

# CREATIVE TIMES

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February 2008

**OFFICE HOURS**  
M-F 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
814-833-7896

## Helpful Tips

### Set Screws

#### Tightening Set Screws

Did you know that when tightening your set screws you should use the short end of the allen wrench. This allows you to apply more "torque" which helps the set screws to really bite into the top perch rods or splices.



### Oil Pulleys

#### Use 3 in 1 Oil

It's very important to oil your pulleys every year (if possible). The best time to oil pulleys is before you put the rack up. To oil the pulleys you need a quality oil such as 3 in 1. You need to get the oil into the pulley shaft. Slide pulley sleeve to side and place a few drops of oil onto the shaft, shift the pulley sleeve and catch the opposite side. Do this for each set of double pulleys. Oil will keep your pulleys from squealing, as well as keep the pulley lubricated against the elements.



### FIRST MARTIN PAIR OF 2008

Barb Messimer kindly shared her photo of her first martin pair of 2008. Gorgeous!

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**W**ow, can you believe the martins are already back in the southern states! It won't be long till I see my first martin here in Pennsylvania.

Sales have been fantastic, thanks to all of you! Everyone who places an order with us is receiving a free issue of the ABCA's "Feathers and Friends" magazine (while supplies last). It's a wonderful magazine that covers not only the Purple Martin but also Tree Swallows, Bluebirds, and many of the birds you see in your own back yard. I hope you will consider joining the ABCA. See page 2 for more information.

I am impressed with the number of woman who have been ordering their own racks! As a woman, I think it is important that we understand how to use the tools needed to assemble a rack. I never knew there were so many choices in nuts and bolts and what tools work best with what till I met Robert. So check out this handy hardware/tool guide, and guys, it's okay if you do too!

Also inside a great how to on snake netting, what's in your tool box, featured products, and a new feature, ponder this. Enjoy! Diane



**WHAT'S HOT! CHECK THESE ITEMS OUT!**



**Super Systems**

The ultimate gourd rack. Stands 16 feet tall on a 3" square pole. This is the rack for any landlord concerned about high winds. The unique aluminum arms extend from the hub 48" with a total of 32 feet of gourd hanging space. Brake winch, gourds and gourd mounting arms sold separately. Assembly required.

SS24 **\$349.00**  
 BW **\$49.95**

**EZ OFF Pole Guard**

Features a 9-3/4" diameter! This all aluminum pole guard is 24" long and hinged for EZ removal from pole. Features an adjustable latch and a lower keyhole lock. Rust proof. Fits, 2" 2 1-2" and 3" square poles!



EZ3 **\$39.95**



**Hitch Pins**

These stainless hitch pins are used to secure your gourd onto the gourd mounting arms, or deluxe gourd arms. It never hurts to have a few extra pins.

HP **\$0.18 each**

**HDMP**

Heavy duty Multi-Purpose Pole stands 16' tall on a 3" square aluminum pole. Hub can easily accommodate housing up to 125 pounds. Comes with your choice of either vertical or horizontal gourd arms. Assembly required. Brake winch sold separately.



HDMP **\$289.00**  
 BW **\$49.95**

TRIED AND TRUE

**Featured Products**

Some of my favorites...

**Multi-Purpose Add-On**



**Add 2 more gourds directly to MP Hub!**

Easy to add this bracket to any CUE MP Hub. This add on uses the existing bolts already in your hub. Your choice of either vertical or horizontal gourd arm. Assembly required.

MPAO **\$19.95**

**HDMP Add-On**

**Hang 2 more gourds!**

This bracket fits at the end of the angle arms. Simply drill 1/4" holes into the angle and mount. Hardware provided. You choose from either vertical or horizontal GMA.



HDMPAO **\$12.95**

**Replacement Rope**



Check your ropes for fraying or wear. If your rope shows wear replace the rope BEFORE the martins arrive.

**ABCA NEW MAGAZINE**

If your family enjoys birds and nature in your backyard, you will love receiving *Feathers and Friends*



- Enjoy full color pictures throughout
- \*Benefit from fellow bird lovers' experience
- \*Get the latest hints and tips on attracting birds
- \*Learn about Purple Martins, Tree Swallows, Bluebirds and other interesting birds

Special Introductory Offer

- 1 Year (3 issues) \$12
- 2 Years (6 Issues) \$22
- 3 Years (9 Issues) \$30

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# Hardware/Tool Guide

The right tools can make the assembly of your gourd rack a joy. It's also important to understand that some of the hardware we use will work best with a specific type of tool. For instance lock nuts. One instance is where CUE uses lock nuts in conjunction with eyebolts which can be found attached to the rope and pulley on your gourd rack. In order to tighten a lock nut onto the eyebolt you need to keep the eyebolt from turning. Applying force counter clock wise to the eyebolt while tightening a lock nut clockwise using an open end wrench, works best. Lock nuts



have an internal nylon washer that will keep the nut from loosening off the bolt. This is very important as you don't want an eyebolt to work loose causing your rack to come crashing down! A lock nut needs to be completely threaded onto the eyebolt snugging the lock nut to the pole.

Speed squares are so underused, and they shouldn't be. They are so handy, you can square an angle arm to the hub, square a rope winder to a pole,



check for square, it's endless.



Sometimes it gets a little 'nutty around here. We use lock nuts, whiz nuts, hex head nuts, and wing nuts. We have touched on lock nuts already, and hex head nuts are standard industry, just snug them up, so I'd like to touch on the whiz nut. We use whiz nuts in a lot of products, like gourd

mounting arms. When tightening a bolt and whiz nut always tighten from the bolt side, not the nut side. This will allow the serrated edge of the whiz nut to bite into the aluminum material. Wing nuts are used when you want to be able to unthread a nut quickly. Wing nuts should only be finger tightened.

I have only scratched the surface here, but I hope you learned a little something.



Every issue I will feature a tool that I just cant live without! These handy little helpers may be something you have never run across but if you decided to purchase one, you will wonder how you ever got along with out it!

## What's in your tool box?

**RoboGrip.** If this is not in your toolbox, well then I suggest you go to your local Sears and buy one. I can't tell you how many times a day I use these handy pliers. RoboGrip Pliers are the world's only self-adjusting pliers. The unique jaw design allows the user to grasp any object up to 3/4" with the 7" jaws and up to 1-1/2" with the 9" jaws. RoboGrip Pliers are the only self-adjusting pliers with true one-handed operation. The jaws adjust as quickly as your hand can squeeze, making any job faster.

Sears has a set of 3 for \$29.99.



## Ponder this...

**A**s a manufacturer of martin poles and accessories we take great pride in our designs and quality workmanship. Many hours are exhausted in design, material procurement, testing, till the final version is available for sale. All of this is done so that you can be assured that the product you receive will be safe and function for you, and be safe for the purple martins.

Robert and I have a little proverb we like "if you can not make it right you should not make it." That fits us to a T. We will not compromise on the quality to make the product cheaper, but we will purchase larger quantities of material in order to keep the cost down. I know of no other manufacturer that will go to the lengths that we do. And it shows.

CUE was the first to develop a gourd rack using a square pole, the first to develop a predator guards adjustable top plate that fit a variety of round poles, the first to develop a hub to hold aluminum housing, the first to use 3 inch square poles, the first to develop a trap that fits inside a manufactured gourd, and I could keep going but now I feel like I am bragging!

Why is this so important? Because as consumers you should know that who ever you purchase from, knows their product, how its made and the materials used in it construction.

CUE is looking to the future. We are constantly coming up with new and innovative ideas, and new products, proving once again, that CUE is the leader in innovative design for the purple martin landlord.

Here are a few of the many testimonials I received over the last few months.

"I received my guards and I am very impressed with the service and quality of product. I will be recommending your products to all my friends who are martin enthusiast."

"Just got the racks today! Opened boxes and was very pleased with the poles and racks. Looks like they are a good heavy duty poles to me. Thanks for such a good product and your service"

"I wish to take a moment to say thank you for all your help. The product is OUTSTANDING."

I don't believe I could have said it any better. Diane

**Netting can be used by itself or in conjunction with tubular predator guards.**

Here are some photos of two of my net traps that have worked well in capturing rat snakes of various sizes. The first photo shows a double layered net trap made from bird netting and contains both 1/2 and 3/4 inch mesh squares. The second is a single layered trap. I first wrap some electrical or duct tape around the square poles to create a foundation for the wire support base. Then I twist some No. 10 or 12 plastic coated copper wire or just plain clothesline wire around the tape and create a pronged support base. The netting is wrapped around the wire prongs and fluffed out to create a circular wreath. I try to create a thick wad of netting in my traps so that the snake has hundreds of mesh squares to face. You don't want the mesh to become too compressed and matted. Also make sure there are no gaps between the mesh and the pole so that a snake could slip under the netting. He will start weaving through the mesh and nearly always becomes hopelessly entangled. The 1/2 and 3/4 inch combination is designed to capture small and large diameter rat snakes. You can buy the bird netting at most garden centers or home improvement stores like Lowes or Home Depot. Snakes should be removed unharmed and relocated. I'd like to thank Steve Kroenke for the photos and the how to.

### SNAKE NETTING

