

All Purpose Wooden Crate

I built a wooden crate to carry supplies in, such as, propane, ammo, fake explosives, tape and whatever else will fit in it. I would like to say right off the start that this does not represent any particular WWII crate or am I trying to say that this is a repro of an authentic crate of any sort. However, what I tried to make here was something that could be carried into the field and look like it could have been used during WWII. Since I have built my first crate, I have now built a second one and turned it into a cooler, again with the idea that it could be taken into the field and not stand out of place like a modern cooler would.

Well, people have seen my crate at a few events and have asked for instruction on building one. Since they are not difficult to build and that you need only basic tools to build this crate, and since I was in the middle of building my second crate I thought that I would document it and share it with whom ever wanted to build one for their selves.

You do not need to make it with the same dimensions that I used, you can make it as big or as small as you would like. Just keep in mind that it needs to be carried and it needs to fit into you car.

Tools and Items needed:

- Saw of some kind
- Hammer
- Nails 1"
- Waterproof glue
- Measuring tape
- Drill with a half-inch bit
- Rope
- Duct Tape



You will also need enough wood stock to make the following cuts. I used pine because it's cheap and easy to get.

1 X 2 lumber
1 X 3 lumber
1 X 4 lumber

4 – 1 X 4 X 19 10/16 inches each - for the 2 side panels.
4 - 1 X 4 X 11 1/4 inches each - for the 2 end panels.
4 – 1 x 2 x 12 9/16 inches each – 2 for the top and 2 for the bottom.
4 – 1 x 2 x 6 11/16 inches each – 2 for each end.
4 – 1 x 2 x 6 1/16 inches each – for inside the crate.

- 2 - 1 x 2 x 9 ¾ inches each – for the underside of the top.
- 3 - 1 x 4 x 18 inches each – for the bottom of the crate.
- 1 - 1 x 3 x 18 inches – also for the bottom of the crate.
- 5 - 1 x 3 x 19 10/16 – for the top of the crate. Note two of these pieces will need to be ripped to 2 inches.

Now cut all your pieces to the above measurements and then assemble following the steps below.



Make sure that you put glue on each of the pieces that needs to be nailed to give it some extra strength.

1. First rip the two top pieces so that they are 2 inches in width.



2. Place all five pieces of the top side by side, keeping the two ripped boards at each end. Take two of the 1x2x12 9/16 inch pieces and nail to the tope boards 2 1/4 inches from each end.



3. Flip the top over and then nail the two 1x2x9 3/4 inch pieces to the underside of the top. Use one of your cut pieces to measure how from the ends the pieces should be nailed down.



4. Take the three 1x4x18 inch pieces and the one 1x3x18 inch piece and place them side-by-side. Keep the 1x3x18 inch piece on the inside. Nail the remaining two 1x2x12 9/16 inch pieces to the ends of the boards.



5. Assemble the ends as shown in the picture below using the 1x4x11¼ inch boards and the 1x2x6 11/16 pieces.



6. Do the same for the sides using the 1x4x19 10/16 inch boards and the 1x2x6 1/16 inch pieces. Again, use a cut piece to measure how far from the ends the pieces should be nailed from the ends. The bottom of the pieces should be flush to one side.



7. Okay, now you are already to put it all together. Just remember to do a dry fit before you glue and nail the sides and bottom together.





8. Now take your drill and half inch bit and drill two holes on each end as shown in the picture below. Just make sure that you drill the holes in the bottom panel, which will be able to take the stress better than the top panel.



9. Use duct tape to tape the ends. This will make it easier to thread the rope through the hole and will help to stop the ends from fraying apart.



10. Once you thread the rope through the hole, tie the end into a knot.



11. Cut the rope to the length that you would like and then tape, thread and knot the other end. I am not going to suggest what the length of the rope should be because I'm going to leave that up to you. Would you like the rope handle to be long enough to hand out just at the side or would you like the rope handles to extend over the top of the crate when it is being carried? Or perhaps something in between? You decide.



12. Now repeat steps 9 to 11 for the other side and you are done. Leave the crate as is or stencil something on the outside it's up to you.

NOTE: The crates can stack on top of each other and are locked in from sliding side to side due to the top and bottom rungs.

As I mentioned in the beginning of this document I turned this crate into a cooler with the intention of being able to take extra bottled water into the field and not ruining the area with a modern cooler in the field. I used some packing Styrofoam (that's my way of saving the environment) to insulate the walls, bottom and top of the crate. The Styrofoam is glued on and all the joints are taped to help seal the box.

The following are some pictures.

