

Building the Cambrella

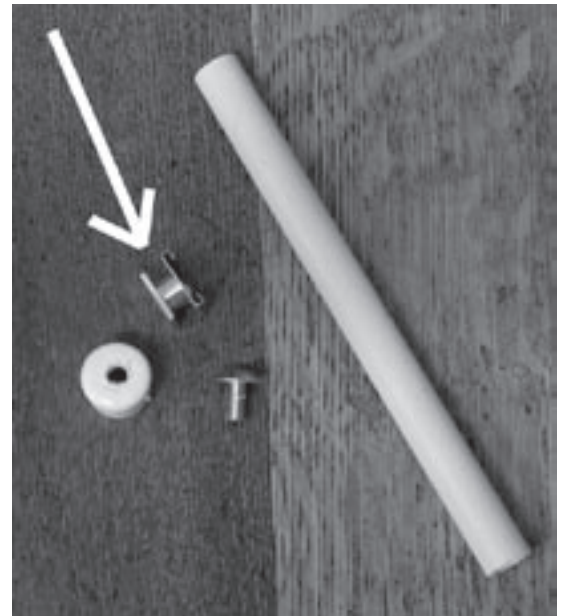


Camera umbrella full size

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Occasionally a photographer may need to work in the rain. Here in the Northwest USA, there is a saying: "If you don't work in the rain, you don't work." Protective camera covers are available but they are difficult to use, especially with a zoom lens. But there is one solution; a camera umbrella nicknamed a Cambrella.

There are only four parts needed plus the



Parts needed for project



Attaching the commercial hot shoe adapter

umbrella: a piece of CPVC pipe 5/8" in diameter, which is used for hot water; a CPVC cap that fits on the end; a 1/4" flat head bolt and nut or a screw; and a piece of wood, or a commercial external hot shoe adapter as shown. If you are not an amateur woodworker, the hardest part of this task is convincing a woodworker friend to cut the wood for the project. If you have access to the commercially made metal hot shoe adapter you



Homemade hot shoe adapter attached to CPVC cap



Attach PVC cap to hot shoe

will need to use a bolt to attach it to the CPVC cap as shown.

To construct your own adapter, a hard piece of oak will work, or any close grain hard wood such as walnut or teak; thickness is not an issue, $\frac{3}{4}$ " is common. Cut a piece 6 or 8 inches long to approximately the inside dimensions of the hot shoe (18mm or $\frac{7}{8}$ "). Cut a groove as shown leaving the lip $\frac{1}{16}$ " thick so it fits snug in the camera hot shoe. Now cut the grooved wood to length, about $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Drill a hole in the CPVC cap and screw it to the wooden adapter or bolt it to the commercial adapter as shown.

Now the length of CPVC pipe will fit snugly into the cap. It might be a good idea not to glue it if you ever intend to remove the adapter.

The CPVC pipe and end cap are available at any plumbing store or home center.

The umbrella can be one of those inexpensive ones that fit in a briefcase. After the adapter is put



Insert PVD pipe into cap

together, cut off the shaft of the umbrella with a hacksaw and make the CPVC pipe the correct length to fit the umbrella handle. Placing the umbrella fairly close to the head when looking in the viewfinder seems to work best. ■

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Close-up of camera umbrella with tripod



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