

DIY 240g TAMA

I absolutely LOVE my traditional wood tama! However, I have been asked, as happens to many crafty wives, to work on some Kumihimo projects for my husband that require heavier equipment and we just don't have the budget for the necessary 16 heavy tama. Here is how you too can create 16, 240g tama for around \$45 in supply costs!

Supplies

1. **PVC Pipe**, Schedule 40, ¾ inch, 5 foot length (~\$2.00)
2. **PVC slip on cap**, ¾ inch, 32 (~9.00) Buy these in "project" or "contractor" packs of 10 if available at your store, 3 packs of 10 and 2 individual caps.
3. **PVC Cement** (~\$5.00) Check with neighbors for leftover as you only need to use a little.
4. **Lead shot**, #7.5, 10lbs. (\$30.00) <http://www.rotometals.com/product-p/copperplateshot.htm> If you have ammunition reloading stores in your area check with them first for reclaimed lead shot. You may find it cheaper!

Tools

I don't include these costs in the \$45 figure as they are not consumable and you will use them again and again.

1. **PVC cutter**. There are countless tools and ways to cut PVC pipe, I've even seen it done using a piece of thick string! This is another area where a neighbor may come in handy if you don't have at minimum a simple hand saw in your garage. If you want to get a hand tool specific for cutting PVC pipe they run about \$12.
2. **Scale to measure grams**. You want a fairly precise scale and any decent digital kitchen scale you find at Walmart, Target, etc. will do and will run between \$10 and \$20.

Instructions

1. Cut 16 three inch section of PVC pipe.
2. Coat the inside of one cap with a very thin bit of PVC cement and slide it on to the end of one section of tube. Repeat for all sections of 3" PVC. Let your pipe sections with only one end cap sit for the minimum set time according to your brand of cement.
3. Place a small cup on your scale that your section of pipe can sit upright inside on your scale. Tare your scale. Place one of your sections of tube and a second end cap on the scale. Fill the cup with lead shot until your scale reads 240g.
4. Using a funnel (if you don't have one just roll a piece of paper in to a cone shape) pour the lead shot in to the section of capped PVC. Place this in the cup on the scale again to double check weight.
5. Apply a very small amount of PVC cement to the loose end cap on the scale and slide it snugly on the lead shot filled section of pipe. Set this aside to cure for the recommended amount of time per your glue's instructions.
6. Repeat with remaining sections of PVC pipe!

