

# Balloon Drop Instructions

Hosted by: Stuffed Balloons from A to Z with

Marlene Potts

With Special Guest Chris Potts!



## Supplies Needed:

- Easy Gardener Deer Block; Protective Mesh Covering to use as the netting for the drop

[https://www.acehardware.com/departments/lawn-and-garden/gardeni ng/foilage-protection/75999?store=05359&gclid=Cj0KCQiAk4aOBhCTARIsAFWFP9G2Seucfl3PU3vn4U7ueGeC-1r1nxtDNpUHpM0Q68CEtYKvBxR9NU8aAoJWEALw\\_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.acehardware.com/departments/lawn-and-garden/gardeni ng/foilage-protection/75999?store=05359&gclid=Cj0KCQiAk4aOBhCTARIsAFWFP9G2Seucfl3PU3vn4U7ueGeC-1r1nxtDNpUHpM0Q68CEtYKvBxR9NU8aAoJWEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds)

- Zebco Omniflex 50 Lb. monofilament for pull line

[https://www.walmart.com/ip/Zebco-Omniflex-Line/16652606?wmlspartner=wlp&selectedSellerId=0&wl13=2586&adid=222222227716652606\\_117755028669\\_12420145346&wmlspartner=wmtlabs&wl0=&wl1=g&wl2=c&wl3=501107745824&wl4=pla-293946777986&wl5=9051720&wl6=&wl7=&wl8=&wl9=pla&wl10=8175035&wl11=local&wl12=16652606&wl13=2586&veh=sem\\_LIA&gclid=Cj0KCQiAk4aOBhCTARIsAFWFP9HI7L9mFTgdq0tnoe3yYSLCuPvmDhFAHMy2PsQIWYalMxgNatzISNUaAhssEALw\\_wcB&gclsrc=aw.d](https://www.walmart.com/ip/Zebco-Omniflex-Line/16652606?wmlspartner=wlp&selectedSellerId=0&wl13=2586&adid=222222227716652606_117755028669_12420145346&wmlspartner=wmtlabs&wl0=&wl1=g&wl2=c&wl3=501107745824&wl4=pla-293946777986&wl5=9051720&wl6=&wl7=&wl8=&wl9=pla&wl10=8175035&wl11=local&wl12=16652606&wl13=2586&veh=sem_LIA&gclid=Cj0KCQiAk4aOBhCTARIsAFWFP9HI7L9mFTgdq0tnoe3yYSLCuPvmDhFAHMy2PsQIWYalMxgNatzISNUaAhssEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.d)

- 20+ Huasu International 4” Black Cable Ties. 18 lbs Tensile Strength

<https://www.amazon.com/Superun-selflocking-cable-Industrial-grade/dp/B07P6JDW9L>

- Everbilt 50lb Diamond-Braid Poly Cord for the “Spine.”  
<https://www.homedepot.com/p/Everbilt-5-32-in-x-75-ft-Neon-Colors-Polypropylene-Diamond-Braid-Rope-with-Winder-72846/206094313>
- Balloons - A professional brand such as Qualatex, Sempertex, etc is preferred because they last longer. For our drops we use 9” balloons inflated to 9”. But any balloon you can find that is 9” or larger should do the trick!
- Hi-Shine or Armor All Protectant Wipes  
[https://www.amazon.com/Hi-Float-Balloon-Shining-Bottle-43156/dp/B09K4KL15P/ref=sr\\_1\\_6?crid=3OUJ6A9Q09LMT&keywords=Hi-Shine&qid=1640120887&srefix=hi-shine%2Caps%2C291&sr=8-6](https://www.amazon.com/Hi-Float-Balloon-Shining-Bottle-43156/dp/B09K4KL15P/ref=sr_1_6?crid=3OUJ6A9Q09LMT&keywords=Hi-Shine&qid=1640120887&srefix=hi-shine%2Caps%2C291&sr=8-6)  
[https://www.amazon.com/s?k=armor+all+protectant+wipes&crid=QJ84YJ9AW1PQ&srefix=Armour+All+Protectant+%2Caps%2C105&ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_sc\\_1\\_21](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=armor+all+protectant+wipes&crid=QJ84YJ9AW1PQ&srefix=Armour+All+Protectant+%2Caps%2C105&ref=nb_sb_ss_sc_1_21)

### **Inflating Supplies:**

- ( 2 ) Bases with ( 2 ) 6 ft poles or ( 2 ) chairs.
- ( 4 ) Advantage Rubber bands and ( 4 ) Binder Clips to temporarily tie the net to poles or chairs.  
[https://www.amazon.com/Alliance-Advantage-Rubber-Approximately-26645/dp/B00006IBRW/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?crid=342IP1JL4GL3X&keywords=Advantage+Rubber+Bands%3B+Size%3A+64%2C+3+%C2%BD%E2%80%9D+x+%C2%BC%E2%80%9D&qid=1640120122&srefix=a](https://www.amazon.com/Alliance-Advantage-Rubber-Approximately-26645/dp/B00006IBRW/ref=sr_1_2?crid=342IP1JL4GL3X&keywords=Advantage+Rubber+Bands%3B+Size%3A+64%2C+3+%C2%BD%E2%80%9D+x+%C2%BC%E2%80%9D&qid=1640120122&srefix=a)

[dvantage+rubber+bands+size+64%2C+3+x+%2Caps%2C117&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Upgrade-Extra-Large-Binder-Office/dp/B088SXHMXD/ref=sr_1_7?crid=3HQY35THNTX06&keywords=Binder+Clips+jumbo&qid=1640127330&srefix=binder+clips+jumbo%2Caps%2C158&sr=8-7)  
[https://www.amazon.com/Upgrade-Extra-Large-Binder-Office/dp/B088SXHMXD/ref=sr\\_1\\_7?crid=3HQY35THNTX06&keywords=Binder+Clips+jumbo&qid=1640127330&srefix=binder+clips+jumbo%2Caps%2C158&sr=8-7](https://www.amazon.com/Upgrade-Extra-Large-Binder-Office/dp/B088SXHMXD/ref=sr_1_7?crid=3HQY35THNTX06&keywords=Binder+Clips+jumbo&qid=1640127330&srefix=binder+clips+jumbo%2Caps%2C158&sr=8-7)

- **Cool Air** Inflator - We use “Conwin’s Air Force Four Inflator” in our shop. A hand pump *could* work but, the idea with cash and carry balloon drops is to sell a large quantity of them. So, using a hand pump to inflate all of those balloons would be quite the workout! A less expensive air inflator would also work as long as it is cool air. If you were to use something like a vacuum the air inside the balloons would be warmer than the room temp. Once the air inside the balloons that you had just inflated to 9” cooled down to room temp, your balloon would deflate to a smaller size.

<https://www.balloonsandweights.com/products/conwin-air-force-4-inflator-quickly-inflate-4-balloons-with-air>

- Measuring Tape/ Ruler or balloon sizer for sizing your balloons to 9 inches.

[https://www.amazon.com/Cyauatt-Adjustable-Measurement-Creating-Decorations/dp/B099ZML2TY/ref=sr\\_1\\_9?crid=23Q8O3BECGUPR&](https://www.amazon.com/Cyauatt-Adjustable-Measurement-Creating-Decorations/dp/B099ZML2TY/ref=sr_1_9?crid=23Q8O3BECGUPR&)

[keywords=balloon+sizer&qid=1640119593&srefix=balloon+sizer%2Caps%2C443&sr=8-9](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=balloon+sizer&qid=1640119593&srefix=balloon+sizer%2Caps%2C443&sr=8-9)

- Borosino B604 Neck Cutter (Scissors will also work but are less time effective.)

<https://www.borosino.com/brproductDetail/id/72.html>

### **Rigging Supplies:**

- Small pieces of cardboard - Any Cardboard box you have laying around cut to roughly 3" x 3" will do the trick!

- Advantage Rubber Bands; Size: 64, 3 ½" x ¼"

[https://www.amazon.com/Alliance-Advantage-Rubber-Approximately-26645/dp/B00006IBRW/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?crd=342IP1JL4GL3X&keywords=Advantage+Rubber+Bands%3B+Size%3A+64%2C+3+%C2%BD%E2%80%9D+x+%C2%BC%E2%80%9D&qid=1640120122&srefix=advantage+rubber+bands+size+64%2C+3+x+%2Caps%2C117&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Alliance-Advantage-Rubber-Approximately-26645/dp/B00006IBRW/ref=sr_1_2?crd=342IP1JL4GL3X&keywords=Advantage+Rubber+Bands%3B+Size%3A+64%2C+3+%C2%BD%E2%80%9D+x+%C2%BC%E2%80%9D&qid=1640120122&srefix=advantage+rubber+bands+size+64%2C+3+x+%2Caps%2C117&sr=8-2)

- Drop Ceiling Grid Clips with 3/16" Diameter Hole, Snap on Ceiling Hangers - Only if you are rigging to drop ceiling

[https://www.amazon.com/Ceiling-Hangers-Metal-Double-Hooks/dp/B07SSCQ3J8/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?crd=102KR3CNOVDXW&keywords=plastic+drop+ceiling+grid+clips+3%2F16%22&qid=1640121869&srefix=plastic+drop+ceiling+grid+clips+3%2F16+%2Caps%2C88&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Ceiling-Hangers-Metal-Double-Hooks/dp/B07SSCQ3J8/ref=sr_1_2?crd=102KR3CNOVDXW&keywords=plastic+drop+ceiling+grid+clips+3%2F16%22&qid=1640121869&srefix=plastic+drop+ceiling+grid+clips+3%2F16+%2Caps%2C88&sr=8-2)



# The Process

## Step One “Cutting the Net.”:

- First, cut your net to the appropriate size. *\*\* (Deer netting is sold at local hardware stores for around \$20.00 for a 100 ft. X 7 ft. net or 45 ft. X 14 ft. net.)\*\**
  - A 7 ft. wide net is approx. 2 1/2 ft. when folded over and filled with balloons. For nets under 15 ft. approx. Each linear foot can fit approx. ( 8 ) balloons, sized to 9 inches.
  - For nets longer than 15ft in length each linear foot can fit approx. ( 10 ) balloons sized to 9 inches.
  - For example, a 6 ft. long X 7ft. wide net you would need approx. 48 balloons to fill the net. A net that is 30 ft. long X 7 ft. wide would need approx. 300 balloons to fill it.
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- You may want to add an extra foot or two to the length of your net to make up for any over-sizing of the balloons or to give the appearance of a better value. But, never over pack! A net that is overfilled looks “odd” and will absolutely be harder to open
- When Cutting the net it is important to cut the net “within the same line of squares” to ensure that the net won’t rip. Having this clean cut line will also make hard tying the mason line & closing the ends of the net much easier.



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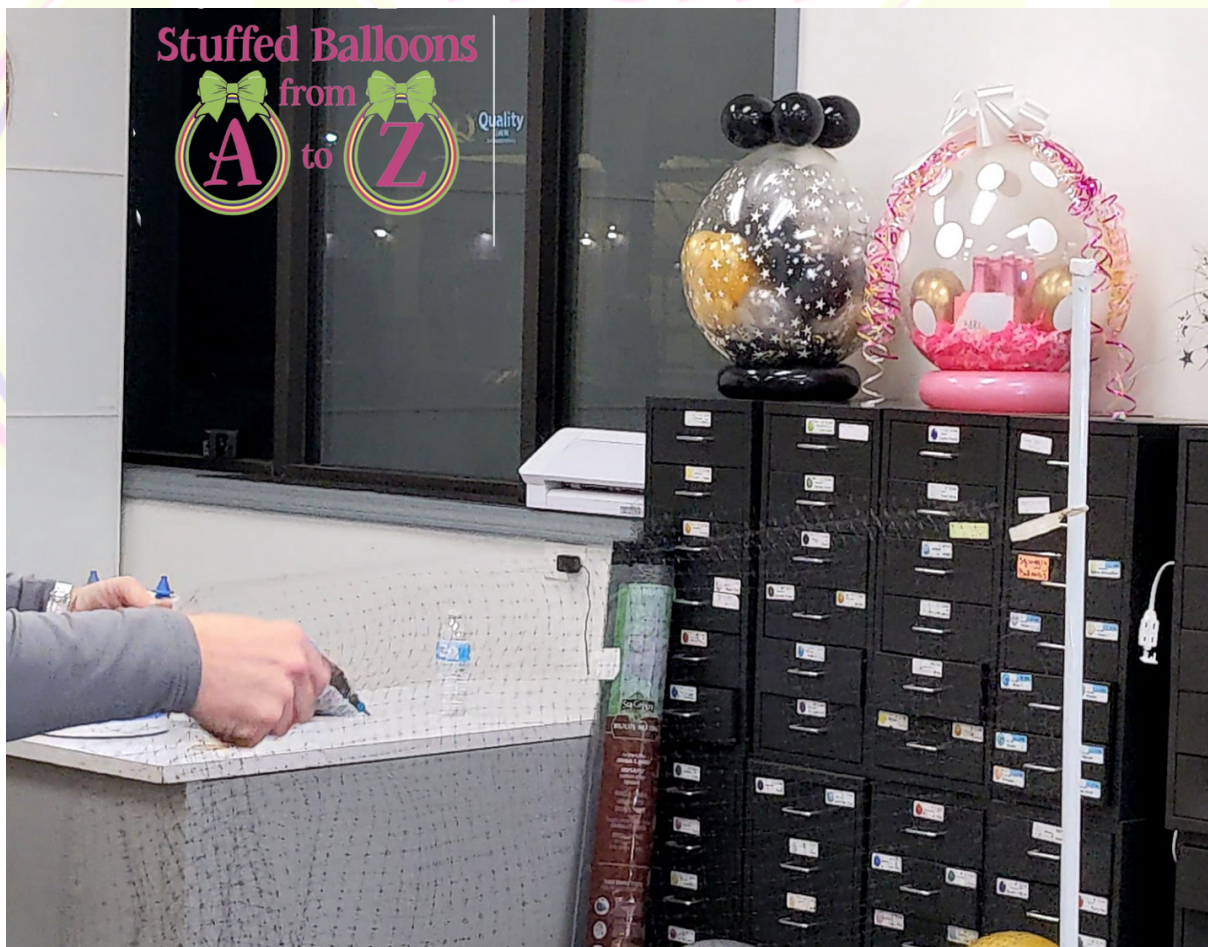
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## Step Two: “Fold the Net”

- Place your two chairs or two poles in bases the same length apart as the length of your net and secure ( 2 ) rubber bands to the pole. Each rubber band should be larks head knotted onto the pole and approx. 2-3ft apart from each other. Then, larks head knot a binder clip to each of the rubber bands.
- Fold the net over lengthwise, leaving the opening at the top or facing up. Then clip each corner to the pole using your binder clip. The net should then be pulled taunt.



### **Step Three: “The Spine.”**

- Place a “spine” line at the bottom of the net. Do this by cutting a piece of nylon braided cord (or Mason Line) approx. 30 ft. longer than the net. (The extra line will be used to eventually rig the net.)
- Drop line so it rests at the very bottom center of the net. The extra line will hang outside the net approx. equal lengths at both ends. Most 7 ft. nets are packed folded in half so a natural “valley” is formed, making it easy to have the line in the exact center at the bottom of the net.
- Loosely place your small cable ties every 1-2 ft. attaching the Mason Line to the net and creating the “spine.”



## Step 4: “Hard Tie the Mason Line.”

- Hard tie the Mason Line to the net at both ends keeping the line taunt. Do this by creating a “Half Hitch Knot” that consists of both the net and the Mason Line where the net ends.
- Roll up the extra line at the ends. This will be used later to rig the drop onto small pieces of cardboard so they don't get in the way.



**Step Five: “Close one end of the net.”**



- Use small cable ties and close one end of the net by placing each cable tie approx. every 6 inches apart from each other, ( 3 ) “squares” from the edge.

## Step 6: “Create the Pull Line.”

- Use 50 lb. or higher, monofilament (clear fishing line) and place a running line through the top of the net.
- First, “wax” the pull line by wiping a lubricant like Hi-Shine or Armor All protectant on the length of line you are going to use + another 4 ft.
- Then, “snake” or “sew” the line through the net approx. every 6 inches. We like to go down to the second or third square from the top. That way just in case the net tears, the monofilament will still stay secured within the net.



**Step 7: “Making sure the net will not open prematurely during inflation or transporting.”**

- After the pull line is “snaked through” the net, use a cable tie & make a loop around the middle of the net making sure it’s only through 1 side of the net.



- Next, take the end of the pull line (not the one on the spool) and tie to the cable tie. There should be approx. 3 ft of line from the cable tie to the end of the net.



- Now, to secure the other end, cut approx. 20 ft of monofilament line off the spool and wrap around a piece of cardboard and secure it with a rubber band. When finished the line wrapped around the cardboard should be about an inch from the end of the net.

## **Step 8: “Filling the Net.”**

- Make sure that the open end of your net is attached to poles or chairs and positioned towards you to keep the net open and make it easier to fill.

- Fill the net with latex balloons in the appropriate colors. We use 9 inch balloons sized to 9 inches in most drops!

*\*\*You may want to cut the necks off of the balloons if your net has holes less than 1 ½ inches X 1 ½ inches so that the balloons won't get caught as easily and stay stuck in the net instead of dropping.*

*\*\*We prefer to over inflate our balloon, size it to 9 inches, tie it, cut off the neck, then toss directly into the net one at a time. The entire process only takes seconds per balloon. We find that this is much more time effective as compared to inflating all of the balloons, then cutting all of the necks off, then tossing them all into the net.*

*\*\*An inflator tipped on its side can work great to blow the balloons down the net while filling the net. This comes in handy especially with larger drops.*

- Fill the net until it is full then close the open end with small cable ties.

*\*\*You may need to underfill long nets so they can be folded to fit into your vehicle.\*\**





- ALWAYS fill other bags (we like to use bun rack covers in our shop) with extra balloons that you will take with you and fill on site.
  - \*\* Remember, to never over pack! A net that is overfilled looks “odd” and will be harder to open. Also, keep in mind the temperature on a ceiling is much warmer than the floor so the balloons will expand. \*\**
- You will most likely need to untie or cut the line from the cable tie to tighten up the pull line so that there are no big holes that the balloons could escape through.
  - \*\* Also, if the customer is picking the net up from you, add the “stopper” balloon now to the end pull line & slide it up so it is touching the net. Remember to tie the balloon to the line outside the net so it slides and will eventually slide off. \*\**

## **Step 9: “Preparing to Install Onsite.”**

- When you get on site and are ready to install the balloon drop on the ceiling, place the net on the floor and “fluff” so that the net is not lumpy. If the net looks “empty” you will need to cut a couple cable ties at one end or push the balloons through the monofilament and fill the net so that it looks full. Then replace cable ties.
- When the net is on the floor and ready to be installed, spray or rub a slippery silicone on the pull line in the net, the short piece at the end, as well as the net touching the pull line. The slipperier the better!!  
*\*\*Hi-Shine or Armor-All Protectant Wipes work great. This is especially important for nets longer than 20 ft!*



## **Step 10: “Hanging the Balloon Drop.”**

- Take the mason line off the cardboard at both ends & use this line to hang the net. We use either ceiling clips for drop ceilings or command hooks for drywall ceilings. ( For Cash and Carry Balloon Drops we provide the customer with these at time of pick up.)

*\*\*If the customer can get to the net easily after it is in place, leave the pull line hard tied and attached to the net so that it doesn't get caught & release the balloons prematurely.\*\**

- After the net is in place take the rubber band off the cardboard and unwind the pull line and leave it loose on the floor.
- At the other end, cut the pull line that is attached to the cable tie and make sure the line is smooth with no knots. This will slide the balloon that is tied to this line, outside of and close to the net.
  - The pull line running through the net should look relatively straight and not bunched up with approx. 3 ft of line after the “stopper” balloon.

*\*\* If you can not get to the net easily after it is hung in place then you will need to unite both pull line ends before you rig the net. If so, just be more careful when you are raising the net because if a line gets “caught” the balloons can release.\*\**

- Run the pull line, usually to the closest wall, using a chair so that the line is up high, out of the reach of guests, but can be reached by the staff when it's time to pull the line.
- Tape the line to the wall with a copy of the “pull instruction sheet.” The line should be pulled directly in line with the net as close to a zero degree angle as possible.