

BREAKING DOWN THE BOX

Assembly Guide

The NRCAT solitary prison cell replica is a part of the nationwide interfaith campaign to expose and end the torture of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons, jails and detention centers. Inspired by the work of WISDOM in Wisconsin, the original architects of the cell replica project, NRCAT collaborated with a local carpenter to construct a solitary prison cell replica that is now on tour to various houses of worship and interfaith venues nationwide. The replica was



constructed in the worship space of an Episcopal Church here in D.C., and includes audio recording from a maximum security prison in Maine. People are invited to sit in the cell (for up to one hour), and those who have are very moved and motivated to take action. The goal of the cell replica, by going on tour to different congregations, is for participants to see what it is like to be in solitary confinement. We hope participants can have a few minutes to sit by themselves and think about what it would be like to be in a cell for years.

Before you begin: Place any drop clothes or other protective covering on the ground before you begin. You need at least three able-bodied people to lift the flats. The south wall panel with the door is especially heavy. All of the flats and walls are labeled on the top and bottom: north, northeast, southeast, etc.



It does not matter if the piece actually lines up with the cardinal direction—the labels are guides.

- Make sure that the bed and the sink/toilet are inside of the cell before the south wall and door go on. It is better to have all wall pieces connected first before any of the ceiling pieces go on.

Assembly:

- Place any drop clothes or other protective covering on the ground before you begin.
- Order of assembly:
 1. North Side
 2. Northwest side
 3. Northeast side
 4. South side (the one with the door—VERY HEAVY)
- Line two wall panels next to each other. Once they are within close distance, put the 5/16 hex wrench into the hole and turn the rotary clockwise. The rotary lock should catch and pull the two walls tightly together.
- Put the ceiling panels on from the inside once all the walls are up and square. Have two people on ladders and pass the panel. Put the panel up and above one wall, then slide it back and put it over other wall.
- The ceiling panels should go in one by one, starting with the north panel. **Screw it down, making sure it is safe and not going to fall on anyone before you move onto the next panel.**
- The second panel is the skinny one for the lights. Once all of the walls are up, grab the orange extension cord located on the northwest panel and plug it in.
- As you put each ceiling panel up, check the walls and make sure that they are square, and you can use the square-edge ceiling panels to adjust the walls as you go. The ceiling panels should be flush with the walls.
- Take the door, tilt the top of it towards the track and get the rollers on the edge. Get one in and roll it to the left, then roll the second one in. The bottom edge of the door can slide into the brackets.
- If you are using sound effects provided by NRCAT, you can put your speaker system under the bed. Feed the electrical cord through the hole in the bed to the power outlet, feed the audio cables from the speaker system out through the hole in the cell wall, and then you can tilt the bed into place carefully, making sure you don't squash any of the cables.



- Disassembling the Cell: Unlock the rotary locks with the 5/16 hex wrench by turning them counter-clockwise. The wall panels come off in the reverse order in which they went on, starting with the south wall.

For further instructions, or if you have additional questions, please contact NRCAT.