

TEAM BUILDING, WITH BITE

Bamboo Bug Hunt – Small Primates

This feeder is designed to slow down and spread out the distribution of live insects, allowing the animals to actively hunt.

This enrichment device has been successfully implemented with: Callitrichids and lemurs

Items needed:

- 40/45mm – 70/80mm diameter bamboo
- 100/120mm – 120/150mm diameter bamboo
- x1 8mm x 100mm eyebolt
- x1 M8 locknut
- 3.5mm x 40mm screws
- 4mm x 16mm screws
- x4 latches
- x4 hinges
- Karabiner
- Sisal rope
- Handsaw
- File
- Auger bit (or metal rod)
- Assorted sized hole saws
- Drill with drill bits

Safety concerns:

- Ensure proper hole size for targeted species to avoid entrapment of animal digits.
- **This device should be implemented as part of a goal-focused enrichment program. Individual animal characteristics should be fully considered before trialing.**

Directions:

1. Cut 4 equal-length pieces of large gauge bamboo to make the “pillars” of the feeder where keepers will place bugs. Each piece needs a node on either end and a minimum of three nodes (so at least two complete compartments).
2. Cut the top node off one of the pillars. Attach the top back to the pillar using a hinge and latch using the 16mm screws (see Figure 1).
3. Repeat with the rest of the pillars.
4. To allow the bugs to travel through each pillar, use the auger bit to make a hole in the center nodes (not the top or bottom one, those are needed to keep the bugs inside).
5. Cut the smaller bamboo to make pieces for the central maze. You will want at least 4 pieces of equal length to make the outer square and two longer pieces to make the center cross. Use that 9th grade trigonometry you never thought you’d need to determine the lengths of these pieces – or just eyeball it.
6. Use the auger bit to drill holes through all of the nodes on the small bamboo so that the pieces are complete tunnels.



Figure 1

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7. The eyebolt will attach to the center cross to hang the device. Drill a hole through the center of the two long pieces of small bamboo and thread the eyebolt through both. Secure with the locknut.
8. Situate the feeder pillars and inner maze to determine where the maze will attach to the pillars. Mark the areas on the pillars where the small bamboo will attach.
9. Using a hole saw that is ideally a little smaller than the smaller bamboo diameter, drill holes on the marked areas and then file for as tight a fit as possible.
10. Insert the maze into the pillars and secure in place with screws. Make sure to drill pilot pocket holes to avoid splitting the bamboo. To make the pocket holes, start with your drill perpendicular to the pillar and make a small hole. Then, as you drill slowly, start moving the drill up so that it almost lays against the bamboo pillar. Secure with 1-3 40mm screws per piece, depending on the tightness of fit and weight of the animal due to use the device.
11. Drill small holes throughout the feeder for the bugs to exit. Ensure proper hole size for targeted species to avoid entrapment of animal digits.
12. Splice one end of the sisal rope onto the eyebolt and the other end to a karabiner to allow it to be easily wrapped around enclosure branching and removed for cleaning.



Video links of the device in action:

<http://bit.ly/BambooBugHuntTamarins>

We'd love to see your animals in action! Send pictures or videos of your animals using this device to Mark@teambuildingwithbite.co.uk