

Building a Light Panel



Look, you are going to want some of these light panels. They help me to create large shadowless light source.

MATERIALS

3 pieces 10 foot PVC pipe 3/4-inch schedule 40 (that's the thick stuff)

4 pieces T connectors

2 pieces straight connectors

2 pieces corner connectors

4 pieces end caps

7 feet of white cotton broad cloth, 42 inches wide.

You can use nylon as well. You may also want gold, silver and black covers.

2-foot elastic strip

PVC glue. Try to use the PVC glue outdoors.

Glue: white glue, wood glue, something simple.

You can get all this stuff at a hardware store and a fabric store.

HOW TO ASSEMBLE

Cut the PVC in to the following lengths

2 pieces 42 inches

4 pieces 36 inches

2 pieces 6 inches

4 pieces 10 inches

Assembly:

Only glue one side of a PVC connector to a pipe except on the feet. If you do this you will be able to break down your panel. You can glue all the parts on the feet, but don't glue the feet to the panel. It is best to assemble the panel once before you start gluing.

Attach 2 corner connectors to the same piece of 42 inch PVC, make sure the openings point in the same direction. Attach 1 straight connector to a piece of 36 inch PVC, and a T-connector to the other side. Make 2 of these. You should have 2 pieces of 36 inch PVC without any connectors and 2 pieces with a connector on each end.

Put the 36 inch piece with no connector into the straight connector on the other 36 inch piece. The 42 inch connector with the corner pieces will fit on the top and the other 42 inch piece will fit across the bottom. You should be able to assemble these pieces into a rectangle 42 inches by 72 inches. When you are through it should come apart easily. You should be able to put everything into an equipment bag.



The feet will fit into the open holes at the bottom of the 36 inch pieces with connectors on both ends.

ASSEMBLING THE FEET

Take 2 of the 10 inch pieces of PVC and glue them into the straight through sides of a T connector. Glue an end cap onto each of these. Glue a piece of 6 inch PVC onto the open side of the connector; this will fit into the bottom of the frame you just made.

MAKING THE FABRIC COVERS

You will want to finish up with a piece of reflective gold, silver, black or white cloth that is tight in the frame, so measure the frame! For the shoot through white either cotton or rip-stop nylon works well, but it is easier to glue hems on the cotton. If you buy fabric that is 42 inches wide you will not need to hem the sides. Glue hems on the top and bottom of the fabric.

Sew pieces of the elastic ribbon on each corner; this will hold it onto the frame. Set the picture for how this should look.

You have made an important lighting tool.