

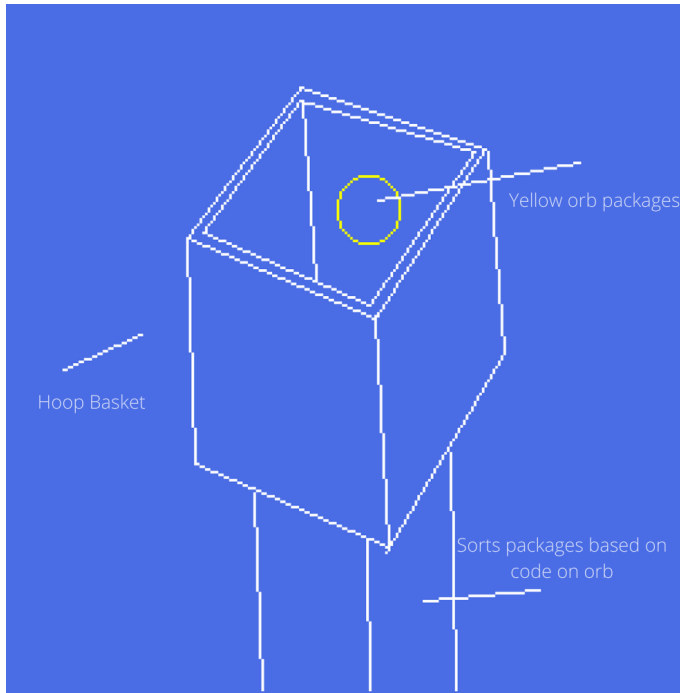
VRC High School - Theme It Up! Entry: Forklifting Ad

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Being a forklift is easy, all you have to do is lift things around. Ever since they invented the orb carrier, life has been simple. Going to work, every day is just lift, carry, place, and repeat. This is how every forklift makes a living, there is no other choice. Sometimes it's a little too easy and a bit boring. Work always gets repetitive; the worst part is that we get paid based on how many packages we lift and how our boss thinks of us. One guy tried repeatedly lifting one package for fifteen hours, now he gets paid fifteen percent less. My crew and I work for the company Pitch, and their motto is to always "pitch in". As a forklift, I was a bit offended as I couldn't one, fling things and two, sing. Anyways, today there was a big forklift convention that would be discussing a new forklift design. The speaker drove onto the stand, "Hello there fellow forklifts, Pitch will be installing a new and faster packaging design. I am very happy to present to you, the Hoop!" Everyone was curious as to what the Hoop was and would do. A giant hoop was brought out and displayed on a forklift. "This is the Hoop!" the speaker said, "Packages will be thrown in instead of just being placed underneath the collection area. This will make work more efficient and fast!" Examples of how the Hoop works were shown, the packages seemed to just disappear out of the Hoop, and move through underground delivering systems. After the speaker had finished presenting the Hoop, there was a Q&A, because no one knew what was going on. "Let me get this straight, we are meant to throw something." a worker began, "At something." "That's right!" The speaker said. "How are we supposed to throw something, it is literally impossible for forklifts to throw anything!" "Exactly!" The whole crowd started shouting. "Calm down, there's an answer for all of this, it is really simple!" "Basically, figure it out." Whoever created this Hoop, I have no idea what they were thinking. Needless to say, everyone quit after that. Nothing was getting out of the storage rooms, and supply was dwindling.



I went to my friend's house to see if they knew what to do. When I arrived, I was surprised to see that they were working on a massive project. They told me that Pitch was offering a competition. The winners would receive a share of the company based on how many packages they sorted. The catch was that they had the old system of placing boxes down, but also the Hoop. Flinging a package orb into the hoop was worth many times the points from pushing it into the side. There was also a rule that if a forklift cleared out all of the orbs on a side, they would receive many points. There are two forklifts in each team, and the team with the most points wins. They apparently got this info off of an advertisement.

The question we had to answer was, "How does one maximize their points?" We decided to start on opposite sides and clear out each half to maximize efficiency. We got started on working on how to fling the package. None of our motors were strong enough to fling it high, and the deadline was getting close. We were practicing stacking the orbs when a tightly wound rubber band fell off and flung itself away. We were impressed by how far it could go, so we decided to use elasticity to fling it. A catapult that we could wear and use was constructed. In the end, our design was based on the catapult. We each had one in front, to throw to the back one, which threw the orbs into the Hoop. The front one was a bit slow but was very powerful. I don't know why, but I decided to put a hook on the underside, just in case. After a month, we were finished, just in time for the competition.

We arrived at the stadium carrying our designs. The Hoop was in the middle and there were also some overhangs to prevent players from making their machine too tall. There were a total of 1024 teams, all hoping to win the tournament. It was a single-elimination tournament, you had to play a round against one other team and whoever had the least points got eliminated, this would be repeated for all of the rounds. We started on the first round, and we had ten minutes to get the most points. Our opponents didn't fling any orbs into the Hoop, they only pushed the

balls into the area. It was an easy win. While we were waiting for the second round, we noticed that most of the teams didn't use the Hoop, we would have a major advantage over them. After the fifth round, all of those teams were eliminated; we knew that this was when it would get difficult. Somehow we pulled through and were onto the final round. We were against a team that had the fastest record of getting all of the possible points. This was a special round because we only had a minute to gather points. We started to use our usual strategy and managed to tie with the opposing team. The judges didn't know what to do, they discussed what the tiebreaker should be and a judge started to announce their decision. "The tiebreaker is to climb onto the overhang, the first one to do it wins!" We started to make our way onto the overhang, it was easy because I had added the hook. The other team had not prepared for this, and couldn't do anything. Just like that, we had won! We used our position in the company to give the design to all of the workers. With the Hoop, being a forklift just became a whole lot better.

