

HOWDAH HOW TO

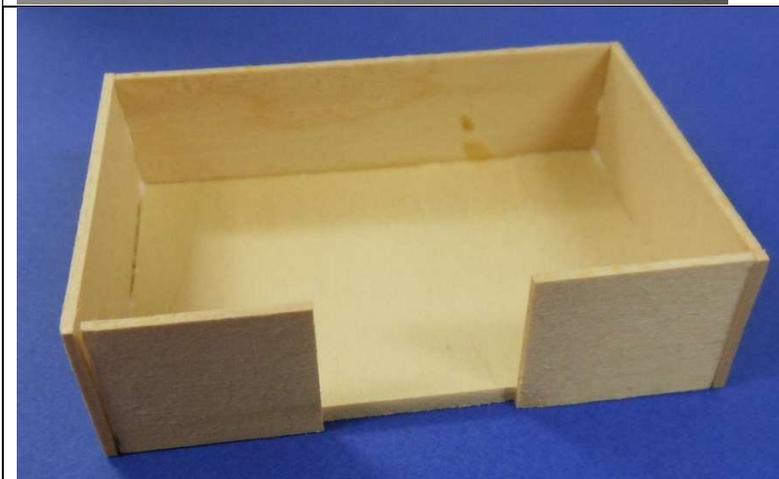
BY ALICIAN PEARCE



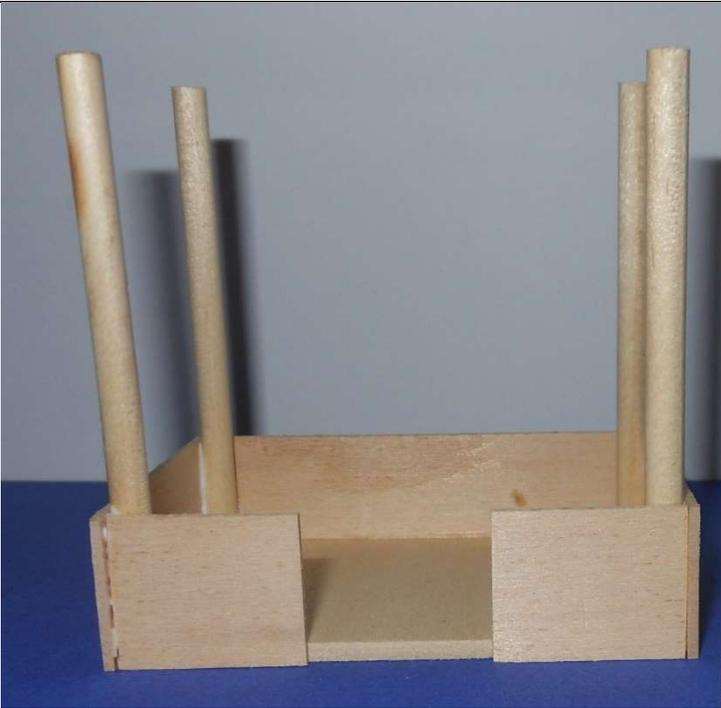
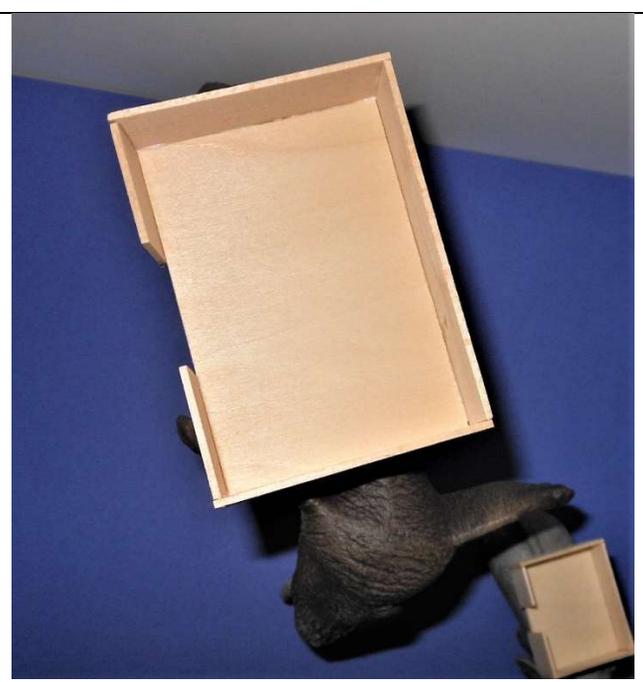
Find a toy elephant the size that you want to work with. This one is from Schleich. I got him from Amazon. I also 3D printed a smaller one, that would be more in the scale of $\frac{1}{4}$ ". These directions can be scaled to any size elephant that you find.



We first want to make the base of the howdah. You want it slightly smaller than the elephant is long, but you want it wider than the elephant is wide.



Next, we are going to make the box for the riders to sit in. You don't want the sides too tall, as the riders will not be able to see over the side when they are sitting. I used $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide wood for the sides. I totally enclosed three of the sides, and left an opening for the riders to get into the box. The photos below, show the proportions for the box.



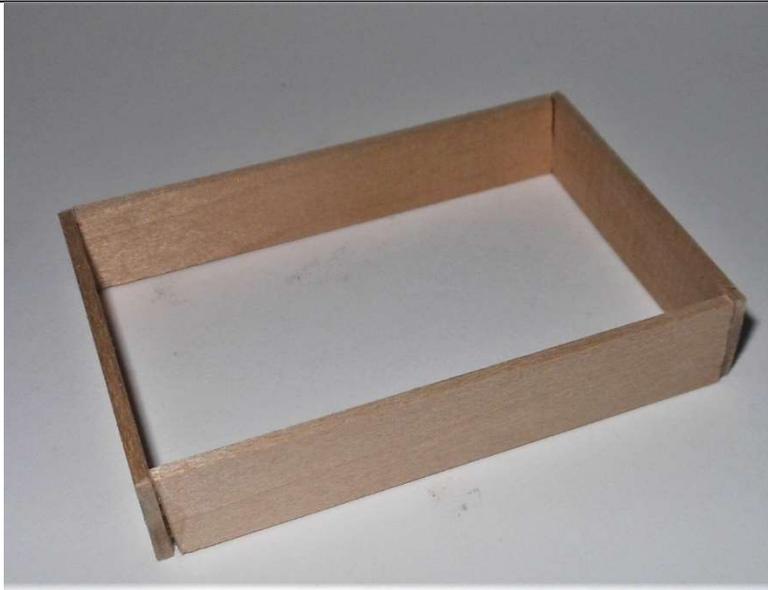
Next you will want to cut either dowels or square stock for the columns. I had dowels on hand, so that is what I used. I cut the dowels 3" long. Remember that you want them long enough so the canopy is tall enough for the riders to walk under. Part of the dowels will be up in the canopy. Glue them into the corners. Let dry.



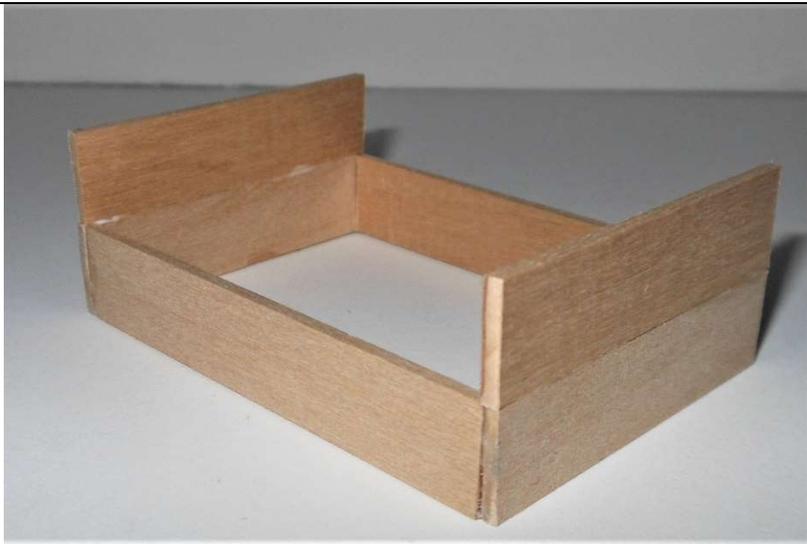
While the box is drying, let's make the blanket for under the howdah. I cut a rectangular piece of fabric. But before I cut it out, I put glue on the back where I was going to cut. Let dry and then cut the fabric. This will keep the fabric from fraying.



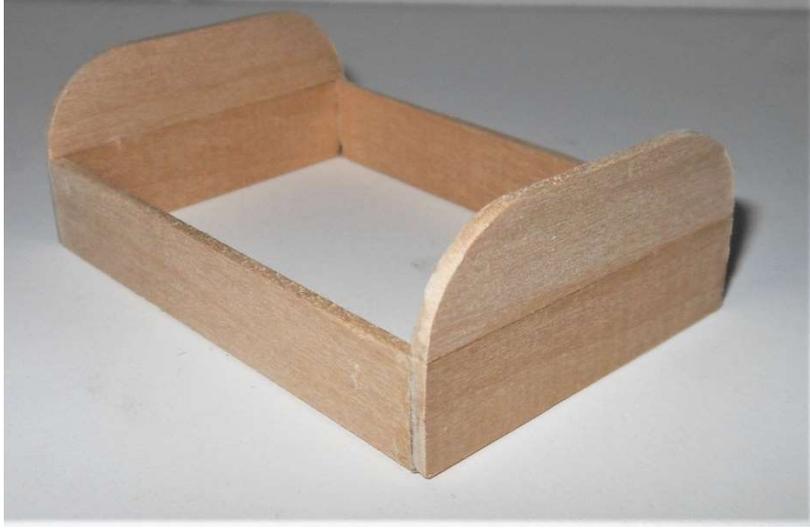
When I had the piece cut out, I added a touch of trim. You can add more if you like. Some of the elephants were heavily decorated, and others were very simple. When the trim is dry, glue the blanket on to the elephant.



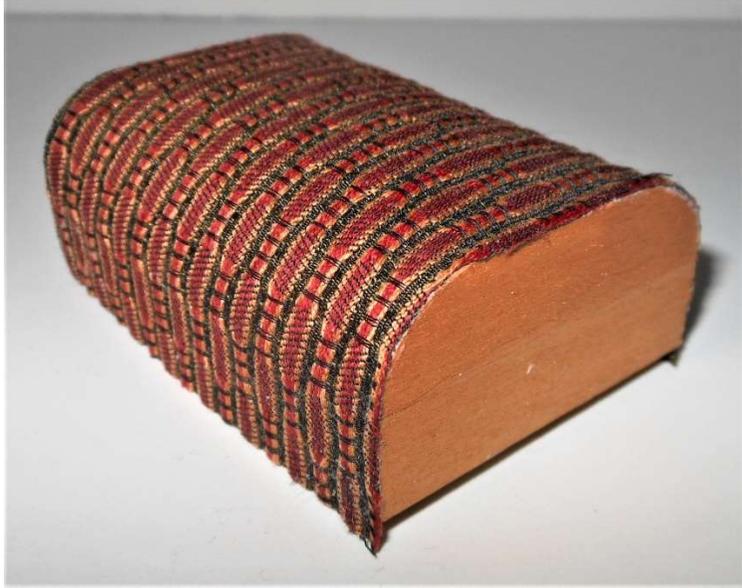
Now on to the canopy. You want to make a box the size of the bottom box, without a floor. Don't worry if the sides don't match up very well, they will be covered.



I want my canopy to be slightly rounded. So I glued another piece of wood the same width as the sides to the top edge of the sides, to give it some height. Let dry completely!!



When dry, sand the sides round. Make sure you get both ends the same.



When you are happy with your sides, it is time to cover the canopy. Start at the bottom of one side, glue that edge down, put glue along the curved edge, and then glue the other flat side down. Let dry and trim any excess if you need to.



I painted my whole howdah gold. You can paint it any color you wish. When the bottom section of the howdah is dry, turn it over. I glued some small square stock on to the bottom with a gap in it. This will help hold the whole howdah upright. When dry, insert the base of the howdah into the canopy. You may wish to add trims to the edges of your canopy. It helps to cover up rough edges.



Here is my finished howdah. You may wish to put some pillows into the bottom, or you can paint your elephant. They sometimes put jewels on them, painted mandalas, and other designs. I encourage you to google elephant howdahs, and make it your own! I hope you enjoyed this project, and if you have any questions, please email me at ubfaep@yahoo.com