



AWESOME WOODWORKING PROJECTS

Woodworking Ideas for Beginners

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DIY Vertical Planter Stand



MATERIALS NEEDED

(2) 2×2 @ 8ft furring strips

(1) 1×8 @ 8ft – Cedar or Pine wood*

2 1/2" and 1 1/4" Kreg screws

(3) Wall Planter Hooks (more here & here)

(3) Flower Pots

Primer and Paint or Spray Paint**

Wood Stain (I used Minwax English Chestnut)

TOOLS NEEDED:

Kreg Jig

Drill

Miter saw

*I used cedar wood for my build since the planter stand is going to be outdoors and cedar is naturally more weather resistant than pine. Plus, I love the look of cedar!

**If planter stand will be used outdoors, make sure to use exterior primer and exterior

paint/spray paint.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut your wood to size

Use a miter saw and cut your 2x2s to the following sizes:

2 pieces at 13" long

2 pieces at 65" long

2 pieces at 12" long

Then, for the 1×8, cut 7 pieces at 13" long each.

2. Add pocket holes

For each of the seven 1×8 pieces, add 2 pocket holes with your Kreg Jig to each side (total of 4 holes per piece). Make sure to set the depth for 3/4" thick wood on the Kreg Jig. *Tip: See my how to use a Kreg Jig post for an easy, step by step tutorial and video tutorial on how to use the Kreg Jig!



Next, add a pocket hole to each end of the two 13" 2×2 pieces. And then add two pocket holes to just one end of the two 65" 2×2 pieces. Make sure to set the depth for 1.5" thick wood on the Kreg Jig.



3. Stain and spray paint/paint wood

At this point, it's easiest to go ahead and stain your 1x8s. For tips on how to stain wood with a beautiful finish, check out my [how to stain wood tutorial](#) here. Then, prime and spray paint or paint your 2x2s. I used 2 coats of exterior primer on my furring strips. Sand your wood really well first though, especially the furring strips! Also, I spray painted my flower pots too since I wanted them to be white instead of orange.



4. Attach planter stand frame together

After everything has dried, begin attaching your planter stand frame together by attaching one of the 13" pieces to the top of the 65" pieces with 2 1/2" Kreg screws and a drill.



Next, begin attaching the 1×8 pieces to the planter frame with 1 1/4" Kreg screws and a drill. To easily attach them making sure the backs are flush with the back of the planter frame, use scrap 3/4" thick wood underneath (I used 1x2s as shown in below photo).

Continue adding all seven 1×8 pieces to the planter stand frame.



5. Attach base pieces to bottom of vertical planter stand

Add the 12" 2×2 pieces perpendicularly to the base of the vertical planter stand using 2 1/2" Kreg screws. Make sure it's centered too!



Finally, add the second 13" 2×2 piece to the planter stand frame under the last 1×8 piece.



6. Add the wall planter hooks to vertical planter diy

Attach the wall planter hooks to your vertical planter stand. First, drill



Time to add your flower pots and beautiful flowers! I just love the end result!



One-Board DIY Birdhouse



MATERIALS NEEDED

One 5-foot 1- x 6-inch No. 2 pine board

1-5/8-inch galvanized deck screws

2-inch galvanized finishing nails

Power drill

Appropriate-size spade bit

Hand saw

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Using the full width of the 1-inch x 6-inch board, cut out the pieces as shown in the board layout diagram. Simple DIY Birdhouse 2
2. Attach the front to the sides with 1-5/8-inch deck screws. Predrill the holes in the front piece to prevent the wood from splitting. After nesting season when it's time to clean out the birdhouse, remove these screws for easy access.
3. Attach the back to the sides with 2-inch finishing nails. Predrill the holes, making sure each one is straight.
4. Cut about 1/2 inch off each corner of the floor for drainage.
5. Recess the floor 1/4 inch up from the bottom of the house, then attach it with 2-inch finishing nails from the sides and back. Do not nail the floor from the front or you won't be able to open it for cleaning.
6. Attach the roof to the sides with 1-5/8-inch deck screws. That's it!

DIY Outdoor Serving Station



MATERIALS NEEDED

24" x 24", 3/4" wood project panel – we also purchased a 1/4" thick project panel as well for the back (this is optional)

10' long 1×6 pine board

Nailer with 1 1/4" nails

Wood glue

Stain

Four 5/8" screws

2" hook & eye kit

Five foot jack chain and pliers

Two-pack of 3" utility hinges

Four 3" deck screws

Two 3" corner braces (approximately 2" x 4" x 1/2")

Circular saw

Level

Drill with driving bits (and masonry bits if you want to attach your serving station to brick)

Safety goggles

Tape measure

Pencil

Paint brush

Gloves



STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

- Step 1. Using a circular saw, cut the one-by-six into two 18 7/8 inch pieces, two 22 1/2 inch pieces, one 17 1/4 inch piece, and one 10 7/8 inch piece. Then cut the project panel into a 2-foot by 18-inch rectangle.
- Step 2. If you don't know how to use a saw, don't worry . . . the Do It Herself workshop is interactive and hands-on! It's a great opportunity to fine tune your DIY skills and pick up tips and advice from the pros.
- Step 3. We decided to add our own personal touch to the project by putting a back on the outdoor station (that is the 2 foot x 2 foot 1/4" board). Simply cut one notch on each side at the top to fit the size corner braces that you purchased.



Step 4. You are then going to sand and stain your wood. I've always found the easy

way to stain is to brush it on and wipe off the excess with a cloth. Let everything dry.



Step 5. Create the box using the 22 1/2 inch pieces for the top and bottom, and the 18 3/4 inch pieces for the sides. Double check to make sure everything fits . . . then glue and nail gun it together.

Step 6. Our variation required stapling the back to the box.



Step 7. We then attached the divider and the shelf on the inside. Find the center of the box and insert the board measuring $17 \frac{1}{4}$ inches – glue and nail it in place.

Step 8. Do the same with the $10 \frac{7}{8}$ inch board – positioning it horizontally at the $9 \frac{3}{8}$ inch mark. Secure it with the glue and nails.



Step 9. Attach the folding top using the hinges (set it upright on a table to make sure everything is even). Make sure to leave about an 1/8 inch gap so the hinges can easily fold when attached.



Step 10. Cut the chain in half and attach on both sides using the 5/8 inch screws.

Make sure that you measure correctly so that the chain is attached in the same location on both sides – both on the station and on the door.

Step 11. Then attach a hook and eye – we actually did one on both sides because our package came with two.



Step 12. Then we added the corner braces. If you don't have a back, it's easy – but even if you do have a back, it's still easy! If you measured, you should have plenty of room for your corner braces, on both sides.

Step 13. Use the deck screws to mount your serving station to the wall (be sure to find a stud). If you drill into brick, use a masonry bit.

One Board Minimalist Chair



Step 1: Materials

Materials

You will need one board about 12 inches wide and 8 feet long. Sorry my metric friends. This is all in feet and inches. This cost me \$8 at the big box home store.

Tools.

Circular saw

Jig saw

Square

Straight line tool of some kind at least 3 feet long

Drill with large drill bit

Tape measure

Pencil



Step 2: Cut 1: Back Board



We need to cut off one 48 inch board. This will be the back board. Cut and set it to the side.

I've included a grid paper graph of what we are cutting. Each square is 1 inch. Grey shows the cuts. Maybe one day I'll get around to using sketchup.

Step 3: Cut 2: Butt Board



With the back board set aside we now turn to the other one. It needs to be cut 45 inches long.

Step 4: Cuts 3, 4, 5 and 6: Slot Board.



Mark a 12 inch line from one end of the butt board. This will mark the seat. On that line mark two inches in from either side. Move down 33 inches and make marks at 2 inches in as

well. Use your long straight edge to connect the 2 inch lines.

Basically we are cutting off 2 2x33 slices of the butt board.

Use a circular saw for what you can and finish the cuts with a hand saw.

Step 5: Cuts 7, 8, 9, 10: Back Board Slot.



Find the back board you set aside. Measure up from one end to 11 inches. This will be the bottom of our slot.

I cheated here.

I cut down the 3 inch piece of scrap to the size of the slot board.

I placed the slot board on the back board at the 11 inch line.

I marked the width of the slot board. I did this because I'm not the best carpenter in the world. My cuts could have been off.

I then used the scrap piece to mark the height of the slot.

Once you have your slot hole marked drill a hole to drop in your jig saw blade. This could be done several different ways. It is better to have the hole slightly larger than smaller.

Step 6: Insert Tab 1 Into Slot A



Time for a test fit. If it fits - great! If it does not trim a little more out of the slot.

Step 7: Finishing Touches



I like to trim off 1 inch corners off the head board and the seat.

It would also be appropriate to paint, stain or protect the lumber however you see fit for whatever you are using it for.

Step 8: Storage



This chair easily stores flat under a bed, under a couch, behind a door and tucks away easily for camping.

Garden Hose Hanger



MATERIALS NEEDED

1 x 4' long 4×4 redwood post (see if your hardware store will cut an 8' board in half for you at the store)

1 x 2×6 board cut into a 6"x6" square (which will actually end up being closer to a 5-1/2" square)

1 x 2×4 board cut into a 4"x4" square (actually closer to 3-1/2" square)

1 x wooden finial (I recycled an old pair of wood finials to make two hose hangers; use what you have!)

1 x hose holder (the hose hanger piece in this tutorial was less than \$10 at Walmart)

2-1/2" exterior screws

Paint

Cement (optional)



Once you've gotten everything assembled, you're halfway done. No joke.

From the ground up, the pieces you use will be: 4x4 post, 2x6 square, 2x4 square, and finial. We'll be working in this order to attach everything.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1 – On your 2x6 square, find the center. From there, measure where your 4x4 post will touch the square.



Step 2 – Predrill four holes about $\frac{3}{4}$ " in from the sides.



Step 3 – Partially screw in your screws into those four holes. Tip: Don't screw them in so far that the tip comes out the other side.



Step 4 – Position the 2×6 square on top of your 4×4 post and, being sure to keep it centered, finish screwing in the screws for a complete attachment.



Step 5 – Find the center on your 2×4 square. Tip: Rather than spending time doing a lot of cross-measuring, finding center on the diagonals is a quick and accurate method. Lay your ruler down from corner to corner and pencil a short line near the center. Switch the ruler to the other two corners and do the same. The center of your X is the center of your square.



Step 6 – Measure the radius of your wood finial. Mark this distance from center on your 2×4.



Step 7 – Predrill five holes in your 2×4 square: one directly in the center (this will be for your finial), and four set in about 1/2” from your radius marks. (Setting them in far enough ensures that, when the finial is attached, it will cover the screw heads.)

Step 8 – Attach screws partway into the four “corner” holes on your 2×4 square. Center the 2×4 on top of your 2×6 (which is already attached to the 4×4 post) and finish screwing them in. Tip: An extra set of hands holding everything in place makes this much easier.



Step 9 – Screw your finial into the center hole on your now-attached 2×4 square.

Step 9b – Stand back for just a moment and admire your handiwork. You're practically done!



Step 10 – Paint, stain, or seal your hose hanger at this point. I used a black exterior spray paint on one hose hanger; I kept the other one au natural for your tutorial-viewing pleasure.



Step 11 – Place your hose hanger piece where you want it on your post. Mark screwholes, then attach securely with screws provided.



Step 12 – Practically done! All you need to do now is secure your hose hanger to the ground.



Step 13 – Dig a hole about 12”-18” deep. Place post in the hole. Mix concrete according to bag instructions, and pour it in. Check for plumb on all four sides, several times, as you poke the cement to remove air pockets.

Step 14 – Wait 24-72 hours until post is secure in dry concrete, then start using it! Your lawn (and neighbors) will thank you.

Lanterns From Scrap Wood



MATERIALS NEEDED

to make Outdoor Decor Lantern:

2 scrap pieces wood for your top and bottom

100" total inches of scrap wood for the sides

Baling Wire

Wood Glue

Nail Gun (This is the one I use)

2" Wood Screws

Drill

Drill Bit

Stain or paint is optional. This is the stain I used.

Cut List for Outdoor Decor Lantern:

(A) Two 1" x 8" boards cut 8"

(B) Four 2" x 2" boards cut 12"

(C & D) Eight 1" x 2" boards cut 5"

(E) Four 2" x 2" boards cut 1"

Four 1" x 2" boards cut 3"

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:



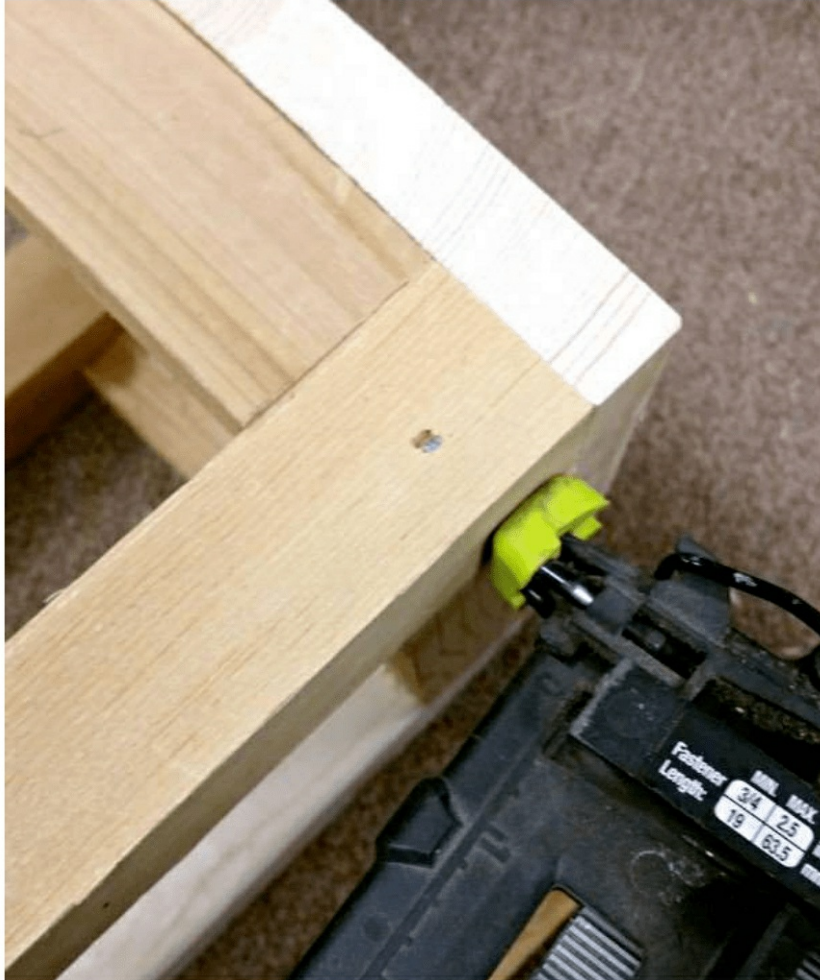
Step 1 Using a drop of wood glue and an air nailer, attach the four 12" pieces to the corners.

Step 2 Before flipping the board over, use a bead of wood glue and air nailer, attach the four 1" pieces to the bottom side for the feet.





Step 3 Begin adding the 5" side pieces to the top and bottom of the lantern between the 12" posts.



Make sure to put glue between two pieces of wood. Attach with the air nailer or 2" wood screws.



Step 4 Attach the top 1" x 8" x 8" board to the top and attach with a bead of wood glue and the air nailer.

Step 5 Using wood glue and the air nailer, attach the four 3" pieces to the top.



Step 6 Using a drill and 1/4" bit, drill a whole in each side . Thread the baling wire through the holes.

Potting Bench With Sink



MATERIALS NEEDED

2×4 cedar or pressure treated boards

1×6 cedar tongue and groove or flat boards

1×6 cedar fence pickets

Pocket hole jig

If you don't have one, check out my post comparing the Kreg Jig K5 and R3 to see which is right for you!

2 1/2" outdoor pocket hole screws

Brad nailer and 1 1/4" brad nails

Titebond III wood glue

Round stainless steel sink

Cold water faucet

Paddle bit slightly larger than your faucet pipe

Garden hose to faucet adapter

Silicone adhesive

Bucket or large pot to catch drain water and excess soil

Don't forget your safety gear when woodworking! Here are my recommendations for safety glasses and ear protection. No excuses!

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

Before you start, don't forget to download the potting bench plans! You can find more free woodworking plans in my library too!

After carefully taking apart the old storage bench, I was left with a pile of dirty, wet lumber. I gave each piece a quick sanding, then brought them all inside to dry for a few days before starting assembly.



Step 1. Make the potting bench countertop

The seats of the bench are the perfect size for the potting bench countertop. They were made with five 1 x 6 tongue and groove cedar boards joined together, with each seat measuring 29" wide once the blue parts were removed.

The underside of the lid of this DIY storage bench has additional structural support underneath, and pocket holes hold the finishing pieces to the ends.



You can make the same countertop with regular cedar 1 x 6 boards cut to 58" long instead. Plank them together with pocket holes and 1 1/4" pocket hole screws. You can read more about how to do this in my ultimate guide to pocket holes!

Drill pocket holes in the boards of the Let it Snow sign to create a 28" square



Step 2. Cut a hole for the sink

I was relieved to find that the sink I picked up at the salvage yard fit perfectly on one bench seat! Mark the outside edge of the bottom of the sink on the potting bench countertop.



Start a hole with a large drill bit near the line, then cut out the circle with a jigsaw. Test the fit to see if the sink can drop through the hole. It took me a few tries to get the right fit by marking the tight spots and trimming them back with the jigsaw. Ignore my beat-up, dirty hands! □



Step 3. Attach supports for underside of sink

Sinks need support all the way around, but this can be a little tricky with a circle sink. I attached scraps of cedar 1×2's cut at a diagonal to fit under the sink edge, plus two longer pieces that help keep the 1×6 boards flat and together.



Step 4. Drill holes for faucet and potting soil

I was kicking myself for not saving our old faucet when I changed it out for a new one just a couple weeks ago! Luckily, this cheap cold water faucet is probably better for a potting bench anyway. It'll be attached to the garden hose, so there's no need for a hot water line! All I needed to do is drill a hole with a spade bit slightly larger than the faucet pipe and drop it in!



On the other side of the potting bench, I drilled 5/8" holes through the top for potting soil to drop through. The shelf below will hold a plastic pot for catching the excess, with a lid to keep the soil dry.



Step 5. Assemble countertop frame

Cut two 58" pieces and three 22" pieces of cedar or pressure treated 2×4 for the countertop

frame. Read my guide on how to use a miter saw if you're not familiar with this tool. Drill pocket holes in both ends of the 22" pieces.

Attach the 22" pieces to the 58" pieces on the sides and center with 2 1/2" outdoor pocket hole screws. It should match up with the outside edge of the countertop.

Flip everything over and attach the countertop to the frame with screws or brad nails.

Step 6. Assemble the potting bench shelf

Build the shelf frame the same way as the countertop frame, with the same dimensions. To give the slats extra support, I added a scrap piece of cedar 1×4 down the middle of the frame.

Cut the cedar fence pickets to 25" long, and space them out about 1/4" apart along the shelf top. I used a scrap of 1/4" plywood to use as a spacer to make this much easier. Nail them in place with brad nails.



Step 7. Attach countertop and shelf to legs

Cut four cedar 2x4s to 35". Flip the countertop upside down and place a leg at each corner. Attach them to the countertop frame with 2 1/2" outdoor wood screws.

The height of your shelf depends on the depth of your sink and the size of the bucket you

plan to use to catch water from the drain. Mine is 19" lower than the bottom of the countertop frame. Attach the shelf to the legs the same way as the countertop.

Step 8. Add the back slats

I had used up all the reclaimed wood from the bench, but I had a few fence pickets left over from the clematis trellis I made last year. Since this potting bench will live next to the storage area under the deck stairs, I decided to use the same pattern as the fence for the back slats.

I trimmed two 1×6 fence pickets down to 5" wide and 58" long, and cut two 1 1/2" wide pieces to the same length. These are attached to three 1×4 pieces with 3/4" spacing in between.

Then the entire back piece is screwed to the countertop frame with 2 1/2" screws.



Step 9. Install sink and faucet and connect to garden hose

The circular sink dropped into place easily and is sealed with silicone around the edge. The faucet installed just as easily! Just tighten the nut underneath until it's snug against the countertop. This adapter screws onto the faucet pipe and connects to the garden hose!



Step 10. Enjoy your new diy potting bench with sink!