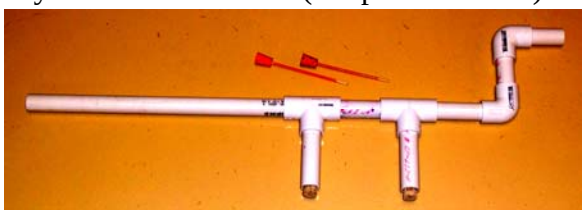
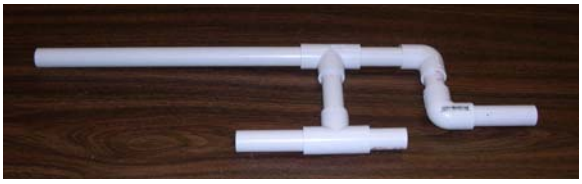
Cork Air Cannons (Marshmallow Shooters)

Cork Air Cannons (Marshmallow shooters) are great for boys to build. Given the same set of PVC fittings, they will come up with lots of ways to build a shooter (see photos below).





Materials needed:

1. Two corks, 5/8" diam. top, 1/2" diam. bottom (cf. www.jelinek.com, RL04 corks) to be used to cork the handles (see photo right).
2. Two 1/2" PVC tees.
3. Two 1/2" PVC elbows.
4. Four 1/2" PVC pipe x 3" long.
5. Two 1/2" PVC pipe x 2" long.
6. One 1/2" PVC pipe x 12" long for barrel.

Before the Meeting

1. Cut PVC pipe and smooth ends.
2. Make several 'darts' for competition by:

A. Drill 1/8"hole in small end of cork.

B. Insert 3 BBs, then insert 4" piece of a bamboo skewer and glue. Paint a bright color so it is visible. See orange darts in upper photo.

Assembly at the Meeting

1. Give each boy a set of parts.
2. No glue is needed, just press together the parts.
3. Be sure they have put the 2 corks into the open portion of the handles (so their air won't escape!).
4. You can bring miniature marshmallows and have a 'food' fight or competition.
5. If you are doing the 'Cork Air Cannons" special event the next week, then it is best that they put their name on their shooter (with a Sharpie ® marker) and leave their shooter with you.

Hint: if you epoxy a thumb tack onto the end of the cork dart, then you can shoot the cork darts and burst balloons! That is lots of fun.