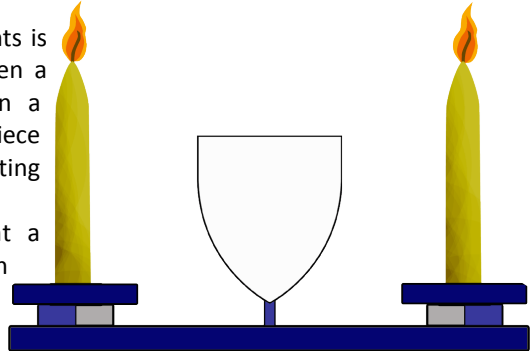




Men of Iron

Knights Table Centerpiece

One of the many privileges granted to those who become knights is the right to display their coat of arms in different ways. When a knight sets his place at a feast, he can place his arms on a centerpiece of his own that displays his arms. This centerpiece serves as a way for those in the feasting hall to know who is sitting where and provides light as a candle holder during a feast. This can also be used by households that want to present a household decoration for the tables of the squires and pages in their household.



Materials needed

- 1- 6"x1/2"x48" plank (Pine, Poplar, Oak, etc)
- 12" - 3/8" Dowel
- Paint (color should compliment your arms)

Equipment needed

- Jigsaw, band saw or scroll saw
- Miter saw
- Drill press or hand held drill
- 12" Square, speed square or metal ruler
- Standard protractor
- Measuring tape
- Forstner or paddle bits
- Standard drill bits
- Wood Glue

Pieces that will be cut from the plank

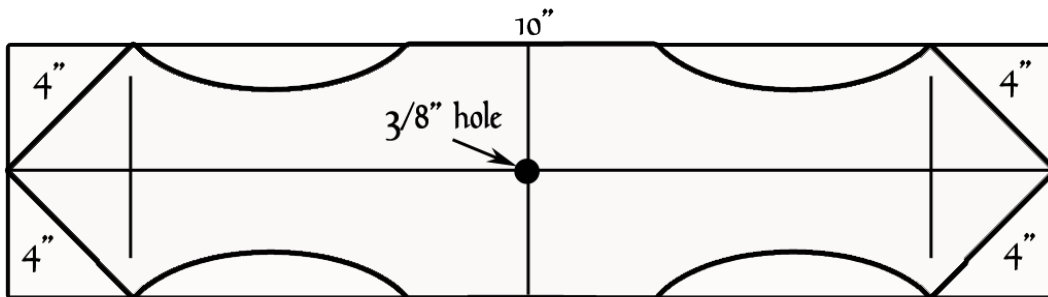
- 1- 6"x24" piece
- 2- 3 1/2" squares
- 2- 2 1/2" squares
- 4" of 3/8" dowel
- 5" wide shield cut from pattern. (pattern included in this instructable)

Instructions

Begin by laying out the pieces to cut on the 6"x48" plank. Cut out the individual pieces that you will need. The base (6"x24") and the two sets of squares that will make the candle holder.

On the base, lay out the lines for all of the cuts that are needed. Mark a center line the length of the board and then find the center and mark a perpendicular line (Fig 1). This will be where all the other layout will strike from. On each end, mark a 90° point.

Each length of the point will be approximately 4" depending on the cut of the wood. It could be a little less. Use your 12" square, speed square or ruler to make the marks. Make sure that you get a 90° point on both ends. After creating the points, mark another perpendicular line that will mark the center of the points. This will be the layout line for the candle holder blocks.



10"
Figure 1

After marking all of the layout lines, you will need to mark the radius for the design. Using a protractor, line up the 45° mark of the protractor with the edge of the line that creates the 90° point. Then position the protractor on the 135° mark (Fig 2). This will give you the position and depth of the radius to mark on the base. Hold and mark with a pencil. Repeat on the other three sides.

After marking all of the lines, cut shapes of the base out with a jigsaw, band saw or scroll saw, then sand smooth. It is at this time if you want to put a profile on the wood with a router you can do so. After the next steps it would be impossible to use a router on the edges.

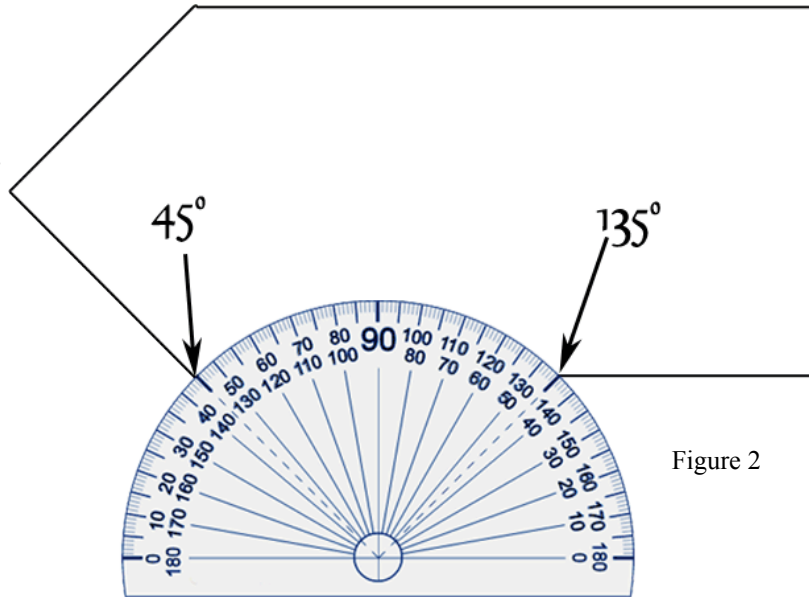


Figure 2

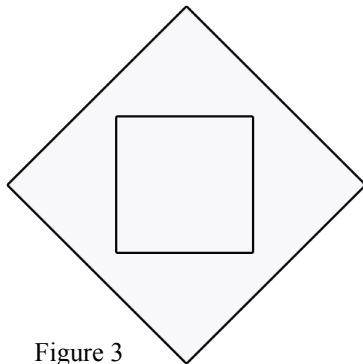


Figure 3

Building the candle holder

Take the two squares of wood (3 1/2" and the 2 1/2") and lay them out one top of the other and centered. The larger of the two should be turned a quarter turn and the two pieces glued together using a clamp.(Fig 3).

After the glue has dried, repeat this process on the base. Make sure that the lines you marked for the center of the point line up with the lines on the smaller of the two blocks that have just been glued. Apply glue to the small block and place on the base. Center and clamp until dry.

After all of the glue has dried, drill the holes for the candle stick and shield.

The candle stick hole will be a 7/8" hole drilled 1"-1 1/4" deep depending on your stock (Fig 4).

Drill this on both ends. The best tool for this is a drill press but it can be accomplished with a hand drill. A forstner bit or paddle bit work well for this step.

Finally, drill the 3/8" hole in the center (as shown in Figure 1) for the shield display.

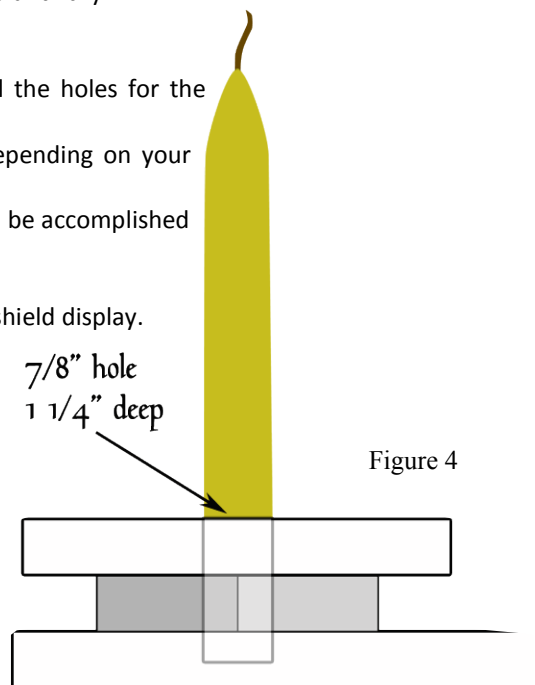


Figure 4



Using the pattern on the next page, cut out the shield and mark it onto your wood. Cut out and sand the shield. Using a drill press clamp or bar clamp, carefully drill a 3/8" hole for the dowel rod 1" deep. Make sure that it is centered and straight when drilling.

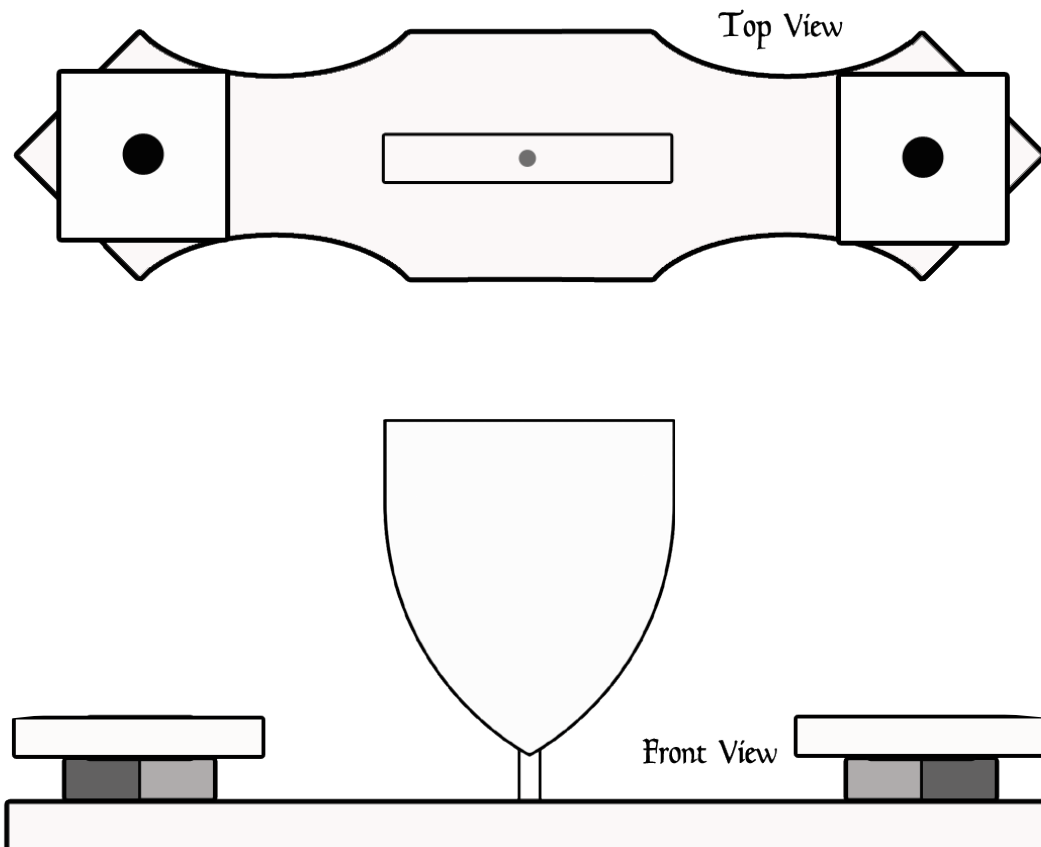
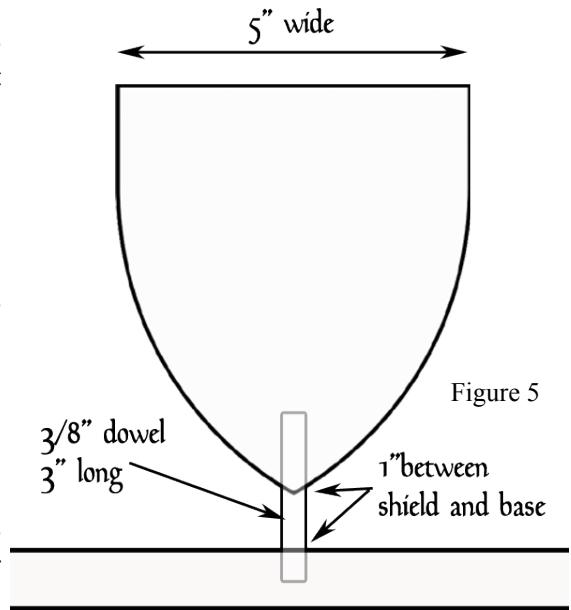
You should have 1" between the point of the shield and the base when completed. Glue the dowel into the shield but not to the base (Fig 5).

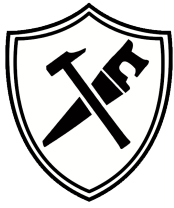
The shield will then be able to be inserted into the base when it is used and removed for storage.

Your table decoration is now ready to stain or paint. If you are painting your centerpiece, be sure that you use a complimentary color to the arms that you are painting on the shield.

When painting your arms on the shield, paint the entire shield white to prime the base. This will make painting easier and will help cover any blemishes or filler in the wood.

A room full of shields on table centerpieces is an impressive sight! If you want to make these but don't have the tools (or the skill) ask a member of the Carpenters Guild to assist you in developing these for your household or your knights!





The Carpenters Guild

Knights Table Centerpiece
Shield Pattern

