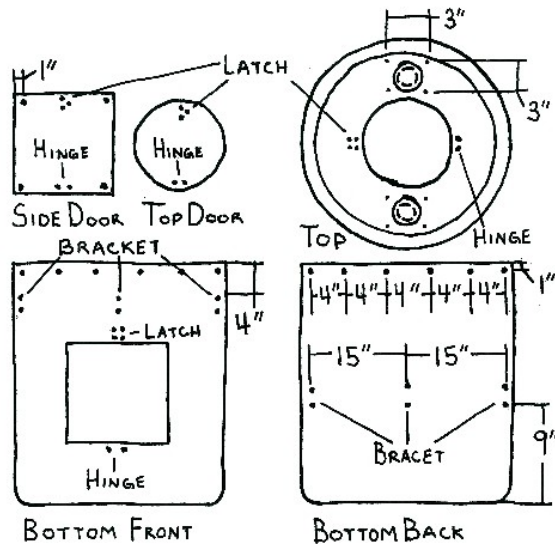
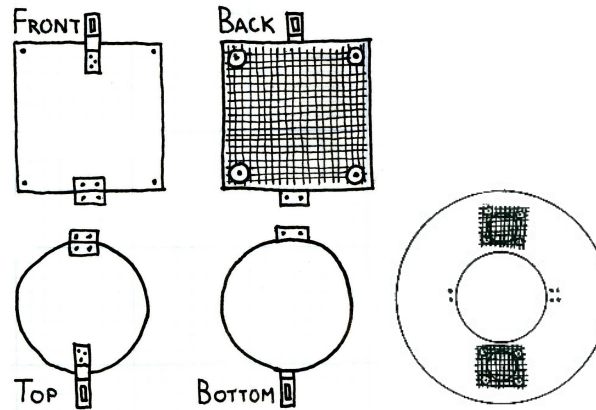


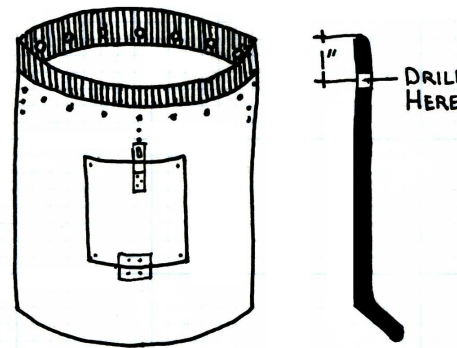
STEP 1 Using a jigsaw, cut the barrel in two @ 12" from the top of the barrel. Also, cut a 9" diameter round hole in the top and a 10"x10" square hole on the side of the barrel @ 6" above the bottom of the barrel. Following the instructions on the package, Mix the bag of concrete with water and fill the bottom of the barrel with it. Use a trowel to level and smooth out the surface of the concrete.



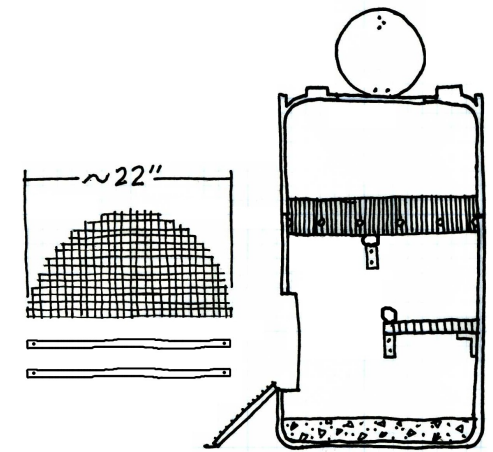
STEP 2 Use the appropriate hinge, latch or bracket as a guide and mark on the barrel with marker exactly where each hole will need to be. Place marks around the top edge of the bottom half of the barrel @ 4" spacing and 1" below the top edge. Using a 3/16" drill bit, drill through the barrel at all the marked places.



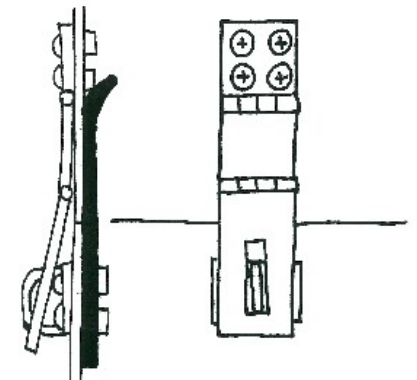
STEP 3 Bolt a hinge and a latch to each door as shown. Cut a 9"x9" square section of hardware cloth. Fasten this to the inside face of the side door using bolts through the corner holes backed with 1/4" washers. Bolt the doors in place on the barrel. Next cut two 4"x4" pieces of hardware cloth. Using the 3/4" bolts and 1/4" washers, bolt these to the inside of the barrel over the bungholes.



STEP 4 Cut the vinyl wall trim to a length equal to the circumference of the barrel (usually about 66"). Use two pieces if necessary. Mark and drill holes along the length of the vinyl strip every 4" and 1" from the top edge. Bolt the vinyl strip to the barrel with the angled lip facing up and sloping towards the center of the barrel.



STEP 5 Bolt the angle brackets in place using the holes you drilled in step two. Cut a half-circle from the light cover that is equal in diameter to the inside of the barrel. Trim off any sharp edges. Cut two pieces of dowel that are equal in length to the flat side of the half-circle. Drilling holes in the dowel, bolt one of the pieces to the flat length of the half-circle using 1/2" washers and 2" bolts. Set the half-circles in place over the lower brackets with the dowel facing up. Drilling holes through the other dowel where needed, bolt it to the higher brackets using 2" bolts.



STEP 6 Slide the top half of the barrel over the rubber seals and onto the second half of the barrel. Using the latches as a guide, mark where to drill and bolt the two remaining safety hatch latches to either side of the barrel where they would serve to fasten the top and bottom halves of the barrel together.

Advantages of Chicken Barrel:

- *Made from a resilient material that is easy to clean and maintain
- *A compact and modular design
- *Easy to move around the yard or take with you if you move
- *Inexpensive and easy to construct with things that you can get at your local hardware store

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1 55 gal Barrel*
- 54 1/2" 10-24 Bolts
- 4 2" 10-24 Bolts
- 8 3/4" 10-24 Bolts
- 66 10-24 Nylon Locking Nuts
- 12 1/4" Washers
- 2 1/2" Washers
- 30lb-50lb Bag of Concrete
- 2 2" Hinges
- 4 2" Safety Hatch Latches
- 4 Small Carabiners (to secure the latches)
- 5 2" Angles Brackets
- 1 Roll of 1/2" Hardware Cloth
- 1 Eggcrate Louvered 2'x4' Light Cover
- 2 4' Nylon Wall Trim Pieces
- 1 4'x1" Dowel

**55gal barrels can be found for free or a small charge of \$5-\$10 at many places including car washes, bakeries, and breweries.*

TOOLS NEEDED:

- Tape Measure
- Jig Saw
- Permanent Marker
- Drill with 3/16" Bit
- Trowel
- Phillips Screwdriver
- Pliers

Note: Not all barrels are exactly alike. If there is some variation throughout the project adjust things to work with your barrel.

Additional Tips and Resources:

*The Chicken Barrel is recommended for bantam hens. These are smaller than regular chickens and two of them can live comfortably in it. The Chicken Barrel coop would also be ideal for brooding hens or raising chicks.

*Breeds of bantam hens that are good layers include Leghorn, Buckeye, Chantecler, Delaware, Dominique, Holland, Java, Wyandotte, Langshan, Australorp, and Dorking.

*If you find your coop is too stinky drill a few ventilation holes in the sides of the barrel just above the concrete and around the top.

*If you think your barrel is too drafty you can put rubber hose that is cut down the side around the edges of your doors as seals.

*Sawdust and chopped straw both make great bedding material.

*For more great info on raising your own hens check out these great resources!

Living with Chickens, book by Jay Rossier
Mother Earth News, magazine and website,
MotherEarthNews.com
BackYardChickens.com
CityFarmer.info
StrombergsChickens.com

**Check with your local municipality regarding regulations against raising backyard hens. If you don't like what you learn lets do something about it!*

Christine Sass, Chicken Barrel, July 20, 2009;
chickenbarrel.org

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CHICKEN BARREL THE URBAN COOP



Raising Chickens at Home

There are MANY reasons that you should raise your own hens for eggs. Knowing that your food is clean and safe is just the start. Free range eggs have lots more vitamins and other good things than regular store bought eggs. It also guarantees that you will be getting your eggs from hens that are just as HAPPY and HEALTHY as you are!

*Your hens will be able to eat more things like grass and bugs making them and you healthier (earwigs and grubs are some of their favorites).

*Chicken poop will help to nourish your lawn and your garden.

*Your hens will provide you with years of enjoyment and connect you with the food that nourishes your body.