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Instructions for Setting The “Gophinator”

With a bit of practice and an understanding of the function of the trap, setting The Gophinator is quick and easy. It is a powerful trap and is capable of injuring hands or fingers, so wear work or gardening gloves and do not place hands or fingers between tines of set trap at any time. Do not allow winder to slip from your fingers while it's under tension, as it will whip around and hit your fingers with considerable force. Do not set trap with wet or slippery fingers.

1. Unhook rear winder from upright portion of trap body at point “A”, as shown in the first figure. Note that traps are shipped in unhooked position.
2. Open front tines of trap and hook left tine “B” under the small nub on the front end of trip wire at point “C”, as shown. Only the short nub goes over the tine—do not attempt to force the long length of the trip wire over the tine, as damage may result.
3. Place distant end of trip wire under the inverted U-shaped hook on the left side of wire trip pan at point “D”.
4. Now the trap is in the set position, and ready to be tensioned with a turn of the winder. Holding down the wire pan with the trip wire hooked in place (as shown in second figure), and keeping your hands and fingers clear of the front tines of the trap, give the winder one full turn under tension, and hook the handle of the winder onto the upright portion of the trap body at point “A”. Winding the spring does take some strength in the fingers, but with the right finger positioning as demonstrated in the second figure, it's easy. Start with thumb underneath the spring coils, as shown, and wind spring with index finger. Positioning the cable tether in a forward position as show will keep it out of the way of the winder. **CAUTION: Again, DO NOT allow the winder to slip from your fingers while it is under tension. Do not turn winder more than one full turn under tension, or damage to the spring will occur.**

Note: *An anchoring cable should be attached to the trap just behind the spring as shown in second photo (cable not included), so trap can be staked down to prevent loss due to gophers pulling trap into tunnel or scavengers digging up trap and carrying off dead gopher with Gophinator attached. It's easier to attach the string with the spring in the un-tensioned position.*

