

Name: _____

CASTERS (wheels) are used to make scenery mobile on stage, which makes for quick scene shifts.

A platform that is "castered" is called a "**WAGON**" in theatre.

A few different types of casters include:

- **swivel** (can turn 360 degrees) or **rigid** (one-directional wheels)
- with or without **brakes**

Example casters:



3" Polyurethane swivel caster
weight: 300 lbs per wheel
swivel diameter: 5.5"



4" heavy duty swivel caster
weight: 550 lbs per wheel



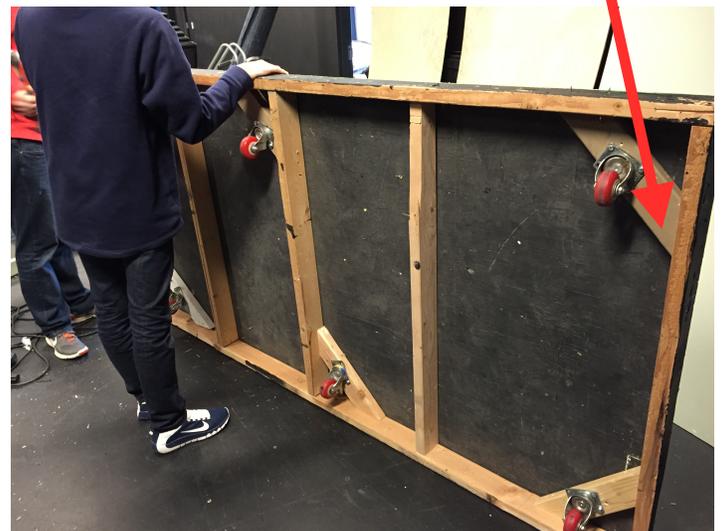
4" swivel caster with brake lock
weight: 550 lbs per wheel
swivel diameter: 9"

Different casters can carry **different weight loads**, so it's important to know casters' weight limits. (If the weight limit is 500 pounds, and you put 6 casters on a wagon, that wagon can carry a load of 3000 lbs.)

For casters that swivel, you must **attach caster blocks** (angled pieces of wood) to the underside of the platform so that the wheels have room to swivel without hitting the frame of the wagon. (See below.)

When casting a wagon, you should use **6 casters** so that the weight is evenly distributed and the platform won't bow in the middle. (The position of the casters is the same as when legging a platform. See photo.)

Note: Caster blocks should be in full contact with the decking (without any space in between). If there is any space in between the decking & caster block, the compression of the weight on the wagon will break the casters away from the platform which is very dangerous for both actors & crew.



Wagon locks are used to keep wagons from moving while actors are on them. They are mounted on the upstage side of wagons so the audience can't see them. (These devices aren't brakes. They simply lift the wagon slightly off the ground so it won't roll.) The lever on this device can be pushed into a locked position with a hand or foot.