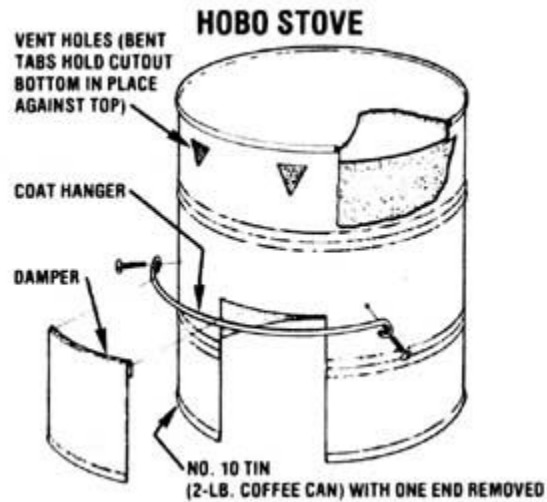


The Hobo-Stove



BUILDING THE HOBO STOVE

First, as shown in the drawing, remove the bottom from a No. 10 tin can and cut a 4"-square door along the lower margin of the container. Now, flip the can over and drop the detached bottom inside so that it rests on the inside of the top. Still holding the can upside down, punch several smoke holes around the top rim with a can opener. The can-opener tabs will keep the second lid—the piece you cut out of the bottom — in place so it can act as a durable double top when the can is turned right side up.

Next, just above and at each side of the 4" square door, drill or punch two small holes. Insert a bolt through each hole and secure it loosely in place with a washer and nut on the inside. Now, attach the ends of a piece of stiff wire (a coat hanger or baling wire will do) to the bolts, as shown, and tighten them securely.

Finally, take the 4" square you removed from the tin and bend the top of it over the wire. You can open and close this makeshift "damper" as needed to keep the fire at the correct level.

Because of its double-thickness top, the hobo stove retains heat, distributes it evenly across the upper surface, and prevents rapid burnout of the can, which otherwise could occur. Since the fire is almost entirely contained within the small tin, and the amount of heat generated and transferred to the cooking surface is enormous, it's important to remember to use only pencil-sized bits of wood for the fire. By using the damper, you can control the intensity of the fire and keep it at the proper cooking level.