

# Extension Tube Tunnel Entrance

## What you will need.

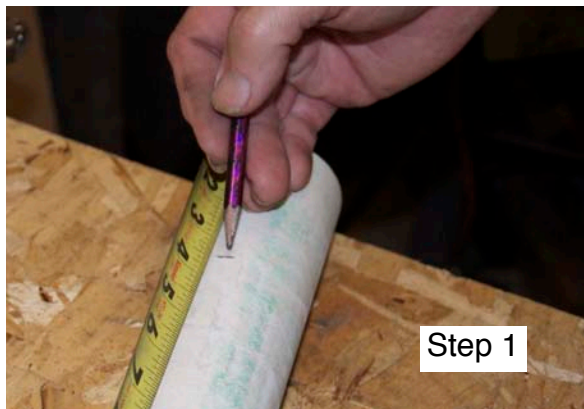
You will need schedule 40 PVC, usually sold in 10 foot lengths. Cut into 12, 10" lengths. Current price of a length here in Erie was around \$3.00 at local plumbing supply stores. Cost per tunnel, 25 cents each plus your time.

A heat tool. Robert picked one up at our local Harbor Freight, cost \$10.00



Tools: hacksaw, jigsaw, or band saw, pencil, ruler, 2 C-clamps, small pieces of wood.

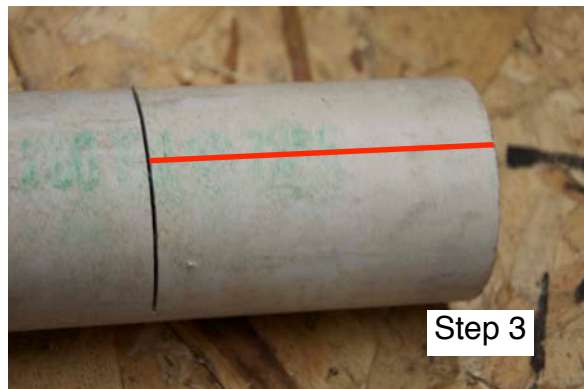
Step 1) Measure and mark your 10" piece of PVC at 3-1/2" in from the end.



Step 2) Using your hacksaw (or like) cut 3/4 of the way thru the pipe.



Step 3) You need to mark a center line at the top of the pipe, make sure the pipe is oriented so that the side of the pipe that is NOT cut is on the table, and the line is at the top.



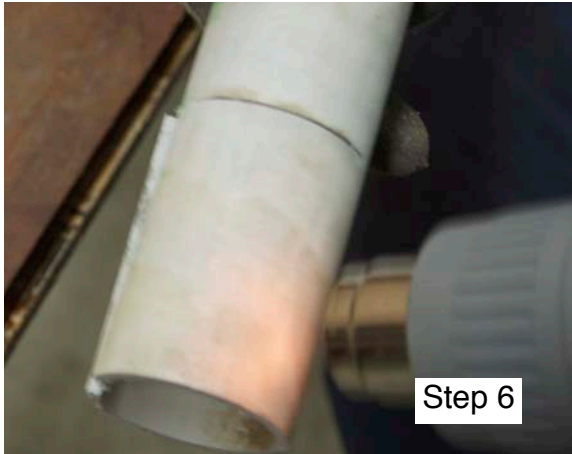
Step 4) Using your hack saw or like, cut along the line, up to your first cut. You are cutting only the one side of the pipe.



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Step 5) Prepare yourself by getting a small piece of wood and 2 C-clamps

Step 6) Wear a pair of gloves and using your heat tool, heat the end of the pipe where you just cut. You are heating this up to form the built in porch. As your PVC gets softer, and as you push down on the PVC it will flare open. This heating took us less than 2 minutes.



Step 7) Quickly spread open the 2 flaps and place it on your work surface, place a wood board over the heated PVC, and clamp it to your table. To keep the tube from springing up use your hand and push on the back side. It takes about 1 minute to form. You just formed your built in porch.

Step 8) Using a flat washer, place it at each of the corners and using as a guideline, trace the edge of the washer to make a pattern for rounding the corners of the porch. Cut the corners.



Step 9) Measure  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the front edge of porch. Clamp 2 small pieces of wood onto the porch aligning the wood with your  $\frac{1}{2}$ " mark. Stand the tube up on a table. Carefully heat the exposed  $\frac{1}{2}$ " lip of PVC on both sides. When soft roll the edge of the PVC up.

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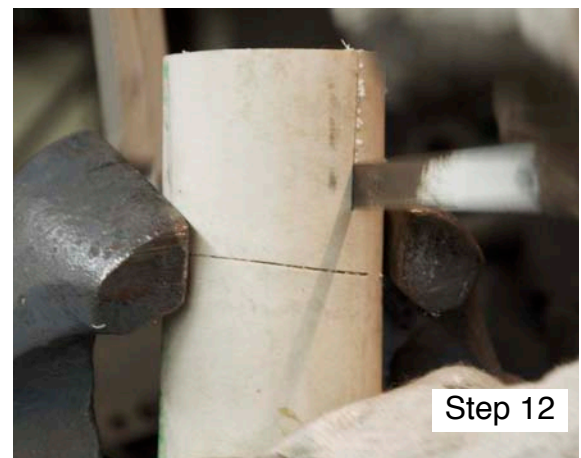


Step 10) Flaring out the end of the tube. Heat the end of the tube on the porch side. Once heated insert a ball (we used a broken ball top, but a ball on a trailer hitch would work too).

Step 11) Determine how long you would like the extension tube, I like 3 inches. Measure from the flared side towards the back of the tube your 3 inches and mark.



Step 12) Forming the ladder. Again using your hacksaw cut thru the tube  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way. Next you need to cut  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the top section off. Place your tube in a vise to help hold while you cut.



Step 13) You are going to heat the flap and when ready using a wide flat headed plier, grab the very end, and put a lip on it by bending upwards on the lip and pushing downwards on the flap. See photo step 13.

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Step 14) Roughen up the porch, interior of the tube and the ladder using a dremel or like.



Step 15) Install into your favorite gourd, caulk into place.

I used an extension tube tunnel on a SuperGourd. I simply enlarged the SuperGourds entrance hole, inserted the tube, caulked into place. I also changed the SuperGourds hanging configuration from vertical to horizontal. This compensated for the weight of the tube. Don't forget to caulk the original hanging holes. I also drilled some drainage holes on the porch and in front of the gourd, underside of tube.

