

pvc kayak

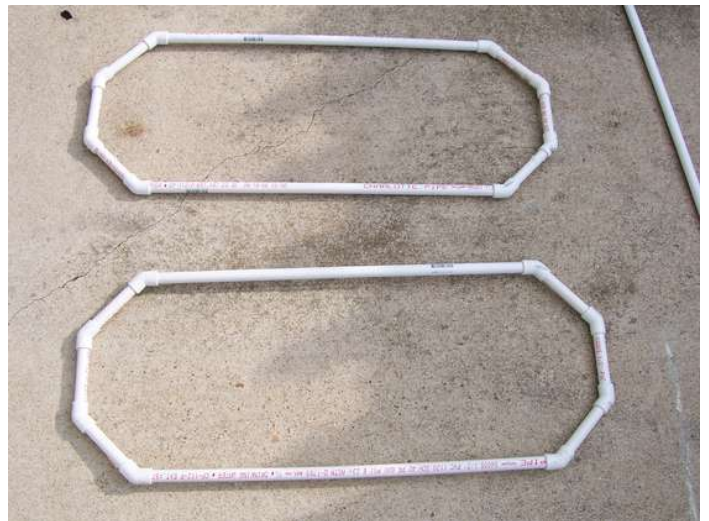
by [hellokeller](#) on September 23, 2006

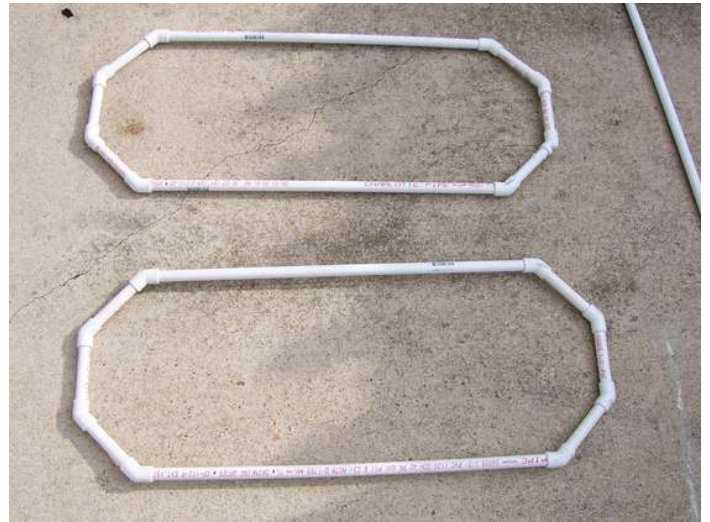
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intro: pvc kayak

First it was the PVC marshmallow gun, then it was the willow tree kayak then came the PVC Kayak. I was inspired by the first two projects and they happily came together. I used {10} PVC pipes (1/2in) each 10ft long from Home depot, {28} 45 degree elbows, {2} rolls of duct tape, {1} 11' by 15' tarp, and {4} tarp clamps for a total price of \$60 at Home depot.











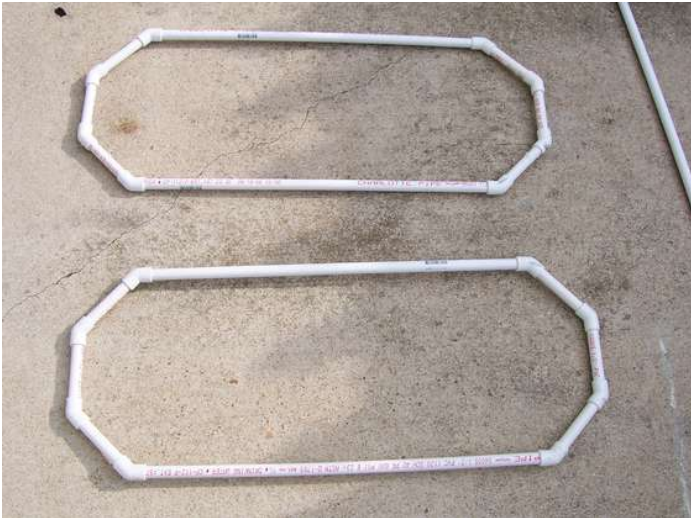
step 1: Outer Ribs x 3

I used {2} 1/2" PVC pipes that were 10 foot long. I tried the 90 degree elbows first but the plastic was cracking, so I went to 45 degree elbows with a 5 in spacer. This worked great. I made a total of three outer ribs.



step 2: inner ribs x2

The inner ribs each were made of {8} 45 degree elbows, {2} 28in pvc peices, {6} 5in pvc peices. I measured this off of the height of me sitting down to my armpit. (after my first trial this was still too high so maybe 3in peices would work better).



step 3: Attatching inner and outer ribs

I attached the ribs about 42" from each end. I used a figure eight roll with the duct tape to make it secure. I attached the outer rib at the lowest edge of the lowest elbow. I did this with both inner ribs. I also taped all of the joints because they seemed to fall out when ever they felt like it. (didn't think this was a good idea in the water.)



step 4: Attaching the 2nd and 3rd outer ribs

Basically the same step as the first rib. I attached the second rib to the third highest elbow's highest edge, and the third outer rib to the very highest elbow's highest edge. As I placed the second rib on to the frame I duct taped the tips together a little to allow for flex as I continued shaping it, then did the same as I added the third outer rib. The last step of the frame I duct taped the two ends to protect the tarp and to help give it shape.







step 5: Adding the skin

I used a 11' x 15' blue tarp for the skin. This was kinda tricky, I didn't know how to wrap the darn thing. This isn't anything new you should see my Christmas gift wrappings. I placed the frame long ways with the longest part of the tarp, then folded the ends in. I used a little duct tape to secure it to the frame. Then I diagonally folded the sides in on the front secured them with duct tape then did the back the same. I pulled the extra tarp under the inside frame and used some nylon line through the eye holes to tighten up the skin, I dont know if it helped but made it look sharper. To keep with the Hillbilly look, I made a paddle with a 7' pvc pipe and two paddle shaped peices of wood, secured with some metal brackets.



step 6: sailing away

Worked like a charm. It was very strong (shown by the two times it flipped out of the back of my truck on to the road on the way to the lake) and light. The times it hit the road made some holes in the tarp which I fixed with some duct tape just prior to launching. I think I will add a peice of plywood and a couchin to raise my butt up a little to make it easier to row.



Related Instructables



Build Your Own PVC Johnboat for minimal cost and time. by zmatt



Four Hour Kayak! by Matin



Cozy Boat Episode 2: A New Skin by TimAnderson



Build a Greenland Kayak by nativewater



Patch a Leaky Air Mattress, Inflatable Boat, etc. by TimAnderson



How to build a Boat made of Trash & Recyclables! by jrobinson



Awning and Storage Rack by TimAnderson










Construction of Two Portuguese Style Dinghies (Small Boats) by rook999



Comments

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-
-  **Thaikarl** says: Sep 26, 2006. 3:46 PM [REPLY](#)
what a concept. since you are not wearing life-jackets, you should consider some floatation in the bow and stern... empty plastic milk cartons with the lids screwed on tight and a rope thru the handles would keep the thing from totally sinking, and give you and the crew something to float on, rather than going down with the ship. saved my fiberglass kayak for me once. a roped cluster of milk cartons is easy to handle too. none of that fancy stuff like foam and all that.
-
-  **hypokampito** says: Sep 8, 2008. 7:39 AM [REPLY](#)
That's a very good comment. Other possibility is to use empty soda bottles (2 liters for example) with their lids tightly on.
Nice project!
-
-  **SCrid2000** says: Sep 28, 2006. 8:15 PM [REPLY](#)
Even if it fell apart, it would float because all of the materials float. Awesome!
-
-  **pfred1** says: Nov 12, 2006. 2:47 PM [REPLY](#)
What can't duct tape do?
-
-  **muffin1** says: Sep 5, 2008. 7:22 PM [REPLY](#)
its duct tape
-
-  **mwwdesign** says: Sep 2, 2008. 6:37 PM [REPLY](#)
Is it used for sticking ducks together?
Or maybe u mean 'duct' tape...
-
-  **grut125** says: Sep 16, 2008. 6:26 PM [REPLY](#)
that is the same thing
-



mwwdesign says:
Well it isn't called 'duck tape'. Or don't you know that either?

Sep 16, 2008. 9:48 PM [REPLY](#)



hellokeller says:
ok so it is both Duck tape and Duct tape.

Sep 17, 2008. 10:34 AM [REPLY](#)



mwwdesign says:
No it's not, that's incorrect also... The tape was created for use on DUCTS. Why the hell would it be called 'duck tape'? Think about it. Anyone who says 'duck tape' or even puts it on the label is seriously misguided and ignorant.

Sep 17, 2008. 7:51 PM [REPLY](#)

Sorry, FAIL.



TheCaptain says:
In WWII, marine mechanics were given a standard issue tape almost exactly like modern duct tape. It was used to repair the floaters on those amphibious vehicles that had the balloon-like sacks to float. They were called "Ducks", thus the term "Duck tape" was coined. When the men got home, many just carried the name over. Considering that this IS a floating project, I think "duck tape" is more appropriate.

Oct 5, 2008. 11:12 PM [REPLY](#)

Also, "Duck tape" as used in the above picture is a brand name that is obviously a play off of said widely used term. It's not ignorant, it's marketing.



mwwdesign says:
Your spelling says you have no credibility here...
Look it up on Wikipedia...
Some people suggest such a thing as 'duck tape' but 'no written evidence supporting the WWII 16story. Some proponents of this view accept the idea that there was an earlier non-adhesive "duck tape", but claim that people have just confused the similar pronunciation of two similar but unrelated products through the process of elision, and that the rest of the "duck" etymology is folklore or fabrication.'

Oct 6, 2008. 3:37 PM [REPLY](#)

'Mechanic' and 'repair' are pretty simple words to spell...

And for the record, I'm pretty sure I understand marketing - being a partner in an ad agency.

:)



TheCaptain says:
All spelling is difficult at 4am (the timestamp lies to me...)
If you want to talk about discreditable sources, I wouldn't be using wikipedia in an argument, as half the information on it is false or skewed.

Oct 7, 2008. 9:44 AM [REPLY](#)

Of course there is no written evidence, it was slang and therefore it can't be expected to have evidence. Also, I know the above is correct as my great uncle was IN WWII in the navy. He told me the story himself when I asked him why he would call the stuff duck tape.

Besides, I'm pretty sure that the article just restates part of what I say in my above argument. The term is just a case of mistaken identity.

Nice line of work, by the way. :)



wEiRd LOAD says:
LOOKS like a white mans version of an INUET kayak instead of whale bone and seal skin lol KUDOS

Jan 28, 2007. 3:20 PM [REPLY](#)



mwwdesign says:
Maybe it needs a cupholder.

Sep 2, 2008. 6:42 PM [REPLY](#)



shooby says:
This...is...ridiculous!!!!!! HAHahahaha wow, it looks like a kayak wrapped up for Christmas.

Sep 2, 2008. 5:06 AM [REPLY](#)

"Guess what Mom and Dad got you!"
"Hmmm. No idea. A CD?"



mwwdesign says:
LOL!

Sep 2, 2008. 6:35 PM [REPLY](#)

My grandfather's classic Christmas line every year, no matter what we gave him (any size/shape), was to exclaim 'I know what THIS is - it's a record!'
He was one of the greatest.



DrStooopid says:

Aug 28, 2007. 2:10 PM [REPLY](#)

just don't get stopped by any DNR or waterway law enforcement agency. They'd deem that craft to be unseaworthy in a heartbeat.



muzac says:

Jul 20, 2008. 9:50 PM [REPLY](#)

I think that kind of depends on where you are, and if a boating license is required for kayaks.

Here, no license is required, and I can't see why they'd do anything about it if I was using it in a lake that I can legally swim in anyway (which is worse than a bad boat...no boat at all...heh...)



n0ukf says:

Jul 8, 2008. 8:41 AM [REPLY](#)

Besides the tarp itself, what do you step and sit on in the bottom? I'm afraid I'd step through the tarp getting in.



gigman says:

Sep 24, 2006. 6:10 PM [REPLY](#)

You could use plexy for a super cool "look-at-the-critters-in-the-wate-O-vision"



finnster says:

Jun 8, 2008. 12:46 PM [REPLY](#)

sweet idea



mcdojo says:

May 16, 2008. 11:51 AM [REPLY](#)

Holy Crap what an awesome idea. I'm building a thin plywood folding kayak and I could make a large window in the bottom with plexi or thick clear vinyl. Maybe a polarized film layer would make it even better for seeing deep down.



Pornostache says:

Apr 2, 2008. 11:42 PM [REPLY](#)

i can't understand how anyone would think a tarp is a good hull. only on this website! i love it! kind of a throw away project.



carolinatinpan says:

Dec 31, 2007. 11:45 AM [REPLY](#)

duckworksmagazine has many free plans and articles and archives.



the_burrito_master says:

Nov 24, 2007. 10:06 PM [REPLY](#)

ha ha ha ha ha sweet.



sailordude says:

Aug 5, 2007. 8:34 PM [REPLY](#)

It would be a great idea to put duct tape over the tarp to prevent it from sinking every time it rips open.



dbc333 says:

Jul 20, 2007. 5:25 PM [REPLY](#)

Tried out your kayak. Worked pretty much like you said. I got plenty of exercise trying to paddle it straight; but it is a tarp and some pipes.:) Made for a great evening project. Lots of fun. Thanks.



duncanbojangles says:

Feb 17, 2007. 10:08 AM [REPLY](#)

I used your instructable to build my own PVC and tarp kayak. Check it out at <http://duncanbojangles.dyndns.org/kayak.html>.



duncanbojangles says:

Feb 18, 2007. 3:12 PM [REPLY](#)

Edit: the correct address is <http://duncanbojangles.dyndns.org:8080/kayak.html>. Stupid ISP blocking port 80 traffic.



bumpus says:

hey i looked at your kayak and i was wondering if you could send me the diemensions of your kayak thanks

Jul 18, 2007. 11:09 AM [REPLY](#)



bumpus says:

hey duncan, i like your kayak better, if you could send me your dimensions of your kayak

Jul 18, 2007. 11:04 AM [REPLY](#)



J_SCAP says:

sweet now i can kayak in my pool

Jun 25, 2007. 2:38 AM [REPLY](#)



captianchase says:

looks like what my friend would call a white ghetto kayak (he lives in the white ghetto

Jun 17, 2007. 12:37 AM [REPLY](#)



wnordmann says:

I made one of these. It sank pretty quickly after it hit a rock and the tarp got pulled loose. Here are the pictures of the build, test, and sinking. I will be making improvements this week and will have more pictures soon.

Jun 11, 2007. 10:24 AM [REPLY](#)



zmatt says:

I plan on building a PVC johnboat Aprox 11foot long with a outboard trolling motor i will be writing an instructable stay tuned.

May 29, 2007. 12:19 PM [REPLY](#)



zmatt says:

<http://www.instructables.com/id/EJHE1DTF23Z37HA/>

Jun 3, 2007. 7:31 PM [REPLY](#)



crasch48 says:

here is a kayak site to build your own. the skin in this project seems good?

<http://yostwerks.com/DesignsMenu.html>

fabrics

<http://www.owfinc.com/Fabrics/fabricmain.htm>

http://www.rockywoods.com/breathables_main.htm

<http://www.seattlefabrics.com/neoprene.html>

May 14, 2007. 6:49 PM [REPLY](#)



SnuffyDaPenguin says:

This is awesome. Me and some friends are working on this. We put pontoons on the sides a few feet out, and some thin plywood (3/8 I think) between the supports on the pontoons, so several people can fit, if we distribute the weight evenly. We are also putting some material like styrofoam(if we can find a place to buy it in chunks) inside, covere4d by ply for a seat, rather than sitting on tarp.

Apr 23, 2007. 7:45 PM [REPLY](#)



i_need_fire says:

you must have taken a long time thinkin that up

Feb 17, 2007. 8:32 PM [REPLY](#)



ironsmiter says:

Southern Illinois University Cardboard Boat regatta. (Shameless plug <http://gcbr.com/port.html>) or any of the other CBR's out there.

Attend any, marvel at the skill/luck in building and floating them.

Learn. :-)

IMO, build a cardboard shell, in the form of a seat. tape the edges, flip, and fill with expanding foam. Now, the next time you flip, you have a flotie thing to hold onto!

Go for the PVC Glue, for the major component, and duct tape or plumbing pipe clamps, for holding the sections together. Sealed tubes, filled with air equals more floating power than ductaped tubes filled with water. plus, you retain the break flat power, by simply slicing the tape.

If you have WAY too much time on your hands, try cutting the tarp, with a 2 inch overlap, and seamwelding it with one of those plastic welding kits.

Feb 13, 2007. 4:40 PM [REPLY](#)



c1josh says:

If you want to know about folding kayaks, check out this website. It really has been done before, and quite well. The plans are available online too.

<http://www.yostwerks.com/MainMenu.html>

Also

www.kayakforum.com

is a great web-board to gain knowledge. Just remember that going out in a kayak requires some safety percautions.

Nov 30, 2006. 11:36 AM [REPLY](#)



curlyfry562 says:

Nov 21, 2006. 11:59 PM [REPLY](#)

You should make a cardboard mold to sit in, place that in and then fill the rest of the thing with spray foam, that would make it float and probably make it more rigid



akanigel says:

Oct 20, 2006. 11:10 AM [REPLY](#)

This is basically a Welsh coracle. Wales is a country to the left of England, Great Britain. They are usually very small, small enough to carry on your back and very light, usually round often egg shaped. They are used for fishing and travelling across country. That said good on ya!



Thaikarl says:

Sep 26, 2006. 4:06 PM [REPLY](#)

oh yeah, one of the things i hated about my kayak was paddling the thing. i spend most of my time paddling thinking about making sails, turning a weed eater with the head removed and a propeller adapted into a motor etc. how would you add a sail to this thing? you have a cool name for it BTW?



hellokeller says:

Sep 27, 2006. 8:33 PM [REPLY](#)

I was thinking about putting a square chunk of ply resting on the pvc side ribs and then using a mast of 4 in PVC about 5 feet tall. I think it would be fairly easy to hoist a bed sheet that had the 1/2 in pvc pipe as yard arms. I haven't thought of a way to make a rudder work. My wife came up with the name kayoat (kayak + boat). I got a severe flogging from the boys grandmother for not having a life jacket on :-/ so already add the flotation devices 8=)



Fireinthedisco says:

Sep 24, 2006. 9:00 AM [REPLY](#)

You might be a redneck if....



Bigdawg says:

Sep 26, 2006. 5:30 PM [REPLY](#)

Ahahaha! Hey watch'is!



zachninme says:

Sep 24, 2006. 3:18 PM [REPLY](#)

Wow! Cool!

I agree that you look a bit low...

Did you actually glue the PVC, or just duct-tape. Otherwise it would be nice because you could just take it apart and use it for something else :-)



hellokeller says:

Sep 24, 2006. 3:44 PM [REPLY](#)

I thought about that too, as I was putting together so I just used duct-tape. I figured if I sank I could take it apart and try again.

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