

THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE

PVC Peanut Holder

By Patty O'Bleness photos by author

This PVC Peanut Holder is easy to make (total time to cut parts and assemble is about two hours) and will stabilize your FitPAWS peanut to make fitness training easier for you because your hands will be free to help your dog as needed and to deliver rewards. The peanut holder also makes getting on and off the peanut much easier for your dog; however, it is still extremely important to practice safety whenever your dog is getting on and off the peanut—do not allow him to leap on or leap off, and do not store the peanut in the peanut holder in a location where your dog can access it without supervision.



PVC comes in a variety of colors now that make for an attractive peanut holder. You will want to use 1 ¼" schedule 40 or furniture-grade PVC pipe to make the strongest possible holder. For your dog's safety, do not use smaller diameter pipe or thinner walled pipe.

Materials

- 4 – 1 ¼" 90° PVC elbows
- 4 – 1 ¼" 5-way PVC connectors
- 8 – 1 ¼" PVC end caps
- 13 – feet of 1 ¼" PVC pipe
- PVC glue (such as Oatey Regular Clear)
- Optional: 3M Safety-Walk Slip Resistant Tread
- Optional: PVC cleaner (such as Goof Off)

Tools

- Measuring tape
- Pencil or marker
- PVC pipe cutter or PVC/plastic saw

Measuring and Cutting the PVC

Measure and cut the appropriate sizes of pieces from your PVC pipe based on the size of your peanut.

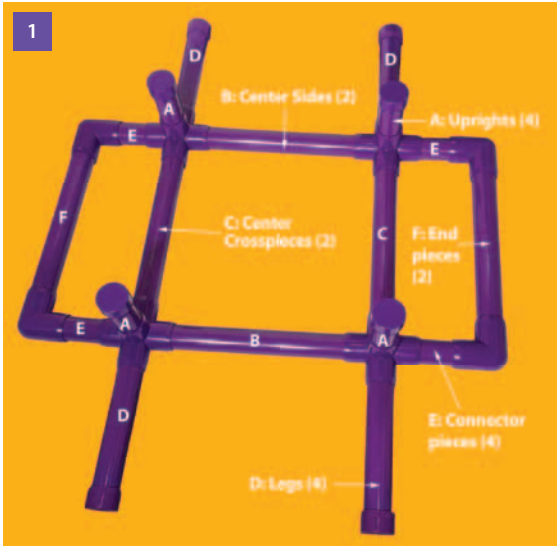
FitPAWS Peanuts	End Pieces	Center Crosspieces	Center Sides	Connector Pieces	Uprights	Legs
40cm and 50cm	2–14" (F)	2–14" (C)	2–10" (B)	4–5" (E)	4–5" (A)	4–10" (D)
60cm	2–19" (F)	2–19" (C)	2–14" (B)	4–6" (E)	4–7" (A)	4–10" (D)
70cm and 80cm	2–23" (F)	2–23" (C)	2–18" (B)	4–8" (E)	4–9" (A)	4–10" (D)

Assembly Instructions

The instructions that follow show photos of the small peanut holder being made. The names I've used to refer to each part that needs to be assembled are labeled in **Figure 1** so you can use it as a guide.

Note: If you are using schedule 40 pipe with ink lettering/markings, you can position the pipe lettering and bar codes to the inside or down as you assemble so they don't show on the finished product. This is purely for presentation (or laziness to remove on my part). You can also remove most of the lettering with Goof Off.

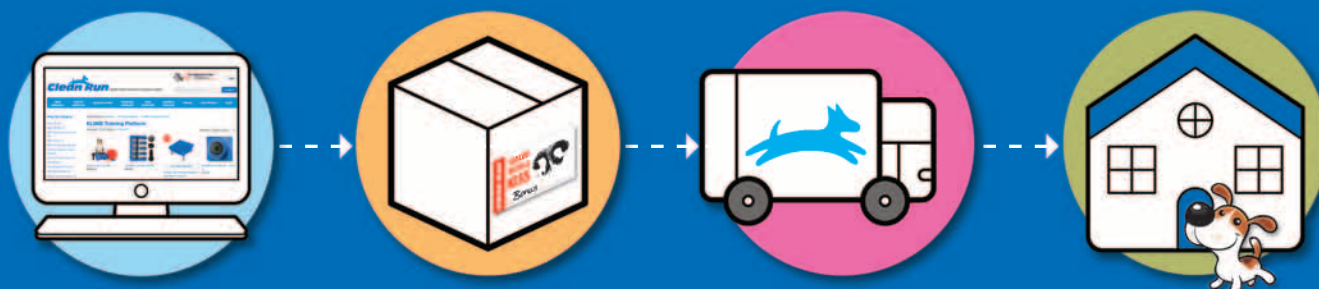
1. Take the four upright pieces (A) you cut for your holder and glue a PVC end cap to one end of each and a 5-way cross to the other. Push hard to make sure that the pipe fits all the way into the fittings.



2. Take one of the two pieces you cut for the center sides (B) and glue it so that it connects two of the 5-way assemblies as shown in **Figure 2**. Make another for the other side of the holder. Always fully insert the parts with some force to help the rest of the assembly go together uniformly and strengthen the holder. You can use a rubber mallet if you're having difficulty.
3. Glue the two center crosspieces (C) into the 5-way connectors of the assembled center sides to form a square as shown in **Figure 3**.
4. Take the four legs (D) you cut and glue a PVC end cap to one end of each.
5. Now glue the legs with end caps into the 5-way connectors of your center square so that the legs extend outward from the center crosspieces (C) and are at a 90° angle to the center sides (B).
6. Take the four connector pieces you cut (E) and glue them into the remaining open connection on each of the 5-way connectors.
7. Glue a 90° elbow onto *one* end of each of the two end pieces (F) you cut—yes, just one end right now!
8. Now take one of the end pieces (F) and glue a 90° elbow onto the other side. It's important to make sure the elbows are at the same angle; otherwise, your peanut holder will be twisted or won't fit together properly. So before the glue starts setting, place the assembly on the floor or any level surface and quickly adjust the second elbow until the assembly will lie flat and not rock. Repeat with the other end piece. See **Figure 4**.
9. Glue one of the end assemblies to the connector pieces (E) on each side of the peanut holder. See **Figure 5**.



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10. Once the glue has had time to set (consult the directions on the can), it's time to try out your peanut in the holder. It is important that your peanut fits very snugly in the holder. If necessary, add air to inflate it more. See **Figure 6**.

Applying Non-Skid Tape

I highly recommend applying self-adhesive 3M Safety-Walk Slip Resistant

Tread to the bottom of your peanut holder if you are using it on carpet or mats because it does a very good job to prevent slipping. Do *not* use this tape on linoleum or wood floors; it will scratch your floor. Safety-Walk is sold in some hardware stores by the foot or by the roll at Home Depot in the paint department as it is also used for ladders and steps.

1. Cut 8 squares of Safety-Walk about 2" x 2". Turn the peanut holder upside down and apply 2 squares to the bottom of each 90°. Trim to fit. See **Figure 7**.
2. Cut 16 squares of Safety-Walk about 2" x 2", but trim the corners on one side of each so they are angled as shown in **Figure 8**. Apply 4 strips to the bottom of each 5-way tee. 🐕

Patty O'Brien owns a small dog training business called Smarty Dog in Hermiston, Oregon, where she teaches agility, canine conditioning, tricks, and Canine Good Citizen classes.

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