June 2024

The Creative Palette

Hello Everyone, With Summertime approaching another season of outdoor shows begins. New **England** weather comes with many obstacles for successful shows. I was at a festival recently and saw an artisan who was struggling with her sandbag weights that were leaking all over the place and flopping in the windy conditions. In this issue PVC is the word. It can be used to make efficient tent weights & to easily raise table height. I have given some directions with pictures to help you make your own. You can also google & will find many YouTube videos on the subject. With theses weights you won't have to worry about your 10x10 flying away in the New England wind. Wishing all good weather & full cash boxes this show season! Lora





Materials Needed:

10ft PVC pipe, 4 inches diameter - Cut into 4 equal lengths of 2 1/2 feet each - most retailers will do this at no cost to you

PVC End Cap 4" diameter - x4

PVC Glue, or other adhesive

8"x 1/2" Eye bolts x 4 (these come with nuts)

1/2 inch washers x 4

80 lb bag Quickrete x 2 (Make sure you get the ready-to-use kind - all the aggregate is pre-mixed - all you need is water!)

First step, make sure the pipe and end caps are smooth and clean. Check the fit to make sure the end cap will easily fit on the pipe. Disassemble, and following the directions on the label, apply the PVC glue (or other adhesive) to the inside of cap, then the outside of tube. Then apply the end cap to the tube. Repeat this for all 4 pipes.



Tent Weights

Once the end caps are in place, prop the pipes upright, using rope or bungees to stabilize them. (This is especially helpful if you are doing this solo).



Begin mixing concrete. While wearing a dust mask, dump some of the dry concrete mix into your bucket or tray, then add water slowly. I mixed about 1/3 of the bag at a time, though this depends on what you are mixing in.

Thoroughly mix the cement, adding more water or concrete mix until you have the consistency similar to cookie dough. You don't want it soupy, but not too dry either. There should be no puddles of water, and no dry crumbles, either.



Once a good consistency has been reached, start spooning the mixture into your pipes. (This goes much faster than it sounds!) Every so often, shake or tap the pipe to help the wet cement settle into place.



Fill each pipe until it is about 6 or 7 inches from the top - check depth with eye bolt.



Prepare the eye bolts by adding the large washer, then the nut. These help give the concrete something to hold onto, so that the eye bolt won't pull out of the concrete over time.



Fill the rest of the pipe with wet cement up to the base of the eyebolt.

With a large wet sponge, clean off any spills or drips from the pipe before it fully hardens. Let the concrete sit untouched for at least 24 hours so it can fully cure.



Slide the piece of scrapwood through the eyebolt, then rest it on the rim of the pipe. This holds the eyebolt in place, and prevents it from sinking into the wet cement. (Alternatively, you can fill the cement all the way to the top, then let it set up for a few minutes, then shove the eyebolt into place. I prefer this method as it eliminates guess work and reduces the risk of waiting too long and having the cement set up too long before adding the eye bolt.)

