MAKING UBUNTU-BLOX (RECYCLED BUILDING BLOCKS)

UBUNTU INFO PART 2

Patti Stouter April 2012
Ubuntu is an African word with a rich meaning that encompasses cooperation, humanity, and group solidarity for survival in situations with scarce resources. It is a good name for a self-help technology that can turn a problem into a resource.

Inventor and welder Harvey Lacey of Dallas, Texas envisioned the press and system to build with trash in response to the housing crisis after the Haitian earthquakes. Owen Geiger provided advice about how to reinforce the wall. Harvey has been hard at work refining and promoting and teaching ever since.

See other files in the Ubuntu Block Info series also available online soon to learn more about building with Ubuntu blocks.

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CONTENTS

EQUIPMENT FOR UBUNTU-BLOX

MAKING UBUNTU BLOX

YOUR UBUNTU BLOX

CREDITS
EQUIPMENT FOR UBUNTU-BLOX
Make a press

11 GAUGE SQUARE STEEL TUBING
2x2 INCH/ 5x5 cm

STEEL PLATE
HALF x 8 INCHES/
1x20 cm
Weld or bolt with channels for baling wire.
Add a strong screw

SCAFFOLDING SCREW JACKS OR
AN ACME SCREW
And a wheel

CAR STEERING WHEEL OR CUSTOM-MADE
1/2" Plate for Top (not shown) 12"X36"

Notches in ram for wires, in line with spacing between bottom and end tubes

1/2" Plate 8"X8" for drive plate

1" ACME threaded rod 4TPI 36" long

2"X2" angle for mounting 2 needed (second not visible)

1/4" plate 8"X49-1/2" 2 required

1/4"X3" bar for securing base together under base pieces, 3 required (not visible)

2" square tubing 11ga, 52" long 4 required for floor

15/16" bolt head welded to threaded rod for driving with socket and ratchet
Make the right tools

A JIG FOR MAKING LOOPS IN THE BALING WIRE WILL SAVE A LOT OF TIME
MAKE UBUNTU-BLOX
Gather supplies

GET TRASH AND CLEAN IN A CHLORINE DIP
Break up stiff packing foam

By hand or use a mechanical chopper
Cut wire and loop 1 end

LONG ENOUGH
FOR THE
FINISHED
BLOCK
Lay wires in grooves of press
Put clean trash in bags

**MESH BAGS WILL BE EASIER TO PLASTER**
Load recyclable trash without a bag

BUT THIS BLOCK MAY BE WORTH $5
5 bags for each block
Close the door (if it has one)
Turn the wheel to compress

IT DOES NOT TAKE A LOT OF STRENGTH
Twist baling wire through the loops
Weigh 2 - 5 lb./ 1 - 2.5 kg

FOR 8x8x16 INCH/ 20x20x40 cm BLOCKS
Easiest to build with neat blocks
Different kinds of blocks

**RECYCLABLE BLOCKS**
- **STRONG**
- **BUT NOT INSULATING**

**FOAM AND FILM BLOCKS**
- **HIGHLY INSULATING**
- **NOT QUITE AS STRONG**
Mesh makes plastering easy

Bunched garbage or rice bags will not hold plaster well.

Add cheap mesh tubing to hold plaster.
BUILD THE ECONOMY AS WELL AS HOMES

AVAILABLE MATERIALS, EASY TO LEARN
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