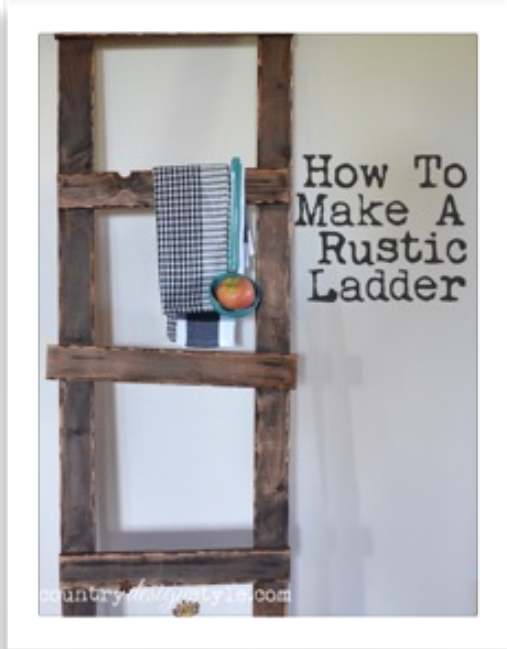


How to Project Sheet

Rustic Ladder



Difficulty Level
Number of bandaids
2 outta 5



Approximate Time to Complete ~ 1 hour

Approximate costs of shopping list items ~ \$ 6

Tools Needed

measuring tape	sander
pencil	hammer
safety glasses	clamps
miter saw	hatchet, sander or wood rasp

Workshop items to have on hand

wood glue
1 1/4" finishing nails
sand paper
paint or "ironed" vinegar and tea

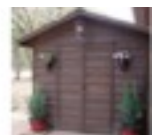
Please read completely before starting project

Shopping List

2) 1 x 3 x 8 Furring boards

Cut List

2) 1 x 3 x 6 feet
5) 1 x 3 x 16 1/2 inches to 18 inches



Steps

Step 1: Rough up boards

Take a hatchet to the sides of the boards. For safety, clamp the board to a worktable and use both hands on the hatchet. I worked off about 50 calories banging those boards! :)

Tip: Rough up the wood first and then cut!

If you don't have a hatchet, a sander will work or anything to rough up the edges of the wood.

Wood files or rasps work too.

Step 2: Cut boards

2) boards 6 feet long.

5) boards between 16 1/2 inches to 18 inches.

Step 3: Layout and assemble

Layout the ladder making sure the two long side boards are even at the bottom. Otherwise the ladder will have a lean! Then place the short boards across the side boards. I didn't measure the distance at all. In fact, some are a little crooked. When they are laid out the way you want, add a dollop of wood glue between the overlaps. I place another board on top of the "rungs" and added paint cans for weight while the glue dried. Then I nailed in 1 1/4 inch finishing nails in each overlap.

Step 4: Paint

Here's the steps I took to get the rustic aged wood look.

Old wood gets dark where nails and in grooves. Smear on black paint with a small paintbrush.

Make a cup of black tea and painting it on the ladder. Make sure to cover the wood completely with tea. Any areas left "un~tea'd" will not turn as dark. Let dry.

Then I grabbed my "ironed vinegar" and painted it on.

After the vinegar dried I used a palm sander to reveal the wood. Revealed wood will be lighter than the other areas but darker than raw wood.

Then I used dark soft wax and covered the edges of the wood with a paintbrush. Then rubbed the wax with a soft cloth {that got caught on the nicked up wood.} So I picked out the threads of cloth and I'm done!

That little jar of wax has been in my workshop for over 15 years. It's a mix of soft furniture wax with a large dollop of paint tint. I'll be doing a separate post on the wax I make in November.

