

how to make corn hole boards

How to make corn hole boards is a fun and rewarding project that can bring hours of entertainment to gatherings, parties, and backyard barbecues. Cornhole, also known as bean bag toss, is a popular outdoor game with simple rules and engaging gameplay. In this article, we will guide you through the step-by-step process of constructing your own cornhole boards, providing tips and tricks along the way to ensure your boards are both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

Materials Needed

Before diving into the construction process, it's essential to gather all the necessary materials. Here's a list of what you will need:

- **Wood:** 2 pieces of 2'x4' plywood for the playing surface, 2 pieces of 2'x4' for the frame, and 2 pieces of 1"x4" for the legs.
- **Screws:** 1 1/4" wood screws for assembling the frame and legs.
- **Wood glue:** for additional stability.
- **Sandpaper:** medium and fine grit for smoothing edges.
- **Paint or stain:** optional for finishing the boards.
- **Drill and drill bits:** for making holes and driving screws.
- **Measuring tape:** to ensure accurate dimensions.
- **Saw:** a circular saw or table saw for cutting wood to size.
- **Jigsaw:** for cutting the hole in the playing surface.
- **Leg brackets:** optional but recommended for easier leg attachment.

Step-by-Step Construction Process

Now that you have all your materials ready, let's break down the construction process into manageable steps.

1. Cutting the Wood

Start by cutting your plywood sheets and lumber to the correct dimensions. The standard size for cornhole boards is:

- **Playing Surface:** 24" wide x 48" long
- **Hole Size:** 6" diameter, centered 9" from the back edge and 12" from each

side

- Frame: 2"x4" pieces cut to fit around the plywood (make sure to account for the thickness of the plywood when measuring)
- Legs: Cut the 1"x4" lumber to 12" lengths

2. Assembling the Frame

Using the 2"x4" pieces, create a rectangular frame that will support the plywood playing surface. Here's how to assemble it:

1. Lay the two long pieces parallel to each other.
2. Position the two shorter pieces between them, ensuring they are flush with the ends.
3. Secure the corners with wood screws and wood glue for added strength.

Ensure that the frame is sturdy and square. You can use a carpenter's square to check the angles.

3. Attaching the Playing Surface

Once your frame is assembled, it's time to attach the plywood playing surface. Follow these steps:

1. Place the plywood on top of the frame.
2. Center it properly and ensure it is flush with the edges of the frame.
3. Secure the plywood to the frame using wood screws. Use several screws around the perimeter for stability.

4. Cutting the Hole

Now, you will need to cut the hole in the playing surface. Here's how to do it:

1. Measure and mark the center point for the hole (12" from each side and 9" from the back).
2. Use a compass or a round object to trace a 6" circle around the center point.
3. Carefully cut out the circle using a jigsaw. Make sure to follow the line as closely as possible.

5. Sanding the Edges

After cutting, it's crucial to smooth the edges of the boards. Use medium-grit sandpaper to remove any rough spots, followed by fine-grit sandpaper for a smooth finish. Pay special attention to the edges of the hole to ensure no splinters are present.

6. Painting or Staining (Optional)

If you wish to personalize your cornhole boards, now is the time to paint or stain them. Here are some tips:

- Choose your finish: You can choose to paint a design, stain for a natural look, or even apply decals.
- Apply multiple coats: If painting, apply multiple thin coats for even coverage. For staining, allow each coat to dry before applying another.
- Seal with a clear coat: Once your finish is dry, consider sealing it with a clear coat to protect against weather damage and wear.

7. Attaching the Legs

For the legs, you will have two options: fixed or foldable. Here's how to attach them:

- Fixed Legs: Attach the legs directly to the back of the board using screws. Position them at a 45-degree angle for stability.
- Foldable Legs: If you prefer foldable legs, use leg brackets. Attach the brackets to the back of the board, then attach the legs to the brackets.

For fixed legs, ensure they are secured well, and for foldable legs, test the mechanism to ensure ease of use.

Final Touches and Gameplay

Once your boards are fully assembled and finished, it's time to focus on the final touches:

- Paint the Cornhole Boards: If you haven't already, consider painting or stenciling the boards with your favorite colors or designs.
- Create Bean Bags: A complete cornhole set needs bags! Use durable fabric and fill each bag with dried corn kernels or plastic pellets. The standard size is 6"x6" and they should weigh between 14-16 ounces.

Conclusion

How to make corn hole boards is a fulfilling DIY project that enhances your outdoor entertainment experience. With a few materials, tools, and a bit of patience, you can create custom cornhole boards that will impress your friends and family. Whether you choose to keep it simple or add intricate designs, the satisfaction of playing on your own handmade boards will make the effort worthwhile. So gather your materials, follow these steps, and enjoy countless hours of fun with this classic backyard game!

Frequently Asked Questions

What materials do I need to make cornhole boards?

You will need 2 sheets of plywood (4' x 2'), 2 x 4 lumber for the frame, wood screws, sandpaper, wood glue, paint or stain, and a drill.

What are the dimensions of a standard cornhole board?

A standard cornhole board measures 48 inches long by 24 inches wide, with a hole that is 6 inches in diameter, centered 9 inches from the back.

How do I cut the hole in the cornhole board?

Use a jigsaw to cut a 6-inch diameter hole, ensuring it is centered 9 inches from the back of the board and 12 inches from each side.

What is the best way to finish the surface of the cornhole boards?

Sand the surface of the boards smooth, then apply a wood stain or paint followed by a clear sealant to protect the finish.

How can I make my cornhole boards portable?

Attach folding legs using hinges so that the boards can be collapsed for easy transport and storage.

Can I customize the design of my cornhole boards?

Yes, you can customize the boards with paint, decals, or vinyl graphics to match your personal style or theme.

What is the recommended height for the cornhole boards?

The front of the cornhole board should be 12 inches off the ground, and the back should be 4 inches higher, creating a slope.

How do I ensure that my cornhole boards are level?

Use a level tool during assembly to ensure that both boards are perfectly level and adjust the legs as necessary.

What are some tips for making durable cornhole boards?

Use high-quality wood, apply multiple coats of sealant, and store the boards indoors when not in use to prevent weather damage.

Is it necessary to use a specific type of wood for cornhole boards?

While plywood is commonly used, many prefer using birch or maple for a smoother finish and better durability.

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