Outdoor Woodwork: 16 Easy-To-Build Projects For Your Yard & Garden

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Synopsis

There's more to a cultivated country spread or city terrace garden than the plants. People increasingly see their gardens as outdoor rooms, and they want to furnish and decorate them as attractively and comfortably as any other part of the home. Who doesn't dream of having coffee on the garden bench, eating lunch at a handmade picnic table, or snuggling with a lover under an arbor in the moonlight or in a gazebo during a thunderstorm? Readily available, easy to work with, and inexpensive, wood is the ideal material for creating stylish and practical garden features. And you can often use low-cost, rough-cut wood straight from the sawmill for rustic, outdoor projects. OUTDOOR WOODWORK offers 16 functional and attractive projects for the garden, including fences and gates, benches and chairs, decking, sheds, arbors, pergolas, trellises, planters, picnic tables, and a child's playhouse and treehouse. Each project has clear, step-by-step instructions and diagrams accompanied by full-color photographs showing the finished piece in its garden setting. Expert advice on staining and varnishing ensures that wooden garden features will stand up to the outdoor elements for years to come. This book is ideal as a reference for beginners and as a sourcebook of inspiration for more experienced do-it-yourself enthusiasts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book for the Rabbit Hutch only. The rabbit hutch is exactly what I wanted. Easy access, simple to build, and the rabbit will love it. If you put legs on it, it could be used inside with a litter pan
underneath, which is what I plan to do with it. But I'm also going to make one for outside as well because it is made so that it's easy to move around. The other projects include a wheeled two-seater bench (love it), a picnic table (it's not your regular picnic table design), an arbor with a seat, and an arbor with a swing, a folding screen and a very small tool shed. These were the ones I liked the most.

My husband and I have woodwork experience. We made the wheeled bench. Some of the instructions were missing. Thank God we do have some knowledge. We had to take some of the bench apart just to figure out some of the steps not mentioned (or left out)

In my mind's eye, I have planned out a portion of my 3/4 acre yard but my favorite dream area is where my potting shed and bench will be going. Now that I have a design for my potting bench and the shed (modified tool shed from the book) which will contain it, I can't wait to get going on this wonderful project. It looks to be a wonderful adventure. Most of all, I love that the materials are substantive. I am impressed by the size and usefulness of the individual pieces, take for example the potting bench which is pictured on the cover of the book. Most potting benches I see that aren't repurposed work benches or workshop tables, are so small as to be of no help at all. You'd almost need to build a second potting bench to keep the first one alive and on it's feet. I want something that will hold pots old and new, buckets of tools and various soil components packed away in tubs. I want a spot for seed packets and wintering over bulbs, and this potting bench is substantive enough to allow for all of this and more.

I'm pleasantly shocked that you can now pick this book up for mere pennies used on this site (at least: as of June 2015) -- as it's an outstanding outdoor project book. The designs are all chunky and strong, with bold lines and rough-hewn stock used for most of the builds. You'll find not only plans, but inspirations for designs that you can riff on. This is a project book, and I particularly like the potting table project featured on the cover, though have built a much longer version for myself. The rolling cart-chairs are also very inspired and first on my list for outdoor projects this summer. (I've included a pic from the book featuring this neat design.) The idea of easily moving such chairs is infinitely appealing. Along with aesthetic outdoor improvements like fencing and trellises, I was glad to see a practical and cute little rabbit hutch that could easily be used as a chicken coop for 2 or 3 birds. This design is tight and simple, requiring just a saw and power drill. Everything in this book is simple for the average woodworker and based on sound woodworking principles involving
triangle-bracing and box construction. Ideas abound in this book for the backyard and small farm!

The projects in this book are beautiful; I hope they are as easy to build as the directions lead one to believe.

This book has been very educational, helpful and will keep it in my shop on the top shelf for easy referencing.

In the warmer weather our family lives outside, and this book has me very excited for next summers building projects. There are many useful easy projects that either I or my husband can build on the weekend. Things for kids, things for adults and all with a nice look to them.

It was good for the content. I wanted a little more creative ideas. These ideas are more geared to men, than females with tools.

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