HOW TO BUILD The Marketos “Fuck It - Good Enough” Three Bin Compost System (No Lid Edition!)

This three bin compost system was devised with a minimum amount of wood and hardware, in addition to requiring the minimum amount of cuts for the wood. I hope this will make it more accessible in both price and skill required. This particular edition does NOT include a lid, but one can certainly be added if you feel it is necessary.

Here is your checklist of items:

TOOLS

- ☐ Drill and driver + bits
- ☐ Stapler + staples
- ☐ Tin snips
- ☐ Tape measure
- ☐ Chop saw
- ☐ Level
- ☐ Carpenter’s square
- ☐ Hammer (optional)
- ☐ A FRIEND

HARDWARE

- ☐ 2 boxes of exterior deck screws - 2.5in
- ☐ 30 ft x 3 ft roll of hardware mesh

WOOD

- ☐ Wood should be cedar, pine, or redwood (untreated)
- ☐ Five 10 ft 2x4s (for the runners and the back braces)
- ☐ Four 12 ft 2x4s (for the bin dividers)
- ☐ Ten 8 ft 1x6s (for the front-facing removable slats + reinforcement for the bin dividers)
- ☐ Two 10 ft 1x1s (brace for slats)
- ☐ One 12 ft 2x6 (brace for slats)
- ☐ One 10 ft 2x6 (reinforcement for the bottom-back of bin)
- ☐ One 8 ft 2x6 (reinforcement for bottom-side of bin)
- ☐ Two 8 ft 2x4s (reinforcement for the sides of the bin)

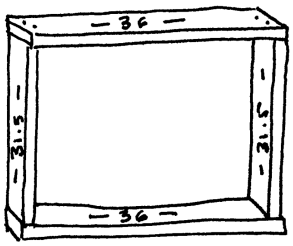
THE BUILD:

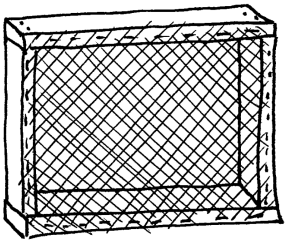
This process has been divided into six distinct stages. At each stage, I've tried to give the builder both a sense of the big picture that they're building toward and the practical step-by-step.

1. **<u>BUILD THE BIN DIVIDERS</u>**

There are four bin dividers for this three-bin system. Two will be the exterior side walls of the compost. Two will be the interior dividers for the bins. Throughout the instructions, I will refer to these sides as just "dividers."

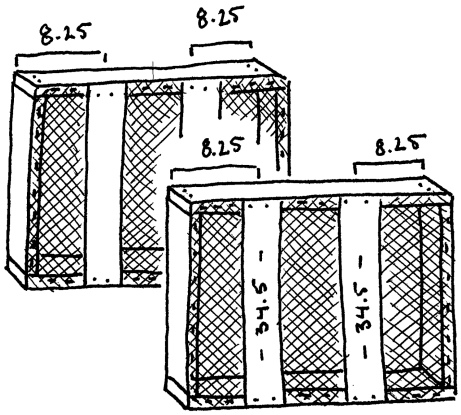
1. Take two of your 12 ft 2x4s and cut them into eight 36" pieces
2. Using two more 12 ft 2x4s cut eight 31.5" pieces. They should look like this:





3. The 36" pieces will be the tops and bottoms of each divider, your 31.5" pieces will be each side.
4. Take two 8 ft 1x6s and cut four 34.5" pieces. These cuts will be used as braces for the two interior dividers.

5. To build your first divider, take two 36” pieces and two 31.5” pieces and butt-joint them together into a “square”. Stretch hardware mesh across one side. Staple every few inches, so that the mesh lays flat and secure across the frame. Hammer in staples.
6. Repeat 4x
7. You’re going to add reinforcement to your two interior dividers now. (These two dividers will eventually be the interior walls of the compost bin.)
8. On a 36” side of one divider, measure 8.5” from each edge and mark it. Then take two 1x6s and run them vertically from top to bottom of the divider. Secure them in place with screws.
9. Repeat 2x. They should look like this:

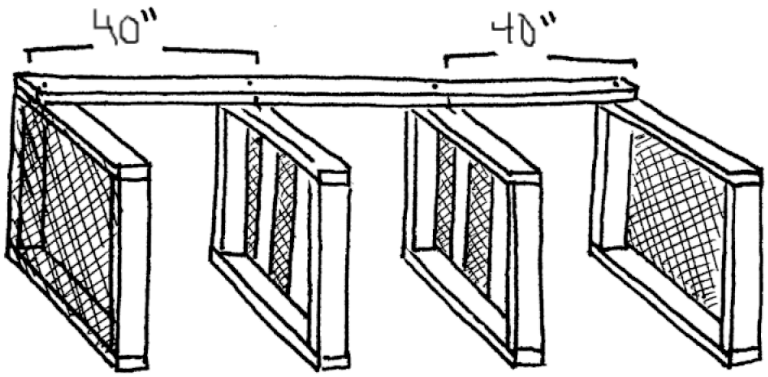


2. ATTACH THE BOTTOM RUNNING BOARDS & DIVIDERS

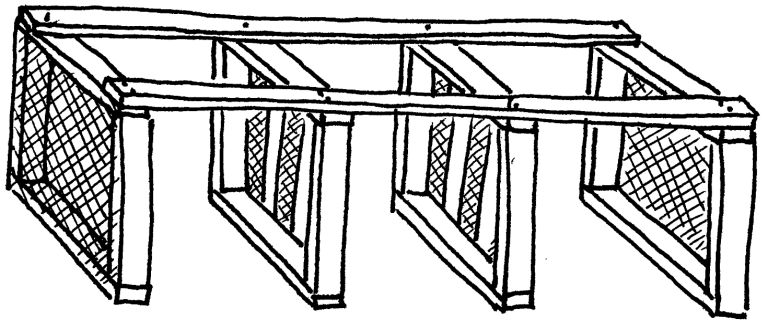
The bottom running boards will provide the base of the bin. Your dividers will attach along these running boards at equally-spaced intervals, creating the overall frame of the three-bin system.

1. Set two of the dividers that you just made, on end, 10 ft apart - standing upright. (That means a 36” side should be resting on the ground.)
2. Take one 10 ft 2x4 and place it across the top of the dividers, so that each end of the board is flush against the outer edges of the dividers
3. Secure each side with one screw. The running board should be able to rest in place, but still have some wiggle for adjustment. You’ll add more screws later, when you’ve confirmed alignment. It should look like this:

4. Now, measure and mark out at 40” intervals along the running board
5. Center and slide interior walls beneath the 10 ft 2x4 at each place you’ve marked the 30”
6. Secure with one screw. Again, this should provide enough to keep the wall in place - but leave you a little wiggle room. You’ll finish securing it later. It should look like this:



7. Take another 10 ft 2x4 and place it parallel to the running board you’ve already screwed into place. You can use a carpenter square to check alignment.
8. Measure and mark out at 30” intervals along this running board, as well
9. Measure **again** to make sure all your dividers are equally-spaced along both running boards. This will ensure all of your bins will be the same size, or at least close to it.
10. Once you’ve confirmed your measurements, add extra screws to secure everything into place. Two more at each end, and where each bin divider connects, should suffice. It should look like this:

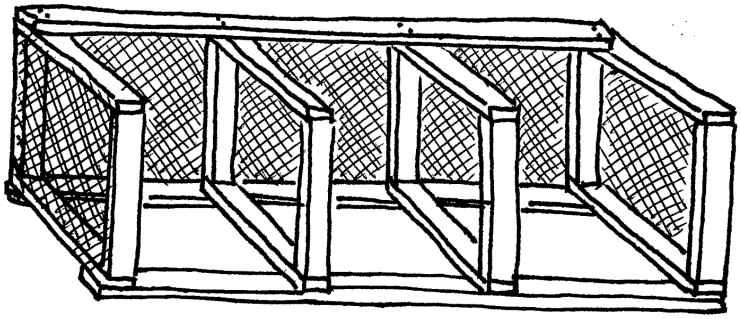


11. Now, flip the entire structure over.

3. ATTACH THE TOP RUNNING BOARD & MESH THE BACK OF THE BIN

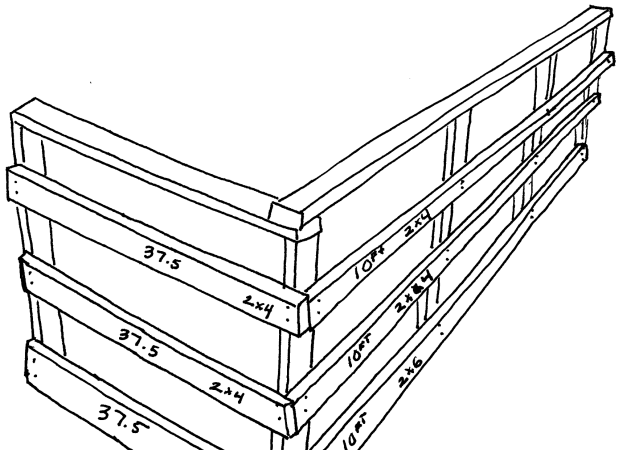
Similar to the step above, you'll be attaching one running board to the top of the bin in order to secure the frame.

1. Take one 10 ft 2x4 and place it across the top-back of your frame. Make sure the interior walls are staying square (they may bow in or out slightly at this stage). Use a carpenter's square to be sure. When everything is straight, secure in place with two screws at each end and for each interior wall.
2. Stretch ten feet of hardware mesh along the back side of the bin. Staple the entire perimeter every few inches. Be liberal with staples. Staple a lot. Hammer in the staples to make sure they're secure. Now, it should look like this:



4. REINFORCE THE PERIMETER OF THE BIN

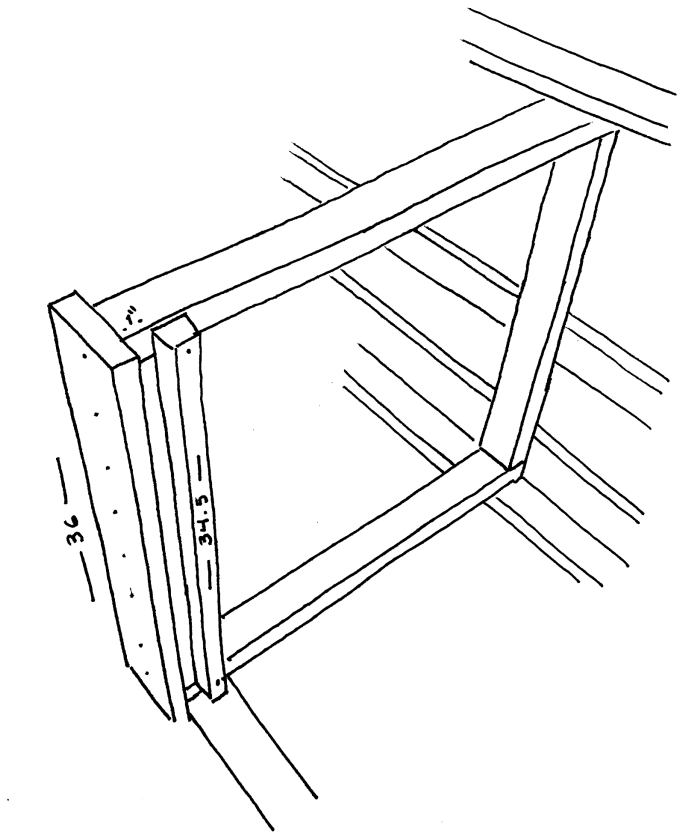
1. First, we'll reinforce the back of the compost bin. You'll use a slightly wider board to reinforce the bottom, backside of the bin versus the middle backside.
2. Run a 10 ft 2x6 board along the backside bottom, make flush with outer edges. Secure in place with screws.
3. Run two 10 ft 2x4s, spaced evenly from top to bottom, along the backside of the compost bin. Secure in place with screws.
4. Next, we'll reinforce the sides of the compost bin. Again, you'll use a slightly wider board to reinforce the bottom sides versus the middle sides.



5. Take one 8 ft 2x6 and cut it into two 37.5” pieces
6. Secure these pieces to the bottom of each side of the compost bin, making sure the edges are flush with the bottom back support. Two screws on each end should be enough.
7. Take two 8 ft 2x4s and cut four 37.5” pieces
8. Space these pieces evenly between the top and bottom of each side of the compost bin and secure in place with multiple screws. Make sure they’re flush with and aligned with the back supports.
9. From the inside, staple your hardware mesh to the outer supports you’ve just added. It’ll help secure everything and keep it tight + tidy.

5. CONSTRUCT THE FRONT BRACES

The front of your bin will require some simple braces that your front slats can slip in and out of easily. You’re building grooves for them, basically. Like so:



- Using your 12 ft 2x6s Cut four 36” pieces. These will be secured vertically to the outer walls and each bin divider.
- Center each 2x6 to the front of each divider & the outer walls
- Secure with one screw at the top and then add screws down the center the length of the board.
- Take your two 10 ft 1x1s and cut six 34.5” pieces
- You’re going to run these 34.5” pieces alongside the interior of each divider, spaced about 1 ¼ inch from the 2x6s you’ve already secured. (The slats will eventually slot into this gap.)
- Secure at the top with a screw. Run it straight down. Secure at the bottom with a screw. Then add screws up the length of the wood.
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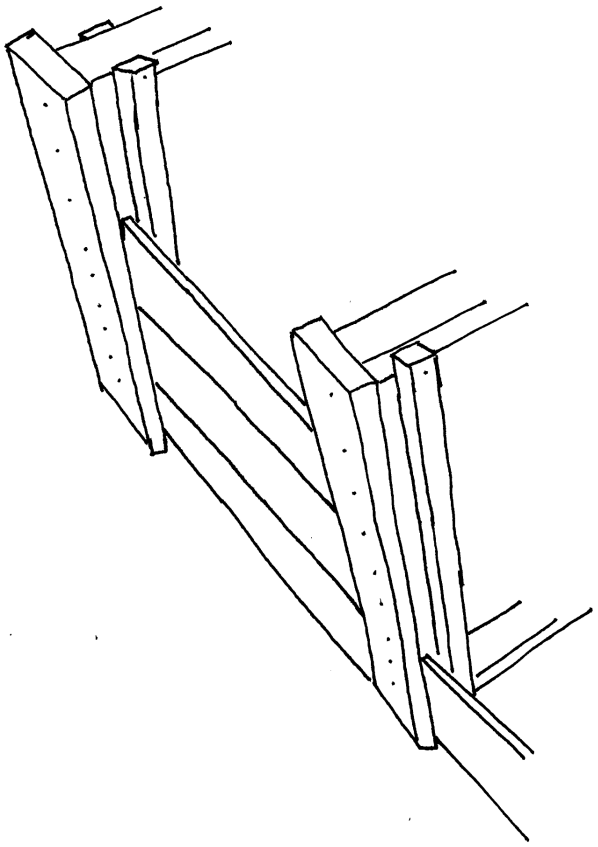
6. CUT YOUR FRONT SLATS

Before cutting the slats for the front of your bin, double-check each bin size. Measure them carefully. You want to cut your slats to fit the **actual size** of each bin, which can (because we are human) shift slightly during actual construction. When you have your measurements

confirmed, take your remaining 1x6s and cut six slats for each bin, sized to the size of the bin. Slot each slat into its appropriate bin, as shown here:



Congrats. You are now done with your bin.
Celebrate!