

Purple Martin Decoy

Thank you for purchasing this product from the Purple Martin Conservation Association. Your purchase helps support the education, conservation and research projects of the PMCA. We're glad to have you as a partner in martin conservation, and hope this product will give you many seasons of use!



Before you begin:

Read all instructions thoroughly to familiarize yourself with the application that you intend to use!

Using a Phillips head screwdriver, unscrew the screw that holds both ends of the plastic cable clamp to the decoy; the screw was attached to the decoy in this way for shipping purposes. Reattach the screw by threading it through the flat side of the clamp (through just one hole); the rounded end of the cable clamp should be positioned towards the head of the decoy. The decoy is now ready to be mounted in a variety of positions.

Mounting Instructions:

To attach the decoy to gourds:

- For the *clinging* pose, slide the black plastic cable clamp over the lower lip of the entrance hole.
- For the *perching* pose, slide the decoy (tail first) into the entrance hole until the screw just clears the entrance hole. Leave the front end of the clip outside of the entrance hole to brace the decoy.
- If attaching to gourds with starling resistant entrances (SREH), use the clinging pose (tail outside the gourd); if a porch is being used, simply attach clip to edge of porch by securing the clip over the edge of the porch (bird facing out).



To attach the decoy to metal houses:

Slide the free end of the clamp over the guardrail or place in the entrance hole, facing the decoy outward in a perching pose. The decoy may also be placed clinging to owl guards of Trio houses.

To attach the decoy to 3/8" perching rods:

- Remove the screw from the decoy to completely free it and the cable clamp.
- Wrap 2-3" of black electrical tape around the perch at the spot intended for mounting the decoy. Tape makes the perch rod slightly thicker at this spot and allows the cable clamp



to grip the rod surface, preventing slipping of the decoy.

- Slide the cable clamp over the perch rod at this taped spot.
- Put screw through both holes of the clamp and into the hole of the decoy's underside. The flat side of the clamp should be against the belly of the decoy.

Please note: Decoys don't work well attached to wooden T14 houses; for that application, attach the decoy to the top perch of the house.



Tips for attracting Purple Martins:

- Play martin vocalization tapes: this makes it sound like genuine colony-site activity.
- Move decoys around occasionally: this helps it look as if the decoys are real. Don't block any cavities that the martins have begun to show a preference for.
- Spread mud at the entrance holes of the compartments to simulate nest-building.
- In a simultaneous effort to simulate nest-building, start out the new season with fresh nesting material in each compartment.
- Consider putting a few small mirrors in a couple of the compartment so that when the martin pokes its head in, it will think the compartment is occupied and therefore part of an active colony.



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