

Equipment Notebook

How to Make a Crab Trap

by David Pippin

For under \$10, you can make a heavy-duty, blue crab trap that will keep you supplied with this Gulf coast delicacy. This compact trap design works on the same principle as the commercial-style traps.

Check state regulations for construction and other requirements. In Florida, for example, traps must have three 2-3/8" escape rings. Other regulations, including limits, may apply.

Materials needed: 2' X 12' vinyl-coated crab trap wire (about 68¢/ft at hardware or tackle shops near commercial

fishing settlements); a few feet of heavy gauge electrical wire; yard stick; buoy; poly rope and net lead (or other weight tied 5' below buoy); electrician's tape; strip of inner tube; jute twine; and galvanized wire hook. Tools are: wire cutters, pliers, and pocket knife. In constructing your crab trap, cut the mesh lengths in the middle of the twisted wires. (Measurements allow for 3/4" points.) To join, put points of one edge into meshes of other edge. Twist the opposing points together, end over end, one 360° turn. Finish the turn with both points inward. Here are the step-by-step instructions:

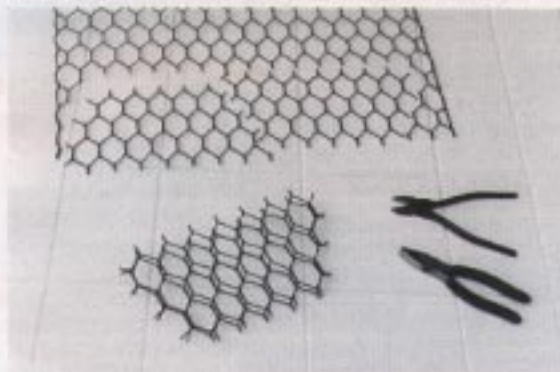
Photos by author.



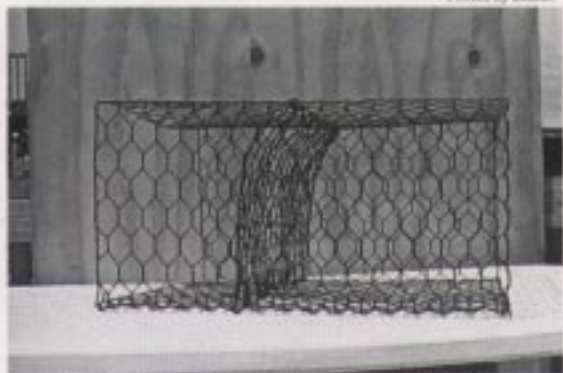
(1) Get your supplies together. For buoy, a white bleach jug will work. Cut rope through wrapping of electrician's tape.



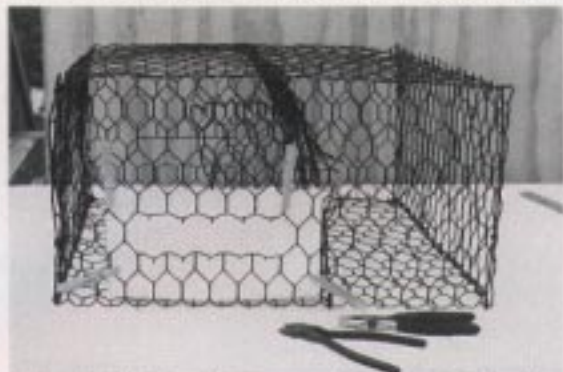
(3) Shape an 11"X14" piece into bait holder & attach. (Save scrap.) In center wall, cut and shape two entry slits to back.



(5) Make two entry throats, taper from 7 to 5 meshes. Leave prongs and twist together. Wire into entry holes. Pull wide.



(2) Cut 2 lengths, 6' 1-1/2" and 14". On board edge, bend wire into 1' X 2' box-shape, & wire together. Attach center wall.



(4) Attach 13" end walls, except top back edge. Bend points to blunt. Make entry holes in 2 sides, cut 5 wires each, 4" up.



(6) Make hole in bottom for bait holder, and a door w/wire-loop hinges. Add tie-down strap, escape rings, and buoy.