

TEAM BUILDING, WITH BITE

Bamboo Spinner – Primates/Small Mammals

This feeder is designed to increase cognitive and physical exertion while foraging for food.

This enrichment device has been successfully implemented with: Meerkats, red pandas, coatis, giant anteaters, binturongs, and otters.

Items needed:

- x3 5ft x 2.5” chestnut poles
- 35/40mm – 100/120mm diameter bamboo (depending on size of species)
- M12 threaded rod
- x2 M12 nylon locknuts
- x8 M12 nuts
- x4 M12 washers
- 6 x 90mm coach screws
- Handsaw
- Measuring tape
- Drill with drill bits
- Sandpaper
- Pencil

Safety concerns:

- Ensure proper hole size for targeted species to avoid entrapment of animal digits.
- Ensure no sharp metalwork and all edges are thoroughly sanded.
- **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 three pieces of bamboo with a node on either end for the central feeders.
2. Drill a hole that is ~2mm larger than the gauge of the rod, slightly higher than the center of each bamboo piece where the threaded rod will pass through. On the end closest to the center hole, drill a hole through the bamboo node to allow food to drop out when the piece is spun.
3. Measure the height and width of the bamboo piece. Use these measurements to determine the total width and height of the device.
4. Measure and cut the poles to size. For example, for bamboo that is around 350mm in length and 100mm diameter, you will need:
 - Base: x2 pieces that are 3x the width of the bamboo, plus ~200mm
 - Base: x2 ~700mm pieces
 - Brace: x2 ~420mm piece for the long brace piece
 - Brace: x2 pieces based on the distance between the base and long brace arm.
5. Assemble base pieces into a rectangle to make the base for the device. Drill pilot holes to avoid splitting the wood and secure with coach screws.
6. To allow the upright pieces to fit closely to the base, cut one side of each piece at an angle (see Figure 1.). On the longer pieces, cut the opposite end to make a



Figure 1

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- parallelogram. Cut the opposite ends of the shorter pieces into trapezoids.
7. Secure the uprights to the base and to each other using 2-3 coach screws for each attachment.
 8. Drill holes through the longer uprights to fit the metal rod.
 9. Attach a lock nut to one end of the rod and thread through one of the uprights. Add two nuts and continue threading the rod through the bamboo feeders with two nuts between each piece. Pass the rod through the second upright and secure with a locknut. Adjust the bamboo and central nuts as needed.

Video links of the device in action:

<http://bit.ly/BambooSpinners>

<http://bit.ly/BambooSpinnersCoati>

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

