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06-02-2012, 11:36 PM

[Tweet this Post!](#) #1 **kvr28** Recent Blog: [And this little piggy went to market](#)
Junior MemberJoin Date: Oct 2008
Posts: 183
Thanks: 0
Thanked 386 Times in 109 Posts **DIY Solar Generator**

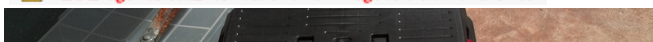
I decided to throw together a solar generator over the holiday weekend, so I ordered some items off amazon and I had ordered some panels from solar blvd

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I went to wally world and sears and picked up the rest of the parts

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so after I had assembled all the parts, I set the battery in the bottom of the toolbox

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I used some cardboard to help keep the battery from moving around



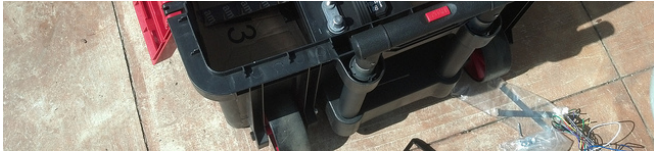


after looking at it and thinking how to lay everything out, I decided to center the battery in the box which also made it more stable



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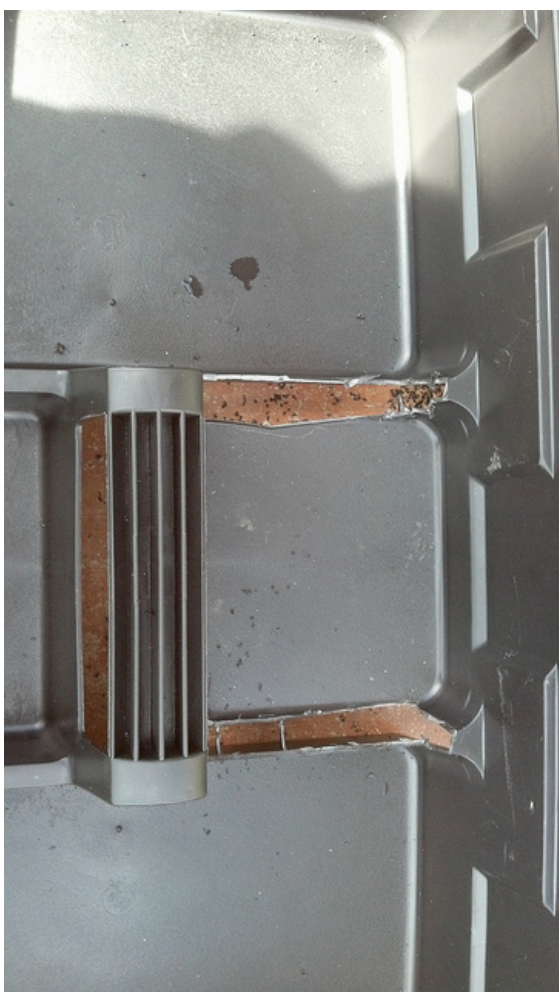


Once the battery was set, I put the tray in and messed around with placing the inverter, it fit into the tray well, but the sides blocked the outlets and the posts



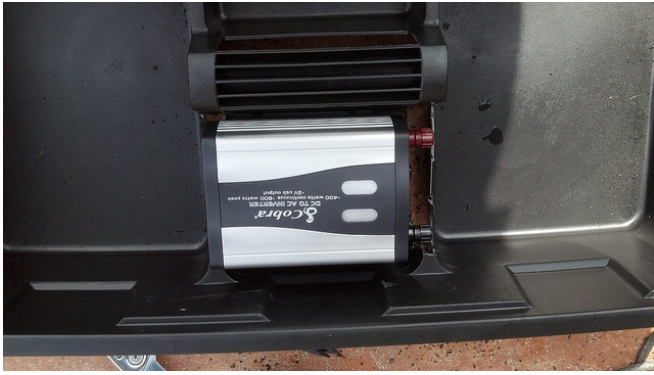


so I took my blade and jig saw and cut out the sides



and set the inverter, the resulting gap was good for running the wires

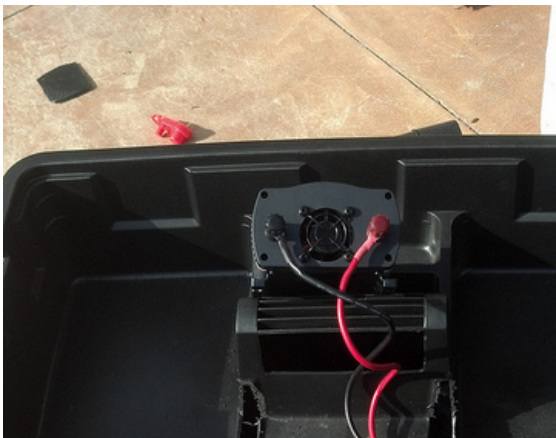
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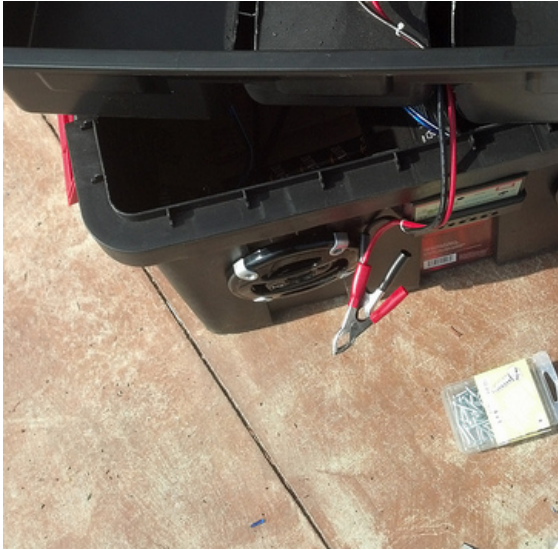


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I screwed down the terminals to the posts





and mounted the inverter



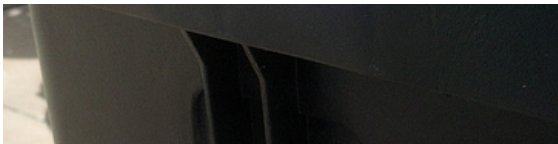


and ran a 12 volt connector from the batteries

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I traced out the speakers and used my razor to cut out the holes





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I mounted the charge controller between the speakers, this location works well also because it sits under the lip of the lid which will protect it from the rain

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and wired up the speakers

 This image has been resized. Click on image to view the fullsize!



and wrapped some electrical tape around the speaker to secure the wires

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I used some sheet metal screws to mount the speakers so that they would self tap into the hard case

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[QUOTE](#)[+](#)[Q'REPLY](#)[Thanks](#)

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06-02-2012, 11:38 PM

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I picked up a cheap mounting kit and broke all the tabs off the bracket and traced out the opening

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I used my utility knife and cut out the opening





and set the radio down into the bracket and set it the hole, I popped on the face plate for the radio and it locked the radio in place snugly



the only thing not waterproof is the speakers, but I can run a silicone bead around them to fix that

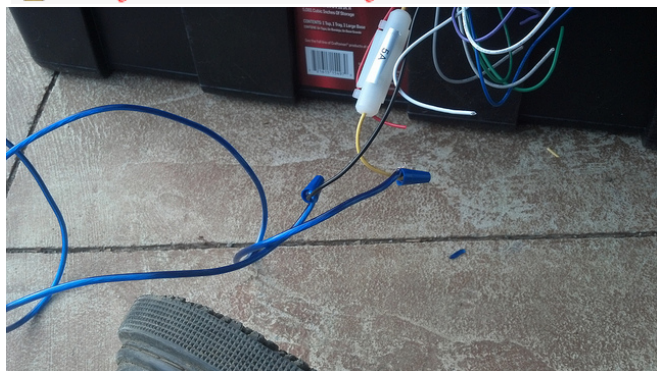
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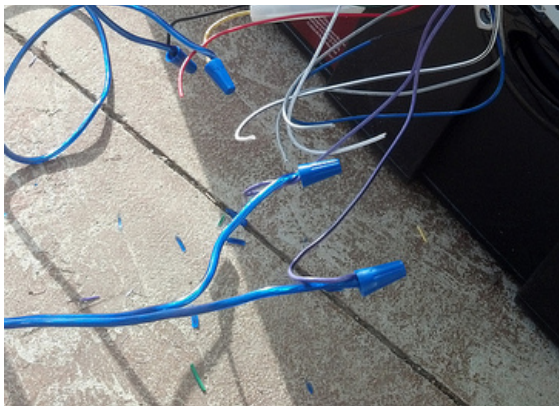
I wired up the power and the ground

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and the speaker wire, making sure that the positive and negatives were correct





all wired up

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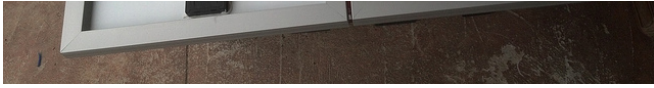
and ready to fire up



the next day I hooked up the solar panels, only thing I didn't like about these panels was there wasn't a lot of options for mounting them together except for the 2 sets of holes

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So I went and picked up some bolts, a hinge and some screw plates. I also bought a switch

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I used the screw plates to mount the panels together

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I stood them up to see how well the angle was with them leaned up against the handle



I needed to mount the hinge so I drilled out the frame for mounting



and bolted down the hinge

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I decided to mount the 12 volt plug in the side to make it more professional looking, so I drilled out a hole



and popped in the outlet

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much better looking and water tight

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I bought a switch to kill the radio from the battery when not in use. Like all of today's electronics, the radio will still drain the battery even when shut off





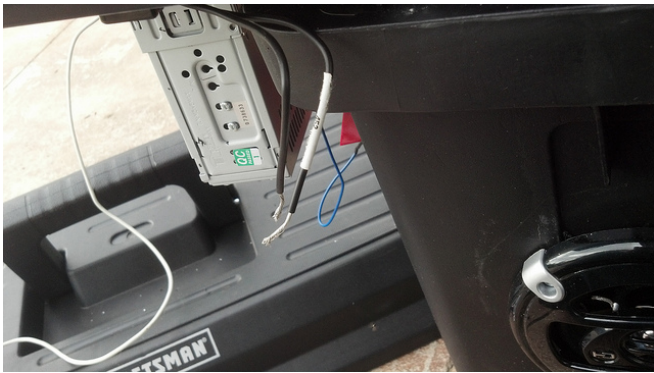
I drilled out a hole and mounted the switch





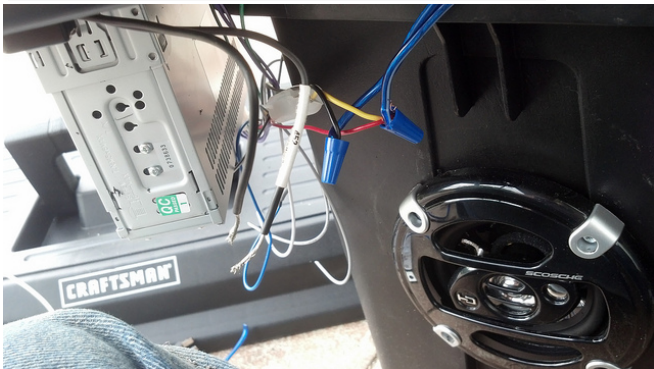
and ran the wires down below

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I grabbed the current wiring set up, the bundle on the right with the red, yellow and blue is the power feed

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[QUOTE](#)[+](#)[Q'REPLY](#)[Thanks](#)

The Following 5 Users Say Thank You to kvr28 For This Useful Post:

[aerbourne](#), [Rockyriver](#), [sluggyslugworth](#), [stugpanzer](#), [thePraXis](#)

06-02-2012, 11:39 PM

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kvr28 

Recent Blog: [And this little piggy went to market](#)
Junior Member



Join Date: Oct 2008
Posts: 183
Thanks: 0
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ran the red and power side of the switch together and tied the negative side in with the yellow and blue bundle

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already to rock and roll





next I drilled out a hole to feed the battery from the controller

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ran some wires

 This image has been resized. Click on image to view the fullsize!



and hooked them up to the output side of the charger, paying attention to the negative and positive terminals

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I pulled in the slack to clean it up a little

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next I had to wire up the panels

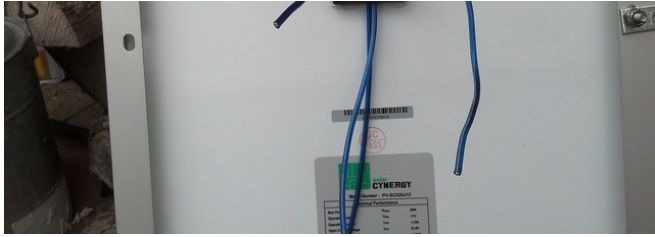
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I ran the wiring under the wire bracket

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and made sure to pay attention to the positive and negative again

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got both sides hooked up

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I had to wire them in parallel so I drilled out a hole in the frame to run the wires from one panel to another





stripped the wires

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and connected all positives and all negatives together and ran out a single feed

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I decided to hard wire the 12 volt terminal to the battery since the inverter already clamps to the posts, so I cut off the clamps

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and wired everything up, at this point we were live except for the panels going to the charge controller





I mounted the panels to the bracket built into the handle

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the handle collapses allowing the panels to lay flat

 This image has been resized. Click on image to view the fullsize!



and standing



I decided I didn't like it mounted there because the bracket was kind of flimsy and I could just see it breaking, so I drilled out the handle which was more sturdy

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and remounted the panels, I also liked that they stood up higher which allowed the panels bottom to rest right on the box and not just the edge

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I hooked up the panels to the charge controller and we were producing energy

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it is all complete

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QUOTE + Q'REPLY Thanks

The Following 8 Users Say Thank You to kyr28 For This Useful Post:

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[aerbourne](#), [Neophyte](#), [Prairie Dog](#), [Rockyriver](#), [sluggyslugworth](#), [stugpanzer](#), [TheRobinHood](#), [Wombat](#)

06-02-2012, 11:40 PM

Tweet this Post! #4 

kvr28 

Recent Blog: [And this little piggy went to market](#)

Junior Member

Join Date: Oct 2008

Posts: 183

Thanks: 0

Thanked 386 Times in 109 Posts



lets rock

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsIG6we0u00&feature...>

QUOTE

+ ”

Q'REPLY

Thanks

The Following 12 Users Say Thank You to **kvr28** For This Useful Post:

[aerbourne](#), [EddieApoc](#), [imadeerhnr](#), [justaregularguy](#), [Prairie Dog](#), [PrimalGal](#), [Rockyriver](#), [screaminchicken80](#), [sluggyslugworth](#), [stugpanzer](#), [thePraXis](#), [TheRobinHood](#)

06-02-2012, 11:42 PM

Tweet this Post! #5 

kvr28 

Recent Blog: [And this little piggy went to market](#)

Junior Member

Join Date: Oct 2008

Posts: 183

Thanks: 0

Thanked 386 Times in 109 Posts



price break down

12v clip on adapter 5.02

400 w inverter 26.84

charge controller 34.95

tool box 60

radio 49.97

speakers 29.95

wire 8

[dash kit](#) 18

panels 75.38

battery 80

for a total of 388.11

compare that to the prices of the ones online that are 2000 dollars. My specs and theirs are very close except they have a single 45 watt panel I have 2 20 watt panels. They also have a 1500 watt inverter while mine is a 400, but it only costs another 80 dollars to upgrade to a 1500 watt inverter. If you take away the stereo and upgraded the inverter you would still be about the same price point though.

if anyone wants my material list I can post it, peace

QUOTE

+

Q'REPLY

Thanks

The Following 11 Users Say Thank You to kvr28 For This Useful Post:

[jm19](#), [Meat Guy](#), [Prairie Dog](#), [Rockyriver](#), [screaminchicken80](#), [sluggyslugworth](#), [snowpeasandcarrots](#), [stugpanzer](#), [thePraXis](#), [TheRobinHood](#), [Zombie hunter](#)

06-02-2012, 11:46 PM

Tweet this Post! #6



[sluggyslugworth](#)

Member of the Resistance

Join Date: Jan 2010
Location: Southeastern Virginia
Age: 21
Posts: 930
Thanks: 539
Thanked 658 Times in 374 Posts

That looks to be a great guide. Thanks for posting it.

QUOTE

+

Q'REPLY

Thanks

06-02-2012, 11:57 PM

Tweet this Post! #7

[kvr28](#)

Recent Blog: [And this little piggy went to market](#)
Junior Member

Join Date: Oct 2008
Posts: 183
Thanks: 0
Thanked 386 Times in 109 Posts

your welcome slug

QUOTE

+

Q'REPLY

Thanks

06-03-2012, 08:47 AM

Tweet this Post! #8



[Rockyriver](#)

Party like it's 1999 !!!!

Join Date: Jun 2011
Location: N.C.
Posts: 1,383
Thanks: 755
Thanked 1,971 Times in 664 Posts

I am wanting to build one of these for my radio to take to the beach.
You gave me some great ideas and the motivation to start up my boom box project.

QUOTE

+

Q'REPLY

Thanks

The Following User Says Thank You to Rockyriver For This Useful Post:

[screaminchicken80](#)

06-03-2012, 09:38 AM

Tweet this Post! #9

[kvr28](#)

Recent Blog: [And this little piggy went to market](#)
Junior Member

Join Date: Oct 2008
Posts: 183
Thanks: 0
Thanked 386 Times in 109 Posts

if you wanted to just build a solar powered boom box, you could do it for much cheaper, you wouldn't need the inverter and you could use a smaller panel. Just run 12 volt. good luck!

QUOTE

+

Q'REPLY

Thanks

06-03-2012, 10:08 AM

Tweet this Post! #10

[snowpeasandcarrots](#)

Member

Join Date: Jan 2011
Posts: 75
Thanks: 115
Thanked 96 Times in 48 Posts

Thanks for taking the time to post the step-by-step instructions and pictures! That is extremely helpful.

I'd love a listing of your specific materials.

QUOTE

+ ”

Q'REPLY

Thanks

06-03-2012, 10:23 AM

Tweet this Post! #11 



vegasrandall 
Hunter

Join Date: Jan 2008
Location: las vegas
Posts: 1,075
Thanks: 1,139
Thanked 957 Times in 444 Posts



Will it play rock and roll at ear splitting volume 24/7 without running down the batteries?
I would add a Bluetooth link.

QUOTE

+ ”

Q'REPLY

Thanks

06-03-2012, 10:38 AM

Tweet this Post! #12 

kvr28 

Recent Blog: [And this little piggy went to market](#)
Junior Member

Join Date: Oct 2008
Posts: 183
Thanks: 0
Thanked 386 Times in 109 Posts



here is the parts list

<http://thehomesteadingboards.com/for...ject-thread864>

QUOTE

+ ”

Q'REPLY

Thanks

The Following 2 Users Say Thank You to kvr28 For This Useful Post:

[snowpeasandcarrots](#), [thePraXis](#)

06-08-2012, 11:03 AM

Tweet this Post! #13 



Velvet Elvis 
Old Man Yells At Cloud

Join Date: Jan 2011
Location: Upper Midwest
Posts: 1,035
Thanks: 426
Thanked 840 Times in 412 Posts



nicely done

QUOTE

+ ”

Q'REPLY

Thanks

06-08-2012, 08:54 PM

Tweet this Post! #14 

dwbruce 
Newbie

Join Date: Jun 2012
Posts: 6
Thanks: 0
Thanked 2 Times in 2 Posts



Excellent post. Now I've got a new weekend project to work on!

QUOTE

+ ”

Q'REPLY

Thanks

07-26-2012, 09:11 AM

Tweet this Post! #15 

naviator 
Newbie

Join Date: Jul 2012
Posts: 2
Thanks: 0
Thanked 0 Times in 0 Posts



kvr28,
Thanks for the areat how-to.

Have you experienced any issue using the modified [sine wave inverter](#) while charging or running electronics?

QUOTE


+ ”

Q'REPLY

Thanks

07-26-2012, 10:32 AM

Tweet this Post! #16 

Dobbs 
Target Shooter

Join Date: Aug 2011
Posts: 457
Thanks: 34
Thanked 367 Times in 184 Posts



I am building a Solar Generator for back up power where did you get the tool box. That is about what I have been looking for looks like I could put 3 batterys in it and my inveter on top of them. Most boxes i have seen so far are to small inside for 1 battery let a lone two or more and i like the wheels on it .

QUOTE

+ ”

Q'REPLY

Thanks

07-26-2012, 10:47 AM

Tweet this Post! #17 



USJudo 
Double tap

Join Date: Mar 2011
Location: Southern MI
Posts: 466
Thanks: 429
Thanked 357 Times in 220 Posts



Nice project. You have helped motivate me to get working on my solar well pump project.

QUOTE

+ ”

Q'REPLY

Thanks

07-26-2012, 10:58 AM

Tweet this Post! #18 



PanicFire 
Survivor

Join Date: Apr 2010
Location: SouthWest Ohio
Posts: 3,486
Thanks: 2,368
Thanked 3,125 Times in 1,502 Posts



Are you tracking the charge on the battery while you are playing the radio? Just wondering if it's keeping up with your usage.

QUOTE

+ ”

Q'REPLY

Thanks

07-26-2012, 11:11 AM

Tweet this Post! #19 



aerbourne 
Texas Raised

Join Date: Jan 2012
Location: Texas
Age: 20
Posts: 566
Thanks: 983
Thanked 491 Times in 237 Posts



SO MANY PICTURES. I love it =D

QUOTE

+ ”

Q'REPLY

Thanks

07-26-2012, 12:18 PM

Tweet this Post! #20 

beastmode986 
This is a great survival forum

Join Date: Jun 2012
Location: Illinois
Posts: 433
Thanks: 50
Thanked 162 Times in 93 Posts



very nice! can you give me a link to the panels please?

QUOTE

+ ”

Q'REPLY

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