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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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Got a question? Ask an Expert 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

from About.com

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.comTM 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.

<u>Free Plans From Your Woodworking</u> **Guide**

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

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guest, or register for free and post.

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In The Spotlight

Small But Not Claustrophobic In Japan

"In a country where compact and efficient have long been the watchwords of home design, the leading young Japanese architects, many of them trained in the West, are creating a new breed of inventive and exuberant homes filled with light," reports Elaine Louie in the *New York Times*. These small apartments -- averaging 774 square feet -- are amazingly bright and spacious.

- <u>Read the article.</u> Be sure to click on the "multimedia" link for a slide show of these amazing homes. (Free log-in may be requested.)
- Find building plans for small houses.

Saturday November 15, 2003 #

Tech Nouveau

Some call it *zoomorphism*. Some call it *neo-organicism*. Some call it *biomorphism*. This fascinating new trend in design combines flowing forms from nature with new, high tech materials. The result? Steel stairways that resemble a strand of DNA... a house shaped like a starfish... biomorphic buildings that look like skeletal remains. Although the materials are new, the ideas resemble those of the botanical-loving *Art Nouveau* style that captured the popular imagination a century ago. Find photos and commentary in the *New York Times*. (Free log-in may be requested. News links may expire after several weeks.)

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Friday November 14, 2003 #

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial

On November 13, 1982, the startling and controversial Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington, DC. The designer, Maya Ying Lin, was a young architecture student at Yale when her concept was chosen over 1,421 others submitted in a public competition. More...

Thursday November 13, 2003 #

Born on November 12: Frank Furness

American architect Frank Furness was born on November 12, 1839. Known for his bold and oversized Victorian buildings, Furness became one of the greats of the "Gilded Age." However, his dramatic buildings faded in popularity and most have been remodeled or destroyed. A large photographic collection of Furness's works is housed in the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania.

Wednesday November 12, 2003 #

Great War Monuments

World War I officially ended on November 11, 1918. The eleventh day of the eleventh month is now honored as a special time for reflection. On this date in 1921, an unidentified soldier who had been killed in France was buried in what became one of the most sacred graves in the United States: The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. See great war monuments...

Tuesday November 11, 2003 #

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Mystery Houses: Picking Paint Colors

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Did You Know?

The first designer to use light decoratively was Missouri architect, Theodore Link. Tell me more

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Painting season is over for those of us who live in the north, but there's no rule that says we can't spend the long winter months picking colors for next year's painting projects. What colors do you suggest for these three



homes? Tell us your choices and find tools and tips for picking house paint colors.

- Paint Colors for Stucco and Brick
- California Colors
- Paint This Dutch Colonial Anything But White!

Monday November 10, 2003 #

Born November 9: Stanford White

American architect Stanford White was born on November 9, 1853. His <u>Italian Renaissance Revival</u> buildings and <u>Shingle Style</u> homes made Stanford White one of the most prominent architects of the <u>Gilded Age</u>. In addition to elaborate summer homes for the Vanderbilts and other wealthy families, Stanford White designed the New York Herald Building and Madison Square Garden. Like his buildings, Stanford White's personal life was lavish. A red velvet swing hung from the gold leaf ceiling in his Madison Square Garden apartment where he entertained many beautiful young women. Eventually, Stanford White was shot in Madison Square Garden; he died in the building he created.

Sunday November 09, 2003 #

Celebrating the Louvre

For more than two centuries, the Louvre in Paris was a royal palace, but on November 8, 1793 the French Revolutionary government turned the lavish royal home into a musuem, open to all. <u>More about the</u>

Louvre...

Saturday November 08, 2003 #

Built By Wright?

Every once in awhile, architectural historians discover a long lost Wright -- A building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright but, for a variety of reasons, forgotten. Recently, scholars have been investigating two houses in Racine, Wisconsin to determine whether there is truth to rumors that they were designed by Wright. Is there a building in your neighborhood you think might be a Frank Lloyd Wright orginal? How can you tell? Check out these resources:

- Was Your House Built By Wright?
- Frank Lloyd Wright Index
- <u>Wright Rediscovered</u> (*The Racine, Wisconsin Journal-Times*)

Friday November 07, 2003 #

Born on November 6: Jean Louis Charles Garnier

French architect Jean Louis Charles Garnier was born on November 6, 1825. His works include the ornate Renaissance Revival Opéra in Paris and the casino at Monte Carlo. <u>See Opéra Photos</u>

Thursday November 06, 2003 #

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Building a new home? Remodeling? Here are building plans, blueprints, floor plans and construction guides for some of the most popular architectural styles.

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Use this directory to find original plans and elevation drawings for Craftsman Bungalow style mail order homes built between 1908 and 1921.

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Sears, Modern Home No. 125

Sears, Modern Home No. 126

1909:

Sears, Modern Home No. 64

Sears, Modern Home No. 70

Sears, Modern Home No. 126

Sears, Modern Home No. 144

Sears, Modern Home No. 147

Ye Planry Bungalow No. 155

Ye Planry Bungalow No. 251

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1911:

Sears, Modern Home No. 151, The Avondale

Sears, Modern Home No. 162, The Elmwood

Sears, Modern Home No. 156, The Glyndon

Sears, Modern Home No. 172, The Hazelton

Sears, Modern Home No. 168, The Matoka

Sears, Modern Home No. 161, The Niota

Sears, Modern Home No. 173, The Princeville

Sears, Modern Home No. 165

Sears, Modern Home No. 191

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1912:

Sears, Modern Home No. 400

Sears, Modern Home No. 401

1913:

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1915:

<u>Sears, Modern Home No. 264p107, The Alberta & The Wayside</u>

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1917:

Sears, Modern Home No. C2032, The Arcadia

Sears, Modern Home No. C250, The Ashmore

Sears, Modern Home No. C2029, The Katonah

Sears, Modern Home No. C216A, The Kismet

Sears, Modern Home No. C2024, The Marina

Sears, Modern Home No. C187, The Sherbourne

Sears, Modern Home No. C2038

1918:

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 2099, The Adeline

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 237, The Belmont

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 2091, The Brookside

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 3031, The Carlin

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 2028, The Delevan

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 2098, The Pineola

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 2044, The Rosita

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 2030, The Saranac

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 2023, The Savoy

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 2008, The Somerset

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 2027, The Sumner

1919:

Craftsman Home No. 29, Six Room Cottage

<u>Craftsman Home No. 121, Summer Log Camp for</u>
<u>Outdoor Sleeping</u>

<u>Craftsman Home No. 132, Seven Room Cement</u> <u>Bungalow</u>

<u>Craftsman Home No. 178, Gambrel Roof and Wide</u> <u>Dormers</u>

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 3039, The Ardara

Sears, Honor Bilt Home No. 3029, The Lebanon

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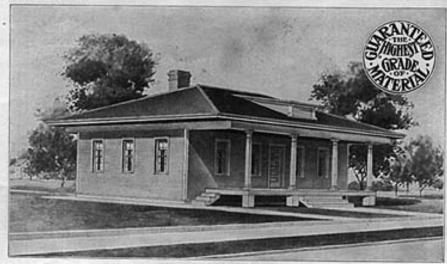
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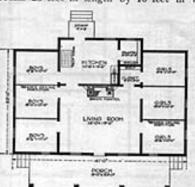
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MODERN HOME No. 125

By referring to the floor plan you will note that the side bedrooms consist of large rooms 25 feet in length by 10 feet in width, which are divided into three fair size, well lighted and ventilated bedrooms. This bungalow has a large living room with brick mantel and open fireplace which is built in the rustic style.



Large and spacious porch 33 feet in length by 8 feet in width.

The arrangement of this house is as follows:

Living Room - 16 feet by 19 feet
Four Bedrooms - 8 feet 6 inches by 10 feet
Two Bedrooms - 8 feet 10 inches by 10 feet
Kitchen - 13 feet 6 inches by 10 feet 6 inches
Pantry - 5 feet by 5 feet 9 inches
Closet - 4 feet 3 inches by 5 feet
Front Perch - 33 feet by 8 feet
Hei-ht of Ceiling - 10 feet 4 inches
Cellar, 10 feet by 18 feet, 6 feet deep, with frame foundation

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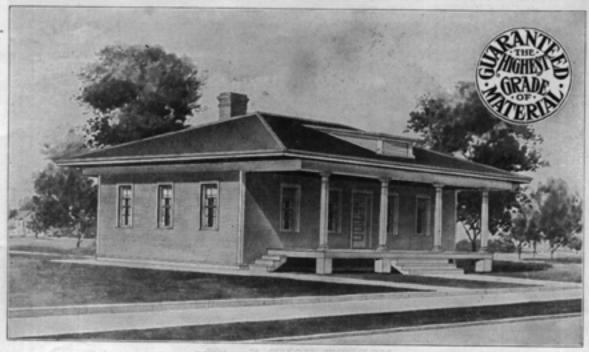
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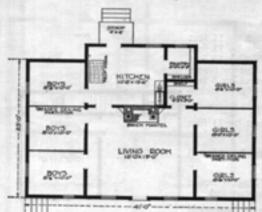
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Please examine the floor plan illustrated here below and note the exceptionally convenient arrangement of this house. Every room in the house is light and airy, the ventilation is perfect. Both bedrooms adjoin the bathroom. Has a large, spacious reception hall which leads to a large living room and kitchen. The living room, which is planned to be used as a dining room and living room, is equipped with a beautiful rustic open fireplace. The arrangement of the kitchen is very convenient and it has a large, spacious cupboard which serves as a pantry. This modern home is of the 20th Century Queen Anne style. The finish or trim throughout is made of the finest grade of yellow pine in natural finish; the mill work and other material is of the best selected quality. Hardwood doors and finishing if desired at a small advance in price.

The arrangement of this house is as follows:

The arrangement of this house is as follows: 10 feet by 10 feet 0 inches 13 feet 6 inches by 10 feet - 13 feet by 10 feet Reception Hall Bedroom -Three Closets.

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selected quality. Hardwood doors and finishing if desired at a small advance in price.

KITCHEN

The arrangement of this house is as follows:

10 feet by 10 feet 0 inches 13 feet 6 inches by 10 feet - 13 feet by 10 feet Reception Hall Bedroom Bedroom Three Closets.

Three Closets.

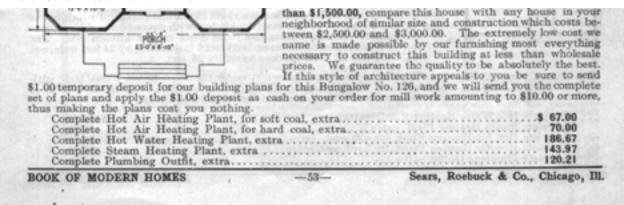
Kitchen - - - - - 11 feet by 13 feet 6 inches

Large Living Room - 27 feet by 13 feet 6 inches

Front Porch - 25 feet by 8 feet 10 inches

Excavated cellar, 12 feet by 24 feet. Height of basement
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Decks

Building a Deck: Overview



A deck is one of the most basic structures in home construction, and most do-it-yourselfers have the skills to build one.

In this sequence of pages, you'll read about the main steps in building a deck, and you'll see many graphics illustrating key points in the process.

On this page, you can browse through some of the main things to consider before construction begins:

- Planning
- Key Issues
- Permits
- Materials
- Tools

Planning a Deck



The key element in building a deck is the plan, which can serve as a guide throughout construction if it's been properly sized and drawn for existing codes and lumber tolerance.

Planning a deck doesn't require an architect or a drafting professional. A hand-drawn sketch will be sufficient for purchasing materials, getting a permit and guiding construction.

But there are many issues involved with building a deck, problems can arise and a firsttime deck builder should probably get professional help with the design since there's no substitute for a good plan. And the more inexperienced the builder, the better the plan should be.

Key Issues in Building a Deck



How will the deck lay out in relation to the house?

This is probably the most basic issue since many factors will have to be considered and accommodated in the deck plan: the home's design, access in and out of the house (the project doubles in scope if a new door has to be put in), the space available outside, the grade of the yard which impacts the deck's height and existing trees or gardens.

How will it attach to the house?

Decks can be built free-standing. But for convenience most people do want them attached to the house, and that raises questions about how the siding will be cut away at the point of attachment and whether there's solid house framing accessible at that point to properly support the deck.

How many *footings* and *posts* will be needed to support the deck and where will they go?

Footings and posts support the beams which support the joists and the deck boards. The bigger deck, the more footings you'll need.

What size beams will be needed for the spans between posts?

There are formulas to determine the sizes based on the spans. But the general rule is that the more footings used on a given span the smaller the beams need to be, so maximizing the footings will minimize the beams and vice-versa.

What size joists will be needed at what spacing to span between beams?

Joist size can vary from 2x6 to 2x10, and the **spacing** can be 12", 16" or 24" on center. Again there are formulas to determine the sizes and the spacing, but the bigger the deck, the bigger the joists and the closer you'll need to space them for proper support.

What size will the deck boards be?

The most popular sizes are 2x4, 2x6 and 5/4x6. The most obvious difference is in the board width: 2x4's produce more seams in a deck surface than 2x6's. You'll need more 2x4's to cover a surface, but it ends up being about the same amount of wood overall and about the same price.

What what kind of wood will the deck boards be?

Redwood, **cedar** and **pressure-treated pine** are all popular deck board options. Each will resist moisture decay, and even though they look very different when new they all weather to a similar shade of gray. Many people

will prefer one over the others, but your choice will probably be determined by price, availability and quality which vary greatly for each of the three options.

Building Permits

Most municipalities will require a building permit for the construction of any deck, especially if it's to be attached to the house or it's more than 30 inches above ground.

It's an important part of the process because of the health and safety issues involved and because of the money it can save you by spotting potential problems, avoiding damage and repairs later on. Plus some homeowners insurance policies will not cover accidents involving construction that does not meet local codes.

There's a fee involved with most permit applications, but it's designed to cover the cost of a **plan review** before construction and the **field inspections** that'll be done after work begins.

During the plan review, local code officials can note code conflicts in your plan before materials are purchased and make suggestions as needed.

Field inspections help insure that you're installing materials safely and according to code, so be sure to find out what inspections are required in your area.

For example, in areas where frost footings are required, they'll probably want to inspect the depth of your footings before you fill them so don't forget to call them when you get to that stage.

NOTE: The plan review and inspections are not designed to be a guarantee of the work but are done to improve the building safety in the community for the life of the structure.

Materials



If you bring them the dimensions, most home centers and lumberyards will quickly estimate the amount of lumber and other materials and arrange delivery to your home when you're ready to start building.

Lumber options are limited since the framing should all be pressuretreated pine or the heartwood of decay-resistant species such as

redwood or cedar to prevent moisture decay (required by code in most areas) and the sizes are determined by the plan.

Note that columns and posts in contact with the ground or embedded in concrete must be of special pressure-treated wood **approved for ground contact**.

Typical Lumber Dimensions:

Deck Posts (4x4 or 6x6)
Beams (4x6, double or triple 2x6, 2x8 or 2x10)
Joists (2x6, 2x8 or 2x10)
Stair Stringers (2x12)
Deck Boards/Stair Treads (2x4, 2x6 or 5/4x6)
Railing Posts (4x4)
Rails (2x4's or 2x6)
Spindles (2x2)
Skirtboards/Fascia (1x8, 1x10 or 1x12)

Other Materials Needed:

Ready-Mix Concrete (or Bagged Concrete)
Concrete Pier Blocks
Caulk
Exterior Construction Adhesive
1/2" Stainless Steel Drift Pins
Joist Hangers
Galvanized Flashing
Galvanized/Coated Common and Casing Nails (8d, 10d, 16d)
Galvanized/Coated Screws (2-1/2", 3-1/2")
Lag Screws, Washers
Carriage Bolts, Washers, Nuts

Tools

Here's a list of tools you'll probably need to build a deck. They're divided into 4 basic categories to help you sort through them.

Measuring and Layout Tools:

Tape Measure (25', 50')
Builder's Line (Yellow Nylon String)
Chalkline
Plumb Bob
Framing Square
Combination Square
Bevel Square
Level (2', 4', 6')

Power Tools:

Circular Saw Cordless Drill (Optional) Corded Drill Saber Saw/Jig Saw Miter Saw (Optional) Power Augur (Optional)

Hand Tools:

General Equipment:

Hammer
Nail Set
Hand Saw
Pry Bar
Caulk Gun
Adjustable Wrench
Socket Wrench

Post Hole Digger Shovel Wheelbarrow Ladders Tool Belt Safety Glasses Particle Masks Extension Cords

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Decks Building Stairs



To frame a deck stairway, you need to figure out the number of treads (steps) required and the rise and run (length) of each tread.

First, measure the height of the deck.

Then divide the height by 7 (a typical stairway rise). If the answer's a whole number, then that's the number of treads you'll need.

If the answer ends in a fraction, then round it off to the nearest whole number which'll be the number of treads and divide that into the height. That gives you the rise you'll need for that number of treads.

To determine the most comfortable run of your treads (the length), divide the rise into 75. So with a typical rise of 7 inches, a typical

run might be 10-1/2 inches. A rise of 7-1/2 inches would work best with a run of 10 inches. But this so-called "comfort formula" does allow some leeway, so layouts of 6-12 (72) and 7-11 (77) work out fine.

TIP: On deck stairs, a run of 10 inches always works great because you can use 3 2x4's (for a total width of 10-1/2 inches wide) or 2 2x6's (11 inches wide) for the treads, leaving a nice 1/2-inch or 1-inch overhang at the front of the tread.

Laying out Stringers



You can lay out a stair stringer very quickly with a framing square by finding the rise on one leg and the run on the other leg and then lining those up with the edge of the board.

Mark along the edges of the square to create the first step.

Then move down the board, line up the square and draw the next step. Continue that until you've drawn all the treads.

Cutting Stringers



Use a circular saw to start all the cuts.

But use a handsaw to finish them, since the circular saw blade leaves a little bit uncut at each corner.

Tracing Stringers

TIP: All stairways require at least 2 stringers, and taller ones require 3. But rather than lay each one out individually with the framing square, cut the first stringer out and use that one as a pattern for the others.



Bracing Stringers



You can install each stringer separately, but it's usually quicker to connect them together with braces before setting them in place.

Notch out each stringer for 2x4 braces at the top, middle and bottom.

Screw the braces in to each stringer.

Attaching Stringers

Set the stringers in place against the rim joist and nail through the top brace into the rim to hold it.

Lag screw through the brace into the rim joists to secure them permanently, pre-drilling for each screw.



Installing Treads



Cut the treads to fit over the stringers, leaving a 3-quarter inch overhang on each side to serve as a drip edge and keep rain from dripping down onto the stringers.

Screw or nail the treads down into the stringers to finish the stairs.

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Decks

Installing Joists



After finishing the beams and rim joists, and squaring those up, measure the rest of the joists, cut them and set them in place.

On a flush beam, slide them into the joist hangers. Secure them by nailing through the

holes in the joist hangers into the joists.

TIP: If they're stubborn going in, tap them with a hammer to push them down into the hangers, which are sometimes tight.

But if they're tight against the beam or ledger board, don't force them in because that could actually push your posts out of plumb. Instead, cut a little off the ends of the stubborn ones to make them fit.

Checking for Crown



Dimensional joists are never perfectly straight. They almost always bow or arc slightly toward one side. That bowing is known as the **crown**.

TIP: Before installing your joists, check each one by sighting down the edge and mark the side that's crowned. Then make sure that side is up when you install the joist.

That way the joists will all be slightly high in the center and will slowly sag back towards level as the deck ages, rather than starting out low in the center and sinking even further over time.

Installing Joists over Dropped Beam



Mark out the joist positions on the top of a dropped beam to match the layout of the joist positions on the ledger board.

Measure, cut and set the joists in place on top of the dropped beam.

Toenail through the sides of the joists down into the beams to hold them solid. With a dropped beam, you can also cantilever the ends of the joists up to a couple feet beyond the beam.



That makes the beam a little less conspicuous.

Check with local building officials to see how far they allow joists to cantilever past a beam.

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Basements

Lower Level: Planning



Lower levels and basements can be difficult areas to deal with. Considerations like lack of sunlight and headroom, and exposed mechanical systems can present problems that take a little more creativity to solve. Here are some common considerations to include in your lower level plan:

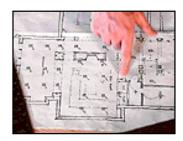
- **Planning a Basement Project**
- **Lower Level Construction Plan**
- **Dealing With Dampness**
- **Providing An Egress Window**
- **Assessing Head Room Issues**

Planning a Basement Project

Unlike building a new house or an addition, a detailed plan is not absolutely necessary in finishing a lower level or basement if you're not disturbing the foundation or any loadbearing posts or walls.

NOTE: Although you may not need a detailed plan, you will probably need a building permit to finish your basement, and that'll require at least a sketch of your project--BEFORE you begin--to give your local building officials an idea of what you're doing. Check with them before starting.

We wanted a bare minimum of walls downstairs to keep the spaces open, but we had a lot of low-hanging pipes and ducts to hide that would require several soffits.



We asked Dan Nepp of Tom Ellison Architects to sketch us a concept plan that would not only incorporate the necessary soffits but also use them to define living areas in the open spaces.

We used that sketch to start the project, but as the work progressed a more detailed plan evolved. To see a copy, select **Lower Level Plan.**

Dealing with Dampness

Before starting any basement finishing, we strongly recommend that you solve any wetness or dampness problems because moisture will rot wood, drywall, carpet and most any other material you might be using.

If you do have moisture problems, we also strongly recommend that you consult a licensed waterproofing contractor with sound credentials and references.

But BEFORE taking that step, make sure that it's not just a simple **grading** problem. If the ground along the outside of your foundation doesn't slope down and away from the house, it's likely that rain and melting snow will collect against the foundation and probably seep into your basement. If that's your problem, build up the soil around the foundation to where water runs AWAY from the house.

Also check your rain gutters and downspouts for any leaks that might be letting water soak into the foundation. And use extensions on the downspouts to make sure water drains a few feet away from the house.

To solve more complicated problems, consult a licensed pro. But be aware that permanent solutions can involve costly excavation in order to waterproof the outside walls of the foundation, and to run new drain tile alongside the footings.

Providing an Egress Window



An **egress window** is usally required by code in new basement projects -- **especially** if bedrooms are involved. They allow people to escape smoke or fire if doors or stairways are blocked.

Satisfying egress window requirements can be expensive because high-mounted basement awning windows don't qualify. Therefore,

- **First**, egress windows have to open high and wide enough to let an adult pass through.
- **Second,** egress window sills have to be less than 42" above the finished floor to permit easy departure. (One of our window units with a sill 56" didn't qualify)

Installing one or more egress windows is obviously a worthy part of a basement project, but it requires buying a large window, cutting an opening in the foundation and mounting the window properly.

Egress windows often create drainage problems caused by the need to set the window

bottom below ground level (usually accomplished with sand and gravel-based window wells and retaining walls).

The house in our project was built with one egress window in the lower level bedroom, satisfying that part of the code. But the concrete window well was so high that we had to secure a permanent ladder in it to fulfill all the safety requirements.

Assessing Headroom Issues



Beyond the health and safety issues of dampness and egress windows, the biggest issue in finishing a basement is how to hide all the overhead pipes, ducts and beams and still keep a fair amount of headroom.

It's obviously difficult in basements with less than 8' between the slab and the first floor joists, and in some cities building codes may not allow finished spaces with ceiling heights less than a certain height. So be sure to check that before you start.

If you don't have enough room, it may be possible to lower your basement floor by breaking up the slab, digging down a bit further, re-laying plumbing, then re-pouring the floor. But the costs may be prohibitive.

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Basements

Lower Level: Lighting

In many homes, just a small amount of ambient light enters a lower level. For that reason, a well-designed lighting scheme is necessary. We decided to install a programmable lighting system that controls every series of lights in the house.

- Roughing In Programmable Lights
- Lower Level Lighting Options

Roughing-In Programmable Lights



We used a computerized system of lighting controls in the lower level that can program any set of lights to turn on and off at any control pad in the house.

The rough-in was the same as any other lighting rough-in. We used several groups of recessed light fixtures to illuminate the lower level. What is different with the programmable system is how the lights are controlled:

In **regular systems**, power is basically run directly to a switch, then from the switch to the lights you want it to control.

With the **programmable system**, power is run to a series of **control modules**. Power runs from the modules to the lights with regular 14-gauge, non-metallic sheathed cable. These runs are known as **home runs**. Low-voltage, control wires are run from the control pads to the programmable central control unit. This unit is connected to each control module to operate the lights.





To save on both cable and the number of control modules you need, it's best to group as many lights as possible on each home **run** by wiring them in series, just as you would group a series of lights to a single switch in a typical system.

So before starting a rough-in for a programmable system like this, you need to plan the groupings and have the right number of control modules on hand.

The programming for our system required **addresses** for each group of lights -- you should designate those before you start so you can clearly label the end of each home run back at the control modules. Otherwise, you could easily get the cables mixed up at final hook-up.





Switch boxes for the control pads are nailed in just like a typical system. But as detailed above, low-voltage wires are run from those back to the central control unit (which we put upstairs for easier access to the home computer).

Each pad can hold up to 9 separate buttons, so you can create a wide variety of lighting combinations from any one of the switch pad locations.

And if you want to change the pad that controls a light, you don't have to rewire it. You just reprogram it.

Lower Level Lighting Options

In lower level and basement projects, a prime concern is providing adequate lighting and avoiding dark, cave-like effects that poor lighting create. Here are three different lighting options we mixed together in this project.

Recessed Lights provide the main illumination in the lower level, casting pools of light down over areas where it's needed the most but without creating the "navigational" hazards of hanging lights which don't work well in low-headroom areas.

Wall Sconces light up the ceiling which would otherwise be left darkened in rooms with only recessed lights. This **uplighting** not only brightens the room but makes the ceiling seem a bit higher.

Under-Cabinet Lighting eliminates the shadows falling on countertop surfaces below wall cabinets. Our lights run off a low-voltage system with tiny 10-watt bulbs clipped to a single cable stapled below the cabinets.

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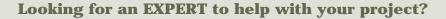
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Paint, Stain & Wallcovering

Preparing Walls



Then considering a painting or wallpapering project, most of us focus on colors, patterns and finishing the walls. But most experts will tell you that actually painting or papering is only half the job in getting professional results.

In fact, some say that for every hour you spend painting or wallpapering, you probably need to spend about 3 hours preparing your walls and woodwork. That's what we'll look at in this section on preparing walls and in the

next section on preparing wood trim.

WARNING: First, you should be aware of some potential risks in older homes. If there's any chance the paints you're dealing with were made before the 1978 banning of lead-based paints, treat them as if they contain lead and/or have them tested.

There are extreme health hazards associated with lead-based wall paints, especially sanding them. For more information, see <u>Lead-Based Paints</u> in the Healthier Homes project.

- Removing Old Wallpaper
- Sanding Wallpaper
- Perforating The Surface
- Moistening Old Wallpaper
- Scraping Wallpaper
- When NOT To Remove Wallpaper
- Cleaning Walls
- Repairing Damaged Walls
- Repairing Large Holes
- Sanding Walls

Removing Old Wallpaper



more effort.

Ideally, any wallcovering you have to remove will come off as easily as most newer vinyl wallpapers which usually peel off with a minimum of effort.

To remove wallpaper, just loosen up a corner and start pulling, possibly using a 4" or 6" putty knife to help pry it off the wall.

With peelable papers, a top layer peels off, leaving a thin backing glued to the wall which requires a little more effort to remove. However, most of the older wallpapers require a lot

Sanding Wallpaper



One of the best ways to loosen up old wallpaper glue is to first moisten the paper with a wetting agent.

But many wallpapers are coated with a thin layer of vinyl to make them waterproof, so they're impervious to wetting agents.

If that's the kind of paper you're removing, you should first sand off as much of the vinyl coating as you can -- removing as much of the gloss as possible and exposing the paper below.

Perforating The Surface

You can also use a tool known as a paper tiger, which basically has a pair of wheels with tiny, sharp teeth that perforate the paper and allow the wetting agent to penetrate into the glue layer(s).

Just roll it across the wallpaper, covering the whole surface with perforations.

You can also substitute a utility knife to score the paper. Cut in a series of shallow, criss-crossing lines to let the moisture penetrate.



NOTE: The key word is shallow. If you cut too deep, you may damage the wallboard or plaster below.

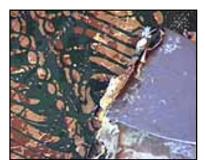
Moistening Old Wallpaper



As a wetting agent, you can use water, a mixture of water and vinegar or wallpaper removers which are usually mixed with water. And you can apply it with a sponge, a paint roller, a mister or a sprayer.

Whatever you use, give the wetting agent time to loosen up the glues and apply more if it dries out before it's done the job.

Scraping Wallpaper



Once the glue loosens up, start prying up the old paper with a wide-bladed tool. If you're lucky, the paper will now come off cleanly.

But more often than not, it will come off in stages with some parts of the paper almost falling off the wall and other parts still sticking fast.

So remove the loose paper, moisten the remaining paper again and scrape that off as it loosens. Don't be surprised if it takes several tries or you discover several layers of wallpaper.

When NOT To Remove Wallpaper

If you find that the wallpaper is really stubborn, it may be glued directly to drywall. In this case, it's virtually impossible to remove the paper cleanly without pulling off the drywall surface.

The best alternative is to put a new layer of wallpaper directly over the old one. First sand down the old wallpaper, then apply a coat of primer before papering or painting.

Cleaning Walls



Thoroughly clean the walls before painting or wallpapering. This is an often overlooked step, but doing so will ensure better finishing results.

If the wall had old wallpaper, a residue of old glue probably remains which should be removed. If it's just old paint, there's probably a layer of grime that prevents new paint from bonding.

In either case, the best cleaning agent is often TSP (trisodium phosphate). Mix TSP with water and sponge it over the walls and woodwork.

NOTE: TSP is somewhat caustic, and will actually remove the gloss from old paint. That helps new paint because glossy surfaces don't bond as well. But be careful not to get TSP on painted surfaces you want to save. As always, follow all package directions.

Repairing Damaged Walls



Ripping off old wallpaper may reveal wall damage that the paper was hiding. Such areas should be repaired before moving on to the finishing stages.

Narrow cracks and small holes are easily repaired with joint compound, or ready-mix spackling compounds sold in small containers at home centers.

Use a putty knife to apply the material, daubing on enough to fill the damaged area. Wipe away any excess with a rag or damp sponge and allow to dry. Some products may shrink as they dry

and require a second application to fill completely. On wider cracks, remove any loose paint, plaster or drywall material before patching.

You can also reinforce the repair by laying a strip of fiberglass mesh tape over the crack and embedding that in the patching material. After it dries, apply a second coat of compound to cover the tape.

Repairing Larger Holes

On larger holes, you can use metal mesh repair patches with a sticky backing that adheres to the wall surrounding the hole. Finish that patch by covering it with spackling or drywall joint compound, applied in two or three thin layers.

Another option is to patch it with a piece of drywall:

- First, trim the drywall back from the damaged area, leaving a rectangular area to fill.
- Then you need some kind of backer inside the wall to support the patch. You can set one or two plywood strips in behind the hole and secure them by screwing into them through the front of the drywall.
- Cut the patch to fit the damaged area.
- Screw that into the backer.
- Fill the joints between the patch and the existing wall with joint compound.
- Embed mesh tape over the joints to reinforce them.
- Finish the joints with one or two more layers of compound after the first layer dries.

Sanding Walls



After removing wallpaper and/or patching cracks and holes, lightly sand the entire area to be painted.

If patched areas dried especially rough and don't respond to light sanding, try using a 6-inch taping knife as a scraper to knock off the higher, rougher spots of dried joint compound. Use caution though, because it's easy to gouge the patched area with the corners of the blade.

Then use the open weave type of sand paper designed for drywall surfaces to finish smoothing out the patches.

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Paint, Stain & Wallcovering

Preparing Wood

Before painting or staining wood trim, it should be prepared to accept new finish. On new wood, that won't involve much more than filling in exposed nail holes and lightly sanding the wood.

If you're repainting trim that's now covered with paint, it may be enough to wash it with a cleaner like TSP (trisodium phosphate), then lightly sand it. But if there's layer upon layer of old paint built up on the trim, you may choose to strip those off before applying a new finish.



There are two kinds of paint strippers: 1) solvent-based like methylene chloride, which pose environmental, health and safety dangers, and 2) the so-called "safe" strippers based on less threatening chemicals that still require special care and handling.

WARNING! There are extreme health hazards associated with sanding and stripping lead-based paints. If there's any chance the paints you're dealing with were made before 1978, treat them as if they have lead and/or have them tested. For more information, see **Lead-Based Paints** in our Healthier Homes project.

- Methylene Chloride Stripper
- Using Semi-Past Stripper
- Using Safe Strippers
- Proper Disposal
- Covering Strippers Overnight
- Scraping Wood
- Stripping Detailed Trim
- Cleaning Stripped Wood Trim
- Cleaning Old Paint
- **Repairing Damaged Wood**
- **Sanding Before Finishing**

Methylene Chloride Strippers



Methylene chloride strippers come in either liquid or semi-paste form. Both forms should be treated with caution and used under controlled conditions.

These strippers are caustic, so they'll burn skin and lungs. They're also flammable and not safe for ordinary disposal. With all these hazards, people still use them because they work on old finishes faster

than anything else.

If you choose one of these products, make sure to work in a well-ventilated area, wear gloves, a face mask and eye protection and collect all the waste in a suitable container (metal, not plastic which the stripper will dissolve).

Using Semi-Paste Stripper



Before apply stripper, make sure the area is well-ventilated. Use eye protection, rubber gloves and don't stay exposed to the stripper's fumes. Take frequent breaks away from the area while the stripper does its work.

In semi-paste form, strippers are usually applied with an old bristle brush or foam applicator. Spread about an 1/8" thick, stripper generally dissolves the exposed layer of old finish in 5-15 minutes. Scrape away the residue and collect

it in newspaper for proper disposal (see below).

NOTE: You may not want to use metal scrapers on the wood because the metal edge can gouge the soft wood fibers, leaving noticeable marks.

If you use a metal tool like a putty knife, push gently and gradually while controlling the scraper with both hands. If you're concerned about gouging, consider using stripping pads or plastic putty knives. However, they won't shave off the old stripper as well as a metal scraper

If any of the old finish remains after the first coat, another one can be applied to finish the job.



If you're removing a clear finish, you might choose a liquid stripper rather than a semi-paste. They're generally brushed on the same as a semi-paste, and the residue is removed the same way.

Using "Safe" Strippers



"Safe" strippers are often described as having no harsh chemicals, being biodegradable, water-based or environmentally friendly, but you should still take precautions when using them.

Work in a well-ventilated area with gloves and proper eye protection. Application is the same as with a methylene chloride semi-paste: brush it on thickly (about an 1/8") and allow it to work its way into the existing finish.

Remember, the residue pulled off by either "safe" or methylene stripper may contain lead-based paint, so disposal should be handled the same way.

Proper Disposal

The residue left over after stripping shouldn't be thrown into the household trash container. It's considered a household hazardous waste and must be handled accordingly.

It's best to check with your local health and safety officials about the approved method of disposal in your area. In many areas, it's recommended that the waste be placed outside to dry on old newspaper, packed and labeled in separate trash bags, then taken to an approved disposal facility.

Again, if you're not sure about disposal procedures, contact your local or county hazardous waste department or state department of environmental health.

Covering Stripper Overnight



"Safe" strippers take longer to work -- although newer products are now approaching the speed of methylene chloride. Some products can actually dry out before they've fully stripped the old finish.

Once you've spread the stripper, it's a good idea to then cover it with **plastic**. That keeps the stripper moist and allows it to finish the job, which sometimes takes up to 24 hours.

Scraping Wood



In many cases, much of the spent stripper and the old paint will pull off the wood when you pull off the plastic covering. It can get messy if you're not careful.

Scrape away any remaining waste with a putty knife, while avoiding gouging or denting the wood.

If you're lucky, one coat will suffice, but that's usually not the case. If any old paint remains, reapply stripper as often as needed to remove all the old finish.

Stripping Detailed Trim



Whether you're using methylene chloride or "safe" strippers, it's always a challenge removing old finish from the crevices and curved surfaces of detailed trim.

Brass bristle brushes are also useful in reaching otherwise inaccessible details, and other specialty tools (like dental instruments) can probe narrow gaps and scrape rounded surfaces clean.

As with any scraping tool, take your time and be careful not to gouge the wood or splinter any delicate details you're trying to restore.

Cleaning Stripped Wood Trim

After scraping away the stripping residue, the wood should be wiped clean with a damp rag.

TIP: Try to avoid over-wetting the wood with water because the surface fibers absorb the moisture and expand beyond their normal size, raising the wood grain and creating a surface that feels rough to the touch.

In fact, we often wipe the surface with **denatured alcohol** rather than water, because it evaporates quickly and keeps the grain from rising.

Cleaning Old Paint



If you're painting over an old coat of paint that's in relatively good shape, it's fairly simple to get it ready.

The first step is to wash it with a cleaning agent like TSP (trisodium phosphate) which removes the shiny surface coating on gloss and semi-gloss paints.

New paint won't bond as well on a glossy surface. So after washing, lightly sand away any remaining gloss and rough up the surface a bit for the new paint to adhere.

Repairing Damaged Wood

There are wood patching products you can use to fill holes or gouges in wood trim. If you're painting the trim, any of the gray or white latex products will work fine.

If you're **staining** the wood, use a filler tinted to the color of your stain. Use a putty knife to apply it and to scrape away the excess. Allow the filler to dry then sand the surface smooth.

Sanding Before Finishing



It's generally a good idea to sand any bare wood before finishing it, but be careful with a wood surface you've just stripped if you're planning to stain it and give it a clear finish.

Sanding can remove the effects of aging or the "patina" which you may actually want to preserve. And uneven sanding on older wood can produce discoloration. In that instance, you might want to just skip the sanding process. altogether.

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Paint, Stain & Wallcovering Stenciling



Stenciling is a folk art form of wall painting that originated as an alternative to buying expensive wallpapers and rugs.

Scenes of everyday life were cut into templates then stenciled on walls and wood floors to create decorative patterns that actually resembled upscale wallpaper and rugs.

Now the technique has been revived along with the other elements of **Country-style** decorating and design. One advantage of stenciling today is that the modern **plastic** stencils don't tear, fray or fall apart like the paper versions did in the old days. They 're also sold at craft stores in pre-cut, ready-to-paint

forms, and available in any number of patterns.

You can also buy sheets of pre-drawn stencils and cut them out with a hobby knife. And if you want to be more creative, get plain clear plastic material, draw your own pattern and cut it out yourself.

Traditional designs focus on leaves, flowers and other everyday items. But there's really no limit on what's now available, what you can create, or where you can put stencils.



Create walls and/or floor border, highlight certain parts of a room, cover entire wall sections, or decorate furniture and fabrics.

Stencil Paints



Crafts stores stock small cans or bottles of paint specifically for stenciling projects, but you could use any **latex** or **alkyd-based** paints.

If you're using more than one color on a stencil, though, it's better to work with fast-drying paints or to add a product known as "**Japan Dryer**" to the paint to encourage quick drying.

Stencil paints work best over an existing flat paint surface, but they'll also work over wood and non-vinyl wallpapers.

Stencil Brushes



You can stencil with regular paint brushes, but there are special circular brushes available for stenciling that have densely packed bristles.

They're better than regular brushes for filling in the tight areas of a pattern, controlling paint along curved edges, and are a bit neater.

They also come in several different sizes so you don't have to labor with a tiny brush on a larger area.

Preparing to Stencil



Before getting into the paint, do a dry run of your stencil layout. If you want a repeating design, use a straightedge to line it up, measure out the placement of each design and mark them lightly with a pencil for reference.

For first-time stencilers or you just want to see how the stencil will look, practice by painting the stencil on a scrap of wallboard, paper or newspaper. That'll give you a sense of the paint's texture and how to manage the brushes.

Once you're ready for the real thing, clean the stencil off and tape it securely in position so it doesn't move while you're painting.

Drafting tape works best since it won't pull off the existing finish, but **painter's masking tape** is also appropriate for this kind of job because it has a weaker adhesive. Whatever tape you use, first apply and remove it on the surface in a hidden area.

Stenciling Techniques



When using a stenciling brush, the best painting technique is to **lightly tap** the end of the brush on the surface, covering small sections at a time. Don't get too much paint on the brush because paint could run down behind the stencil.

If you're using more than one color, one option is to use separate brushes to apply each color. On large projects, it's often easier to apply one color first, moving the stencil as

needed. Then go back to the beginning and apply the second color, and so on, until all the colors are done. That way, the first colors will dry before the next ones are applied.

By the way, wet paint can smear when you pull the stencil off, so make sure the paint has dried. Stenciling paints dry quickly and shouldn't pose this problem.

Sponge Stenciling



One variation on the stenciling technique (described above) is to cut a pattern into a **sponge** and use that to stamp the pattern onto a surface. A regular, synthetic cleaning sponge works best for this application because of it's relatively flat surfaces. For the patterns, you could use anything, but your best bet is to find **cookie cutters** in shapes you like.

The hard part of the job is cutting a precise pattern into the sponge. With a cookie cutter it's a lot easier. Just press the cutter into the sponge and trim along the outside edges with

a utility knife. Make sure to use a sharp blade, handling it carefully because the blade can easily slip.

Once you've cut the sponge, you're ready to paint. Before sponging the wall, practice on a scrap of cardboard or drywall to get just the right feel for the stencil and how much paint to use.

To make sure you get the look you want, mark off the likeliest spots for stenciling before painting then make any placement corrections.



When you're ready to paint, pour a little paint into a shallow, flat container like a **pie tin** or a **paint lid**, and use that to load up the sponge. Dunking directly into the paint bucket may overload the sponge. Press the sponge onto the wall at

your marks, periodically stepping back to check your work.

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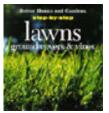


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In The Spotlight

San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Model railroad hobbyists in southern California will appreciate the San Diego Model Railroad Museum located in Balboa Park. Within the 24,000 plus square feet of space the museum has four different scale model layouts as well as a toy train gallery and a variety of other educational and informational exhibits. The San Diego Model Railroad Museum boasts that it is the largest such attraction in the world. If you live near San Diego, or you're planning a California trip in the future check out the San Diego Model Railroad Musuem web site for more information on what they have to offer.

Tuesday November 11, 2003 #

Swaps Full!

Our last swaps for 2003 are now completely full. Thanks to everyone who signed up. If you have new swap ideas for January 2004, please feel free to submit them at our Swap Suggestions Form.

Monday November 10, 2003 #

Find a Model Train Club

Like many sites on the World Wide Web this one is not kept up. If you believe the information on the home page it hasn't been updated since June of 2002. But, it does contain one of the most expansive and comprehensive collections of links for model railroad web sites and state by state listings of **Trains**

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model railroad clubs. Some of the information might be wrong or the links be dead since the site hasn't been updated in so long, but model railroad enthusiasts will find a lot of useful links here and may even be able to find a club in their area to get together and share with other model train hobbyists. National Model Railroad Association's Directory of World Wide Rail Sites.

Saturday November 08, 2003 #

Swaps Almost Full!

All Swaps are now full except the **Pet Shop Swap**. There are only **THREE** swap spots left in this swap - I expect it to fill over the weekend. If you are interested in joining this swap, <u>please do so ASAP</u> as this is the last swap opportunity for 2003! Thanks to all who already signed up! I look forward, as always, to seeing the brilliant and creative outcomes! <u>Saturday November 08, 2003</u> #

November Swap Themes

Announcing......November Swap Themes!

- Miniature Christmas Ornaments
- Winter Fun
- Pet Shop

Please note that the ornament swap will be shorter than usual to allow swaps to arrive prior to Christmas. Please only join this swap if you can fulfill your swap in 2-3 weeks.

Swap Sign-up will begin tomorrow, Wednesday November 5 at 8:00 AM EST. We have had quite a few 'blank' swap sign-up submissions in the past (no theme checked). If you do not check a theme or if there is no theme to select, do not submit the form. You will NOT be included in the swaps if you do not specifically join each (or all) of the available swaps. If there are no themes left to pick from, the swaps

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are full and you will not be included in this month's swaps. I hope that clarifies the swap sign-up process a little.

Happy Swapping!!!

Tuesday November 04, 2003 #

Sierra Toy Soldier Company

If you are looking for gift ideas for this holiday season you should check out the <u>Sierra Toy Soldier</u> Company web site for anyone on your list who enjoys or collects historical military miniatures. The Sierra Toy Soldier Company carries a complete line of military miniatures including the American Revolution, United States



<u>Civil War</u>, the <u>Roman Legions</u> of Caesar, <u>World War</u> <u>II</u> and much more.

Tuesday November 04, 2003 #

Egg Carving- Exquisite Detail

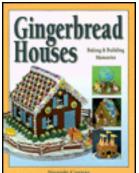


As Al Gunther says on his web page dedicated to the art of egg carving and sculpting: "Patience is a virtue and the results can be breathtaking." The photo galleries of his completed carved and sculpted egg creations are, in fact, truly breathtaking. If you think you might like to give this awe inspiring art

form a try, there are also links on the site to help you <u>pick the right kind of egg</u> to work with as well as a brief overview of the <u>steps involved</u> in the process.

Monday November 03, 2003 #

Book Review: Gingerbread Houses



The holiday season is here! It may be a little early yet, but this book can help get you started. Gingerbread Houses: Baking & Building Memories, by Nonnie Cargas, is a fantastic book on the subject of constructing gingerbread houses. The book is filled with tips, tricks and ideas including

checklists to help you shop for the materials you need. It also comes with some basic patterns to help get you started. Pick this book up and get started decorating your home with beautiful gingerbread houses for the holiday season. Book Review-Gingerbread Houses: Baking & Building Memories.

Monday November 03, 2003 #

Basic Tutorial for Painting Gaming Miniatures

Many people collect fantasy and sci-fi miniatures and just display them or play games with them as is- in their plain pewter state. But, many love to take it to the next level and add a splash of color. Painting the miniatures can be very rewarding, but it helps to have some idea of the proper tools and techniques to decrease frustration and maximize the potential of a good final result. This basic tutorial by Derek Schubert on reapermini.com will walk you through what you need to know to paint your miniature figurines. Painting Guide.

Saturday November 01, 2003 #

Last Minute Halloween Printables

Jim's Dollhouse Pages is one of the premier sites for high-quality printables in various scales for your dollhouse. If you are looking for some last minute 1/12 scale Halloween decorations try checking out the skeleton, bats and halloween bag printables on Jim's web site.

Friday October 31, 2003 #

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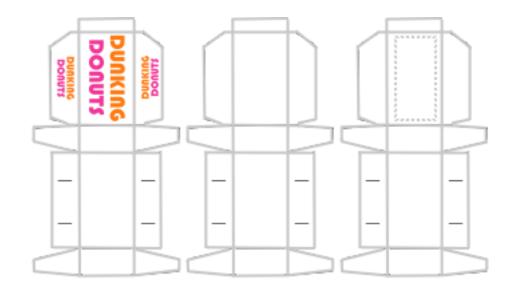
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Free Printable Pastry and Donut Boxes

Printable graphics by Nicki Bradley. These graphics are for personal use only, and may not be redistributed, reposted or sold.

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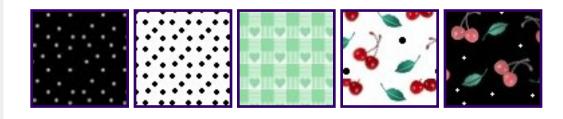
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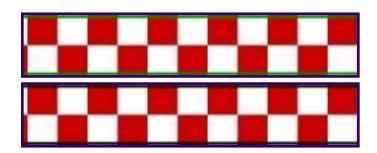
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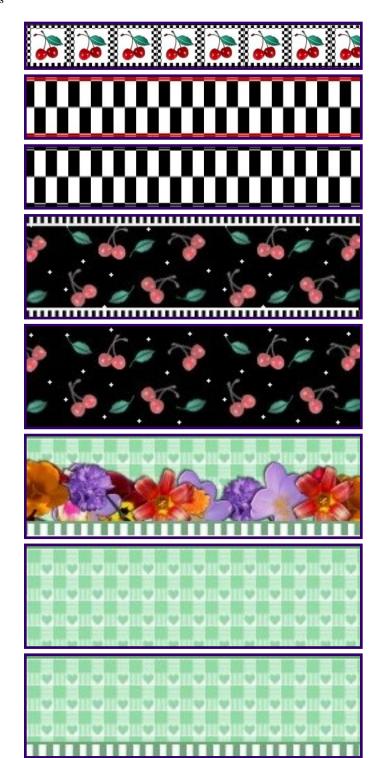
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Hi! I'm Lew Soloway, your About Guide to Woodworking. I want to make this site a place you can get the information you need to make your woodworking better and more enjoyable. Feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions.

Experience:

I've been a woodworker for over 30 years. I enjoy many styles of period furniture. However, I'm especially fond of the Arts & Crafts style of Charles and Henry Greene. My projects include furniture, cabinets, clocks, and gifts, plus remodeling work on my homes. Recent projects include a coffee table, built-in cabinets, a jewelry box, a chair, a sofa end table, and a gate made only with hand tools.

Education:

Most of my woodworking training has been self taught through trial and error, reading magazines and books, and attending demonstrations and seminars at woodworking shows. I also take woodworking classes at Cerritos College.

From Lew Soloway:

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