



IKEA[®] Hackers

20 BEST HACKS
from 2006 - 2014

Hey you,

Thank you for downloading my ebook and welcome to my mailing list.

This ebook came about largely due to my trademark tussle with IKEA® , which you may have read about **here**. All the madness aside, I wanted to compile some of the best hacks from IKEAhackers.net into a book to celebrate what IKEAhackers is all about. You could say it's a commemorative book of sorts.

Most of the hacks featured here are from my annual top 10 favourites. They are some of the most genius hacks I have seen on IKEAhackers, though by no means, is this list exhaustive. Some of these hacks are easy to do, some will need a fair bit of DIY chops – but all are testament to the creativity of the community that makes IKEAhackers thrive – tinkers, makers, crafters, DIYers who think way out of the yellow and blue box.

I am honored that so many have chosen to share their creations with me and I believe many more will, no matter how the trademark tussle ends.

As always happy hacking,
Jules
www.ikeahackers.net

Feel free to pass a copy of this ebook to a friend or send them over to this **link** where they can download a free copy of IKEAhackers: 20 Best Hacks from 2006 - 2014.

If you received a copy of this ebook from a friend and would like to sign up for my email updates, please sign up **here**.

THE HACK LIST

2014

A movable KALLAX workstation
Lofty idea for a playhouse

2013

Bottoms up with EXPEDIT
An amazing TROFAST studio

2012

A coffee table, KNUFF said
FROSTA-Xtreme
The trunk bar

2011

A soap dish's twist
Vase to create translucent
bathroom walls

2010

2 babies coming up!
The dress boys: Hang 'em here
PAX sliding doors room divider:
Divide and conquer

2009

Happy hamster home
Curves for the EXPEDIT

2008

If salad bowls could speak ...
Bike up!

2007

The guitarman chops
Cat wee wee box

2006

1, 2, 3, Pinhole camera!
Banquette dining

2014

A MOVABLE KALLAX WORKSTATION

Materials:

Two KALLAX units, two EKBY STILIG shelf brackets, two TERTIAL lamps

I built this as a gift to my husband, who is a scenic and lighting designer. I purchased two white KALLAX shelving units to use as the core of the workstation.

Top & Base: I had a friend CNC route four sheets of 3/4" A-grade plywood: Two sheets sandwiched together to make the top with routed holes to insert metal cups and a magnetic pin tray. Two sheets were sandwiched together to form the base.

Sides & Shelf: Two sheets of A-grade plywood sandwiched together for each side. Two sheets of A-grade plywood sandwiched together and attached to side using EKBY STILIG brackets.

Wheels: Four 5" tall industrial rubber casters.

The whole unit is 84" long, 38" wide, and 40" tall.

~Ryan - [link here](#)





We bought fence posts from Home Depot and a hand rail from Habitat for Humanity thrift store to make the railing. The threshold for the door was made from the unused pieces from the ladder and railing from the loft. I found shadow box picture frames for .50 each at a flea market and used them for the upstairs windows. The shutters are picture frames with stenciled foam core. The window boxes are ice bins from Walmart that I stenciled. The panels with the windows on the bottom are easily removed because they are on a track made with L shaped molding. Those windows are made of dollar store picture frames. The lower bed part is nice because she has a great shelf (and I have secret storage in the dead space between the wall and the edge of the bed). The curtain is a skirt I got for \$1 at a thrift store. For the upstairs floor we used MDF and carpet we had left over from our house. The "roof" opens to the ceiling but the top of the walls are capped with vinyl guttering turned upside down (\$5 for 10' @ Home Depot) I carpeted the stairs with Home Depot runner carpet.

She loves it and it is big enough for a table and chairs, bean bag, book shelf and baby doll high chair. As she gets older, she will be able to turn it into a hang out area. I went with black and white and then accented it with the round black and white rug from Ikea.

She loves it and I love all of the storage.

~ JC Braithwaite - [link here](#)

2013



BOTTOMS UP WITH EXPEDIT

Materials:

- IKEA EXPEDIT 2x2, 1x5 and desk extension
- Ikea Expedit Desk add-on
- Undercabinet Stemware Rack
- Wine Bottle Racks (2)
- Aluminum Channel
- Plastic speaker port
- Anthropology brass pulls (5)
- Rigid Casters (4)

Description:

We hacked together a mini-bar for our office holiday party and beyond. Here's how we did it. Cheers!!

1) I used a 2×2 and a 1×5 to create an-extra long counter top for the bar, and an EXPEDIT desk add-on as a moveable door/surface combination. The idea was to allow the bar to take on different looks depending on where the moveable door was positioned.

2) I cut a continuous channel into the top of both EXPEDITs. We laid length of aluminum track from Home Depot into the channel. The channel is set a few inches in from the outermost edges of the EXPEDITs so that its not visible from the sides.



3) The rolling cabinet door is basically an inverted L, with inset casters rolling along both the floor and inside the aluminum track.

I cut the edge of the EXPEDIT desktop to a width of 11-3/8", to be 4" shy of the back edge of the EXPEDITs. This left a 4" surface along the length of the bar to display bottles without blocking the track.

I also cut out a recess in the underside of the desktop in order to mount the first set of casters.



I used Gorilla Glue to affix pine blocks into the channels for the other casters and the aluminum track, since the EXPEDIT is too hollow to screw into otherwise.

Now the fun part...

5) I cut a hole through the top of the EXPEDIT 2×2, and lined it with a 4" speaker port. Easy ice access, and it's the perfect size to let a bottle chill for awhile. A last-minute brainstorm was to turn an EXPEDIT door Insert on its side so that we could pull it down to open, slide in a small trash bin as an ice bucket, and voila!



6) For the finishing touches I added two J.K. Adams 12-Bottle wine racks because they fit almost perfectly in the square compartments of the EXPEDIT. I had to sand the outside edges down a little and pounded them in with a rubber mallet – no glue necessary! They came unfinished, so I sprayed them black. I did the same with an under-cabinet stemware rack from The Container Store, then Gorilla-Glued it in.



I use Rosewood PANYL, which is one of my favorite combinations with the Black-Brown EXPEDIT finish. Lastly, I took the woodgrain theme even further with some petrified wood pulls that were being closed out at Anthropology, for \$2.99 each.

Total Time: 6 hrs

Total Cost:

EXPEDIT 2x2, 1x5 & desk add-on – \$150

Aluminum track, casters, wood – \$40

Speaker port – \$6

J.K. Adams wine racks – \$54

Container Store stemware rack – \$30

Anthropology pulls – \$15

PANYL – \$35

~ Dan - [link here](#)

AN AMAZING TROFAST STUDIO

Materials:

Trofast boxes, jig saw, sand paper, screws

Description:

Ikea's toys storage boxes were used both to cover the ceiling, and to create the libraries. With a jig saw I cut the bottom of the boxes which were then fixed to the wall, alternating with closed boxes with LEDs inside. I fixed to the ceiling the smaller boxes over adhesive strips of LEDs for a very effective ceiling light!

The desk is obtained from two old Ikea tables. On the wood I fixed the boxes, while the legs become a shelf for the glass top beneath which are placed TROFAST boxes used as drawers.

~ Rosandra, Italy - [link here](#)





2012

A COFFEE TABLE, KNUFF SAID

Materials:

KNUFF Magazine file X 4 sets, rotating artist stool, shelf insert, liquid nail.

Description:

I was looking for the perfect coffee table for my mini seating/TV area inside my room, and after weeks of analyzing every Ikea's product, I finally came out with this hack.

The size of this KNUFF coffee table is great for singles where you don't need a huge coffee table, or to place it in your room where space is limited, and its just the perfect size for your cosy reading corner. And the best thing is all four sides can be used as drawer units for all your magazines, books, and controllers etc.

The KNUFF magazine file comes with 2 piece (one inside the other). You can use this feature to change the shape of the table anyhow you like. The KNUFF table is quite solid and sturdy and works just like any other tables. Just don't put dumbbells on it.



TRANSFORMABLE



This is an easy hack for everyone with no heavy duty works involved. All you need is Liquid Nails to secure everything in place like in the picture, then screw your artist stool under it. If you don't have an artist stool, you can substitute it with a FROSTA stool and a SNUDDA Lazy Susan to make it rotatable.

Thanks for your time and hope you all like it!

~ imchaser, Singapore - [link here](#)



GENERIC STOOL

=
can be
substitute with



FROSTA

+



SNUDDA



FROSTA - XTREME

Materials:

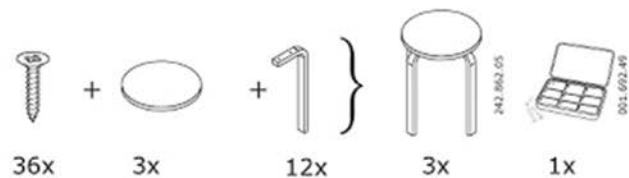
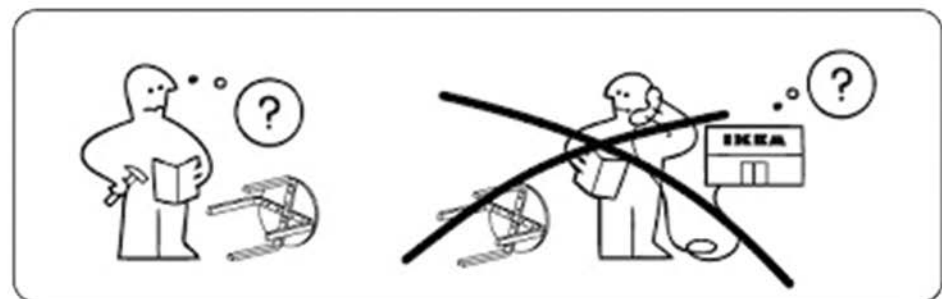
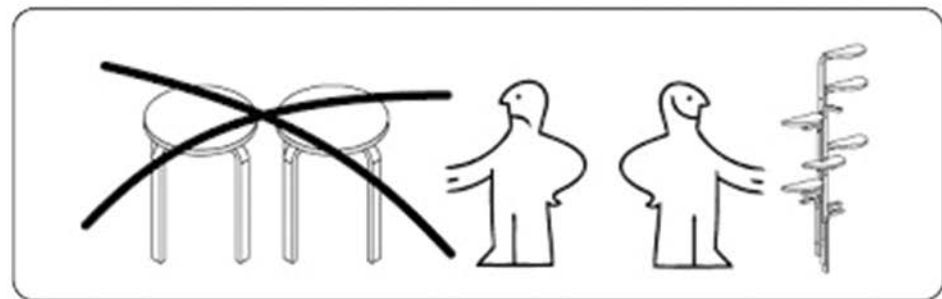
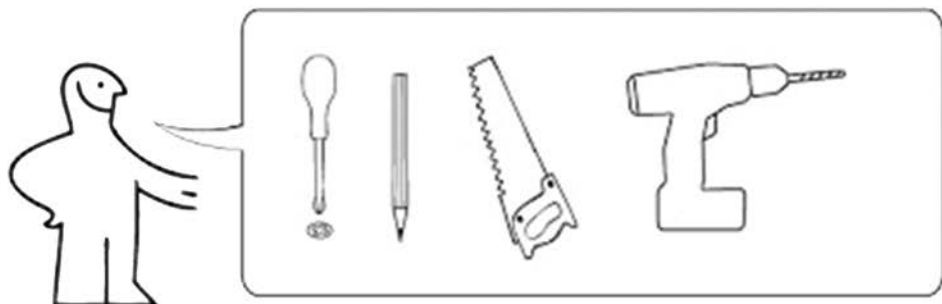
3 Frosta Stools

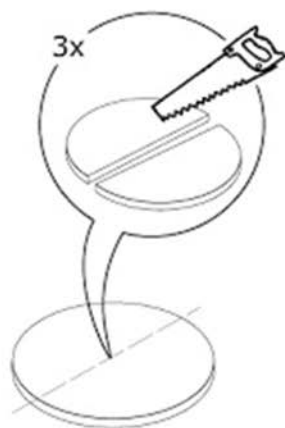
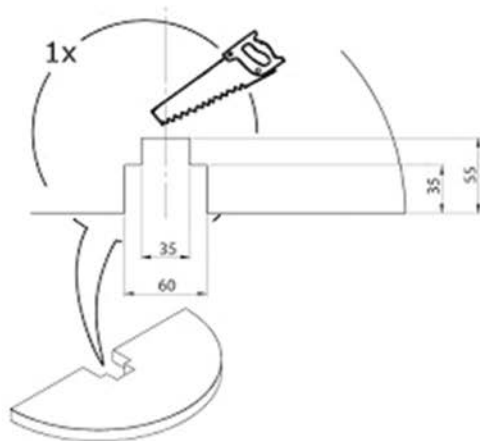
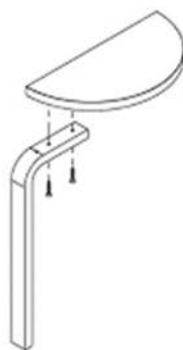
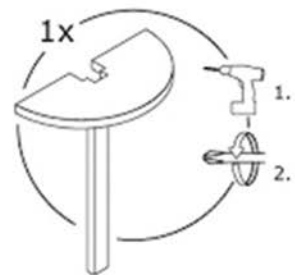
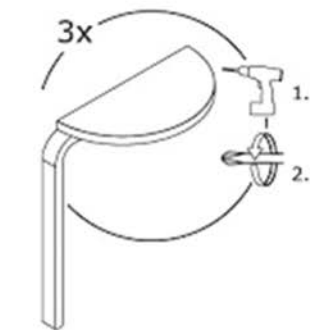
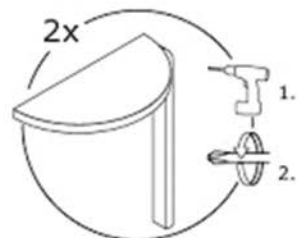
Description: It's one of three hacks I made with the Frosta stool.

If you want the plan in PDF from one of the Hack, please just write: andreas.bhend@gmx.ch

~ Andreas Bhend, Switzerland - [link here](#)





1**2****3****4****5**

TRUNK BAR

Materials:

2x Besta 60x20x200

Description:

I bought two Besta in same size. Cut the upper part to the preferred size, in this case 150cm high. Mount 2 hinges between the two box. Screwed the shelves into the boxes with rails for the glasses. Covered first with foam and after with leather using 2sided tape. Decorate with nails on the edges and locks. Finally wheels are screwed to the bottom.

~ Csaba Szomor, Budapest - [link here](#)



2011

A SOAP DISH'S TWIST

Materials:

Ikea kitchen skimmer

Description:

We have 2 round vessel sinks in our master bath. Small Ikea bowls mimicking the shape of the vessels held our soaps next to the sinks. Every time we reached with wet hands for the soap or return it to the dish, soapy water splashed on the counter, very messy. What we needed was an in-sink soap dish!

We looked at Ikea's Lillangen line of bathroom furniture but none of their in-sink accessories would fit our rounded vessel sinks.

While browsing Ikea's kitchen accessories, I came upon a kitchen skimmer that immediately presented a solution. The handle was thick and flat stainless steel, and being a skimmer the device had the requisite openings for the soap to drain excess water. (The newer versions available now have round holes instead of slits)

With a metal saw I cut off the handle to a workable length and smoothed the sharp ends with a sanding tool.

I inserted the remainder of the skimmer into a vice, and carefully bent the handle over a wooden dowel with a diameter approximately the width of the top of the vessel walls. I lined the inside of the bent handles with foam tape, so as not to scratch the porcelain sink, and voila: In-sink soap dishes.

~ Pippa, Chicago area - [link here](#)





VASE TO CREATE TRANSLUCENT BATHROOM WALLS

Materials:

Rektangel vase

Description:

The REKTANGEL vases are used as glassblocks in the design of a distinctive loft located on the first floor of a historic warehouse and monument on the Brouwersgracht in the center of Amsterdam. The apartment is designed by Marloes van Heteren of SOLUZ and Remco Wilcke of CUBE architecten.

In the architecture a contrast has been sought between preserving the historic beams and floors, and minimalistic new additions. The new additions such as kitchen and bathroom would be clearly identifiable as such in terms of materiality and form. Letting in daylight and transparency was also very important in the design of the open floor plan.



The bathroom is the central element in the house situated at the intersection of public and private. The rounded translucent bathroom-wall consists of nearly 1,000 very special glass blocks; IKEA rektangel vases. The vases are painted white inside and arranged together with strong transparent glue. The use of two different sizes creates a very nice pattern. During the day the sunlight gets in the bathroom and at night the bathroom wall acts as a subtle light-object in the apartment.

~ Marloes van Heteren (SOLUZ architecture, design and advice), Amsterdam - [link here](#)



2010

2 BABIES COMING UP!

Materials:

BJURSTA dining room table

Description:

We have a very small home and twin babies. Our small dining room/living room will not comfortably accommodate 2 high chairs and a dining room table. I heard about activity tables for daycare centers. They sell for \$300+, which is not in our high chair budget. Other non-high chair options didn't make feeding the babies at the same time sound easy. We wanted something similar to an activity table that would accommodate the babies now and the whole family at mealtime when the twins get older as well as serve as a place to make crafts or paint.

I decided to make a modified activity table for a fraction of the price. I found replacement seats for the activity table online (pkg of 6 chairs for \$16.99 and pkg of 2 belts for \$2.99 on elitedeals.com) and we had a free Ikea table a friend gave us.





We traced the outline of the seats on the table and cut out holes using a jigsaw. We moved around the supports to make it stable since this is an expandable table (we lost the inner leaf so don't plan to expand it ever). The seats can be easily taken out and turned the opposite direction to make it easy for feeding infants, toddlers to eat dinner, or as an activity table for crafts.

When we want to have adult friends over we remove the seats and place a board over the holes. We figure we can invest in a new table when the babies are bigger and can sit in regular seats. The table/chairs are good for kids up to 24+ months.

~Krystal - [link here](#)

THE DRESS BOYS: HANG EM' HERE

Materials:

Two Bertil chairs, cleat, glue, screws, drill, circular saw, paint.

Description:

Our bedroom is tightly spaced, and we needed a place for clothes in between wearing and ready for laundry. Inspired by a design from Laphoeff I bought two second-hand Ikea Bertil chairs and made them into dress boys.

I used a circular handsaw to cut the seats in half. A French cleat under the remaining piece of the seat holds the chairs to the walls, making them easy to remove for cleaning etc. Doesn't take up much room but holds quite bundle of clothes, de-cluttering the room. The chairs were originally black, I painted them white to match the colour scheme.

~ G.V.M., The Netherlands - [link here](#)





PAX SLIDING DOORS ROOM DIVIDER: DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Materials:

PAX

Description:

My girlfriend and I bought and moved into our first apartment, with a tight budget we couldn't afford anything bigger than a studio apartment.

I can't imagine anyone wanting to have their bed in their living room, so we started to brainstorm. We discussed ever type of foldaway bed and room divider. Then we found IKEA's PAX sliding cupboard doors.

We bought the biggest we could find in light aluminum and frosted glass.

We measured the size of our Ikea beds and marked off the new room so it would fit our bed and some clothing space tightly in order to save as much space in the living room as possible.

I whipped up 2 wooden frames and mounted them to the ceiling, walls and floor. I then mounted the PAX doors and tidied up the frame.





I installed four IKEA LED (color changing) spots in the frame so it would light up the frosted glass.

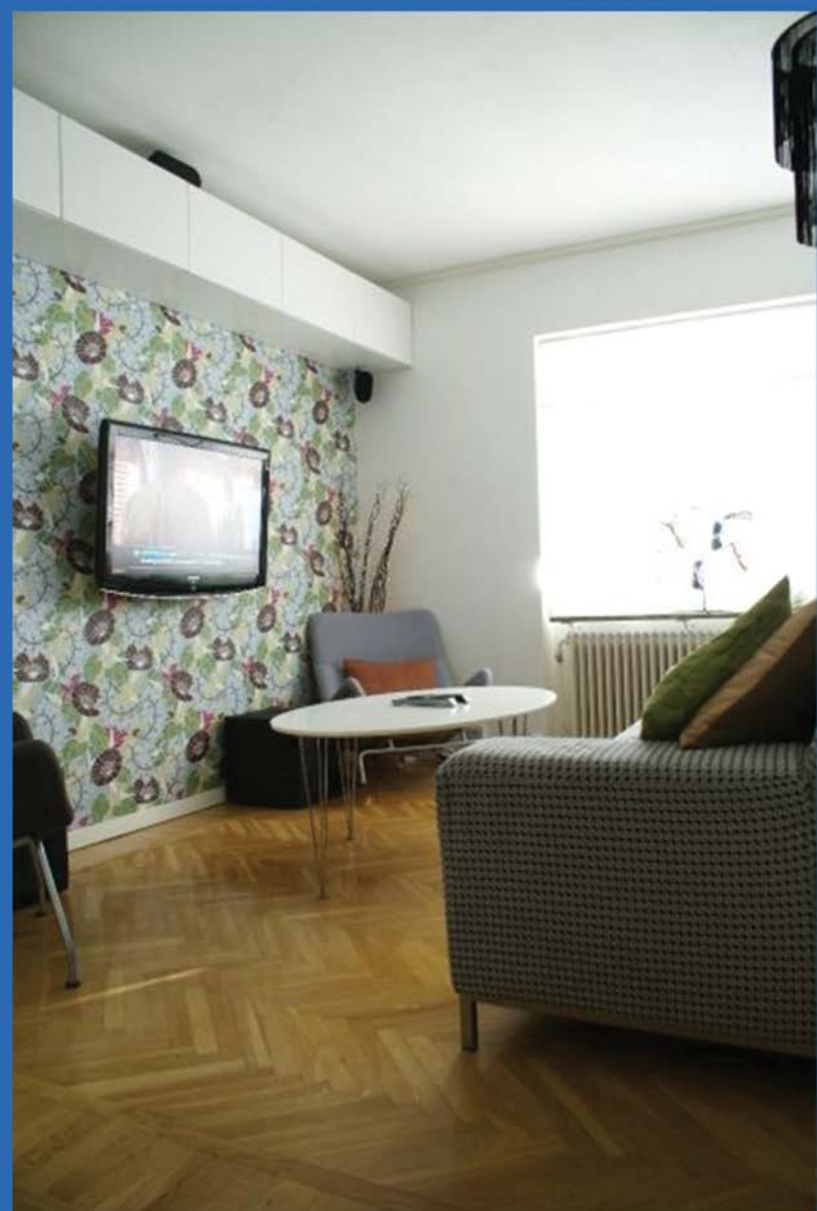


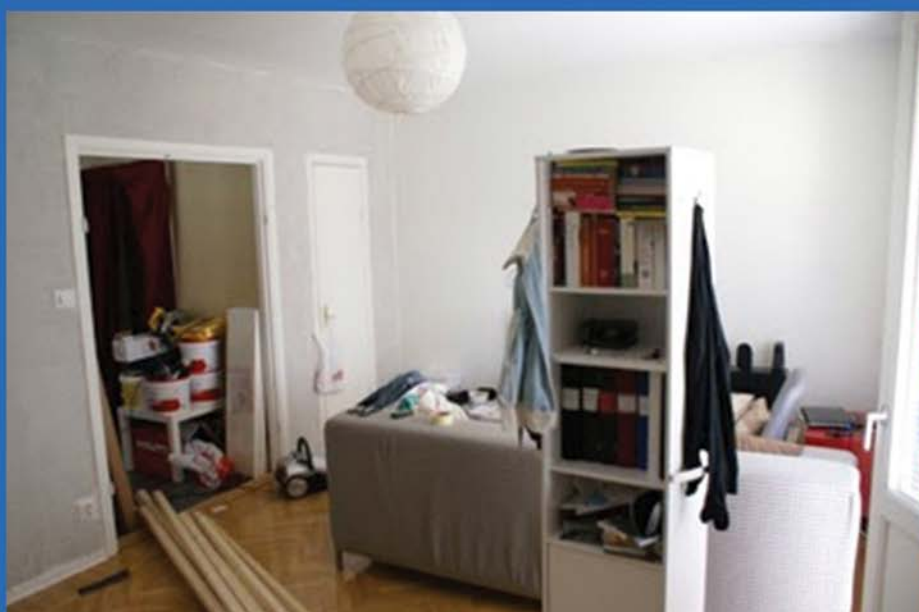
We finished up our new bedroom with some LACK shelves and a little art work.

In the meantime we mounted 6 IKEA kitchen cupboards over the TV in the living room and integrated the TV and PC cables into the wall so we could tidily hide the Stereo and PC in the cupboards with no exposed wires. We then mounted the surround sound speakers underneath the cupboard.

This was my first ever renovation at the age of 22, by myself. So if you have a small apartment and a lot of tolerance it's not that hard or expensive to turn your studio apartment into a 1 bedroom apartment.

~ thedesignguy - [link here](#)





2009

HAPPY HAMSTER HOME

Martina from Austria probably has the luckiest hamster in the world. Here's the home she built for Sonic the hamster.

"I am an adult keeping a little dwarf hamster. I don't like the traditional cages – I find them indescribably ugly and also most of them are much smaller than the space recommendations given by animal rights organizations. So I looked for a solution that would provide my hamster with a lot of space to run, high levels of bedding to burrow and give me something beautiful to look at when watching the little furball go about her activities.

After lots of research and planning I hacked a 5×5 Expedit into my dream hamster cage. I got the Expedit used for €50,- and shortened it to 3 rows of 5 columns as the room would have looked too full with another 5×5 Expedit in it. I then added 2 sets of Capita feet (8 feet in total) to get the height I wanted (eye-level when I sit in my chair) and to get a more floating look.



The cage area has a deep area on the left side where the hamster can burrow 40cm (~16in) deep. The right side has less bedding because you have to secure heavy things like stones and wood so the hamster isn't squashed when she burrows under them. Securing everything with 40cm high platforms or "legs" was not an option, therefore the shallow area. A back plate was added to close the cage and to give more stability I screwed the backplate also to the inner divider plates (esp. the shortened top one) of the Expedit. Air holes are in the top and on both sides. The front of the deep area is plexi glass, the sliding doors are real glass. I then used aquarium silicone to seal all the little gaps between the cage area and the non-cage area so no bedding (or pee) can go through).

I used a set of white Diode strip lights for the cage illumination plus a red LED Christmas light chain so I can choose between white and red light. Hamsters are red blind so you can watch them under red light without disturbing them. (I could have used another colored Diode but I was too cheap for that. The Xmas-lights were only €5,-.)

The interior also contains Ikea products: the 2 houses were hacked from a Fira set and the little food bowls are actually Glimma tea light holders.

I added 2 red Lekman boxes and some Krus food storage bins for hamster stuff and food. The rest of the space will be filled with office stuff as the cage is in our study and we have a lot of binders."

~ Martina - [link here](#)



CURVES FOR THE EXPEDIT

John tells us, "I modified that lovely classic, the Expedit. I modeled the shapes using Rhino and AutoCAD and used a CNC machine to mill them out.

Actually it's all one long piece – made with two Expedit units. One unit hugs the wall as pure storage, and the other encloses a small office behind it, so yes – works as a room divider. So the above 3 photos are of the same overall design.

Below are some renderings that show how they work together – the area between the two units is where you walk into the office space. The standalone is bolted to a wall on the other end. The only side of the Expedit's that's really exposed is the one that's been bolted – all other sides have this system attached to it. I painted the additional shelves a high-gloss white so it matched the white Expedit.

~ John - [link here](#)

2008



IF SALAD BOWLS COULD SPEAK

Salad bowls are not only good for tossing greens, they make good spherical speakers too. Here's a pair from Robert that are getting the kudos.

He says, "I wanted to make a pair of speaker enclosures and bought a pair of Ikea Blanda Matt Bowls, glued them together then mounted the speaker driver in them."

~ Robert - [link here](#)



BIKE UP!

I really like Michael's idea for bicycle storage with the Stolmen posts. I just wonder how easy it is to get the bikes up and down the pole. That's a workout in itself!

He says, "There are a lot bicycle storage/rack-systems on the market, but none of them met my expectations in function/style and price. I wanted to get 2 bikes on a wall in my apartment."

So I build one on my own. Here's how it looks.



All you need to get from Ikea is one Stolmen post, two brackets and four hooks. You'll also need some screws and some aluminium 20x20mm square pipe, maybe some foam rubber.

1. Cut two pieces of the square pipe; choose the length depending on the design of your bike frame.

2. Drill 3 holes into the pieces of square pipes.

3. Screw a hook on each end of the pipe; screw the pipe to the bracket.

4. Now you can mount the stolmen post and adjust the two brackets on it.

5. Finally glue some of the rubber foam to the hooks to not scratch the bike frame.

That's it! all in all this should just take you like ½ hour. The price of approximately 40euro is unbeatable."

~ Michael - [link here](#)



2007

THE GUITARMAN CHOPS

Once in a while, you get a really far out hack and this one, about ranks up there. not your regular diy but when PJ Doland tipped me on it, I was impressed. Zachary of Zachary Guitars builds guitars out of IKEA table tops!

He writes, "This is one of the most interesting guitars I ever built and it is also one of the best. This amazingly figured top is from IKEA furnishings. I bought one of their unfinished end tables for \$15 and I can get three guitar tops from it. What a shame that they would use such amazing 'tone-wood' for their cheap furniture. it's a sacrilege."

~ Zachary - [link here](#)





CAT WEE WEE BOX

Sara's wheelaway cat litter box.

Sara sent me her cat litter box constructed from 2 snack boxes. She flipped a smaller snack box on top a larger one. Cut a hole for her large kitty to go through and attached the two boxes with hinges.

Should you want to paint it, do remember to paint it before you construct the boxes – it will save you time painting round the metal plates. sara also added wheels. Last thing is to place a litter pan in it and you're set.

~ Sara - [link here](#)

2006

1,2,3 PINHOLE CAMERA!

This is quite a hack from David. A pinhole camera ingeniously crafted from an ikea bjuron plant pot holder and a coke can. Besides being dirt cheap, the picture quality is not bad. Not bad at all.

The pinhole camera is "made from a Bjurön, which is a 14cm x 14cm wooden box with a galvanised tray loose inside intended just to hold pot plants. I cut the height down to get the focal length / field of view i wanted. Then I used the bit I cut off plus a scrap piece of pine as the back.

A 2" hole was cut into the bottom, and a smaller hole drilled in the the tray which was then screwed to the inside of the box. The pinhole itself (a section cut from a coke can) was taped to the tray. I found some matte black paint for the inside and varnish for the outside in the garage. The toggle catches came from a local hardware store and were the most expensive parts!

It uses 5"x4" sheet film which has to be loaded and unloaded in complete darkness. The design has evolved since the initial build with light baffles and film holder made from black card."





I'd say, the results (pics above) are simply beautiful.



BANQUETTE DINING

Stoic bunk bed turns into ...

...Sexy seating for two! wow!

Andrew says that "the frame is basically complete here. Made it more sturdy than was necessary. Head and foot board from the hemnes day bed were used to create the backs of the banquette. I covered the frame by cutting up the main back piece from the Hemnes daybed set. Provides a nice uniform look. Added some moulding around the bottom and covered the seats. some people have asked if the whole thing was bought in a kit!"



If only!

Andrew completed the look with an IKEA Docksta table – after trimming the table top from 40" down to 30" to fit the space perfectly.

Simply cozy.
Love it. Love it. Love it.

~ Andrew - [link here](#)

IKEA® is a registered trademark of Inter-IKEA Systems B.V.

This ebook is NOT produced or related to IKEA, IKEA.com or the IKEA Group. Any and all links or mentions to IKEA.com are presented for reader convenience only and do not imply IKEA's approval of this ebook and/or the modification of its products. IKEA and IKEAhackers.net are not liable for any product failure, injury or damage resulting from the application of hacks featured in this ebook.

Design by :



www.ikeahackers.net