



Manufacturing Attractive Bird Products

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Deluxe Gourd Rack Winch Add-On

Thank you for purchasing this product from the PMCA. Your purchase helps support the education, conservation, and research projects of the PMCA.

Please read all instructions carefully before assembly!

Location of pole:

Your gourd rack should be placed as far away from trees and bushes as possible. The average minimum distance housing can be placed from trees and still attract martins is about 40 feet (southern landlords can get away with less). Martins require wide-open flight paths around their housing. Also housing should be no further than 120 feet from human housing, martins like to be near humans, and no closer than about 25 feet.

STEP 1:

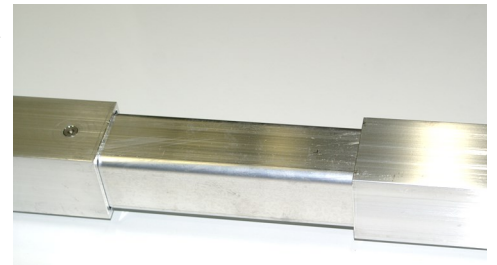
- Using a post hole digger, dig a hole 36" deep by 9" wide
- Remove the 1-1/2" square steel ground stake from the aluminum pole. Stand the ground stake in the center of the hole, painted end up. (The ground stake is the 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" square black steel tube with a long piece of angle iron welded to it.) The end of the ground stake with the piece of welded angle iron should be the end that sticks out of the ground. (End with welded clip goes in bottom of hole. The welded clip is for shipping purposes only.)
- Add two 80# bags of wet, premixed concrete and fill the hole to ground level. Depending on the soil conditions, a larger hole with more concrete may be needed. Be sure to leave 21" of the ground stake above the concrete.

Important: fill the ground stake itself with cement to prevent water from accumulating and freezing inside. This also keeps the inside of the ground stake from rusting and makes it stronger.

The gourd rack will be placed over this ground stake later in the assembly process. Wipe off any wet cement from the outside of the ground stake above ground level; the pole will need to slide over this ground stake smoothly. Before the cement hardens, make sure the ground stake is vertically plumb by checking it on at least two planes with a long bubble level. Allow the cement to harden for 48 hours. Coat the outside of the ground stake with oil or grease.

STEP 2:

Lay the bottom section of the pole (section with no holes) on an overturned 5 gallon bucket (or similar object). Slide the splice support of the top section (section with holes at one end) into either end of the bottom section (See photo) The two sections of pole are held together by friction and gravity once erected.



STEP 3:

Slide hub assembly over the pole so the quick line with pre-attached cable is towards the top. The predrilled holes in your pole is the top of your pole. The hub assembly is completely assembled at the factory with the quick link attached at the top of the hub.

STEP 4:

Slide 24" extension, with the 6" pulley installed, into the top of the aluminum pole section. This extension needs to be turned so that the cable is at the same corner as the quick link. Make sure that the cable does not twist around the pole.

The extension is held into place by friction.

STEP 5:

Attach the winch to the bottom end of the pole at your desired height using two aluminum u-channel and 1/4 x 4" bolts and flange nuts. The cable is to extend straight down at the corner of the pole and should not be twisted around the pole. The u-channel has a V notch and the corner of the pole will fit into the notch.



When mounted the winch is on the corner of the pole.



STEP 6:

Attach the cable guide pulley approximately 10" above the winch using one aluminum u-channel and 1/4 x 4" bolts and flange nuts. The u-channel has a V notch and the corner of the pole will fit into the notch.

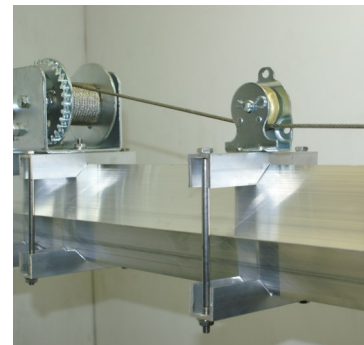
STEP 7:

Thread the winch handle onto the winch. Slide the spring onto the winch beside the handle. Secure the spring with the 3/4" wide nut. (See photo)



STEP 8:

Slide both perch rods into holes in top of pole. Center the rods using the tape measure, then secure with two 10-24 x 1/4" set screws and the 3/32" Allen wrench that was included with the hardware. (see photo)



STEP 9:

Insert the black plastic plug cap into top of pole. This is held in position by friction. Important: without the cap at the top of the pole water will fill the pole. If the water freezes the pole will split.

STEP 10:

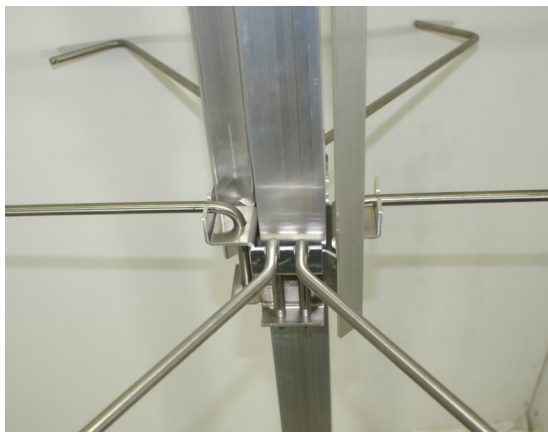
Wind the excess cable into the winch. The cable should be snug. It is important that the cable lay inside the groove of the pulley located at the top of the pole.

STEP 11:

Place the pole vertically over the ground stake and slide it down to the ground level.



STEP 12: Attach the gourd arms to the hub. The gourd will slide onto the end of the arm with a small hole drilled in it. Insert the opposite end (end with no hole) into the arm bracket. The systems have 3 kinds of arms, straight, right bend and left bend. The straight bends are bundled with yellow rubber bands. The right bends are bundled with red rubber bands. The left bends are bundled with blue rubber bands. **LOOKING AT THE FACE OF THE HUB**, the straight arms (yellow rubber bands) will go into the bracket side with single hole. The right bend (red rubber band) will go into the left hole on bracket side with two holes. The left hand bend (blue rubber bands) will go into the right hole on bracket side with two holes. Make sure the gourd arms are pushed all the way down into the u-shaped slot.



STEP 13:

Slide the gourds on the arms and insert one hitch pin per arm to keep the gourd from sliding off. Vertically hung gourds may need to have their hanging holes enlarged with a 3/8" drill bit to fit on the arms. Horizontally hung gourds will need 2 hitch pins inserted per arm, one on each side of the gourd.

STEP 14: Turn the winch handle to raise and lower your gourd rack. The stop bolt will stop the rack once the rack

reaches the top of the pole. **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN THE CABLE OR DAMAGE MAY OCCUR.**

Caring for your gourd rack:

It is highly recommended that the pulley be oiled once a year to keep them functioning properly (and to prevent them from squealing) and to wax the aluminum pole once a year with car wax. Remove the nests and hose out the gourds at the end of the season (late August or early September). Bring the gourds in out of the weather and store them in an outside shed. It's also recommended that landlords bring the pole, arms, and hub in out of the weather at season's end. Remove the arms before disassembling the upper pole system for winter storage. Check all the bolts and fasteners to make sure they are secure before reinstalling the Deluxe



Gourd Rack each spring.