



# Instructions for the Dripper on a Rock Base

The Winged Aquatics™ Dripper provides fresh water at very low flow rates and in doing so creates a water ripple effect in your bird bath. It is suitable for both in-ground and pedestal bird baths.

## Contents:

- Dripper tube and dripper fitting
- Rock base
- Garden hose to 1/4" tubing adapter
- Y valve and 50 ft. of 1/4" OD tubing
- PVC regulating valve for adjusting drip
- 1 straight connector and 2 elbows
- Instructions

*(All above items can be ordered from your Winged Aquatics™ dealer or direct from Winged Aquatics™.)*

## Selecting a Location:

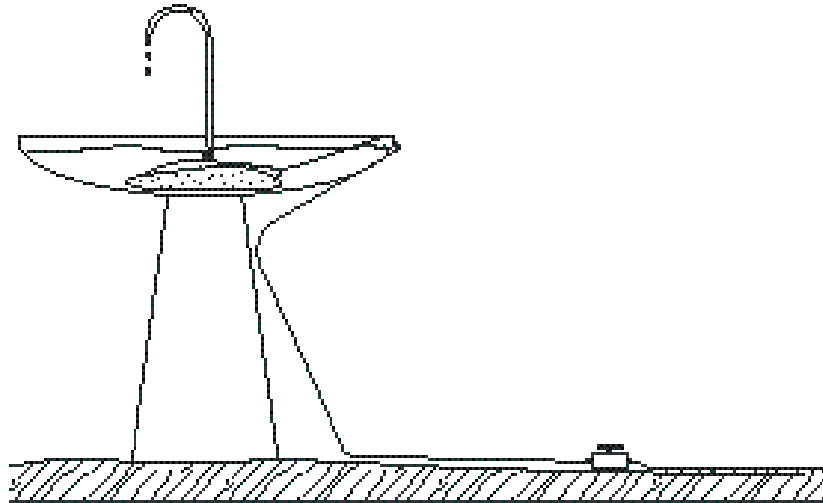
*If you are locating a bird bath at the same time as you are setting up the Dripper we recommend that you:*

- Avoid locations with dense ground cover which can hide a cat, as birds are very vulnerable to predators while bathing, and hence also very wary.
- Try to locate near good bird habitat, such as large trees for warblers, or hedge rows. This provides a tree "highway" to your bathing area.
- Have the bath in at least partial shade if possible, as this keeps the water cooler.
- Locate your bird bathing facilities approximately 20 to 40 ft. from a patio or picture window where you often sit to watch birds. The bird bath can be near feeders, but should not be so close that seeds and hulls fall into the water.

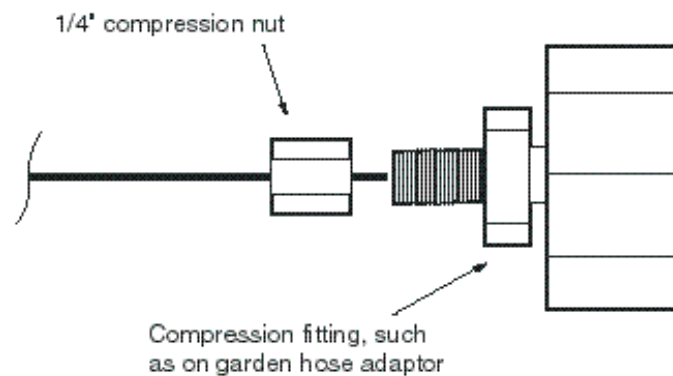
## Installation:

To install the dripper tube, remove the compression nut from the dripper fitting. Push the copper dripper tube all the way through the compression nut and then push the dripper tube to its fullest extent into the fitting. Slide the compression nut down to the fitting and tighten the compression nut so that the dripper tube cannot be pulled out with a good tug. Next, install the dripper fitting in the base securely by hand. Do not use a wrench unless the joint leaks and then tighten only 1/4 to 1/2 turn with a wrench. Overtightening the dripper fitting can cause the base to crack. The dripper fitting does not need to go all the way into the base.

For installation in a pedestal bird bath, set the Dripper in the bath and connect to the 1/4" tubing using the two elbows provided. You may wish to shorten the piece of tubing coming from the base so that it hugs the edge of the bird bath when connected with the elbows (see illustration below).



Select an accessible, but inconspicuous location for the regulating valve which is within 5 ft. of the base. Cut the tubing at this point and rejoin by pressing both ends over at least 2 of the barbs of the regulating valve. To facilitate installing tubing on the barbed fittings immerse the ends of the tubing in hot tap water for about 15 seconds, then press the tubing onto the barbed fittings. Run the tubing above ground from the bath back to the nearest faucet. Install the Y valve and adapter on the faucet and connect the tubing to the adapter as follows: to install tubing on compression fittings, first remove the 1/4 inch compression nut from the fitting, next slide the nut over the tubing so that the tubing end protrudes, then insert the tubing end to the fullest extent into the recess in the fitting, and finally tighten the compression nut securely on the fitting (see illustration Check to be sure you get the desired flow and have no leaks. Then you can hide the tubing by opening a 1 to 2" deep slit in the lawn by pushing a shovel head in to the ground and pushing the handle to and fro, inserting the tubing, and then pressing the slit closed. Evidence of any work will disappear in just a few days. Excess tubing can be trimmed or coiled out of the way.



If the 50 ft. of tubing provided is not enough, you should be able to buy more at a local garden center, hardware store or automotive supply store. Ask for 1/4" OD tubing (which is also 3/16" ID). You should have either two elbows or one straight connector left which can be used to add the extra tubing or to repair tubing if accidentally cut while gardening. If you can not find any 1/4" tubing, you can order an additional 50 ft. roll direct from Winged Aquatics. In the meantime you can make up for the missing small tubing with regular garden hose by screwing the Y valve and adapter on the end of the garden hose.

Once connection to the faucet is complete, turn the faucet on, flush out the tubing by adjusting the regulating valve, then close the valve until you get the desired drip rate. It is sometimes necessary to repeat this adjustment for the first few days until the drip rate stabilizes.

For installation in a ground level bird bath, you can set the Dripper in the bath. Connect the piece of tubing coming from the base to the coil of tubing with the straight connector provided.

### **Routine Operation:**

It is preferable to operate your Dripper on a daily basis, as this provides the birds with a dependable supply of cool fresh water and also keeps your bird bath full. The easiest and most dependable way to do this is by using a battery operated water timer which can be purchased from most local garden centers or hardware stores. With a timer, we often observe the birds gathering around the bath about 15 minutes before the timer is scheduled to come on. Mid to late afternoon seems to be a favorite bathing time.

### **Maintenance:**

If at any time you experience low flows, flush the system and check the strainer in the adapter on the Y valve.

### **Winter:**

The Winged Aquatics Dripper is not meant for operation below freezing. If freezing weather is anticipated, disconnect the dripper and the regulating valve and bring them inside. Disconnect the Y valve from the faucet and bring it inside. Clean as per the maintenance instructions and then store for the winter. The 1/4" tubing can be left in place - freezing should not harm it. When reconnecting your system once warm weather returns, flush the 1/4" tubing prior to reattaching the dripper PVC regulating valve.

**Caution:** Failure to disconnect the Y valve or other devices from the faucet before freezing weather could result in a ruptured water line in your house (outdoor faucets are designed to drain the water in them when nothing is connected).

# **HAPPY BACKYARD BIRDING!**

