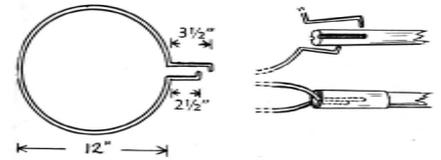


Kids Explore!



Make A Bug Catching Net

Note: Making a net is a time-consuming, but worthwhile adult project. The end result can be used in grass or water and will please kids (and adults!) of all ages.



Materials

- ◆ An old broom stick (find one at BRING Recycling) or a thick dowel rod
- ◆ A piece of PVC pipe that will slip over the broomstick (also find at BRING)
- ◆ A piece of steel wire (8 or 10 gauge), 45" long
- ◆ A piece of sturdy net material (see-through old-style nylon curtains work well, or unbleached muslin) – 30" of 38" wide material
- ◆ A strip of rip stop material, about 4" wide and 38" long for reinforcing top edge of net (check for fabric scraps at MECCA)
- ◆ A wood screw, about 6 3/4 size
- ◆ Tools: wire cutters, a saw, a router or chisel, drill, sewing machine, vise

1. Cut the old broom off your broomstick. Cut a 4" length of PVC pipe that fits over the end. Drill a hole at one end for a screw.

2. Cut a 45" piece of wire. Use the vise to bend 38" into a circle,

leaving ends straight — one 3" and one 4". Bend 1/2" of each straight end 90 degrees. (See diagram to top right.)

3. Using a router or chisel, make two grooves at one end of the broomstick, on opposite sides, to fit the straight ends of wire. Drill two holes in the stick in which the bent wire tips will fit. When finished, wire must be flush with stick so the pipe will slip over smoothly. Leave unassembled.

4. To make the net bag, cut two pieces of fabric, 28" long and 19" wide, rounding off the bottom half.

5. Sewing the net is tricky, especially as you go around the rounded end. You need to sew the two pieces together so you have a strong hem. Try folding over the edges so you are sewing through four layers of fabric at once. If you are good at sewing, you can fold the hem over a second time and sew around the

bag again to hide your edges. At the very least, sew around the net bag twice.

5. Cut a piece of rip stop 38" long and 7" wide, then hem the ends and fold it in half length-wise. Fit the strip over the edge of the net bag and sew it on (go around 2x), leaving at least 2" above the hem for threading the net onto the wire. There should be a gap between the finished ends. This is where the frame will stick out.

6. Thread the bag onto the frame. Then put the wire and handle together as in step #3. Slip pipe on over the wire and fix firmly to stick with a screw. Now, go catch bugs!

** This is a favorite activity we like to re-print periodically because it's so much fun to have a sturdy net! We use these for our school field trip, summer camp, and Network Charter School programs. Graphics and some instructions from Nature Activites and Hobbies, William Hillcourt, 1970.*