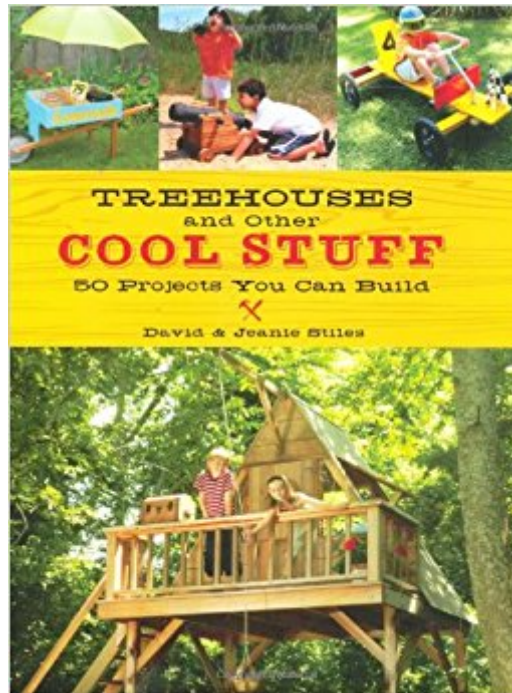


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Treehouses And Other Cool Stuff: 50 Projects You Can Build



Synopsis

Remember the handcrafted mischief of the gangs on *The Little Rascals*, *Gilligan's Island*, and *The Swiss Family Robinson*? This cleverness is back in the old-fashioned fun of *Treehouses and Other Cool Stuff You Can Build*. Imagine building an old-fashioned go-cart, an A-frame treehouse, a portable lemonade stand, a seesaw, a scooter skateboard, a tub fiddle, and even the ultimate in entertainment-an erupting volcano. Also included is a useful section on carpentry tips and tools such as: Sawhorse, Saw Guide and Crosscutting, Ripping Wood, Pilot Holes and Drilling Screws, Toolbox. Author bios David and Jeanie Stiles have been writing "how-to" books together for the past twelve years. Most recently, the couple built a treehouse on *The Today Show* in Rockefeller Center in New York. They divide their time between New York City and East Hampton, where they live in a renovated barn.

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

Customer Reviews

Treehouses and Other Cool Stuff provides instructions and plans for fun projects that parents and kids can build together. Many of them can be built in one afternoon using discarded materials found around the house; some may take longer to construct. All the projects are designed to encourage kids to be creative while having fun. From a *Swinging Treehouse*, *Monster House* and *Jet Racer* to

a Box Sled, Treasure Chest and Exploding Cannon, you can build a variety of projects that create lasting memories with your children. With its joyful drawings and crystal-clear instructions, *Treehouses and Other Cool Stuff* delivers a wealth of imaginative, iconic outdoor projects guaranteed to tempt and thrill the adventurous child of all ages.

• Don Metz, architect and author of *Confessions of a Country Architect* David Stiles, a designer/builder who has built several houses in the East Hampton area, is also an illustrator specializing in how-to books. David has worked as an architectural renderer for most of the leading architectural firms in New York City and has received two awards from the NYC Planning Commission for his playground design for handicapped children. Jeanie Stiles is an actress/model who has appeared in numerous television commercials and print ads. With a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Wheaton College in Massachusetts, Jeanie has also taught ESL and English at Baruch College in New York City. David and Jeanie have been writing how-to books together for the past fifteen years. Most recently, the couple built a treehouse on *The Today Show* in Rockefeller Center in New York. They divide their time between New York City and East Hampton, where they live in a barn they renovated together.

PROJECTS INCLUDE: A-Frame Treehouse Tarzan Swing Lemonade Stand Exploding Cannon Downhill Racer Trolley Ride Fake Barbells Pogo Boat Playhouse Bed Ski Sled Monster Treehouse Secret Lock Box Alka Rocket Ad Hoc Tree Fort Treasure Chest and more!

I'm not a carpenter, barely an 'about the house' handyman, but I have 2 little kids, and a space to put a playground or swingset by Walmart or better- build a treehouse. I've always wanted a treehouse. By chance on Google, I discovered the plans for Stiles' A-frame treehouse graciously offered free online. And with little know how, but committed, I followed the brief instructions, working on the weekends, to the tee, and by golly, we have a beautiful treehouse. This book I bought later, and it contains the original A-frame treehouse among other designs and indeed 'other Cool Stuff', e.g., accessories for the treehouse, a working cannon for kids, a simple boat, unusual swings, homemade toys etc. There are some color photos of the creations, cute drawings, and the simple schematics. There's info on basic construction and woodworking and they give you just enough to put it together. I learned as I went. I own their other book 'Treehouses you can actually build' (never used it-intended to- until now), another Stiles' gem, and found it very helpful. A few suggestions from a total novice:

1. Right tool for the right job. Few tools are needed. They list them for you, e.g., circular saw, jigsaw, 2 electric drills, level, and so forth. Buy good equipment, good blades-lots of teeth, screws- I like the ones with star head inserts, less slippage, etc.- it helps immensely.
2. Get

help- to hold poles, lift frames, give insight. I built the A-frame treehouse alone, Lone Ranger style- doable but somewhat hard. Stay focused; keep attention to detail, review every aspect of the drawings. Not all the minute specifics are given. You must think out your steps, review different types of screws and materials and how to approach the next task especially if you don't know anything like me. The Home Depot/Lowes' crews helped in that department plus Googling.3. "Plumb and Level"- get the foundation and the frame right and the rest is much easier;4.Plan for safety- soft ground cover like chopped, colored rubber; a higher railing for the treehouse patio; extra wooden bars for the windows if kids falling out is an issue;5. Modify the plans if reasonable- my wife suggested the staircase rise up into the treehouse not alongside it with a 'secret' hatch(the Stiles recommend similar in their other book); I used redwood instead of cedar railings, added another small window in the back with a bell to ring...6.Take your time and have fun or do something else!

My kids are desperate for a tree house or fort in the back yard. After pricing commercially available options, I decided that I could build one for a fraction of what a Play Nation solution would cost. So, I started looking for plans. I saw these Stiles publications (Treehouses and other Cool Stuff and Tree Houses, Huts and Forts.)at , and thought they looked promising.Well, "promising" just about describes it. There are two Tree Fort plans in this book that fit the bill for my kids, and these come with material lists, but the detail - especially for building the roof - is simply not there. I've never built a house, so am unfamiliar with construction techniques for building a roof. Additional research will be required to build either fort.(In How to Build Treehouses Huts and Forts, there is a scant page dedicated to roof construction, that may be sufficient for me to get started.)Flipping through the rest of this book, I found several projects that might be fun to do with the kids. But, building an exploding cannon that uses a CO2 fire extinguisher to propel a cannon ball? Not so sure...

This book is ok. It provides some good ideas, but lacks details. If you are looking for enough info to actually build a treehouse, you'll find better resources elsewhere.

I thought it would step me through the building of the projects better. Some projects are very simple. Others are quite complex and don't include enough instructions for someone to easily build. You have to know what you are doing for those projects and come up with some engineering yourself. Seems like it should have an equal level of experience projects together.

some of directions not complete enough so some experience needed to complete projects..Grand

kids have enjoyed helping with project construction

A great book on building things that I bought another for a friend

Great ideas!

Bought for a gift for my husband for Christmas. Thought it would be fun for him and the kids. Some of the stuff is very typical and things you can find on google. Wish it had some more complex things to build.

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