

# Garden Gate

**Fountain in a Weekend**



**S**o you've made the concrete fountain from *Garden Gate* Issue 73 and now you're ready to set it up in your garden. Here's what to do.

**MARK AND DIG THE HOLE** Set your plastic reservoir upside down where you want your fountain to go. Sprinkle sand on the ground around the outside of the rim to mark the size. Remove the reservoir and dig out a hole that's 2 inches deeper and wider than the reservoir. Next add 2 inches of sand to the bottom of the hole for a solid base. Tamp the sand to get it smooth and level. Check the surface with a level to be sure. Now you're ready to put the reservoir together.

**ASSEMBLE THE RESERVOIR** Using tin snips or a wire cutter cut a 2-foot-by-2-foot piece of hardware cloth with a 1-inch square opening in the center of it for the PVC to go through.

Then drill four to six evenly spaced  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. holes around the lip of the reservoir. (See the illustration below right.) Lay the hardware cloth on top and use the zip ties to fasten the cloth to it through the holes you made. Leave one corner of the mesh loose so you can get to the pump.

Next center the two pieces of rebar on the top of the hardware cloth. These will help support the weight of the fountain. The base of our fountain measures  $6\frac{3}{8}$  inches across, so we spaced the rebar 5 inches apart. Attach them to the hardware cloth with two zip ties each. Use your tin snips to trim off the long ends.

It's a good idea to test your pump in a bucket of water before putting it into the reservoir. If you have an adjustable pump, it's easier to finesse the flow before you put it under the hardware cloth. Once you have the flow where you like it, cut a piece of PVC long enough to go from the pump on the bottom of the reservoir up through and even with the top of the fountain. Put the pump in the reservoir and attach the PVC to it.

Then place the assembled reservoir into the hole, level it again and back fill around it with soil you removed from the hole.

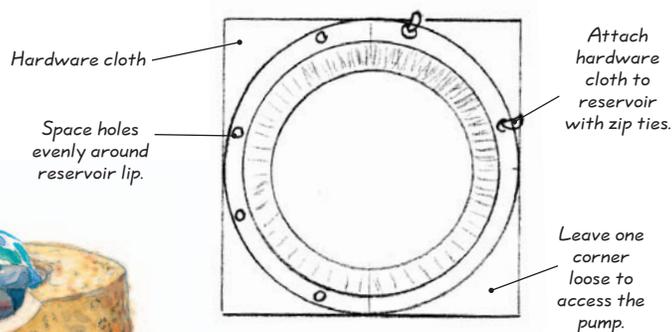
**ASSEMBLE THE FOUNTAIN** When the fountain parts have dried for at least 24 hours, slide the hole in the base over the PVC pipe until the base rests on the pieces of rebar. Then set the top of the fountain in place and fill the reservoir with water. Before you place the decorative river stones in and around the base of the fountain, test the pump again.

With the stones in place, all that's left to do is turn on your fountain and enjoy the beauty and the sound it brings to your garden!

## MATERIALS AND TOOLS

### For the reservoir

Shovel	1-10-ft. PVC pipe; we used
Level	$\frac{1}{2}$ -in. inside diameter but
Tin snips or wire cutter	check your pump's specs to
Drill and $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. bit	see what inside diameter
1-40-lb. bag of sand	pipe you need
1-2-ft.-diameter plastic reservoir	1-2-ft.-wide roll of $\frac{1}{4}$ -in.
(available at home or	hardware cloth
garden centers)	10-7-in. zip ties
1-Pump (read pump	2-4-ft.-long pieces $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. rebar
instructions for specific	Decorative river stones
electrical needs)	



Place decorative river stones in the top and around the base of the fountain to hide the mesh and pump.

Zip tie two 4-ft. lengths of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. rebar to the hardware cloth 1 to 2 in. narrower than the width of the fountain base.

Run a piece of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. PVC pipe from the pump through a 1-in. hole in the hardware cloth to the fountain.

2 in. layer of sand

