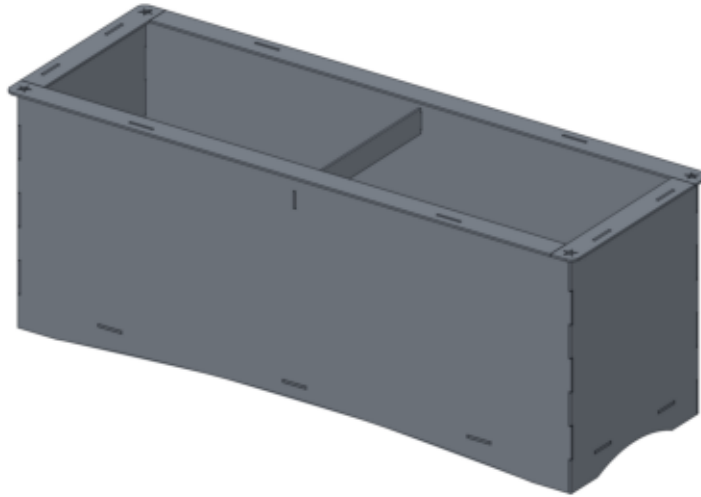


Lone Star Trough Planter, 36 in



A 36 x 12 x 14 in steel planter you weld yourself. Laser-cut 10 ga panels box-joint together at the corners, the floor drains through a grid of holes, arched feet keep it off the patio, and a cap rim with a Lone Star in each corner finishes the top. Leave it raw and it rusts to a rich patina.

What's in the box



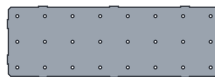
Long wall x2

Part PL36-01



End wall x2

Part PL36-02



Floor x1

Part PL36-03



Long rim strip x2

Part PL36-04



End rim strip x2

Part PL36-05



Cross tie x1

Part PL36-06

What you'll need

- MIG or flux-core welder (a 120 V machine handles 10 ga)
- Angle grinder with a flap disc
- Four or more clamps and a framing square
- Rubber mallet and a flat file
- Two 2x4 boards
- Welding helmet, gloves, jacket and safety glasses

Lone Star Trough Planter, 36 in

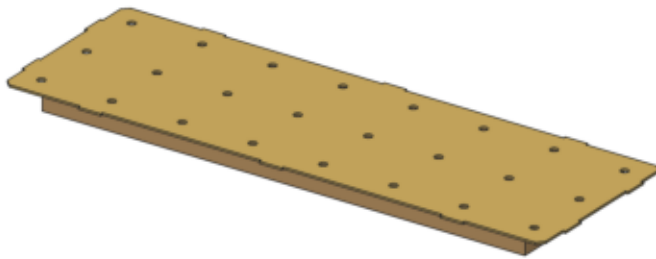
1

Set the floor on two boards

Lay two 2x4 boards flat about 6 in apart on a flat surface. Laid flat they hold the floor at its finished height of 1-1/2 in. Set the floor on them.

TIP

Work on a flat, level surface; a welding table or smooth concrete floor is ideal.



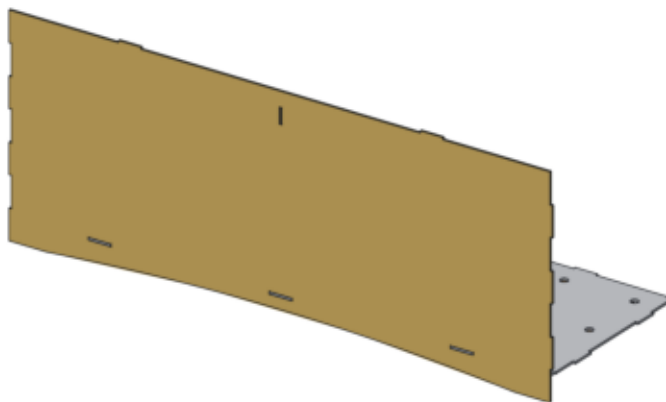
2

Hang the first wall

Slide a wall onto the floor tabs along one side, from the outside, so the tabs pass through its row of slots near the bottom. The arch goes down and the tabs on its top edge point up.

TIP

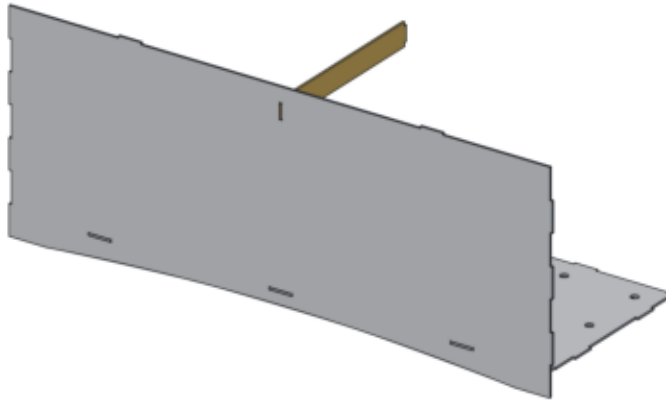
A rubber mallet helps if a slot is tight; clean it with a file instead of forcing it.



Lone Star Trough Planter, 36 in

3

Set the cross tie



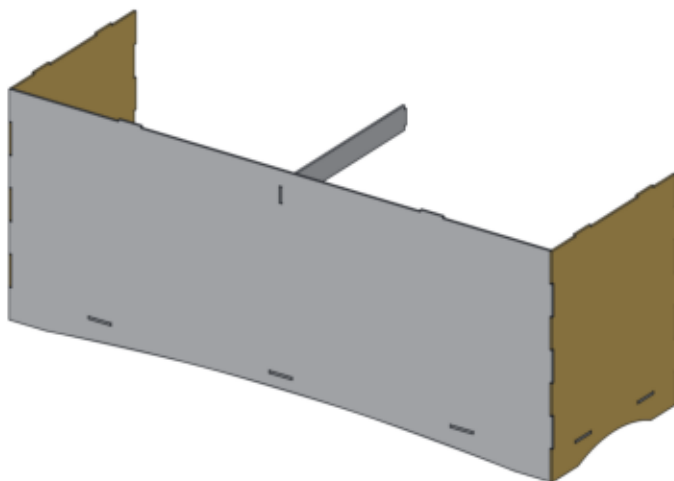
Push one end tab of the cross tie into the slot near the top of the first long wall, flat side facing the end walls. Hold it level; the last wall takes its other end.

TIP

A clamp on the tie and the wall's top edge holds it while you close the box.

4

Add the next two walls

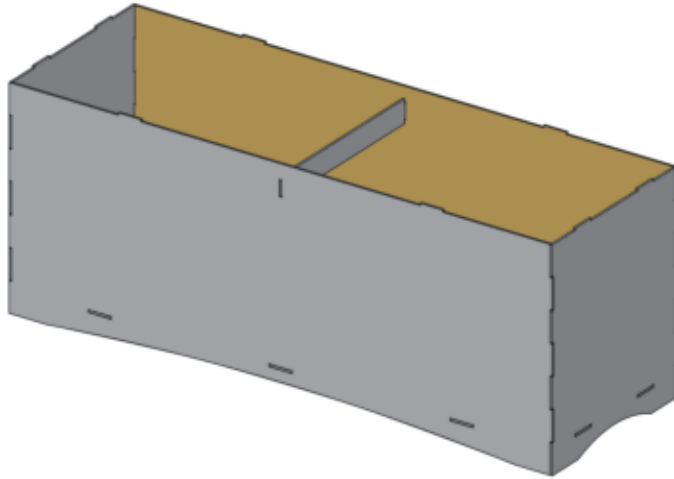


Bring a wall in at each end of the first one. Push each straight in, square to its face, so the floor tabs enter its slots and the corner fingers interleave.

Lone Star Trough Planter, 36 in

5

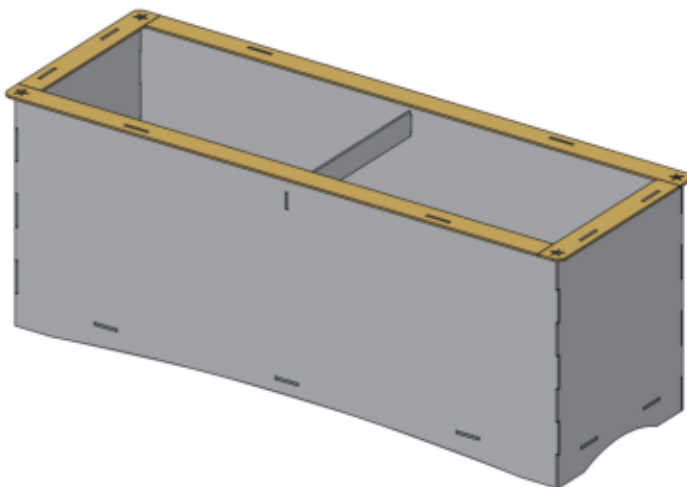
Close the box and square it



Push the last long wall in square to its face so its fingers mesh at both corners and the cross tie's tab drops into its slot. Clamp the corners, check that the diagonals across the top match, and tack each corner top and bottom and every floor tab. Lift it off the boards.

6

Set the rim strips

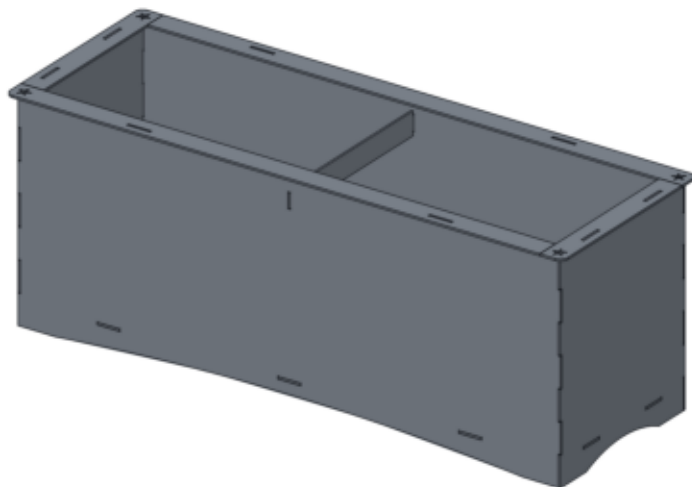


Drop each rim strip over the tabs on top of a wall, rounded star corner to the outside. The four strips butt together in a pinwheel at the corners. Tack each strip at every tab.

Lone Star Trough Planter, 36 in

7

Weld it out



Weld the four outside corners along the finger joints, the floor tabs from outside, the cross tie's end tabs, then the rim tabs and the four rim joints from the top. Grind the rim smooth.

TIP

Stitch welds (2 in at a time, moving around) keep the walls flat.

Lone Star Trough Planter, 36 in

Finishing

- For the rusted look, leave it raw. Wipe off the oil film with a degreaser and let rain do the rest in a few weeks, or speed it up with a vinegar, peroxide and salt spray.
- Seal the outside with a matte clear coat once the color is right, so rust doesn't rub off on clothes.
- Coat the inside with a rubberized undercoating or use a liner; wet soil against bare steel is what wears a planter out.
- Line it with landscape fabric so soil doesn't wash out of the drain holes.
- Or paint it: prime and paint inside and out with an exterior metal paint.

Safety

- Filled with wet soil it weighs about 371 lb. Put it where it will live before you fill it.
- New rust runs off in the rain and stains concrete, stone and decks. Set it on pavers, gravel or a tray for the first season.
- Grind the rim and every edge smooth; hands and garden hoses go near it.

This is a kit of raw steel parts. You build the finished product, and the quality of your welds and your judgment about where and how you use it are yours. Weld with proper ventilation and protective gear.