

Troop 12

Patrol Kitchen Kit

Designed by the leaders of Troop 12



Our troop wanted a patrol cook kit that could be carried by one scout (or two small scouts), and the old traditional patrol box just could not be scaled down to work. So we set out to design a kit on our own. The pictures, plans and material list are adaptable to your needs. We decided what we wanted in the kit and built the box to contain only that gear. The box contains no food, and limited consumables. Dish soap and chlorine for sanitizing, are refilled after each outing by the patrol. The dish-towels are laundered as well by the patrol member assigned. This all fits in one plastic storage container that nests in the dishpans. The scrub pads and sponges are replaced after every 3 outings. Wooden 'Strike on Box' matches are contained in a large prescription bottle with the scratch igniter glued to the outside.

Kitchen utensils are stored in the lid, except for the knives, which are in a block in the box. We used 1x2 stock with notches cut to slide the utensils in. The patrol lantern is inside the box to avoid damage that results from handling the smaller carrying cases in a casual manner.

Our troop uses the large Camp Chef propane stoves when a patrol box is in use. We did not need to include a Coleman camp stove in this kit. Food is transported in separate containers, avoiding a major clean-up of all the cook kit, from a loose syrup cap or other food spill.

The box alone sat too low for convenient use. So, we had to build a stand to raise the box up for easy reach and to get it out of the dirt. It drops right over the top of the box for storage and makes stacking the boxes more secure. We use portable tables for work surfaces since the box has no fold down work area. We found this to be better than having the work in progress blocking access to the storage bins.

The layouts on the following pages show the dimensions for the Patrol Box, and a cutting diagram to get make 5 boxes from 3 sheets of ½" plywood. These were made specifically to accommodate the gear we chose to include. Alter to accommodate your specific requirements.

Notice that the internal dividers do not go all the way to the bottom of the box. This was done to eliminate 'lost' items in the bottom of the small areas, like the cutting board slot. You can easily reach items that fall into the box from an adjacent large bin. Use a couple of 2" wide scraps to hold them up off the bottom while fastening them to the shell.

We used glue on all joints, and then nails to secure them. We used a pneumatic brad nailer with appropriate sized nails for each joint. Mostly 1 ½" long nails. The top lid was attached with 3 inch 'T' hinges, bolted to the box with ¼" carriage bolts, the round heads inside the box. A small electric hand grinder was used to remove excess length on the bolts. This was done to avoid the 'scratch' potential from the protruding bolts. Acorn cap nuts would also be effective.

The lid is secured using 2 tool box latches. There are several varieties of these latches. Use what you like best. The side handles are the folding chest handles, which are also available in a variety of sizes and forms. We also choose to reinforce the corners and edges with some lightweight punched angle iron. The added weight could be reduced by using aluminum material. This 1½" material is attached to the exterior sides and bottom using 6 or 8, #6 x ½" pan head sheet metal screws. This reinforcing may not be needed if handling is always done with care. However the abuse that scouts can accidentally inflict on equipment made this a good addition to the final product.

Paint was purchased from the distressed paint shelf at a local home store. These paints that were mixed with the wrong colors are sold very cheaply. We used good quality gloss latex enamel that normally sells for \$25 or more for \$4 a gallon. We just had to settle for the colors available. Darker colors help avoid the grubby look that will occur with typical use. The prototype in the pictures was done in white. (probably will get a new color soon)

I hope you have fun building these. We had the scouts assemble the boxes from pre-cut parts, and paint them. You can have patrols personalize the boxes with their logos or names.

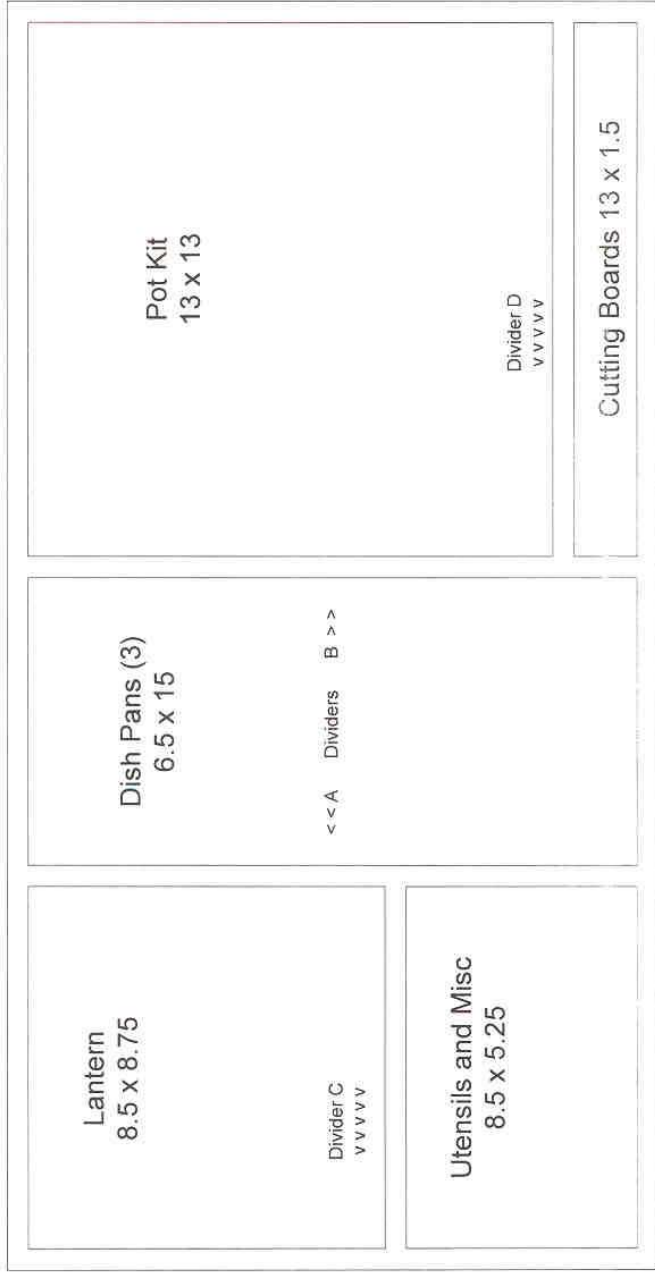
The first step was to determine what was really needed in the kit. We wanted everything necessary for cooking and no extras. The following list is our inventory list used to check the contents of the box. This was our design criteria for the kit. This list is posted in each kit so each patrol knows what is in a complete kit.

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-
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The Cook Kit is the 'Open Country' 6 person camp kit, which we got from Campmor. We added the 20 Qt pot for heating water for cooking and cleanup.

There is room for extra tools and necessities in the box holding the matches and mantles. This is a screw top plastic jar, which contained nuts or snacks like you can get at the club stores. (Sam's or Costco)

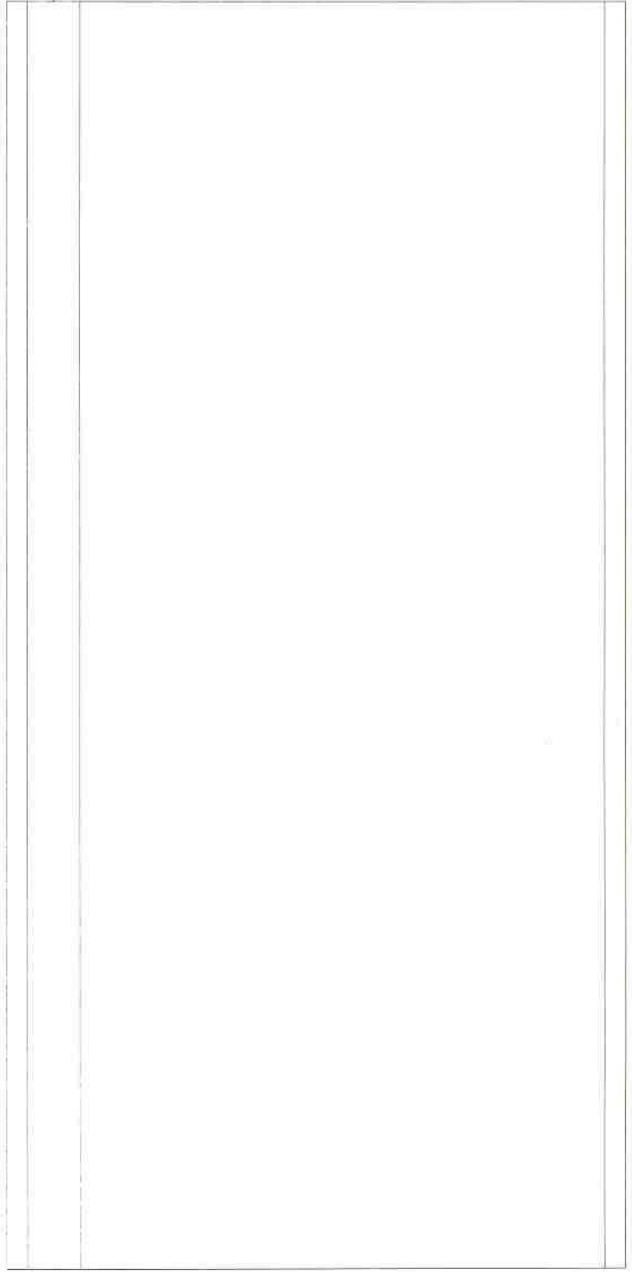
The plastic box that nests in the dish pans was the largest we could find that would fit. We found ours at the "Container Store", but most houseware departments have a good variety. The detergent and bleach containers were also obtained at the store. 2 oz. Bottles for soap and 4 oz. Bottles for bleach. Good, screw on, waterproof lids prevent spills and the mess that goes with that. Sturdy is better than cheap for these.



Outside 30 x 16

View from Top

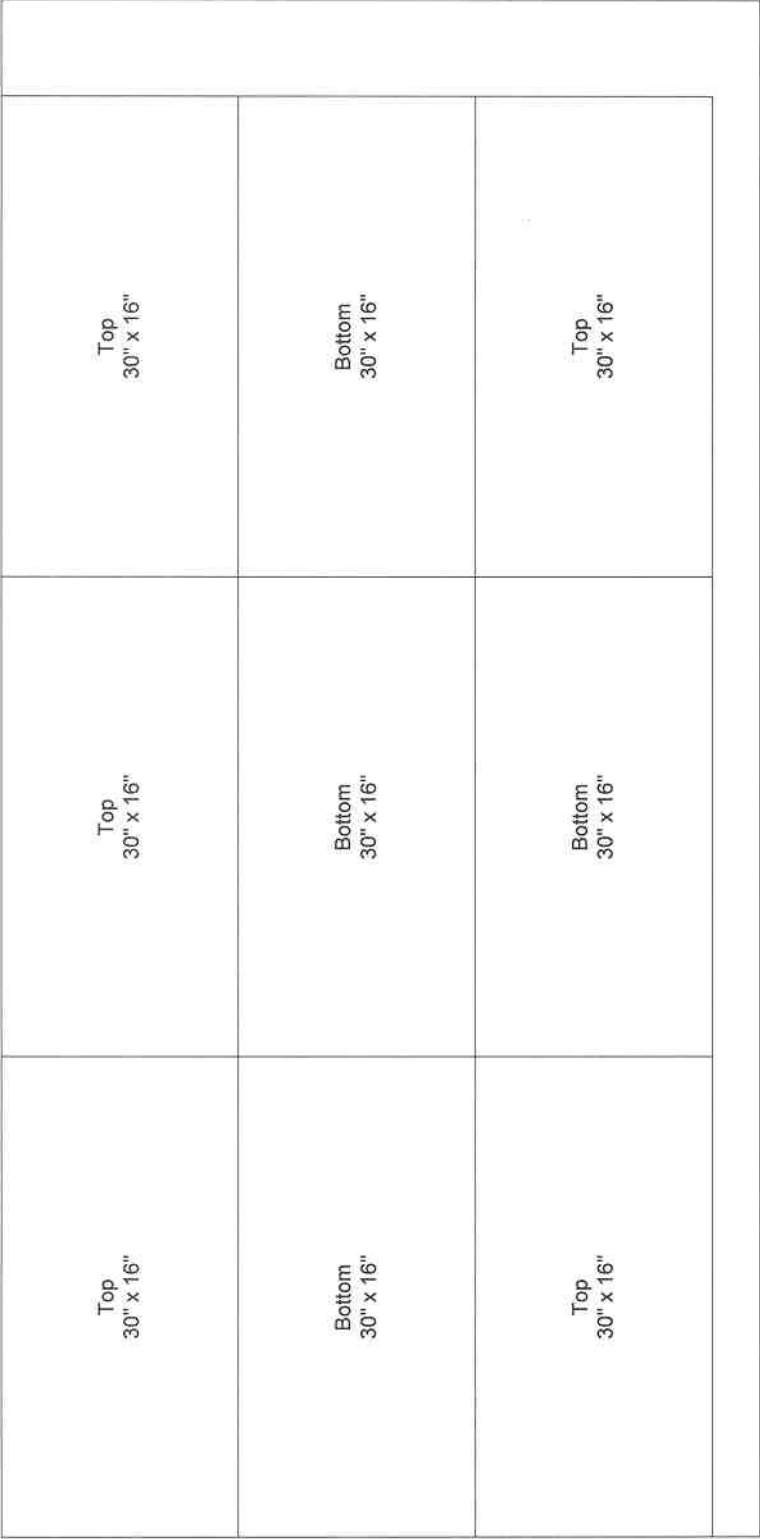
Drop edge of lid it made of 1x2 stock



Depth 12.5 plus 0.5 bottom & 1.875" top

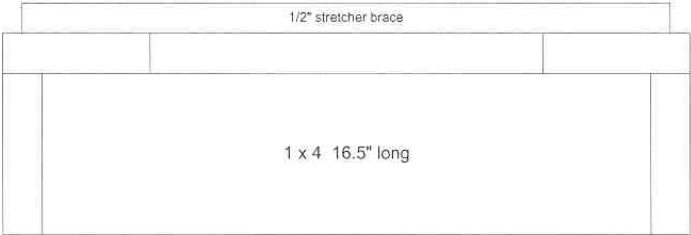
View from Front

3 pieces of 4' x 8' 1/2" AC Plywood will provide material for 5 patrol kit boxes. These layouts show finished sizes of the pieces. Allow for blade kerf when cutting. There is enough slack on the sides to provide for cutting loss.

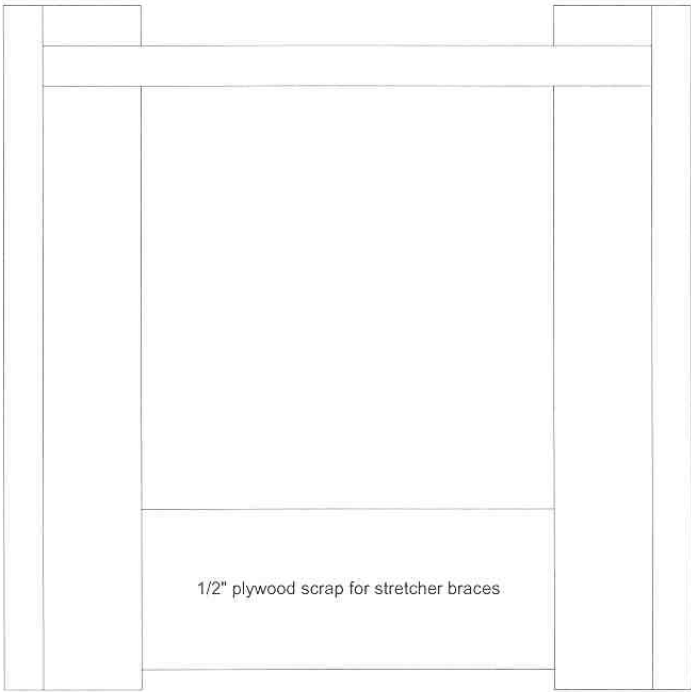


Front 30" x 12.5"	Front 30" x 12.5"	Front 30" x 12.5"	Divider A&B 8" x 15"	Divider A&B 8" x 15"	Divider D 8" x 8.5"
Back 30" x 12.5"	Back 30" x 12.5"	Back 30" x 12.5"	Divider A&B 8" x 15"	Divider A&B 8" x 15"	Divider D 8" x 8.5"
Front 30" x 12.5"	Back 30" x 12.5"	Back 30" x 12.5"	Divider A&B 8" x 15"	Divider D 8" x 8.5"	Divider D 8" x 8.5"

The stand is made of 1x4 stock with scraps of the 1/2" plywood as stretchers between the legs.

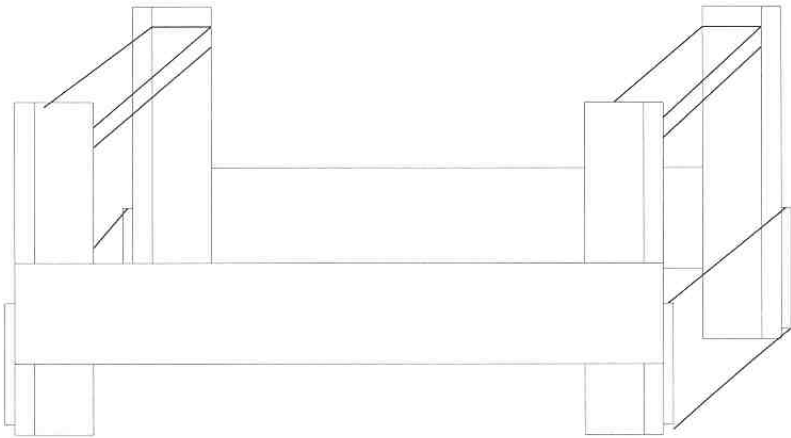


All 1 x 4 legs are 16.5" long
Cross brace on top and stretchers need to be adjusted to allow loose fit over box.



Top cross brace is recessed about 1/2" to allow box to drop into stand. This keeps the box from slipping off. It also allows the boxes to be stacked without slipping.

Mount the side stretcher braces low, to allow access to the chest handles for lifting. The position of the front and back stretchers is not critical.



Sorry, my drawing program doesn't do 3D well, but I think you can get the idea of how this goes together.

Additional pictures of the finished box.



Patrol box and stand



An inside view of a loaded box
Notice the ladle is tucked into the pot handle.



The cleaning gear inside the dishpans.
A pair of gloves is included for handling hot pots.



The accessory box and knife block shown



The box ready to transport