

# Designing and Installing Your ANTI- Smart Meter **PROTECTION BRACKETS**



**Electricity Meter  
Protection  
Bracket**



**Gas Meter  
Protection  
Bracket**



**Water Meter  
Protection  
Box**



A practical guide for the homeowner

## **Introduction**

This article helps the homeowner appreciate the detail associated with the brackets and box needed to secure the electricity, gas and water meters from being upgraded to 'smart' status. It should be read together with the document titled 'Power Box Security Bracket.pdf'

If the homeowner intends to having one or more brackets fabricated, it is suggested that certain measurements of the meter(s) are obtained - together with some photos; and then taken to a metal fabricator to discuss the final design of the brackets together with costs.

Once manufactured, the items may need to be assembled temporarily to confirm they fit as expected prior to installing them permanently.

Don't forget to advise the various utility companies (by registered mail preferably) that you WILL NOT ALLOW THEM to upgrade their existing meter to a smart meter.

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## The Power Box Bracket

The photographs below illustrate how your everyday power box can be secured with the strength of steel – and it doesn't look ugly. **The one shown was designed to fit a metal power box measuring 441mm wide x 853mm high.**

A sketch of what was required was taken to a metal fabricator (see the following two pages), and for \$80 he manufactured the assembly the same day—FANTASTIC!!

All you need to install the protective bracket is to purchase and fit:

- 10mm x 25mm high tensile bolts (with nuts) available at Bunnings) – Qty 4
- 10mm (or equivalent) washers – Qty 8
- Padlocks (Grade 5 twin pack). Use Lockwood which are keyed alike and have 4 keys - \$30 at Bunnings.
- You will need to drill the four holes (11mm) in the cabinet and secure the brackets with the 4 screws. You should paint the bracket items prior to fitting.

**NOTE:** First determine where the meter window will be located on the power box door. Ensure the vertical bracket's position will not obstruct the window location.

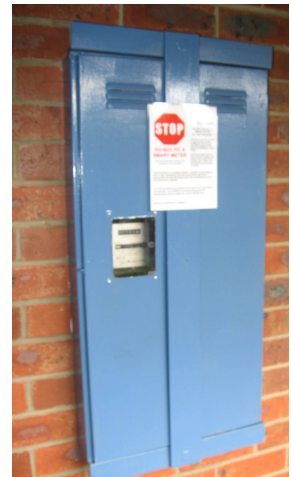
**UNSECURED**



**SECURED**



**WINDOW ADDED**

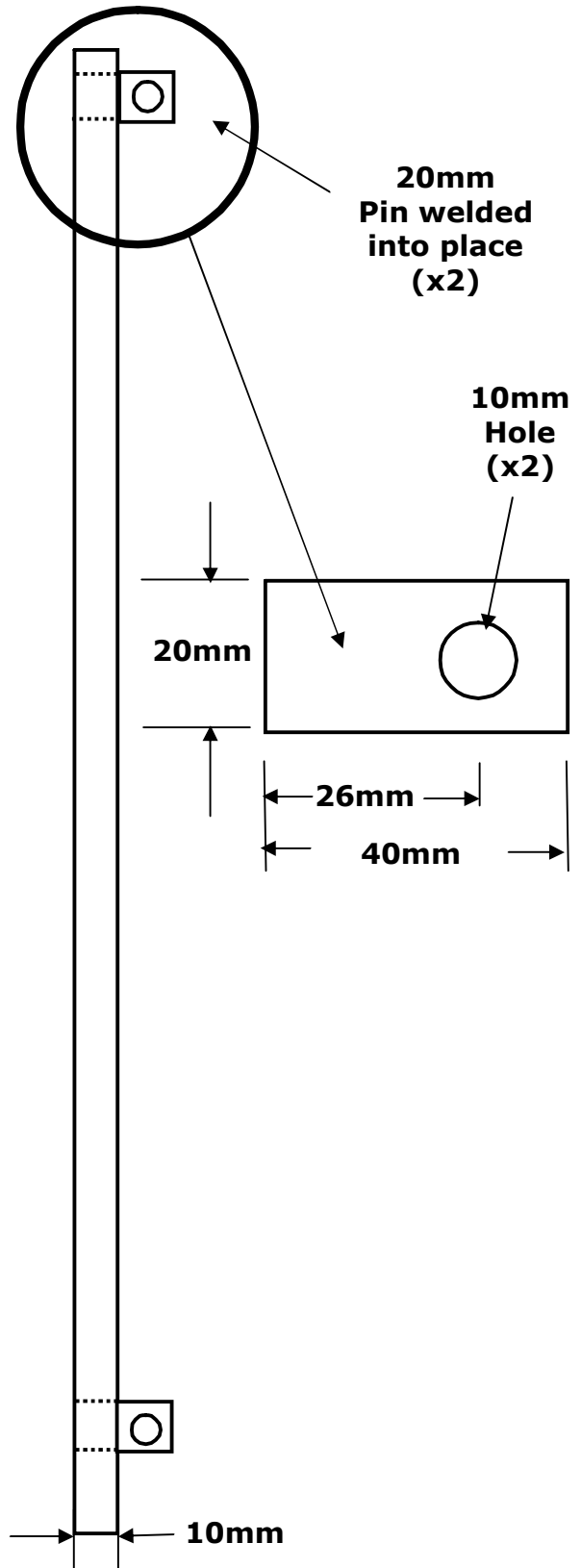


The photo to the left shows the top bracket together with one of two securing bolts and a padlock. The same applies to the lower bracket.

If an installer attempts to bypass this security, it can be deemed "Breaking and Entering," which is a criminal offence.

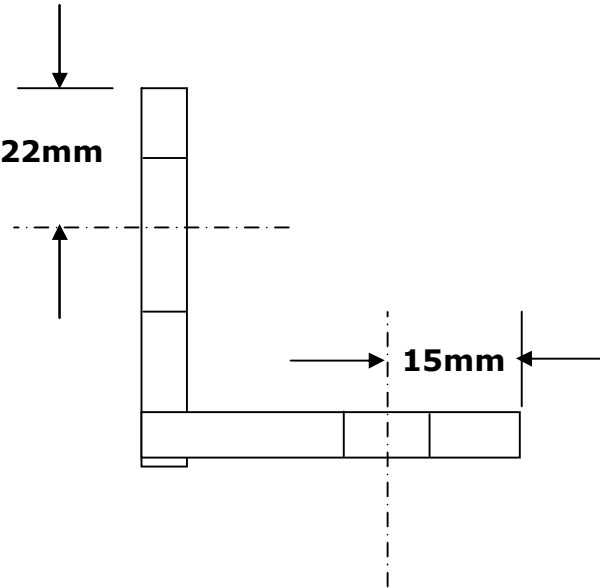
This bracket's effectiveness has already prevented two installers from fitting a smart meter. More importantly, it gives a high level of comfort to the homeowner when away from the property.

### Front View

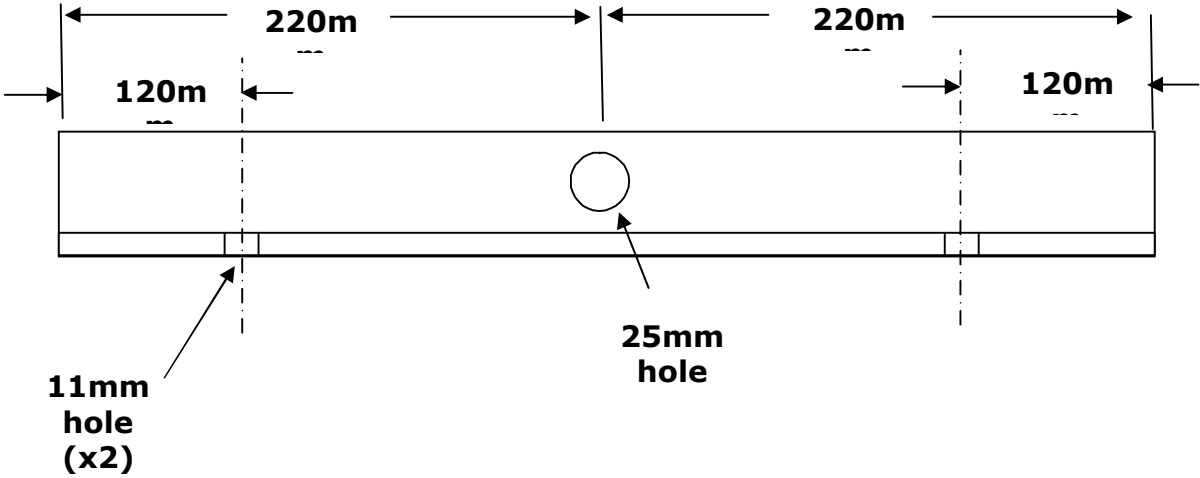


**FIXED BRACKET – 2 OFF**  
**50x6mm Angle Iron**

**Side View**



**Rear View**



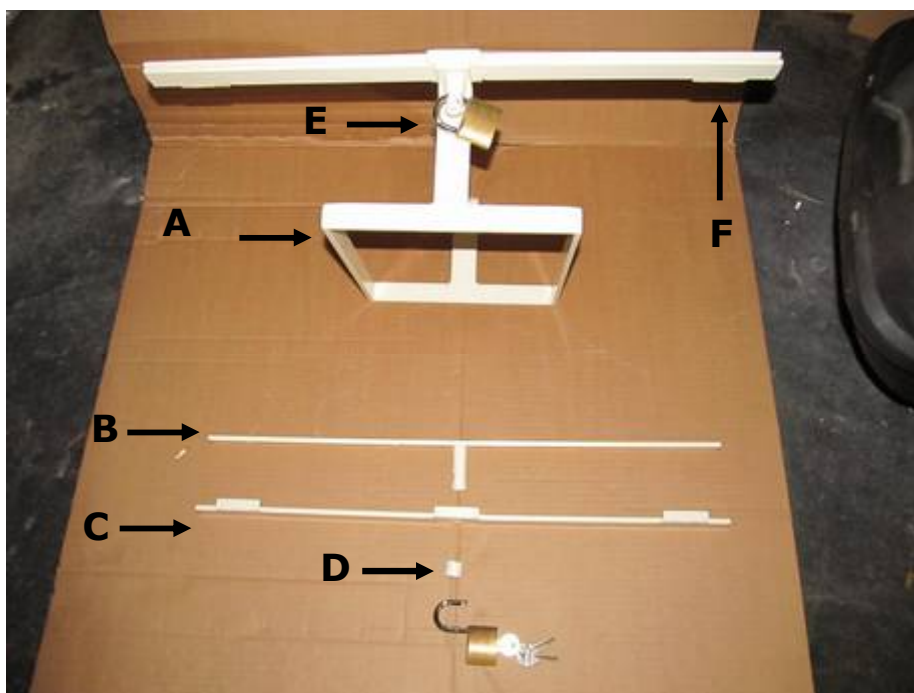
## The Gas Meter Bracket

To prevent a Smart Gas Meter replacing the analogue gas meter, a bracket assembly was manufactured and installed as shown in the images below.

### NOTE

The square frame labelled 'A' initially lacked a retaining arm across the front. This was added later.

After giving the local steel fabricator a sketch of what was required, he built this assembly for \$120. I had to paint it and purchase the additional hardware needed to mount the assembly to the brick wall.



The Bracket Assembly comprises the Bracket (A) that uses two padlocks (E x2) connected to metal straps (B+C that form F) x2. The spacer (D x2) is used to allow easier access for the two padlocks – top and bottom.

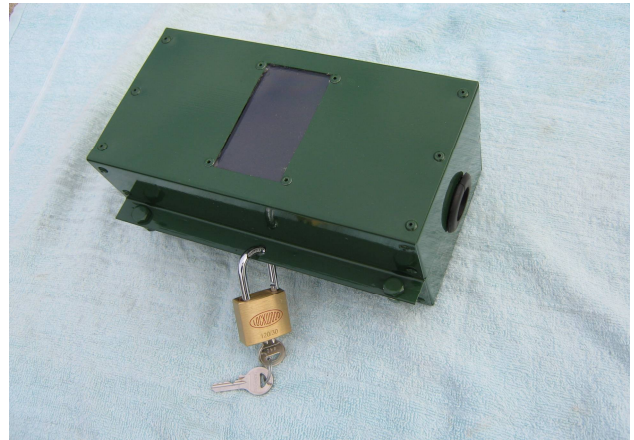


## The water Meter Bracket

**Large Water Meter Protection Box**



**Small Water Meter Protection Box**



To secure a water meter from being upgraded to a Smart Water Meter, a steel box is required to be manufactured and placed around the existing water meter to enclose it and its fittings to prevent it being removed and replaced without your approval.

It will require a Perspex window being fitted for secure meter readings to take place. A padlock will need to be attached to the unit.

Below is an indication of the measurements that are needed for a metal fabricator to commence construction of the box.

**Measure Between the Marks**



The bracket cover will need a hinge mounted along the side opposite the edge where the padlock is located to allow the cover to be opened to allow for installation.

Split neoprene grommets are located around the edge of the holes that allow the water pipes to pass through the box. These help to prevent the box from rotating freely on the pipes.