

Tippy Tap II

Field experience was gained in Africa over a two month period teaching “How to make a Tippy Tap.” This experience has led to the following suggestions. These suggestions are based on several classes that involved participants ranging from teens to adults in several countries in East Africa. In the course of this training more than thirty Tippy Tap II’s were successfully made by the participants.

First, the Tippy Tap as described in “The Tippy Tap” by Elena Hurtado, Footsteps No. 30 March 1997 is unnecessarily difficult to make. It is problematic to properly melt and pinch the base of the jug handle to seal it. An individual can with concerted effort and practice achieve this step. However, from a practical point of view few individuals will have the perseverance to properly melt, pinch and get an effective seal. Attempts to do this result in frustration for the individual, holes melted in jugs, improper seals, and consequently wasted materials.

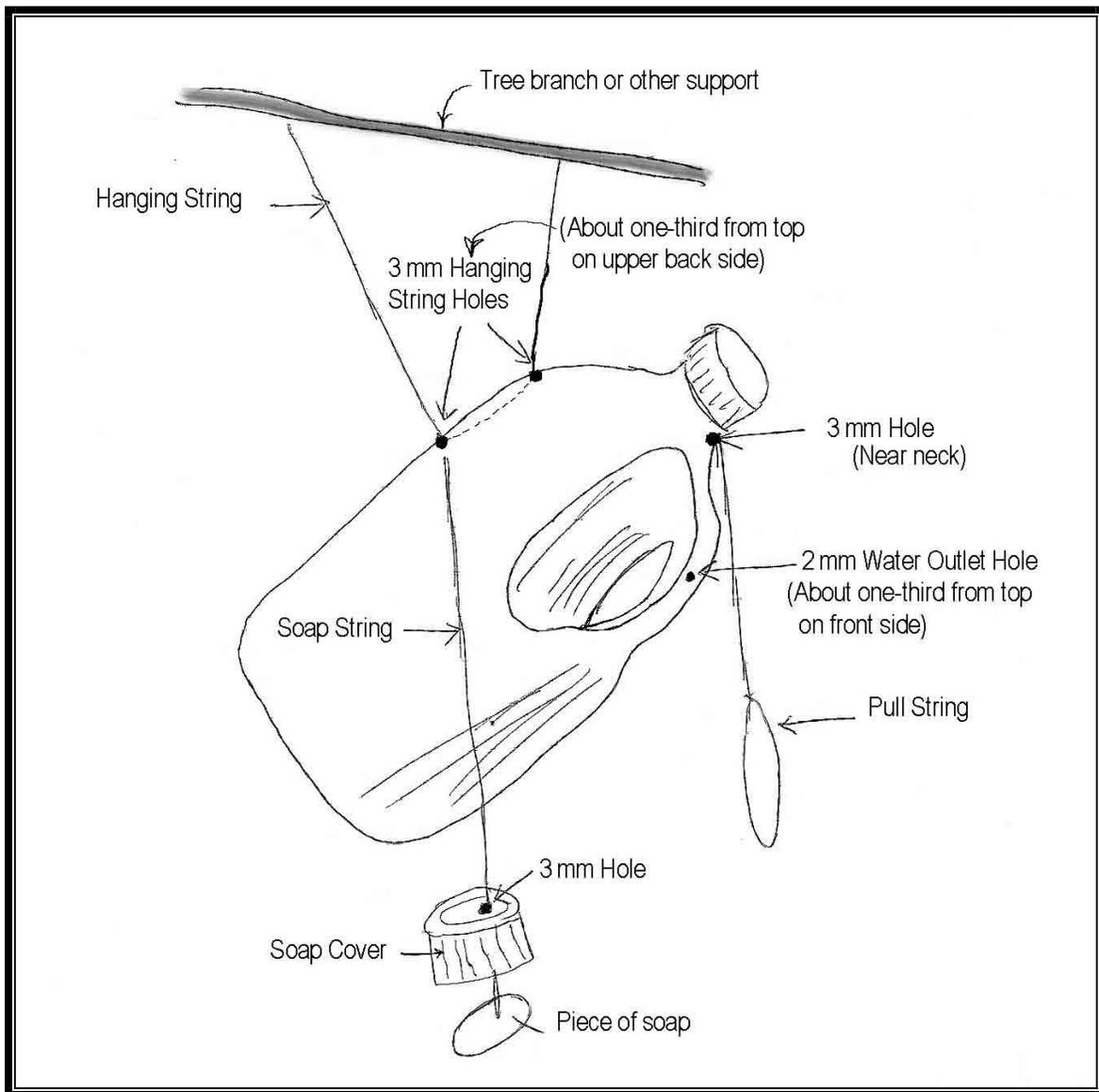
Second, the Tippy Tap II modification shown in the following material results in a device that is equally or even more functional than the original “Tippy Tap” design. The Tippy Tap II design provides water when the user pulls on the pull string. When the string is released the flow stops. Thus, the user has complete control over how much water is used to wet and rinse their hands. In the original Tippy Tap design after releasing the pull string, water would continue to flow until the pinched jug handle was empty. The amount of water dispensed from the original Tippy Tap depended on the size of the jug handle, the placement of the water outlet hole and whether the handle is on the side or the top of the jug. Water is often wasted because it continues to flow after the pull string is released. It should be noted that many jugs available in the field (East Africa – Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda) are actually used “cooking oil” jugs with rather thick handles that are on the top of the jug, not on the side.

Third, it was found that the pull string would at times pull off from around the container neck when the string was used to tip the container, or when the cap was removed for re-filling. By melting a hole near the neck and fastening the end of the string inside the neck with a large knot the pull string is always secure.

Tippy Tap II

The Tippy Tap* is a simple practical device that allows people to easily wash their hands using only a limited amount of water. It is inexpensive and can be made using even discarded materials and using only simple tools.

The Tippy Tap II** is a modified design that is easier to make and easy to use. The Tippy Tap II can be made from any container of about one to four litres capacity. A jug with a handle works best, but a Tippy Tap II can be made from any plastic container, even a two-litre bottle!



* "The Tippy Tap" by Elena Hurtado, Footsteps, No. 30 March 1997

** "The Tippy Tap II" modified by Lifewater International Volunteer Trainer Art Pabst

Materials:

- Medium size clean jug or other one to four litre container, with cap
- Small plastic water bottle (one-half to one litre) or equivalent
- String (nylon, plastic, cotton, or twine)
- Piece of soap

Tools:

- 2 Nails - to melt holes in container and soap cover
 - o 3 mm diameter (for melting string holes)
 - o 2 mm diameter (for melting water outlet hole)
- Candle (and matches) to heat nails
- Pliers to hold nail (or small cloth to protect fingers from hot nail)
- Small wire used to help pull string through holes in the container
- Scrap piece of wood to hold candle and to cut on
- Knife to cut top off the small plastic water bottle
- Pen or pencil to mark holes on container

Instructions for making the Tippy Tap II:

1. Use pen to mark holes on container (see diagram for location):
 - a. Two holes 3mm in diameter at upper back of container for hanging it up
 - b. One hole 3mm in diameter near container neck for pull string
 - c. One hole 2mm in diameter for water outlet
2. Over the wood block, cut the top off of the small plastic bottle and use the bottom as a soap cover. Mark one hole 3 mm in diameter in the center of the bottom for the soap string
3. Light candle and drip wax on scrap board and stand the candle in dripped wax.
4. Heat 3mm diameter nail over candle, holding with pliers or cloth and melt 3mm holes in container and soap cover
5. Heat 2mm diameter nail and melt 2mm water outlet hole in container
6. Cut 3 pieces of string (if nylon or plastic, melt string over candle)
 - a. One piece - about one and one-half meters long (hanging string)
 - b. Two pieces - each about one-half meter long (pull string & soap string)
7. Put the longer hanging string through the two holes in upper back of the container, using the small wire if necessary. Knot string at each side of container to keep string from sliding out.
8. Put pull string through hole near neck. Tie a large knot on the end of the string inside the container. Tie a loop in the other end of the pull string.
9. Put a hole in the piece of soap using the 3mm nail. Tie string to soap. Put other end through soap cover and tie to nearby support or to one side of the Tippy Tap hanging string.
10. Hang Tippy Tap from tree branch, roof or other support.
11. Fill Tippy Tap one-half full with water, replace cap and test!

How to use the Tippy Tap:

1. Use the pull string to tip container and wet hands.
2. Use the soap and wash hands well.
3. Use the pull string to tip container and rinse hands.
4. Let hands air dry or dry with a clean cloth.