

## Making Your Own Armor Stand



*If you are unable to store equipment at your dojo or club, using an armor stand can greatly increase the longevity of your bogu.*

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## Step 1 – Materials & Tools

All materials can easily be purchased at any large hardware store. Smaller hardware stores often have PVC pipe as well, but 4" is usually in short supply. I recommend 4" PVC because I found it to be the best width for setting the *men* on. For sawing the PVC, I used a Milwaukee Power Sawzall. For drilling the holes in the 4" Cross, I used a Milwaukee Power Drill and a standard 1/4" drill bit.

<u>Building Materials</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Cost</u>
4" PVC Cross	1	\$6
4" PVC Cap	1	\$2.50
4" PVC Standard Flange	1	\$3.50
4" to 2" PVC Coupling	2	\$9 total
2" PVC Cap	2	\$2 total
3" x 1/4" Carriage Bolts	2	\$2 total
5' x 4" PVC Pipe*	1	\$7
5' x 2" PVC Pipe*	1	\$3
Screws for attaching to the plywood	4	\$2 total
2' x 2' piece of plywood	1	\$2

**Total Cost: \$39.00**

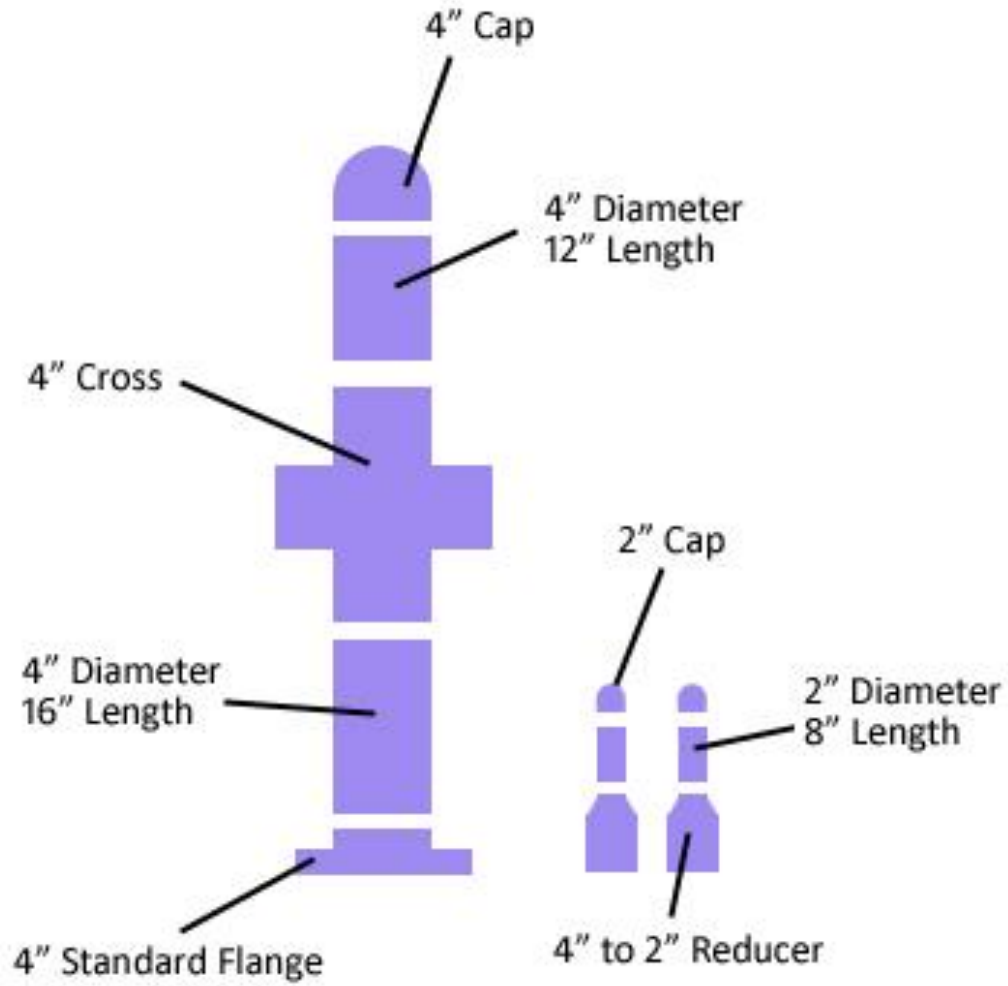
\*You need a total of 28" of 4" PVC Pipe, and 16" of 2" PVC Pipe, so if you are able to purchase shorter pieces, do so to further reduce costs.

## Step 2 – Cutting, Drilling, and Assembly

- 1) You will need to cut both the 5' length of 4" PVC pipe as well as the 5' length of 2" PVC pipe. Thankfully, that is the only cutting that you will need to do. You will need to make two pieces of 4" PVC pipe, the lengths being 12" and 16". You will also need to make two pieces of 2" PVC pipe, both measuring 8" in length.
- 2) Two holes need to be drilled into the 4" Cross. The holes should be drilled into the horizontal component of the Cross, and drilled at a 45° angle, so that when the bolts are inserted they are angled upwards (see photos for more detail).
- 3) Insert the bolts into the holes drilled in the 4" Cross, and use the screws to attach the 4" Standard Flange to rear of the plywood (the plywood can be trimmed down to 1' x 2' if you want to save room, as I did).
- 4) Follow the PVC Pipe Assembly Diagram on the next page to put your stand together.

Note) Right now some of you might be thinking, "*Men: check, Kote: check, Do: check ... what about the Tare?*" That is, of course, a good question. Your *Tare* should just be hung up using a hook along with your *Hamaka* and *Keikogi* (which you are, I hope, hanging up after every practice).

# PVC Pipe Assembly Diagram



## Photos



*All the parts [mostly] disassembled.*



*Close up of how the holes should be drilled, and the bolts inserted.*

## Photos



*Armor stand without bogu.*



*Armor stand with bogu.*



*My 1½ year old daughter also likes using the armor stand for basic waza practice.*