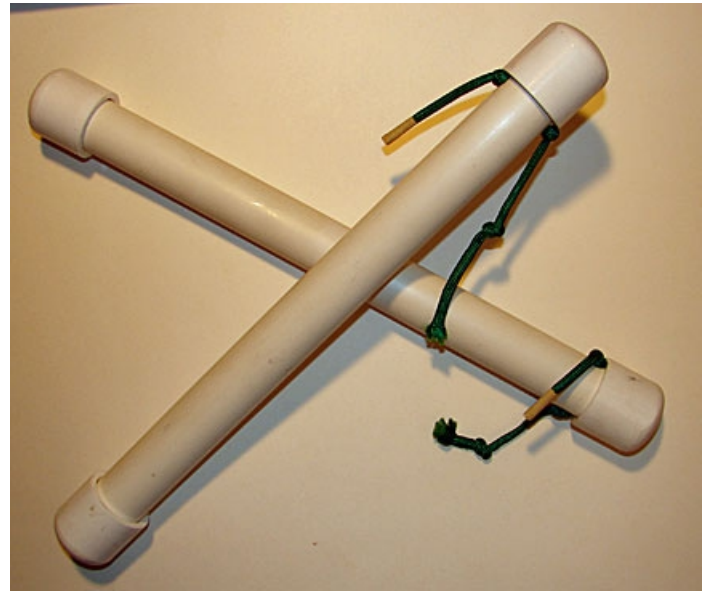


The Riser Econo Stix

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This set of Riser Econo Stix have been sitting around in my workshop nearly 30 years. I originally made them to illustrate to a financially challenged young magician that apparatus need not be expensive. I thought that some of today's DIY type magicians might be interested in making themselves a set.



These stix work very smoothly and quietly. They may be easily modified to fit the style/decor of any act. It is assumed that the magician knows how to use such stix and has a routine.

The stix are constructed from heavy walled plastic pipe. The inside of such pipe is very smooth and makes a great sliding surface. The weight is a standard lead fishing weight with brass loop ends. The pulley is a standard small pulley. All parts can be found at a local hardware store with no trouble.



My example set is so old that there is white oxidation on the lead weight!

The length of the tubing is not critical but mine are 12" long, 1" OD, and slightly over 3/4" ID.

The lead portion of the weight is 3 1/4" long and was too large in diameter to fit into the plastic tube. To solve this problem the weight was slightly smashed in a vise, rotated and smashed again and again until the weight easily fit the tubing. Lead is soft and self lubricating enough for using as weights in this application. Vise marks can still be seen on the lead.



The pulley just gets screwed onto the brass loop of the weight. Double nuts lock the screw.



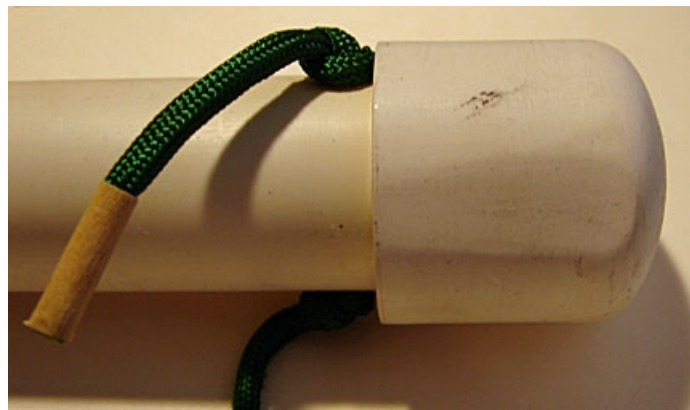
A nylon wheel on the pulley runs smoother and quieter than a metal wheel.



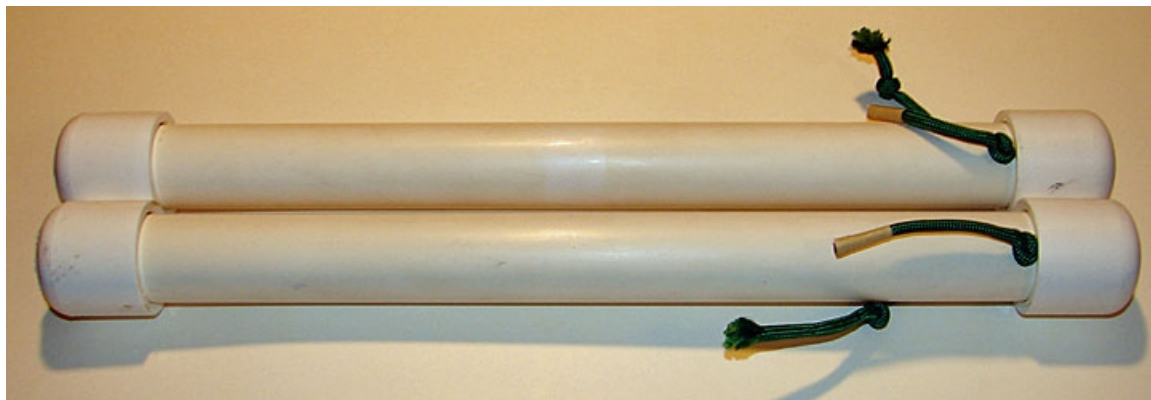
Inside the apparatus, the pulley will be threaded as shown below.



I temporarily put tape on the cord to make threading the pulley easier. It must be threaded with the weight inside the tubing. Thick cord as shown lasts years and will not jump off of the pulley wheel – plus it is visible to audiences. I drilled 3/16” holes for the cord. Now, a problem with round stix is holding them together. In the picture below I show the beginning of sanding off a flat on the end caps. This needs to be done on all four caps. Tassels and beads may be added to the cord ends as desired.



Sanding these flats allows the stix to easily be held together as shown below.



If end caps are not desired, corks may be used to plug the ends and then trimmed off flat. The tubing may be painted or covered with wood grained contact vinyl to suit the décor required by the performer.

If this info was of use to you and you want more such freebies, send me an email.