



KEEP CAMPFIRES ABLAZE WITH THIS DUTCH OVEN HOLDER.

BY MICK KLEMESRUD

Build this Dutch oven holder, and there is no need to let campfires burn down to embers before cooking. Use tongs to place campfire coals on the metal disk while keeping your campfire flickering. The holder also makes Dutch oven cooking easy at campgrounds where fire rings are partially obstructed with grates. Charcoal briquettes can be ignited directly on the disk too. Place the holder on picnic tables and comfortably cook without bending down. (Put a can under the center hole to catch embers.) It is also useful for tailgating or with a tripod to brew a pot of coffee.

The Iowa can-do attitude inspired Marv Davis, 60, of Sully, to brainstorm this creation. Davis, an avid camper of more than 45 years, built his first stand from an old, heavy metal wok. This version uses a farm disc blade.

TIME

About 30 minutes to assemble. Allow 45 minutes if drilling holes. Add extra time for finding parts and spray painting.

COST

We field tested the unit and spent \$26 for hardware. Add another \$16 to buy a new disk blade. We salvaged our disks free from an implement dealer. Welding services could add labor costs.

PARTS

Old disk blade. "Ask a farmer you know to give you an old disk blade when he changes them out," Davis said.
 3 threaded, 3/4-inch floor flange bases
 3 3/4-inch nipples, 6 inches long
 3 3/4-inch, threaded caps



HANDLES

2 horseshoes or old handles off a wood burning stove (pictured.) Handles can be welded or use square U-bolts affixing to disc by drilling and securing with four rope clamps.

ASSEMBLE

Space the floor flange bases evenly in a triangle pattern underneath the disk, keeping an inch between the edge of the threaded base to the outer disk edge. Weld or bolt bases to the disk.

Thread the caps on the nipples and place nipples into the base. Center the handles leaving about a 2-1/2 to 3-inch gap for the handle opening. Weld or drill 1/4-inch holes and use 4 U-bolts (2 per side) per handle.

For a finished look, paint the unit with heat-resistant black spray paint.

OPTIONS

1. For a weld-free version, drill 1/4-inch holes through the threaded bases and use tapered stove bolts.
2. For longer legs, use 2-foot 3/4 inch nipples instead of the 6-inch

TIPS

- Spray the threads with Anti-Seize to prevent the legs from sticking in the base.
- To store, unscrew the legs from the base and carry in a heavy-duty cloth bag.
- Twist the legs in or out to level the unit.

