

Small Bird Bubbler

Supplies:

- Turkey baster
- 1 or 2 liter soda bottle
- Tubing or extra-large soda straws
- Fountain kit; solar, electric or battery
- Puff fabric paint (optional)
- Something to put the fountain in (optional)

Tools:

- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Painter's tape
- Soldering iron, wood burning tool or ice pick

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Cutting the Bottle. Cut the top of the bottle off. I use the top of the label as my guide for cutting. When you are done take the label off.

STEP 2: The Turkey Baster. Cut a hole in the bulb of the turkey baster about the same diameter as your tubing or straw. Put a circle of hot glue around the hole about a couple of centimeters out. This will provide a perch for hummingbirds. Unscrew it from the lower part of the baster.

STEP 3: The Bottom Part of the Bottle. Make a notch in the top edge of the bottom part of the bottle. This will be for the cord of the pump to run through. You can use hot glue or puff fabric paint along that top edge to make it easier for birds to grip. If you use hot glue, be careful not to melt the bottle. If you use puff paint, be sure it dries overnight.

STEP 4: The Bottom Part of the Bottle. Now you need to make some holes in the top part of the bottle. These will allow the water to flow back into the bottom of the bottle where the pump is. The easiest way to do this is with an old soldering iron, a hot ice pick, or a wood burning tool. Basically, you are going to melt the holes into the plastic. If you use an ice pick heat the tip with a candle. No matter what method, BE CAREFUL! Don't burn yourself. You will need several, good size holes (about the size of a pencil eraser) all around that top portion of the bottle. Now attach the bulb of the turkey baster to the top of the bottle.

STEP 4: Putting it all together. Attach the tubing or straw to the pump. If the tubing or straw are too big, wrap some painters tape around the port on the pump to make it thicker. You may have to check a couple of times and add more tape, but the connection needs to be tight. Now thread the other end through the bulb of the turkey baster. Put the top section of the bottle back into the bottom section of the bottle. Push it down until the bottle of the baster bulb is about level with the top of the bottom section of the soda bottle. Trim the straw or tubing.

STEP 5: Decorating. You can just add water and set it out. But to dress it up and keep it from blowing over, you can put this in something decorative. You can use a flower pot, vase, or bucket. You can use a small dollar store trash can. Paint or decorate as you like.

TROUBLE-SHOOTING: if the bulb won't fit on the top of the bottle, you can notch the top and that will allow it to flex a little. Or you could leave the bulb on the baster, cut the tip of the baster off, stick it through the top of the bottle, and run the tube up through that.

If the water flow is too high and shooting the water out, turn the flow adjustment on the pump down, If that doesn't work, cut some small notches or holes in the tubing below the bulb of the baster. This will allow some of the water to leak out back into the bottle and less to go up through the top.