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Guerilla Furniture Design: How To Build Lean, Modern Furniture With Salvaged Materials



Synopsis

Build stylish and functional furniture from salvaged materials. This innovative guide presents dozens of strategies for upcycling scrap cardboard, metal, plastic, or wood into dependable shelving units, sturdy tables, and fun lamps. With directions for 35 easy and inexpensive projects that include a Cardboard Cantilever Chair, a License Plate Bowl, a Conduit Coatrack, and much more, you'll be inspired to start filling your home with unique high-style furniture that makes sense for both your wallet and the environment.

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Customer Reviews

"Will Holman put together a book full of great projects that will jump-start your creativity. It's a fantastic resource for the beginner and experienced maker alike!" (Jimmy DiResta, designer and builder, host of Discovery Channel's Dirty Money and HGTV's Hammered)"I have a license plate bowl, made by Will Holman, sitting on a common table. While the aesthetic appeals, it's really there because it tells a story about where the materials were found and who made it. Learn from one of the best how to make your furniture tell a story you're proud of." (Eric J. Wilhelm, PhD, founder of Instructables.com)

The Maker's Design Manual Frustrated with the waste and disconnect of consumer culture? Guerilla design -- grassroots, sustainable, handcrafted -- offers an antidote. Learn how to bypass the status quo by using salvaged materials to make simple chairs, tables, lamps, and other

furnishings that are both functional and beautiful. Guerilla designer Will Holman presents more than 30 step-by-step projects made from paper, wood, plastic, and metal, complete with instructions on how to recycle or repurpose them when you're ready to move on.

Not what I was expecting. I was hoping the furniture designs were made with more lasting materials like reclaimed woods and metals. Cardboard furniture is cool but not functional in a house with kids and pets. The instructions seemed easy enough, the layout is very well done, and the pictures are great, but I was hoping it was a little more advanced. It's great for a beginner and can inspire some cool ideas, so it depends on what you are looking for.

I was disappointed. He does a lot of conceptual stuff, with unconventional materials, cardboard, for example. I wouldn't spend time crafting a piece of furniture out of cardboard, because it won't last long enough. He states the cardboard is recycle-able, but even still if I'm going to spend time making furniture, I want it to last. A lot of the stuff while functional, isn't really aesthetically pleasing. It just isn't really usable beyond a college dorm, if that.

Don't buy this book if you are looking for plans for the chair, pictured on the cover. The bent metal seat of the chair is in the book, but not the beautiful base which is shown. Instead, they've paired it with a clunky, plywood version. The revision is probably more sturdy, but it also has a completely different, less refined, look. The nice solid wood legs are nowhere to be found, inside.

I don't prefer to read but this one caught my attention and holds it. I actually started reading the preview right after I purchased and then could not wait until it came to pick up where I left off. I first found this book at B&N but the price was much higher. If you are a new or seasoned pro I think you should check this book out. As a new the book outlines some crucial info for DIY projects. If you are well seasoned you can still get a lot out of the book as it invites you to a new way of thinking. I instantly started looking at random objects thinking what can I make out of you. This book really appeals to me because I have always been a resourceful DIYer but there is a whole new angle to look at things in this book. Read on!

As someone who regularly reads project-based furniture building books, and as someone who's been building furniture from found and repurposed objects for about 15 years, I was excited to come across this book. It's really kind of a hybrid: part manual to furniture construction, and part

project-based. Project-based books are pretty common in this area, and they tend to focus on how to make simple pieces of furniture: a lamp, table, chair, etc. The thing is that most furniture books that focus on found materials keep things very simple. So in many of those books you'll see how to make a coffee table from a pallet, or a bookshelf from some found wood. What's different about this book is that the projects really get into some woodworking. With that said, this is not about working in a shop with filtered air and ubiquitous power tools; it's about keeping this simple and getting some sawdust in your goatee. Many somewhat complicated chairs are featured in this book, for instance, and the author shows you how to make tables, an array of lamps, and so on. The aesthetic of the furniture is certainly somewhat distressed, but the designs all gesture toward modern furniture -- so there are some clean lines and appreciation of minimalism. As you'll see on the cover and in many of my pictures, this is furniture that you could imagine having in your 2,000 square foot SoHo studio. It's furniture made from repurposed road signs, lit with bunches of jars recomposed into a lamp, and so on. Now, with all that said, I do have a few small problems with this book that are worth mentioning. I certainly like the book overall, but these small things stood out to me. First of all, some of the designs seem quite flawed to me. One chair, for instance, is reinforced with very gaudy metal brackets. Better joint work and triangular bracing would have been more elegant and less Frankenstein-ian, I think. Furthermore, to call this furniture style "guerilla" is a bit of a stretch, I think. Guerilla art is about challenging the socio-political status quo, and I see what is advocated for in this book as pretty mainstream at this point. Sure using old materials is better than buying them at Home Depot, from an eco-perspective, but I don't see this book as all that radical overall. So with those small points made, I'll end by saying that there are many, many great ideas in this book. If you're wanting to move from beginner to intermediate woodworker and also interested in using old and repurposed materials, this is certainly the book for you!

Probably has about 3 projects I would actually attempt but I haven't done so yet. Instructions are clear and there is a variety to challenge different skill levels. Pretty much is as I expected, shipped on time and I'll get some use out of it.

full of great ideas! easy to build. much emphasis on sourcing of materials, which is great if you are on a budget or care about the environment.

We are looking forward to many of the projects described in this book. Seems like so much fun to make a chair of cardboard of all things.

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