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Free Woodworking Plans

Whenever possible I locate free plans on the internet, and occasionally I draw some up that hopefully will be beneficial to you. On the following four pages you will find a list of both types of free plans.

We all would like to see more free plans available to us at a click of the mouse. There are many unique [plans available on the internet](#).

There are links to thousands of plans on this Woodworking site. More plans will be added on a regular basis. If you can't locate a plan at this time, please take advantage of this Woodworking.About.com's [Forum](#). Someone may see your posted question, and know exactly where you can find what your looking for, or perhaps you can help out another fellow woodworker, by answering a question they may have.

Free Plans From the Internet A-C

[Aldo Leopold Bench](#)

Wild Ones has a free bench plan that is made from 2" x 6", 2" x 8", and 2" x 10" material.

[Aquarium Table](#) new

An article that describes how to make a table that can support a 3' long fish tank. The table also includes a shelf underneath. Material list measurements are in millimeters.

[Artist's Easel](#)

Benjamin Grosser shows how to build a heavy duty easel with free drawings and instructions.

[Baby Changing Table](#)

Amateur Woodworker has instructions, and a

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material list for building a Baby Changing Table,
that can also be used as a chest of drawers.

Ball and Bat Rack

HouseNet has a full-sized building diagram and
instructions for a Ball and Bat Rack that is
designed for two bats and three balls.

Barrister Bookcases

Popular Woodworking magazine offers a free
download construction drawing in PDF format
of Barrister Bookcases.

Baseball Cap Rack

Minwax® has this page that has free assembly
diagrams, procedure information, tips, plus a
tools, and materials list in order to make a
Baseball Cap Rack.

Bathroom Vanity

Popular Mechanics has a free project plan,
materials list, plus instructions for a bathroom
vanity that starts on this page.

Bedroom Organizer

Minwax® has this page that has free assembly
diagrams, procedure information, tips, plus a
tools, and materials list in order to make a
Bedroom Organizer.

Bedside Table

Minwax® has this page that has free assembly
diagrams, procedure information, tips, plus a
tools, and materials list in order to make a
Bedside Table.

Bench

California Redwood Association has free plans
and step-by-step instructions for building a
Mendocino Bench.

Birdhouse 1 new

L & R Designs offers a free PDF download plan
to build a traditional 9 1/2" high x 8 1/2" wide x
10" deep birdhouse. All built from 1" x 6"
material.

Birdhouse 2

Johnathon Press Home and Workshop Online has
a free plan and instructions for a family project
for a birdhouse that kids could make.

The Bird Ornament Patterns

WoodCraft Projects has free full scale patterns of
various bird ornaments for a weekend wood/craft
hobbyist. Painting instructions are included.

Blanket Chest 1

August Home Publishing Co. has free plans and
descriptions to build a Country Classic Blanket



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Chest.

Blanket Chest 2

Popular Mechanics has a free project plan, materials list, plus instructions for a blanket chest that starts on this page.

Bluebird House Plans

Here's an article that describes how to build a bluebird house, complete with step by step instructions.

Booklet With Weekend Projects

Minwax® will send you a free Easy Weekend Projects booklet just by simply filling out a request form.

Book/Magazine Stand

Popular Woodworking Magazine offers free instructions, a material list, and a downloadable construction drawing for building a tall book/magazine stand.

Bread Box

Amateur Woodworker offers a free plan and instructions for building a Bread Box. Tools required are a drill, sander, jigsaw, and router.

Build An Office Desk

Popular Mechanics has a free project plan, materials list, plus instructions for a office desk that starts on this page.

Building An Inexpensive Wine Rack



Your About Wine Guide Lisa Shea has very nice colored photos and free instructions for building a wine rack with plywood and PVC pipe.

Bungalow Mailbox

Popular Woodworking magazine offers a free download construction drawing in PDF format of a Bungalow Mailbox.

Byrdcliffe Cabinet

Popular Woodworking magazine offers a free download construction drawing in PDF format of a Byrdcliffe Cabinet.

A Cabinetmaker's Toolchest

Ralph Brendler offers his free basic plans and a description of a toolchest.

CD Carousel new

Freeplans.com™ offers a free detailed plan and instructions for building a CD Carousel that looks like it could hold somewhere around 96 CDs.

CD Holder

Minwax® has this page that has free assembly diagrams, procedure information, tips, plus a tools, and materials list in order to make a CD Holder.

Chattahoochee Chair

Wolmanized® offers this page with material list, and detailed plan.

Classic Winter Sled

Drawings, instructions, material and hardware lists are included on this page to build a Classic Winter Sled that is just under four feet long, and it can be built with common tools.

Coffee Table

Popular Mechanics offers free instructions and photos for building a knock down Coffee Table that looks similar to a trestle table.

Computer Desk

Instructions and a cutting diagram for making a Computer Desk or Study Carrel from a single sheet of plywood.

Computer Desk, and More

Black & Decker has free project instructions, and detailed plans on how-to build an Adirondack Chair, Computer Desk, Indoor Firewood Rack, and an Outdoor Wood Organizer.

Corner Cabinet

Jeff Greef Woodworking supplies detailed instructions and photos for building a small wall mounted Corner Cabinet.

Corner Cupboard

Popular Mechanics offers detailed two part plans, with details on how-to do the case construction, doors, and trim, plus a materials list.

Continue

Free Plans From The Internet D-P

Continue on to a list of more free plans from the internet.

Free Plans From The Internet Q-Z

Continue on to a list of more free plans from the internet.

Free Plans From Your Woodworking Guide

Continue on to another list of links to free plans, drawn up by your Woodworking Guide.

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In The Spotlight

Modern Storage Tower free plan from *Popular Woodworking*

Popular Woodworking eNews has a new free plan available at their website. The plan, by Jim Stuard, is for a Modern Storage Tower that you can make in maple and plywood. Jim is a former associate editor of PWW.

It is a good project for the beginner, offering some new techniques that can be easily comprehended.

To see the plans for the Modern Storage Tower, check it out at *Popular Woodworking's* [website](#).

To see some of their other free plans, click [here](#).

To sign up for their free e-newsletter, go [here](#).

[Monday January 26, 2004](#) #

Making Moldings With a Router

Here's another nice tip from *the Router Workshop* website. It explains how to make moldings using the router. The emphasis is on understanding the process so you can apply what you learn to many different shapes. An example is included of a molding for a bedside table. Click [here](#) to see their latest tip and then go to the rest of their site.

[Monday January 26, 2004](#) #

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More from your Guide

WoodWorks Show Will be in Los Angeles This Weekend

WoodWorks is presenting a blockbuster show this weekend, Friday Jan. 30th through Sunday, Feb. 1st, in the Los Angeles area at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, California.

Sam Maloof will be making an appearance at the Sawdust Cafe on Saturday. The Cafe has a display gallery and hospitality area, where you can network, meet other woodworkers, and enjoy fine woodworking projects created by local woodworkers.

In addition, David Marks, star of **Wood Works** showing weekly on the DIY Network, will giving a lecture on Saturday on "Furniture from Concept to Finish". David joins a host of talented woodworking who will be at the show. These include Wayne Barton on "Chip Carving Basics", Yeung Chan on "Furniture Joinery & Construction" and "Woodworking Jigs & Fixtures", Michael Dresdner on "Woodfinishing Basics" and "Advanced Woodfinishing", Patrick Edwards on "Marquetry, the Classic Method", and Carol Reed on "Maximize Your Router" and "Router Beginners".

Plus, there will be over 40 exhibitors. Click [here](#) to see all the details.

As if this wasn't enough, prior to the show is the Second Annual **Whole Earth Turning Conference**. This intersects with WoodWorks on Thursday and Friday, the 29th and 30th. It features wood turners from New Zealand, the United

Kingdom, Germany, Norway, and the United States.

There are 16 two-hour sessions with demonstrations by Asmund Vignes, Harry Memelink, Jimmy Clewes, Petter Herud, Gerrit Van Ness, and Anne Bergerfurth. Go to the [website](#) to find out more.

[Read more...](#)

[Sunday January 25, 2004](#) #

The Woodworking Shows Will Be In Atlanta This Weekend

The Woodworking Shows expo will be in the Atlanta, Georgia, USA area at the Georgia International Convention Center in College Park, GA. The show runs Friday, Jan. 30th, through Sunday, Feb. 1st. There are two all-day woodworking seminars on cabinetmaking and furniture making with Marc Adams, plus demonstrations on cabinetmaking, woodturning, furniture making, log milling, and general woodworking techniques. There will also be over 60 exhibitors and vendors. To find out more, go to their [website](#).

[Sunday January 25, 2004](#) #

Free Plans From *Woodworker's Journal* eZine

In this second half of the month of January, *Woodworker's Journal* eZine presents two new free plans. One is a trestle table with benches and the other is a colonial sign for the family homestead. The table and benches are an Early American design that can be made from pine or oak. The colonial sign can also be made from pine with wooden numbers and letters bought from the local hardware store. To download the plans click [here](#).

[Saturday January 17, 2004](#) #

Focus On A Woodworker: Nora Hall

It looks like *Today's Woodworker* brought to you by *Woodworker's Journal* ezine is developing a series of articles highlighting woodworkers of note. I like these articles because they give me an understanding of how these woodworkers developed their woodworking skills and their perspective on design. Here is another one of those instances -- an article in on Nora Hall, a Dutch trained woodcarver, teacher, and author now settled in Troy, Michigan. She is one of the America's premier woodcarvers who practices and teaches a European style of woodcarving. She also shares her knowledge through a series of videos. Enjoy the article about Nora [here](#).

[Saturday January 17, 2004](#) #

Popular Woodworking Has a New Free Plan for a Kentucky Sideboard

Popular Woodworking eNews has a new free plan available at their website. The plan, by Warren May, is for a Kentucky Sideboard you can make in either cherry or walnut. Warren has been crafting furniture for more than 25 years.

The sideboard contains relatively simple inlay as one of its design elements. The author gives alternatives for the inlay to allow the beginner to comfortably take on the challenge.

To see the plans for the Kentucky Sideboard, check it out at *Popular Woodworking's* [website](#).

To see some of their other free plans, click [here](#).

To sign up for their free e-newsletter, go [here](#).

[Monday January 12, 2004](#) #

Chris Pye's Latest Newsletter Has Lots of Great Woodcarving Info

I just received the latest newsletter from Chris Pye. Chris is a noted English woodcarver, author, and teacher. His [website](#) contains lots of good information for beginner through advanced woodcarvers. There you can learn the fundamentals, look at others' works in his gallery, and find classes he teaches in the UK and US.

[Sunday January 11, 2004](#) #

Making a Violin by Hand in the Traditional Way

I came across this website through my friends on the Old Tools List Server and I thought it might be of interest to some of you interested in instrument making or just in using hand tools.

[Here](#) is a step-by-step, detailed process for making a violin.

Follow professional violin maker, Derek Roberts, as he starts by selecting the wood following on through the process until its ready for varnishing. There are 24 steps in all. I thought it was so good, I added it to the Project Plans [section](#).

[Thursday January 01, 2004](#) #

A Power Tools List for the Beginner

Most woodworkers use power tools as part of their efforts to

complete projects. Here's a list of power tools for the beginner. This list is by no means exhaustive - its only meant to be a guide. Check out the [article](#) and see what you think.

[Monday December 15, 2003](#) <#>

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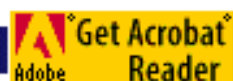
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Modern Storage Tower

The last thing I want to do when starting work at my computer is to clear out a place to work. Unfortunately, some years ago my piles of stuff overpowered what little storage space I had. And all that junk sitting around has a tendency to make a spouse go ballistic.

Enter this modern storage tower. It will tame almost any wild pile of junk, and yet it takes up less than 2 square feet of floor space. The open shelves are designed to hold magazine storage boxes you can buy at an office supply store. The CD drawer holds 38 CDs — that's not enough space for a music collection, but it should handle an average collection of computer CD-ROMs. And the see-through doors let you display stuff or protect a few books.

I built this project using the Little Shop That Could Mark II, a rolling workshop on wheels that contains only \$1,000 in tools. It was featured in the September 1999 issue of Popular Woodworking. And though we're



1 Cutting Down Panels The Little Shop Mark II is a great system for cutting up large panels. Simply crosscut the 4 x 8 sheet to a little over the finished length and then rip the panels from the shorter piece.



2 Rabbets on the Back After cutting the panels to length, cut $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " rabbets in the back edges of the sides, top and bottom to hold the back piece. Finish the rabbeting by cutting a $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " rabbet in the bottom ends of the sides for the bottom. When cutting rabbets this way, watch out for the falloff flying back at you.

sold out of that issue, you can see the plans for this rolling shop on our website (www.popularwoodworking.com) or you can pick up a copy of the new book "25 Essential Projects for Your Workshop" (Popular Woodworking Books) that features complete plans for the Little Shop.

This tower project is great for the beginner because it gives you a chance to try out some simple techniques you won't learn anywhere else. You'll learn to make "veneer strips" to cover plywood edges then glue them on using an electric iron. This is real simple and cheap, too. You'll also learn how to cut splines for miters and clamp your miters using a quick shop-made band clamp made from scraps and an ordinary rope.

Get it Down to Size

Begin construction by cutting out your parts according to the Schedule of Materials. If you can rip and crosscut the plywood on your table saw, great (the Little Shop excels at this function). However, you can also use a circular saw or jigsaw to get the pieces down to manageable sizes and then finish them up on the table saw. Either way, cut your pieces a little bigger than the stated sizes so you can then trim off the rough factory edges.

First cut rabbets in the side, bottom and top pieces that will hold the back as shown in the photo at left. Then cut rabbets in



3 Biscuit the Panel Clamp a straightedge to the marked line indicating the bottom of the shelf. Place the joiner up against the straightedge to make the cut. Cut slots in the shelves by placing them on a flat surface and repeating the process, indexing the joiner and shelf on the same surface.



4 Spline-Cutting Jig Use a two-piece jig shown above. Hold the door parts at 45 degrees and gently push them through the saw blade, leaving a saw cut 1/2" deep.



5 Clamping the Doors When you have a door glued together, place cauls on each corner. The groove in the back will evenly distribute the pressure from the rope on the joint. The curved indexing surface ensures that the clamp always provides pressure at the same point on the joint.

the sides to hold the bottom in place (the top is attached later). Lay out the locations for the biscuit joints for the fixed shelves. First clamp the two sides and partition pieces together side-by-side and make sure the top and bottom are perfectly aligned. Use a piece of plywood as a fence as shown in the photo at right to hold the biscuit joiner in place as you make your cuts. I used three #20 biscuits at each location where a shelf met a side piece. Note, because the partition is biscuited on two sides, you'll have to flip it over after cutting biscuit slots on one side.

When all the biscuit slots are cut, dry-assemble the case to find any problems that might occur during assembly. Make sure the bottom sits squarely in its rabbets and check the top to ensure it touches the two sides and partition evenly. If everything is OK, glue and clamp the case together. Clamp up the case with it face down on your work surface. This ensures the partitions and sides are all flush at the front. Check the case to see if it's square by measuring it from corner to corner.

Mitered Door Frames

While the glue is drying, cut out the parts for the doors. They are made by mitering $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 1" strips of wood that have a $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " rabbet cut on the back edge for glass or Plexiglas.

If you don't have a miter sled to



6 **Homemade Veneer Tape** To apply the veneer, simply lay down a bead of woodworking glue. Spread it out with a brush or a handy finger. Lay the veneer on the edge and apply high heat (not the baseball kind) to the edge with a common clothes iron. When you see the glue start to bubble out of the joint, the veneer is almost set. Leave it on a little longer and apply pressure with a roller. A screwdriver shaft works in a pinch.



7 **Glazing the Doors** Place the doors (back side up) onto a flat surface. Lay a small bead of clear silicone into the rabbet. The stuff I used comes out white so you can see it, but it dries clear. Cut the pieces to size and lay them into the rabbet on the back side of the door. Place a small piece of plywood on the plexi to protect it and place a weight on the plywood to apply pressure to the plexi while it sets. I used a couple of woodworking planes for this. When the caulk is dry, apply a bead to the other side of the plexi, sealing it into the door.

cut the rails and stiles for the doors, screw a sacrificial fence to your miter gauge. Clamp stops to the fence for the different length parts. After the door parts are cut to size, it's time to cut the slots for the splines that will reinforce the joints. First cut some spline stock from some scrap maple that's as thick as the kerf made by your table saw's blade. It helps to cut it a little thick and sand or plane it to thickness. Remember to have the spline's long grain run across the joint in the door. This provides the strongest joint possible.

Cut the slots for the splines using your table saw as shown in the photo on the previous page.

The next step is to glue the doors together. To do this in one step you need to make small tulip-shaped clamping cauls as shown in the diagram. These cauls push the miters together no matter where the clamping pressure comes from. The other neat thing about these cauls is that you use a length of rope to provide the pressure. Simply twist a small stick into the rope like you would on a bow saw, and turn it until you get as much or as little pressure as you want. After the glue is dry, remove the clamps and clean up the doors with a chisel and plane.

Covering the Edges

When you're done with the doors, go ahead and add some solid wood edging to the top piece. Cut the $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " edging

for the top, miter the edging and attach it to the top piece with biscuits. Now cut the chamfer on the front and sides as shown in the diagram.

By now the case is ready for the edging. Cut the edging from 13/16"-thick stock in 1/32"-thick strips. Rip this edging from a wider piece of wood. To be on the safe side, rip the edging on the outside edge of the blade — don't set your fence for 1/32" and cut it that way. You apply this edging the same way you apply commercial iron-on edging: using adhesive and heat. The only difference is you supply the yellow glue and the edging as shown in the photo. Glue the long edges to the case first. Clean them up with a chisel and file. Cut the edging for the shelves and apply them next.

Details

Screw the top in place, plug the holes and cut the plugs flush. Now fit the doors in their openings. The object is to have a 1/16" gap all the way around. Hang the doors using loose pin hinges (these will make the doors easier to install). One problem these hinges cause with a small gap is that one edge can bind against the partition. You can remedy this by planing or sanding a little radius on that inside edge to make the door swing freely. Install the pulls and make a couple of shop-made stops with rare-earth magnets. Nail and glue the stops behind the screw heads on the door pulls and use them to hold the

door closed.

Make the feet from a glued-up "L"-shaped piece of solid wood. Rip a 45-degree bevel on two pieces of $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 25" maple. Biscuit them together and glue them up using the rope and cauls you used on the doors. It's possible to use one long piece of rope to do the entire glue-up. Just keep knotting the rope strategically and re-wrapping it around the next caul. Cut the feet to length and cut a $\frac{1}{8}$ " x $\frac{1}{8}$ " rabbet in the top outside edge of each foot. Cut the tapered profile shown in the diagram. Glue and nail a corner block to the inside corner of each foot. This block allows you to screw the foot to the bottom of the case. Glue and screw the foot flush to the case corners.

CD Drawer and Finish

The last casework to do is make the CD storage drawer. It's basically a small plywood box that accommodates plastic CD racks that screw into the box sides. Make a note that you have to cut these plastic rails down one space to fit the design of the tower.

Make the drawer front first. Simply take the front piece and cut a 1" x $\frac{1}{32}$ " rabbet on the front of the door. Apply veneer to the small rabbet, simulating the outline of a door with a solid panel and apply iron on edging to the top and side edges. The front requires stopped grooves be routed in its back side. Do this

using a router in a router table. Build the box according to the diagram and hang it in the case using ½" drawer slides on only one side of the box. This opens up the other side for the CD racks. Screw them in place and make sure a CD fits OK.

Sand the entire unit. Apply three coats of clear finish. Finish the back separately and install it when you're done. This makes finishing easier.

When the finishing is done, it's time to "glaze" the doors using silicone. For this project, it was just as easy to use Plexiglas. Re-hang the doors when the silicone is dry and you're ready to clear off that computer desk to get the day's work done. PW

Jim Stuard is a former associaite editor for Popular Woodworking.

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