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A **lectern** is a block used to display and read written books from. It also serves as a librarian's job site block.

Lectern

View **all renders**

Renewable	Yes
Stackable	Yes (64)
Tool	
Blast resistance	2.5
Hardness	2.5
Luminous	No
Transparent	No
Flammable	Yes (30)
Catches fire from lava	Yes

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Obtaining

Natural generation

Empty lecterns can generate naturally in village libraries, up to two for some library variants.

One lectern generates as part of each ancient city, in the secret room at the city center.

Breaking

Lecterns can be broken with any tool, but an axe is the fastest. Lecterns drop themselves and the book they are holding.

Block	Lectern
Hardness	2.5
Tool	
Breaking time[A]	
Default	3.75
Wooden	1.9
Stone	0.95
Iron	0.65
Diamond	0.5
Netherite	0.45

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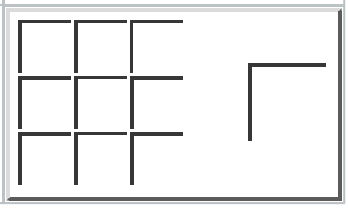
Crafting

Ingredients	Crafting recipe
Any wood Slab + Bookshelf	

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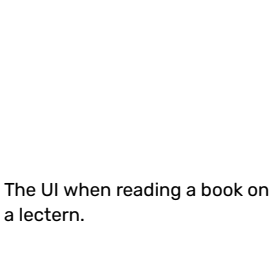
Usage

Lecterns are the job site block of librarian villagers.

Librarian villagers do not place books into lecterns. They only stare at the lectern from less than a block away as "working".

Holding books


The UI when reading a book on a lectern.

Lecterns can also hold a single book and quill or written book that other players can read at the same time. Right-clicking an empty one with a book and quill or written book places it. Right-clicking a lectern with a book already occupied opens an interface to read the book. Books occupying a lectern can be retrieved through the interface, [*Java Edition only*] punching the lectern[*Bedrock Edition only*] or by destroying the lectern, even when `/gamerule doTileDrops` is false.

Lecterns cannot hold enchanted books or normal books. Instead, right clicking the lectern with an enchanted book or a normal book does nothing and the book won't be placed.

Changing profession

If a village has a lectern that has not been claimed by a villager, any villager has a chance to change their profession into librarian if that villager has not already

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a page is turned. A redstone comparator also records book reading and sends a signal, depending on what page the player is currently on. Because *Bedrock Edition* displays two pages of the book at once, the same signal strength increments require double the number of pages.

For *Java Edition* a book with only 1 page gives maximum signal strength, however page 1 always gives 1 signal strength if the book contains at least 2 pages.

Due to this, to calculate the signal strength S of books with more than 1 page, use the following formula:

$$S = \left\lfloor 1 + \frac{14(P-1)}{M-1} \right\rfloor$$

Where $\lfloor\rfloor$ is the "floor" operation (round down), M is the maximum number of pages the book on the lectern has, and P is the current page number the lectern is turned to.

This is most noticeable when a book has 2 pages where the signal strength is either 1 on page 1 or 15 on page 2.

A book that would step up or down in increments of 1 per page would be 15 pages long.

For *Bedrock Edition* the formula is slightly different. Due to Bedrock Edition showing 2 pages at once and counting a change to the book's output only if the highest even numbered page contains information, a redstone comparator treats books with 3 pages the same as those with 1 or 2 pages of information, the same as how *Java Edition* would treat a book with just 1 page.

For 4 or more pages of information use the following formula to calculate signal strength.

$$S = \left\lfloor 1 + \frac{14(P'-1)}{M'-1} \right\rfloor$$

In this case M' is half of the maximum page number rounded down, and P' is half of the current highest page number containing data displayed on the book interface, rounded down.

Rounding down is required to eliminate the discrepancy caused by books containing an odd number of pages. For example, a book with 8 pages gives a signal strength of 15 when looking at pages 7-8. A book with 9 pages has a

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Fuel

Lecterns can be used as fuel in furnaces to smelt 1.5 items.

Note Blocks

Lecterns can be placed under note blocks to produce "bass" sound.

Sounds

Generic

Java Edition:

Sound	Subtitles	Source	Description	Resource location	Translation key	Volume	Pitch	[Collapse] Attenuation distance
	Block broken	Blocks	Once the block has broken	`block.wood.break`	`subtitles.block.generic.break`	1.0	0.8	16
	Block placed	Blocks	When the block is placed	`block.wood.place`	`subtitles.block.generic.place`	1.0	0.8	16
	Block breaking	Blocks	While the block is in the process of being broken	`block.wood.hit`	`subtitles.block.generic.hit`	0.25	0.5	16
	None[sound 1]	*Entity-Dependent*	Falling on the block with fall damage	`block.wood.fall`	*None*[sound 1]	0.5	0.75	16
	Footsteps	*Entity-Dependent*	Walking on the block	`block.wood.step`	`subtitles.block.generic.footsteps`	0.15	1.0	16

1. MC-177082

Bedrock Edition:

Sound	Source	Description	Resource location	Volume	[Collapse] Pitch
	Blocks	Once the block has broken	`dig.wood`	1.0	0.8-1.0

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		of being broken	`.wood`		
	Players	Falling on the block with fall damage	`fall` `.wood`	0.4	1.0
	Players	Walking on the block	`step` `.wood`	0.3	1.0
	Players	Jumping from the block	`jump` `.wood`	0.12	1.0
	Players	Falling on the block without fall damage	`land` `.wood`	0.18	1.0

Unique

Java Edition:

Sound	Subtitles	Source	Description	Resource location	Translation key	Volume	Pitch	[Collapse] Attenuation distance
	Page rustles	Master Volume	When the page of a book is turned	`item.book` `.page_turn`	`subtitles.item` `.book.page_turn`	2.0	0.9-1.0	16
	Book thumps	Blocks	When a book is placed on a lectern	`item.book.put`	`subtitles.item` `.book.put`	1.0	1.0	16
	Librarian works	Friendly Creatures	Randomly while a librarian is working	`entity` `.villager` `.work_librarian`	`subtitles` `.entity` `.villager` `.work_librarian`	2.0	0.8-1.2	16

Bedrock Edition:

Sound	Source	Description	Resource location	Volume	[Collapse] Pitch
	Sound	When the page of a book is turned	`item.book` `.page_turn`	2.0	1.0
	Blocks	When a book is placed on a lectern	`item.book` `.put`	4.8	1.0
		Randomly			

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ID

Java Edition:

Name	Identifier	Form	Translation key
Lectern	`lectern`	Block & Item	`block.minecraft.lectern`

Name	Identifier
Block entity	`lectern`

Bedrock Edition:

Name	Identifier	Numeric ID	Form	Item ID[i 1]	Translation key
Lectern	`lectern`	`449`	Block & Giveable Item[i 2]	Identical[i 3]	`tile.lectern.name`

1. ID of block's direct item form, which is used in savegame files and addons.
2. Available with `/give` command.
3. The block's direct item form has the same id as the block.

Name	Savegame ID
Block entity	`Lectern`

Block states

See also: Block states

Java Edition:

Name	Default value	Allowed values	Description
facing	`north`	`east` `north` `south` `west`	The direction the lectern is facing. The opposite from the direction the player faces while placing the lectern.
has_book	`false`	`false` `true`	If the lectern currently has a book.
powered	`false`	`false` `true`	If the lectern is currently outputting a redstone signal.

Bedrock Edition:

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direction (Deprecated)	`0x1` `0x2`	`0`	`0` `1` `2` `3`	`0` `1` `2` `3`	is facing. • 0: South facing • 1: West facing • 2: North facing • 3: East facing
minecraft:cardinal_direction	Not Supported	`south`	`east` `north` `south` `west`	`Unsupported`	The direction the lectern is facing. The opposite from the direction the player faces while placing the lectern.
powered_bit	`0x4`	`false`	`false` `true`	`0` `1`	If the lectern is currently outputting a redstone signal.

Block data

A lectern has a block entity associated with it that holds additional data about the block.

Java Edition:

See also: Block entity format

Block entity data

Tags common to all block entities

Book: The book item, without the slot tag, currently on the lectern, may not exist.

Tags common to all items

Page: The page the book is currently on, starting from 0, does not exist if there's no book. If higher than the total amount of pages in the book, gets set to -1.

Bedrock Edition:

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August 18, 2012 (https://www.reddit.com/r/Minecraft/comments/yf5im/suggestion_storable_books/c5v03bq/?context=1)		The lectern was an old project of Dinnerbone's. It was meant to be a stand for written books, so they could be easily read. He was well on his way to creating it when he encountered problems and scrapped the idea, but mentioned that he might pick up work on the lectern in the near future.
December 18, 2013 (https://www.reddit.com/r/Minecraft/comments/1t6qn7/i_am_dinnerbone_a_minecraft_developer_ask_me/ce4z2v5/?context=3)		Dinnerbone states in his Reddit AMA that he has revisited lecterns, but scrapped them again as "something about them just didn't feel right".
October 18, 2018 (https://twitter.com/Dinnerbone/status/1052917362482122752)		Dinnerbone reveals that the lectern is once again in development.
	18w44a	Added lecterns.
		Lecterns are currently obtainable only from the creative inventory and have no functionality.
		Lecterns currently have a `BookItem` field, which holds the book item to be displayed. However, this field cannot be set and is not written to the block entity.
		There is a file `lectern.png` which has each texture of the lectern on a large sheet. However, this is unused, as separate files are also present.
	18w45a	The inventory icon of lecterns has been slightly changed from to .
		Removed the unused `lectern.png` file.
		The texture of lecterns has now been changed.
		The bottom texture of lecterns has been changed from to .
	18w47a	The bottom texture of lecterns has been changed once again.

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		new snowy tundra villages.
	18w50a	Lecterns now generate in the updated desert and taiga villages.
	19w02a	Lecterns now have a crafting recipe.
		Lecterns can now be used to hold books.
		Lecterns now emit a redstone pulse when a page is changed.
		Lecterns now use the correct cullface argument for its bottom face.
	?	Lecterns now use some corrected side cullface arguments for the front and back of their base plate.
	19w03a	Certain blocks can no longer be supported by the top of a lectern.[1]
	19w03c	Lecterns now use correct cullface arguments on the left and right hand side of their base plate.
	19w11a	Lecterns now serve as librarian villagers' job site block.
1.17	**21w08a**	Lectern position within the Redstone tab has been moved out of the "essential" group in the creative inventory.
	21w11a	Tweaked the lectern model.
1.18	**Pre-release 5**	The base texture of lectern has now been changed.
1.19	**22w13a**	Lecterns now generate as part of ancient cities.
Bedrock Edition		
1.10.0	**beta 1.10.0.3**	Added lecterns.
1.11.0	**beta 1.11.0.1**	Lecterns now emit a redstone pulse when a page is turned.
1.20.30	**beta 1.20.30.20**	Lecterns now use the `minecraft:cardinal_direction` block state instead of `direction`.
PlayStation 4 Edition		
1.90		Added lecterns.

Issues

Issues relating to "Lectern" are maintained on the bug tracker. Report issues there (https://bugs.mojang.com/iss

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Gallery

Renders

Screenshots

One of the two first images of the lectern.

The second of the first images of the lectern.

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Sunny using a lectern.

References

1. MC-141991
2. "sup" (https://twitter.com/Dinnerbone/status/1052917362482122752) – @Dinnerbone (https://twitter.com/Dinnerbone) (Nathan Adams) on X, October 18, 2018

Redstone

Blocks		[Collapse]
Natural		[Expand]
Biota		[Expand]
Building		[Expand]
Utility		[Collapse]
Interactable	Anvil (Chipped Damaged) Barrel Beacon Brewing Stand Cartography Table Chest (Ender) Chiseled Bookshelf Crafting Table Enchanting Table Fletching Table Furnace (Blast Smoker) Grindstone **Lectern** Loom Shulker Box Sign (Hanging) Smithing Table Stonecutter	
Utilizable	Banners Beehive Beds Bell Cake (with Candle) Campfire (Soul) Cauldron (Lava Powder Snow Water) Composter Conduit End Gateway End Portal End Portal Frame Farmland Flower Pot	

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Redstone/Mechanical	Nether Portal Respawn Anchor Scaffolding Sponge (Wet) TNT Button Daylight Detector Dispenser (Dropper) Doors (Trapdoors) Fence Gates Honey Block Hopper Lever Lightning Rod Note Block Observer Piston (Sticky Head Moving) Pressure Plates Rail (Activator Detector Powered) Redstone Wire (Comparator Repeater Lamp Torch) Slime Block Target Trapped Chest Tripwire Hook (Tripwire)
***Education Edition* only**	Border Chalkboard Allow Compound Creator Colored Torches Deny Element Constructor Heat Block Lab Table Material Reducer Underwater TNT Underwater Torch
Creative only	**[Expand]**
Commands only	**[Expand]**
Unimplemented	**[Expand]**
Unused	**[Expand]**
Joke features	**[Expand]**
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