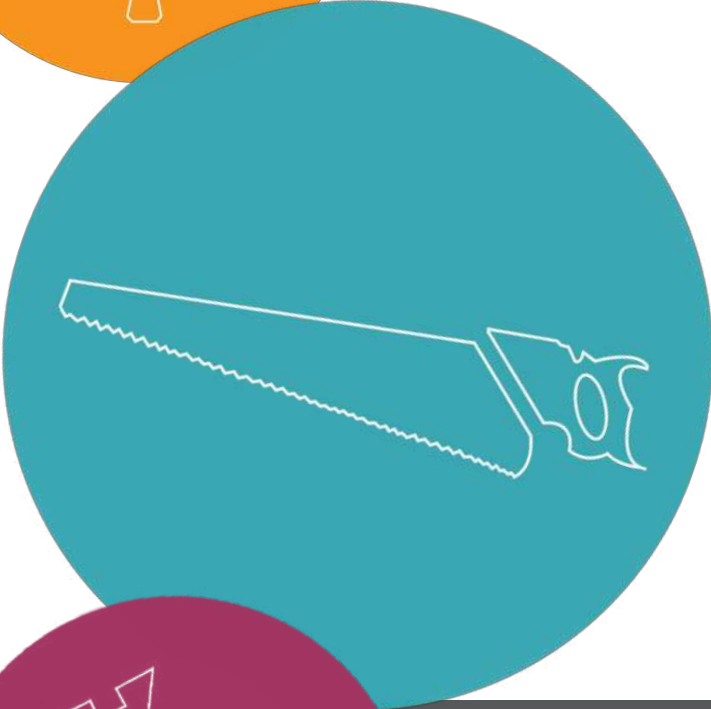




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CONSERVATION MADE EASY



# Community DIY Book

Awesome Projects Using Upcycled Materials

# Book Houses

**By Randy Bailey**

ERNEST Toys, Tiny & Tree Houses

RE-claimed, Salvage & New

720-732-3510



“Bookhouses or lending library as some are called are a joy to create and can be super simple or intensely complicated. I am a carpenter and have been renovating home for over 40 years. For me, the freedom and creative license to do whatever I want is very fulfilling.

## Materials List:

### 1. One salvaged kitchen wall cabinet

I use salvaged kitchen cabinets for the house frame. 12-24” wide by 30”-42” tall by 12” deep are good sizes. Plywood box construction is best, if available, as it is the lightest. These cabs usually have 2-3 shelves. Resource typically has assorted options. Condition or type of wood is not critical if you are re-siding the box exterior.

### 2. Plywood or OSB sheathing

used to cover back and sides with enough thickness your siding nails do not penetrate into cabinet interior.

### 3. One five foot wood 4x4

or something similar you can attach to bookhouse bottom and place into ground. 4x4 Cedar fence posts from blown over fences work well.

### 4. 1-2x12

same width as cabinet to solid connect bottom of cabinet to top of 4x4 post

## 5. Roofing material

light weight is suggested; corrugated metal roofing, sheet metal scraps, aluminum cans, etc. Tar-paper, or other roofing underlayment

## 6. Misc. 2x wood to cut/mill down and frame roof.

For exterior trim I like redwood and cedar because they are soft and easy to work with.

## 7. Glass or plexiglass for cabinet doors

If you get lucky with a cabinet that has glass, great. If you are adding window to cabinet door, I suggest plexiglass for less chance of breaking.

# Tool List:

We might have what you're looking for in the Tool Library!  
[Tools.ResourceCentral.org](https://Tools.ResourceCentral.org)



## 1. Table saw

or at a minimum a circular saw. I typically am cutting down larger 2x stock to create smaller siding and trim materials.

## 2. Chop box/miter saw

Power version suggested

## 3. Air compressor with trim nailers and small 1/4" crown stapler.

As so many parts are small, nailing or screwing by hand is challenging. A micro-pinner is big plus for very small detail areas.

## 4. Cordless impact driver and drill with bits

## 5. Work table or saw horses to build your house on

## 6. Tape, pencil, square, safety glasses, hearing protection, etc.





# Directions

1. Pick your theme. A plain painted box can be just as special as an intricate gingerbread trimmed house.
2. Design roof so rain does not drain across front of house door. I have mostly been creating a 45 degree gable pitch roof as it makes all the cuts simple, either 90 degrees or 45 degrees and gives nice gable ends for special trim details.
3. Frame the roof on top of your box and firmly attach roof rafters to cabinet box (over time you will be carrying and picking up the entire house by the roof so it must be strong)
4. Attach roof sheathing solidly to framing. Ample overhangs protect the siding front and rear siding of house. A zero-overhang house will have moisture issues sooner than one with overhangs. -porches, cars busting out, etc.



# Directions



5. Install your roof sheathing- select the thickness of this that will work with your roofing material and fasteners. You can install roofing now or later.
6. Design and install the roof gable trim, small wood, small shingles, metal, etc. Be creative!
7. Cut 2x12 base to snugly fit into recess at bottom of cabinet or directly to cabinet bottom. Attach this 2x to 4x4 post centered with long wood screws and add knee braces or 45 degree for stability. Keep this base plate and post separate from house.
8. Install siding on two sides and back extending about ½” below bottom of cabinet box or base plate for water drainage. Keep in mind how your siding relates to cabinet door swinging and opening.
9. Replace original wood panel in cabinet door with plexiglass (unless you plan on keeping the original glass to your cabinet).
10. Paint or stain your book house whatever you want.
11. Add some form of latch to keep door closed in times of wind for site install.



# Directions

12. Attach base plate/post to bottom of house with multiple wood screws.
13. Dig an 8" +/- round hole in ground 24"-28" +/- deep.
14. Set post, with house attached, into hole and determine what height bottom of cabinet wants to be above grade. 30" is suggested for kid access to bottom shelf. Cut bottom of 4x4 post or dig deeper as needed to achieve wanted height.
15. Backfill 4x4 post with mixture of gravel and site dirt. Compact all sides as you go. No need for concrete. Level or tilt house as you want as you backfill the hole around post.
16. Fill with your favorite books you're willing to share!



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# Fun Tips & Tricks

## Get creative with your decorating!

Create windows and doors on sides of cabinet boxes as you install siding. Side porches, cars busting out, etc.

Copper piping can be hammered straight and flat and used for added trim.

Copper grounding wire (#8 or #6 gage) can be hammered with ball-peen hammer to look like wrought iron and used as window dividers.

Solar yard lights can be modified to have panel on roof and light over door or inside cabinet.

Happy creating! Thanks for sharing your project with us, Randy!



We're still building this book,  
share your project with us!  
**Reuse@ResourceCentral.org**

# Wood Burning

By **Lauren Brueggeman**

[Etsy.com/shop/notneurotic](https://www.etsy.com/shop/notneurotic)



“I enjoy wood burning because it forces me to commit to an idea. No erasing, just focusing on one line at a time.”

## Materials List:

1. Wood Burning Tool

2. Wood (Resource Central has plenty of reclaimed lumber!)

I base my choice off of how unique the piece of wood is, the grain, etc. Cedar is one of the easiest to burn (and smells nice). Oak and other hardwood take more time to burn. Make sure it is untreated to avoid strong fumes!

3. Pencil

Something to trace your design with if you have a specific look in mind. Pencils are great in case you want to erase your sketch marks.

4. Paper

If you'd like to design before pushing the pencil to the wood, making a few quick sketches on paper can help you decide what sort of wood burning tip you'd like to use.

What are your thoughts about omitting this one and using it f



# Directions

1. Decide on the size and type of lumber you want to use. (Recommendation in materials list)
2. Create your design. You can play with the lumber shape and natural striations in the wood. I usually sketch my design out on paper first then replicate it with as few erase marks as possible. If the design is “simple” enough (not a lot of lines or shading), I’ll press the design into the wood by going over the whole thing with a pen, bobby pin, or any object you can push down on the design and trace.
3. Set your burning tool to as high as you need (keeping in mind the type of wood). Let it heat up so that your trace can be even.
4. Trace over your sketch. Whether you want a fine line or a thick mark, choose the tip to your liking.
5. Stain or paint your finished work of art, if you’d like! If not, it’s complete.



# Fun Tips & Tricks

Experimenting with different types of reclaimed lumber inspires different designs. Sometimes the art makes itself. Try new things!

Rounder tips are great for creating thick and consistent lines.

Flat edge tips work well for shading and adding dimension to your piece.

Happy creating! Thanks for sharing your project, Lauren!



We're still building this book,  
share your project with us!  
**[Reuse@ResourceCentral.org](mailto:Reuse@ResourceCentral.org)**