# Simple Atlatl Construction
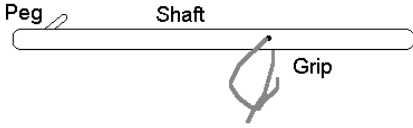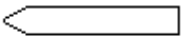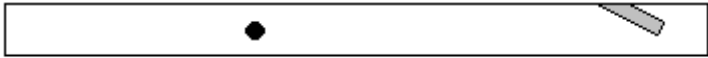
### Materials

- 3/4" x 18" dowel
- 1/4" x 2" dowel
- 12" leather thong
- Glue

### Tools

- Drill
- Knife
- Sandpaper

### Glue

Hot glue sets fast and works well.  White glue takes longer to dry, but it holds better and dries clear flat.  Epoxy works very well,  but it isn't really necessary.  It's up to you.

All atlatls (or spearthrowers) have 3 things in common:

- The shaft
- The peg, or other way to engage the dart
- The grip



### The Peg

With your knife, carefully taper one end of the 1/4" dowel peg to a point, then round it off.



### The Shaft

With a 1/4" drill bit, **carefully** drill a hole about 1 1/2" from the end of the shaft at about a 45 degree angle.  Try not to go all the way through.  On the other end, drill a hole from side to side (with the peg hole on top) about 8" from the bottom end.  Then take your sandpaper and smooth off the drill holes.

### Assembling the Atlatl

1)  Put a large drop of glue into the peg hole.  Insert the flat end of the peg and rotate it to spread the glue evenly, and then push the peg in as far as you can.

2)  Put the leather  thong through the shaft.  Leaving about an inch of thongs loose, tie it in a knot  on the back of the shaft (the side away from the peg).  A square knot works well, but any knot will do.

3)  To test the grip, put your thumb and forefinger through the loop on either side of the shaft.  Wrap your fingers around the handle and see how far down your hand slides.  If you do not have a firm grip on the handle, adjust the loop so it is smaller and try it again.

4)  Let the glue dry for about a half-hour to make sure there is a good bond.

5)  Enjoy!