

Weber Gas Grill Back Saver, Version 1.1

By R. G. Sparber

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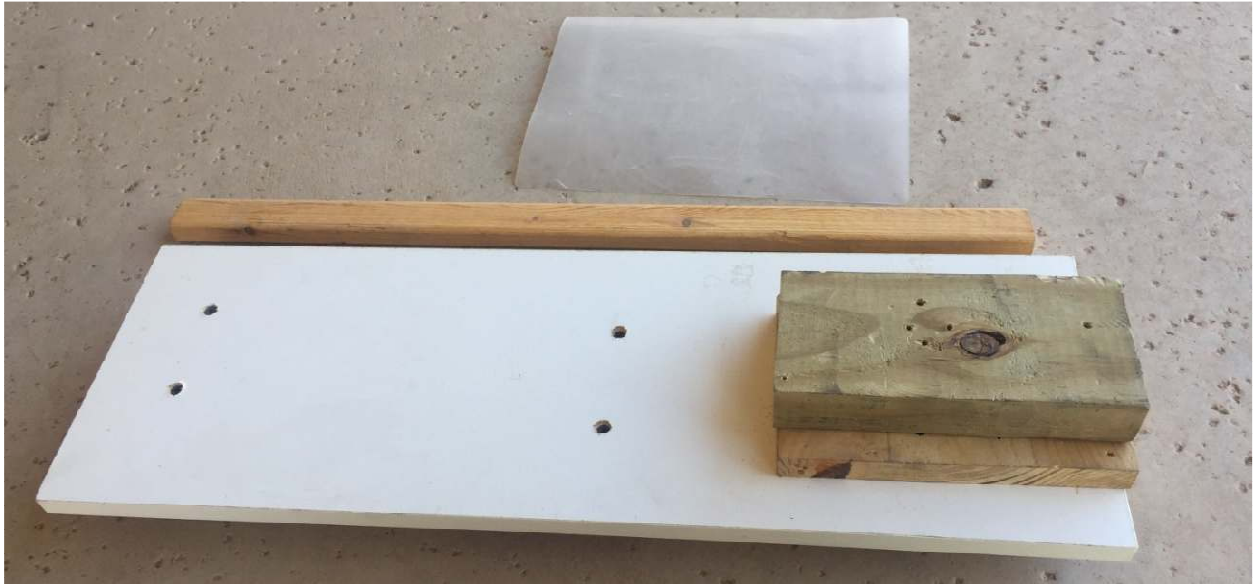
After many decades of grilling on a Weber charcoal grill, I finally found a sale on a Weber gas grill that I could not refuse. I have to admit, these grills are very well designed and fabricated. The quality is about half way between retail and commercial. It was a joy to assemble.



The grill is *almost* perfect. I only found one thing that I didn't like. A full propane tank weighs about 37 pounds. I must lift it into the base of the grill and hang it on a hook. That is an awkward lift and strains my back. Gotta be a better way!

The hook supports the tank and is part of a spring scale. The scale is calibrated to show fuel level. This is not a feature I would want to give up.

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Here is my high tech solution. At the top of the picture is a sheet of polypropylene. It is slippery and does not tear when bent. Below it is a piece of wood with a rectangular cross section. It is about 20 inches long. At the bottom is my platform.



The platform was made from a scrap shelf about a 1/2 inch thick, 8 inches wide, and 20 inches long. Three blocks of 2 by 4 were screwed into the bottom. The top has a longer piece of 2 by 4 and a piece of 5/8 inch thick plank.



This plank was selected to be the same height as the bottom of the grill.

The platform slides under the grill. The wheels on the grill are locked.

I will be sliding the tank on this platform. The outer stack of wood initially supports the tank and later prevents the platform from sliding under the base.



The sheet of plastic goes down next. It makes sliding the tank easier plus protects the paint on the base.



The tank is then placed on the plastic sheet with the spigot facing away from the grill.

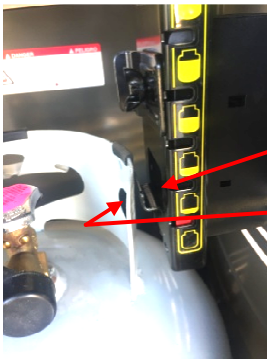
The regulator is held out of the way with a rubber band looped around the magnetic door latch. It doesn't get much more low tech than that.



It is easy to slide the tank inside the base and down into the hole.



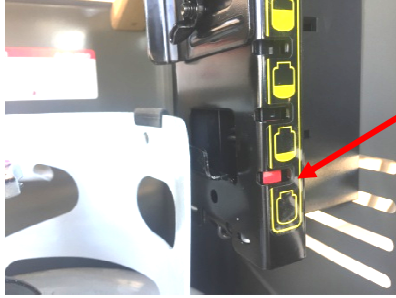
It then rests on the platform.



The scale has a hook on it that supports the tank. The platform was sized to put the tank near the hook position when full. Note that the hook is above the hole in the collar.



I slide that wooden bar across the top of the scale and catch the end under a lip in the rear wall of the enclosure.



By pulling down on the end of the bar, the hook descends. Here you see the hook at its highest position. Note that the scale says empty.



When the hook is low enough to pass through the collar hole, I slide the tank over. Then the bar is removed.



The safety bar is loosened and lowered onto the collar. Once the wing nut is tightened, the tank is safely captured. Not shown is that I had to remove that black spacer above the hole.



Much of the tank's weight is now supported by the scale. I can lift the tank with my fingers and pull out the platform.



All that is left is attaching the regulator.



Done! And my back feels fine.

Now the scale indicates the tank is full.



The tank was completely empty and 4.66 gallons went in. At 4.24 pounds per gallon, this is 19 ³/₄ pounds of fuel. Its tare weight is 18 pounds so the gross weight is 37 ³/₄ pounds.

I welcome your comments and questions.

If you wish to be contacted each time I publish an article, email me with just "Article Alias" in the subject line.

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