

TAKE AND MAKE KITS

DIY Dried Veggies



Supplies

The supplies included in this kit are:

For the shelf:

- Plywood pieces (5) and brackets (8)
- Wood glue 20ml
- Electrical brush
- Large rubber bands (5)

For drying the food:

- Tomatoes (3)
- Jalapeño peppers (2)
- Garlic (1 head)
- Parchment paper (3 sheets)

For labeling the jars:

- Glass jars (3)
- Labels (3)
- Transfer paper (1 piece)
- Tweezers (1)

The supplies you may need to provide are:

- Salt, pepper and spices
- Olive Oil
- Knife
- Cutting board
- Baking sheet
- Oven
- Piece of cardboard or newspaper (to protect table when making shelf)

Instructions

Oven Dried Vegetables

1. Wash and dry all the vegetables (tomatoes and jalapeños). Wash and dry the jars regularly.
2. Cut the tomatoes in quarters, clean out the seeds with a spoon and place them on a baking sheet and the parchment paper in the oven at 200F (90C) between 4 and 5 hours. You can sprinkle a little bit of salt and sugar on them before you cook them.
3. Peel the garlic, sliced thin, place them in the parchment paper, then baking sheet and put in the oven for 20 to 25 minutes or until it dries AT 200F (90C).
4. For the jalapeños slice them in half, take out seeds. You can leave seeds if you like the hot. Place them in the parchment paper and baking sheet. Set the oven in 200F (90C) and leave them for about 4 hours.
5. For all veggies add any spices you like. Once they dry, let them cool down.
6. Once they cold or room temperature, place each vegetable inside each jar.
7. Optional: Heat olive oil but don't bring to boil. Pour inside jars.
8. If you would like to can the veggies, in a pot of boiling water place the jars with the food inside for about 10 minutes, using the tongs remove the jars and let them rest.

Weeding vinyl

"Weeding" is the process of removing all the parts of the vinyl that are not part of the label you want to use. We've provided a pair of tweezers for this purpose.

1. Carefully peel off the big pieces of vinyl surrounding your design. Starting at a corner, use the tweezers to grab the vinyl and slowly pull the vinyl up at an angle, making sure all the parts of your design remain attached to the carrier sheet. If you notice part of your design lifting up, you can just hold it down with your finger while you pull off the vinyl surrounding it.
2. Go through and remove all remaining unwanted pieces of vinyl. Simply dig the point of your tweezers into a corner of the piece to be removed, and lift it away. Look for the centers of letters like "a" and "e" and any interiors of objects.

Applying vinyl labels to jars

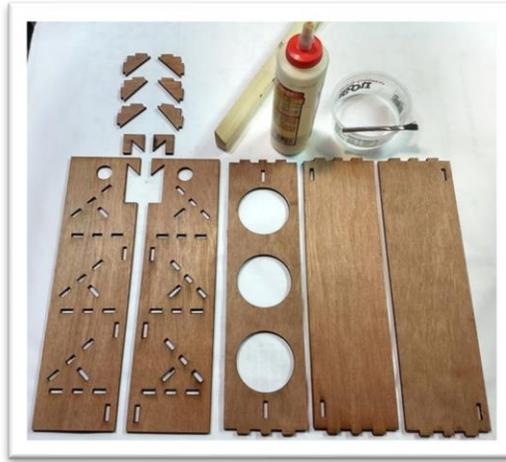
Most vinyl cutouts have many small details that would be hard to keep in place if you just peeled it off the backing like a sticker. Transfer tape can be used to move a vinyl cutout into place without losing any detail.

1. Peel the paper backing off the transfer tape. Lay the transfer tape sticky side down over the vinyl label and smooth it down. You can use the edge a small card (like a library card or credit card) to help press the transfer tape onto the vinyl.
2. Use the transfer tape to carefully peel the vinyl off its backing paper.
3. Use the transfer tape to position the label onto your jar, then press it into place. Use your card to smooth down the label to make sure it's fully attached.
4. Carefully peel off the transfer tape, leaving the label on the jar.

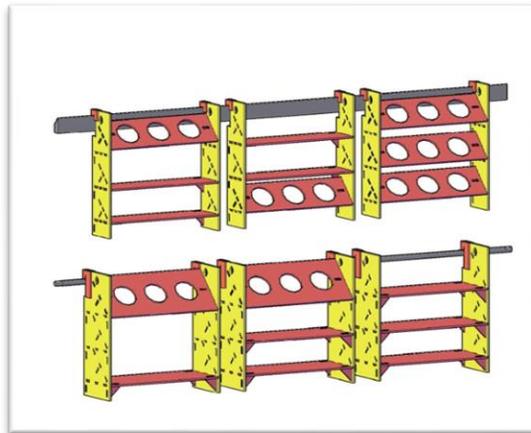
Building the shelf

These hanging shelves can be set up in many arrangements (slanted and level, with holes and without), move easily on French cleats and can stand alone on any flat surface.

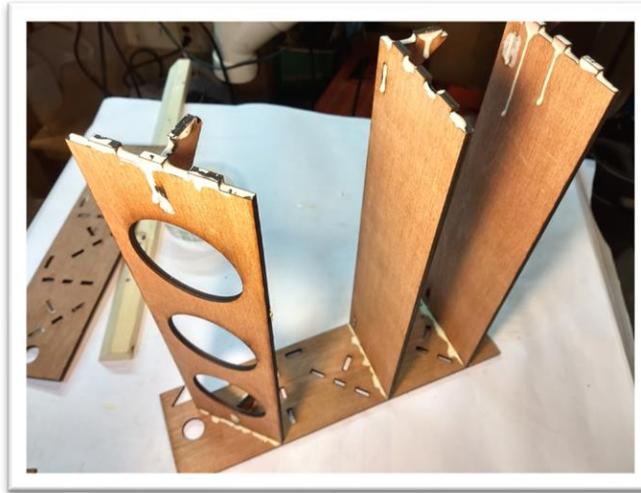
1. Materials and Tools to Make the Shelves: separate all the pieces and get everything together.



2. Trial Assembly Before You Glue Is Worth the Time. For this particular project the part with the holes should be on top.



3. Assembling this on a smooth, non-porous surface helps, as glue will leak though the slots during assembly and might stick to the surface beneath the parts. Putting wax paper down first helps. Most wood glues clean up easily with a damp rag, so keep one nearby.
4. Lay out the side panels (with the pointed hook at the top) and the shelves as you want them to be assembled.
5. Add glue on all the shelf and bracket tabs and on the edge of each shelf between the tabs.
6. Turn the shelves over (right side up, see the photo on the next page) to keep the glue from sticking the shelf to your assembly table top. The shelves will sit or lean on the braces. Now add glue to the inside face of the first side panel, using the brush or a finger. Remember that as you apply the glue, the hook at the top will be at the rear of the side panel.



7. With the brackets in place, press each shelf firmly into the first side panel where you want them to go. Adjust them to fit completely into their slots. They will hold themselves in place. Don't forget the brackets.
8. Place the second side panel on the table with the inside face up. Make sure that you have the panel placed so that when it is lifted and flipped over so the hooks at the top will match the hooks on the other side panel.
9. Set It Upright and Give It a Squeeze. Once the whole assembly is fit together, hold it together by pressing in on the side panels and carefully tip it upright onto the flat, bottom edges of the side panels. Check all the slots and make sure each shelf tab is fully inserted. Check the bracket tabs, too. Then give it a firm squeeze by pressing in on both side panels with your hands. It will sit up straight right away.
10. Before you start wiping up the excess glue, put light duty elastic cords (or string, or wood clamps or big rubber bands or... almost anything to keep it together for a short while) near the middle of the side panels or where the shelf slots are. A little pressure is all you need while the glue dries.
11. Now is the time to give the intersections a quick wipe with a brush or your fingertip, forcing glue into the gaps and wiping away the excess. Clean up the excess glue with that damp rag, but don't wipe it all away. A little extra glue helps make it strong.
12. Add the Hanging Hook Reinforcing Pieces (Optional)

For full instructions and other options about the shelf follow the link: <https://www.instructables.com/Laser-Cut-Shelf-With-a-French-Cleat/>

What next?

If you're interested in learning more about drying and preserving food, try one of these eBooks, available from the library through Hoopla:

- The Complete Guide To Drying Foods At Home <https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/11386737>
- Food Drying With An Attitude <https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/12354687>
- Dehydrating Food <https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/12356732>
- The Food Dehydrating Bible <https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/12358281>
- How To Store Your Home-Grown Produce <https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/12354972>