

LOCAL SOLAR OVEN As a Small Business



Part of the difficulty of making solar ovens into a small business is the fact that they often are manufactured overseas in another country and introduced as a finished product. This creates the impression that they can't be made locally with local material because usually it is difficult to find exactly the supplies to replicate the product.

So in Sierra Leone we decided to start from scratch and make a solar box oven from material we could find in the market place. We intend it to be taken apart by local craftsmen and copied and even improved upon at a later date.



We started at a local blacksmith shop



Far left: The hood of a car was cut and bent to form a box for our cooker. Not perfect by any means it did resemble what we wanted for the core of our cooker. From this point we had carpenters cut and plane wood for us to make a frame and lid for our cooker.



Far left: We found the insulation material we could use was foam mattress padding for local beds.

Left: Two pieces of glass were put together and attached to a wood frame for the lid. After painting the box black we decided to use aluminum foil for the reflective back panel. That will be the job of our local craftsman to finish up and add his touch.

We will follow up with this project to see how the local carpenters and craftsmen have improved on our design and how it actually works.