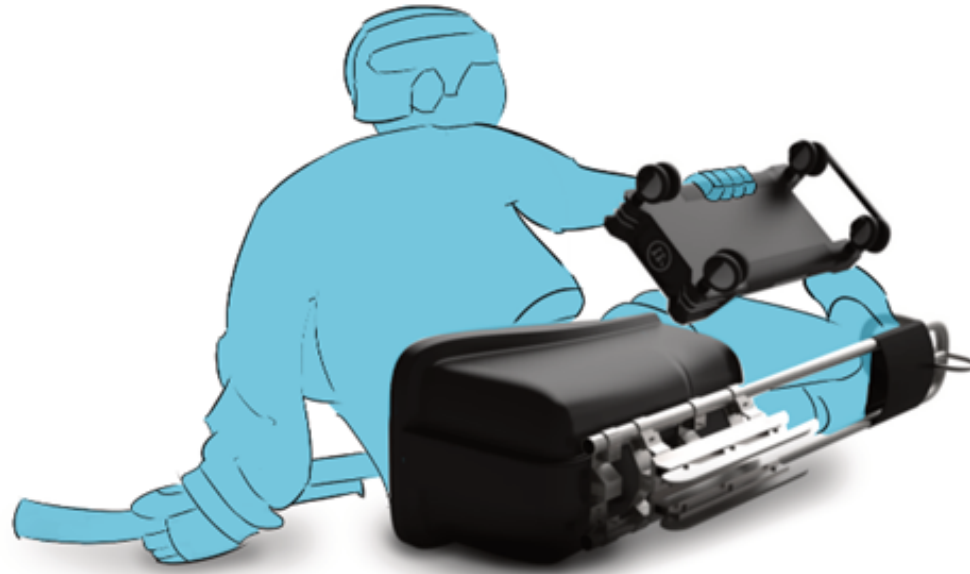
1

Tip over in sled



2

Grab by grip



3

Slide onto blades



4

Wheel to lip of rink



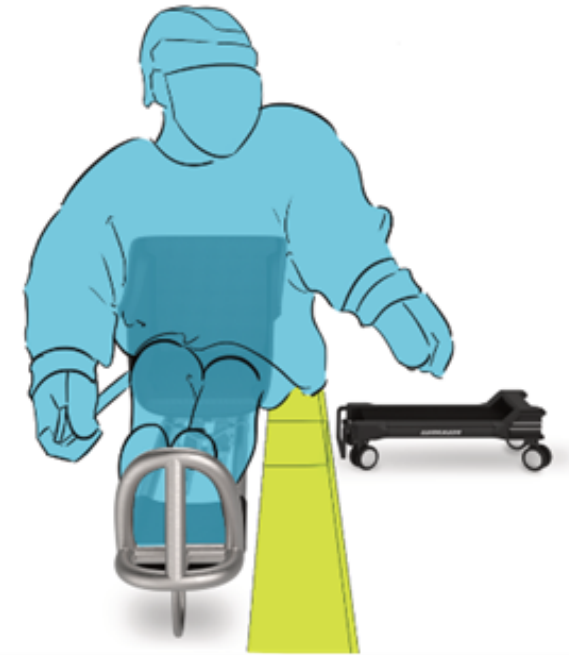
5

Press bumper to lip and slide forward



6

Grab and take to bench





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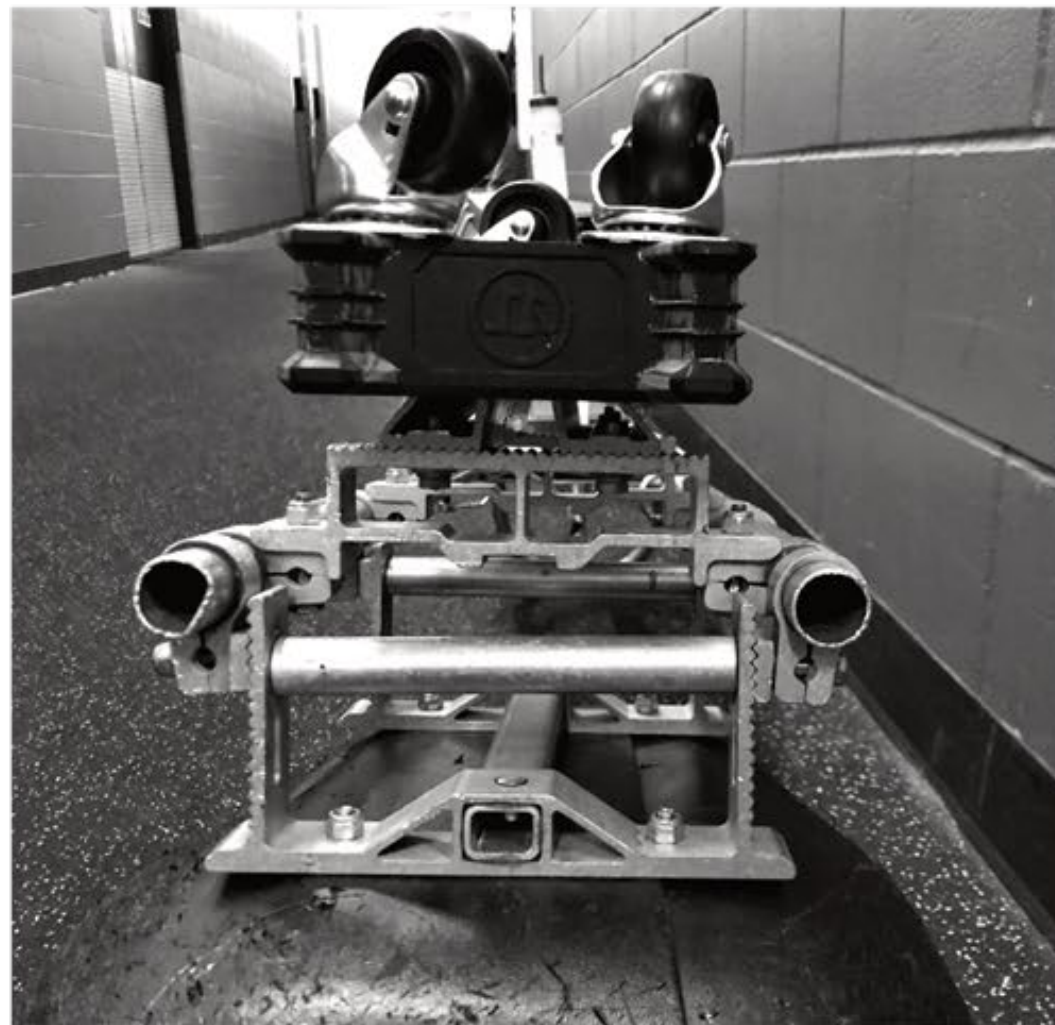
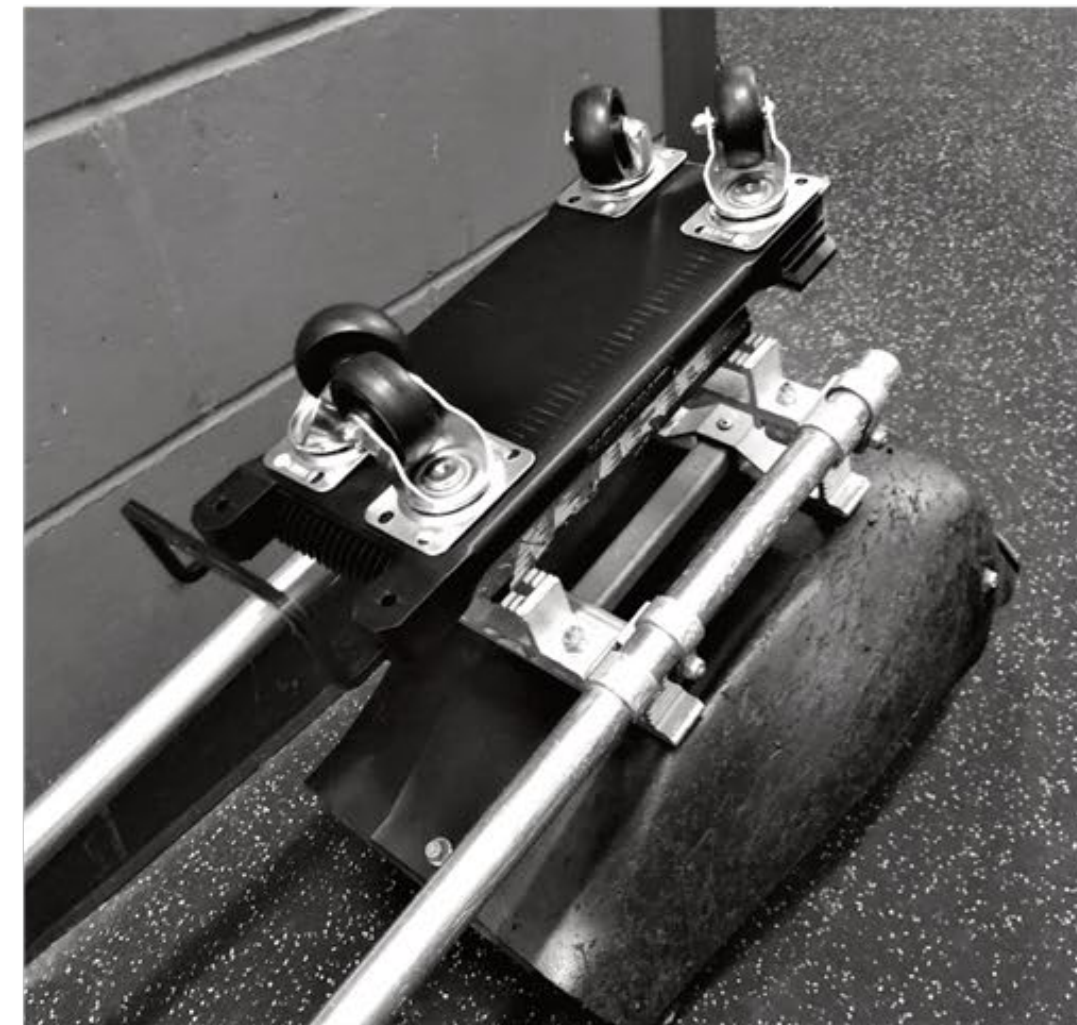
CONTEXT





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LOOKS LIKE PROTOTYPE



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LOOKS LIKE PROTOTYPE



Helpful feedback for improvement



Brought prototype to Sled Hockey practice



**21** Gave feedback

- It needs to be able to hold heavy players
- I don't want my blades to get dull
- Does it work on all lips?
- Some extra fastening/securing would be helpful
- Should be able to adjust the height while in use



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WORKS LIKE PROTOTYPE - CLASS





# THE ASSIST

WORKS LIKE PROTOTYPE - USER





# THE ASSIST

WORKS LIKE PROTOTYPE - USER





# THE ASSIST

WORKS LIKE PROTOTYPE - USER





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WORKS LIKE PROTOTYPE - USER

## Helpful Feedback

It may be helpful to have larger casters for uneven surfaces or obstacles

A taller version, or one with height adjustment, would be best

Being able to use it on both manufacturers' sleds is ideal

Is there a way to keep the player in while being pushed?

An improvement would be using a plastic better than acrylic

**46** Respondents

**89** % Would buy


**37**% Would spend \$50 - \$75



**33**% Would spend \$25 - \$50


**30**% Would spend \$75 - \$100

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## WORKS LIKE PROTOTYPE - USER



   
Keep me in mind when you are ready  
Like Reply 2d  2




   
Done, very inventive!!!  
Like Reply 1w 




   
I could sell 100 of them almost immediately  
Like Reply 1w 

   
That's awesome!!!   
Like Reply 1d



   
I would buy this!   
Like Reply 1w




 True I am relocating currently to Virginia so you will be very far. But yes I have been thinking about a similar device for a while that can help to get from the locker room with all the gear on the sled to get on the ice and return back to the locker room the same way. I am happy to fund first prototype when you have it. My initial feedback is the tires attached may not be as durable and tires should perhaps be the tires on a dolly which is supposed to take a lot of load and wear and tear. Does this make sense? 


   
I would luv to have that   
Like Reply 2d

   
PATENT it ASAP. Don't wait   
Like Reply 1w

 Hi Erik,  
Are you still working on that design any way to purchase the product ?

   
I really think you're on to something here Erik!  
A definite need for this type of equipment for not only some younger players but the other varying degrees of disability that are throughout the player community.  
I'll be looking forward to any new videos you may post during your design / beta testing.  
Good luck! 😊  
Like Reply 2d 

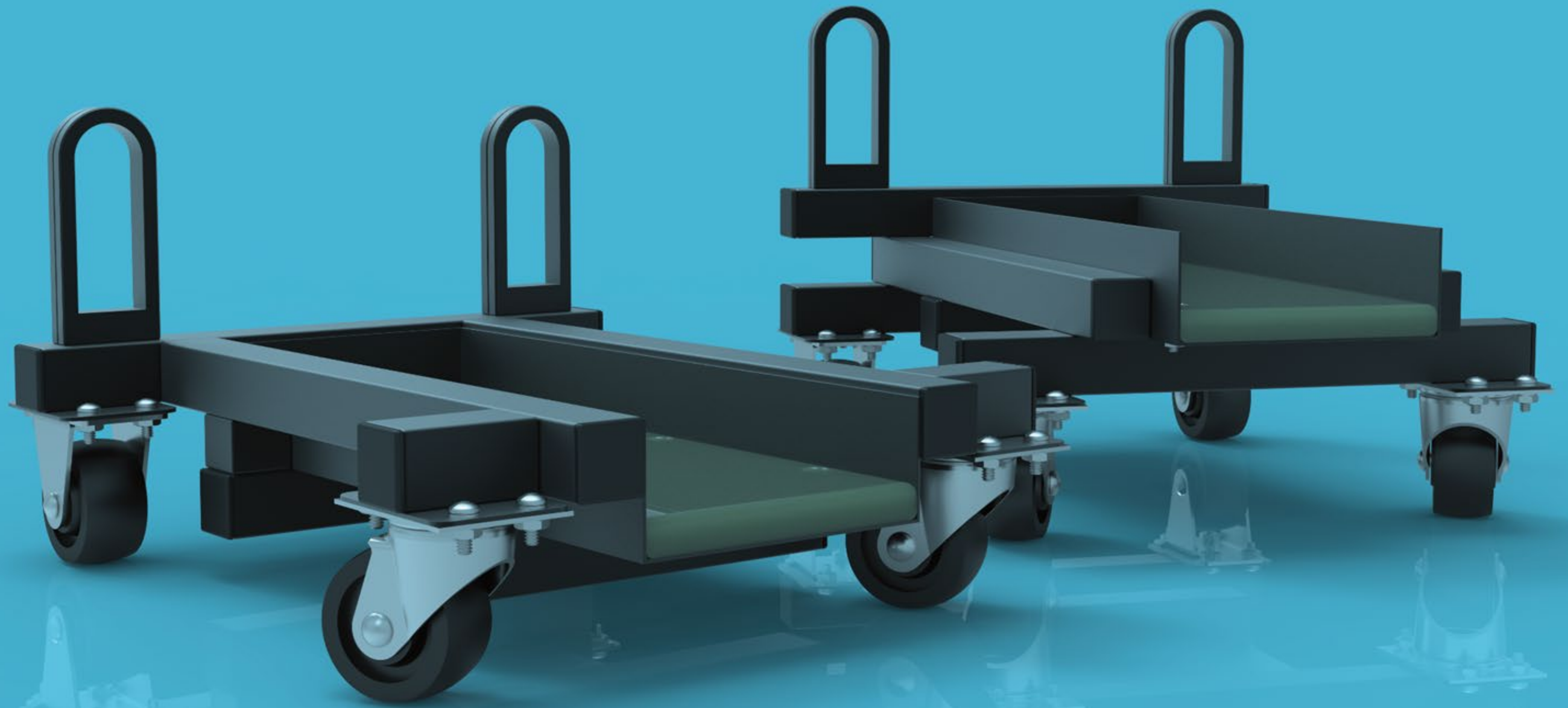
   
Love this! We've had wheeled things that someone can use to assist a person in a sled into the ice, but this gives the person independence as well as saves their shoulders and arms from scooting across the rubber floor to the opening of the ice.  
Like Reply 2w 

 Hello Erik  
I saw your terrific sled Hockey dolly which enables sled hockey players to get on the ice easily. There are several players on my team that could use it. I am also connected with a lot of other sled hockey romanization that would be interested in it also. Any idea when this might be available for purchase?

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UPDATED CAD





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## FEATURES



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## FEATURES - TRAY

UHMW-PE Layer in tray





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## FEATURES - TRAY



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## FEATURES





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## FEATURES - BRACKETS

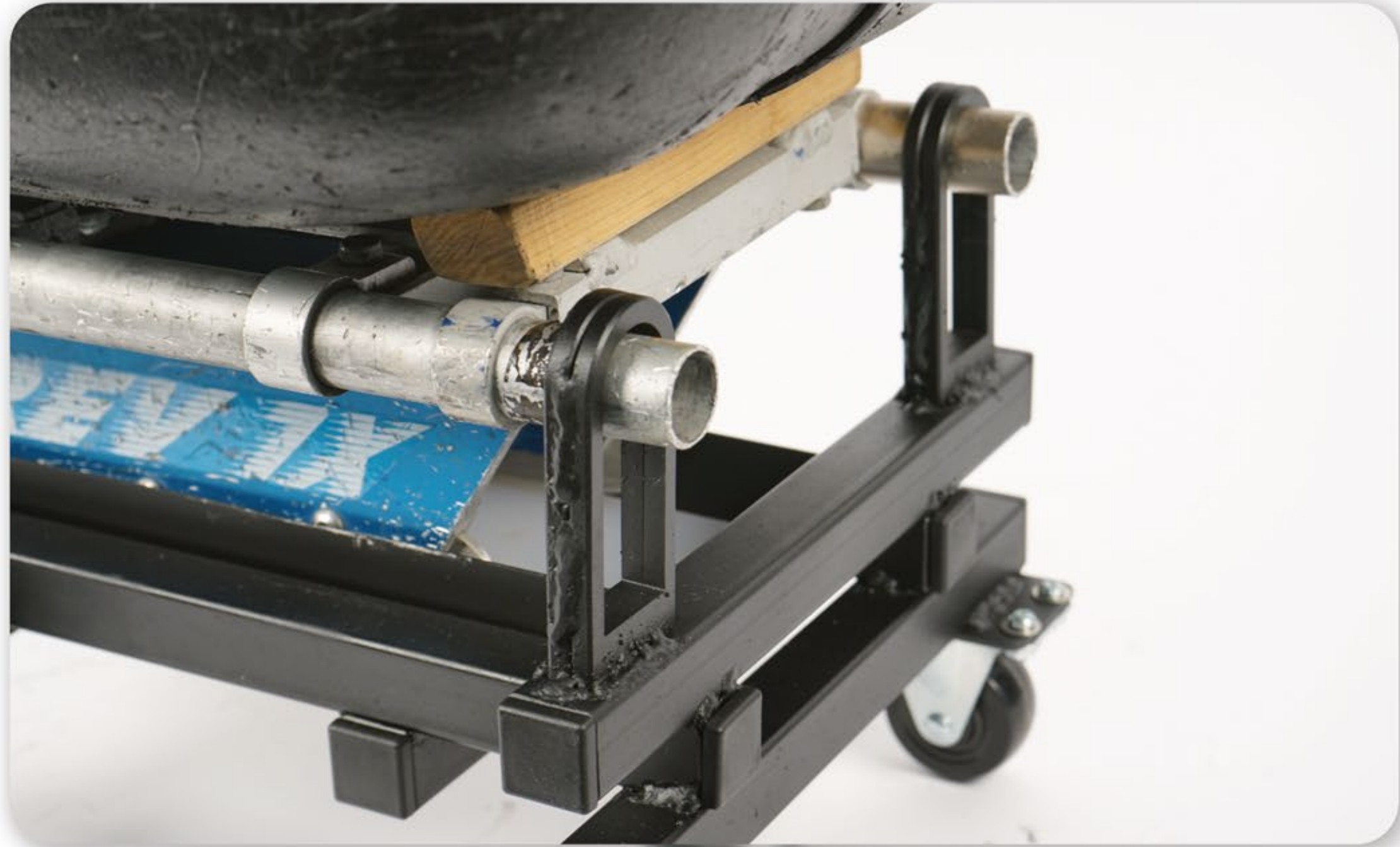
Tube brackets



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## FEATURES - BRACKETS





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## FEATURES



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## FEATURES - HEIGHT



4" Off ground



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## FEATURES - HEIGHT



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## NEXT STEPS



- MVP grant presentation
- Patent process
- Larger scale manufacturing
- Hendrickson Foundation tournament
- Make Sled Hockey more empowering



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FIN



THANK YOU!

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QUESTIONS?