

Replacing the Improved Polyethylene Traction Tread in the Troyer Horizontal Gourd Tunnel Entrance

Updated 11/16

There have been many traction tread options over the years. It doesn't matter which tread you are currently using, begin by removing the old tread.

Step 1) Use a wire cutter to cut the protruding prongs found on the underside of the gourd, off (see photo 1). Using a flat headed screw driver push the pin into the hole where it will be found inside your gourd (see photo 2). Remove the old traction tread and if need be, wipe the gourd out. Please note that you are NOT removing the tunnel entrance from the gourd, you have however, removed the one pin that is found in the bottom of the tunnel, that was holding the tread in place.

Step 2) Lay the Traction tread along the underside of the gourd. You want the end with the single round hole towards the tunnel. Notice how the hole in the traction tread aligns with the hole in the tunnel. You will also mark this hole for drilling. Using a marker, make a mark onto the gourd where the oval shape hole in the tread is (see photo 3).

Step 3) Using a 1/4" drill bit, drill the hole where you made your mark (see photo 4).

Step 4) Inserting the tread into the gourd. If the push-in pin is not in place insert it into the hole of the traction tread. You will take the tread with the round hole and push-in pin towards the front of the gourd. The very edge of the traction tread slips up and under the step-up in the tunnel (see photo 5). Now simply push the pin into the hole of the tunnel. The pin is going thru the tread the tunnel and the gourd. Push till the head of the pin is lying flat against the tread (see 5A) and the prong is visible on the bottom outside (see photo 6)

Step 5) You will now insert the lower tread push-in pin, found at the oval hole (see photo 7). The oval hole allows you some wiggle room in alignment. Line up the pin and hole, push the pin in. Make sure the prong protrudes thru the bottom of the gourd (same as photo 6) and that the head of the push-in pin is lying flat against the tread.

Place in 2 large handfuls of nesting material such as pine needles, into the gourd then twist your gourd cap on, and hang the gourd. You are now ready to host your Purple Martins for another season.

