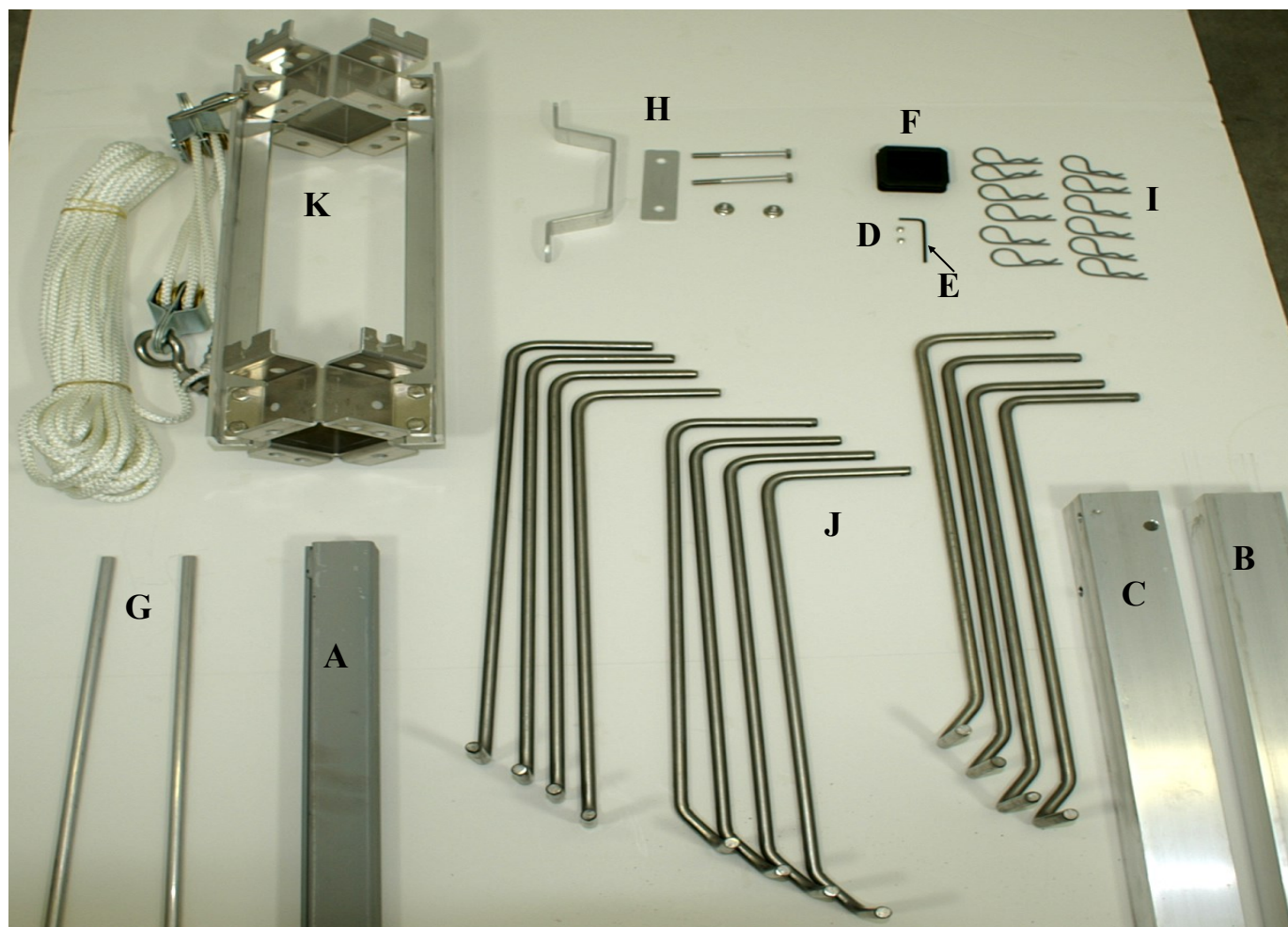




## Manufacturing Attractive Bird Products

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### Deluxe Gourd Racks



Shown above are parts for the two-level, Deluxe Gourd Rack (DGR 12V) with 12 arms for vertically hung gourds.

#### Parts List

Code	Quantity	Description
A	1	Ground stake
B	1	<u>BOTTOM</u> pole section (no holes)
C	1	<u>TOP</u> pole section with bottom splice
D	2	10-24 x 1/4" stainless steel set screws
E	1	3/32" Allen wrench
F	1	Plastic cap for pole top
G	2	Top perch rods (packed with poles)
H	1	Rope winder with (2) 2 3/4" stainless steel hex bolts and (2) 1/4" -20 stainless steel nuts
I	6, 12 or 24	Hitch pins (Depending on which system you ordered)
J	6, 12 or 24	Gourd hanging arms (straight, left-bend, and right-bend arms)
K	1	Assembled hub, rope, pulleys, quick link carabineer, and 3/8" stainless steel eyebolt

Thank you for purchasing this product from the PMCA. Your purchase helps support the educa-

*tion, 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: Digging the Hole and setting the Ground Stake**

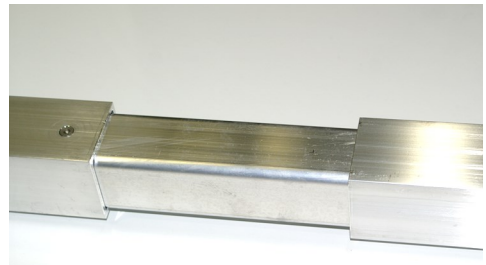
- Using a post hole digger, dig a hole 36" deep by 9" wide
- Put the ground stake (A) in the center of the hole, **painted end up**. ( The ground stake is the 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" square black steel tube with a long piece of angle iron welded to it.) The end of the ground stake with the piece of welded angle iron should be the end that sticks out of the ground. (End with welded nut goes in bottom of hole. The welded nut 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.

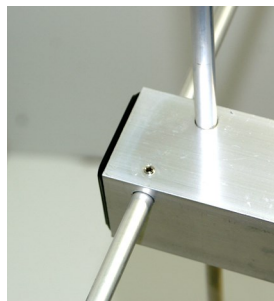
### **Step 2: Assembling the Pole**

Lay the bottom section of the pole (B) on an overturned 5 gallon bucket (or similar object). Slide splice section of pole (C) into bottom section until both sections meet. (See photo) The two sections of pole are held together by friction and gravity once erected.



### **Step 3: Attaching the Perch Rods**

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



### **Step 4: Inserting Pole Cap**

Insert the black plastic plug cap (F) 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 5: Sliding the Hub onto the Pole

Orient the pole so the remaining hole, at the top of the pole, is vertical and on the left half side of the pole as shown in the photo. Slide the hub assembly (K) over pole so that the quick link (carabineer) is on the same side as the 3/8" hole. The hub assembly (K) is completely assembled at the factory with rope and pulley system attached to top of hub.

### Step 6: Attaching the Pulley to the Pole

Remove the outer locknut from the 3/8" eyebolt and push the eyebolt through the 3/8" hole in top section of pole. Upper pulley should be on the same side of the pole as the pulley on the hub. Replace locknut and tighten with wrench. The split of the eyebolt should face upper end of pole so pulley hangs freely and eyebolt will not open with the weight of the hub assembly (see photo).



### Step 7: Attaching the Rope Winder

Attach the rope winder (H) to the pole at your desired height using two 1/4 x 2-3/4 bolts and 1/4 flange nuts. Make sure the rope winder is oriented so that the rope is wound on the side of the pole directly underneath the large eyebolt and pulley. Mounting the winder 4 feet above the ground will allow you to mount a pole guard just below the rope winder; pole guards work best if you mounted 4 feet above the ground. (Please note: Pole guards are available from the PMCA. They are strongly recommended as rat snakes and raccoons will climb metal poles and raid nests.)



### Step 8: Placing Pole on Ground Stake

Place pole vertically over the ground stake and slide it down to ground level. The pole will rest on top of the cement. An adult of average strength can typically do this alone, but to be safe, have another person assist you with this step.

### Step 9: Attaching Arms to Hub

Attach arms (J) to gourd rack. The end of the arm with the small hole drilled in it is the end that the gourd will attach to; therefore, insert the opposite end into the hub assembly. (PLEASE NOTE: The Deluxe Gourd Racks come with 3 kinds of arms: Straight, right bend, and left bend. The straight arms go into the hub side with *single holes*. Right bend arms (bundled with red rubber bands) go into the hole on the right side of hub bracket with two holes, as looking out from the pole (left side as landlord looks at hub). Left bend arms (bundled together with blue rubber bands) go into the hole on the left side of the hub bracket with two holes as looking out from the pole (right side as landlord looks at hub).

### Step 10: Seating the Arms



Make sure the gourd arms are pushed all the way down in the U shaped slot.

### Step 11: Attaching the Gourds

Slide the gourds on the arms and insert one hitch pin (I) 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.



### Raising the Gourd Rack

Standing about 3 feet from the pole, pull down on the rope until the hub and the arms slide up the pole. Make sure the rope comes down between the set of arms directly below the pulleys. Once raised, tie off the excess rope around the aluminum rope winder. After installation is completed, the excess rope may be cut off, but be sure to do this when the unit is *lowered* so that too much is not cut off.

**Caution:** *for safety reasons, stand approximately 3 feet from the pole (completely clear of the gourd rack system overhead) when raising or lowering the system with the rope and pulley in case the rope should slip from your hands. Using gloves with non-slip coating makes raising and lowering the system both easier and safer.*



### Caring for your Gourd Rack

It is **HIGHLY** recommended that the pulleys 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 the landlord s bring the arms, hub, rope, and pole in out of the weather at the season's end. Remove the arms before disassembling the upper pole system for winter storage. If the rope ever shows signs of wear, or becomes damaged, replace immediately; 1/4" braided nylon rope should be used. Check all the bolts and fasteners to make sure they are secure before reinstalling the Deluxe Gourd Rack each spring.

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