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Free Lending Library

Construction Plans



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Building a Free Lending Library



The following plan details the steps required to construct a Free Lending Library for your community. Lending libraries provide an easy method to share reading material with members of your community. The basic concept is that anyone can pick up a book (for free) and can also add books to the library.

The included plan shows how to maximize the cuts to reduce waste and build two lending libraries from a single sheet of plywood.

Required Tools and Supplies

You will need the following tools during construction:

- Circular Saw
- (2) Bar Clamps (12” – 18”)
- Hammer
- Paint brush or roller
- Shovel or Post-Hole Digger
- Electric Screw Driver / Drill

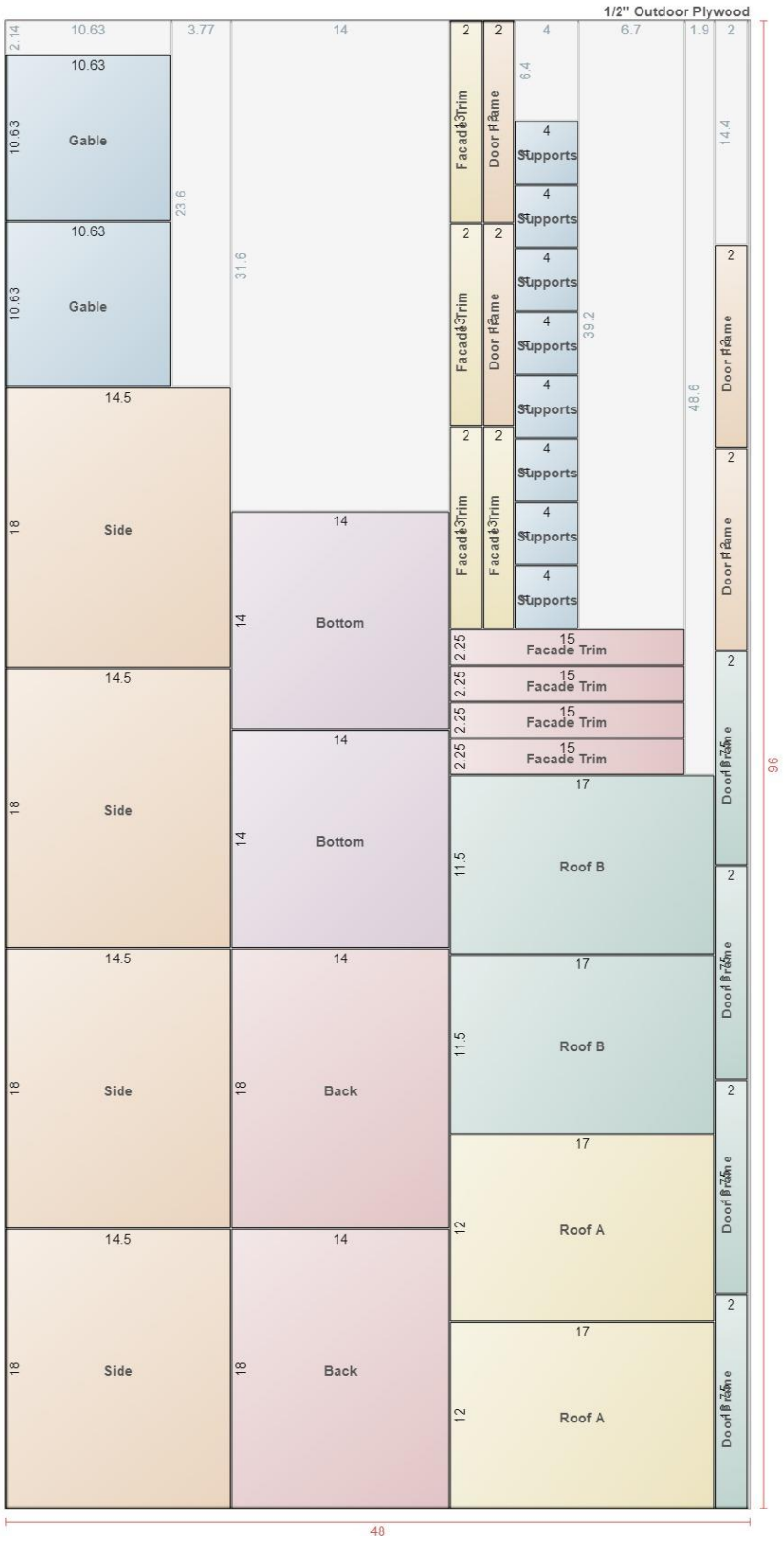
For each Library, you will need the following:

- Small Finishing Nails
- Waterproof Wood Glue
- Clear Epoxy
- Shingles (Style of your choice)
- 4x4 Post Bracket
- Door Latch with screws
- (1) ½” Treated Plywood Sheet (4’x8’)
- (1) 12” x 16” Plexiglass
- (2) ¼” Hinges with screws
- Paint
- #8 x ½” screws
- (7) Corner Braces (¾” x ½”) w/ ¾” screws
- 2” exterior wood screws
- (1) Bag on concrete mix

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Step 1: Cut All Required Panels

A single sheet of ½" outdoor plywood (4' x 8') will allow you to build two free lending libraries using the cutting pattern shown below. It is recommended that you cut all the panels at the same time prior to proceeding with construction.



Panel	Label	Qty
14×18	Back	2
17×12	Roof A	2
17×11.5	Roof B	2
14.5×18	Side	4
14×14	Bottom	2
10.63×10.63	Gable	2
15×2.25	Facade Trim	4
2×13	Facade Trim	4
2×13.75	Door Frame	4
2×13	Door Frame	4
4×4	Supports	8

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Step 2: Assemble the Main Cabinet

Begin by running a bead of wood glue along one edge of the bottom. Use two corner braces to attach one side panel to the bottom using 2 corner braces attached by ½" screws.





Repeat for the opposite side. Attach the rear panel using 3 corner braces as shown in the photo below. Use a bead of wood glue on the sides of the rear panel before attaching the panel.





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Step 3: Attach the Front

Attach the front using the four façade trim pieces. Line the edges of the box front with wood glue and then attach each trim piece using finishing nails.



Step 4: Attach the Gable Ends

Make a diagonal cut across the 10 5/8” x 10 5/8” panel cut during Step 1 (labeled Gabel). This will result in two triangular pieces that will be used for the gables. Attach two support pieces of wood (4” x 4”) using a liberal amount of wood glue and 2 ¾” screws (I used the ones that came with the corner braces since I used smaller ½” screws with them) such that approximately half of the support is overhanging the long edge of the gable. Repeat for the second gable.

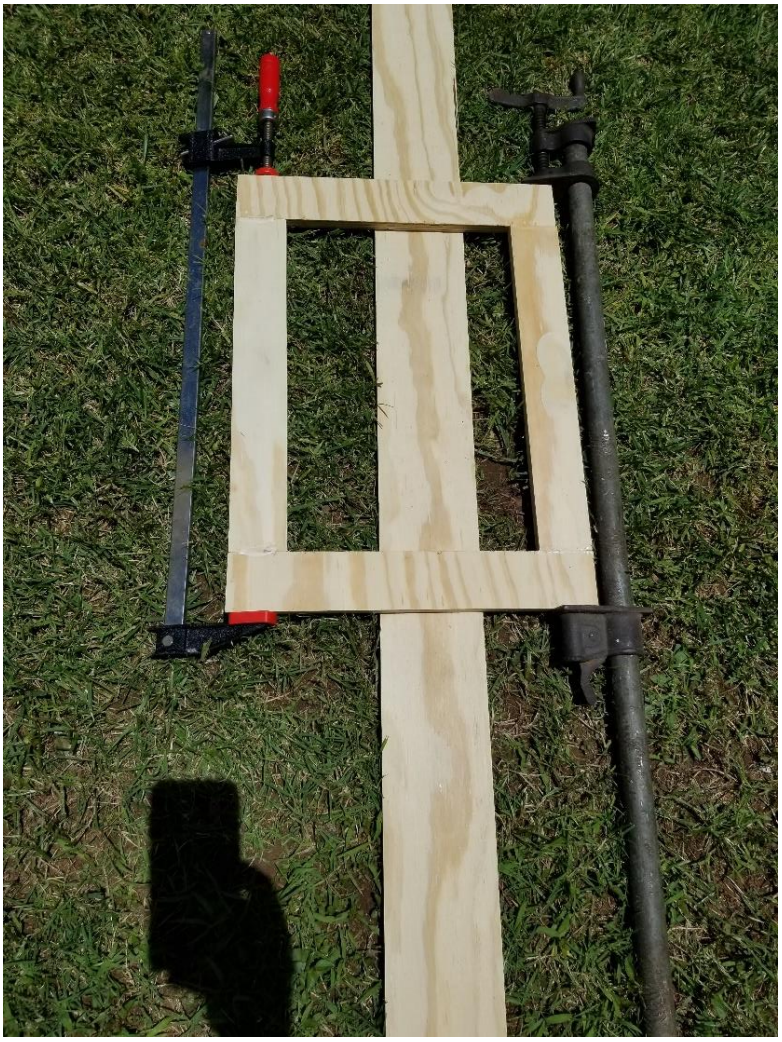
Attach the gable to the front using a liberal amount of wood glue and one ¾” screw. Repeat to attach the second gable piece to the back of the box.





Step 5: Assemble the Door

Assemble the frame of the door by applying wood glue to the wood edge and then clamp the frame. Do not overtighten the clamps, apply just enough pressure to firmly hold the frame while the wood glues. Allow the frame to dry completely while the remainder of the build is completed.



Step 6: Add the Roof

Attach the shorter roof piece (Roof B) using wood glue and finishing nails. Align the top edge of the roof with the gable and ensure equal overhand on the front and rear. Attach the other side of the roof (Roof A) in the same manner.







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Step 7: Paint

Paint both the library box and the door frame. Paint both sides of the door frame. You can use either spray paint or paint with brush. I recommend you either apply a primer first or use paint with primer included. For this build, I used a spray paint with primer that I had lying around.









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Step 8: Shingle the Roof (Optional)

If desired, apply shingles to the roof. You can use anything readily available (asphalt shingles, cedar shingles, etc). If you choose not to shingle the roof, I would recommend apply caulk along the roof edge to prevent water intrusion.

Step 9: Finish and Install the Door

Attach the plexiglass to the inside of the door using clear epoxy. After applying the epoxy, place some weight on top of the plexiglass to ensure good adhesion. After allowing the epoxy to dry, attach two hinges to the edge of the door and attach the door to the frame. Finally, attach door latch by predrilling holes slightly smaller than the latch screws and then screwing the latch.









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Step 10: Attach Post Bracket

Attach the 4”x4” post bracket on the bottom (centered) using four 1/2” screws.



Step 11: Set Post and Attach Library

Determine where you want to mount the library. Using a post-hole digger or a shovel, dig a hole approximately 12” diameter and about 2’ deep. Set the 4”x4” post in the center of the hole, brace and level the post. Mix concrete following directions on bag and fill hole with concrete. Allow concrete to set. After concrete sets, attach library to post using the post bracket and 2” wood screws on both sides of the bracket. Finally, drive a 2” wood screw threw the floor of the library into the post.



Congratulations, your free lending library construction is complete.

Add a selection of books and let your community know your libraries location. You may want to announce it on Facebook or register it in www.littlefreelibrary.org so it can be added to a map of library locations.

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