SIMPLE PLANS FOR THE SUNKEN POT APROSTOVE





This stove was designed through the coordinated efforts of Aprovecho Research Center, GTZ, ProBEC and the people of Southern Africa. If you have questions about these plans please contact your local ProBEC representative at ______ or contact Aprovecho at apro@efn.org.

This stove is designed for a #2 and #3 round-bottom cast iron pots. This stove can also be modified to accommodate a number of different pot sizes. The stove body can be built with 1 mm galvanized sheet steel (above left), cement, brick or 3CR12 (above right). Material price for the galvanized model in South Africa is approx 300 Rand (Summer 2002).

<u>Photos and Text</u> by Peter Scott <u>Drawings</u> by Ethan Hughes



The Aprostove's chimney, combined with its high combustion efficiency, make it an ideal stove for people who are aware of the health and environmental hazards of open fires. However, the Aprostove is not the ideal stove for every cooking situation.

Here are some things to consider before introducing this stove in your community:

Are people cooking outside?	Is Liquid Petro-	Are they build-	Are they using
	leum Gas (LPG)	ing conserva-	flat bottom
	readily available?	tive open fires?	pots ?
If yes, then consider building an unvented stove outside the house. Unvented stoves can often be more efficient, easier to build, and longer lasting. If the chim- ney is not replaced when it eventually degrades, the indoor stove could expose the family to more smoke than if they had continued to cook outside with an open fire.	If yes, than con- sider encouraging a switch to LPG. In many southern countries, wood is not sustainably har- vested so even an improved wood stove can lead to long term forest degradation. There is some evidence that LPG stoves produces less green house gases than wood fires.	If yes, consider introducing a haybox or an unvented stove outside the house. A small, carefully tended open fire can be very effi- cient. Unfortu- nately, this type of fire is uncommon in most parts of the world.	If yes, consider introducing the Ecostove or a regular Rocket outside. Flat bottom pots will not work with the Aprostove due to poor con- tact with the cooking sur- face. I f they have only one pot, consider introducing a Rocket stove.

If you answer <u>YES</u> to any of these questions, you should RECON-SIDER introducing the Aprostove into your community. See the next page for other designs that might be more appropriate or contact Aprovecho Research Center for more information.

DIFFERENT STOVES FOR DIFFERENT NEEDS

Aprovecho stoves are built using principles that can be adapted to suit any cooking need. Because one stove design will not work in each community, we offer a number of stove models to choose from:

THE ECO STOVE



This stove - designed by Aprovecho—features an insulated ceramic rocket combustion chamber. It can cook 3 pots of food, make tortillas and bake bread. Price in Central America is approx US\$ 80.

THE ROCKET STOVE



The Double Burner Rocket stove is less expensive and more efficient (25 -30%) than the Aprostove. It is ideal for cooking outside or in areas where a chimney is not needed or available.

THE ROCKET RING STOVE



With the rings in place, multiple pots can be cooked at the same time. The rings can also be removed for use with individual round bottom pots.

THE HAYBOX COOKER



The haybox works by retaining heat inside a layer of insulation such as straw, wool or foam. The haybox can reduce fuel consumption by 70% and is simple and inexpensive to build .

For more information about these stoves please contact Aprovecho Research Center.



BUILDING WITH BRICK OR CEMENT

The body of the Aprostove can be built with a variety of different materials such as cement, clay & sand, brick, adobe, or metal. This guide explains how to construct the stove with metal but other plans are available to build the Justa with cement and brick.



This cement Aprostove is being built by Helps International in the Guatemalan Highlands. Three individual cement pieces are cast in fiberglass molds and then assembled on site. The molds are easy to transport and help prevent design inconsistencies.



This brick stove –designed by Aprovecho - has an insulated rocket combustion chamber. Thousands of these stoves have been built in Central America. The metal lid is removable so a single pot can be cooked with direct flame.



The type of material (cement ,brick , adobe or metal)) that is used for the exterior stove body will not have a great impact on the performance of the stove. Special materials are not needed for the stove *body*. The stove will function effectively as long as the body of the stove can support 5 pots and can withstand tempera-

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BEFORE GETTING STARTED

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Tools

- Tin snips (offset if possible)
- Electric steel grinder and cutter
- Arc welder
- Vice grips and/or pliers
- Steel friction cutter for cutting 45° angles
- Square
- Metal chisel
- Scribe
- Metal jigsaw

Optional

- Hydraulic box and brake (for bending)
- MIG welder
- Plasma cutter

rocket stove be used

Materials

- 1 sheet of 1 mm galvanized steel)
- Combustion chamber: ceramic, 3CR12 ,or mild steel
- One sheet of 1225 mm by 2500 mm 1.2 mm 3CR12
- One sheet of 1225 mm by 2500 mm 2 mm steel
- 10 kg of medium grade vermiculite
- 6 m by 25 mm by 2 mm square tube
- 6 m by 10 mm by 2 mm square tube
- Stainless steel welding rods
- 100 mm galvanized chimney pipe and elbow section

BEFORE SELLING THE STOVE, YOU SHOULD ASK THE POTENTIAL BUYER A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS:

What type of fuel are they using for the majority of their cooking?

Wood? The Aprostove is suitable.	Fossil fuel (paraffin or LPG)? Be cautious about introducing a wood stove to women who are using other types of fuels as it can lead to an increase in overall wood consumption. Consider promoting a Haybox/Wonderbox instead.			
Does the buyer want to cook inside or outside of their house?				
Outside or in a well ventilated area? The Rocket stove is suitable.	Inside? The Aprostove is suitable.			
What size pots are they using?				
Are they round bottomed or flat bottome Make the stove based on the cooks needs.	d or a combination of both?			
What is the thickness of the pieces of the w	ood that they are using?			
Twigs and pieces less than 50 mm? The 100 mm square tube diameter	Pieces larger than 50 mm? The 125 mm round tube diameter round rocket elbow			

Note: This is only a partial list of the questions that should be asked. Try to find out as much about the cooking habits of each customer before selling a stove.

should be used.

Note: In this guide 'O' bends refer to outward bends or bends up from the plane of the page, whereas 'X' Bends refer to inward bends or bends down away from the plane of the page. Unless otherwise noted, all bends are 90 degrees

SCHEMATIC OF THE APROSTOVE

For detailed instruction on how to build the individual pieces of the Aprostove, please see the following pages:



ROCKET ELBOW OPTIONS

The Aprostove can be made with different types of materials. The type of elbow/combustion chamber should be chosen before building the stove body as each elbow requires a different stove body configuration. Options are listed in order of preference.

Option 1: Ceramic Tiles <u>Price (in Central America):</u> is approx 10 Rand per elbow



Option 2: 3CR12

1.2 mm flat sheet 3CR12 can be bent into a 100 mm rectangular box which can then be cut to form an elbow.

Price (in South Africa): is approx. 30 Rand per combustion chamber. (The 3CR12 elbow shown here is the Single Pot Rocket version*).

Option 3: 100 mm by 3 mm mild steel square tube

<u>Price in South Africa:</u> is approx 20 Rand per combustion chamber.

125 mm by 3 mm mild steel round tube can also be used . <u>Price:</u> in South Africa is 22 Rand per elbow.





Cast iron, refractory cement and various types of insulative ceramic (such as pumice/ vermiculite and clay blends can be also be used. See Rocket Design Guide for more information about the benefits and challenges of some materials. Aprovecho is presently developing a new insulative ceramic elbow. Contact us for more details.

*Plans are also available for the Single Pot and Double Burner model.

From the following 5 pages, choose one of the 3 elbow options: ceramic tiles, 3CR12 or 3 mm mild steel.

Follow the appropriate directions in the other parts of the guide which are specific to the elbow that you have chosen. For example if using the 100 mm elbow be sure to follow the directions for the corresponding 100 mm shelf.

ROCKET ELBOW WITH CERAMIC TILES



Use the following measurements to form a combustion chamber with ceramic bricks. Some experimentation will be necessary to create the ideal ceramic brick. The ideal bricks are not hard pressed or compacted like modern brick. They use a lot of water and are set up 'sloppy'. This will result in a porous brick that is friable. When placed in water, it should 'fizz' due to the large number of pores in the brick. The tiles should not feel dense or heavy but crumbly and soft. The ideal thickness is 25 mm. See Rocket Design Guide for more info.











front

135



Take each piece and scribe the lines as shown but do **not** cut. Bend the 4 scribed lines to form a 4 -sided box with an 8 mm lip. See following page for a sketch of how the box should ap-



COMPLETING THE 100 MM 3CR12 COMBUSTION CHAMBER



Before welding the two pieces together, grind the insides of the joints smooth. If sharp pieces are left exposed then the stove users could cut their hands when they reach in to the combustion chamber to clean out the wood ash .

CONSTRUCTING THE 100 MM SQUARE TUBE ROCKET ELBOW



Before welding the two pieces together, grind the insides of the joints until smooth. If sharp pieces are left exposed on the inside of the tube, the cook could cut their hands when they reach in to clean out the wood ash.

Build two complete combustion chambers as shown.

BUILDING THE 125 MM BY 3MM ROUND TUBE ROCKET ELBOW



Before welding the two pieces together, grind the insides of the joints smooth. If sharp pieces are left exposed the cook could cut their hands when they reach in to clean out the wood ash.

BUILDING THE SHELF FOR THE 100 MM COMBUSTION CHAMBER

(Use 2 or 3 mm mild steel or 1.2 mm 3CR12)





CONSTRUCTING THE APROSTOVE BODY

For detailed instruction on how to build the individual pieces of the stove body, please see the following pages:



SCRIBING THE INDIVIDUAL STOVE BODY PANELS







BUILDING THE BODY OF THE ECOSTOVE (For 100 mm Rocket Elbow)



BUILDING THE BODY OF THE ECOSTOVE



Back panel (chimney exit)



Join the front panel and the Back panel to the **outside** of the box bottom. Drill 5 holes where each panel meet but attach only 2 screws per side. Then attach side panel 'A' to the **outside** of the Back and the Front panels. Drill 5 holes where each panel meet but attach only 2 screws per side.



CONSTRUCTING THE OVEN

Take a piece of 1.2 mm 3CR12 and cut one section 879 by 330 mm.



Scribe the lines as shown and then fold into a 4 sided box with a 25 mm lip. Weld with stainless steel welding rods. Before welding , double check that the 4 sides are exactly 25, 197, 230, 197, and 230.



CUTTING THE OVEN BOTTOM



3 Insert the oven bottom into the **inside** of the oven box and tack weld with stainless steel welding rods.



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CUTTING SIDE PANEL 'B' (OVEN ENTRANCE)

1 Take one piece of 1 mm galvanized sheet steel and cut a 612 by 425 mm section.



 $\underline{3}$ Scribe another box , inset 25 mm in from the previous box. Cut out the inset box.



.

75

Cut and

remove

2 Place the completed oven unit on the top right corner of the sheet—75 mm from the bottom and 55 mm from the side. Scribe but do not cut a line around the oven body.







612

COMPLETING THE OVEN ENTRANCE



BUILDING THE OVEN JACKET

Take one piece of 1 mm galvanized sheet steel or 1.2 mm 3CR12 and cut an 888 by 392 mm section.



25

BUILDING THE OVEN JACKET (CONTINUED)

Cut 2 miter joints and 6 straight cuts along the dotted lines. Make the straight cuts from the edge of the sheet only to the **first** horizontal line. Do not cut beyond the horizontal line.



Make an '0' crease* along the 62 mm dotted horizontal line and then make an 'X' crease* along the 25 mm dotted horizontal line. DO NOT FOLD.



*To make a crease , bend to 20 degrees and then flatten to remove the fold . When finished, the piece will lay flat with a small indentation

BUILDING THE OVEN JACKET (CONTINUED)

'O' Bend and fold 90 $^\circ\,$ along the previously scribed vertical dotted lines.



The jacket should now be a 3 sided box with two lips \cdot Using the previous **crease** marks, fold an 62 mm 'O' bend and a 25 mm 'X ' bend. Use pliers or vice grips to fold.



BUILDING THE OVEN JACKET (CONTINUED)

Once folded, the oven jacket should look like the drawing below. Note that the folds at the back of the skirt are opposite to folds at the front of the jacket ('X' Bends vs. 'O' Bends)



Place the oven jacket into the stove body and then slide the oven into Side panel 'B'/oven entrance.



Use an arc welder to weld the **jacket** to the **oven** and the **jacket** to the **stove body**. The gap between the oven body and the jacket is important. See below for the proper gap on each side.



BUILDING THE OVEN DOOR



CONSTRUCTING THE TOP PLATE /COOKING SURFACE

These measurement are for a #2 and a #3 round-bottom cast iron pots. The stove can be modified to accept larger and smaller size pots



CONSTRUCTING THE TOP PLATE /COOKING SURFACE Cont'd



CUTTING AND INSTALLING THE POT SKIRT

Take one piece of 1.2 mm 3CR12 and cut a 150 mm by 1350 mm section.

150

1350

Find the center of the sheet and cut along the 100 mm vertical line and the 150 mm horizontal line.



Make two 25 mm 'X' Bends and two 50 mm 'X' Bends to form the passage to the chimney exit.



COMPLETING THE TOP PLATE

(Use 2 mm mild steel)

It is important to maintain a 150 mm gap between the two sides of the skirt to allow sufficient airflow between the first and the second pot. The 150 mm gap between the two sides of the skirt is the same dimension that will be scribed on the oven jacket to create the opening for the jacket entrance and exit.



Cutting the openings into the oven jacket. 1 Oven Jacket entrance Place the top plate/skirt unit on top of the stove body and A) scribe two lines where the bottom of the skirt meets the oven jacket. Then B) draw a third line joining the first two lines at the **front** of the oven jacket . Using an electric grinder cut these three lines. **2 Oven jacket exit** Repeat step A at the back of the oven exit. Then draw a third line joining the first two lines at the back of the oven jacket.



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COMPLETING THE TOP PLATE

(Use 2-3 mm mild steel or 1.2 mm 3CR12)

1 After cutting the three lines, bend the piece upwards to create a vertical flange. As shown in the drawing below. 2 Repeat at the back of the oven to form the jacket exit.



)CONSTRUCTING THE OVEN DAMPER

(Use 2-3 mm mild steel

1 Take a 7 mm steel bar and cut two 300 mm sections. These bars are the rails of the damper.

300

3 Weld the rails to the **outside** of the 2 mm steel plate.



2 Take a piece of 2 mm plate steel and cut a 130 mm by 150 mm section



A Drill two 10 mm holes in the top plate and slide the rails of the damper through them.

The damper should:

- slide smoothly in the tracks
- sit inside the track guides
- lay as close to the oven body as possible

When the damper is in place, there should be a 50-65 mm gap between it and the **front** of the oven jacket. When the damper is in the lowered position it should create a 130 mm by 100 mm passage between the first and second pot.



CONSTRUCTING THE OVEN DAMPER

Constructing the damper handle

1 Weld a piece of 7 mm steel bar between rails of the damper, 50 mm below the top of the rails. This will hold the damper in the correct open position.

2 Weld another piece of 7 mm steel bar between the top of the rails. This will be the handle for the damper.



The damper unit should look like this when finished.



The top of the tracks where the tracks meet the top plate - can be lightly pinched with vice grips to hold the damper in place when it is in the up (or closed) position . Be careful not to pinch the tracks too tightly or the damper will not slide at all.

FINISHING THE STOVE

Fill the stove with medium grade vermiculite or wood ash (see arrows in diagram below). Fill under and around the Rocket Elbow. Fill under and around the oven jacket. Be sure to **not** put any vermiculite between the oven jacket and the oven body as it will block the passage of heat around the oven. Fiberglass insulation can also be added between the skirt and the stove body.



Insulation should also be added on top of the oven unit (between the . The two flanges that were cut and formed on page 34 should hold the insulation in place and stop it from falling down into the oven compartment.

Once the stove body is filled with insulation then the top plate can be permanently affixed to the body of the stove. Drill 4 holes per side and connect with metal screws.

The diagram on the right shows the damper in the lowered or open position This allows hot gases to pass to the first and second pot but not the oven . When the damper is in the raised or closed position it allows hot gases to travel past the first pot and enter the oven but not the second pot . For the oven to work either both pots or stove lids must be in place to maintain sufficient draft.

