

## Portable Wood and Wire Composting Bin

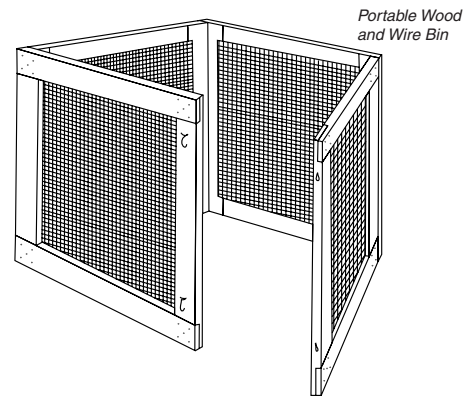
This portable, versatile bin conveniently provides moderate volumes of compost with very minimal effort. Yardwaste is added to the bin as it is generated. Add occasional moisture and compost will be ready in six months to two years. The bin itself can be used as either a turning unit or as a portable holding bin.

### Materials

- One 12-foot pressure-treated 2"x4"
- Three 12-foot fir 2"x4"s
- One 10 oz. tube exterior wood adhesive
- 100 1 1/2" galvanized #8 wood screws
- 12 feet of 36" wide 1/2" hardware cloth
- 150 poultry wire/power staples
- Four 3" galvanized butt door hinges
- Four large hook-and-eye gate latches

### Tools

Handsaw and chisel, or radial arm saw with dado blade, or circular saw or table saw. Safety glasses and ear protection (if using power tools). Hammer, screwdriver, tin snips, caulking gun, pencil and small carpenter's square.



### Construction

- Cut wood into lap joints

(Diagram E) Cut each 12-foot 2"x4" into four pieces 3 feet long. Cut a 3/4" deep and 3 1/2" wide section out of each end, for a total of 32 lap cuts. If using a handsaw and chisel, cut 3/4" down at the 3 1/2" line—at A in diagram. Then cut a 1/2" deep groove into the end of the board—at B in diagram. Place a thick wood chisel in the end groove and split the wood with a hammer to the 3 1/2" cut. If using a radial arm saw, circular or table saw, set the blade to 3/4" depth and make multiple passes until the whole section is removed.

- Fasten joints together

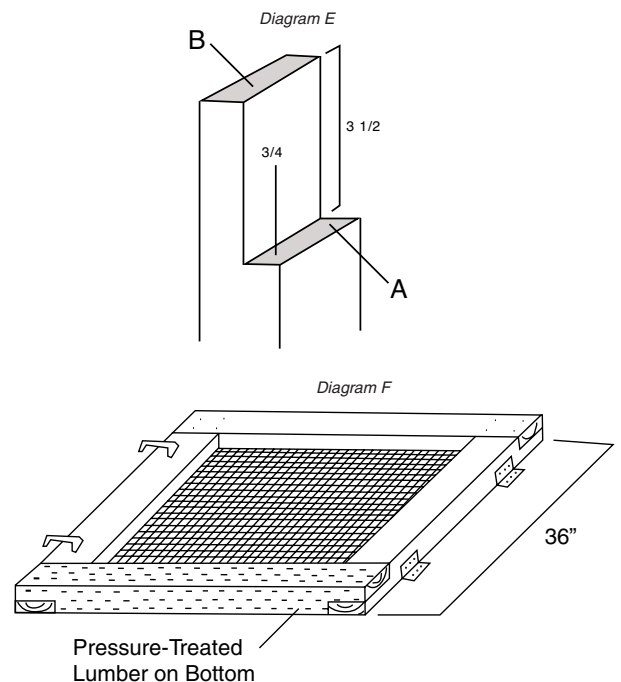
(Diagram F) Make four 3-foot square frames from the lap-jointed 2"x4"s. Use one pressure-treated 2"x4" on each frame. Liberally apply construction adhesive to fill in the gaps when the lap joints are screwed together. Fasten each joint with four screws.

- Staple hardware cloth onto each joint

(Diagram F) Cut the hardware cloth with the tin snips into four 3-foot square sections. Bend the edges of the wire back over 1" for strength. Lay one piece onto each of the four frames. Center and tack each corner with staples, using hammer or gun, pulling for tension. Hammer staples every 4" along frame.

- Connect frames with hinges

Screw two hinges onto the side of each frame, approximately 6" flush from each end. Connect each pair of frames with the pressure-treated lumber on the bottom. Then fasten the



hook-and-eye gate on the remaining ends so the sections latch together. The opening latches make this bin easy to operate. Undo the latches and pull apart the sides to move to a desired location. Turn the top material back into the bin. The finished compost on the bottom is ready for use, and new material can be added on the top.

