



Cadette Woodworker

Woodworking gives you a feeling of accomplishment— you can make stylish, useful things for yourself and others. Plus, it's fun! In this badge, add to your talents with a skill Girl Scouts have been refining for 100 years—the ability to do it yourself. You'll develop or refine your skills with a hammer, saw, and level, and complete the badge by creating a fantastic and unique wooden piece of your own design.

Steps

1. Swing a hammer
2. Keep it level
3. Use a screwdriver
4. Saw some wood
5. Build something yourself

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to use some basic tools to make simple woodworking projects.

Step 1: Swing a hammer.

Get some scrap lumber at a lumberyard or hardware store and learn to hit a nail on the head—without ending up with a sore thumb. This can be tougher than it sounds, but learning a few tricks will have you hammering in no time. Practice in one of these ways.

CHOICES – DO ONE:

Write your name in nails. Hammer nails into wood in the shape of the letters in your name. For More FUN: Try it in cursive!

OR

Make a design with nails on wood. Hammer nails in the shape of a spiral or star, for example.

OR

Create a sculpture. Nail together a dozen pieces of scrap lumber to make an interesting art piece. For More FUN: Name five trees in this country that produce edible nuts.

Step 2: Keep it level.



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On every project, whether you're building a bench or hanging a picture, you want to make sure your work is level (straight horizontally) and plumb (straight vertically). Use a measuring tape, level, plumb line, and L square to do one of the following choices.

CHOICES – DO ONE:

Level up. Put four pieces of paper on a wall about an arm's length apart. Mark a dot on each and try to make sure they're level by sight. Use your tools to check if you were right.

For More FUN: With permission, hang three pictures along a straight line on a wall and check to make certain they're level.

OR

Make it right. Using two pieces of scrap lumber, a hammer, and nails, build a level letter T.

For More FUN: Make more level letters—perhaps your initials or a full name? Paint them for a gift!

OR

Do a survey. Check five different spots around your house or Girl Scout meeting place to see if the structure is level and plumb. For example, use your level to check a floor, window frame, hanging picture, countertop, and porch rail.

For More FUN: If you find a piece of furniture that's wobbly due to uneven floors, such as a dining room or kitchen table, use a small piece of wood, a furniture coaster, or cardboard to help level it.

Step 3: Use a screwdriver.

Try out a regular and a power screwdriver (also known as a cordless drill). Most woodworkers reach for their cordless drill more than any other tool, because when you use different bits it drives the screw *and* makes a hole! Still, it's important to know how to use a regular screwdriver, since that's usually what you'll find in the kitchen drawer.

CHOICES – DO ONE:

Fix loose screws. Find at least three loose screws and tighten them. Here are a few things that often need fixing: pot handles, knobs, drawer pulls on dressers and cabinets, and door hinges. Be sure to get advice from an adult about what needs tightening—and get permission to try!

OR



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Attach it, detach it. Screw together two or more pieces of wood. Use the power drill on six screws and the hand-powered screwdriver on six more. Then take the pieces apart the same way.

OR

Build with a screwdriver. Find a simple DIY project that requires a screwdriver, such as a bookshelf, toy, mirror, or clothes rack. Build it with help.

Step 4: Saw some wood.

A miter saw is a saw attached to a metal guide and box that accurately cuts a piece of wood in straight lines and angles. A handsaw does not use a box, and can be used to cut wood in different shapes. Practice using a miter saw or handsaw in the choices below.

CHOICES – DO ONE:

End the alphabet. Cut the letters X, Y, and Z with the miter saw and box. For More FUN: With your Cadette group, have a contest to see who can cut the straightest lines.

OR

Square it off. Compare the miter and the handsaw by cutting a 6" x 6" square out of a piece of plywood. First use a miter, then a handsaw.

OR

Make a simple doll. Using the miter saw and box, cut geometric shapes to create a simple figure (like a girl or dog made of triangles, rectangles, and squares).

For More FUN: Cut out more creatures to make a zoo or village. You could sand and paint them to make fun toys for younger girls.

Step 5: Build something yourself.

Now you're ready to make something you can actually use!

CHOICES – DO ONE:

Build with your expert. Ask for good project ideas and assistance from the woodworker helping you on the badge. There are many beginner plans available in magazines and online.

OR



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Build with home improvers. Find a beginner class or workshop at a local home improvement, lumber, or hardware store.

OR

Build at a crafts store or artisan workshop. Some woodworkers teach courses in their workshops, and crafts or framing stores in your area might also offer guidance.

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Making bookshelves for classrooms, libraries, or other organizations that could use them
- Helping around the house by taking on small home-improvement tasks
- Giving a photo gift in a frame I made myself

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