

# Pallet Coffee Table with Lifting Top and Landing Gear

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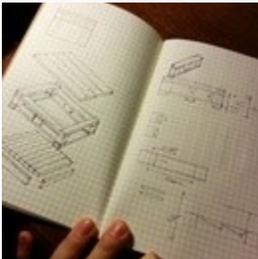
Intro



## Intro: Pallet Coffee Table with Lifting Top and Landing Gear

A coffee table made from upcycled pallet wood and bed slats. The table top lifts to be used as a work surface when seated and also reveals a storage c...

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## Step 1: Planning

Having acquired a few decent pallets from friends, I set about pulling them apart. This Instructable on [How To Dismantle a Pallet](#) may be useful, though...

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## Step 2: Measure, cut, sand, glue, screw, repeat

After cleaning and sanding the rough pallet wood to within an inch of its life, I cut four planks to 600mm in length and glued them to the four suppor...

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## Step 3: Legs / base

After toying various ideas for styles of leg, I decided (influenced in some part by the lack of a mitre powersaw) to make a 'double-decker'-style low...

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## Step 4: Lifting the top...

The mechanism to lift the table top is fairly straight forward and nothing you won't have seen before. Battens are screwed to the corner posts on the ...

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### **Step 5: 'Hidden' storage compartment**

The box-type pallet design I used to build the top has a natural cavity at its centre which would naturally be exposed when lifting the lid. The optio...

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### **Step 6: Lifting the rest of it...**

Knowing my son would climb on the table and try to push it around, I wanted the table to be simultaneously sturdy and hard to move, but relatively eas...

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### **Step 7: Landing Gear**

The landing gear consists of two 450mm lengths of wood each with two castor wheels at their ends which are hinged onto the inside edge of the table. W...

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### **Step 8: Feet**

To replace the original block feet/plastic castor arrangement, I decided to use four adjustable feet. As the landing gear was designed to lift the ta...

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### **Step 9: Finishing off and conclusion.**

When everything was put together and tested as working, I set about sanding it all over firstly with the power sander (mainly to get the harsh corners...













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A coffee table made from upcycled pallet wood and bed slats. The table top lifts to be used as a work surface when seated and also reveals a storage compartment beneath. A pedal-controlled retractable castor wheel system allows the table to be moved smoothly and easily, yet remain stable when in use.

[Please note I had no intention of creating an Instructable when beginning this project, so I apologise if some stages are a little thin on the photograph side of things - I'll do my utmost to fill in the blanks using notes in the photos I do have.]

Our original coffee table was an **IKEA Lack** which was, appropriately,

lacking in various areas: The dimensions were not ideal for the size and shape of our living room - it was slightly too long (900mm), slightly too narrow (550mm) and slightly too tall (500mm). So came the decision to build my own.

While we have a nice desk (converted base from an old sewing machine, if you're interested,) it does involve some minor gymnastics to reach it behind the sofa which is far from ideal. I wanted to create something that had a sturdy surface just over knee height for writing/typing, etc, which could be used instead of the desk for brief periods.

The other major consideration is that I have an ~18-month-old son running around the place. Whatever I ended up with needed to be safe for him and easy for us to move around - for all its faults, the old coffee table was good at blocking off areas of the living room.

Perusing Instructables during my lunch hour, I found user [lofgren's](#) wonderful [Coffee table upgrade!](#) which, in terms of functionality, was exactly what I wanted to achieve. As I very much liked the various and clever pallet projects found on Instructables and (having never made furniture before) knowing the process would involve trial and error, re/upcycling cheap and imperfect pallet wood seemed the obvious route.

Tools, parts and materials used:

- Three or four clean pallets
- A stack of not-too-worn bed slats
- Scrap/spare wood
- Drill, various bits including hole saw
- Jigsaw, originally with a crappy flexing blade, later with a stiff neat-cut blade
- Power sander, with coarse and not-so-coarse paper
- Various spanners, screwdrivers, chisels, mole grip, piers, pincers, crowbar

- Rasp
- Set square
- Steel ruler
- Measuring tape
- An assortment of screws I have
- **Gorilla wood glue** (I can't recommend this stuff enough)
- Clamps. I had only four, but the more you have the merrier you will be
- Wood stain, lint-free cloth
- 10mm dowel
- Screws, various
- M8 x 100mm bolts
- Regular, ny-lock nuts and T-nut
- Washers, various
- x4 **50mm rubber castor wheels, no brakes**
- x2 80nm **gas struts/stays**
- x5 Screw-in eyelets.
- x4 M8 adjustable feet
- Cork pads to attach to feet
- **Springs, various**