

May-June 1960

ERECTION OF MIST NETS

By John Given

(Mr. Given has contributed the following description of an excellent way to erect nets - but there are almost as many methods as there are netters, and we invite EBBA members who have other methods of erection of nets, and related topics, to submit them for publication. As many such articles as possible will be published, if submitted by July 15th, in the July-August EBBA NEWS, for the benefit of those planning to participate in Operation Recovery netting. -Ed.)

One of the discouraging parts of being a weekend bander is the time required to put up and take down mist nets. This is of particular importance when you want to put your nets up on Friday night so as to be all set at the crack of dawn Saturday morning. The time required is also important when one weighs, whether or not to put up nets when there is a chance of rain. After several methods were explored by trial and error, we are passing on our suggestions to expedite this procedure as much as possible.

Assuming net lanes have been properly selected and cleared, our first consideration is the type of poles. We recommend ten foot lengths of thin wall conduit type. This is much lighter than the steel fence posts, easier to transfer to another location, and enables you to mount your nets high, which is desirable under certain circumstances. The three-quarter inch diameter pipe costs about \$1.30 per length in most electrical supply houses. The one inch diameter pipe which costs about \$1.70 per length is more rigid and easier to clamp on the standoffs.

These poles should be set a distance apart that takes into consideration that the trammel lines are going to stretch a little, and you don't want to be re-tying trammel lines or moving poles all the time. The actual distance will vary with the type of net, length of net and method used to connect the nets. For the nets obtained from Mrs. Dater this last year, $35\frac{1}{2}$ feet is the right distance for the set-up we are prescribing.

Next comes the erection of the conduit pipe. We use a pointed crowbar to make a hole as deep as possible and then from the top of a step-ladder tap the pipe still deeper with a hammer, and a block of wood so as not to injure the pipe. Then tamp around the top of the hole and if necessary drive a few stones into the surface for stability. Be sure that the conduit pipe is put into the ground perpendicularly. Do not try to force it straight after it is in the ground, as conduit pipe was designed to bend easily.

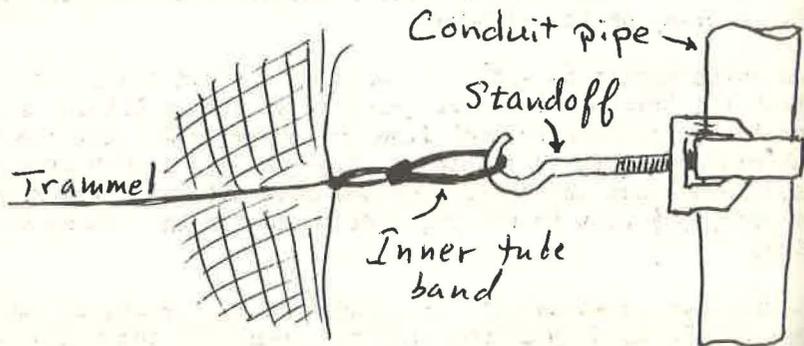
As the conduit pipe is quite flexible, it is best to guy your end poles with rope or wire from about the center of the pole, to a stake

driven into the ground. A tree trunk or fence will also serve as a suitable anchor.

There are many ways you can connect your nets to the poles. We feel the fastest method is using mast standoff insulators used for television antenna installations. These are also listed as buckle nut type standoffs and sell for three for a quarter. Your television repair man will probably let you have a box of a hundred at cost for this worthy cause. Do not secure them too tightly, as it is not very hard to strip the threads. We have been starting about twelve inches from the ground and placing them fifteen to sixteen inches apart. Most conduit pipe is marked on the side in inches so that it is a simple matter to count off the distance apart. Another method is to cut a stick to the length selected and hold it up as you clamp on the standoffs.

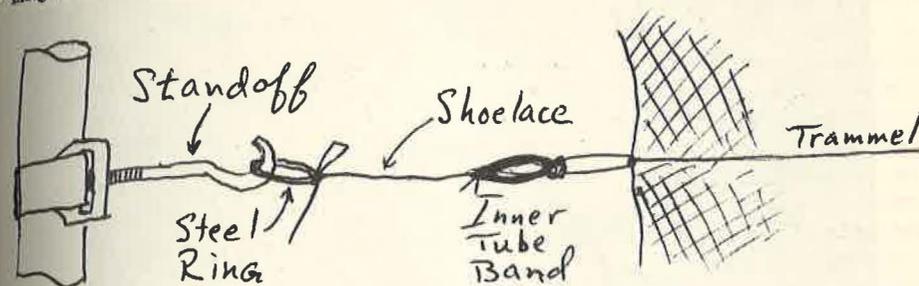
In order to erect the nets and take them down as fast as possible, the following will be needed for each net: five half-inch steel rings, five black shoelaces, and ten heavy rubber bands or innertube bands. We prefer innertube bands as they are more durable and easier to work with. These bands can be either cut with tin snips or with a hack saw if rolled up and held in a vise. They should not be more than half an inch wide so that they can stretch in the wind and ease the load on the trammels.

Innertube bands are connected to one side of the net by hooking them through the trammel loops. The innertube bands are then looped over the standoffs. This is illustrated below.



The illustration below shows how the opposite end of the net is secured to the standoffs. Inner tube bands are connected to the other side of the net by hooking them through the trammel loops. One end of the shoelaces is then tied permanently to the innertube bands. The five steel rings are slipped on the standoffs and the opposite ends of the shoelaces

are tied to the steel rings with a bow knot. The shoelaces can be quickly adjusted to take up small amounts of slack. If the trammels stretch to any major degree, the trammel itself should be untied and shortened.



After the nets have been put up for the first time a piece of white adhesive tape can be wound around each end of the top trammel so that there is no chance of putting the net upside down the next time.

Net reels to wind the nets up on, can be constructed by nailing two dowels about twelve inches apart between two boards. This is similar to what some people use for winding up clothes lines. Be sure to sandpaper well, so that the nets do not catch while winding or unwinding. In taking down a net, first the steel rings are slipped off the standoffs and placed on a bent nail on the side of the net reel so that they do not become entangled. Each net reel is numbered to correspond with your net lanes so that the same net is always erected on the same spot.

With such a system and with permanent poles, a net can be put up or taken down in about one minute.

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