

# The Contraption



The contraption can be about anything we would use in an outdoor activity such wildlife watching, camping, hiking, biking, fishing or hunting. My definition might be something that is repurposed, improved, or invented to do something you want it to do.

## My Situation:

My contraption is derived from my interest in hunting. I've always enjoyed dove hunting but they are difficult to find by the time hunting season opens here. It is also hard to find the fields or water holes they prefer. Sometimes, the location is out in the middle of nowhere and you need something to draw them in.

## My Research:

I have some decoys but sometimes the location does not work well for decoys being visible to the doves. So, I decided to make a fake tree and a motion decoy after viewing a few hunting magazine articles. Both decoys and fake trees can be bought but I had some materials I could use in my storage shed.

## My Solution:

I decided to make a fake tree out of PVC pipe and a motion decoy out of a pile of stuff in the corner.

### Materials for the Motion Decoy:

- Foam board for wings
- Two litre bottle Gatorade caps
- Coat hanger or stiff wire for wing shaft
- Wooden Thread spool to hold wire for wings
- Piece of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch plywood to hold the spool
- Clamp to fasten to fake tree
- Decoy body or foam board to make decoy body (optional)



1. The wings are sketched on the foam board and cut out.
2. Next, the wire to mount the wings is cut 10-12 inches long.
3. A one-inch wide mounting strip is cut from the 4 inch by 4 inch piece of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch plywood.
4. Next, the spool is epoxied or screwed to the board.
5. The bottle caps are epoxied to each end of the spool and an 1/8 inch hole drilled in the caps. The hole must be smooth so the wire can turn easily.
6. To place in the foam dove decoy body, slit the breast to the feet of the foam decoy. Then, remove one side of the clothespin and drill two holes in the clothespin on the decoy. Then, place the mounting strip with spool inside the decoy and screw the clothespin on the decoy to the mounting strip. The screws should be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long. The mounting strip will also need to be predrilled. The clothespin is put back together.
7. Holes are made on each side of the decoy so the wire for the wings can be run through the spool inside the decoy. The wire can be heated to punch the holes through the foam. The wire is placed through the hole in the spool and the wings are attached by running the wire up into the corrugation of the foam board and epoxied.
8. The decoy is clipped to something to let epoxy dry.



## My Results:

My decoy looks fine. The problem is that it doesn't work? The wings are mounted too low so I have to change the height that they are mounted at to clear the perch. I think the wings are too heavy and need to be a lighter material to allow the wind to flip them. The fake tree with the addition of branches looks fine and will allow me to add this to waterholes or spots in the grain fields to attract birds.

