

Backpacking Stove Pot Support Stand

One of the main problems cooking with most backpacking stoves is the small base upon which the pot sets. If you are not careful, supper can slide off of the stove and spill on the ground. This is a real bummer at the end of a long hard day of hiking. You can reduce this problem with extra support for the pot with a pot stand cut out of 1/2" x 1/2" hardware cloth (Fig. 1). Hardware cloth is strong enough to support a pot, but weighs next to nothing.



Fig. 1: Whisperlite stove and 1/2" x 1/2" hardware cloth pot support shown without windscreen

How to Make a Pot Stand for Backpacking Stoves

Tools and Supplies Needed:

- Wire cutters
- Coarse sand paper or metal file to smooth wire ends
- Scissors
- 1/2" x 1/2" hardware cloth (sold in hardware stores)
- Aluminum windscreen material or aluminum pie pan

Cut the hardware cloth to the desired height and length for your pots and stove with the wire cutters. Cut a strip of 1/2" x 1/2" hardware cloth 7 squares high by 44 squares long. This works well for the Whisperlite stove and keeps the pot close enough to the stove for good heat transfer. You will also be able to nest the pot support inside of your pot when packing. File or sand the cut ends to smooth them out.

Using an aluminum windscreen or aluminum pie pan and scissors, cut seven 1" x 3/8" strips. Bend the hardware cloth into a circle and fasten the ends together by wrapping the 1" x 3/8" strips of aluminum windscreen material around the corresponding wires. Wrap the aluminum strips tightly around both wires until it is all used. The eraser end of a pencil is useful for pushing the aluminum strips through the squares. Now you have a flexible but strong joint holding your pot support together (Fig. 2).

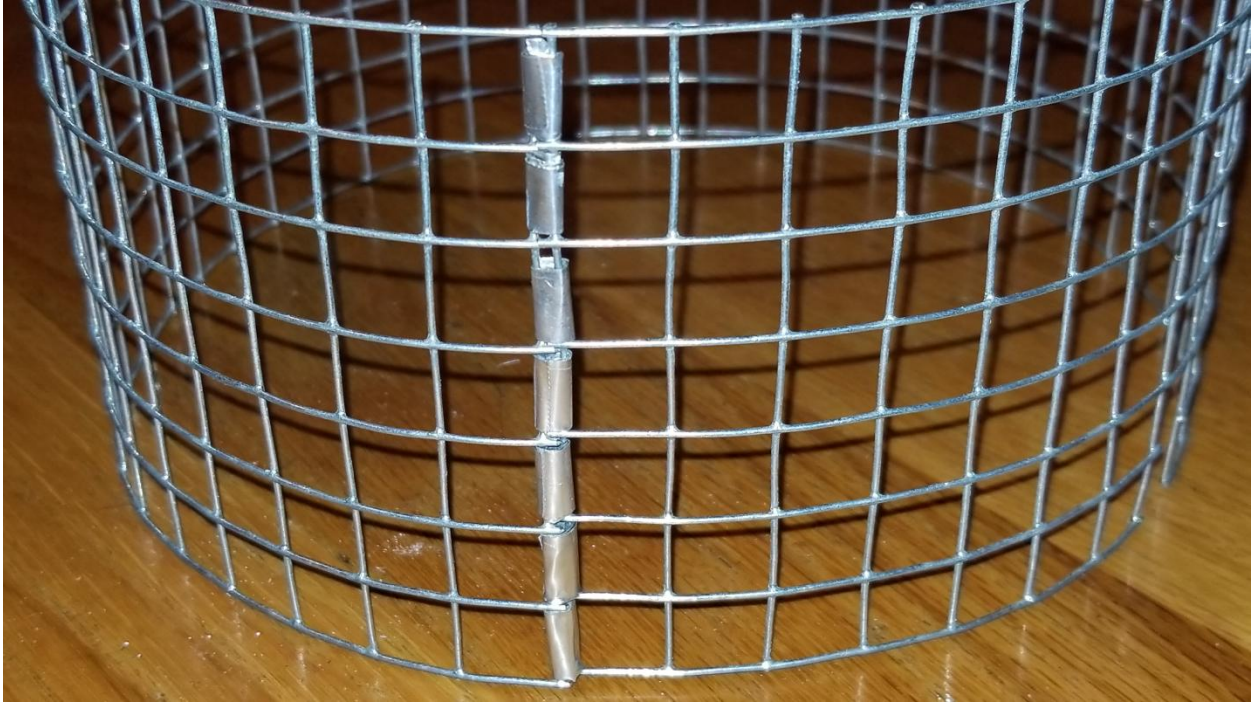


Fig. 2: Aluminum strips wrapped tightly around the ends makes a strong hinge.

With the wire cutters, cut a notch in the bottom of the pot stand to allow the Whisperlite stove fuel line to pass through (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4).

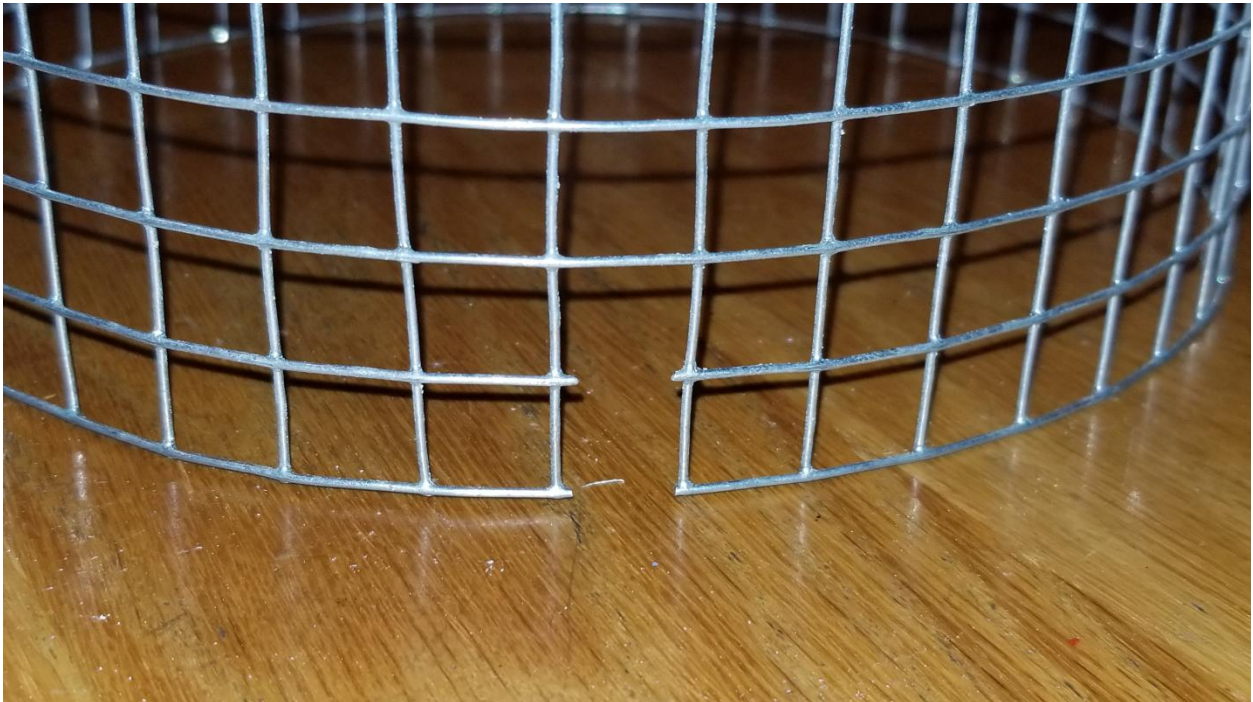


Fig. 3: Fuel line notch



Fig. 4: Whisperlite fuel line passing through the notch in the pot stand.