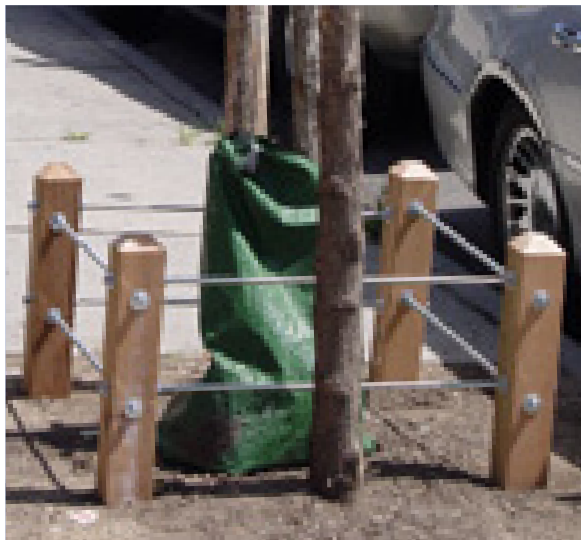


Recipe for a Low-Cost-Easy-To-Install Tree Guard

The advantages of this tree guard are:

- 🍃 It is sturdy and can last a long time (20+ years).
- 🍃 It protects the tree from dogs, bikes, and being hit by parking cars.
- 🍃 Except for the posts, it is made with parts that are easily available and replacable from a hardware store.
- 🍃 It's easy to transport and people with minimal skills can install it.

This guard is a particularly good solution for young trees or saplings.



2005



2025

Note: Even though the guard can be made larger with longer rods to match the larger tree pits, it works best in the 3' model because bikes cannot be lifted into it. So bikers tend to chain to outside of guard instead of the tree.

What's needed:

Access to a drill press

4 22-ish" long 4x4 cedar beams (This is actually a 3.5" width. They can cut the beam into pieces at the lumber yard.)

8 5/8" 3 foot long threaded rods

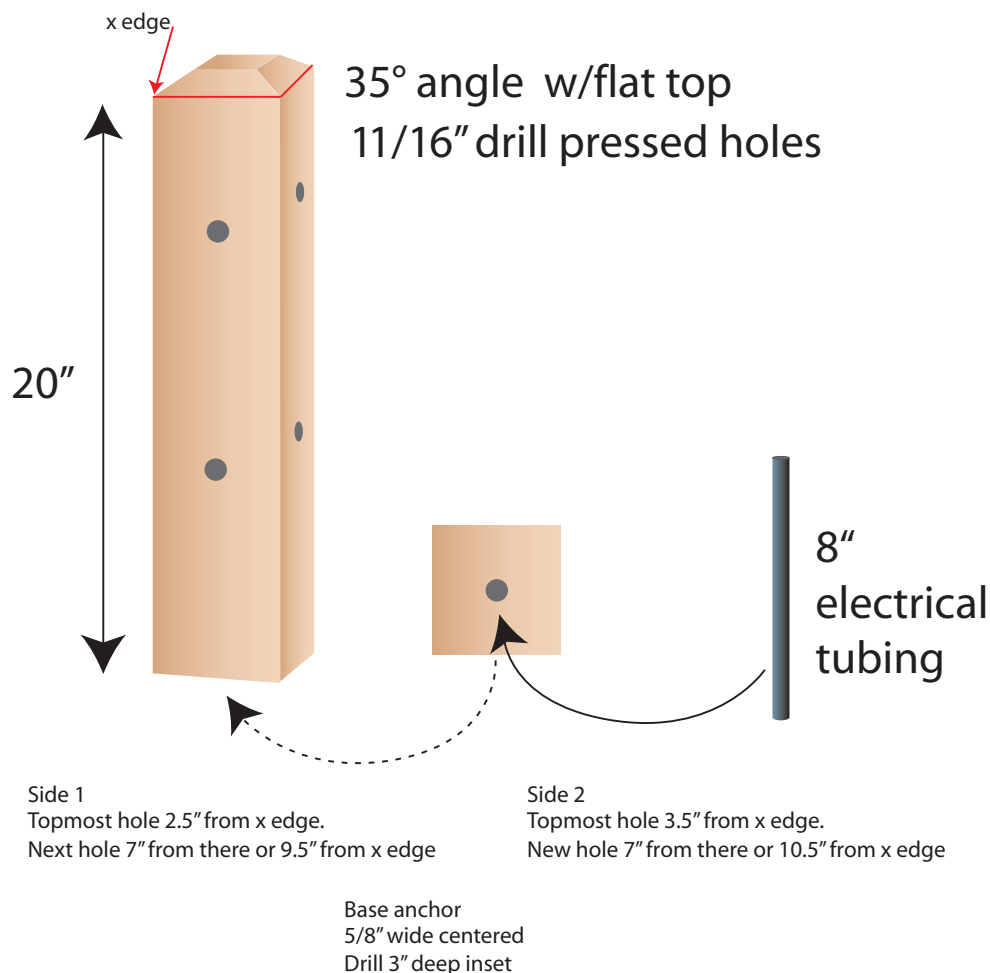
Electrical tubing (it is the cheapest and easiest to cut tubing material)

A pipe cutter to cut the tubing into 8" pieces

32 5/8" nuts and washers

The hardest part... The posts are made of cedar because it lasts and is water resistant without painted treatments. The holes for the threaded rods have to be made with a drill press.

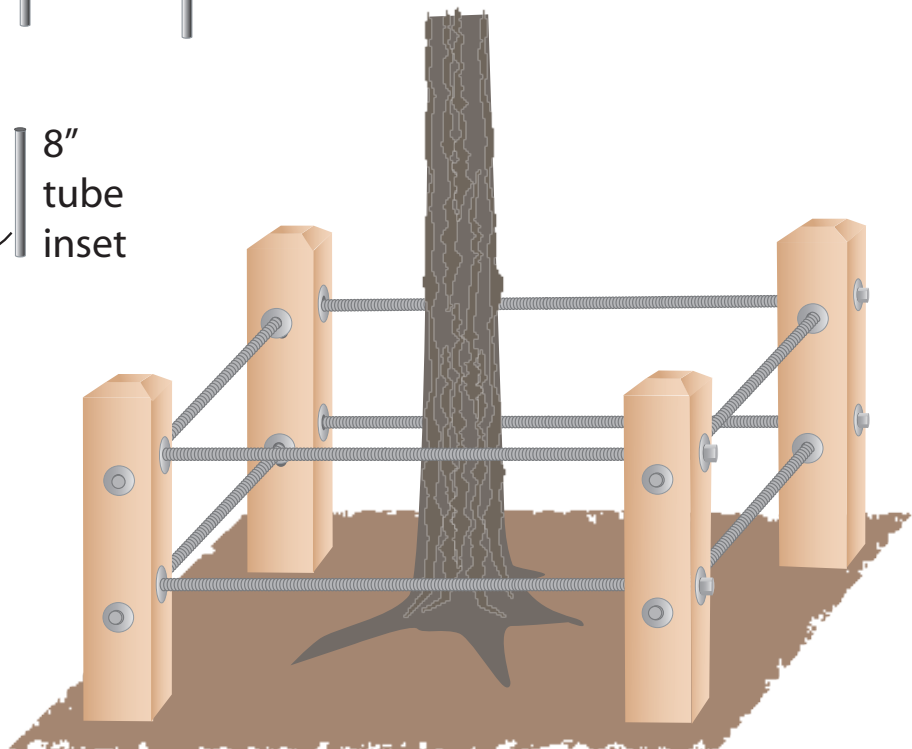
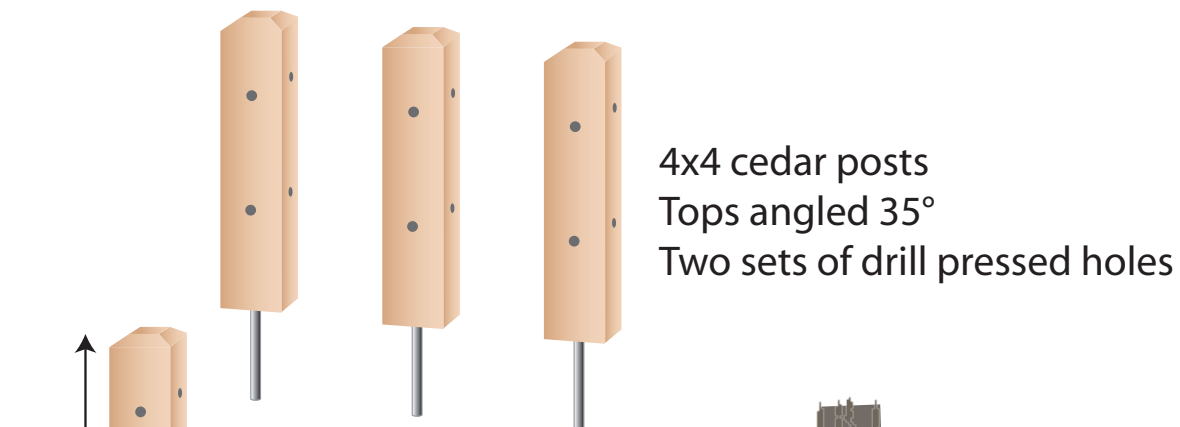
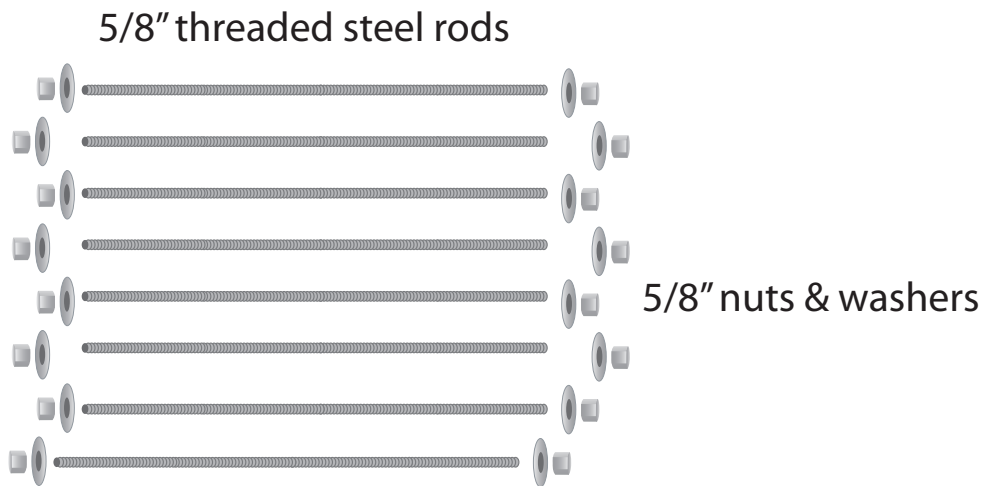
4 x 4 cedarwood beam

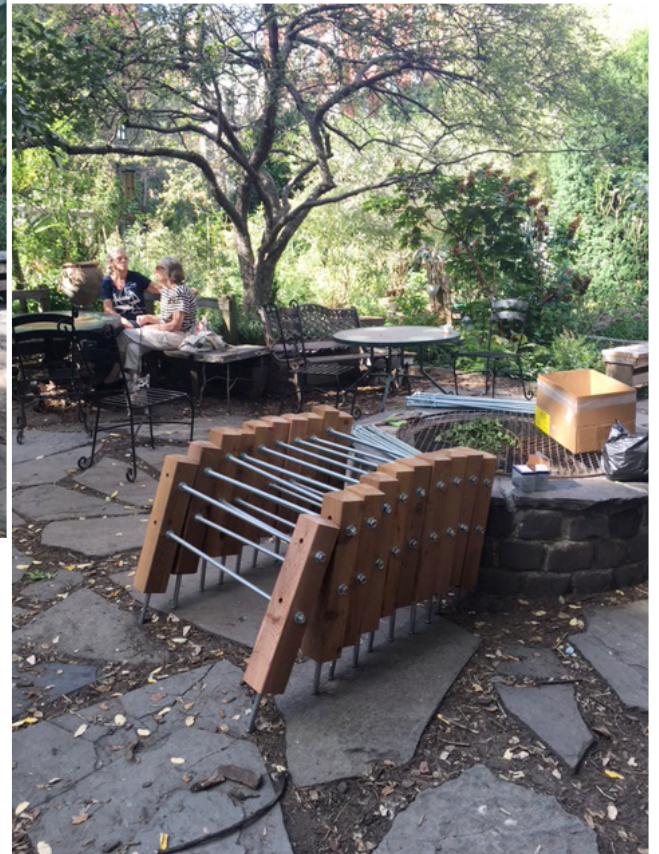


Full sized pdf template for the post is available here:



All the pieces...

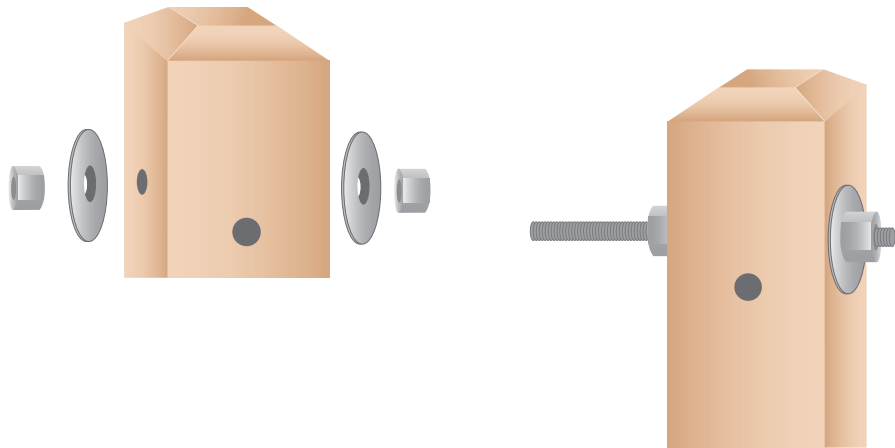




Putting It Together

Tools

Hammer
Small wrench
or
5/8" C wrench



Basically, this configuration has to happen
8 times.

Tips

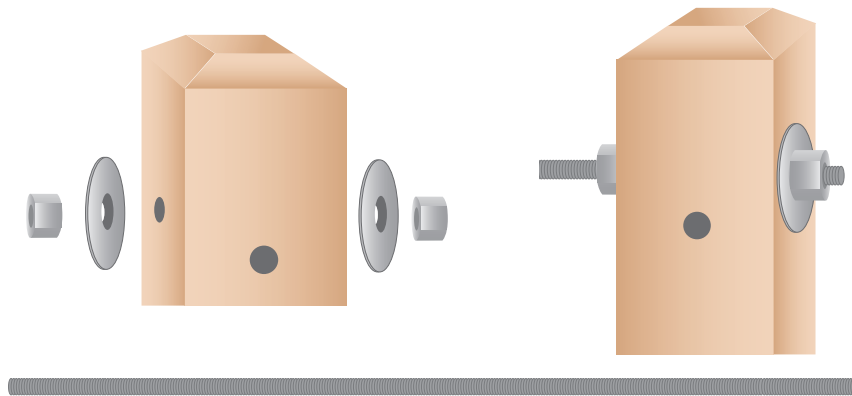
- It's best to put the nuts and bolts on the rods and assemble the sides of the guard before you hit the street.
- Remember to leave a side open so you can put it around the tree. This sounds silly but it's easy to forget.
- When threading rods through posts, make sure you are aligning top holes with top holes, and bottom holes with bottom holes.

IMPORTANT! When pushing the rod through the guard post **do not hammer the end of the threaded rod**. It will ruin the threads and prevent the nut from going on. Screwing a nut to the tip of the rod first will stop this from happening.

It's easiest to install this guard after it rains when soil is moist so you can push it into the ground easily.

Putting It Together (cont'd.)

Thread a nut, then washer onto rod and spool in about 4 inches. Thread rod through post. Thread washer and nut onto outer end or other side of post. Don't tighten, you will be adjusting the guard when it's around the tree.



Put 3 sets of threaded rods through 2 posts and 2 sets of rods through 2 posts as shown. Put outside nut as flush to the end of rod as possible. Adjust post and inside nuts/washers to the outside.



Turn both sides upside down and hammer the four 8" pipes into the bottom insets.

Installing it

Place three sided section around tree. Thread a nut first and then a washer (flat side out) onto the four detached rod ends. Push on 2 rod section. Add washers and nuts to finish (keep nuts flush with ends of rods). Adjust nuts and washers to either side of all 4 posts. Push guard into the ground. It is best to do this with someone else so you can push two opposite sides at once. Make sure outside bolts are flush with the rod edges and posts. Tighten all bolts.



Congratulations! You're Done!

If a parking car backs into your guard it is designed to come up out of the ground and move with the impact. But sometimes the rods get bent. They can be easily replaced by a trip to the hardware store.