Over the past few months, my grandson and I made these three slingshots. We've had a ball with them and thought you'd like to make one, or all, as well.

But first, making and using the slingshots herein are subject to the terms of the Legal Statement posted at the PVC Workshop site.

Now, here's how to make them...
Slingshot #1

Materials

2-foot length of 1/2-inch PVC Pipe
3 Caps
2 Ells
1 Tee
18-inch length of Rubber
Small can of PVC Cement
Can of Spray Paint

Directions

Step 1. Clean the pipe

Step 2. Cut pipe into the lengths shown in Photo A-1

Step 3. Cut a 1 1/2-inch slot at one end of each of the two uprights to hold the rubber sling.

Step 4. Assemble without inserting the sling. Do not glue the two top caps yet.

Step 5. Paint if desired.
I cut the sling out of a used bicycle inner tube that I got free from a bike store. Overall length is 18-inches, width is 1/2-inch and the pouch section is 2-inches square. (See Photo A-3.)

Draw the outline of the sling on a slice of the inner tube using a colored pencil: white, yellow or whatever. Cut with scissors. Tie a knot at each end before attaching to the slingshot.

After painting, remove the two caps, insert the sling into the slots, then glue the caps as shown in photo A-2.

![Slingshot #2](Photo B-1)

Here are plans for a lightweight slingshot that's perfect for smaller hands.
Materials

30-inch length of ½-inch CPVC pipe
Can of spray paint

Directions

Step 1. Clean the pipe.

Step 2. Measure for the various bends. (Photos B-2 through B-7)

Step 3. Begin with the lateral bends, 5-inches on each side of the middle mark. (Photos B-3 and B-4)

1. Measure and mark the middle of the pipe.
2. Measure 5-inches on each side of the middle mark.
3. Measure 2 ½-inches on either side of the 5-inch mark.

Photo B-2

Photo B-3

Photo B-4

Photo B-5
Step 4. Heat and bend at the middle mark to make the handle. (Photo B-5)

Step 5. Measure, mark, heat and bend for the two uprights. (Photos B-6 and B-7)

Step 6. Trim the uprights with a PVC cutting tool or saw.

Step 7. Drill ¼-inch or 5/16-inch holes 1 ½-inches from the top to
attach the sling. (Photo B-9)

Step 8. Paint your slingshot.

I placed a piece of pipe insulation over the handle for comfort. (See Photo B-1.) Other materials, such as decorative tape, black or gray pipe insulation, duct tape, electrical tape, etc. can work just as well.

**Slingshot #3**

![Photo C-1](image)

This slingshot is a bit more difficult to make. You'll need a specialty tool to heat a 3-foot length of PVC pipe, then flatten it. Follow the measuring and bending steps in Slingshot #2.

**Materials**

- 36-inches of ½-inch or ¾-inch schedule 40 PVC pipe
- Can of spray paint
Directions

Step 1. Clean the pipe.

Step 2. Heat the entire length of pipe until it's malleable.

For this step, I used my *Bendit* heating device (Photo C-2). After a few minutes when the pipe was hot and soft, I compressed the pipe between a 2x4 and my workbench. After the pipe cooled I had an approximate length of 30-inch flat PVC.

Now I do understand that you likely don't own the *Bendit*, so heating a long length of pipe may be problematical. However, it can been done with a heat gun by heating and compressing a short section at a time. And a good amount of patience.

Step 3. Mark the middle of the pipe. Next, measure 6-inches from either side of the middle mark.

Step 4. Heat one 6-inch mark with a heat gun and bend at a 45° angle. Hold the pipe for minute until it's cool. Repeat for the other 6-inch mark. (Photo C-4)

Step 5. Heat at the middle mark and bend to make the handle (Photo C-5). Hold the pipe together until cool.

Step 6. Measure approximately 3-inches from the center on both the laterals and bend 45° to form the uprights.

Step 7. Notch the uprights to affix the rubber sling (Photo C-6). I set my table saw at ½-inch depth and cut the notches in two passes, 1 ½-inches from the top. A hand saw, Dremel, file or similar tool will also work.
Step 8. Paint your slingshot.

Step 9. While I left my slingshot handle plain, like Slingshot #2 you can cover it with decorative tape, black or gray pipe insulation, duct tape, electrical tape, or whatever.

NOTES:

1. I made this one with ¾-inch pipe but it's almost too bulky. On the other hand, it could make for a sturdy, serious slingshot.

2. If you decide to make several of these things, it might be easier to flatten the pipe in a shop-made jig. I haven't made one, but I envision it to be fashioned from a 3-foot 2x4 notched lengthwise about 3/16-inch deep by 1 ½-inches wide to allow for the pipe spread.

Then lay the heated pipe into the grooved board and flatten by applying pressure with a second, non-grooved 2x4, held tight by clamps. The groove should keep the pipe straight.
Last thoughts: Measurements for the slingshots can be adjusted to suit you. Also, children using these slingshots should be supervised by adults.

The Slingshot Trio
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