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The Handbuilt Home: 34 Simple Stylish And Budget-Friendly Woodworking Projects For Every Room



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Synopsis

Create a Beautiful, Modern Home with One-of-a-Kind DIY Furniture Beds, organizers, Adirondack chairs, a play table, and more! It's easy to build inexpensive, quality furnishings with this indispensable collection of woodworking projects from Ana White, the popular blogger who has inspired millions of homemakers with her stylish furniture plans and DIY spirit. As a young mom on a tight budget, Ana learned to make her own well-designed pieces inspired by the styles in her favorite stores—saving thousands of dollars in the process. Now, in this reference for woodworkers of all skill levels, Ana shares everything she has learned along the way. Inside *The Handbuilt Home* you'll find:

- Plans for 34 versatile furniture projects for every room in your house—from beginner-friendly home accessories to sturdy tables, a media center, kids' items, and storage solutions
- Comprehensive information on using off-the-shelf lumber and basic equipment—almost every project can be made with a drill, a saw, and some hand tools
- Easy-to-follow instructions, costs, and time estimates to guide even the most amateur of carpenters through any project

You don't need to be physically tough or superstrong to make your own furniture, and it's okay if you don't know that a 2x4 doesn't actually measure 2 by 4 inches. All you need is the determination to create a better home for yourself or your family and the confidence to say, "I can build that."

Also available as an eBook

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Customer Reviews

"Ever wrestled with nails, screws, and hex wrenches on 'ready to assemble' shelves, chairs, or tables, all the while thinking that you could just as easily make the design cheaper and better from scratch? If so, White cheers you on! You can use this book to build 34 simple designs, such as tables (including a Lego coffee table), chairs, beds, and benches. Author and blogger White (ana-white.com), who first built furniture during her newborn's naptime, still remembers her fear of firing a nail gun. Those of us who still feel that fear should be glad she's there as a guide."

--Publisher's Weekly "[Ana-White.com] led to White's first book, The Handbuilt Home, which features simple furniture plans to help readers take a crack at construction. The key to getting started? Don't be intimidated. 'We're more capable than we think,' White says." --O, The Oprah Magazine

Ana White is a mother and homemaker from Alaska whose popular blog Ana-White.com is one of the most trusted resources for helping people improve their homes by building furniture. An avid do-it-yourselfer, Ana is a self-taught furniture maker who learned her skills while building her own home. She has designed thousands of furniture projects, inspiring people to create attractive, budget-friendly pieces.

I have followed Ana almost since she started blogging, and have built several pieces of furniture already. In this book, you aren't going to find complicated building methods like you see in the woodworking magazines - you can literally be a person who has never swung a hammer, and after following Ana's simple directions, you will be building in no time. Also, you don't need any expensive tools to build most of what she has in the book. The photos and design is gorgeous, and it's nothing but plans. I'm excited to get back to building!

I love the book but know that the directions/drawings/cut lists for the farm table and Adirondack chairs are INCORRECT!!! No errata that I could find online on her blog or maybe an updated book version...sad nice projects but CHECK CHECK CHECK everything before you do/cut/buy anything for the projects.

I bought this book for my husband and I because we are real DIY-ers and love to do projects together. This book seemed to have both detailed instructions and a variety of functional projects so it was a quick and easy sell to me. Too Good: *Awesome variety of projects * Great pictures *Detailed instructions on WHAT to buy and basic assembly The Bad: * There are no instructions on how to FINISH the projects (i.e. paint, stain, etc). I saw that the book claimed it would walk you

through projects, step-by-step to create the items demonstrated. And in the pictures most of the items have stellar staining effects, distressed painting or somehow layered colors. Unfortunately the closest it comes to telling you what to do after your item is nailed together- is that it is easier to paint it. SO sad. Really, it feels like the author doesn't want to go the extra inch and let you know how to finish the pieces and make them look like what is shown. I think this is because they wanted the projects to seem approachable and easy; once you start building though you will feel more like the instructions are lacking. I wish they told us some pointers here. * Some of my favorite projects in the pictures, vary dramatically in their instructions. For example, one of the projects I was most excited to do (the hutch) show a multi-stained background made up of different sized pieces of wood. It looks AWESOME in the pictures of the finished project examples as well as the close-ups during the instructions... HOWEVER the instructions include directions for a SOLID background (not different sized pieces as pictured). Therefore, what you make is different from what they show as a finished product. I am sure we could figure out how to do this added detail, but I was hoping for a book that actually walked you through what they showed.

This is a great book if you need to get motivated and inspired. Ana is right about the box furniture: you get a pile of particle boards in a box which you then assemble. So why not cut and assemble your own (good quality) boards? Each project is broken down into steps with all necessary materials and tools listed in the beginning. The cut lists are nicely labeled, and the assembly steps are color-coded. Don't expect great prose there. :) More like talking to a friend. This is not a furniture making manual either. It doesn't cover every furniture-making technique. Every project is a very practical, basic, "woman-centric" piece of furniture to use, as opposed to a carved heirloom version. In my subjective opinion, the simple projects in the book are not very stylish, and the more stylish ones are not so simple. The budget-friendly part? It depends. To make each project square, plumb, and level you have to be able to make square cuts, which require reasonable quality power tools (\$\$). Also, the Kreg jig for joinery (I have one, it's great) can cost you up to \$99. So, be prepared to spend couple hundred dollars on that first shelf or picture frame, unless you have a man in your life with a shop full of tools AND he is willing to lend them to you (an angel). Some projects in the book might have minor design flaws (e.g. the way face frames are built, or how load-bearing elements are joined). So the master-carpenters out there might chuckle. Let them chuckle, practice makes perfect. We all have to start somewhere. If you are on a very tight budget, visit Ana's blog where she posts free furniture plans. It is a great preview of what's in the book.

Ana White is a Goddess. She makes the most difficult seeming things look do-able. Her instructions are clear. The techniques she uses are within reach of most women (and men) with a few basic tools. The book has a number of nice projects, which, in typical Ana White can-do fashion are achievable even by novices. But I think the most important thing about the book is the author's straight-forward attitude that just communicates confidence. I really love building things but I was never taught how to do it. I took Home Ec with the other girls while the boys took shop. I've mostly learned by looking at You-Tube and talking to the guys at the lumber yard until I found Ana White's blog with all the wonderful advice and instructions in it. I bought the book mostly as a way of saying thank-you for all the free lessons from her blog, but I ended up discovering quite a few projects I intend to build - a folding sewing table with room to store my machine, a media console, a bathroom storage unit, and a bed to name a few.

I've been following ana white for quite some time and her specifications and diagrams are great. Don't know when I comes close are the Shanty2chic sisters but I would highly recommend this book

Props to Ana. She simply rocks. Very clean book, organized plans by room, standard introduction to tools, woods, and building methods. If you are even remotely interested in making your house look cool, building your own furniture projects, or simply want to get to know a little about an Alaskan girl's life, visit Ana-White.com. This book is simply the gateway to a world of awesome projects. I have built a few bedside tables from this book, and a few other projects from her site. FOR FREE! Very good resource.

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