ABW vacuum basket instructions

Design #1 – plastic food container

- To create this basket, find a plastic food container roughly the same diameter as the chute on your vacuum sampler. I created this one from a 56 fluid ounce container from a local grocery store.

- Mark and cut the center out of the lid (a rotary tool with small cutting disk works well) and replace with a circular piece of steel window mesh.

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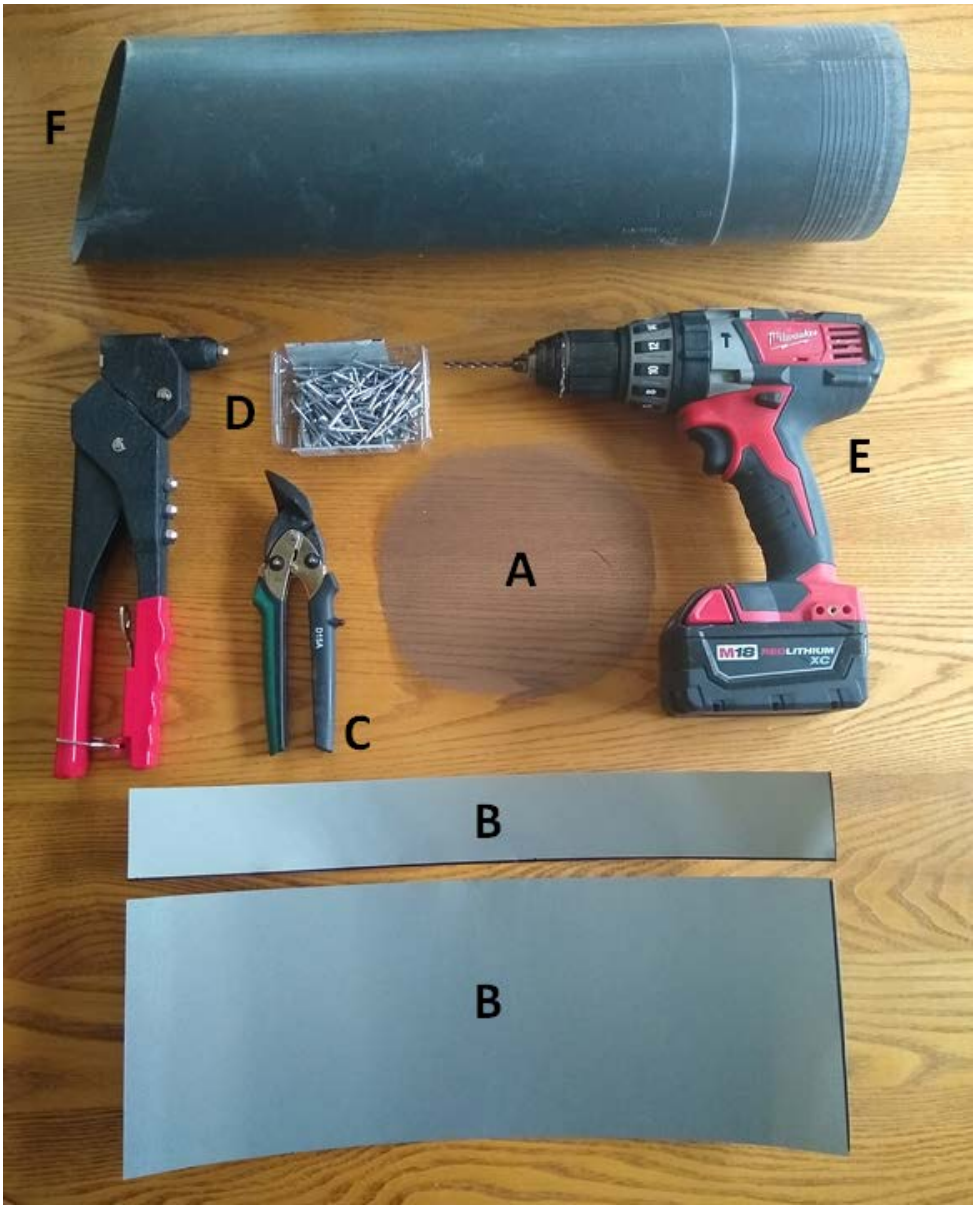
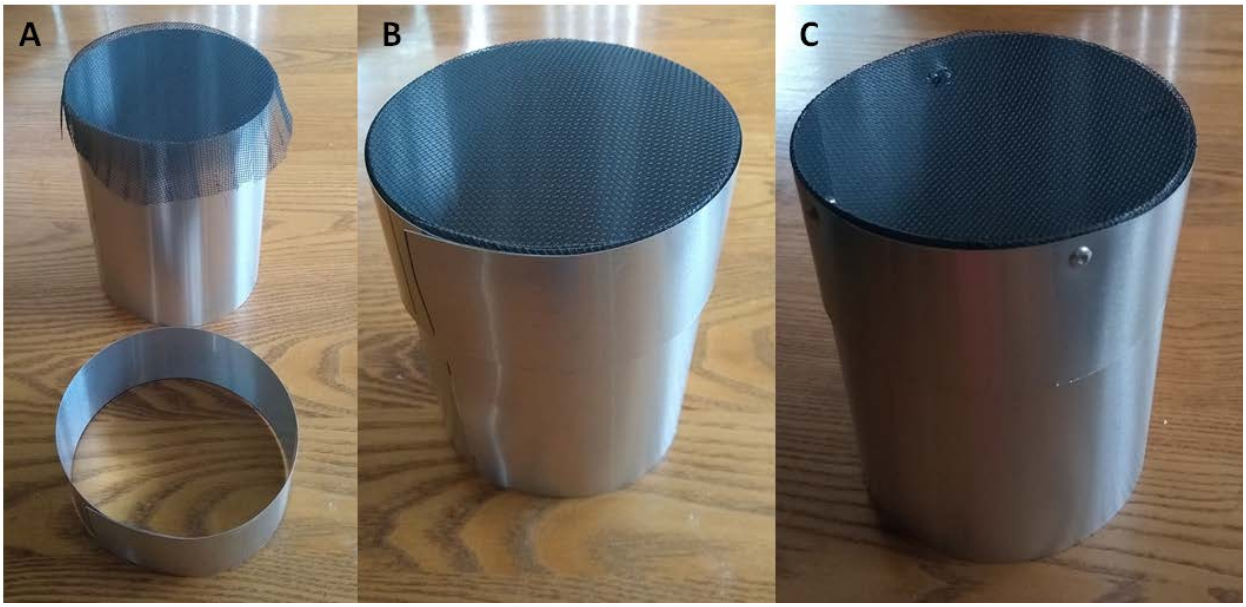
- Mark angle on container to match that of your vacuum chute and use rotary tool to cut container.
- I cut this container down both sides (below - see red arrows) to allow me to compress the walls to make the container fit snuggly in the chute of my vacuum sampler.

Design #2 – aluminum flashing



- You will need the materials shown above: A) steel window mesh, B) aluminum flashing (one piece 2 inches wide the other 6 inches wide), C) tin snips, D) aluminum rivets and rivet tool, E) drill, F) the chute to your vacuum sampler. Begin by cutting two pieces of aluminum flashing as shown in the figure above (B). In this example, the bands are 2 and 6 inches wide, both cut long enough to be wrapped into a cylinder that will nest inside of the vacuum chute (F). Exact lengths are not provided as vacuum chutes dimensions differ by brand.



- To assemble the basket, the narrow band is first formed into a ring using double-sided tape (A) so that it fits just inside the diameter of the vacuum chute. The wide piece of flashing is then formed (again using double sided tape) to fit snuggly into the narrow band and to also accommodate a circle of window mesh cut large enough that it can be folded over the ends of the wide flashing cylinder (A). Assemble the basket as shown in (B) and drill pilot holes for rivets along the seam of the large cylinder as well as around the top of the basket near the mesh. Secure aluminum rivets in all pilot holes.

- Next, insert the basket into the vacuum chute and mark the angle at the end of the chute with a marker. Use tin snips to cut this angle into the open end of the vacuum basket.
- A rim will also need to be created on the outer end of the basket to keep it in place at the end of the vacuum chute. Duct tape or adhesive foam can be used for this.