

Build a Safer Tire

Barb VanEseltine

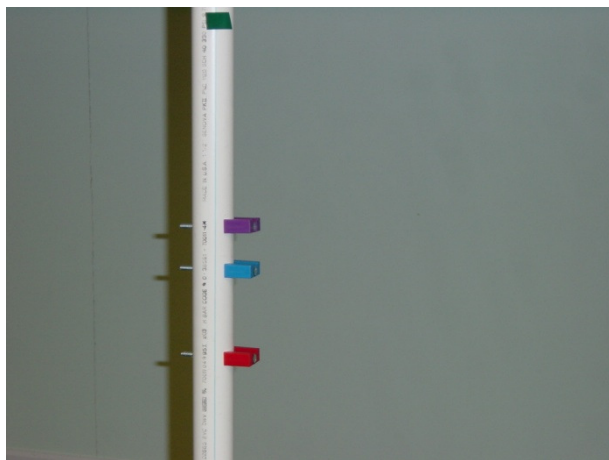
This is a not uncommon style of homemade tire. The only real difference between the construction of this tire and that of a tire used in AKC events is that it is not as easy to change the height on this one. It is bungeed at the sides and would come crashing down if hit hard enough.

After reading quite a long discussion on the internet about tire safety, I thought this design could be improved by making it more like a regular jump. In order to make the change over, you will need:

- jump cups
- narrow piece of PVC the same length as your tire frame is wide
- current framed tire

Steps

1. Remove from current tire jump all the mechanism that moves the tire, leaving a free standing frame.
2. Drill a hole in the tire and push the PVC pole through it so that it skims the inner surface of the tire -- drill a hole where the PCV pole touches the opposite side.
3. Push PVC through holes so that the tire is suspended from the pole.



4. Install jump cups on the frame so that the tire hangs from the pole, on the cups, at the required heights.

Finished product – the tire was re-wrapped with electric tape to make it prettier but it's otherwise the same tire as before. I only bothered with 26", 24", 20" and 8" but, of course, more jump cups could be added to make the full range of heights.

The tire now allows "ticks" but it falls down if hit. When it falls it still might scare a sensitive dog but I think the chances of injury are drastically reduced.

