

You CAN take it with you.

A Low Buck DIY Portable Campfire

It's hard to beat a good campfire, and they are necessary for making important things like hot dogs, marshmallows and s'mores. But campfires aren't usually portable, and the ones you can buy are usually pretty flimsy and won't handle the full size logs that make for a really great fire.

When we were getting ready for my daughters wedding here at the ranch, I was a little concerned about the weather as it freezes even in June. With 150+ guests coming for dinner and games, I knew even if the weather was nice (which it was) people would still enjoy a nice campfire.

I rooted through the treasure chest (junk pile) and found the end of a large tank. It was 24" in diameter and about the same length, so it didn't require any size modifications. At a full $\frac{1}{4}$ thick, it was plenty stout.

After cutting several large vent holes with the plasma torch, and a $\frac{1}{2}$ hole in the bottom to drain off water, I welded some angle iron legs on the the tank in 120 degree increments.



Three, 2" X 1/4" angle iron legs with 1/4 round pads welded to the bottom made great legs and will allow it to set solidly on any type of surface. (make sure it is level)



With the legs welded on, it was time to grind down all sharp edges.

The thought of a hot cylinder with a bunch of people gathered around it gave me pause, so it was time to go root through the treasure chest for a safety ring.



After a full 60 seconds of searching, I found two pieces of an old porch swing that looked like they were made for it. Nick, who was staying at the ranch for the wedding, got a crash course in metal fabrication and did a great job helping with the project.



With the rings attached and an angle iron brace welded 12" from the top to hold a grate made of expanded metal, the fire ring was ready for service. The rings make it easy to move and double as a safety cage to keep people from touching the tank.

We took some dry aspen and built a big fire in it to season the unit and put it on the lawn by the volleyball court for people to enjoy, and they sure did. Later on we moved it to the dance floor (basketball court) and people continued to enjoy it until the wee hours.



Eventually it will get a nice patina of rust and should last a few decades.

With one hour of labor, and nothing invested in materials, the ranch has a neat fire ring, I am going to add a grate so you can cook hamburgers and steaks as well. Nothing beats cooking over a campfire.