

How To Build The Perfect Potato Cannon

If you're looking to [make a t-shirt cannon, potato gun, or an air cannon](#) to launch promotional items, then this article will give you some awesome tips and tricks to help you get started in the right direction. With virtually no trial and error, you can [easily create a perfectly awesome air cannon, potato cannon or t-shirt cannon](#) using supplies from your local hardware store. These incredibly simple yet powerful air cannons can launch potatoes, golf balls, t-shirts, and other promotional items great distances. Some as far as a 100 yards or more on a single blast of air.

But First... A Word Of Caution

Although [making air cannons and potato guns](#) can be a lot of fun, it can also be dangerous. Always play it safe and make your safety and the safety of others a top priority. If your air cannon or potato cannon doesn't fire right away, never look down the barrel. You may take out an eye or even worse, possibly cause a fatality.

Second... What Type Of Air Cannon Should You Make?

When you make your first air cannon or potato gun, you're going to need to decide what type of things you are going to be launching. My air cannons use compressed air instead of a toxic fuels such as propane or an aerosol spray?

With most compressed air cannons, you simply just attach [your air cannon to a small air compressor](#) you can purchase from your any local hardware store or Home Depot store. Just hook it directly to your cannon or fill the cannons air chamber in between launches. If you're going to ignite a fuel, then you'll need an ignition system that will create a spark inside the ignition chamber to light the fuel. These are messy and not as consistent.

I recommend building a PVC compressed air cannon because they are much more powerful, they fire every time and don't make any mess.

Whichever method you decide to go with, you'll want to make sure your spud gun is air tight. This ensures enough pressure will build to propel the potato or golf ball or t-shirt out the barrel and project it hundreds of yards through the air.

Third... What Kind Of Materials Should You Use For Your Air Cannon?

ABS and PVC pipe are the most commonly used materials to make an air cannon. These are both relatively inexpensive and are generally easy to come by. Most building supply stores such as Home Depot or Lowe's should have everything you need in stock. A potato gun can usually be made for around \$35.

To begin with, I would recommend only using PVC Schedule 40 pipe. PVC is pressure rated and much safer to use. If you look, you'll see a PSI measurement of 300 PSI on each piece of pipe. Schedule 40 PVC pipe is rated at 300 PSI which is much more than you will ever need, so you will be completely safe. I only pressurize my air cannons to 80 PSI and they shoot well over 100 yards.

By using Schedule 40 PVC pipe, you won't need to worry about your cannon exploding or falling apart when launching your potatoes or golf balls .

What Type of Potato Matter Should You Use?

The types of potato you use in your air cannon is an important thing to consider if you want to create maximum distance and have really accurate shots. You will need firm, solid potatoes in order to make them fit snug in the barrel.

I file the edge of my barrel at a 45 degree angle so it makes a sharp edge. This way when you push the potato down the barrel, it conveniently slices off the excess and makes a perfect wedge that you can then stuff down the barrel with a broom stick.

When you push the potato down the barrel of your gun, make sure it's snug. By shaving the barrel as mentioned before, you will get a perfect fit every time and will insure maximum distance for your potato.

The same holds true for t-shirts and any other objects you want to fire from your air cannon. They should be folded to make a wedge that will fit snug when pushed down the barrel. If the your shirt fits too loose within the barrel, they won't create enough pressure and the air will just pass right by. Your shirt won't fly very far and you'll get poor distance on your shots. It will take some trial and error to get just the right fit.

With a little practice you can make a killer air cannon or potato cannon that will fire without perfectly for years to come. I still have the first one I built over 8 years ago and it still works perfect every time.

And Finally, it's time to [make your own air cannon](#): Visit [American Air Cannons.com](http://AmericanAirCannons.com) for downloadable plans, kits and parts. We also can pre build a cannon for you that will last for years.

If you really want to make an air cannon that lasts forever and will shoot hundreds of yards, then learn the my secrets behind creating the perfect air cannon, t-shirt cannon, golf ball cannon or potato cannon by visiting: www.AmericanAirCannons.com

Looking to find the [best deal on building an air cannon](#), then visit www.americanaircannons.com to find the [best deal on a t-shirt cannon](#) for you.