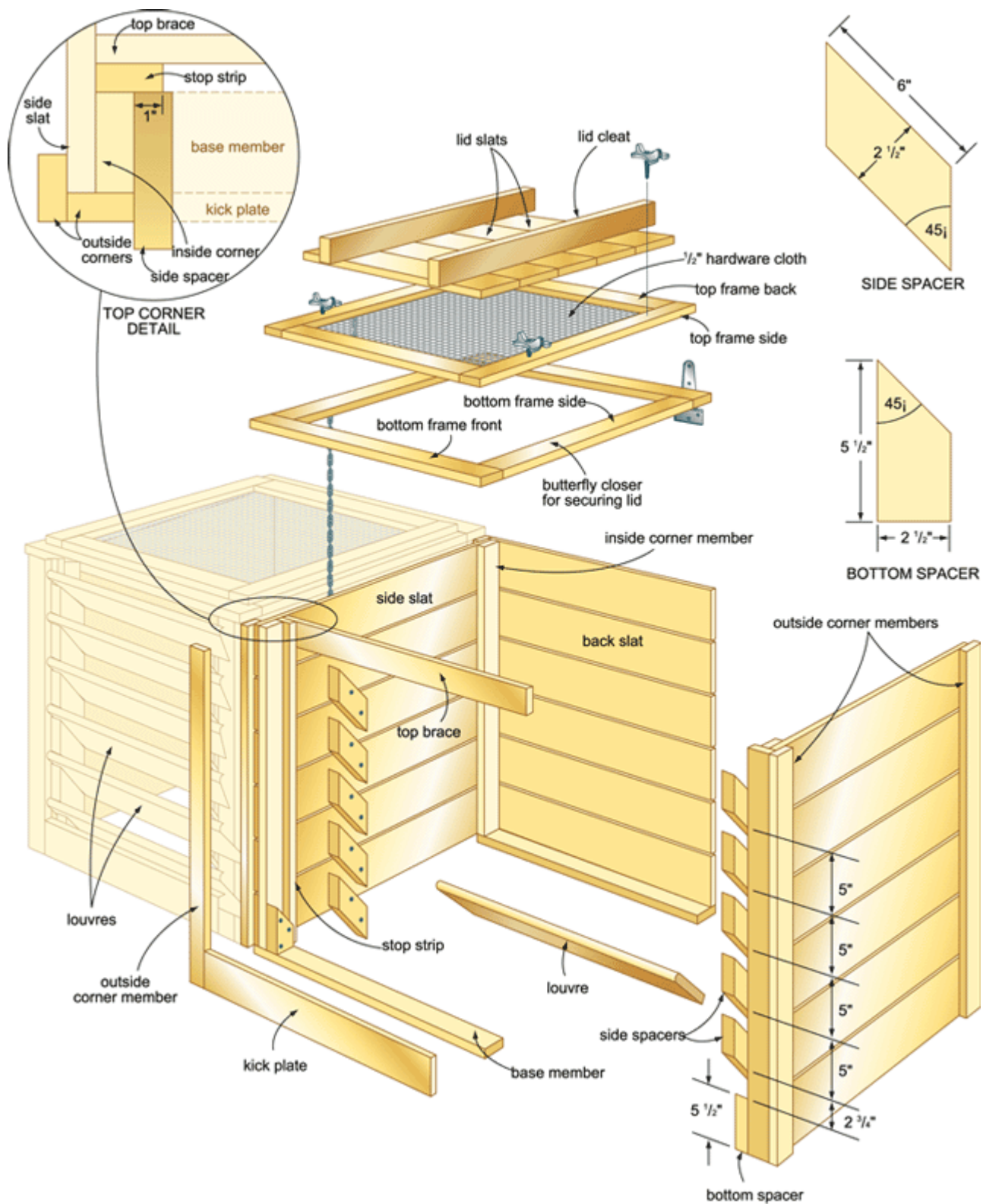


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GARDEN COMPOST BIN





Start building the box by cutting 18 side and back slats, and four spruce inside corner members. Next, place two corners on your workbench, 34" apart, with their 2 1/2" faces down. Now attach six side slats to these parts, ends flush with the outer edges of the corner members and a 1/2" space between each slat. Fasten the slats and corners with one screw per joint initially, then square the frame by equalizing diagonal measurements taken corner to corner before adding two more screws per joint to lock the assembly firm. Build the opposite side frame exactly the same, then stand both upright, 34" apart, and join them with the remaining six slats to produce a three-sided, free-standing box.

Next, prepare the six outside corner members and add one to each back corner of the box, flush with the back face as shown on the plans. Attach two more outside corners to the front face of sides, and the final two on the outside faces of the sides. As

you'll discover, the outside corner members add considerable strength to the unit, and cover the exposed ends of the slats, for a neater, trimmed look.

Cut the two stop strips to size and attach them to the backside of the front inside corners. The plans show how these strips overlap the inside corners by 1" along their length and prevent the removable louvres from dropping into the composter.



Louvres help aerate your compost pile, and because they're removable, you can take a few out to reach finished compost at the bottom, or take them all out and turn the whole pile over.

them in place as shown on the plans. Cut and install the base members while you're at it. These are designed to snuggle into the ground, boosting stability. Cut the removable baffles next, slide them home, and the body of your composter is done.

The composter lid has two parts: an outer, screened double frame and an inner lid that sits within it. Start by joining the top and bottom members together into two frames using weatherproof glue and biscuits or dowels. Next, stretch and staple the hardware cloth to the top surface of bottom frame. Place the smaller frame on top, then clamp the assembly together before joining the two frames with 2" screws driven from underneath.

The removable portion of the lid is simply five pieces of wood laid edge to edge and joined into one unit with two top cleats screwed 2" from the lid slat ends. Attach four butterfly closers to the top of the frame to hold the lid in place, a chain to stop the lid from flopping back too far when open, and hinges.

Occasionally you'll want to remove the lid to screen finished compost into a wheelbarrow or a bucket. Remove the hinge pin by grinding off one end and replace it with a large spring pin—a kind of removable cotter pin you can get at hardware stores. Now when you want to move the screen, just pull the pins out.

Once you've screened out any pieces that haven't composted completely, you'll have struck gold—pure, black, garden gold.

You Will Need

For the Body	Material	Size	Qty.
Side and back slats	cedar	1" x 5 1/2" x 34"	18
Inside corner members	spruce	1 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 35 1/2"	4
Outside corner members	cedar	1" x 2 1/2" x 35 1/2"	6
Stop strips	cedar	1" x 2 1/2" x 35 1/2"	2
Bottom spacers	spruce	1 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 5 1/2"	2
Side spacers	spruce	1 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 8 1/2"	10
Kickplate	cedar	1" x 5" x 29"	1
Top brace	cedar	1" x 4" x 32"	1
Base members	spruce	1" x 2 1/2" x 34"	2
Baffles	cedar	1" x 5 1/2" x 28 7/8"	6

For the Lid

Bottom frame front & back	cedar	1" x 5" x 38"	2
Bottom frame sides	cedar	1" x 5" x 26 1/2"	2
Top frame sides	cedar	1" x 4" x 35 1/2"	2
Top frame front & back	cedar	1" x 4" x 29"	2
Lid slats	cedar	1" x 5 1/4" x 28 7/8"	5
Lid cleats	cedar	1" x 1 3/4" x 29 1/2"	2

Hardware

approx. 250 #8 x 2 1/2" deck screws; approx. 40 #7 x 2" deck screws; one 32" x 32" hardware cloth; a 3ft. chain and two eye-bolts; a pair of 5" strap hinges; onehandle and 4 butterfly closers



Strong corner construction is essential for durability. Your composter has to withstand the forces of weather from the outside and the strain of a heavy pile of hot, rotting compost on the inside.