How to Build An Adirondack Chair.

An Adirondack chair is a great project for a beginner or experienced woodworker. You can build one or more in a weekend.

With its wide arms, big enough to act as serving trays, and its lean-back seating position, this chair is perfect for kicking back and enjoying a summer afternoon on the deck. The best wood to use is cedar, which is relatively inexpensive, lightweight and weathers well. Mahogany is another good choice. Avoid woods like pine, unless you plan on adding several coats of weatherproof outdoor paint. I prefer to keep the wood natural, and use a wipe-on outdoor finish. The wood will eventually turn an elegant silver color and require only an occasional light sanding and new coat of wipe-on finish.

This chair is assembled using outdoor wood screws (stainless or galvanized) and galvanized carriage bolts. No glue is necessary. Below are plans for building the chair.

If you need or want more detailed instructions, full-size plans are available in the online store.

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Step 1: Cut out straight parts with a circular saw or table saw
Step 2: Cut curved parts using a jig saw or band saw
Step 3: Cut tapers on slats (jigsaw, band saw, table saw, or jointer)
Step 4: Sand or plane edges to remove saw marks
Step 5: Round edges with sander or router and round over bit
Step 6: Assemble chair, starting with lower section, then adding seat slats, arms, and finally the back

An Adirondack chair can be built in a day. (Photo: Michael Pekovich)