Little Free Libraries
What is a Little Free Library?

It’s a “take a book, return a book” gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. You can, too!

Click here to watch this two minute video to see how Little Free Libraries work.

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CONSTRUCTION OF A

“LITTLE FREE LIBRARY”

Gary Mehlum,
pressed into service by wife and UHLS employee Mary Fellows
(“When you marry a librarian, you marry the library”)
TOOLS

- Straight edge
- Electric drill
- Drill bits (1/8” and 11/32”)
- Hole saw (1½”)
- C-clamps
- Paint brush
- Screw driver
- Ruler
- Tape measure
- Rasp
- Skill saw
- Reciprocating saw
- Miter saw
- Tin shears
SOME ESSENTIAL TOOLS
RECIPROCATING SAW AND MITER SAW
1½” HOLE SAW
DIRECTIONS (page 1)

1. Use a saw guide to ensure straight cuts. Slide 8 shows a saw guide consisting of a board secured to the working piece with C-clamps.

2. Using a skill saw, cut the pieces for the sides, bottom, and roof from ¾” plywood. See slide 9 for dimensions. One long edge of each roof piece must be cut at a 45° angle.

3. Cut the opening in the front per dimensions on slide 10. Using a 1½” hole saw, cut a hole at each corner, then cut from corner to corner using a reciprocating saw.

4. Assemble the sides and bottom using #10, 1½” screws. Use four screws along each vertical joint and the bottom to back joint. Use three screws along bottom to side and bottom to front joints. Use a 1/8” drill to make a pilot hole. Use an 11/32” drill to carefully make a countersink hole so the head of the screw ends up flush with the surface.

5. Install the roof pieces. Secure the roof pieces to the sides of the building using four screws for each piece.

6. Using a miter saw, cut the pieces for the door frame from ¾” x 2½” board per the dimensions shown on slide 11.

7. Assemble the door frame by gluing the four corners using wood glue (e.g. Titebond II). Provide additional strength by installing 4” x 4” braces at each corner on what will be the inside of the door. Attach the braces using #8 ¾” wood screws.
8. Attach the acrylic sheet to the back side of the door with mirror clips. Since the acrylic sheet is thinner than a 1/8” thick mirror, it will probably be necessary to glue thin strips of plastic to the mirror clips to provide a snug fit between the clips and the acrylic sheet. Plastic strips of the correct thickness can be cut from an electrical outlet cover. Use #6 ¾” screws to secure the clips to the door frame. Use two clips along the top and bottom edges of the acrylic sheet and one clip on each side.

9. Using a wood chisel, cut a mortise into the door frame so that the hinges sit flush with the surface of the frame. Attach the hinges to the door using screws supplied with the hinges. Ensure that the hinges are positioned so they will not interfere with the screws that attach the side and front pieces of the library.

10. Attach the door to the library using #10 ¾” wood screws. Nominally, the screws will screw into the side piece of the library rather than the front piece.

11. Install the handle onto the door using screws provided with the handle.

12. Cut the aluminum drip cap to the length of the roof. To avoid an exposed sharp edge, remove the ¼” raised edge (which is along one side of the drip cap) with a pair of tin shears. Install the drip cap on the peak of the library using #8 3/8” gutter screws.

13. Prime and paint the library.
USING A BOARD C-CLAMPED TO ¾" PLYWOOD TO GUIDE THE SAW
PIECES CUT FROM ¾” PLYWOOD

DIMENSIONS OF THE FRONT OPENING

1 5/8"

2"

2 3/4"
DIMENSIONS FOR DOOR FRAME

18 5/16

Two each, ¾ thick, 2.5” wide
Cut at 45 degree angle on each end

15 5/16
THE FINISHED PRODUCT
More information