How to Make a Unique “Industrial-Looking” PVC Lamp

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Introduction

It took me just an hour, or so, to snap together this useful lamp. Actually, I made two... one for my office and one for my shop. Each one puts out a lot of light using low-energy, low-heat CFL bulbs.

I particularly like that the neck can rotate up and down to bring the light as close to your work as needed.

Also, I made the lamp with scraps and parts that were lying around the shop. But even if you purchased the materials, the cost should be under 20 bucks.

So with that... let's get started.

Materials Needed

Five feet of one-inch PVC Pipe
Three Tees
Four 45° Elbows
Four Rounded Caps
One one-inch Flat Cap
One 4-inch Flat Cap
Short length of 4-inch PVC Pipe
One 90° Ell
Socket Holder with Connector & Nut
In-Line Switch
Length of Electrical Cord
Plug
CFL Light Bulb (I use a 75-watt)

Tools Needed

Measuring Tape
Pencil
PVC Pipe Cutter
Cordless Drill
3/8-inch Bit
Hammer
Wire Cutter
Long-Nose Pliers
File
100-Grit Sandpaper
Square
Center Finder (Optional)
Phillips Head & Flat Head Screwdrivers
Sandpaper
Small Can of PVC Cement
Can of Spray Paint

Photo 1: Tools Needed
(The Yellow Thing is an Optional Center Finder)
Photo 2: Fittings Used
Note the difference between the rounded and flat caps on the leftside of the photo.
Also, I used the bell end of a length of 4-inch PVC pipe for the lampshade.

For Your Own Safety

All tools come with directions for use, along with safety instructions.

When using tools, glues, equipment, cleaners, paint, stain, and/or other materials used in making the walking aids herein, exercise common sense. Read, understand and follow manufacturer's labels and instructions or ask a knowledgeable representative of the manufacturer for proper use and
directions. And it’s always best to work in a well-ventilated room, wear rubber or vinyl gloves and eye protection.

**Directions**

1. Cut six 4-inch lengths of pipe (A & C)
2. Cut one 18-inch length of pipe (D)
3. Cut five 2-inch lengths of pipe (B)
4. Dry fit both sides of the legs.
Make sure the tee is at right angle with the elbows. (See Photo 4.) Once you have the angle correct, mark the tee and pipe with a pencil. When gluing, line up the marks.

5. Glue the legs together. Then insert and glue the pieces marked “C” as shown in Photo 3.

*The Neck*

1. Drill a 3/8-inch hole at the back of the tee. (See Photo 5.)

2. At one end of pipe “D” glue a tee. At the opposite end, glue an ell as shown in Photo 3.

3. Drill a 3/8-inch hole in the tee for the power cord. (See Photo 5.)
4. Cut a 6 ¾-inch length of 4-inch pipe for the lampshade. (See Photo 2.)

5. Drill a 3/8-inch hole in the center of each cap. (See Photo 6.)

6. Assemble the lamp's neck as shown in Photo 5. At this point, do NOT insert wiring.

Note: there's no need to glue the two caps together, unless you want to. The short length of threaded pipe will hold them tight.

7. Assemble the lamp and paint. As you can see in first photo, I painted the lampshade section black and the body silver.

8. I glued pipe “C” to the legs as shown in Photo 3. But I did not glue the other end of “C” to the lamp neck so that I could move the neck up and down as I needed it. However, you may prefer to glue it secure.
Note: Don't glue the small lampshade cap to the nipple so you can install the wiring and make any future repairs.

8. When dry, remove the lampshade section and wire the lamp.

Photo 6
Locate the centers and drill a 3/8-inch hole in each.
Photo 6
Electrical Parts
I'd love to see your version of the lamp. If you make one, please send a photo.

And if there's any way I can help with your PVC projects, please let me know.

Thanks... and have fun!

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