



How to Assemble the Ultimate Bead Drying Rack

Designed by Julie A Bolduc

This drying rack is made from 3D printed, white PVC pipe and stainless steel pins. It is meant to work with dipping paper beads strung on 50lb test monofilament fishing line. It is fairly easy to make and will hold as many as 54 strands of beads based on 6 strands per pin. I was inspired to design this drying rack by Lisa at the Beyond Bracelets YouTube channel.

Parts Included

- 2 pcs PVC pipe 1/2" diam x 14" long.
- 3 pcs PVC pipe 1/2" diam x 6-1/4" long
- 2 pcs 1/2" PVC elbow fittings
- 2 pcs 1/2" PVC snap tee fittings
- 2 pcs 1/2": PVC end cap fittings

Tools Needed

- Soft Headed Hammer such as a mallet.
- Paper Towels for cleaning markings off of pipe.
- Acetone based nail polish remover
- Chain Nose Jewelry Pliers
- 50lb test monofilament fishing line
- 2mm Crimp tubes

Finished Size: 15-1/4" x 8-1/4" x 6"

Instructions

Step 1: All of the pieces are cut to the correct size. If you want, clean them with paper towel moistened with the nail polish remover. I did clean them but even with pure acetone, I was unable to completely remove all of the writing on them.

Step 2: The drying rack is partially assembled to save you time and to make it easier to finish the assembly. Layout all of the pieces as in the photo. Check to make sure you have all of the pieces, if not, contact Julie and let her know! She will send you any missing parts you may have.





Step 3: Assembly: pick up the 2 assembled leg pieces, that have the snap tees on them, and connect to the back assembled piece by sticking them into the elbows. These are the sides that the 2 uprights will go into. Make sure the snap tees are facing up. To secure the joint, use the mallet to pound the legs into place. So now you should have the legs connected to the back support.



This photo shows the base partially assembled, what is left is to pound the feet into the back support.



Step 4: Finish the base by adding the two 14" long pieces into the top of the snap tees. Use a mallet to secure the pipe into place.



Step 5: Finally, place the pre-assembled top of your bead drying racks into the top ends of the upright pipes.



This is your completed Ultimate Bead Drying Rack

How to Use Your Ultimate Bead Drying Rack

1. Cut your 50lb test fishing line to 15" pieces
2. Place a crimp bead at one end of the fishing line, make a loop and run the end back through the crimp tube and using your chain nose pliers flatten the crimp bead to lock the loop in place. This is stopper and the hanger. Put all of your beads on the filament starting and ending with a waste bead. Put a crimp bead at the other end, make a loop and run the end back through the crimp tube and flatten as you did before. The waste beads will take on the extra glaze that drips from the last good beads at each end.
3. Holding both ends, dip your beads into your thin varnish or glaze.
4. Shake the excess glaze off of the beads. I use a large empty box to shake more of the glaze off before hanging.
5. Hang one end on the drying rack with the loop made at the end of your strand. If the filament is new and curled, you can add a 1 oz weight at the bottom of the strand to weight it down to straighten it. I do have instructions on how to make them with steel fishing sinkers, beads and paper clips.
6. When you dip them a second time, invert your strand of beads and hang with the other loop, for even coverage. (Tip: When getting ready to dip them the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th times, remove all of the strands from the rack at the same time. Before hanging them back up, inverted, take the time to break apart the beads that are stuck together and move them down to the crimp bead that is now at the bottom.)
7. If you do multiple dips, always do an even number of dips, inverting your strand each time for even coverage.
8. What I use is 2-4 coats of PC Petrifier Wood hardener and 2 coats of Vi-brance.

You can reuse the fishing line if you want. To do this, remove the beads, pull a waste bead off the end, making the crimp tube come with it. If it is too hard to pull the waste bead and crimp tube off at the same time, you can cut the filament between the crimp tube and waste bead. Just cut one end so you can use it over and over again until it is too short to use.

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