

This single heap wood bin serves to hold and confine a compost pile. The removable front section facilitates easy turning of the pile and removing of finished compost. This 'door' section is fitted into slots formed by four upright posts. A sliding crossbar at the top prevents the sides from bulging out.

An optional removable top can be made by stapling a heavy black plastic sheet to the back and sliding crossbar or to a simple frame, which might also be hinged to the unit. The entire unit should be situated on level ground.

This design is an adaptation of the New Zealand Hot Box developed by Sir Albert Howard, a pioneer in compost research.

MATERIALS (ABOUT \$45 NEW)

- 4 — 4 ft. 2X2s (posts)
- 4 — 3 ft. 3 in. 2X2s (front "door")
- 1 — 4 ft. 9 in. 2X2 (cross bar)
- 24 — 4 ft. 1X6s (sides)
- 96 — 1-1/2 in. No.10 galvanized wood screws
- 4 — 2-1/2 in. No.10 galvanized wood screws
- Wood Glue

SPECIALIZED TOOLS

- Hatchet
- Power drill with 1/8 in. twist bit
- Hand saw

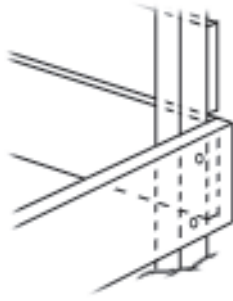


CONSTRUCTION INSTRUCTIONS

1) Shave the ends of the four posts to a point, using the hatchet. Prepare the site by clearing and leveling the ground, and marking the exact placement for each post. The four corner posts should be spaced 4 feet apart at the front and back, measuring from the outside edges. At the sides, the posts should be spaced 3 feet, 10-1/2 inches, measuring from the outside edges.

Pound the posts in to a depth of 6–8 inches, checking to ensure each is perfectly vertical. Take care not to split the upper end while pounding.

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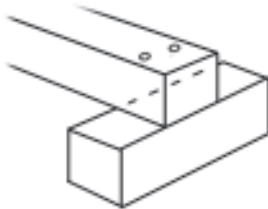
2) Attach six 1X6 inch boards to the outside of the back posts. Start at the bottom and ensure the lower board is level if the ground is not. Leave a 1/2 inch gap at the ground and between each board. The ends of each board will need to be flush with the outer edge of each post.

Drill holes for the screws with the 1/8 inch bit. Use four screws per plank, driving two into each post and sinking the screw heads just slightly below the surface of the board.

Now attach the boards for the sides, making sure the ends are flush with the outer edge of the front post and the surface of the boards which are already attached to the back posts.

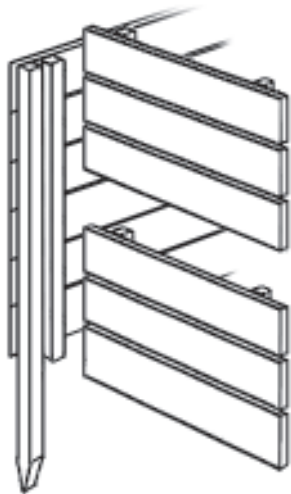
3) Now attach two of the 3 foot 3 inch 2X2s to the inside of the side panels, one on each side, parallel and 1 inch to the rear of the front posts. These, with the front posts, create the slot into which the front door will slide.

Trim each post at the point where it sticks above the uppermost board. A handsaw should be more than adequate for this.



4) Cut two 3 inch long pieces from the 4 foot 9 inch 2X2. Attach each piece under the ends of the 2X2 with two 2-1/2 inch screws. The pieces should be at right angles, their edges flush with the ends of the 2X2 to form a "drooping T".

Drilling holes for the screws with the 1/8 inch bit will guard against splitting the wood. A bit of wood glue is also recommended. Fit the completed cross bar across the top boards near the front of the unit.



5) To build the removable front panel, attach the remaining six 1X6 boards perpendicular to the remaining two 3 foot 3 inch 2X2s, making sure that the 2X2s are inset at 2 or 3 inches from the ends of the boards. Again, space the boards 1/2 inch apart, leaving 1/2 inch of the 2X2s protruding at the bottom—creating a gap between the boards and ground when in place.

Depending on how accurately your front posts were driven in, you may need to trim the length of these last six boards to fit the final width between the front and guide posts. Do so before attaching the boards to the 2X2s.

Be sure that the boards are perfectly square to the 2X2s. Some may find it easier to assemble the 'door' by placing the last six boards into the slot formed by the front four posts, spacing them apart with 1/2 inch thick scraps of wood, and then attaching the 2X2s.

For those who find this door too heavy to lift easily, it can be easily cut into two or three sections by sawing the 2X2s. Make these cuts along the top edge of the board below.



Compost Action Project is a service of Resource Conservation Manitoba

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