



ABOVE. A set of examples of cardboard adaptations.

EMPOWERING AN ADAPTIVE MINDSET

GOALS

This project was done in collaboration with the Adaptive Design Association with the goal of empowering people, regardless of ability, to solve their own problems by adapting the environment around them. People tend to accept their surroundings as static, and try to conform their bodies to fit their environment. Our goal was to show that the world isn't designed perfectly for anyone, so we should adapt it to meet our individual needs.

OUTCOMES

To achieve our goals, we settled on writing and creating a professional quality video to jump-start a website on adaptive design by the Adaption and Ability Group at Olin College of Engineering and the Adaptive Design Association. The video shows the process of creating a simple stool with cardboard, and then expands upon the idea to show how others can easily build their own adaptations to solve their own problems.



The Adaptive Design Association (ADA) creates cardboard adaptations to alter the environment to better suit the bodies of kids who have abnormal bodies. Their work exists in a niche space for children with disabilities. The ADA wanted to expand the concept of adapting your environment beyond that small but important niche.

Our initial ideas to help the ADA were very technical in nature. We thought about creating a learning library of tools and techniques for working with cardboard, creating instruction manuals, and documenting ADA projects.

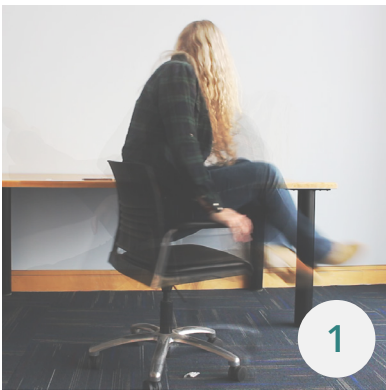
But after realizing that our goal was not to just document cardboard carpentry, but show people an adaptive mindset, a mindset that doesn't accept the status quo of the built environment, we pivoted towards ideas that were more inspirational in nature.

The result of this process is a video that I directed and edited that can be found here:
<https://youtu.be/CHIXkAo4xAl>

THE KEY IDEAS

- 1 The world isn't designed perfectly for anyone
- 2 There's no such thing as one-size fits all, so don't accept inconveniences
- 3 You can adapt the world around you by using everyday materials, without special tools
- 4 Adaptation is for everyone and its probably easier than you think

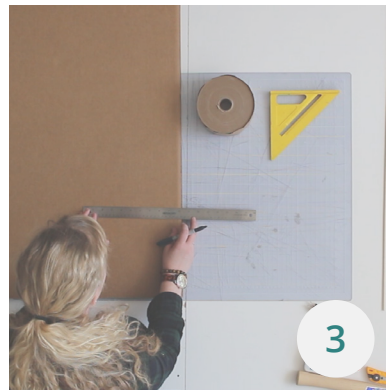
STORYBOARD



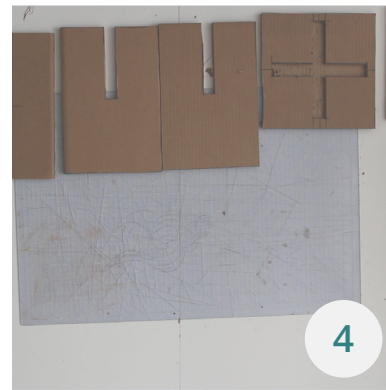
Introduce a problem that people have universally about being uncomfortable sitting in chairs.



Illustate a custom solution to the main characters problem that she comes up with herself.



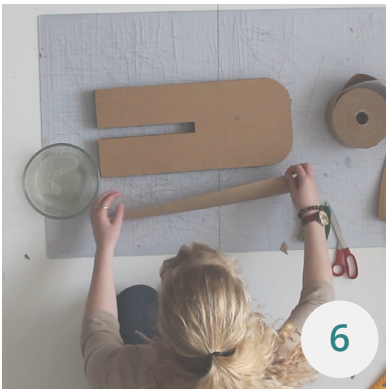
Switch to a how to styled video with an overhead shot.



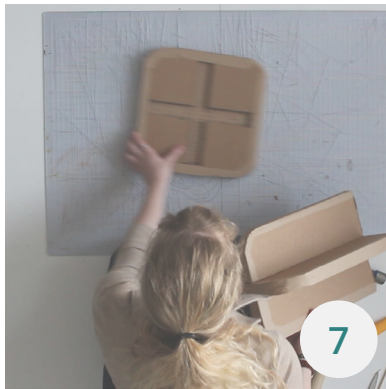
Show all pieces cut and prepared for assembly



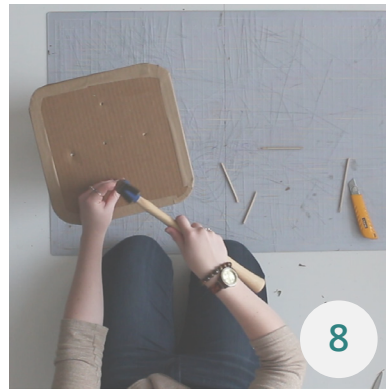
Main character spreads elmers glue and sticks them together.



The three pieces of stool are edged with paper tape.



Main character assembles the stool.



Wooden dowels are hammered into the stool to keep it together



Show that anyone can do this by showing multiple people working with cardboard.



End the video with other examples of cardboard adaptations.