

# Folding Flag

One of HSE recommendation is that divers can be seen better whilst on the surface if they they are holding a flag. To buy such a flag the costs can be anything between £20 & £25. I'll show you a way to make the same item for less than £10

## Parts Required

2mtr x 20mm length of white electrical conduit  
2 x 20mm straight couplings  
Airfix modelling Glue  
2mtrs of elastic bungee  
2 x plastic ball / end cap  
Orange Nylon material (to make flag)

## Tools Required

Junior Hacksaw  
Tape Measure  
Knife  
Somebody who can sew



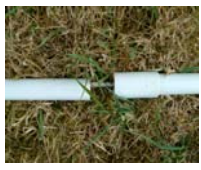
Measure the height of you cylinder from its base to the bottom of the neck. (this will form the height of your flagpole)

Cut 3 lengths of the conduit to size and deburr.



Fix (glue) 2 of the couplings to 2 pieces of conduit and allow to dry

Thread the elastic bungee through the conduit ensuring that that the order is male - female - male - female. This allows the poles to be assembled as a flagpole.



Tie one end through the plastic ball / end cap and pull the elastic reasonably tight before tying off at the other end. What you should have is something that looks like a blind mans stick, 3 pieces of folded conduit which when released will snap together and form our flagpole.

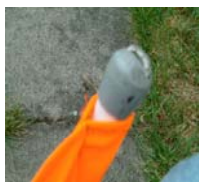
Another useful idea is to use some of the left over bungee to makes a loop handle. This will not only make it easier to deploy your flag from the cylinder but will also prevent you losing it.



The flag, this can be made from any Hi Vis material such as Hi Vis waist coats or from a IKEA draw string bag (£2.00) all you need to do is measure for the flag size and cut out the material, fold over the edges and sew. Mine was secured to the pole by sewing one end to allow it to sit over the pole.



To secure your folding flag to the cylinder you will require 2 bungee bands, these can either be bought from B&Q or made out of spare bungee elastic. Slip these bands over your cylinder and stow your flag. The idea is that you should be able to reach behind grab hold of the elastic handle pull out the flag and watch the 3 pieces assemble themselves into a flag with no further action required, hence not only is your head above water but 5ft of flag for the boat captain to see you.



Most of the parts purchased came from B&Q warehouse, the old HI Vis vest came from work (see me I have loads spare) or you can purchase any Ikea bag for £2 which will make 2 flags. Conduit was around £1 for 2mtrs, the coupling around a £1, the elastic £1, Glue 50 Pence, end caps from Wilko's a £1.



With costs this cheap, all members should be carrying one of these whilst diving in the sea. At £5 there no excuses, IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE.