

Portable Gate

Golden Cross Ranch, LLC

Having Fun With Your Horse

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How the Portable Gate Came To Be

“Learning to open and close a gate is a great skill for every horse and rider to know and shows true partnership as horse and rider work together to accomplish the task. Hubby thought I was crazy when I told him I wanted to design a portable gate obstacle since gates are usually part and parcel with horse ownership – until I pointed out that many people want to practice opening and closing gates from horseback but if there is a herd of horses or cattle on the other side for an audience then that can be rather difficult! Our portable gate allows you to set up and practice anywhere and for as long as you want without bovine or equine interruptions. The portable gate is great for both training and desensitizing work and just plain fun!”

Recommended experience level: Because some horses may find the portable gate spooky and may require some desensitization to it, this obstacle requires solid horsemanship skills on the ground and solid riding skills if continued under saddle. We recommend this obstacle for the experienced horse person unless under the supervision of a professional trainer.

Portable Gate Item List: (shipping weight 25 lbs.)

High Quality Canvas Zipper Duffle Bag

Duffle Bag Color: Olive Drab

Dimensions: 25" x 42" with strong and durable handles

Material: Heavy Weight Canvas

Our duffle bags with zippers and carrying handles are very sturdy and have lots of room. It is a great way to carry your portable trail obstacle!

1¼" Furniture Grade PVC Pipes of various lengths and colors

Lengths are approximate due to cutting.

Actual colors are not guaranteed for the gate obstacle. We reserve the right to select the color according to availability.

Please inquire if you have any questions concerning color at time of ordering.

Parts for Gate:

Three green 20 inch lengths of PVC colored pipe (one for vertical middle bar; two for vertical bars making up front of gate)

One blue 20 inch length of PVC colored pipe (for horizontal middle bar going to end of gate)

One blue 40 inch length of PVC colored pipe (for horizontal middle bar going to front of gate)

One purple 40 inch length of PVC colored pipe (for top bar going to front of gate)

Three purple 20 inch lengths of PVC colored pipe (one for top bar going to end of gate; two for vertical bars making up end of gate)

Three orange 20 inch lengths of PVC colored pipe for the gate base*

*Each pipe will have one 5/16" hole drilled approximately two inches from one end

One 1 ½" white 19 ½" length PVC to work as swivel for end of gate

One green spacer ring for gate swivel 2"length

Parts for Post:

One green 20 inch length of PVC colored pipe (one of two vertical pipes that form post)

One blue 20 inch length of PVC colored pipe (one of two vertical pipes that form post)

Three orange 20 inch lengths of PVC colored pipe for the post base*

*Each pipe will have one 5/16" hole drilled approximately two inches from one end

1¼" PVC Connectors

One white 4 way: To be used for the post base (opening at the top of 4 way is for post to connect to base)

Five white 3 ways (tees): 4 to be used for connecting gate pipes together and 1 for top of gate post

Two white elbows: To be used at each end of the top bar of the gate

Five white couplers: To be used to connect side pipes and top pipes

Two white couplers: 1 to be used to build gate post and 1 to be used for bottom of front vertical gate pipe

1 ½" PVC Connectors

One white 4 way: To be used for gate base* (1 opening is on the top for gate end swivel to connect to base)

*base openings will utilize 3 reducers so that 1 ¼" base pipes will fit into 1 ½" 4 way openings.

1 ½" PVC Connector Reducers

3 Reducers are used for each opening in the 1 ½" 4 way so that the 1 ¼" base pipes will fit into the 1 ½" 4 way openings (the top opening is for the 1 ½" white pipe that is used as the swivel for the gate end). Reducers will already be inserted.

Stakes to Anchor Obstacle

Six 10 inch plated steel stakes are provided with each portable gate in order to anchor the bases. These stakes penetrate hard ground, are easy to pound into the ground and easy to pull out.

Wooden Tap to separate couplers

The connectors that are used with your PVC pipes provide a snug fit and can become difficult to separate from the pipe when you are ready to disassemble your obstacle. To solve this problem, we recommend that you use a piece of wood as a “tap” between the PVC and a hammer. We have provided a piece of wood as a tap to get you started. Alternately, you can leave some connectors on the pipes if they will still fit in the duffle bag.

Heavy Duty Rubber Mallet

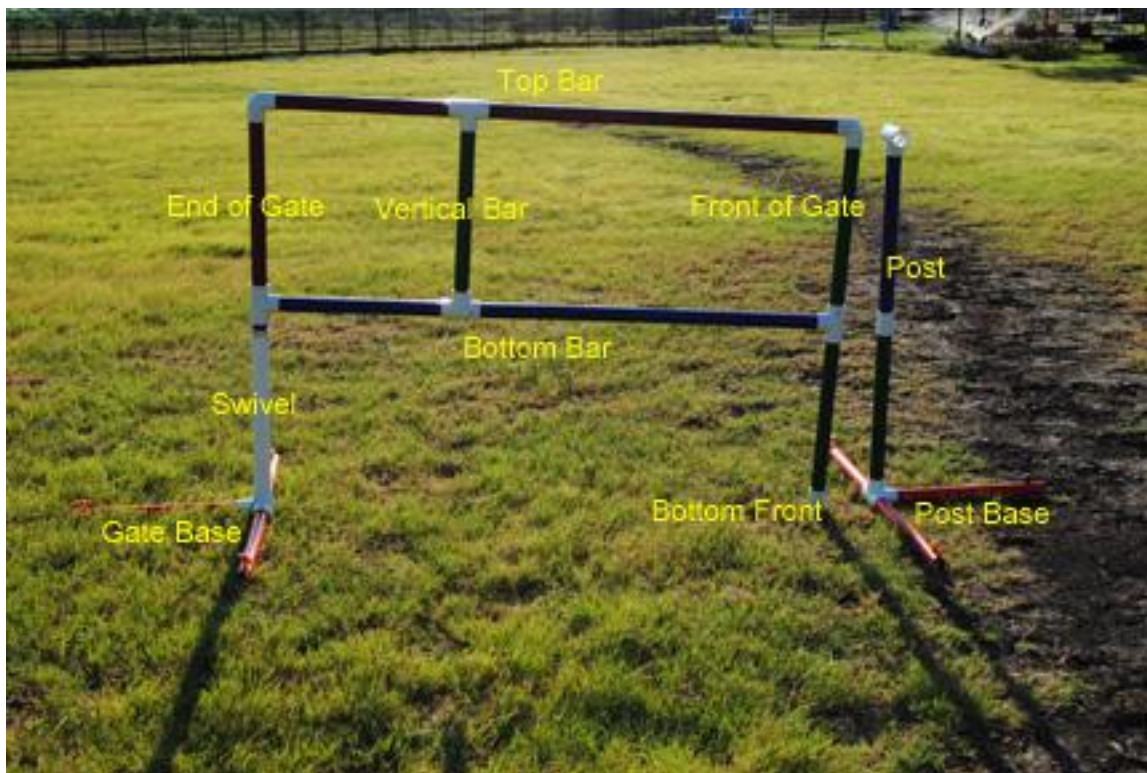
Weight: 16 oz.

A handy tool that is provided for both hammering in your stakes, insuring a snug fit when inserting pipe into connectors and for use with the wooden tap to separate couplers when you are ready to disassemble your obstacle. It even has a hook on the end to help you pull your stakes out of the ground when you are done.

Bungee Cord

We have included a bungee cord for you to use with your portable gate, so that you can “lock” the gate after you close it or “unlock” it when you are ready to open it.

Overview of Your Portable Gate



Guidelines For Assembling Your Portable gate

Use the overview picture as a guide for assembling your portable gate. It is not nearly as complicated as the following steps make it seem to be at first glance – I am using the following pictorial so that you can see each step, although except perhaps for the swivel and gate base, most of it is self-evident just by looking at the overview picture. Do take note that Josh taps the pipe into the connectors in each step to make sure the pipe is seated firmly into the connectors.

How to Assemble the Portable Gate

HINT: Although not required, a light coating of vegetable oil on the ends of the pipes where they go into the connectors may make the disassembly process easier.

1. **STEP ONE:** It would be a good idea to lay out the pieces of your gate so that you can see how the pieces should line up for assembly. Josh is working on the vertical pole for the front of the gate. Notice he uses a 3 way (tee) to connect the two 20" lengths of green pipe and an elbow for the top. Also notice how Josh is using the mallet to tap in the connectors.



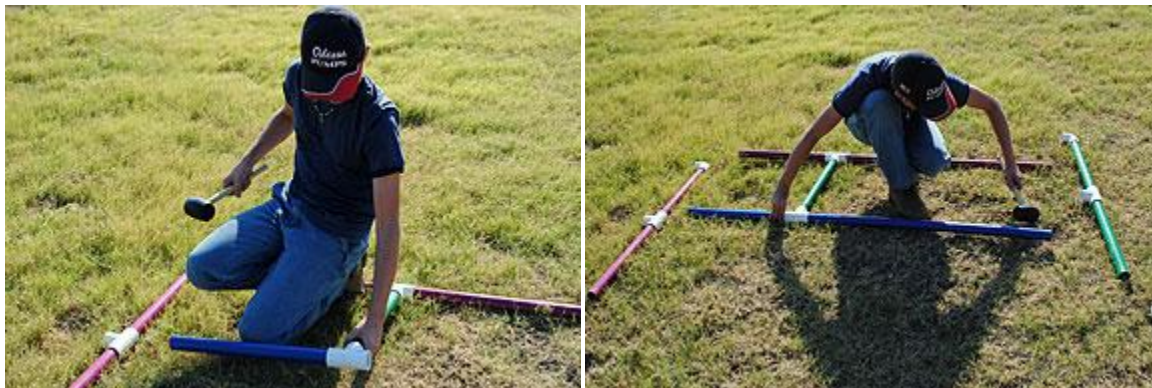
2. **STEP TWO:** Josh is working on the vertical pole for the end of the gate. Notice he uses a 3 way (tee) to connect the two 20" lengths of purple pipe and an elbow for the top. He is also working on the vertical green 20" bar that goes in between the top and bottom horizontal bars.



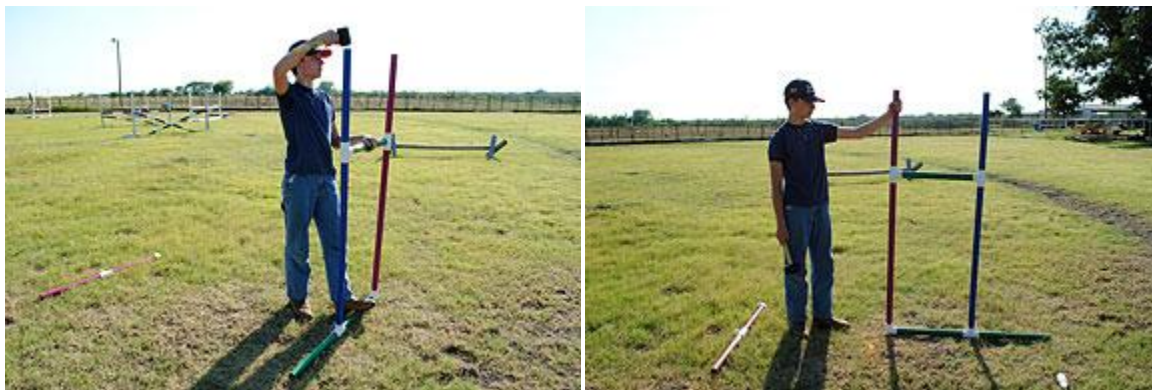
3. STEP THREE: Here we see Josh assembling the top bar with the vertical bar, always tapping in the connectors as he goes.



4. STEP FOUR: Josh is duplicating his efforts with the bottom bar. Notice the two 20" pipes are parallel and the two 40" pipes are parallel.



5. STEP FIVE: Josh is attaching the green front of the gate to the top and bottom bar. Tap! Tap! Tap! The 40" purple pipe goes into the elbow and the 40" blue pipe goes into the 3 way (tee).



6. STEP 6: Look towards the bottom of the first picture - Josh now inserts the 20" purple pipe into the top elbow on the end of the gate and the 20" blue pipe into the 3 way (tee) of the end of the gate. The end of the gate is now resting horizontally on the ground while Josh taps in the connectors from the top of the green front of the gate which is also horizontal during this step in the assembly process.



7. STEP 7: Josh now turns the gate upside down and taps his connectors one more time. He then takes a white 1 1/4" coupler and taps it onto the green bottom pipe of the front of the gate. This coupler will serve to drag the ground when the gate is opened and closed.



8. STEP 8: Next Josh is going to assemble the base for the gate. He will use the 1 ½" 4 way in order for the gate to swivel open and closed. 3 reducers are used so that the 1 ½" 4 way will still accommodate the 1 ¼" orange base pipes. Notice the three twenty inch orange pipes in the first picture. The reducers should already be inserted in the 1 ½" coupler for you as shown in the second picture. To assemble the base, insert a 20" orange base pipe into each reduced horizontal opening of the 4 way connector, but NOT in the TOP opening which will still have an 1 ½" opening (The top opening is used to connect the 1 ½" white 19 ½" length PVC pipe to work as a swivel at the end of gate). Make sure that the ends of the orange base pipes *with the pre-drilled holes* are NOT inserted into the connector. You can rotate each pipe to position the hole correctly before tapping it in.



9. STEP 9: Josh is tapping the base pipes into the connector as described in STEP 8.



10. STEP 10: Two key components are in Josh's hand in the first picture – the 1 ½" white 19 ½" length PVC pipe that facilitates the swivel action of the gate and the 2 inch spacer that works with it. First, Josh inserts the white swivel pipe into the 1 ½" top opening.



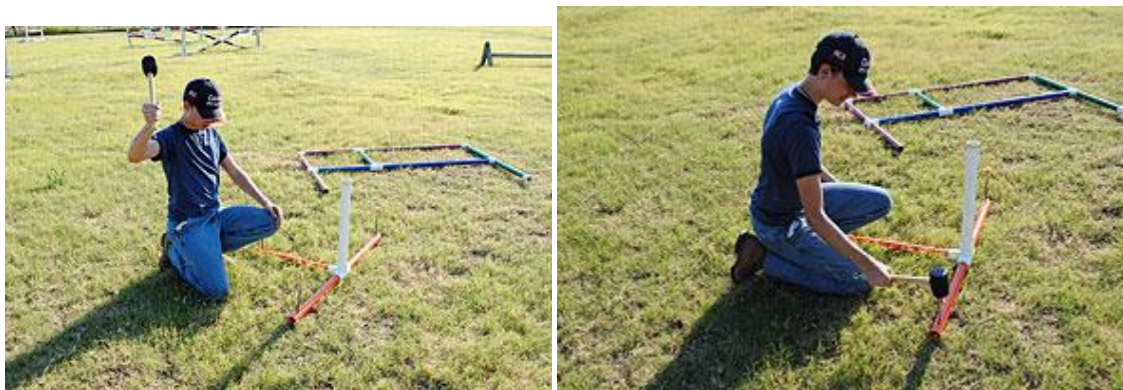
- 11.** Step 11: Next Josh taps the swivel pipe so that it is seated firmly in the connector. He then picks up the spacer in preparation for the next step.



- 12.** STEP 12: Josh drops the spacer into the swivel pipe from the top. The second picture shows it sitting at the bottom of the swivel pipe where it is seated in the connector base.



- 13.** STEP 13: Time to stake down the base – determine where you want the end of your gate to be and use the stakes and the mallet to stake down the three base pipes.



- 14. STEP 14:** We are now ready to put our gate together! Josh picks the gate up in the first picture and then rotates it so that the end of the gate (the purple pipe) is what he inserts into the white swivel pipe. Notice that the vertical stabilizing bar in the middle is closest to the end of the gate. If you decide to move your colors around that is fine, but you need to keep the vertical bar in the same location (near the end of the gate) for stability.



- 15. STEP 15:** Josh works with the end of the gate until the pipe is inserted as far as it will go – and now the gate part is complete!



- 16. STEP 16:** By now you will be an old hand at this and the post will be a cinch. Notice that Josh is putting a tee at the top of the blue pipe – this will serve as a way for the bungee cord to wrap around and lock the gate. He uses the other white coupler to connect the 20" blue pipe with the 20" green pipe. Tap! Tap!



- 17. STEP 17:** To assemble the post base, insert a 20" base pipe into each horizontal opening of the 4 way connector, but NOT in the TOP opening. The top opening is how the post is connected to the base. Make sure that the ends with the pre-drilled holes are NOT inserted into the connectors. Position the base so that it is near the front of the gate as shown in the pictures below. Now you can go ahead and stake the base down like you did for the gate – using the mallet with three stakes.



- 18. STEP 18:** Next Josh inserts the post into the base. Notice that he continues the practice of tapping in the pipe.



- 19. STEP 19:** Congratulations! You now have a portable gate assembled and ready to use!



Using Your Portable Gate

Fully Assembled Dimensions (approximate): Gate is 3.8'H x 5.42'W

We recommend that you introduce your horse to the portable gate on the ground first, especially if he has not been through a similar obstacle in the recent past. Remember that some horses are convinced that new obstacles may try to eat them at any moment, and it is your job to convince them otherwise. This is best done from the ground before attempting the obstacle from your horse's back! It is recommended that you proceed by using the following steps:

1. Introduce your horse to the portable gate on the ground, and give him a chance to become comfortable around it. You can start off with just a halter so that he can be relaxed and you don't accidentally jerk on his mouth if he shies away from it. Let him sniff it and examine it if he wants to do so. When he seems comfortable around it, you can encourage him to walk through it. Once he does so comfortably, repeat several times. Pistol is quite used to gates and a whole variety of obstacles as the Golden Cross Ranch horse, but I never skip this important step even if he seems bored by it. While the gate is not as spooky as some of our other obstacles, some horses will be quite concerned because it is outside of the realm of their experience and they will need some time to examine it and determine that it won't eat them. While Pistol did not bat an eye (he was a ranch horse and has probably seen thousands of gates) our thoroughbred equine friend Boo in the last picture was not at all sure about this strange contraption. He eventually decided it was not going to eat him and calmly walked through.



2. Remember that your goal is to have a soft, relaxed responsive horse to partner with. If you try to force your equine partner through an obstacle you may succeed, but that will be all you have accomplished. What you are looking for is building trust in your horse so that when he is confronted with something unusual and you tell him it is okay, he will believe you and respond accordingly. Remember to be calm and confident and that will help your horse to remain calm and confident too. If you ever feel that your horse may become out of control while trying to ride him through the obstacle, dismount and start again from the ground. Confident and consistent approaches will help your horse become relaxed and desensitized to the obstacle. Once you are both comfortable going through in one direction, repeat the process going through the other direction, until your horse easily moves through the obstacle in both directions.



3. Going through a gate on horseback (opening AND closing it) is a valuable skill that is very handy on trails or ranch work and one that is often tested in trail classes and competitions. The vertical bar in our final design gives a great deal of stability to the gate so that enthusiastic riders who refuse to let go of it don't pull it apart. Learning to open and close a gate is a great skill for every horse and rider to know and shows true partnership as horse and rider work together to accomplish the task. While some people sidepass their horse in order to open the gate, you can experiment and use any technique that works for you and your horse. As with our other products, the portable gate helps us have fun that is only limited by following safe practices and by using our imagination!

Disassembling Your Portable Gate

Taking apart your obstacle is fairly straightforward. The part that can become a bit difficult is separating the pipe from the connector if it won't come off by simply twisting them apart. In order to assist with the disassembly process if this does occur, we have included a wooden tap to help you separate the pieces. Simply hold the pipe in question stable (it helps if you have a second person to hold the pipe) and place the wooden tap against the connector as shown. Use the rubber mallet, hitting it against the wooden tap, to loosen the connector from the pipe. If the connector is particularly stubborn to loosen, you may have to rotate the pipe and use the tap repeatedly until it will separate. If you lose your wood tap or it becomes unusable, simple grab any similar piece of wood to do the job.



Safety Information



These poles should not be used under excessively cold weather conditions since it is known that PVC becomes more brittle in cold weather. While our products are U.V. coated which helps prevent the breakdown of material due to exposure to the sun, as with the use of any equipment, it is important to constantly inspect the condition of the equipment to ensure that it is undamaged and use it only for the purpose intended. While no specs are published concerning the impact resistance of PVC, we have pictured here one of the PVC poles that was used to stake down an obstacle during the Grace Lakes Ministry Competitive Trail Challenge. It seems this particular pipe received a great deal of abuse from 1200 lb. horses wearing shoes coming down on it. We were thrilled to see that the PVC pipe "smooshed" instead of shattered. No one noticed until taking the obstacle down that the pole had even been damaged because it remained usable and did its job of holding the obstacle in place!

Important Storage Note: When storing your obstacle, make sure and store PVC pipes flat, otherwise longer lengths will remain usable but may tend to warp.

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