

Taming A Rocking Table, Version 1.0

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If you have eaten at a restaurant, you have likely sat at a table that rocked. Maybe you grabbed a utensil from the table and jammed it under that shortest leg, or maybe you just tried to ignore it.

When this happens to me, I am doubly distracted. First, the damn table is rocking. Second, my mind is racing to find a solution to this problem.

Up until now, all of my solutions involved devices that took effort to make. This is bad because, when the meal is over, I know I will just get up and leave. My precious device will be lost forever and I will have to make another one. Bad solution.



Recently I was eating at my favorite restaurant, La Cocina, in Tucson, Arizona. It is an outdoor restaurant with pea gravel for a floor. Of course, my table was rocking. But then I got an idea – lift up the leg with the gap, mound up some gravel, and then lower the leg back down while moving it slightly side to side. Sure enough, the rocking stopped. That little pile of pebbles simply adjusted to exactly fit the gap and then locked in place under pressure.

Great start of an idea but I know of no other restaurants with gravel. It didn't take long to see the solution.

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My low tech, low cost solution is to carry a plastic snack bag with me. It is light weight, costs less than a penny, and is easily carried in my back pocket.



It is a rare restaurant that doesn't have some type of granular material. About 2 teaspoons are needed. Calm your significant other, this will not make a mess.



Put the granular material in the bag, flatten it out so there is minimal air, and seal it.



Then lift up the corners so the contents forms a mound.



Lift up the offending table leg, gently place it on top of the mound. A small amount of side to side movement may be needed to bed it down.

Rocking gone and no financial tragedy if I forget to retrieve it.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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