

# How to make your own BUSY BARS!

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# Supplies Needed:

- ½ inch PVC Pipe
- ½ inch PVC Pipe Elbow Joint (2)
- ¼ x 3 Carriage Bolts (2)
- ¼ - 20 Stop Nuts (2)
- 6 - 32 x 1 - ¼ Machine Screw (4)
- 6 - 32 Machine Screw Nut (4)
- Duct Tape
- PVC Pipe Cutter
- Drill bits for the above screw sizes
- Phillips Head Screw Bit



# Step One – Cut your pipe

Cut the pipe into 5 pieces: 2 Legs, 1 Footrest and 2 “washers”.

The way I measure each desk, no matter the size, for the legs and footrest are as follows:

**Legs:** Measure from the underside of the desk to the floor and subtract 7 inches. That will be the length of both legs.

**Footrest:** Measure the distance between the legs of the desk where you will be attaching the Busy Bar and subtract 5 inches. That will be the length of your footrest.

Cut 2 additional pieces at  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch. These will be your “washers”.



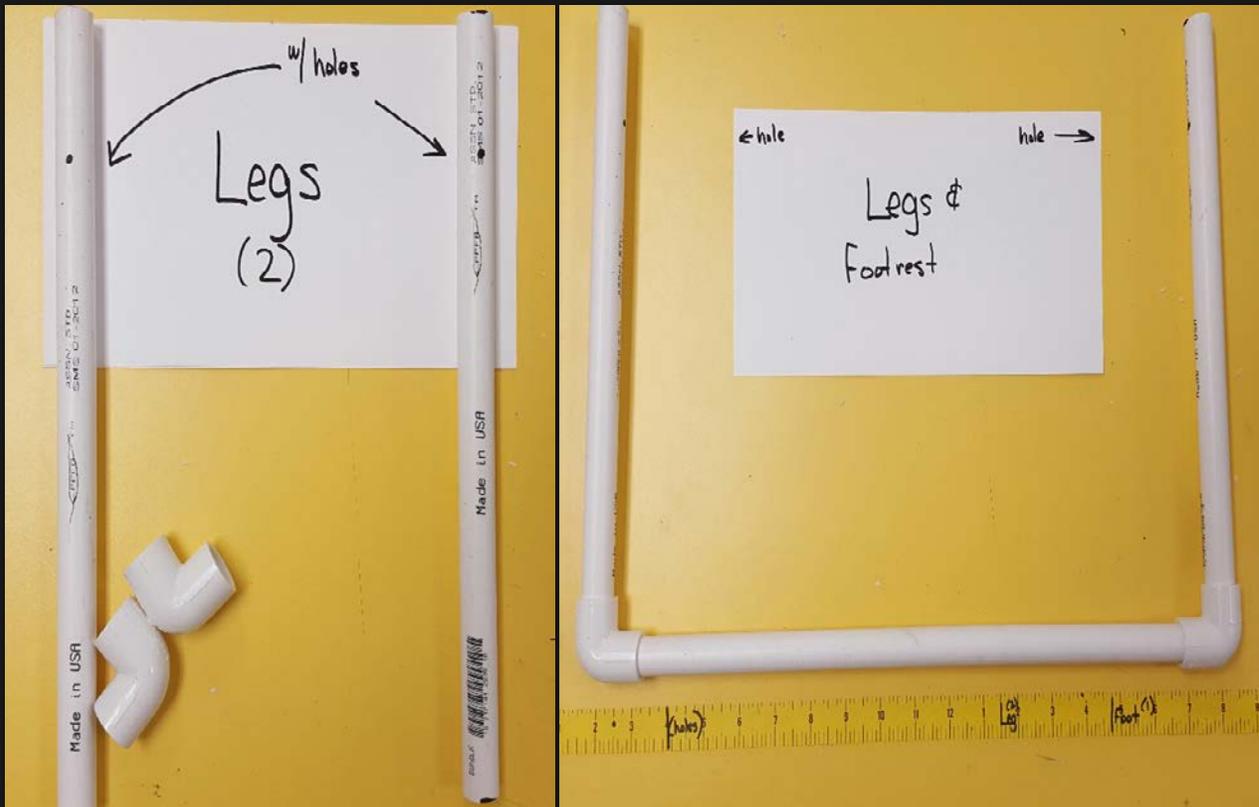
# Step Two – Assemble the Busy Bar

Connect the legs to the footrest with the elbow joints.

After you have connected the legs to the the footrest you will need to drill holes into the top of each legs. These will be used to connected the Busy Bar to the desk.

I measure 2 ½ inches down and mark the spot. You can do this part before connecting all the parts if you want. Use a drill bit that will fit your ¼ x 3 carriage bolts.

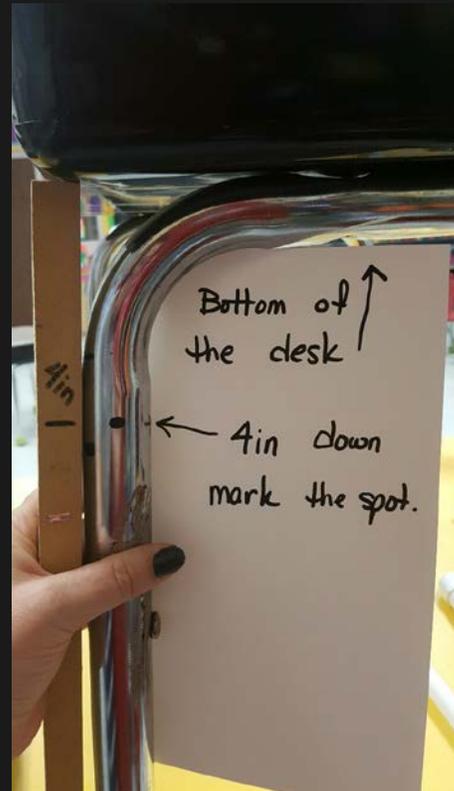
The holes will need to face in when it is lying on a flat surface so that it will be able to connect with the desk legs.



# Step Three – Secure the Busy Bar

There is a lot of drilling happening in this part.  
Grab safety glasses and a towel!

6/32 1/2 in machine screws  
to secure the footrest →



First, Make sure your PVC pipes are pushed into the elbow joints as far as you can. Then take your drill and your smaller drill bit and drill holes to secure the leg and footrests to the elbow joints. Then take 4 small screws and screw them in and secure them with the matching nut.

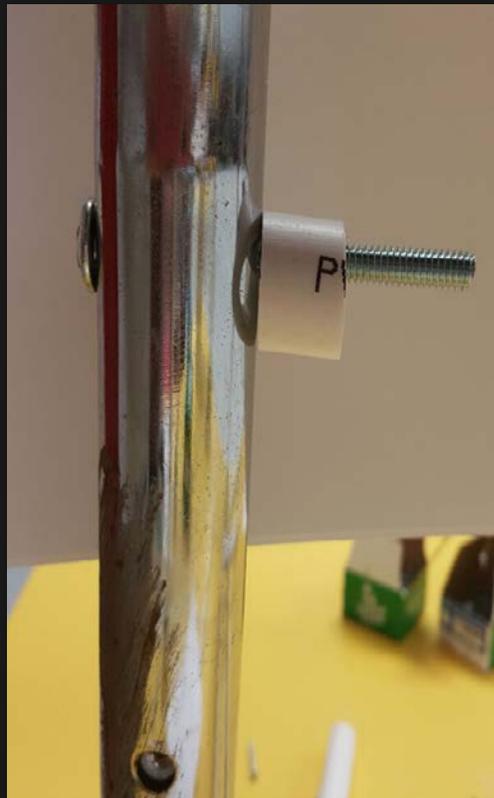
Next, measure 4 inches down the front leg from the bottom of the desk. You will want the holes to be on the side of the desk leg. Mark the spot and drill. The metal shards of desk will be **EXTREMELY** hot, I use a towel to cover my hand to keep from getting little burns.

Almost done!



# Step Four – Install the Busy Bar!

This is the last part! Get ready to amaze your co-workers and students!



Alright, let's put the baby together!

First, put your carriage bolts in both legs of the desk. You want the flat side on the outside of the leg so that no one scrapes themselves.

Next, add the  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch "washer" piece we cut back in Step One.

Then, add the busy bar itself.

Lastly, secure everything with a stop nut (fyi, once you take the stop nut off, it will not secure again).

Put a busy kid at that desk and let him go to town!

THANK YOU so much for your interest and for your efforts to find better learning environments for your students!!

Look for us on Facebook “Busy Bars” for any questions or to let us know how it is working in your classroom.

Hugs from the Art Room! Mrs. Kendrick, Roosa Elementary, Claremore Oklahoma