

Fighting the Recycle Bin Lid – One Less Hassle, Version 1.1

By R. G. Sparber

Protected by Creative Commons.¹



It takes one hand to hold open the recycle bin’s lid, one to steady the small pail, and one to free up things stuck inside.

Hmm, I’ve run out of hands. Sure, I can walk around the side, pivot the lid back, so it hangs down vertically, then walk back to the front and have two hands for the pail. Then I must walk around to the bin’s back to retrieve the lid. Yes, I know this is a “first-world problem,” but it is still annoying.



Today, I finally stopped long enough to think about a simple solution. The lid now pivots just beyond vertical, so it is within easy reach.



The magical homemade tool? A length of scrap perforated angle with two pieces of scrap angle bolted to it to form a hook. The V



formed by the perforated angle helps to stabilize the support against the lid and the back of the pail.

This was supposed to be a proof-of-concept model but turned out to be the finished product.

¹ This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.



The tool hangs off the hinge, ready to stop the lid from moving too far back. I remove it before taking the pail out to the curb.

A previous design of these pails had a built in lid stop. The shock caused by the garbage truck's mechanical arm flipping the pail over would crack the lid arms.

I'll make a second tool for my trash bin.

I welcome your comments and questions.

If you want me to contact you each time I publish an article, email me with "Subscribe" in the subject line. In the body of the email, please tell me if you are interested in metalworking, software plus electronics, kayaking, and/or the Lectric XP eBike so I can put you on the right distribution list.

If you are on a list and have had enough, email me "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. No hard feelings.

Rick Sparber

Rgsparber.ha@gmail.com
Rick.Sparber.org