

Crafty Time

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Picnic Table Fun!

Ants came to visit and that got me thinking. Picnic tables will look great with our Happy Tree Village diorama. Let's do it!



You will need:

Tools: ruler & markers, scissors, paintbrush
Materials: craft sticks, toothpicks, masking tape, glue, cardboard, paint wash

1.Measure, mark & cut



Cut the round edges off of the craft sticks and cut them in half to about 2 1/4" wide. Glue two together lengthwise, support with masking tape and set aside. Cut flat toothpicks down to 1 1/4" for the bench supports and 3/4" for the legs.

2.Cardboard 'R' helper



I was inspired by woodworker jigs and concrete forms. Make a 1" wide valley, the thickness of a piece of corrugated cardboard plus one layer of thin card. This is to get consistent distance and alignments between the bench and tops, and also to support them while they dry.

3.Upside-down



Center the table tops at the bottom of your cardboard valley. Tape down. Test, mark and place the benches. Glue toothpick horizontal bench supports, then diagonals, using an old brush to place the glue. Adjust as needed. When dry, trim down legs and bits as needed with scissors.



4.Wash & detail



You can rough up the tops and benches with a fingernail or a knife. Then, paint dirty paint water on there to age the surfaces and bring out detail. This is what they call a "wash". When dry, add some character with a ballpoint pen.

What would you like to see next in Crafty Time?

I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Please email your thoughts, ideas and photos to dave@masoncounty.com or call the Shelton-Mason County Journal office, 360-426-4412.