



Build Your Own Tree Shaker:

Designed by: Bill Young

So you want to be able to harvest your plums like a pro! Well you'll need a tree shaker to do it. Tree shakers used to be easy to find but not don't seem to be available commercially any more. No matter,... with these instructions you can easily build one of your own.

Note: These instructions are for a light duty shaker. For most fruit trees, with abuse, this tree shaker is designed to give before a larger tree limb will break.

Materials Needed:

- 6-foot, 3/4-inch dowel
- Bicycle hook
- 4-inch piece of 3/4-inch PVC pipe (schedule 125)
- Orange Paint (optional)

Tools Needed:

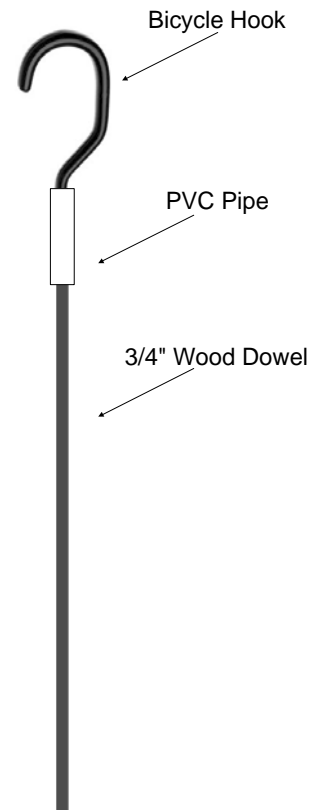
- Drill
- Sand Paper
- Foam Paint Brush (optional)

Building Instructions:

1. Sand dowel with sand paper until smooth. Sanding prevents wood from forming splinters.
2. Sand one end of the dowel to remove sharp edges.
3. Drill hole down the center of the opposite end of the dowel. Hole should be just smaller than the screw-end of the bicycle hook.
4. Place piece of PVC pipe around end of dowel with hole drilled in it. PVC pipe provides reinforcement. Dowel may need to be sanded slightly for the PVC pipe to fit.
5. Screw bike hook into end of pole.
6. Optional: Paint dowel orange or another bright color to make it easy to find the shaker if left in the tree.

Instructions for Use:

Gather 3-4 friends and family around the tree. Stretch a tarp or old sheet under the tree making sure that it doesn't touch the ground. Use fruit tree shaker to gently shake the branch above the tarp. The plums will fall to into the canopy typically without being bruised. When the canopy is full or heavy enough, scoop the plums into boxes and carry them away. Note that if the fruit hasn't been thinned, you will get a variety of ripeness that falls. The unripe fruit would be falling anyway due to having too



much competition for space on the branch. Do this several times during the season and you'll have harvested nearly all the fruit. This method can be used for apples but you might consider a hard hat.

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