

Leapin' Bass Float Tube Depth Finder (Fishin' Buddy) Holder

Parts needed:

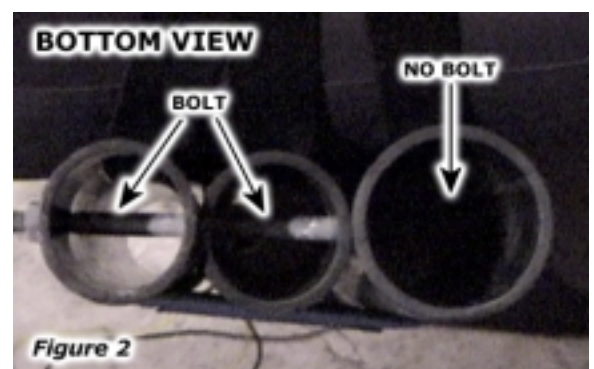
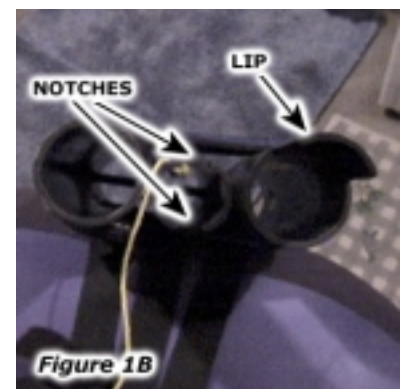
- 20 inches of 1/8" inch thick PVC pipe with a 1.5" diameter
- 11 inches of 1/8" inch thick PVC pipe with a 2" diameter
- 4.5 inch x 1/4" Bolt
- 3/16" Lock Washer
- 3/16" Locking Nut
- 24" Velcro Rod Wrap
- 3 Straps long enough to wrap around float tube when fully inflated

Tools Needed:

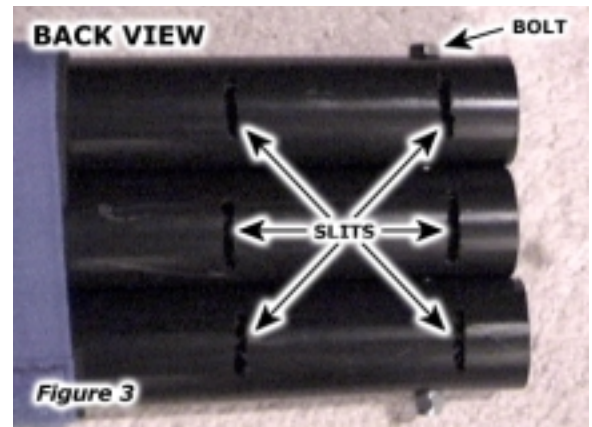
- Power Drill
- 1/4" drill bit (long enough to drill through 6 inches)
- 1/8" drill bit
- 3/4" drill bit
- Saws (I use a hacksaw and a coping saw)
- Pliers
- Wrenches to fit Bolt and Lock Washer
- Metal File

Directions:

- 1) Cut the 1.5" diameter PVC pipe into one 12 inch piece and one 7.5 inch piece.
- 2) Cut two small (1/4" square) notches in the top of the shorter pipe directly across from each other. This pipe is the plier holder and these notches are where the handle of the pliers sit. To make the notches I cut two slits (1/2 - 3/4" apart) from the top of the pipe down then break it off with pliers. See Figures 1A, 1B, & 6
- 3) Cut into the 2" diameter PVC pipe approximately 80% across at 1.75" from the top. Then cut down from the top of the pipe to meet the other cut. This will produce a 1.75" lip at the top of this 9.25 inch pipe. See Figures 1A & 1B
- 4) Sand or file down all the rough spots on the PVC resulting from the cuts.
- 4) Line all three pipes up side by side with the bottoms aligned (you may want to strap them together). Looking at the set of pipes from the top with the outside edge facing up put the 12" pipe on the left, the short pipe in the center and the 2" diameter pipe on the right. Put one of the notches in the short pipe facing the outside and the other facing the inside (or perpendicular to the bolt). Put the lip of the larger pipe at about 2 O'clock. Using the 1/4 inch long bit drill directly through all of the pipes about 1.5 inches from the bottom.
- 5) Using the 3/4" drill bit enlarge the first hole in the 2" diameter pipe. See Figure 5
- 5) Slip the bolt through the hole in the 2" diameter pipe and into the smaller holes in the inside wall of the 2" diameter pipe and through the other two pipes, put the lock washer and locking nut on the end and tighten just slightly. See Figure 2
- 6) Wrap the Rod Wrap around the pipes about an inch or so from the top of the short pipe.
- 7) On the back side of the pipes drill a 1/8" hole about an inch from the bottom of each pipe, then drill another one directly 4 inches above the first.



- 8) Use the drill to make each of these holes into slits just wide enough for your straps to fit into. I usually drill another hole about 1/4 inch to the side of the center hole and the push the drill sideways until it cuts through the PVC into the original hole. I repeat this on either side of the slit until it is wide enough. See *Figure 3*
- 9) Run each strap into the top notch and out the bottom notch. If you have problems getting the strap out the bottom notch you may need to temporarily remove the bolt. See *Figure 4*
- 10) After all the straps are in place tighten the bolt and strap them to your float tube.



Notes:

- These directions are written as if you are going to strap the holder to the front left side of your float tube. If you are planning to strap the holder to the right side of your float tube reverse these directions.
- I use the extra 12 inch tube as a temporary rod holder to use when I'm unhooking a fish, tying a knot, etc.
- I recommend using some kind of leash for pliers. Drill a small hole in the plier holder pipe and attach the leash to it. It's very easy to drop them over the side. See *Figures 5 & 6*

