



Materials List

- 16" x 16" piece of lumber for platform
- 8 - Gladware 6.5" x 6.5" plastic containers
- 16 - screws
- 16 - washers
- 16 - 1/2 inch long plastic tubing pieces
- 8 - eye hooks that will accommodate dowels or threaded rod
- 4 - 36" lengths of 1/4"—5/8" wooden dowel or threaded rod
- 18" length of galvanized 1" pipe to fit flange
- 1 - 1" flange
- 4 - sets of nuts and bolts to mount flange
- 1 - galvanized cap to fit 1" pipe
- 4 - washer nuts to attach threaded rod to pipe
- 2 - lengths of threaded rod for above perching
- 1 - universal mounting plate. We use the plastic plate from Heath Mfg.

The photos are fairly self-explanatory. However, I would like to explain about the double Gladware containers. Four containers are mounted to the platform, raised, allowing for drainage, using plastic tubing to support. Drain holes are drilled into the bottom. These are stationary. A second set of containers are used as removable containers so I can easily replace and clean them. The second set also has drain holes drilled in the bottom. These act as double colanders and allow for easy cleaning and refilling.

The Handy Landlord: Make a Platform Feeder

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Here are photos and step-by-step instructions for the platform feeder that we designed, built and offer. It has served us and the martins for many years.

Our supplemental feeding/nest material platform is located approximately 50' from our closest rack. The reasons for this placement are to help to reduce the possibility of forced copulation while females are gathering nesting material or food, keeping a hawk away from the actual rack or colony site if an attack takes place while the martins are busy feeding or collecting nesting material, and it can be replenished without lowering and raising housing when the martins might be already stressed.

We used one length of an old telescoping pole on which to mount our system. There is no need to mount your platform high, so any length of pole or pipe that will accommodate the universal mount will work. Ours is a mounted a little less than 5' from the ground. This allows me to easily fill and replace the food offerings and nesting material as well as use it to scoop eggs or crickets for flinging.

Gladware containers are not UV protected and by the end of the season the stationary mounted ones are quite brittle. They need to be replaced each year. You might want to consider using something that would last longer, but this doesn't bother us, as we paint and clean the platform each year and need to remove the containers even if they hold up.

Assembly Photos

1. Platform feeder set up for use.
2. Assembled and ready to mount on the pole.
3. Platform with stationary containers attached. Flange for perching pole is in the middle.
4. Note the space underneath the stationary containers. Pieces of plastic tubing are used for spacers.
5. Close up of plastic tubing spacers.
6. Eye hooks holding doweling. Doweling was painted using Slip Free Additive.
7. Close up of flange that holds perching pole.
8. Close up of perching pole showing washers and nuts holding threaded rod in place.
9. Close up of Heath universal mounting plate.



