



DIY Kids Furniture

Let Your Kids Make Their Own Furniture

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DEDICATION

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Chalkboard Coffee Table



1

DIRECTIONS

1. Step 1: First, find a coffee table, end table, or other piece of furniture with a flat surface to use for this project. I found the coffee table I used from Craigslist, but this

is also a great project for that piece of furniture sitting in your garage or attic that you just haven't figured out what to do with.

Once you decide on your piece, measure the top to figure out exactly how big your chalkboard vinyl needs to be. I got my vinyl from Belvedere Designs, but you can find chalkboard vinyl almost anywhere these days!

2. Step 2: Next, it's time to prep and paint your coffee table. Here's a before picture of my coffee table...as well as a close up of the spray paint I used.





While my spray paint claims to have the primer included, I did brush on a coat of primer since my table was in pretty rough shape. Two coats of spray paint and one shipment of chalkboard vinyl later, I was ready to get started.

3. Step 3: Your vinyl may come with an application squeegee (shown below),

which is very helpful in smoothing out your chalkboard vinyl. Because of the size of my table, it took two of us to apply, so ask a friend for help!

We did not unwrap the entire vinyl sheet from the backing at once...we unwrapped a small portion, positioned and smoothed it onto the table, unwrapped a bit more, smoothed it out a bit more, etc.



Lastly, be sure to prime your chalkboard vinyl by taking a piece of chalk, lay it on it's side and rub your entire piece of vinyl with it. Erase, and do this twice more. Now you're ready to let your inner artist loose! Stand back and marvel at what a huge impact you can make with such a small investment of time and money.

Simple Kid's Table And Chair Set



SUPPLIES

1 – 2" x 4" x 8' stud

1 – 1" x 6" x 8' board

2 – 1" x 6" x 6' boards

3 – 1" x 4" x 8' boards

3 – 1" x 3" x 8' boards

1 1/4" screws (about 1 lb of grabber screws)

2" screws (if needed)

wood glue

paint/stain

optional – 1/2" plywood

optional – 1" pocket hole screws

optional – 14" full extension ball bearing slides

Approximate project cost \$35 to buy the wood and screws.

Chairs x4

Build an easy table and chair set for the little kids. The set costs about \$35 to build. Free plans!

Cut List

8 – 3/4" x 2 1/2" x 10" skirt (1x3)

8 – 3/4" x 2 1/2" x 8 3/4" skirt (1x3)

16 – 3/4" x 3 1/2" x 11" legs (1×4)

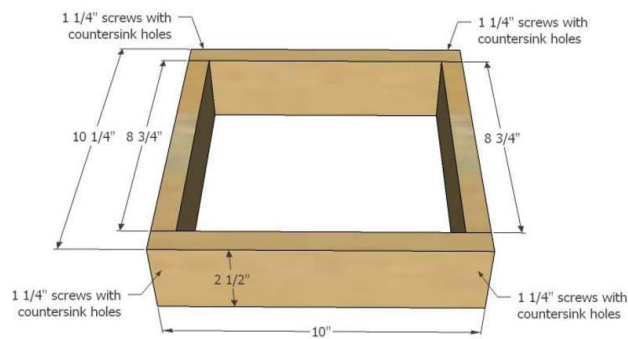
8 – 3/4" x 2 1/2" x 13 1/2" back support (1×3)

12 – 3/4" x 5 1/4" x 11 7/8" seats/back (5 1/2" width ok) (1×6)

DIRECTIONS

Cut all of the pieces according to the cut list. Wherever you are placing a screw, use a countersink bit* to pre-drill the holes so the screw head will sit flush.

About 3/8" in from each end of the 10" pieces, drill 2 pilot holes to attach the 10" pieces to the 8 3/4" pieces. Use wood glue and 1 1/4" screws to assemble the chair skirts.

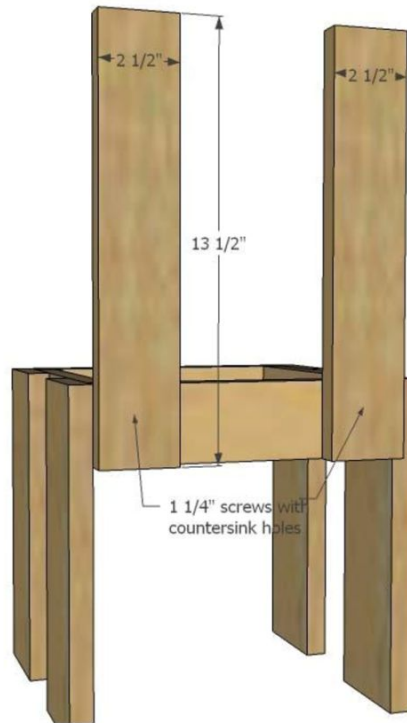


Pre-drill 3 holes in the top 2 1/2" of the chair legs. Use wood glue and 1 1/4" screws to

attach the legs to the chair skirt as shown.

Tip for getting the chair to not rock. Attach 3 legs to the skirt. Place the chair on a flat surface, legs down, hold the 4th leg onto the skirt so there is no rocking between the legs and screw into place.

Pre-drill 2-3 holes in the bottom and 2 holes in the top 5" of the 13 1/2" back support pieces. Attach the back supports to the chair skirt with wood glue and 1 1/4" screws.



At this point I primed/painted the chairs and table frames white.

Once the paint dried, I attached the seats and backs (which I painted before installation).

Pre-drill holes in the seats to attach to the chair skirt. Center the seats on the chair frame

and secure the seats with 1 1/4" screws. Offset the back from the top of the back support about 1/2" and secure with 1 1/4" screws.

Table – regular

Cut List

2 – 3/4" x 3 1/2" x 19" skirt (1×4)

2 – 3/4" x 3 1/2" x 18 1/2" skirt (1×4)

4 – 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 20 1/2" legs (2×4)

4 – 3/4" x 5 1/2" x 23 7/8" top (1×6)

Cut all of the pieces according to the cut list. Wherever you are placing a screw, use a countersink bit to pre-drill the holes so the screw head will sit flush.

About 3/8" in from each end of the 19" pieces, drill 2 pilot holes to attach the 19" pieces to the 18 1/2" pieces. Use wood glue and 1 1/4" screws to assemble the table skirt.

It is best to attach the legs to the skirt from the inside of the skirt. Use wood glue and 1 1/4" screws to attach the legs to the skirt as shown.

Tip for getting the table to not rock. Attach 3 legs to the skirt. Place the table on a flat surface, legs down, hold the 4th leg onto the skirt so there is no rocking between the legs and screw into place.

Center the table top on the table skirt. Use brad nails or 1 1/4" screws to attach the table top to the skirt.

Table – Storage Option

My son is really into Legos right now. We've been using the Lego tray which has been good, but I wanted something a little more contained (hopefully). So I added a little storage to this table and a sliding top. Now he can put his Legos in the table and slide the top open to work on them and still have a build surface, when done just slide it shut...so far so good.

Just a note, I'm not using the ball bearing slides as intended. They work great unless the table is fully open and someone pushes hard on the table top end, it may come off. Just slide it back on and it'll be fine.

Cut List

2 – 3/4" x 3 1/2" x 19" skirt (1×4)

2 – 3/4" x 3 1/2" x 18 1/2" skirt (1×4)

2 – 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 20 1/2" legs (2×4)

2 – 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 21" legs (2×4)

4 – 3/4" x 5 1/2" x 23 7/8" top (1×6)

1 – 1/2" x 18 1/2" x 17 1/2" bottom (1/2" plywood)

Cut all of the pieces according to the cut list. Wherever you are placing a screw, use a countersink bit to pre-drill the holes so the screw head will sit flush.

About 3/8" in from each end of the 19" pieces, drill 2 pilot holes to attach the 19" pieces to the 18 1/2" pieces. Use wood glue and 1 1/4" screws to assemble the table skirt.

Drill pocket holes for 1/2" material around the edge of the plywood. Use wood glue and 1" pocket hole screws to secure the table bottom into the skirt.

It is best to attach the legs to the skirt from the inside of the skirt. Use wood glue and 1 1/4" screws to attach the legs to the skirt as shown. The 21" legs will stick up 1/2" (this makes up for the drawer slides).

Tip for getting the table to not rock. Attach 3 legs to the skirt. Place the table on a flat surface, legs down, hold the 4th leg onto the skirt so there is no rocking between the legs and screw into place.

I joined 3 of the top pieces together with pocket holes, then attach the drawer slides to the top.

Place the drawer slides onto the skirt and mark the locations for holes. Install the drawer slides with top onto the skirt.

Line up the 4th top piece and secure it into place with wood glue and brad nails or screws.

Give everything a good sanding and paint or stain. I think eventually I'll distress mine, I

know my kids will help with that!

Diy Kids Chair



SUPPLIES

1 – 1x3x6 wood

1 – 1x4x4 wood

1 – 2x2x6 wood

MDF/Plywood 15 1/2 x 14-inch Piece

1 1/4-inch Pocket Hole Screws

Miter Saw or Handsaw

Kreg Jig

Sander

Wood Glue

DIRECTIONS:

1. Begin by cutting all your wood. If you don't have a way to cut it yourself or you simply don't want to, most lumber or hardware stores will cut it for free if you buy it through them. Below are the cuts you need for each board.



For the 1x3x6:

3 Pieces at 11.5 inches each

2 Pieces at 12 inches each

For the 1x4x4 (a 1x4x6 will most likely be the easiest to find):

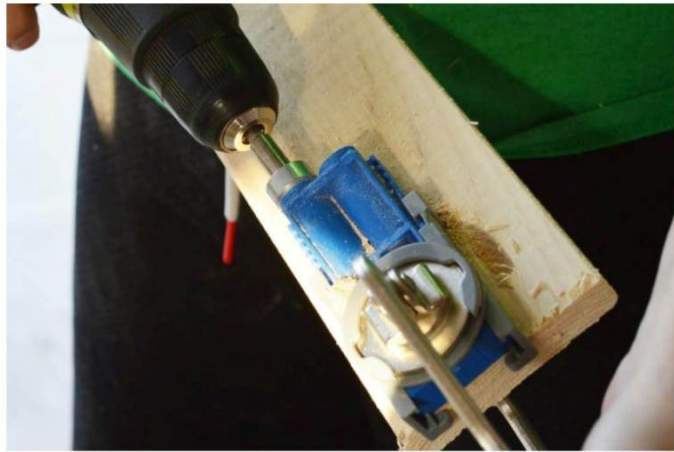
3 Pieces at 15.75 inches each

For the 2x2x6:

2 Pieces at 2 feet each

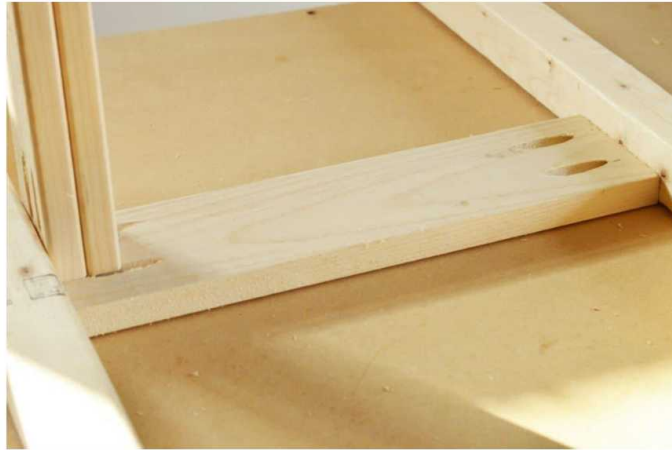
2 Pieces at 1 foot each

2. After all your wood has been cut, it's time to assemble it. Your 2×2 pieces are your legs. The longer ones are the back legs. The 1×4 pieces are the backrest of the chair. One of those 1×4 pieces is what the seat of the chair is going to rest on. Using your kreg jig, put two pocket holes on each end of all of the 1×4s. You only need to put pocket holes on one side of the board for a total of 4 pocket holes in each 1×4.



3. Lay both of your back legs down (the longest 2×2 pieces) and using one of the 1×4 pieces, measure a foot down the leg, and screw the 1×4 in place. From the top of the

1×4 to the tip of the leg should measure one foot. Be sure that your pocket holes are facing up so they will be hidden once the seat is in place. Refer to photos for any confusion. Be sure that both legs are attached to the 1×4.



4. Take two of your shorter 1x3s and two of your longer 1x3s put pocket holes in both ends, the same way you did for the 1x4s in the previous step. Attach both of the shorter pieces to each leg with their ends resting against the 1×4 you already have in place. The pocket holes will be facing out and the screws will actually be going into the 1×4 piece but the board will be resting against both the leg and the 1×4, standing up on its end. Do the same thing with your two longer pieces as well, just rest them against the shorter 1x3s already in place.



5. Now, take both of your shorter pieces of 2×2 and attach them to the top of the 1×3s you should screwed into place. You will attach them by using the pocket holes at the top of the 1×3s.
6. Now, take your last shorter 1×3 piece of wood and place pocket holes at both ends just as you did previously with all the other pieces of wood. Using the pocket holes at the top of your longer 1×3s already attached, screw the last 1×3 in place at both ends. Then, using the pocket holes you just made on the last shorter 1×3, screw the board into the front legs.



7. Sand your entire chair down including the two unattached boards left before moving to the next step.

8. Taking your piece of MDF board and on one side, cut a $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch x $1\frac{3}{4}$ -inch notch out of each corner (only two corners should be notched on the board). This will allow the board to slip right into place without the back legs getting in the way. Using your wood glue, put a thick line along the entire top portion of the seat (not the MDF board, the boards that will hold up the seat). Use your finger or a utensil to spread the glue out. Put the MDF board into place on top of the glue and make sure it's correctly positioned before place something heavy such as a few books on top of it. Leave the weight on the seat for about 2 hours before using.



9. Using your last two pieces of 1×4, put your backrest in place. The pocket holes should already be in place. Be sure those are not pointing towards the front of the

chair but towards the back. One of the pieces of wood will go flush with the top of the chair. Now, measure from the bottom of the piece of wood you just attached to the top of the seat and place the last piece of wood directly in the middle of the two.



10. At this point, you can choose to decorate your chair by either painting it, staining it, etc.



Congratulations! You finished building the chair.

Diy Outdoor Mud Kitchen



SUPPLIES

Bathroom or kitchen countertop (we found ours gently used at Restore—not affiliated)

Tape measure

Carpenters square

Skill saw or chop saw

Drill

Screws

Hammer

4-inch nails

Construction adhesive

8 foot 4'x4'

6-12 foot 2'x4' depending on the size (perimeter) of the counter or tabletop you will be using.

Eco-friendly outdoor stain. (optional)

Drop cloth (optional)

Paintbrush (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Step 1 – build a frame for diy outdoor mud kitchen art table

Select a bathroom or kitchen countertop at Restore or your local home improvement shop for DIY Mud Kitchen. We found a single slab countertop without seams gently used at Restore.

Measure the dimensions of the countertop and cut wood. Use a skill saw or a chop saw to cut your 2"x4's the same size as the dimensions of your DIY mud kitchen countertop. For example, if you're countertop is 2'x 6' you would cut two 20 inch sections and two 6 foot sections, or two 2 foot sections and two 5'8 inch sections to make your frame.

Assemble the frame. Use screws to attach the 2"x4' sections together to make the frame for your DIY mud kitchen. Use a carpenters square to make sure your corners are 90-degree angles. Before screwing it together make sure the countertop fits.

Determine the height of your DIY Outdoor art table and mud kitchen and cut 4"x4' legs to that length. We cut ours 20" long. Our table is 21" high when the counter is on top. We wanted it to be a good standing size for toddlers and preschoolers.

Place DIY mud kitchen frame upside down and attach the legs using a hammer and nails.

Optional – Paint DIY mud kitchen frame with outdoor stain and allow to dry. We did not do this but I wish we did... Our table has warped quite a bit since we built it 5 years ago! Place the frame upright on a drop cloth and use an eco-friendly stain to protect the wood frame of your DIY outdoor art table and mud kitchen.



This is the only photo I have of the construction of this table. It doesn't help much... but it's better than nothing right? You can see my mom demonstrating her awesome Forman skills overseeing my worker bee husband and helping hold the frame down by standing on it as he hammered away. She is holding the carpenters square they used to make sure the corners of the DIY mud kitchen frame were attached at 90-degree angles.

2. Step 2 – attach counter or top to diy mud kitchen

Place the counter on top of the DIY mud kitchen frame to make sure that you have sized it

correctly. Make sure that the countertop has contact with the outdoor art table frame so they can be glued together using the construction adhesive. Take the mud kitchen counter off the DIY art table before moving on to the next step.

Apply construction adhesive in a thick bead along the top edge of the DIY Mud Kitchen frame.

Place the countertop on the DIY outdoor mud kitchen frame and allow the adhesive to dry according to the manufacturer's directions.



Sliding Barn Door Loft Bed



SUPPLIES

- (1) Sliding Barn Door Hardware Set
- (2) Top Mount Hangers
- (6) Simpson Strong-Tie Fence Brackets
- (8) 3/8-inch x 5 1/2-inch Carriage Bolts
- (3) 3/8-inch Split Locking Washers 3-pack
- (1) 3/8-inch Zinc-Plated Steel Flat Washers 8-pack
- (4) 3/8-inch Zinc-Plated Cap Nuts 2-pack
- (3) Suntop 26-inch x 8 ft. Polycarbonate Corrugated Roof Panels in Castle Grey
- (1) Suntop 4-ft. Ridge Cap in Castle Grey
- (1) Woodtite 1-inch Fasteners 50 pcs.
- 2 1/2-inch and 1 1/4-inch Wood Screws
- 2 1/2-inch and 1 1/4-inch Pocket Screws
- 1 1/4-inch Brad Nails

DIRECTIONS



1. Build The Railings

You can purchase 2×2 lumber off-the-shelf, but we found it to be more cost-effective to rip down 2×4 studs to make the 2×2 balusters. We used a 2×4 spacer to evenly space the balusters 3 1/2 inches apart. Pre-drill pilot holes and countersink the 2 1/2-inch wood screws. It's also a good idea to sand the balusters before you attach them.



Fill the screw holes with wood filler, then sand smooth.

2. Build The Side Panels

Does your Home Depot sell 2×3 lumber? My Texas store location does, but I could never find them when we lived in Alabama. If you can get your hands on some 2x3s, they'll work best because they allow the tongue-and-groove boards to be slightly inset. In the photo below, the rails are 2x4s and the stiles are 2x3s. See the inset? Now you'll be able to attach the 3/4-inch thick T&G boards and not have them stick out past the 2x4s.



Notice how the T&G boards fit nicely into place. Once you build the frame, you'll just glue and nail the T&G boards in place – easy peasy.

The photo below shows one constructed side panel. You'll build two of these, of course. These will end up being the headboard and footboard of the bed.

Special shoutout to my good friend and neighbor, Tamra. She's a supermom to 6 kids (3 of which are triplets!), Army wife, and overall amazing friend. She's been a Godsend. Tamra's not only listened to me over-analyze, second-guess, and agonize over every part of this project, but she helped me sand and paint ALL THE THINGS. And there were so many things to be sanded and painted. She's a trooper. Thank you, Tamra!



I built each component (railings, side panels, front and back panels, mattress box) separately, then brought everything into the room for assembly, but I'd recommend building as you go, if you can. No matter how accurate my measurements were, once Adam and I got the parts into the room, those pre-determined measurements changed and shifted as we put the bed together. So, if you can (and if you have the patience and time), build as you go. Meaning, build the two side panels and back railing, then take the completed side panels into the room, then attach the back railing. The side railings are permanently attached, while the back railing slides into place with these fence brackets. This makes disassembly much easier when it comes time to PCS (move). Measure the space for the mattress box, then build accordingly. Attach the mattress box to the legs, then measure the space for the front and

back panels, then build for those dimensions... and so on and so forth. Make sense?

Because I built the side, front, and back panels beforehand, then tried to put it all together in the room, there was a lot of trial and error. We'd carry the front panel into the room, try to fit it into position, discovered it wouldn't fit, then have to take it back out to the shop to shave the sides down with a hand planer and belt sander until the front panel fit into place. Same thing goes for the back panel.

If you build as you go, you'll be able to measure and then build to those measurements. If you choose to build the loft bed the way I did, just know that you'll likely need to make adjustments along the way. I hope you have a sweet husband who lifts heavy things repeatedly too.

3. Build The Front And Back Panels

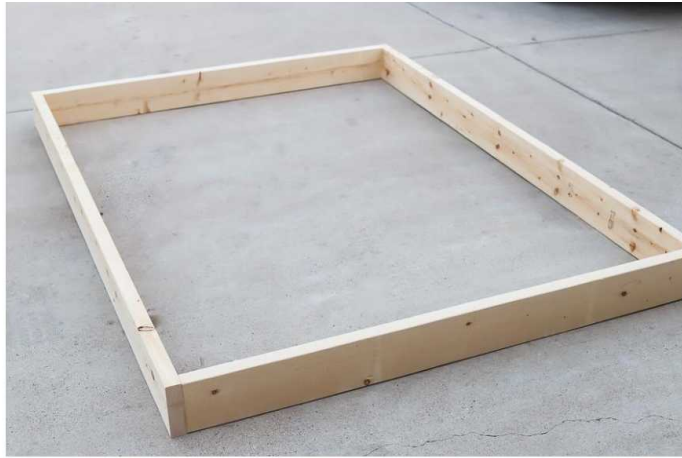
Same song and dance for this part too – the stiles are 2x3s while the rails are 2x4s, which allows space for the tongue-and-groove boards to be slightly inset from the 2x4 rail. Attach the T&G boards with glue and nails.



For the windows, I constructed the outer frame with pocket hole joinery and cut overlap joints for the muntins (the criss-cross part). The muntins were then attached to the frame with pocket screws. I cut the lap joints with several passes on the table saw. You can also use a circular saw for this – just be sure to set the depth of the cut so that you’re removing half the amount of material on both pieces so that when you join the two, you’ll have a flush surface.

4. Build The Mattress Box

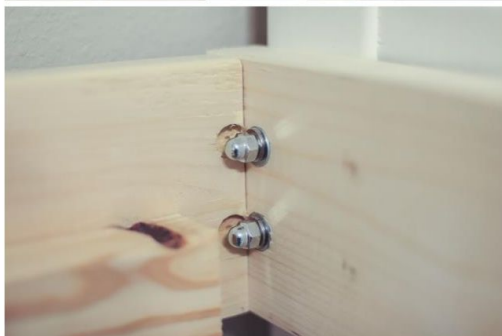
This part is pretty easy. First, you’ll build the box out of 2x6s and 2 1/2-inch wood screws. Check for square, adjust as necessary.



Next, you'll attach the 2×3 mattress cleats to the sides of the bed box. Measure and mark the center point on the short ends and attach the fence brackets. These brackets will hold the center support so that the mattress doesn't sag.

5. Assembly – Attach The Mattress Box To The Legs

Bring the mattress box into the room and attach it to the 4×4 legs. This is where we used the carriage bolts, flat washers, split locking washers, and cap nuts. We pre-drilled the holes into the 4×4 legs and 2×6 mattress box, then inserted the carriage bolts, washers, and cap nuts. You'll see where I had to carve out a space in the adjacent boards for the cap nuts. If you place your hardware further inward, you shouldn't have this problem.



Once the mattress box is in place, you can measure and cut the 1×3 mattress slats and lay them in place. I spaced them about 5 1/2 inches apart (I used a scrap tongue-and-groove board as a spacer) and screwed them down with 1 1/4-inch wood screws. Be sure to pre-drill pilot holes so that you minimize the risk of the wood splitting.

This is also a good time to put the full-size mattress in – once you have all the walls attached, it'll be a tough job to wrestle the mattress inside.



6. Build The Stairs

After hemming and hawing over whether to build stairs or a ladder, I finally decided to build stairs. I used 1×8 boards for this, which is plenty strong for the kiddos, but I feel a little

uneasy when my husband puts his weight on these stairs. You may want to use 2×8 boards if you have trust issues like I do.

7. Build The Doors

I used leftover scrap tongue-and-groove boards and 1×3 mattress slats to build the doors. Measure, mark, and cut the T&G boards to length, plank them together, then attach the 1×3 boards on top with glue and nails. Simple enough. I used Varathane's Golden Oak wood stain for the barn doors. Below, you'll find a couple helpful videos on my staining and finishing process.

Installing the sliding barn door hardware was very straight-forward. The instructions that came with it were very easy to follow. Remember, the hardware set includes 2 hangers, so you'll need to order 2 more because you need 4 total – 2 for each door. We did have to cut the metal rail down from 96 inches to 79 inches – we used an angle grinder for this, then used a file to remove any burrs and sharp edges and touched up the edges with black spray paint. We screwed the top mount hangers onto the doors, positioned and tightened the door stoppers, then hung the doors.



8. Cut The Roof Panels And Attach The Roof

Because this DIY sliding barn door loft bed already weighs a ton, I didn't want to add too much more weight with the roof. I considered real shingles (too messy and gravelly), cedar shingles (not available in-store), plywood (more weight)... you name it, I probably considered it. I finally decided on these polycarbonate corrugated roof panels. They're super light and come in different colors – you may even choose the translucent roof panels, if you want more light to come through. We chose the 8-foot panels in Castle Grey and used battery-powered RYOBI shears to cut it. You can also use a circular saw or even some heavy duty kitchen shears – the panels are plastic, so they're super light and easy to work with.



Diy Pallet Book Shelf



DIRECTIONS

1. Remove / pry off the center wood strip(s) from the pallet (as shown in the above image), using the back of a hammer or crowbar. This wood strip(s) will be reused for the bottom of

the bookshelf. Pallets come in a few different sizes, so yours may have 1 or multiple center wood strips. My pallet only had one, so I had to use a wood strip from another pallet to create the bottom for my second bookshelf.

2. Reuse the center wood strip and attach it to the side of the pallet, which will soon be the bottom of your bookshelf. I reused the nails that were already in the wood strip, but you may need / want to use new nails.



3. Measure about 1-2" above the higher wood strip and make a mark for your cuts.

4. Using a jigsaw, make your cuts.



5. Once the cuts are done, your bookshelf is essentially complete.
6. Sand down all the sharp edges using a hand sander or power sander.
7. Stain. I used Minwax Jacobean stain for a dark look. The wood was quite porous, so it soaked it right up!



8. Once completely dry (it took mine a few days to completely dry and not smell anymore), they were ready to hang. To hang the pallet bookshelves, I used Self-Drilling Drywall Anchors which are great to use when you can't find a stud (never my strong suit).

And they're ready to fill with your child's favorites books.

