

Build a Duct Tape Hammock

The Project

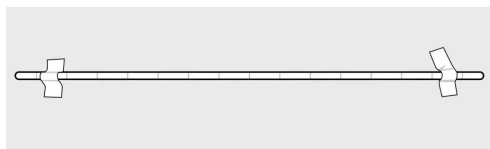
IT'S **HARD** to think of a more relaxing way to spend an afternoon than in a hammock. Whether you're reading a book or just napping, the gentle (or, if you have brothers, sometimes not so gentle) rocking of a hammock and the warm sun on your face are a wonderful background. Unfortunately, hammocks can be expensive if bought from the store. So why not make your own?

This project will walk you through making your own hammock out of just duct tape and a couple of wooden rods. It's cheap, simple, and fairly easy. On top of that, your new hammock will be waterproof!

MATERIALS: 2 wooden rods, 3' each. 2 rolls of duct tape.

Directions

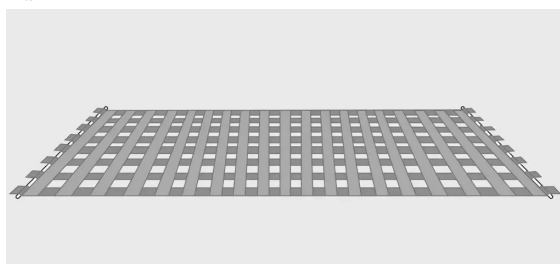
1. FIRST, TAKE your 3 foot rods. Get your roll of tape and use a Sharpie to make marks all along your rod, each one 1 tape-width from the last. Then line up your two marked rods 6 feet apart on a non-stick work surface, or if necessary on a regular surface.



2. LAY DOWN a length of tape, a little more than six feet, from the end of one rod to the end of the other. If you're working on a non-stick surface, lay it sticky side down, otherwise lay it sticky side up (Note: a non-stick surface makes this much

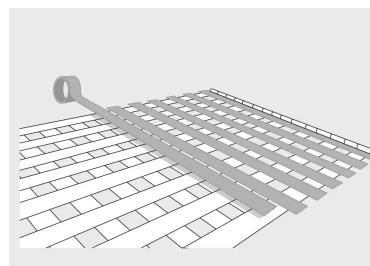
easier, but it can still be done without one). Next, lay another piece of tape the same length as the first, one mark away from it (there should be a distance of one tape-width between them). Repeat this until you reach the end of the rods.

3. LAY SHORTER PIECES of tape across the long pieces in a checkerboard pattern. The sticky side should be facing the same direction as on the long strips.



4. WRAP ANY excess tape on the long ones around the stake. Now, if you've been doing the project face down, you'll need to flip the whole thing over. Find a partner, lift the stakes at the same time and gently pull the tape up off your work surface. Then flip the hammock over and lay it flat again.

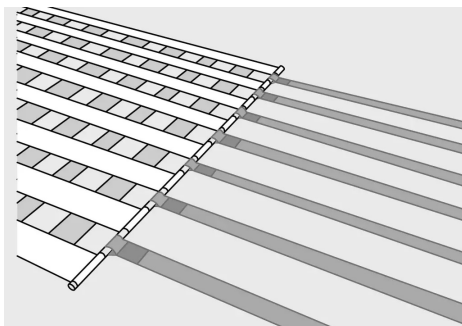
5. TAPE THE OPPOSITE SIDE the same way you did the first, laying your new tape so that the two sticky sides (old and new) are together. Be very careful here and very accurate, as once two pieces of tape are together like this, they're not coming apart. When you're doing the long pieces, don't try to apply all six feet at once. Go about a foot at



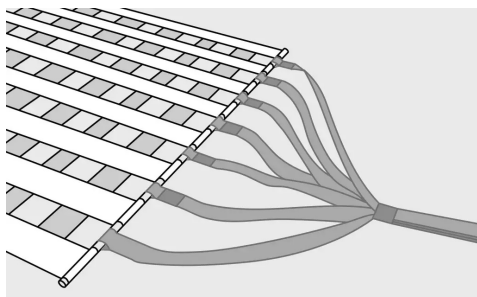
a time, unrolling the tape and then applying it. Repeat the process until you've made it all the way.

6. MAKE YOUR support straps. Lay out a 3 foot length of tape face up, then apply another 3 foot length of tape to it, sticky side down. Repeat this until you have the same number of straps as there are blank spots on both of the wooden rods together (should be 14-18 straps total).

7. LOOP THESE straps around the empty patches on the rods so that a few inches of the strap folds back over itself, then secure them there by wrapping tape horizontally around the overlapping area.

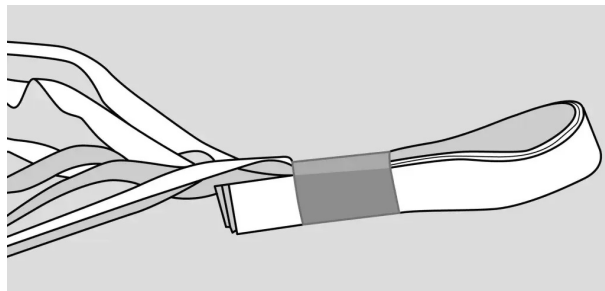


8. PULL THE STRAPS ON one side together so that they overlap each other about a foot away from the rod, and are all lying flat. Use another strip of tape (around 8 inches) to wrap them tightly together this way. Repeat on the other side.

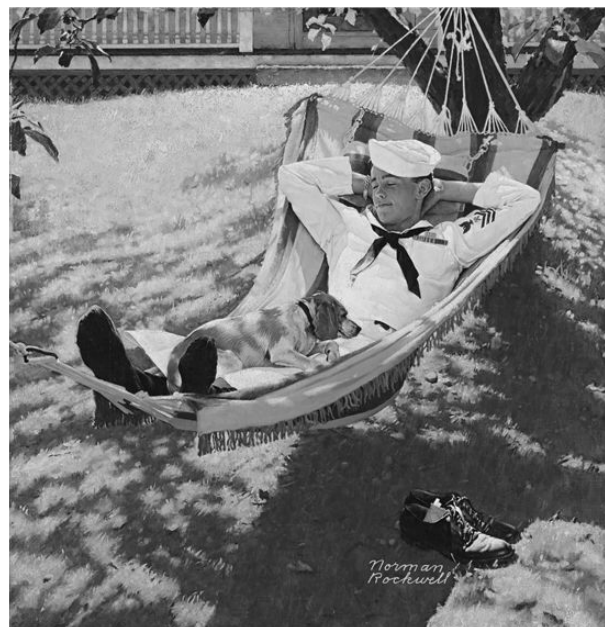


9. FOLD THE END of the strap back against the spot where the straps are bundled together, and

then about two inches past that. Tape it in place once with a heavy wrap over the bundle spot, fold the extra two inches back, and tape it in place a second time. The S-curve should stop the strap from pulling loose.



THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT! You can use some rope (made from duct tape or not) fed through the strap to hang your hammock. When hanging, you'll want the ropes to loop around a tree or other rough object at an angle, so that when you sit in it, you weight pulls down at an angle. Enjoy!



On Leave, Norman Rockwell