

D.I.Y. Jeffersonian Bookstand



The following are rough plans for building a Jeffersonian bookstand.¹ A video overview can also be found on YouTube at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SD_jlH7Ez8

Neither this document nor the accompanying video are intended as step-by-step instructions. I hope, however, they're enough to get you going in the right direction. These plans are based on a piece I built for my fiancée's birthday and modeled after the revolving bookstand found in Jefferson's office at Monticello. This design diverges from the original in several major ways: (1) it is made of pine, not walnut; (2) it makes use of a Lazy Susan (turntable), not the method employed at the time; and (3) when closed, the box is 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, not 12" (This is because a board foot is actually 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", not 12" wide. So the materials were easier to acquire).

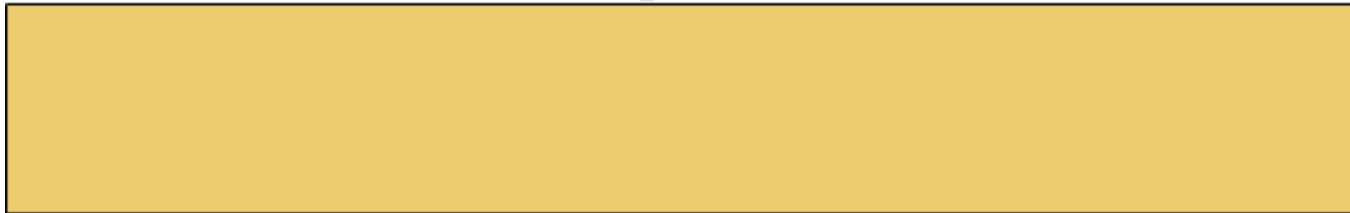
A Few Notes: After acquiring everything in the materials list below, you'll want to cut the pieces to size and assemble them as per the cut-to-size and exploded view illustrations.

- When making the panels, remember that all but one of them require 45° cuts to be made on their outer edges. Otherwise, they will not close to form a cube when vertical. Each panel should be 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
- When attaching the panel supports, be sure to attach them so that they are high enough that they will not fit between the panels and the lower body plate. This too would prevent the panels from closing properly.
- The measurements below will place the panels such that they are flush with the base's vertical edge and nearly to the bottom of the base. This means that when the panels are closed, the assembly will not turn. I suppose you could cut the central posts such that the panels fell in place above the base plate allowing the body to turn while the panels are closed.
- You may want to consider using a smaller Lazy Susan to make sure that it can't be seen when the stand rotates.

¹ Revolving Bookstand, THOMAS JEFFERSON ENCYCLOPEDIA, http://wiki.monticello.org/mediawiki/index.php/Revolving_Bookstand (Dec 27, 2009).

Materials: List²

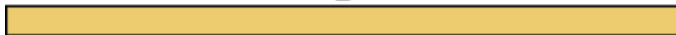
1" x 12"-6' boards of white pine



6' molding



1 1/2" x 1/2"-3' pine



12" x 1 1/2" dowel



6" Lazy Susan 1" x 1/2" & 3/4" x 5/8" hinges



Screw



Felt Pads

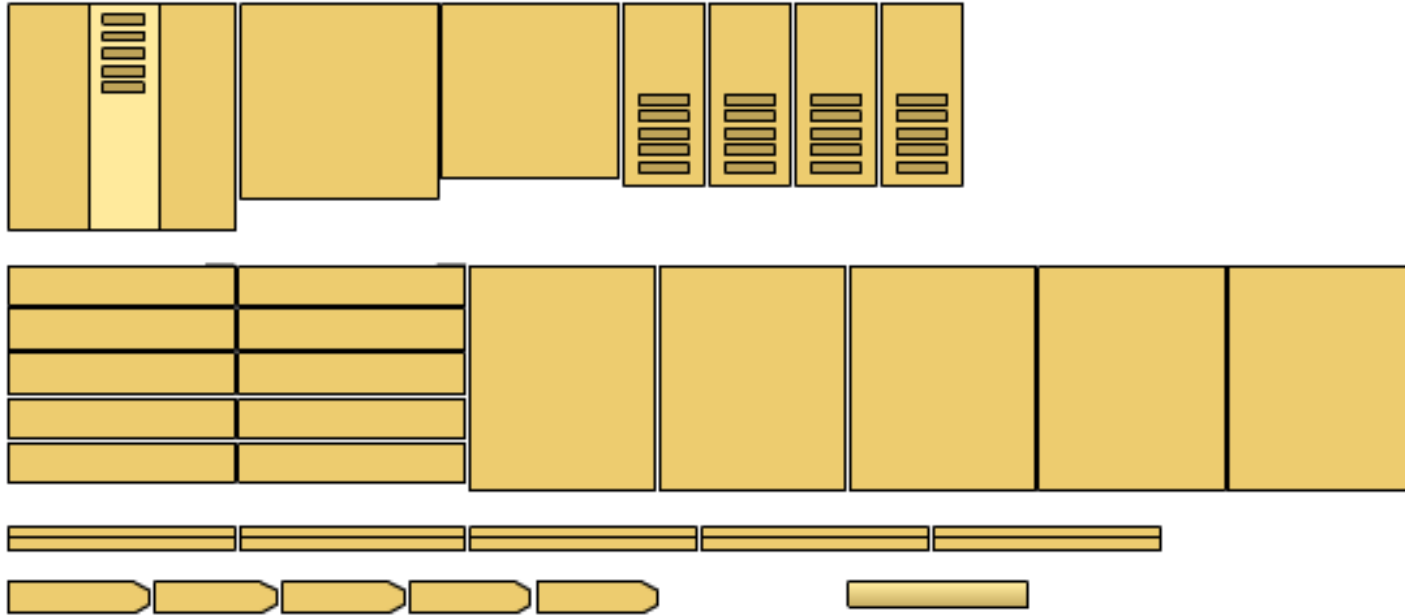


1/4" dowels



² In addition to the above, you'll also need some stain and lacquer for finishing.

Materials (excluding hardware): Cut-to-Size



Cut the first board into: (1) A $11 \frac{3}{4}$ " x $11 \frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " board. Remove a $3 \frac{1}{2}$ " groove from its center and place five $\frac{1}{4}$ " notches in this groove at one end. This is the top of the stand's body, and the notches will catch the top panel's support, allowing you to adjust its angle. (2) A $9 \frac{1}{4}$ " x $9 \frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " board. This is the stand's base. (3) A 8 " x 8 " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " board. This is the body's bottom panel. The Lazy Susan sits between this and the stand's base. (4) Four body supports each $3 \frac{1}{2}$ " x $9 \frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Place five $\frac{1}{4}$ " notches at one end of each support. Again, these are to hold the panels' supports.

Cut the second board into: (1) Ten 2 " x 2 " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " strips. These are the outer edges of the panels, and all but two of them will require 45° cuts on their corners so that the panels will fit together when vertical. I suggest doing this cut after attaching them to their centers. (2) Five $7 \frac{3}{4}$ " planks. These are the panels' centers.

Cut the molding into: Five $11 \frac{3}{4}$ " pieces. These are the shelves that sit at the base of each panel.

Cut the wood strip into: (1) One 7 " long support with the corners cut off. This is the top panel's support. (2) Four 6 " long supports with the corners cut off. These are the remaining panel's support.

Cut the dowel into: A single $9 \frac{1}{4}$ " rod.

Materials: Exploded View

