

DIY PALLET WOOD PROJECTS

Awesome Pallet Craft Ideas for Home Decor & More



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Potting Bench



What you need:

We started with 2 HT pallets like mentioned in there.



Instruction

1. The one for the table top has 3 stringers, see drawing below.
2. The one for the table legs has 4 stringers, see below. (The 3-stringer ones are more common, so yours might need 2 pallets here.)
3. The table legs from pallet #2 will decide the width of our table, 21" in our case. Use that measurement to cut across the pallet #1 for the table top.





4. Cut the “legs” to the correct height.
5. A comfortable height for a potting bench is about 37". So the legs are 32" to 33" tall.
6. The legs and table top are joined together with pocket hole screws! The Kreg Jig Pocket Hole System is such a great tool that makes very strong joints very quickly, especially when you don't have routers to make joinery.
7. Here's the only tricky part, so attention please! In order to attach the table top to the legs, we doubled up the end stringers on the table top, see drawing above. We also moved the boards from the underside of the table top pallet to make sure that the double stringers sit directly on the table leg stringers, see images below.



8. We added the extra boards from pallet #1 as brace and shelf below. We left most of the wood as is, and sanded the areas that are likely to cause splinters.



9. Final step: just add your favorite exterior paint!



Triangle Reading Nook



What you need:

2 wooden pallets (check the back of home depot or lowe's... we asked first...)

scrap pieces of a 2 x , cut into six squares

3 rolling casters

sander and sandpaper

nails

Instruction

1. Choose your palette. Three tips for this process-

a- Choose the most sturdy palette you can find

b- Find a palette that is a square

c- Try to find one with slats that are as close together as possible.

Sand down the palette to the raw wood. Then draw a diagonal line from one corner to the other corner with a pencil.

*Note- The palette we used had a broken slat. We just used the side without the broken slat for the chair.



2. Cut along this line. We actually used a circular saw to cut along the diagonal line on one side of the palette, flipped the palette over and cut along the same line on the other side of the palette.



3. Reinforce your ‘front’ edge. Use leftover wood from the side of the palette you discarded (there’s already a piece of wood wedged in between the top and bottom layer of the palette, so use that piece since it is already the right size) to place an extra reinforcing piece on each side of the middle board, sandwiched between the top and bottom layers. Nail your reinforcement pieces in place.



4. On the bottom side of your platform, build up all three corners with squares of scrap wood. These will make your chair sit higher off the ground. Attach the casters to each corner 'tower.' Flip over and admire!

Pallet Wood Clock



What you need:

pallet boards or reclaimed lumber

wood glue

plywood

nails (or you can use a nail gun)

jigsaw

safety glasses and gloves

Instruction:

1. Disassemble the pallet to make the pallet wood clock

Make sure you wear your safety glasses and gloves for this project.

Remove the pallet boards from the pallet and rip each board down the middle.

Each board will then measure approximately 2 1/2" wide.

(total aside number 1: you don't have to use pallet wood for this project. You could use paint sticks or yardsticks or even random sticks from your yard.)



2. Cut out a piece of plywood in a circle

Cut out a piece of plywood 24" in diameter.

Cut out a 4 inch diameter center of the circle (this is where you will attach the clock movement piece).

He also suggested using the end of a plywood spool (like the ones you find hardware stores).

Then....lay the pieces of pallet wood end to end and stagger them like bricks on top of the plywood circle.

Glue the pieces of pallet wood down.

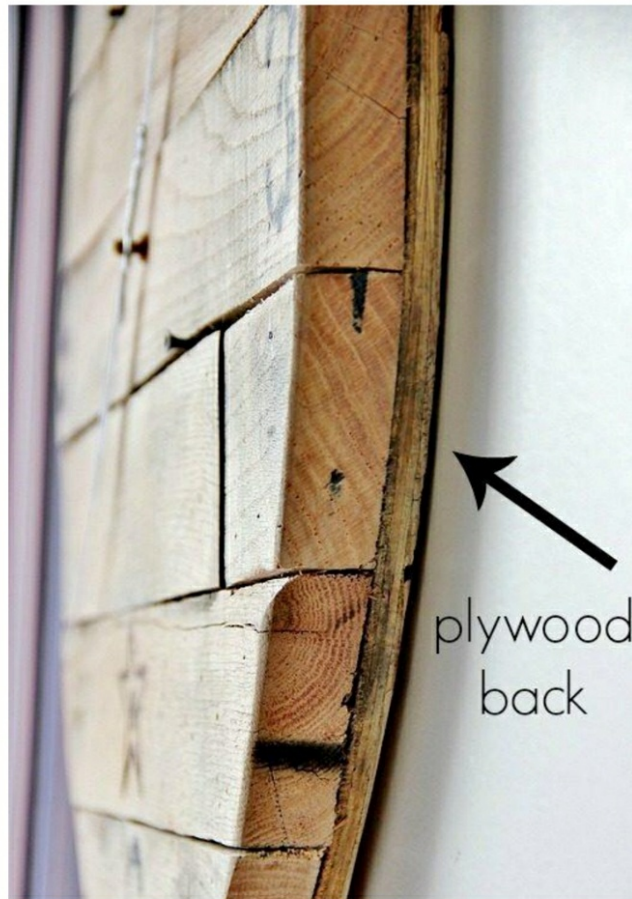
Then nail each piece in place.



3. Cut out circle

Once dry, flip the glued pallet top over to show the plywood circle which now has rows of pallet wood glued and nailed on to it.

Then cut out your circle with a jigsaw. You will cut through the plywood and the pallet wood together at the same time.



4. Attach clock hands

To see where he purchased the high torque clock hands...[click here](#).

You can follow the directions that come with the kit...but essentially you will be drilling a hole in the plywood and attaching the clock hands to the front and the clock movement piece to the back connected by a threaded shaft in the center.



5. Stencil the numbers

He stenciled a 12/3/6/9 on the clock.

You could stencil all the numbers...but I like the four numbers much better.

The clock is the perfect mix of rustic and industrial.

Bar Cart



What you need:

2 equal size/shape pallets in great condition

3 pallets for parts

4 heavy duty casters

disposable nitrile gloves

paint towel/rags

2 cans “antique white” Varathan wood stain

200 screws or less

Tools

pencil

measuring tape

“L” shaped ruler

belt sander with cloth dust bag

sandpaper

circular saw

drill

set of sawhorses

16 bolts

Instruction

1. Place the in-seams of the two equal size/shape pallets across from each other. The complete distance including a space should be 16 inches apart.
2. The three extra pallets are needed for the wood boards. Use

your measuring tape, “L” shaped ruler and pencil to mark and measure 16 inches across. Cut each board on the lines with the circular saw. Depending on the width of the boards on each of the ‘parts pallets’ you will need to cut approximately 32 – 16 inch boards to create a top shelf, middle shelf and bottom shelf.

3. Before you begin filling in each of the shelves with boards you will need to secure the entire structure by screwing boards on the ends of all three levels (a total of 6 boards at this point). This will ensure that the cart is exactly 16 inches apart from top to bottom. Next you will place all your pre-cut boards side by side in the remaining spaces. Do not start screwing them in place until you have them the way you want. Take the time to screw each board to the main structure in a way that looks pretty because you will see all the screw tops in the finished cart. Also, take the time to put some screws in the front face and back face of the initial main pallets. This will make sure you have a sturdy cart that won’t fall apart on you over time and can handle all the items you will place in it and on it.
4. Yes, I actually took the time to sand every edge of all 32 cut boards. This step was time consuming and is totally up to you if you choose to do the same. Pallets are not perfect by design

and you may like the rough texture all over the entire cart. My cart is in my dining room, so I wanted the surfaces that are going to be touched the most to be as smooth as possible.

5. In my Tools list above you will see that it says you will need a set of sawhorses. As you can see from the picture I do not own a sawhorse, so my father in-law and my husband created this make shift platform so we could cut all the boards correctly.
6. Isn't a bar cart without wheels. This pallet bar cart is very heavy and in need of four heavy duty casters. You can order these online or pick them up at any hardware store.
7. Before you secure each of the wheels to the corner bottom posts make sure you pre-drill all the holes, then secure each caster with four bolts. This will make your bar cart extra functional because you'll be able to wheel it around your home or outdoor space with ease.
8. A side view of the assembled Pallet Bar Cart on casters.
9. Here are the items you will need to create a beautiful white wash finish all over your bar cart. Disposable Nitrile gloves to protect your hands from the stain. A package of paint towels to easily apply the stain all over the cart. Last, 2 cans of "antique white" Varathan wood stain. I love the finished look of white wash on my pallet bar cart but your style may be different, so

here are few other options. You could give it a traditional look by using a brown stain or you could make the bar cart pop by using your favorite color stain or skip the stain and use paint.

10. This photo shows the front view of the completed Pallet Bar Cart. The back side of the cart looks identical which makes it perfect to set up for a party in the middle of a room or to push it up against the wall. As you can see from the photo I left both the pallets fully in tact. I like that I can place anything I want onto the shelves and it is somewhat hidden away. If you would like to have it more open then you could remove some of the center boards on the front and leave the back side in tact for better support.

Tips

- Make sure to complete this entire cart in an outdoor space because the saw dust will be everywhere. You'll also need a well ventilated area because the stain has a strong odor (goes away within a few days). Pre-stain or paint each of the 32 boards and the two main pallets. I did not do this, which made it more time consuming and difficult to stain every inch of the cart when it was fully assembled.

Wood Deck Cooler



What you need:

We used a Coleman® cooler

ScotchBlue™ Painter's Tape for Exterior Surfaces

Stain

Paint (to taste)

Brushes

3M™ Sanding Blocks

2 Lid Hinges

Lid Hinge Arm (to hold it open)

Nails and Hammer (or Nail Gun)

Drill

Hose Bib

8 inches of .5 inch Flexible Tube

Epoxy

Bottle Opener (I found ours on Etsy)

Mandatory: Ice and Frosty Beverages to Celebrate when the build is done!

Lumber:

We disassembled two free pallets and used the wood from those to create this project.

Instruction:

To Build:

1. Start with the legs. We used 8 – 2 x 4's. Cut all to the same length for desired height.
2. Nail 2 – 2 x 4's together as pictured below to create each leg.



3. Flip your cooler upside down and work from the bottom up. (this is how you will determine how deep the cooler needs to sit in the base) and where and how wide to attach the legs. Attach the legs by measuring and making your cuts. Then place and nail-in the pieces between each leg as highlighted below in RED.

4. Nail-in two more boards as shown in BLUE below. These will be the bottom shelf support and make up the frame of your deck cooler.

5. Flip your new frame over and remove the cooler. Set Aside.

6. You are now ready to add your cross pieces.

7. Next you will place the cooler back into the frame and get ready to add the top lip section and trim.

The lip can be as deep as you'd like it. Ours is made from a 1 x 4 –
The trim is 1 x 1.



8. Measure. Cut. Dry Fit. Then toenail in to attach the upper and lower support pieces as shown highlighted in GREEN below. These pieces will not show, they don't have to be pretty.

*Repeat on back, and both sides.

9. Now, you need to cut all the boards that wrap the frame and cover the cooler body. As shown in HOT PINK below.

10. Cut all boards the same length. We used some of the thinner stuff for this. It was about a half an inch thick.



11. We started wrapping by adding a board to each end and working in, ripping a board to fit in the center and complete the wrap. This keeps you from having one odd skinny board on the end.

*Repeat for back and both sides.

– This is where you'll be nailing into those cross boards you toenailed in back in step #8.

12. Use 6 – 1 x 3's cut to proper length to trim out the pieces you put on in step #11 to cover the cooler body. This step is highlighted in aqua in the photo below.

*Repeat on back and both sides.



13. The Lid. Use 1 x 1.5 inch wood to make the lid frame. To do this, measure the outside of the trim you used in step #7 adding about a quarter inch for wiggle room. This way, the lid can close flush to the top lip section.

13.a When you have the 1 x 1.5 inch lid frame made, check for fit. Then nail your lid boards to the frame. We also used some of the thinner boards for the lid.

– If you don't want the chalkboard inside the lid, you can add a small piece to stabilize the lid, add your hinges and be done with this part of the build.



14. I decided I wanted to add a chalkboard feature to the inside. I thought it would add a fun element since it would be for celebrating and family gatherings. My oh-so-patient husband measured to make sure the lid had enough depth, it did, so he removed the lid and the small stabilizer piece.

To make the chalkboard insert, he cut a quarter inch thick piece of plywood to fit inside the lid. We painted it with a few coats of chalkboard paint, let it dry, then nailed it inside the lid, re-attached the hinges and put it back on.

– I'll talk about our lid being separate later.

15. Add drainage for melted ice. This is where you will add the hose bib. Glue flexible tube to hose bib. Let dry. Drill hole in cooler as shown. Push tube through hole from exterior. Screw hose bib into wood. Cut off any excess tube on the inside of the cooler. Glue around tube on inside of cooler to seal.

*After this step is complete you can not remove the cooler from the frame!!!!



16. While we wanted a rustic look, I don't want anyone getting injured! I hit the entire surface of the deck cooler with a 3M™ Sanding Block in a 60 grit. Some of the rougher spots got a 40 grit hit first. I sanded it just enough to knock down anything major and smooth it out.

17. Now let's Paint & Stain!

Pallet Serving Tray



What you need:

Mitre Saw, Pallet, Drill, Screws and Hardware of Choice.

Instruction:

1. The first thing you'll want to do is cut three bottom pieces. We cut ours at 22" inches in length. Line them up and measure what your two braces will need to be. The width of a pallet board can vary. Ours measured at 11-1/2 inches in length. Place them vertically on each side of the three horizontal boards (as pictured).



Can you see all the drips of sweat from my ever so helpful hubby?

What a guy!?! It was such a hot day. Thanks, babe!

2. Once everything is lined up and even — you'll want to flip the pieces over, so you can screw the bottom boards into the braces. You'll need at least six screws, three screws for either side of the tray. Place one screw on each of the three boards, ensuring they inserted into the brace pieces as well.



3. Flip the tray over (again), grab your hardware and attach.
4. I found these black antiqued looking drawer pulls at Lowe's for a little over a dollar a piece.

THAT'S IT! WE'RE DONE!



Fold-Up Pallet Desk



Instruction:

1. Cut a piece of plywood for the desk

Most pallets have two sides. One with a lot of boards. One with usually three boards.

For this project, the side with a lot of boards will be considered the back.

The one with three boards will be considered the front.

You don't even have to remove any of the boards for this project (can you tell that's my favorite thing about the project....I might have mentioned that part a few times).

Cut a piece of plywood to fit between the bottom two boards.

Attach a piano hinge to the fold up pallet desk for stability.



2. Attach a piano hinge

You want to use a piano hinge instead of regular hinges to provide maximum stability.

Attach one side of the hinge to the plywood desk top and one side to the bottom board of the pallet.

Attach a window sash to the pallet desk so it can fold up nicely when not in use.



3. Attach a window sash

I think a window sash is such a fun option to keep the desk closed when not in use.

Simply attach one side of the window sash to the plywood desk top and one side to the middle board of the pallet.

Assemble cables to support the door of the desk.



4. Assemble cables

The cables are used to support the door when it is in the down position.

You want to purchase a cable that will support at least 100 pounds to make sure your desk top is sturdy.

You will need cable hooks, crimps and an eye hook.

Thread an eye hook through the cables for the fold up pallet desk.



5. Thread the eye hook

Thread the eye hook through the cable as shown.

Wrap the cable around the cable hooks and crimp in place as shown.

You will be attaching one end of the cable to the pallet and one end to the desk top.

Cut your cable to fit snugly pallet to desk top when your desk top is down.

Thread the eye hook and wrap and crimp the cable hook for the other end of the cable.

Repeat step 6 for the other side of the desk.

Sand the wood on your assembled pallet desk before staining.

6. Sand and stain assembled pallet

I used dark walnut stain and applied one coat following directions on can.

Apply a coat of polyurethane following directions on can.



7. Attach eye hook to desk top

After pallet is thoroughly dry, attach eye hook to one side of the desk top.

Repeat for the other side of the desk top.



8. Attach other eye hook to a small block of wood

Attach the eye hook to a block of wood.

Attach the block of wood to the inside of the back of the pallet as shown.

Repeat for the other side.

In no time your DIY pallet desk will be assembled against the wall and ready to use!

That's it!

It's a project that is perfect for a small space.

Pallet Swing Bed



What you need:

pallets

2 x 4 lumber (we used three 8-foot pieces)

drill

screws

saw

measuring tape

rope**

mattress or cushion (we used a standard twin mattress)

2-3 vinyl zippered mattress covers

Instruction:

1. Measure the size of the mattress or cushion you're putting on the pallet and figure out how many pallets you'll need to use to fit your mattress on. We used 2 pallets and added additional pieces in the middle to get the right length for ours. (We added 12 inches to the middle. The total length of our pallet was 80 inches.) Take into account the space you'll need for the rope at the ends.
2. Slide the 2 x 4's through the inside of the pallets, one on each inside edge of the pallet and one through the middle.
3. Screw the 2 x 4's to the sides and middle of the pallet.
4. If needed, add additional boards from another pallet to your main piece, we added two boards from a broken down pallet to the middle of ours.
5. Cut off 2 x 4's that are hanging past the length of the pallets.

6. Drill holes in the four corners of the pallet, both the top and bottom boards of the pallet. Make sure the hole is big enough for the rope to fit through.
7. Thread the rope through the hole, making sure rope goes under the bottom of the pallet and around the 2×4 (see picture below). Tie securely.
8. Tie rope securely to tree.
9. Enclose mattress in vinyl covers. Place on top of swing.

*Not necessary, but will keep your mattress dry & protected

**We used a solid braid pro-grade rope. Look for a rope that won't rot or break down easily and that has a high working load limit – 700 pounds or higher would be ideal. They have a big selection in home improvement stores, like Home Depot (where ours is from).

Chevron Coffee Table



What you need:

Pallet or Reclaimed Wood

Plywood (sized for your tabletop – top & bottom)

3×4 posts (or any size desired) – we used old framing lumber

Dremel Multi-Max MM20

Circular Saw

Circular Saw Guide or Table Saw

Yard Stick

Stain

Drill

Screws

Glue (any type is fine, wood glue is best, Elmers will work too)

Mitre Box

Nail Gun

Nails

Sand Paper

Polyurethane

Instruction:



1. Break down the pallets into individual boards. Separate boards from pallet using the Dremel Multi-Max tool to cut the nails (or use a hammer and pry bar).
2. Remove all nails from the pallet wood.



3. Using a circular saw, cut the plywood to the size you want your tabletop to be.
4. We wanted the pallet boards to be narrower to work better with the chevron pattern, so we sized ours down to 2.5 inches. To do this use a table saw or circular saw fitted with a guide, and trim boards to desired size.
5. Draw a line down the center of your plywood. This will be the guide to line up the boards.
6. Using the Dremel Multi-Max with the sanding attachment, lightly sand pallet boards. You can do more detailed sanding if you don't want your table to look as rustic.



7. I wanted the boards to have more of a contrast in color, so we stained a few of the boards to get them darker.

8. Using the mitre box, cut the ends of the pallet boards at a 45° angle.
9. To make the shelf under the table, use the three boards from the middle (or inside) of the pallet, and cut to the size of your tabletop using circular saw.



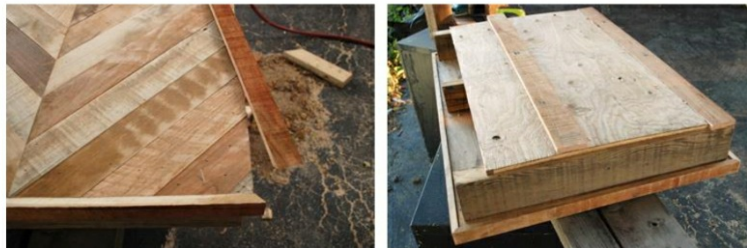
10. Attach the three boards to the plywood tabletop using a drill and screws. Place a board at each end and one centered in the middle.
11. Arrange the pallet boards in the pattern you like, using the line you drew as a guide. (The boards will hang over the edge of your plywood)



12. Apply glue to back of pallet boards and lay them on top of the plywood. (The glue helps to hold the boards in place while nailing and you won't need to use as many nails with glue).
13. Using nails and nail gun, nail the pallet boards to the plywood. (We used brad nails).



14. Once all the pallet boards are nailed down, draw a line where your tabletop edge is and using a circular saw, cut the pallet boards down to size.



15. Using additional pallet wood, make a frame for the table edge. Cut the wood to the thickness of your tabletop, plus an additional 1/8".

16. Mitre the ends of the boards at a 45° angle.
17. Nail boards to sides of table to create frame.
18. Using a circular saw, cut another piece of plywood to fit to the boards on the bottom of your table. I wanted the outside edges to be pallet wood, so we cut two pallet boards to size to fit at the edges, and sized the plywood to fit between those. You can just use one piece of plywood here if desired.

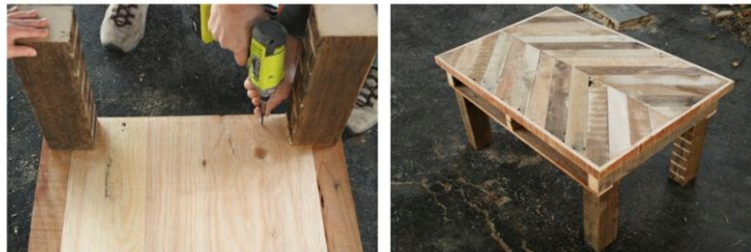


19. Drill holes in the pallet boards (or plywood if you're just using that) where the legs will attach.
20. Screw the board to the legs.



21. Once all four legs are attached to your pallet boards, set the plywood in-between and screw it in place.

22. Set the bottom part of the table on top of the upside down tabletop. Drill pilot holes into the bottom of the table.



23. Screw together the two pieces.
24. Flip table over and sand any rough spots.
25. If desired, coat table with polyurethane, following directions on can for use and dry times.



Here's to pallets!