Almost-No-Tools-Required Handbell Tree

by Sharon Guilliams

Materials:

1 — 2 ft x 2 ft x ¾" thick piece of plywood

1 — 2" Pipe floor flange

4 — 7/8" x #12 flat-head wood screws

1 — 2" threaded pipe 40" long

1 — 2" threaded pipe 36" long
(you may want to use at 24" or 30" piece)

1 — 2" threaded coupling

1 — 2" x ½" x ½" reducing tee

2 — ½" threaded pipe 18" long

2 — ½" threaded caps

1 — Roll of really wide black duct tape

How to build the handbell tree stand:

You can use galvanized or black iron pipe. If you use black iron pipe, you can paint it vice the duct tape.

This bell tree was born out of my desire to do a version of "Of the Father's Love Begotten" and not having enough ringers in my choir, so I decided to take "Prelude on Divinium Mysterium" and adapt as a solo. But… I had no handbell tree stand and did not want to spend $250.00 on one. My dad is very handy and he came up with this concept.

The approximate cost of this stand is $60.00 and it is very sturdy. You can go to your favorite hardware store and put it together there, just to make sure you have all the pieces. I also found they were fascinated by the concept and wanted to help.

You mount the floor flange to the plywood with the screws and then everything else screws together. First the 48" pipe is screwed into the floor flange, then the coupling. I screw the ½ pipes and the 36" piece of pipe into the tee then the large "T" into the coupling. Then you can put the caps on the end. (If I were to do it again, I would probably use bike handlebar caps – Then one end would not need to be threaded.)

If you want a black bell tree and have the really wide duct tape, then you cover the plywood and the pipe. It works best if you do it lengthwise (as opposed to going around and around the pipe).

While it is not adjustable, it suits my needs. You could make it adjustable by using a 1 ½" pipe on the top. A 1 ½" pipe will fit inside the 2" pipe. You would have to drill holes through the 2" and 1 ½" pipe and put a pin in to make it adjustable. You would need to make sure there is enough of the 1 ½" pipe inside the 2" pipe to keep it sturdy (you would probably need a 48" long piece of 1 ½" pipe, but it should work. (You would also have to get a 1 ½" x ½" x ½" reducing tee.)

Happy Ringing!

— **Sharon Guilliams**

(for any questions about this design, email sguilliams@cox.net)