

30

Free Beginner Woodworking Plans

Hand-picked project plans from trusted makers, tool brands, university extension programs, and conservation groups — every one genuinely free, every link verified live before this guide was published. Organized by where the project lives: indoor, outdoor, the shop, gifts, and outdoor structures.

ALL 30 LINKS OPENED & CHECKED ✓
JULY 1, 2026

SNAPSHOT — JULY 2026
LINKS ROT. THE PAGE DOESN'T.

This PDF is a photograph of our live directory on the day everything was checked. Paper goes stale — that's how the internet works. The page doesn't: it's re-verified on every edition, grows with new finds, and carries the 60-second project quiz.

THE ALWAYS-CURRENT VERSION → thebenchverdict.com/free-plans

**The Bench
Verdict**

Edition 1 · latest edition always free at thebenchverdict.com/free-plans



How this directory works

The internet has thousands of "free plans" pages. Most are ads wrapped around a photo. This directory is different: we opened every single link, confirmed the plan is real, complete, and free, and wrote down what tools you actually need. We link you straight to each creator's own page — they deserve the visit, and you get the plan exactly as they published it.

Nobody on this list paid to be included, and we have no affiliate relationship with any of the free-plan sites below. This is pure curation.

Reading the difficulty tags

EASY Straight cuts only. A saw and a drill will get it done, usually in an afternoon.

EASY+ Adds exactly one new skill: a curve, a bevel, pocket holes, or bolted hardware. Plan for a weekend. The five Outdoor Structures builds are the big exception: still beginner-viable framing, but budget one to several weekends.

The starter toolkit. You can build at least 20 of these 30 projects with: a circular saw (or miter saw), a drill/driver, a tape measure, a speed square, sandpaper, wood glue, and screws. Rent or borrow anything else the first time — buy a tool only after a project makes you miss it twice.

THIS PDF VS. THE LIVE PAGE

	THIS PDF	LIVE PAGE
All 30 plans, tools, and verified links	✓	✓
Links re-verified	once	every edition
New finds added	✗	✓
60-second project quiz	✗	✓
Works offline, in the shop, covered in sawdust	✓	—

Honest trade: keep this PDF in the shop, use the page for everything else — thebenchverdict.com/free-plans



Not sure which of the 30 to start with? Take our free 60-second project quiz — three quick questions about your skill, what you want to build, and your space — and we'll point you at the right first projects. No email needed.

thebenchverdict.com/quiz →

Indoor Projects

7 PLANS



THIS SECTION
LIVE →

01 Modern Backless Bench

EASY

Ana White – free furniture plans

Three 2x6 boards with straight cuts only. One board size, one afternoon — works as an entry bench or small coffee table.

Tools: circular or miter saw, drill, sander · ana-white.com →

02 Tryde Coffee Table

EASY+

Ana White

The classic “first real piece of furniture.” Cheap framing lumber, full cut list, and a chunky farmhouse look that forgives small mistakes.

Tools: saw, drill, sander (pocket-hole jig optional) · ana-white.com →

03 Small Coffee Table (Super Simple)

EASY

Ana White

From the “Super Simple” plan line — minimal cuts and off-the-shelf board sizes, designed for first-time builders.

Tools: saw, drill · ana-white.com →

04 Floating Shelves

EASY

Kreg Tool – free project plans

Hidden-cleat shelves with a free step-by-step plan and cut list. Small, high-payoff wall project — teaches studs and level.

Tools: saw, drill, level (pocket-hole jig recommended) · learn.kregtool.com →



05 Floating Wall-Mounted Bookshelf

EASY+

Kreg Tool

A step up from a plain shelf — introduces pocket-hole joinery on a small, cheap build before you trust it on a table.

Tools: saw, drill, pocket-hole jig · learn.kregtool.com →

06 DIY Blanket Ladder

EASY

Shanty 2 Chic — free plans + video

Roughly \$15 of 2x4s and 2x6 rungs, three basic tools, free printable plan and a video walkthrough. Very forgiving decor build.

Tools: miter saw (or handsaw + miter box), drill, sander · shanty-2-chic.com →

07 Simple Step Stool

EASY

The Creative Mom — free building plans

Small material list, scrap-friendly, quick — and instantly useful in a kitchen or kid's bathroom.

Tools: saw, drill, sander · thecreativemom.com →

Outdoor Projects

7 PLANS



THIS SECTION
LIVE →

08 Easy Modern Adirondack Chair

EASY+

Rogue Engineer — free downloadable plans

A modern Adirondack from budget lumber (~\$30–40). Flags pre-drilling to avoid splits — a habit worth learning on project one.

Tools: circular or miter saw, jigsaw (curves), drill · rogueengineer.com →

09 Modern Bench from Five 2x6 Boards

EASY

Ana White

Five 2x6 boards and no complicated joinery — a patio or deck bench you can finish in a few hours.

Tools: circular saw, drill · ana-white.com →



10 Classic A-Frame Picnic Table

EASY+

Construct101 – free plan + free PDF download

The classic picnic table with illustrated steps, shopping list, and cut list — and the PDF download is free with no email wall.

Tools: saw, drill, wrench (carriage bolts) · construct101.com →

11 Raised Garden Bed for Under \$40

EASY

Kreg Tool

An afternoon build from common construction lumber — big straight cuts, screws, and immediate backyard payoff.

Tools: saw, drill · learn.kregtool.com →

12 Planter Box from Cedar Fence Pickets

EASY

Ana White

Cedar pickets are cheap and rot-resistant (~\$10–20 per planter). Small cuts, fast assembly, batches well for a matched set.

Tools: saw, drill or brad nailer · ana-white.com →

13 Right Bird, Right House — Nest Boxes

EASY

NestWatch · Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Free, species-specific nest-box plans from a scientific institution. Pick region and habitat — most boxes come out of a single board.

Tools: saw, drill, hammer · nestwatch.org →

14 Single-Chamber Bat House (PDF)

EASY+

Bat Conservation International – free PDF plan

A conservation org's own PDF with exact dimensions — mostly straight cuts, and one of the most useful things you can hang in a backyard.

Tools: saw, drill, staple gun, caulk gun · batcon.org →



Shop Projects

5 PLANS



THIS SECTION
LIVE →

15 Build Your First Workbench

EASY

Ana White – free beginner's guide

A modular sawhorses-plus-countertop bench in 2x4s and plywood. Build this first — then use it to build everything else here.

Tools: circular saw, drill · ana-white.com →

16 2x4 Sawhorses

EASY

Construct101 – free plan + free PDF

The traditional first shop build — all 2x4s, free PDF cut list and diagrams. Build two and you have a work surface anywhere.

Tools: saw, drill · construct101.com →

17 4-H “Measuring Up” Plan Pack (PDF)

EASY

Purdue University Extension – public 4-H plans

Classic starter projects with complete materials and tool lists. Written to teach absolute beginners measuring and layout. Hand-tool friendly.

Tools: handsaw, coping saw, hammer, drill · extension.purdue.edu →

18 French Cleat Tool Storage Wall

EASY+

Saws on Skates

One repeated 45° bevel turns scrap plywood into re-arrangeable tool storage. Teaches bevels and stud-mounting where perfection doesn't matter.

Tools: saw with 45° bevel, drill, level · sawsonskates.com →

19 Mini 4-H Woodworking Manual (PDF)

EASY

Purdue University Extension

An illustrated manual for the youngest first-time builders, including a simple carry toolbox — the best pick if you're building with kids.

Tools: hammer, handsaw, nails, sandpaper · extension.purdue.edu →



Gift Projects

6 PLANS



THIS SECTION
LIVE →

20 Simple Cutting Board

EASY

Instructables

Starts with a single piece of hardwood (face grain) so you don't need clamps or a planer. The gateway gift build.

Tools: saw, sander, food-safe oil · [instructables.com](https://www.instructables.com) →

21 Wood Coasters

EASY

Instructables

Made from scrap — batch a whole gift set in an afternoon and practice finishing on small, low-stakes surfaces.

Tools: saw, sander, finish · [instructables.com](https://www.instructables.com) →

22 Serving Tray with Handles

EASY

Kreg Tool — free plan

A handled tray with a free step-by-step plan — small lumber bill, big “you made this?” reaction.

Tools: saw, drill, pocket-hole jig, handle hardware · learn.kregtool.com →

23 Easy Picture Frames

EASY

Kreg Tool — free plan

Layered thin hobby boards sized for 5x7 and 8x10 photos — frames without cutting perfect miters on day one.

Tools: saw, glue, drill (pocket screws) · learn.kregtool.com →

24 Phone Stand from Scrap Wood

EASY

Instructables

One scrap block and a couple of careful kerf cuts — possibly the fastest build here, and a desk gift that actually gets used.

Tools: handsaw, sandpaper · [instructables.com](https://www.instructables.com) →



25 Wood Gallery Frames

EASY+

Ana White

Build a matching gallery-wall set in custom sizes for the cost of one store-bought frame. Simple tools, clear steps.

Tools: saw, drill or brad nailer, glue · ana-white.com →

Outdoor Structures

5 PLANS



THIS SECTION
LIVE →

Still beginner-viable framing — but budget one to several weekends, and check local permit rules for the bigger builds.

26 Lean-To Shed, 4x8

EASY+

Construct101 — free plan + free PDF

The smallest real shed you can build — a 4x8 lean-to against a wall or fence. Illustrated steps, shopping list, cut list, one sloped roof.

Tools: circular saw, drill, level, framing square · construct101.com →

27 Gable Shed, 10x12

EASY+

Construct101 — free web plan (PDF is a paid upgrade)

The classic full-size backyard shed: 2x4 framing, 2x6 treated floor, T1-11 siding, gable roof. Complete plan free on the page. Several weekends.

Tools: circular saw, drill, level, framing square, ladder · construct101.com →

28 Porch Swing

EASY+

Construct101 — free plan + free PDF

Classic bench-style swing with full drawings. Non-negotiable: swing-rated hanging hardware anchored into structural framing, never trim.

Tools: saw, drill, sander (plus rated hardware) · construct101.com →

29 Children's Picnic Table

EASY+

Construct101 — free plan + free PDF

The kid-size A-frame picnic table. Several repeated angle cuts make it a friendly first miter-saw project.

Tools: miter saw (angle cuts), drill · construct101.com →



30 Octagonal Gazebo, 8 ft

EASY+

BuildEazy – free plan, no email wall

Complete gazebo plan: materials in imperial and metric, dimensioned drawings, step-by-step sections. The most ambitious build here — check permit rules first.

Tools: circular saw, handsaw, drill, level, chisel, clamps, ladder · [buideazy.com](https://www.buideazy.com) →

Prefer one organized library over 30 bookmarks?

These free plans are, honestly, the best way to start — build two or three before you spend anything. If you later decide you want a single searchable library instead of a folder of bookmarks, the paid resource we point beginners to is Ted's Woodworking, sold through ClickBank. On plan count, the vendor states 16,000 plans — that's the vendor's number, not ours. We like it for how it's organized by project type and skill level, and it carries a 60-day money-back guarantee through ClickBank, the retailer — so you can look inside and decide for yourself.

Affiliate disclosure: the button below is an affiliate link. If you buy through it, The Bench Verdict earns a commission at no extra cost to you — it never changes our verdict, and the 30 free plans above stay free.

Read our full, honest review at thebenchverdict.com/recommendation →

Disclosure: thebenchverdict.com is reader-supported. If you buy through links on our site we may earn a commission, at no extra cost to you. We only recommend resources we have vetted, and we say so when a claim is the vendor's rather than ours. We have no affiliate relationship with any of the free-plan sites listed above, and none of them paid to be included.



KEEP BUILDING – THREE WAYS

Not sure what's next?

Three questions, 60 seconds, and we point you at the right first projects. No email needed.

thebenchverdict.com/quiz

→

Links rot. We re-check.

Get a short email when we re-verify the directory, fix a moved link, or a new find passes the checks. Free, one-click unsubscribe.

thebenchverdict.com

→

Want one big library?

Read our honest review of the paid plans library we recommend – including who should *not* buy it.

thebenchverdict.com/recommendation

→

THE FINE PRINT

All 30 links were fetched and verified live on July 1, 2026. Plan links in this PDF route through thebenchverdict.com/go/ so we can fix moved pages – they always land on the creator's own site shown next to each link, and we earn nothing from any of them. The latest re-verified edition is always free at thebenchverdict.com/free-plans.

Each plan remains the property of its publisher. This directory links to their pages and copies nothing. Trademarks and project plans belong to their respective owners; we are not affiliated with or endorsed by any site listed.

Safety first: wear eye and hearing protection, and follow the tool manufacturer's instructions. Work at your own pace and skill level.

Published by **thebenchverdict.com** · Rua Augusto dos Anjos, 155 - Barueri/SP - CEP 06485-370 - Brazil · © 2026. You're welcome to share this PDF unmodified; please don't sell it.

