

Ten Green Wee Shelving: small shelving unit using beer bottles

by [royshearer](#) on November 9, 2006

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| intro: Ten Green Wee Shelving: small shelving unit using beer bottles | 2 |
| step 1: What you need. | 2 |
| step 2: Prepare your timber/shelving material | 3 |
| step 3: Finish the timber | 4 |
| step 4: Assemble. | 5 |
| Related Instructables | 6 |
| Advertisements | 6 |
| Customized Instructable T-shirts | 6 |
| Comments | 7 |

intro: Ten Green Wee Shelving: small shelving unit using beer bottles

A shelving unit constructed from found timber and used beer bottles. This shelf unit is designed to sit upon a kitchen counter or desk, or built up from the floor. It is a compact system that is easily assembled, adapted and disassembled - ideal for those who move residence often. All you need once you move in is a raucous housewarming to provide the empties!

The prototype was built with the Coach House Trust in Glasgow, using bottles from their recycling centre, and wood from the maintenance of their own sites. You can use any found timber, and adapt the dimensions to suit the wood you are working with.

Some examples are for sale at our shop [here](#).

Design is released under a share alike/attribution CC license by [Zero-waste Design](#).



Image Notes

1. In this prototype, we were playing with routing fairy lights in and out of the bottles.

step 1: What you need.

Some timber or other shelving type material (see next step).

Hook and eye strainers / turnbuckles as they are sometimes called (1 per shelf). I used the smallest I could find, which are 14mm OD and the buckle, with M5 (ie. 5mm diameter) threads. Such as [these](#) from Screwfix. These should have a minimum reach of 160mm ideally, but this can be extended with ess hooks or some chain perhaps.

Screw hooks (2 sturdy cup hooks per shelf - 4mm diameter ones are best, such as [these](#) from Techni-cable). Depending on the height of your bottles, you may need some ess hooks too to help the strainer reach between the upper and lower hooks (such as [these](#) at Warehouse Direct, although they're cheaper in a regular hardware shop).

2 x 32mm Glass plates such as [these](#) from Best are handy for securing the top shelf to the wall if you are going 4 shelves or higher.

Beer bottles (2 per shelf). All the same brand/height/shape preferable. Wash them thoroughly in hot soapy water - the longer they soak the easier it will be to get the glue off. Allow to dry.

You will also need a 32mm flat drill bit or, better still, a Forstner drill bit and a power drill.



step 2: Prepare your timber/shelving material

Find some timber, approx. 600-800mm long and, say, 120mm wide and 20mm thick. This might be shelving material, flooring, or cut up bits of furniture. You can have almost as many shelves as you want, I suggest 3 to 6, something like that.

Prepare the planks by planing if necessary, cutting to the desired size and sanding.

On the underside of each shelf, drill a row of holes down the length of the shelf. These should be marked out in pencil first, positioned centrally, 30mm apart and of 3mm diameter. Then use every other hole as a pilot for a larger 32mm hole, drilled to half the depth of the plank with a flat or Forstner bit. This step basically involves drilling two types of holes, alternately down the centreline along the length of each shelf.

If you are using laminated chipboard, consider routing any cut edges to disguise any chipping.





step 3: Finish the timber

Sand off the sharp edges produced by drilling.

Finishing with oil, varnish or wax is optional, but is recommended if the shelves are to get heavy use (eg. in the kitchen). I like to give plain pine 2 or 3 coats of neutral coloured wax.

At this point you might want to attach glass plates at either end of the rear side of the top shelf.

If you are making up kits, I like to tape the fixings for each shelf to the respective shelf with masking tape as shown in the main picture. It also gives you a handy place to put your stamp!



Image Notes

1. glass plates can point down or up as takes your fancy

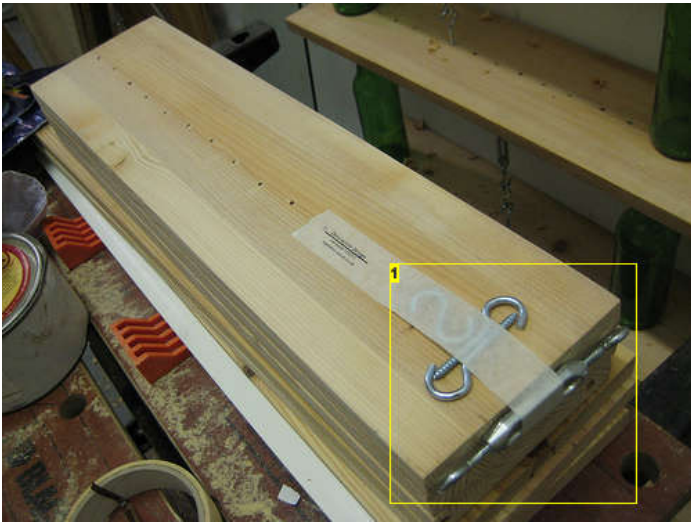


Image Notes

- 1. handy packaging method



Image Notes

- 1. the stamp

step 4: Assemble.

Select a bottom shelf , ensuring it is facing up. Place two bottles on the shelf. Screw in a cup hook between the two bottles, in one of the 3mm pilot holes..

Take your next shelf and place it on top of the bottles. Arrange the bottles to line up under any of the 32mm holes in the upper shelf. Note the position of the lower cup hook and screw in another hook in the corresponding position on the underside of the next shelf.

Replace the second shelf on top of the bottles. Adjust the bases of the bottles to ensure that they are flush with the lower shelf. Attach a hook and eye strainer between the two hooks and tighten it up by turning the central buckle. The shelves may bend a little so be sure not to over-tighten the hook-and-eye strainer, but ensure that the upper shelf does not move from side to side.

Repeat steps 3 to 5 for the two remaining shelves. You can add more shelves and alter the dimensions, of the shelves and the type and positions of the beer bottles as you wish.

The beauty of these shelves is that you can make them fit any space, use almost any type of timber you have, and they take about 10minutes to put up!

For every fourth shelf, use glass plates and screw them into the wall for security.



Image Notes

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Ten-Green---kitchen-shelving-unit/>



- 1. jaunty
- 2. a kit

Related Instructables



Ten Green Modular Shelving: shelving and tables using glass bottles by royshearer



Two-Liter Shelves by wholman



Compact Home Bar by trivialandobvious



GARAGE MOBILE STORAGE RACK by Bighead



IVAR small triangular shelf by xaq



Make it with muscle by Gerny



Workbench (summerofproject) by splendidus



How to Build a Custom Shelf Unit: Recycling at the same time by Mr. Rig It

Make a Custom Shirt at the Instructables Store

Comments

4 comments [Add Comment](#)



royshearer says:

My brother made this version of the shelves for his kitchen:

Feb 26, 2008. 3:00 PM [REPLY](#)



powers says:

I like these shelves but I am confused about one thing: why would you be drinking Corona beer in Scotland? Yuck.

Aug 23, 2007. 8:59 PM [REPLY](#)



Kiteman says:

I like the off-balance look you can get with the strainers, but isn't it *too* unstable with single bottles? Wouldn't it be steadier if you combined this idea with the pairs of bottles in the first version you posted?

Aug 15, 2007. 11:06 AM [REPLY](#)



royshearer says:

It is indeed less sturdy than the modular shelving units, but its easier to get timber for these ones! Plus I just wanted a thin neat set of shelves for the kitchen, so have them on the counter up against the wall, nice and safe. They can also be bracketed to the wall to make a wall mounted set of shelves.

Aug 15, 2007. 11:21 AM [REPLY](#)
