

Recipe for a Rod Tube

by Walt Dietz



Step 1: Ingredients

You need to purchase and assemble some “ingredients” for this project:

- * 2-inch to 6-inch white plastic drain pipe (often sold in 10-foot lengths so that two rod tubes can be made from one piece)
- * 1 end cap—just slips over the pipe
- * 1 threaded plug and threaded fitting (also called a cleanout and plug)—also to fit pipe
- * foam rubber a half-inch to one inch thick (to cushion the ends)
- * PVC pipe cement
- * Rubber, contact or barge cement
- * Handsaw
- * Safety glasses



Step 2: Measuring everything

Wear safety glasses. Measure and cut the pipe. Five feet should be more than enough. Don't worry about a straight cut, since you'll be covering the ends with caps. Be extra careful with the saw and have an adult help you.

Step 3 – Cookie cutter

Lay the foam on a flat surface. Press the end cap on the foam, as if it were a cookie cutter. Cut the foam along the cap impression. Glue the foam cutout into the end cap using contact cement, rubber cement or barge cement. Repeat this step with the screw-in plug. All gluing should be done outside or in a well-ventilated room.

Step 4 – Putting it all together

Make sure you carefully read the directions on the PVC glue can and use plenty of ventilation. Carefully use the glue applicator to coat the area where the end cap and the cleanout fitting touch. Make sure you remove the plug from the cleanout fitting. Otherwise, glue may spread to the threads and the plug will get stuck. Twist the caps a quarter-turn when you put the joint together. The twist smears the glue and seals the joint. Hold for 30 seconds while the glue sets.

Step 5 – Add your personal touch (optional)

You can paint or add stickers to your rod tube. Just remember to allow the glue enough time to dry completely—about 5 minutes.

That's it! You just made a handy rod tube. No more broken rod tips or handles! Just remember to circle the tube opening with your hand and slide the rod through your fingers. Your hand is easier on the guides than the hard rim of the tube.

Make sure you place the ferrule ends into the tube first. The ferrules are the parts where the rod pieces fit together. Putting the rod tip in first can cause damage.

Best yet is to make a rod sock, but that's a project for another day.

PLAY