

Project 19488EZ: Rocking Horse

Pint-sized cowboys will have lots of fun on this sturdy rocking horse made from pine. The horse's head requires some carving, but since the design is fairly simple, we expect that even beginners will have little difficulty.



Rocking Horse Materials List

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd
A	Rocker	1-3/4" x 4-3/4" x 41"	2
B	Stretcher	1/4" x 3" x 17"	2
C	Leg	1-3/4" x 1-3/4" x 14"	4
D	Seat	1-3/4" x 11" x 27"	1
E	Head	3-1/2" x 10-1/4" x 14-1/2"	1
F	Handle	1" dia. x 10" long	1

Rocking Horse Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Make the Rockers (A)

1. Select 1-3/4" thick stock to make the two rockers (parts A).
2. Cut to a width of 4-3/4" and a length of 41".
3. Transfer the curved profile from the grid pattern to the stock.
4. Keep the blade slightly on the waste side of the line, and cut to shape with a band or saber saw.
5. Use a file and sandpaper to smooth the stock exactly to the line.

Step 2: Make the Stretchers

1. Select 1-3/4" thick stock from which to make the two stretchers (parts B).
2. Cut to 3" wide and 17" long.
3. Lay out and mark the location of the 7/8" deep by 1-3/4" wide dadoes on each end.
4. Equip the table saw with a dado-head cutter.
5. Set the dado-head to make a 7/8" deep cut.
6. Hold the stock firmly against the miter gauge and pass through the cutter.
7. Make two or three more passes to cut each dado to the 1-3/4" width.
8. Make the simple jig shown in **Figure 1**. **NOTE: This jig will insure the accuracy of the hole angles in each of the stretchers.**
9. Clamp the jig to the stretcher so that the holes are properly located.

10. Use a 1" diameter bit to bore the two holes in each of the stretchers at an angle of 108 degrees as shown.

Step 3: Make the Legs (C)

1. Select 1-3/4" square stock from which to make the four legs (parts C).
2. Lathe-turn the 1" diameter x 1-1/4" long tenons and skip to main step 4, **OR** make the tenons by hand according to the following steps:
 - a) Cut the leg to a length of 14".
 - b) Use a compass or draftsman's circle template to scribe a 1" circle at the center of each end of the leg.
 - c) Scribe a line around all four sides at a point 1-1/4" from each end.
 - d) Use these scribed lines as guides and use a rasp or Stanley Surform tool to rough out the tenon.
 - e) Work to keep the diameter consistent throughout the entire length of the tenon.
 - f) Use a file and sandpaper to complete the shaping.
 - g) Test the fit in the stretcher holes as you final shape.

Step 4: Make the Seat (D)

1. Select a piece of standard 2" by 12" stock from which to make the seat (part D).
2. Cut the stock to 1-3/4" thick x 11-1/4" wide.
3. Transfer the curved profile from the grid pattern to the stock.
4. Cut the profile to shape with a band or saber saw.
5. Use the jig to bore out the four tenon holes as shown.
6. Bore the hole for the tail with a 1-1/4" spade bit.

Step 5: Make the Head (E)

1. Face-glue two pieces of 1-3/4" thick stock together to provide the 3-1/2" thickness needed for the head (part E).
2. Transfer the grid pattern to the stock.
3. Use a band or saber saw to cut to shape.
4. Clamp the stock to your workbench.
5. Use a half-round gouge to carve the features as shown.
6. Sand thoroughly.
7. Bore a 1" diameter hole through the head to accept the handle (part F).
8. Make the handle from a 10" length of 1" dowel stock.

Step 6: Sand, Assemble, and Finish

1. Final sand all parts.
2. Apply glue to the hole in the head that you bored for the handle.
3. Run the handle through the hole bored for it.
4. Glue the legs (parts C) to the stretchers (parts B) and to the seat (part D).

5. Allow the glue to dry.
6. Glue and clamp the stretchers to the rockers (parts A).
7. Allow the glue to dry.
8. Remove the clamps.
9. Drill 1-3/4" deep holes for the 3/8" diameter by 2" long dowel pins as shown.
10. Apply the glue to the pins.
11. Drive the pins into place with a mallet.
12. Use a file to chamfer the 1/4" of the pin that is exposed.
13. Drill pilot holes for the four 1/4" x 3-1/2" lag screws used to attach the head
14. Glue the four screws with washers to attach the head.
15. Braid 3/8" to 1/2" wide hemp rope and tie at the ends to make the tail.
16. Screw a bracket into the underside of the seat to hold the tail in place.
17. Allow all glued parts to dry.
18. Final sand all parts.
19. Stain to suit.
20. Apply to coats of polyurethane varnish to provide a durable final finish.

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Rocking Horse Complete Schematic

