

Up-cycled woodwork display case



Design guru [Max McMurdo](#) has put together a special tutorial for Craft Clubs to take a simple old drawer and transform it into a special personalised display case!

Follow the steps to learn about measuring, sawing, sanding and painting wood. Then simply choose which of your crafty creations you'd most like to show off!

This tutorial will take about 60-120 minutes to complete.



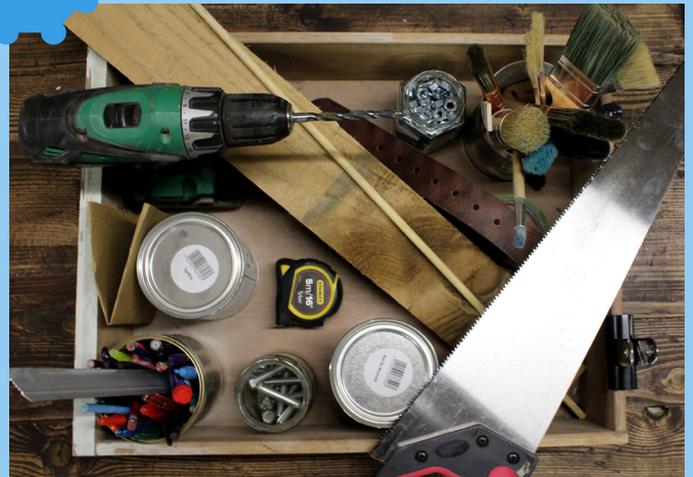
materials & tools

Tools:

- Paint brush
- Pencil
- Tape measure
- Ruler
- Electric drill driver
- 8mm drill bit
- Good quality masking tape
- Sand paper
- Spanner or screwdriver
- Hand saw
- Stanley knife
- Cutting matt

Materials;

- Old drawer
- Leather belt (or a leather off cut)
- Chalk paint
- 8mm dowel
- Piece of pallet wood (or another piece of wood)
- M8 nuts, bolts and dome nuts
- Bull dog clips



Warning! This activity uses sharp tools. Saws, drills and stanley knives should only be used by children under close adult supervision.



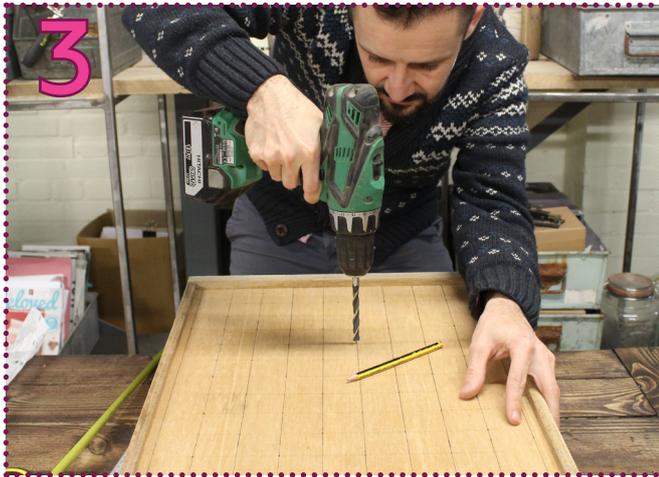
Remove the existing handle on the drawer with your spanner or screwdriver. I replaced mine with a leather alternative but the original handle can be kept if preferred.



Use your ruler and tape measure to measure out a grid on the base of the drawer for the placement of the holes of your pegboard, marking this with your pencil. Try to keep the holes at least 10mm from the sides to avoid it becoming weak.



Similarly, measure out and mark pairs of holes down the two sides of the drawer where the shelf will be. Make sure the holes are at the same height on each side!



3
Be careful!: drill

Drill your holes with a 8mm wood drill bit. The wood is likely to split so put some scrap blocks of wood underneath the base of the drawer to support it!



4
Sand the entire drawer. If you are going to use chalk paint (like I have), a light sand is all that's required.



5
Before you start painting, decide which areas you would like to leave unpainted and cover those with masking tape. I like to leave areas of wood exposed when I upcycle a piece of furniture like this, not only does it provide a history to the piece, but it also works aesthetically.

TOP TIP FROM MAX!

Preparation is key when masking and painting so be sure to take your time and buy good quality masking tape in order to get crisp edges when it is removed. Be experimental when masking, create contemporary geometric designs or use colour to highlight the drawers previous use.



6
Paint your drawer! I have used two colours; Frenchic's Spitfire and Hot As Mustard. One of my top tips when painting is to think carefully about where you want each colour. Paint in your desired colours and/or patterns. Leave enough drying time in between coats. Once painted, you may need to remove excess paint from the holes by rolling up a small piece of sand paper.



7
Be careful!: saw

Now create your dowel pegs, first decide on the length of your pegs (mine are 35mm), then measure and cut the dowel using a hand saw. Sand for a smooth finish.



8
Be careful!: saw

Create a shelf for inside your drawer. Measure the inside width of the drawer. Then cut your piece of pallet wood to the required length using a hand saw. Sand and wax to your taste.



Be careful!: Stanley knife
 Make a leather handle for your drawer. Measure the length of your leather handle, here you can either use the existing holes from the original handles or drill new ones for attaching the new handle. Cut the leather using a Stanley knife and cutting matt, I included a curved edge either end of my leather. Drill holes into the leather in order to fit onto the drawer and fix with nuts and bolts.

Fit the pegs into the holes on the drawer; add pegs to the side panels to hold your shelf or add individual pegs to the back for hanging things off depending on your display needs. You can also use the reverse side of the drawer to display larger images. For this use a bulldog clip, which can be attached using an M8 bolt.

Put your display case into action!



CRAFT FAIRS

Use the adjustable shelving and pegs to display anything! Illustrations on the bulldog clip, jewellery on the peg hooks, ceramics on the pallet wood shelf. It looks beautiful and is very portable!



SCHOOL

Use the drawer for a show and tell, or to display a mini-exhibition of a special project.



JEWELLERY ORGANISER

Avoid tangled necklaces, hang them on the pegs as a visual display and easy organiser.

HOME

Use it anywhere from the kitchen to kids playroom to display works of craft, utensils or favourite drawings.

WEDDINGS

Display polaroids or handmade wedding favours on that special occasion!

Craft Club is a national campaign that champions craft in schools, galleries, libraries and anywhere else you can bring people together to share craft skills.