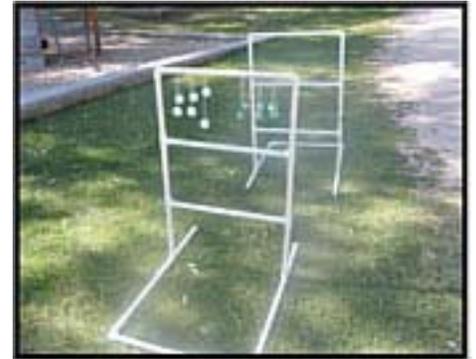


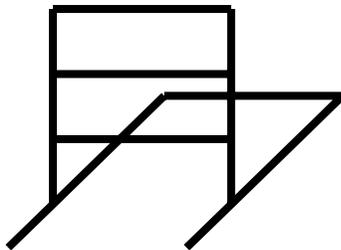
Horseshoe Golf

Here is a description of one of my new favorite games, and you can make one for yourself with some easy to find materials. The one shown here was built by Burton Olson. Burton also provided some of the basic rules below. Other photos and playful ideas were gathered by searching some of the following names on the world wide web: horseshoe golf, horseballs™, snake toss, Australian horseshoes, bolo polo, cowboy golf, snakes & ladders, ladder ball, ladder golf™ and blongo ball™. Horseshoe Golf is typically played as a lawn game, however it can be played indoors, or on concrete or asphalt. Beware though, golf ball bolos can bounce very high on a hard surface. For indoor use, you may want to use tennis balls instead of golf balls. This game has been very popular with summer campers and RVers, and at family reunions and tailgate parties.



Equipment

You can make your own Horseshoe Golf from PVC tubing. If you prefer lightweight equipment, use 1/2" PVC tubing and connectors. For a more rigid game, 3/4" PVC tubing and connectors weigh a bit more, but provide additional stability.



Each length of PVC tubes in our design is either 12 or 24 inches long. You'll need to buy two 10 foot standard lengths of PVC tubing for each 'ladder.' Each 'ladder' will have six segments that are 24 inches long and eight segments that are 12 inches long. You'll also need four 90 degree elbows, six 'T' connectors, and (optional) two end caps. We recommend making two ladders, like those shown above. The line schematic at left illustrates the location of the various tubes and connectors you'll need for each ladder.

The golf ball 'bolos' are made from a 21 inch long segment of 3/16" nylon rope and two golf balls (or two tennis balls). Each golf ball is drilled completely through with 7/32" hole, and then countersunk (or drilled with a 13/32" drill) approximately 1/3 the diameter of the ball (about 1/2 inch). Caution – DO NOT USE liquid filled golf balls (they are messy and difficult to drill). Wear safety glasses when drilling the balls. The nylon cord is then passed through the ball, and a single overhand knot is tied in the end. The knot is then pulled into the countersunk side of the ball and secured in place with glue, epoxy or hot glue.

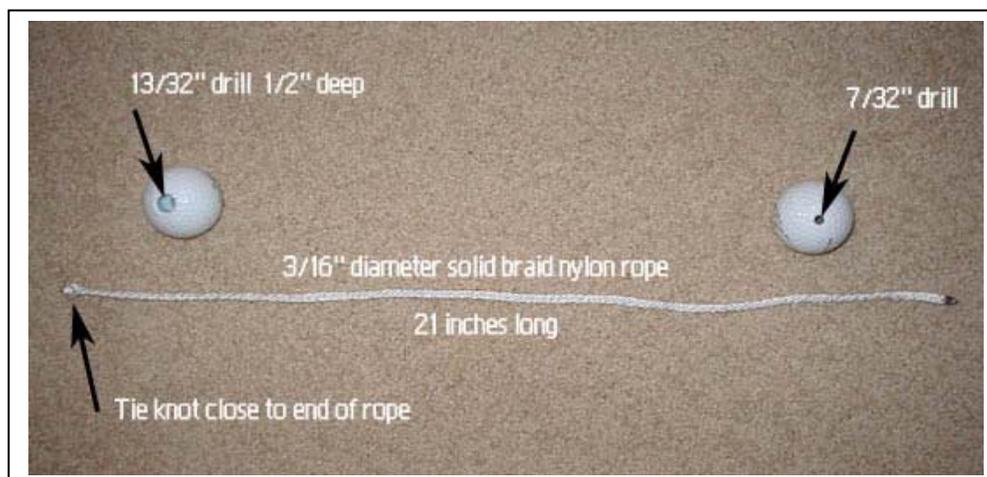


Photo Credit: http://showcase.netins.net/web/1rowellpage/Monkey_Bar_Golf.html

For tennis balls, you'll need to drill a 3/16" diameter hole through just one side of the ball, and then make a short, straight line cut with a razor knife. Place a knot at each end of the nylon cord in advance, apply glue, and let dry. Then press each knot into the hole in the tennis ball, and secure with another overhand knot external to the ball, or glue in place.

You'll need three bolos for each team. It is helpful to make each team's bolos a different color (or, if you only have a single color of golf balls, use different color nylon cording for each team).

Two optional pieces of equipment are the 'distance rope' and the scorecard. The distance rope is simply the same 3/16" cord used to create the golf ball bolos. You can standardize the distance between your two 'ladders' using the distance rope as a guide. Most players chose to place the ladders between 15 and 30 feet apart.

One of the easiest scorecards is a thin board, numbered 1 to 21, with two spring clothespins (the same color as each team's bolos). After each round, the clothespins are moved to the new score position.

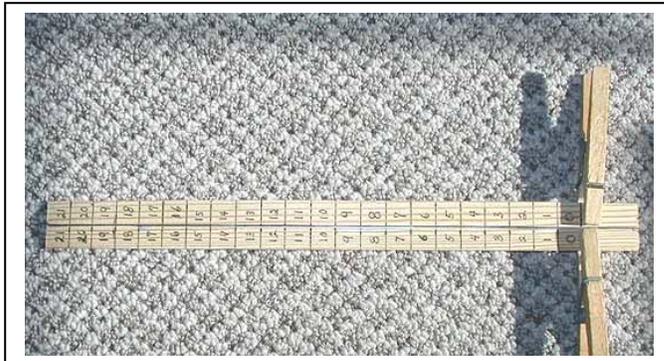


Photo Credit: http://showcase.netins.net/web/1rowellpage/Monkey_Bar_Golf.html

Rules

The basic goal of the game is to individually toss the bolos (underhanded only) towards the PVC ladder so that the cord and balls wrap around one of the horizontal ladder rungs. The PVC ladders are placed 15 to 30 feet apart, depending on the skill level of the players. The winner of the round earns the first toss in the next round.

Don't let the rules get in the way of having fun with your Horseshoe Golf play. The following rules and scoring techniques are the basics, but feel free to alter them for your participants.

Scoring

1 point for wrapping a bolo around the bottom rung. 2 points for the middle ladder rung. 3 point for the top ladder rung. If two different teams land on the same rung, they cancel each other out, so that neither team scores any points for this special case. This is true for the photo on the right below, for the middle rung. Only bolos left hanging at the end of each round count for scoring. Bolos knocked off during play do not score.



Photo Credit
www.pvcworkshop.com

Most rules say that bolos that bounce on the ground cannot score any points. But the bounce version is fun! The ultimate goal is to be the first team to score exactly 21 points.

Players can score an optional bonus of 1 point by hanging all 3 bolos from the same step or by hanging a bola on all 3 (1-2-3) steps in one round (see photo at left). The highest amount of points available per player is 10. This is accomplished by hanging all 3 bolos on the top (3 point) step.

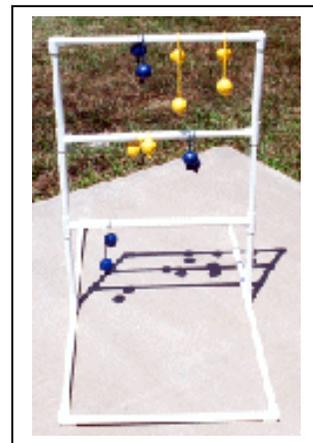


Photo Credit
www.thefuntimesguide.com

Here are a few Horseshoe Golf variations proposed by people on the World Wide Web:

I recently played horseshoe golf and LOVED it, but decided that it needed a bit of a creative twist, so I made my own ladder, but angled the vertical arms in at 30 degree angles so that the bars are narrower the higher you go up, so now we play, as my children named it "points pyramid." The top bar is about 12 inches long, the middle is 18 inches, and the bottom is the standard 24 inches. Edited posting by: Kelly D, April 17, 2006 www.thefuntimesguide.com/2005/10/bolotossladders.php

The idea of the distance rope was a last minute add-on, but we have found it to be very valuable. This is simply a 16' length of rope with a golf ball on each end. We use this when setting up the game, to make sure that the ladders are the right distance apart. Without the distance rope, we never set up the ladders the same distance apart, and the game was more difficult to play as a result.

We have named some of the more common throws (like the major leaguers name their pitches):

The Gymnast - The bolo spins around the bar a few times and then dismounts (Zero points)

The Home Run - The bolo clears everything including the neighbors' fence occasionally (Zero points)

The Bouncer - The bolo bounces up from the ground to the bottom rung (3 points)

The Boomerang - The bolo rope hits a rung cleanly causing the balls to bounce back to the thrower. The top rung provides the best spring, and the best return velocity (Points = Zero, comic value: priceless)

Crashing My Crib - An opponent's bolo(s) cancel(s) your point(s) by occupying your rung(s).

Edited posting by: Ken H | Sept 20, 2006 www.thefuntimesguide.com/2005/10/bolotossladders.php

Glossary of Terms

Bolos	Two golf balls attached together with a piece of nylon rope, spaced 18 inches apart.
Ladder	The PVC ladder is the structure containing three rungs, spaced 13 inches apart.
Rungs	Each ladder has 3 rungs. The top is worth 3 points, the middle 2, and the bottom 1 point.
Toss Line	The line where each player stands to toss the bolos. Minimum official distance is 15 feet (4.6 meters) or five paces. For advanced players, choose a longer distance.

Interesting Websites

Here are a few websites with additional information about Horseshoe Golf. Some websites contain videos of games in action, rules, building dimensions, on-line playing opportunities (no kidding) and even more great outdoor games.

www.thefuntimesguide.com/movabletype/archives/2005/10/bolotossladders.html	A good place to start.
www.geocities.com/campertime/games/ladderball.html	Rules and more.
www.teamdandy.com/projects/dandygolf/plans/	Building plans.
www.pvcworkshop.com/BoloBall.htm	Bolo ball plans.
www.members.shaw.ca/millersrus/games/horseballs.htm	Rules and plans.
www.showcase.netins.net/web/1rowellpage/Monkey_Bar_Golf.html	Rules and plans.
www.bvsolutions.ca/bolo.htm	Rules and plans.
www.daltonlp.com/scouts/	Building plans.

Also check out: www.LadderGolfGame.com, www.LadderGolf.com, www.TossingGames.com, and www.bolotoss.com

Places to obtain materials, equipment, or pre-made Horseshoe Golf sets.

PVC tubing, connectors and nylon cord can be found at most hardware stores.

You can purchase new golf balls at most discount stores or sporting goods shops.

Training Wheels - Denver, Colorado, USA ‘Horseshoe Golf’

Phone 1-888-553-0147 Fax 1-888-553-0146 www.training-wheels.com

Ladder Golf™ P.O. Box 478 El Cajon, CA 92022 USA Phone 1-877-652-3337 Fax 1-619-789-0434

(In Canada) BV Solutions, Bolo Game 106 Upper Viewmount Road Smithers, BC, Canada V0J 2N6
Phone 1-866-847-5401 E-Mail BOLO@bvsolutions.ca



www.horseballsgame.com

Photo Credits: www.horseballsgame.com



www.blongoball.com/shop/index.html

Photo Credits: www.blongoball.com



If you like building your own gear, visit the Teamwork & Teamplay website and check out our teambuilding equipment and books that show you how to create some outstanding teambuilding gear for your next group or event. www.teamworkandteamplay.com You can also find additional teambuilding ideas, equipment and resources, including Horseshoe Golf sets at www.training-wheels.com

If you enjoy Horseshoe Golf, try searching for other popular games that you can make yourself, including Cornhole (also called Baggio or Corn Toss).



Photo Credit: www.thefuntimesguide.com/2005/10/bolotossladders.php

Have a ball!