

Kettle Hop Bag Holder

Let me start off by saying that this project is neither new or original, but I decided to document my build and put it into a fancy pdf for those who might not have seen this project yet. It's pretty basic, just a device to hold a large hop bag and makes it easy to add hops, either whole flower or pellets. I got tired of having to make up 3 or more hop bags for each brew, so this seemed like a good project. Also, having a larger area for the hops to circulate in will help with utilization.

It cost about 5 bucks to make, and all the parts can be bought at Home Depot or pretty much any hardware store. The only tools you'll need are a drill, a 7/8" bit (same size I used for my weldless kettle fittings conveniently) and a hack saw, ruler or tape measure and possibly a screwdriver. It only took about 15 minutes to put it all together, so it's a quick and easy project.

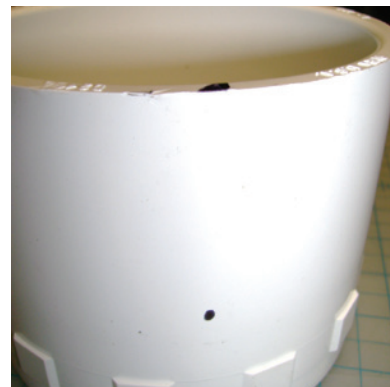
So, on to the build...



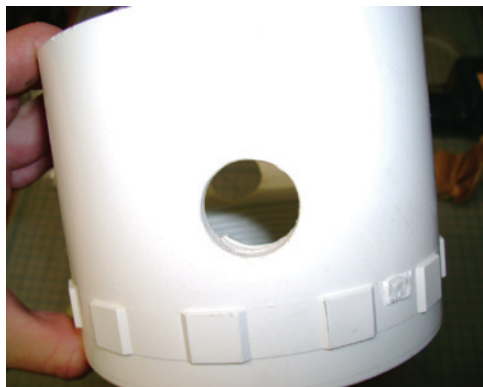
Here's all the parts, 4" PVC coupler, a hose clamp large enough to fit around it, a length of 1/2" PVC tubing and 5-gallon paint straining bags. The paint bags are a finer mesh than a large nylon 'grain bag'. I picked up this coupler as it had a ridge to hold up the clamp. It cost about \$4 at OSH.



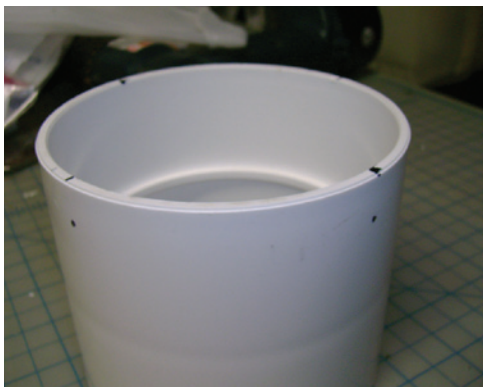
First, mark your center points on the coupler.



Mark down both sides for you drill center point. Be sure to leave enough room above the ridge for the hose clamp.



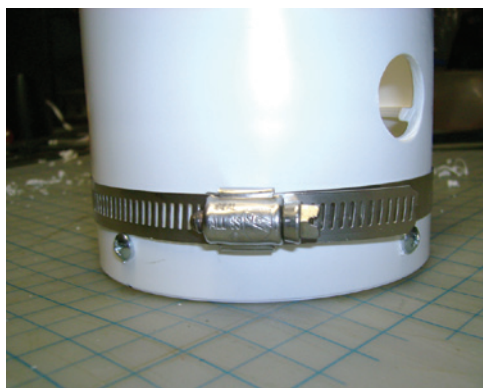
Using a 7/8" drill (this holds the PVC tube very well), drill both sides and give it a light sanding or filing to remove the burrs.



Alternately, you can use a cheaper 4" straight PVC coupler and just mount some screws to hold up the clamp (only about \$1.25 at Home Depot). I've marked for 4 screws here. Drill a small pilot hole for the screws to make it easier to install them.



Here's the coupler fitted with screws and both holes drilled. I used the shortest pan-head machine screws I could find, and ground the points down with a dremmel tool after I installed.



Close up of the clamp in place.



Next, measure your kettle to see how much PVC tubing you need. If you have a keggel, you can choose to measure on the inside of the skirt, and you'll never have to worry about the holder moving.



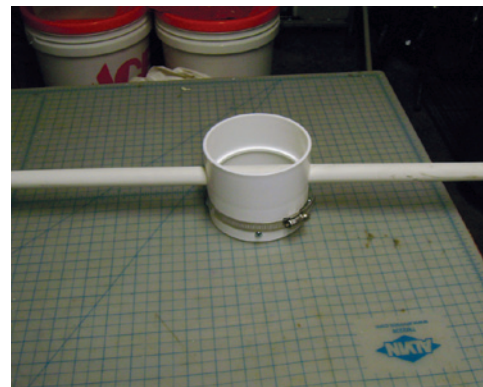
Measure and cut the PVC to your needed length. If you have a standard kettle, be sure to have an extra 3-4" on both ends beyond the kettle diameter. If you have a keggel, check the fit and cut more if necessary.



This is how it all goes together. On this one, I didn't account for as much space above the clamp as I'd like for the support bar, but it still fits fine, just snug. You can also put in a screw on one side of the tubing so the coupler won't slide when you lift it up.



So here's how it'll sit in the keggle. Make sure you've pulled up enough of the paint bag so it won't be on the bottom and melt or scorch. Throw your hops right in, and just lift it out when you add the immersion chiller, and put 'er right back.



So that's it. Pretty basic.
 4" coupler - \$1.13
 5" hose clamp - \$1.86
 1/2" PVC tubing, 8' - \$1.16
 Screws - 88¢
 5 gal paint strainer (2 pack) - \$2.99

You can also get shorter cut lengths of 1/2" PVC for under a buck at Home Depot if you don't want to deal with 8'.

Other Versions



This one uses threaded rod and nuts to hold it. I've also seen versions w/ 3 rods. The only reason I don't like this is it takes up a bit more storage space. Also, the rod is more expensive, but if you have some or get some free, it seems like a viable option.

I have also seen a similar version using wooden dowel that's attached by screws going through the coupler.



Here's a fancy one. All welded and a 4" to 3" reducer coupler rests on top.



This one can be assembled without tools, but it's a little more expensive. Parts used were
 (2) 4" galvanized pipe U-Clamps.
 (2) 1/4" threaded rods.
 (4) 1/4" wingnuts and washers