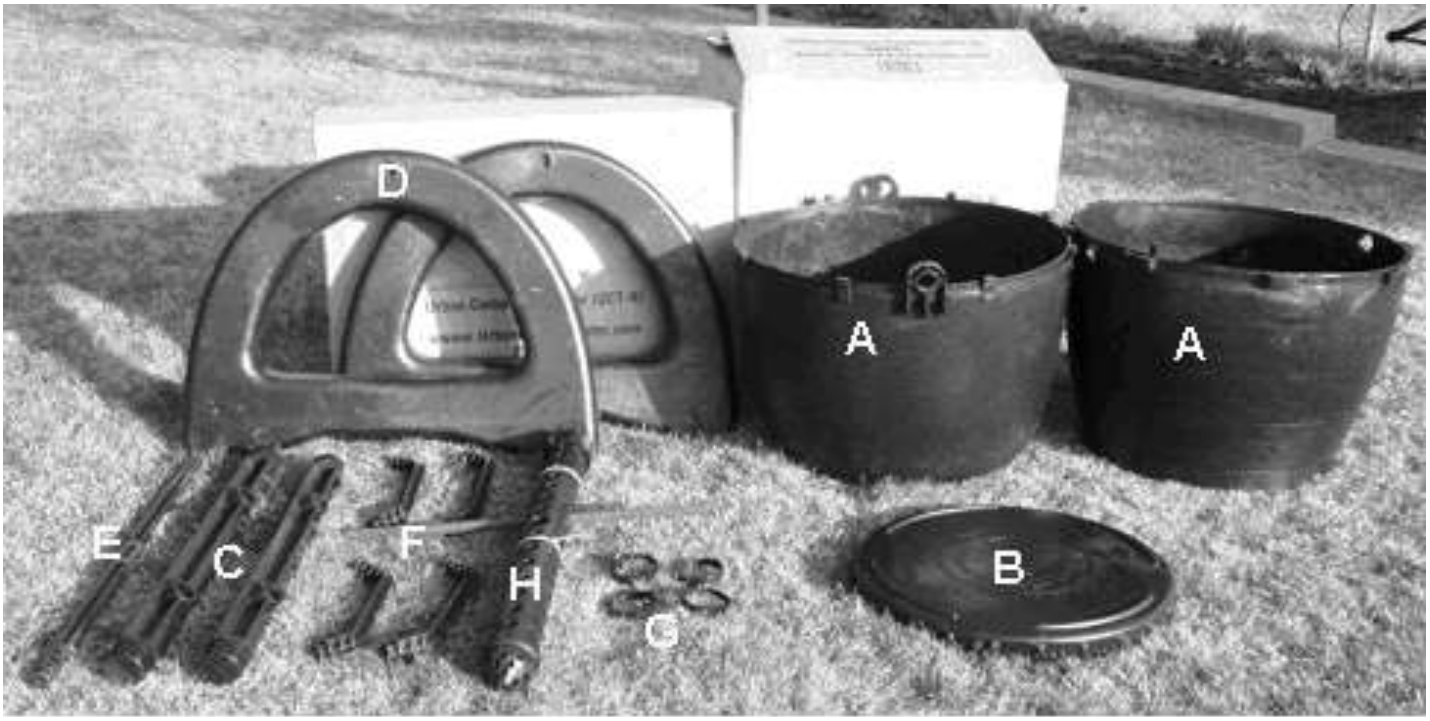
Assembly Instructions: Urban Compost Tumbler (UCT-9)



Parts:

A- (2) Barrel Halves
B- (1) Barrel Lid
C- (2) Stand Supports
D- (2) Stand Halves
E- (1) Pivot Rod
F- (4) Gusset Braces
G- (4) Retainer Rings (These Rings are usually already installed on Stand Halves and not loose in the box.)
H- Aeration Tube Assembly
(2) Aeration Tube Halves snapped together
(2) Ty-Wraps
(1) Dome Cap
(1) Breaker Bar
xx (2) Pivot Rod Sleeves (shown on pg 14)

There are options in assembling the UCT-9 so be sure to review all the instructions before you start assembling.

Check and be sure the aeration tube has been snapped together, secured with two Ty-Wraps (shown as white here but are usually black), the cap is snugged down and the breaker bar inserted.

You can insert the aeration tube assembly into the bottom half of the barrel at this time, or wait until after the barrel has been put together and insert it through the top of the barrel. It will make assembling the barrel halves a little easier if you wait. This picture just shows how it should look inside the barrel. The breaker bar you see in our models left hand is 1/2" x 25" SCH80 PVC. Some people prefer not using this bar and leave it out.

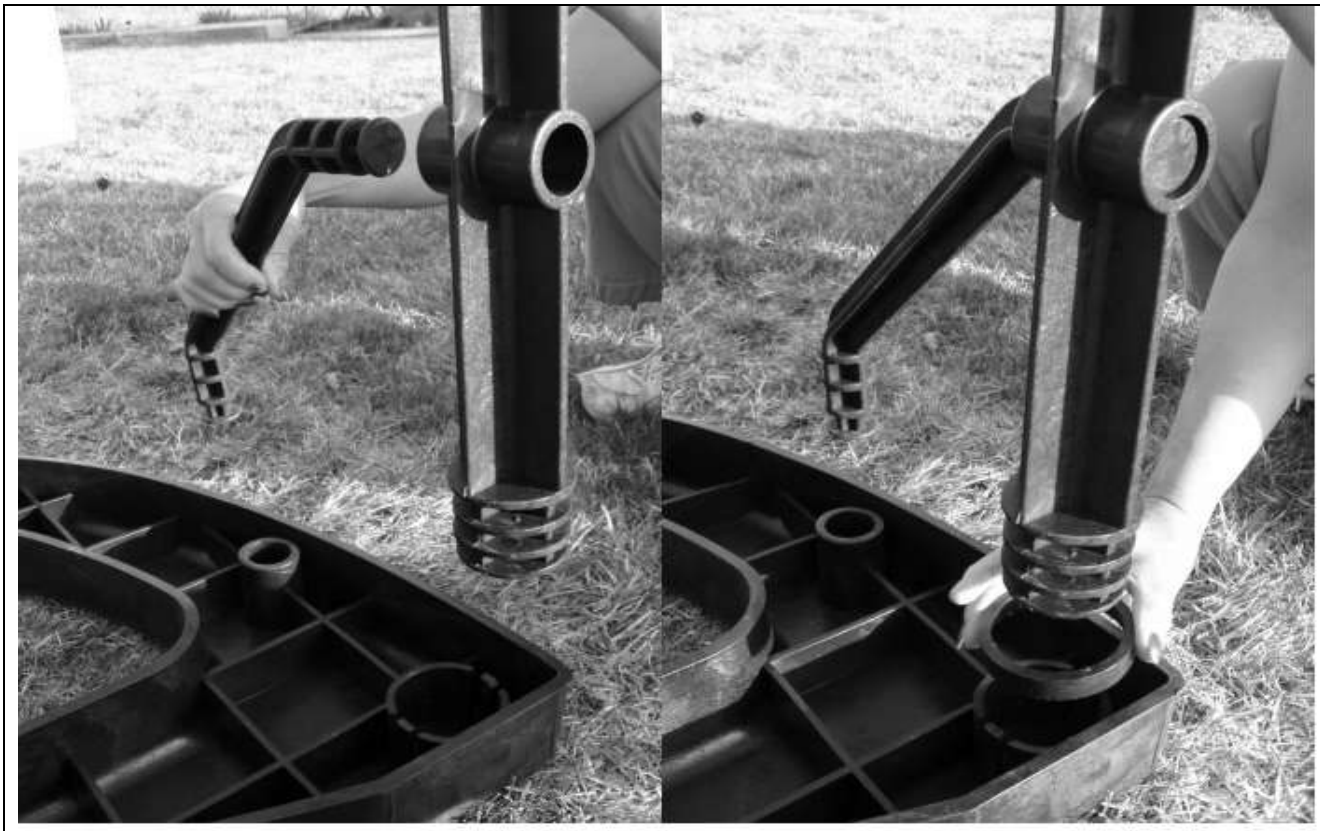
The barrel halves use a tongue & groove connection. Review the next page before continuing. <u>Be sure to liberally coat both sides of the tongue on the bottom half of the barrel with vegetable oil (or similar lubricant) before attempting to put the halves together. Also put some oil on the surfaces of the locks where they come together.</u>

Align the barrel halves as shown here on the left. Align and insert each latch as seen here on the right. Then work the lubricated tongue of the bottom half of the barrel into the groove of the top half of the barrel together so it is securely seated all the way around the barrel. This may take working around the unit several times for it to seat properly. Be sure it if fully seated so when rotated the locking lugs will engage properly.

The barrel halves must be locked together by rotating the top halve counter-clock-wise until the large pivot rod holes are perfectly aligned. Don't be concerned with fully closing the locks as aligning the pivot rod holes is what is important.

The seam has a snug fit to minimize leakage so this step will take some patience. Making sure the barrel halves are fit together with the locking lugs fully inserted, begin working the top half of the barrel counter-clock-wise to securely lock the halves together so the pivot rod holes are aligned. Usually this can be done by hand, but because of the snug fit, you may need to gently use a screwdriver as shown. It is important to be careful not to damage the locking lugs with excessive pressure. If properly lubricated, it will not take much force to rotate the barrel into place. **Do not attempt to rotate the top half of the barrel without liberally lubricating the tongue on the bottom half of the barrel all the way around on both sides.** If using a screwdriver, gently apply pressure to each locking lug in turn working your way around the barrel "several" times as shown above. The locking lugs should be in the position shown in the far right photo and the large **Pivot Rod holes aligned**. Sometimes it helps to use the handle of a screwdriver in the Pivot Rod hole to help rotate the barrel halves in the final stage of aligning these holes. Below pictures the pivot rod hole aligned.

Note that sometimes the two barrel halves almost appear to not align making it more difficult to fit them together. Because of plastic shrinkage in the manufacturing cooling process, this commonly occurs. It just means the seam will be fitting a little tighter… but it will still fit just fine. It will help to place the barrel halves in the sun for a couple hours to make the plastic more flexible. Or it is not sunny, put the barrel halves in a warm room for awhile. Remember to lubricate the tongue portion of the bottom barrel before attempting to bring the halves together.

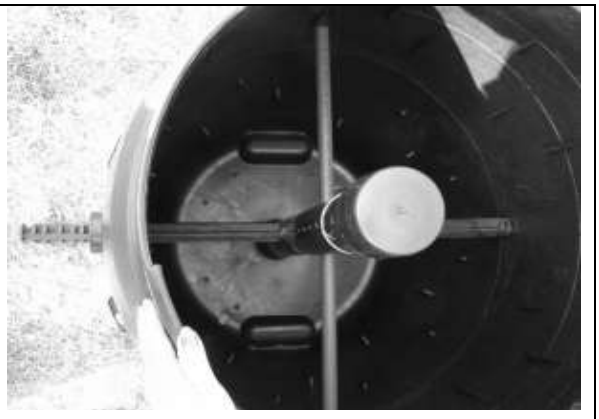


Lay one of the stand halves flat on the ground. Insert a Gusset Brace into a Stand Support. Place a Retainer Ring (large opening side down) over the end of the Support Bar, pressing the Support Bar and Gusset Brace into the stand. Be sure the Gusset Brace and Support Bar is pressed all the way into their sockets. **NOTE: Usually the Retainer Rings are not loose in the box but pressed onto the Stand Halves already.**

Insert the same assembly on the other side of the stand. Make sure the locks in the Stand are fully engaged in the Stand Supports. Then check to see the Retainer Ring is securely seated. There is a ridge or bump on the Stand Support itself that should be helping to lock this ring in place.

Your assembly should now look like this so far.

If you have not put the aeration tube assembly into the barrel yet, do it now. Press the Pivot Rod through the barrel halves and through the Aeration Tube. It should look like the picture on the right here. (Except for the optional breaker bar which most people will not have.)



As an option, we have added two 11” PVC sleeves over the pivot rod as shown here to help prevent ovaling of the barrel when holding extra heavy loads.

As described above, when you press the Pivot Rod through the barrel and aeration tube, include the two white 11 inch PVC sleeves over the pivot rod on each side of the aeration tube. These sleeves are each 1 ¼” x 11” SCH40 white PVC.

This picture shows the aeration tube, Pivot Rod, optional PVC Pivot Rod Sleeves and an optional gray Breaker Bar. The Breaker Bar is ½” x 25” gray SCH80 PVC which some people believe helps break up material when tumbling.

(NOTE: It may actually be simpler to go ahead and fully assemble the stand without the barrel rather than assembling just half the stand as shown here. Then with the completed stand, insert the barrel.)

Keeping the Pivot Rod extended several inches on both sides of the barrel, insert the Pivot Rod into the upper portion of the Stand. Once aligned, firmly press down making sure the Pivot Rod locks into the Stand.

Insert the Gusset Braces and Retainer Rings on the Support Bars as shown. Be sure the Retainer Ring has the large open side up to fit over the socket in the Stand.

Align the second Stand Half with the Pivot Rod, both Gusset Braces, and both Stand Supports. At first, gently align all of these parts with the appropriate holes being careful not to damage the Retainer Rings. Just let the Stand Half rest in place. Then by hand, press the Retainer Rings up into place over the Stand sockets. Now firmly press down on the Stand making sure all of the components are inserted with their locks fully engaged.

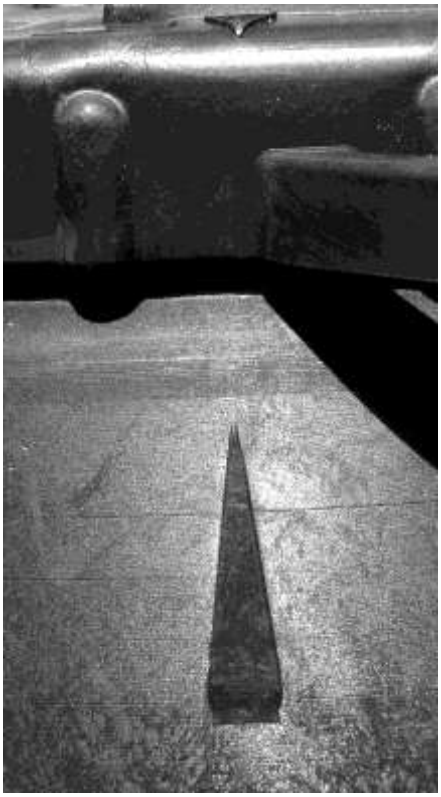
Stand the unit upright and prepare to put the lid on.

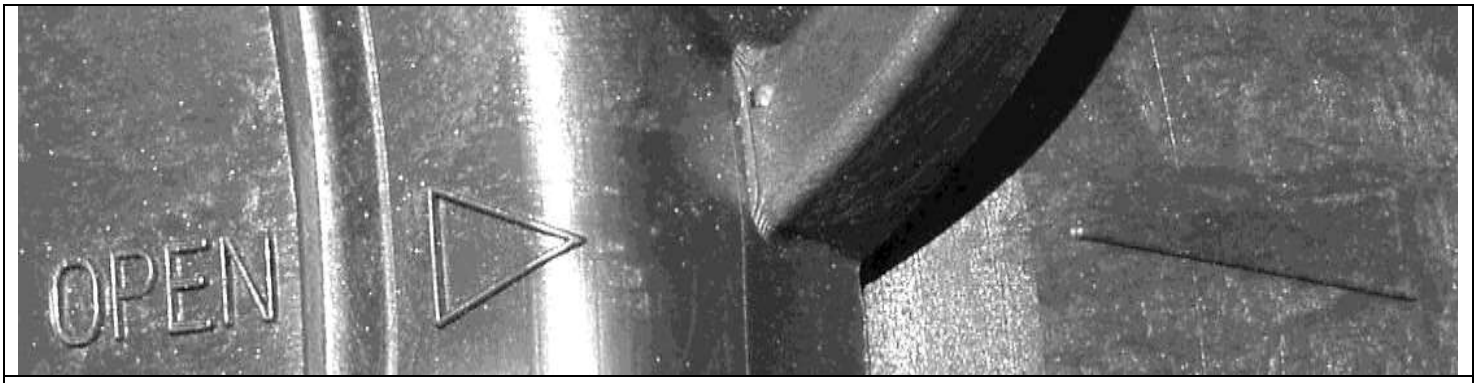
Looking at the top of the lid.

Place the lid on the unit by using the aligning arrows. Notice there is three (3) settings marked on the lid **OPEN, VENT,** and **CLOSED** with an aligning arrow to the right of each (shown on left here).

Notice there is an aligning arrow on the upper barrel half (shown on the right here). To put the lid on or take it off, be sure to align these aligning arrows in the **OPEN** position. Rotate it to the **CLOSED** position to tumble (turn) the unit as it prevents material from coming out of the vents that are under the lid. After tumbling, turn the lid to the **VENT** position so air can circulate while it is just sitting. If you do not keep it in the **VENT** position, composting will be slower.

Looking at the side of the barrel.





This is an example of how the arrows need to align in the **OPEN** position to either put the lid on or take it off.

SPECIAL NOTE on putting the lid on. The recommended max weight limit for loading the UCT-9 is 100 lbs. However, a typical batch of compost should only weight 30-60 lbs which is the effective operating weight range of the UCT-9. When this effective weight range is exceeded the top of the barrel may become oval in shape so the lid will not go on as easy and lock into place as well. This will not hurt the unit but means you will need to be more careful when putting the lid on and making sure the lid is all the way down and locked into place before tumbling.

Repairing a broken lock

Sometimes when assembling, disassembling or from accidental impact, one or more of the eight (8) locking tabs on the lower part of the barrel get broken. In some cases even one or more of the eight (8) locking lugs on the top portion that the tabs fit into may get broken. These are fairly simple to repair and repairing should be preferred to discarding.

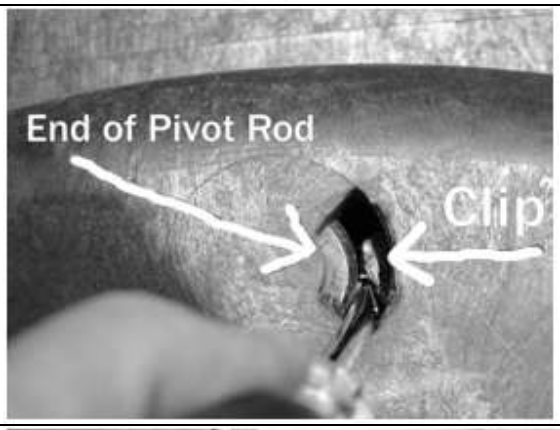
For each of the eight (8) locking tabs or lugs that become cracked or broken, install four to six 8 x ¾ pan head sheet metal screws next to the latch as shown here. Drill a 1/16 inch hole for each screw in the top portion of the barrel 1/4 inch up from the seam and insert screws.

Removing the Pivot Rod

From time to time it may be necessary to remove the pivot rod. To begin with, be sure the barrel is completely empty.

There is a small access hole in the top of the stand used to disengage the clip holding the pivot rod. Notice in the picture to the right the red arrow pointing to this access hole.

The picture to the right shows a close up view of that access hole. Here you can see the end of the pivot rod and the end of the clip that holds it in place. To disengage the clip, use a flat head screwdriver. Place the blade of the screwdriver toward the bottom of where the pivot rod and clip come together. Gently pry the clip out away from the pivot rod. It will move about ¼ to ½ inch to the right freeing the pivot rod and allowing the rod to slide out of the stand.



To the right here is looking down from the top of the stand. While holding the clip away from the pivot rod to allow it to slide out, insert a second flat head screwdriver between the stand and barrel and begin prying the barrel away from the stand.

Continue to pry the rod from the stand (picture bottom left) until the rod end clears the stand (picture bottom right).

After the one side has been removed, repeat the process on the other side. When both ends of the pivot rod have been removed from the stand, you can pull the pivot rod out of the barrel.