



## Manufacturing Attractive Bird Products

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### Fountain of Success Gourd Rack

**SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS:** Read and understand all of the instructions and cautions prior to the assembly and installation of the gourd system. Assemble and install gourd system only to the following instructions as improper installation could result in damage or serious injury.

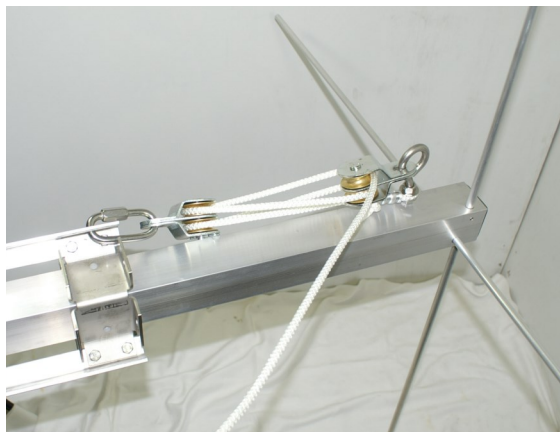
**LOCATION** Your gourd system should be as far away from trees as possible. An average minimum distance of 40 feet away from trees is required. Martins like wide open flight paths around their housing. Think of your martin housing being an airport and the martin as the airplane. Martins prefer to have two or more runways to land and take off. Also, martin housing should be no closer than 25 feet or no further than 120 feet from human housing. Martins like to be close to people.

**STEP 1:** Using a post hole digger, dig a hole 36" deep by 9" diameter. Depending on your soil conditions, a large diameter hole may be needed. Remove the 1-1/2" square steel ground stake from the aluminum pole. Stand the ground stake in the center of your hole. The long piece of welded angle along the side is the end which is to be above ground. End with welded nut goes in bottom of hole. The welded nut is for shipping purposes only. Fill the hole with wet premixed cement to ground level. Be sure the ground stake is plumb and leave 21" above the cement. Also fill the inside of the ground stake with cement, to prevent water from accumulating and freezing inside. The pole will slide over the ground stake later, so be sure to wipe clean the ground stake of any excess cement. The dimensions above require 2 bags of dry cement mix available at your local building store.

**STEP 2:** Lay the bottom section of pole (section with no holes) onto a 5 gallon pail or similar object. Slide the splice support of the top section (section with holes at one end) into either end of the bottom section. The two sections are held together by friction and gravity once erected.

**STEP 3:** Slide both perch rods into the top two holes in the pole. Center both rods and secure with two 1/4" set screws and allen wrench included with the hardware.

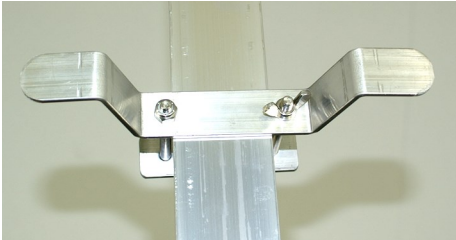
**STEP 4:** Insert the black cap into the top end of the pole. The cap is held in place by friction. The black cap is important to keep water from filling the inside of the pole.



**STEP 5:** Orient the pole so that 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. Orient the hub so the quick link, double pulley and rope is at the top left hand corner. Insert the bottom end of the pole into the top end of the hub. Slide the hub upward to the top end of the pole.

STEP 6: Remove the locknut from the eyebolt and insert the eyebolt into the remaining 3/8" hole at the top of the pole. The eyebolt with double pulley attached should be at the same corner as the quick link with double pulley attached to the hub (See photo). Reattach the locknut and tighten with wrench. The split, in the eye, of the eyebolt should be turned upward so the pulley will hang freely and the eyebolt will not open with the weight of the hub. Remove the rubber bands from the rope.

STEP 7: Attach the rope winder to the pole at your desired height using two 1/4 x 2-3/4 bolt with 1/4 flange nuts. The rope winder needs to be oriented so that when the rope is wound, the rope extends straight down from the eyebolt. The rope can not be twisted around the pole or excessive wear will occur.



STEP 8: Your gourd system is now ready to be erected. The lower you keep the hub on the pole when erecting, the easier it is to balance. Obtain assistance when erecting as working with objects above your head can cause serious injury. Set the gourd system, with pole, vertically over the ground stake and slide the pole down to ground level

STEP 9: 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 flat sides) into the arm bracket. The system is designed to have 4 gourds on the top row and 8 gourds on the bottom row. The 4 arms for the top row are 2" shorter in length. The 8 arms for the bottom row are the longer arms and will have a slight bend located at the end where the arms have flat sides. Insert the flat end into the brackets. Orient the arm so that it will slide into the flat holes in the bracket.

STEP 10: Vertically hung gourds may require their hanging holes to be enlarged to 3/8". Slide the gourd onto the arm and insert a hitch pin into the small hole, at the end of the arm, to keep the gourd from sliding off.



STEP 11: Raise the gourd system by standing 3 feet from the pole, clear of any gourds that will be above you, and pull down on the rope to slide the hub upward on the pole. Make sure the rope comes down between the brackets of the gourd system directly below the eyebolt. Excessive wear will occur if the rope will rub against the brackets or gourd arms. Once the hub is raised, wind the excess rope around the rope winder.

**CAUTION: For your safety, stand far enough away from the gourd system that you are clear of any gourds that are overhead, when raising and lowering the system. Do not let the rope slip in your hands or serious injury may occur. Using non-slip gloves makes raising and lowering both easier and safer.**

**CARING FOR YOUR GOURD SYSTEM:** Oil the pulleys once a year to keep them working smoothly. It is recommended waxing the aluminum pole once a year with car wax. Remove the nest and clean the gourds at the end of each season. It is highly recommended to store the complete system inside for winter storage. Check all the bolts to make sure they are all tight before putting the system up each spring. Inspect the rope for any signs of wear. If wear should occur, replace immediately with 1/4" polyester rope.