

RED RIBBON STAR ON PALLET WOOD BASE
Materials/Tools List & Instructions



Time Required: If you are using wood that you already have sitting in a pile ready to go, this project could literally take you just *a few minutes*...as the post I found on Pinterest suggested. I did not have said pile of wood, so I had to deconstruct a pallet and then cut it to size. In the end it took me about *1.5 + hours* to make my star.

Skill Level: Barely skilled

Materials / Tools List

- 1 wood pallet
- 3 1"x2"s cut to size
- Nails to construct the pallet base
- Wood stain, finishing wax, paint, or tongue oil...or nothing (personal preference)
- 5 nails to make the star itself (I actually used 5 of the rusty nails I pulled out of my pallet)
- Approximately 5 1/2 yards of ribbon
- 2 eye-hooks & string or wire (for hanging)
- *Tools:* Crowbar, 5-in-1, hammer, painter's tape, straight edge, pencil (or Sharpie), circular saw, sandpaper and/or steel-wool, and depending on the size nail you used for your base, you may need a drill and grinder bit.

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Instructions

- Deconstruct the pallet:
 - Use a crowbar, 5-in-1, and hammer to forcefully and sometimes gingerly pry off the wood.
 - If you end up splitting some of the boards (which I did on all 3 of the narrower boards), try to keep them in as few pieces as possible - they can fairly easily be mashed back together and then nailed into place. That's what I did.
- Construct the base:
 - *Determine size of base:* Given that the star essentially fills a square space, you need to figure out what your limiting dimension is. After prying off all the pallet boards lay them out side-by-side. With mine, the side where all the boards came together was narrower than the length of a pallet board, so that became the measurement of my square...28.5" (which will likely be a bit different with each pallet).
 - *Form the base / connect the pallet boards:* Cut 3 pieces of 1"x 2" to a length that is a couple inches or so less than the size of your square (for mine it was 26")...to use as the support structure. Lay them on the ground parallel to each other and within the space that would make up your square (28.5" square for me). Nail the first pallet board in place - perpendicular to the supports, leaving about a 3/4" space to the edge on both sides of what would end up being the corner of the base. This keeps the 3 support boards in place as you add the other pallet boards to the base. (BTW, I chose to line up the pallet boards the same as they were on the pallet...which kept the old nail holes aligned. I felt this would be less distracting to the star vs. the nail holes being more randomly placed.) Once all the boards are nailed into place, you will be left with about a foot or so extra of pallet boards sticking out beyond the support boards.
 - *Cut the base to size:* Now that your pallet boards are nailed into place it is easy to make one cut with your circular saw. Measure and mark the other side of your square (again, 28.5" for me). Then place a piece of painter's tape across the boards at your marks and draw a line on top of the tape using a Sharpie and straight edge. Lastly, make a single cut with your circular saw. When you make your cut, make sure to lift the base off the ground enough to give your saw clearance...I simply used some extra pieces of 4"x 4" I had lying around.
- Finish your base: Regardless of what else you do to finish your base, you'll probably want to clean it up a bit. I did - the pallet I used was very old, dirty, and had things growing on it. All that required was quickly rubbing it down with a piece of sandpaper and some steel wool. Because I wanted to have a base with a more uniform look, I chose to stain it with a finishing wax. But depending on where you are displaying your masterpiece, you could leave it as-is. Regardless, whatever you do to your base, you'll want to do it now...before you hammer in the nails and make things much more difficult to work around.

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Make your star: This is the part of the project that literally took just a few minutes.

- *Place your nails:* Although Britt and I simply eye-balled where our 5 points of the star would go on the base, you could mark out a star with chalk (depending on how you finished your base). Then you simply hammer in your nails. We used rusty nails from the remains of the pallet...but you could use most anything that goes with the look you're going for.
- *Wrap your ribbon...and tie your bow:* Britt had several ribbons to choose from. Given it was Christmas we chose a red one...and wanting to make a bolder statement we used a thicker one...2". Keeping it on the spool, loosely wrap the ribbon around the nails to determine where to make your cut...making sure to leave enough extra for the size bow you want. Make your cut and then finally...wrap the ribbon around the nails and tie your bow. That's it...you're done.
- *Note on the ribbon:* Although we used a thick red ribbon because it was Christmastime, you could use most anything to form your star - depending on if you wanted to display it year round or where you were placing it. For example: twine or wire wrapped around a number of times, rope or really any color of ribbon.
- Other notes:
 - *Hanging or not:* I would have likely placed it on a mantel or on a table leaning up against the wall, but not knowing who would get this as a gift, I needed to make it so that it could be hung. So I simply screwed in 2 eye-hooks on the top edge of the top support board and then tied a string between them doubled-over.
 - *Warning – the nails may poke through:* I noticed after finishing the base that all the nails poked through the support boards about 1/8". To fix that I simply ground them down using a grinder bit and power drill.