



build a puppet theater

Get creative with a dramatic stage fit for puppet show pageantry – it's the perfect place for family fun. The best part? This theater also doubles as a general store and lemonade stand



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SKILL LEVEL:

Advanced

MATERIALS:

- 2x4s cut to:
 - two 48" lengths
 - two 53" lengths
- 1/4" thickness exterior-grade plywood cut to:
 - two 24"x55" panels
 - one 24"x48" panel
 - 48"x6" panel
 - one equilateral triangular panel, all sides 48"
- Beadboard-style paneling sheets cut to:
 - Two 24"x55" panels
 - Two 4"x53" panels
 - One 24"x48" panel
 - One additional large panel to be cut-to-fit
- Wood glue
- Eight L-brackets
- Galvanized non-rusting screws
- Exterior paint
- Decorative molding (optional)
- Shelf kit (optional)
- Curtain rods and outdoor drapery (optional)
- Chalkboard paint and scrap wood (optional)

TOOLS:

- Circular saw
- Power drill
- Drill and screw bits
- Straight edge ruler
- Marking pen
- Spring clamps
- Paintbrush

STEP 1:

CREATE THE SIDE PANELS

1 Glue one 24"x55" beadboard panel onto a plywood panel of the same dimensions, holding the two layers together with spring clamps while they dry. Repeat using the second set of panels.
2 Set the two completed side panels aside as they dry.

STEP 2:

MAKE THE CENTER PANEL AND STAGE

1 Stage: Construct a 48"x53" rectangular frame by screwing the four 2x4s together.
2 Use wood glue to affix a 4"x53" beadboard strip to the outer side of each 53" 2x4. Clamp them in place until the glue dries.

3 Center panel: Create the bottom portion of the panel by taking the 24"x48" plywood panel and gluing the matching beadboard panel ovetop, again, clamping together until dry.

4 Create the peaked gable by laying a large beadboard panel on a flat even surface (so pattern runs vertical), then laying the 6"x48" plywood base and the triangular plywood "peak" on top. Butt the two roof pieces together. Trace their outline onto the beadboard, remove the plywood, and cut out the roof outline in one piece.
5 Position the base and peak on the work surface again, butted together, then glue the single panel of beadboard over top of it, to hold the plywood together. Clamp until dry.

STEP 3:

COMPLETE THE CONSTRUCTION

1 Center panel: Apply the 24"x48" lower panel to the lower half of the 2x4 frame, driving screws in through



the beadboard/plywood panel and into the 2x4s.

2 Gable: Apply the peaked gable to the 2x4 frame, 6" down from the top of the 48" vertical 2x4s. Attach it securely with screws.

3 Side panels: Attach each of the side panels to the main front panel with four evenly spaced L brackets per side.

4 Paint the theater with an exterior paint in your chosen color, following manufacturer's directions for drying time.

STEP 4:

ADD YOUR FINISHING TOUCHES (OPTIONAL)

Try as many of these options as you like!

1 Use decorative trim to frame out the front of the stage, or entire center panel. Apply it with finishing nails or glue it on, securing with clamps until dry.

2 Add a wood shelf to create a "floor" for center stage.

3 Attach a curtain rod to the inside of the stage, and add a fabric panel.

4 Paint scrap lumber with chalkboard paint (following manufacture directions for proper drying time), add a border, and screw it into the front to create a marquee.

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