

Creative Cache Hider Tips, Ideas and Suggestions from Pere Rabbit

TIPS AND TRICKS

- * I have taken WVTim's advice and place my gadget caches on the edges of business properties, with their permission of course. In my area the place chosen needs to be considered with how the winter snow removal / clearing will be piled up around the location so as to avoid damage to the cache.
- * Open public spots are better at deterring vandalism since the person is exposed. If the cache is hidden in the trees, an impatient cacher can vent his frustrations while being hidden from view.
- * Paint all the wood surfaces, even the edges being glued to seal them up from water.
- * Make them fun for children.
- * Be inspired by other people's gadget caches you have seen. While playing with that cache you are inspired by, look for its weaknesses in regards to how it is holding up to weather and people. Then work a better option into your cache.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PAINT GLUE ETC.

- * I try to think how everyday stuff could be a geocache. While the wife is shopping for her stuff, I tour the hardware isles for mechanical ideas.
- * If your area climate has dry air so that solid lumber dries out and shrinks with cracks, then plywood will work better. If you can, edge the plywood with solid wood to seal it up better. Hardwood boards are more durable than softwood for holding together. Like in the screws on hinges.
- * Paint everything - all sides first, then assemble. Exterior latex paints work fine. I look for my paints at the local recycle depots. It has a paint drop off and exchange program. Varnish over the paint afterward. Spar varnish is more flexible. As wood weathers, the varnish does not crack as much. It is more flexible than most other varnishes. Made for sailboats.
- * If you really want that hollowed out log to last, use a wood stabilizer. It replaces the moisture in the wood with a polymer. Then varnish it up. I made a puzzle cut log that slid apart then pulled apart then slid apart again to reveal the log sheet. Lasted 3 years outdoors hidden in the leaf litter. Was destroyed just lately as the business was razed for a new development and we did not know.
- * Urethane glues are best on the wood builds for outdoors. Goop type glues are solvent type based and bond better to plastic containers. It is also more flexible like the plastic containers.
- * Fancy gadget caches I have made: I make a cardboard mock up first to get the details figured out. I just use boxes, razor knife and hot glue.
- * Cruise YouTube and the rest. Pick up ideas and work them into your creation.

FAVORITE GADGET CACHE

* I have made a vertical standing marble labyrinth where you need to navigate to a particular hole to unlock the cache box. It resets itself, non magnetic so no cheating, no access to the game pieces by the geocacher, so no parts to loose. It's Saskatchewan's number one favorited cache at this time. Built it for the organizers to have as a feature cache for the 2017 Mega. Cache code is GC78ZAB.

* My favorite gadget cache are those I have yet to build. It's the building of them that I enjoy. A donkey kong magnetic game, (that I saw from Berx.cz YouTube). A steam shovel where you need to scoop the marbles and load up a basket to get the weight to tip it and release the latch. My idea from an antique metal toy. A fishing game where the fish is also the log sheet. Based this off a TV advert for a child's fishing toy game. After a bit of thought, my baby is The Early Worm Get The Bird: GC6TQE3

TUTORIAL FOR A CAMO CONTAINER

* An awesome quick camo container is to find some old "silk" fake plants. Take them apart. Use a GOOP glue with an outdoor UV resistance, (such as the goop marine) for better longevity. Glue the leaves and disassembled flower petals onto a lock and lock container that you sanded rough first. Cover it like you're crazy. Glue it up in stages. If you don't like the color of some of the plant material, you can paint them with acrylic paint before gluing.

* Take a real rated water proof wood glue like TITEBOND III and make a sludge of saw dust, chips and a small dollop of acrylic paint then smear that onto the container. Let it dry for about a week to make sure the inner areas of the wood chip pile are dry. Once dry, try to pry it off the container lid. If it does, the wood motif will still be a whole shape. This can be more securely glued down with GOOP.