

DIY PLASTIC PIPE CAT SCRATCHER

Catification Tips for Shelters Brought to You by



WARNING: THIS PROJECT MAY REQUIRE THE USE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND OR DANGEROUS TOOLS/TECHNIQUES.
Please read carefully the Warning and Disclaimer at the end of this information prior to beginning any of the following activities.

MATERIALS & TOOLS

- 1 wood round ~24" diameter
- 1 plastic pipe flange to fit 4" pipe
- 1 plastic pipe connector (we used a 4" x 4" x 3" x 3" double wye)
- 3 precut plastic pipes 24" long (1 4" diameter & 2 3" diameter)
- 3 plastic pipe end caps (1 4" diameter & 2 3" diameter)
- ~200' $\frac{3}{8}$ " sisal rope
- Hot glue gun & glue sticks
- Plastic pipe adhesive (optional, see step 1)
- Paint for wood round (we recommend latex paint)
- Painting supplies (brush or roller & tray, drop cloth, etc.)
- 6 Plastic non-slip feet with screws
- 15 to 20 $1\frac{1}{4}$ " #6 or #7 screws
- Electric drill/driver with $\frac{1}{2}$ " & $\frac{3}{32}$ " drill bits
- Protective eyewear & work gloves (recommended)



STEP 1: PREPARE BASE



Safety First!
Wear protective eyewear!



- Paint wood round.

For extra durability, seal with three or four coats of clear, water-based polyurethane.

- Attach non-slip feet to bottom of base.
We recommend using the type that attach with screws instead of adhesive.
- Attach flange to top of base with screws (make sure it's centered).
- Attach connector to flange with adhesive.
For a more secure connection, skip the adhesive and use screws to attach connector to flange. See step 3 for instructions.

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STEP 2: MAKE SCRATCHING ARMS



- Loosely fit plastic pipes into connector and put end caps on.
- Mark pipe at edges of connector and end caps.
- Label top and bottom for reference.



- Remove pipes from connector and take off end caps.
- Drill hole with 1/2" drill bit at bottom end of pipe just inside mark for connector.



- Insert sisal rope in hole, hot glue in place.
- Wrap pipe with rope, gluing as you wrap. Make sure to pull rope tight and eliminate gaps between rope.



TIP

You might want to wear work gloves for this step. Sisal can be hard on hands and hot glue can burn!

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- As you reach mark at top of pipe, determine where rope will end and drill another hole inside mark for end cap.
- Finish wrapping and gluing.
- Cut rope and put end through hole in pipe.
- Glue end in place.
- Repeat for remaining pipes.



TIP

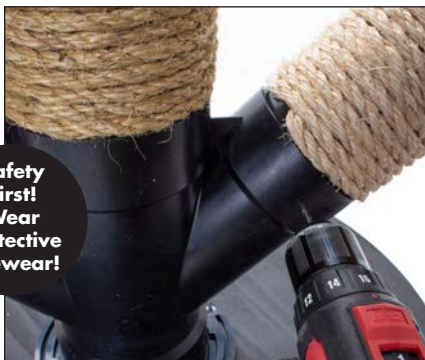
If you reach the end of the rope in the middle of a pipe, drill two ½" holes next to each other. Insert end of first rope in first hole and end of new rope in second hole and keep wrapping and gluing.

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STEP 3: ASSEMBLE



- Insert pipes in connector.
- Attach end caps.



- Use $3/32$ " drill bit to drill three or four pilot holes (in front and back) straight through pipe connector and pipe.
- Drill screws through pilot holes to secure pipes.

Note: Use as many screws as necessary to attach pipes securely.



TIP

When sisal becomes worn, simply remove screws securing pipes in place and re-wrap or replace scratching arms.

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get Creative!

This example uses standard materials available at any home improvement store. Feel free to switch things up and customize this project any way you like. You could cut out your own base from a piece of plywood, use different connectors and try varying the length and diameter of the pipes, just make sure that your design is sturdy and won't tip when cats use it. You could also paint the base, connectors and end caps a fun color. Keep in mind to look for paint that will work on whatever type of plastic the connectors are made from (PVC or ABS). And for something super special, use non-toxic dye to create colorful sisal rope!

CHOOSING PLASTIC PIPE

This project can be made with any combination of plastic pipe and connectors. If you go to a home improvement store, you will see two types of plastic pipe and connectors. The white is PVC and the black is ABS. The adhesive you use will depend on which pipe you are working with.

Home improvement stores carry plastic pipe in typical diameters and they usually have basic connectors used for plumbing. You can usually find shorter precut lengths of the pipe or you can purchase longer pipes and see if the store will cut them down for you, or cut them yourself using a hand saw or a chop saw.

You will notice that the pipes and connectors used for plumbing usually have markings on them. This won't matter if you are painting the pipe or covering it with sisal rope, but if you want to build something out of plastic pipe that looks nice, you will want to buy furniture grade PVC pipe and connectors, available from specialty online retailers.

Furniture grade PVC has a shiny, clean finish and comes in a variety of designer colors. They also offer several different types of connectors and end caps that are useful when building furniture.



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