







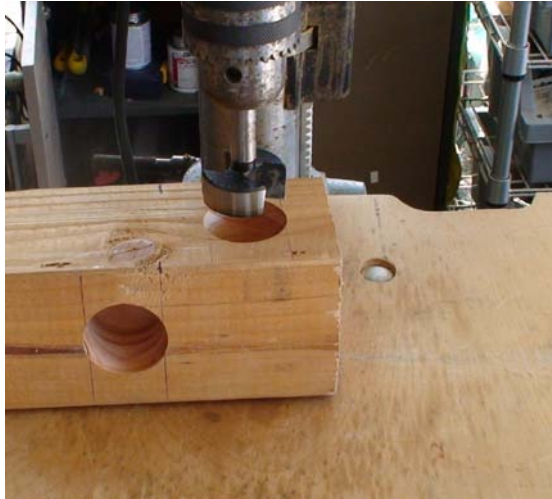
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CAUTION: Be careful when using power tools

FIRE HOSE HAMMOCKS FOR BIG CATS, CANINES, Etc...

	<p>MATERIALS</p> <p>For main frame, metal double weight poles 1 7/8 or 2 inch diameter, wooden 4x4 posts, new or used fire hose, screws and washers</p> 
	<p>Untreated cedar posts can be substituted for 4x4 studs. The frame strengthening & supporting horizontal wood can be 2x4 or 2x2, depending on the size of the hammock and the weight of the animal.</p>
<p>You can prime and paint, or stain, the wood after you cut it to the desired length.</p>	

TOOLS & CONSTRUCTION



Using drill press, drill 1.5 inch deep hole, matching the diameter of the metal poles, into 4x4's or cedar posts about 2-4 inches from the top. The drill holes are offset to allow bolting the poles once the fire hose is attached and stretched. The length, width and height of the hammock will depend on what kind of animals will be using the hammock. It can be only 2 feet tall for arthritic big cats, or smaller canines, or 4 -5 feet tall for more athletic animals.



Put the metal poles into the drilled holes to make a hammock frame, and hold it together using a cargo strap





The frame supporting wood can be attached in one or 2 rows either by straight screwing, or using metal braces (see below).

Or you can use dado blade to make grooves for a smoother look (see left), and attach it with wood glue and screws.



When cutting the fire hose, add 16 extra inches to the actual width and length of the hammock frame. This is needed so you can roll the fire hose on the metal poles.



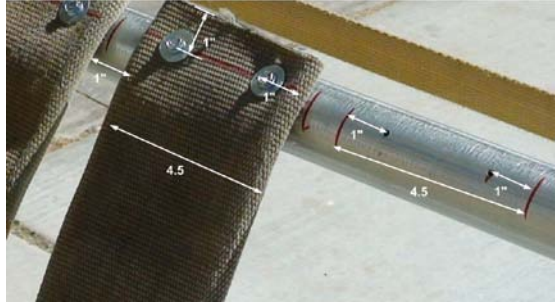
To figure out how many strips of fire hose will be required, measure the length of the metal pole. Take that length and divide it by the width of the fire hose plus one inch.



For example:
 pole length= 66 in.
 fire hose width= 4.5 in.
 divide 66 by 5.5 = 12 pieces of fire hose



Pre drill holes at the end of the fire hose and on the poles. The holes on the fire hose are placed one inch from the end and one inch from the side. Matching holes are made on the poles



Use metal screws and washers to attach the fire hose to the metal poles. The space between fire hose pieces should be about 1 inch.



Once the fire hose is attached on both ends, roll the metal pole to stretch the hose.





Then secure the metal pole to the 4x4 wood with a screw or bolt, so the metal pole can no longer move inside the hole.



View from inside and below



The finished hammock should be tight. It will eventually stretch with the weight of the animal



Hammocks can be incorporated into 'cat condos', in which case the distance from the top of the wooden stud to drill the holes for metal poles will be much longer.



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