

Toddler Bed

Project Level: **Intermediate** ([what's this?](#))



Create a Beautiful bed for your child.

A toddler bed is a great way to help your child make the transition from the crib to the bed, while still sleeping in a fun, cozy place designed just for him or her. These beds are built identically except for the headboard designs. Both accept a standard crib mattress (28 x 52 inches), or you can modify the bed to accept a youth or twin mattress. Lowe's is happy to provide this information as a [service](#) to you.

Get [all the drawings](#) for this project.

Cut List

Part	Material	Size (in inches)	Quantity
Side Panels	Plywood	23 3/4 x 54	2
Headboard	Plywood	33 1/2 x 41 3/4	1
Footboard	Plywood	33 1/2 x 26	1
Cleats	2 x 2	1 1/2 x 7 1/2	4
Long Slat Supports	2 x 2	1 1/2 x 36	2
Short Slat Supports	2 x 2	1 1/2 x 19 3/4	2
Shelf Side Panels	Plywood	8 x 22 1/4	2
Upper Shelf	Plywood	8 x 32 3/4	1
Mid/Lower Shelves	Plywood	8 x 31 1/4	2
Upper Divider	Plywood	8 x 8 3/4	1
Lower Divider	Plywood	8 x 12	1
Upper Shelf Nosing	Square Dowel	3/4 x 32 3/4	1
Mid Shelf Nosing	Square Dowel	3/4 x 31 1/4	1
Lower Shelf Nosing	Square Dowel	3/4 x 31 1/4	1
Shelf Side Nosing	Square Dowel	3/4 x 22 1/4	2
Upper Divider Nosing	Square Dowel	3/4 x 8 3/4	1
Lower Divider Nosing	Square Dowel	3/4 x 12	1
Slats	1 x 4	3 1/2 x 30 1/4	11

Lowe's Shopping List

Lumber

- 4 (8-foot-long) 1 x 4s
- 4 (3-foot-long) 2 x 2s
- 2 (48- x 96-inch) sheets of 3/4-inch-thick birch plywood

Tools

- Miter saw
- Band saw or jigsaw
- Table saw or circular saw
- Drill/driver with bits
- Pocket hole jig

- 5 (3-foot-long) 3/4-inch-square dowels

Hardware

- 1 box (1 1/4-inch) screws
- box (1 5/8-inch) screws
- 1 box (2-inch) screws
- 1 box (1 1/4-inch) (coarse thread)
- 1 box (1 1/2-inch) 4d finishing nails
- 1 package (3/8-inch) wooden dowel plugs
- Stainable/paintable wood filler

- Router with bits
- Tape measure
- Paintbrush
- Compass
- Straight edge
- Hammer

Finishing Materials for dollhouse bed

- White semigloss base coat
- American Tradition, Polka Pink #1006-4A, semigloss
- American Tradition, Pea Pod #6005-8A, semigloss

Finishing Materials for racecar bed

- American Tradition, Classic Royal Blue #4009-8, semigloss
- American Tradition, Classic Red #1009-2, semigloss
- American Tradition, Woodlawn Colonial Gray #6004-1B, semigloss
- American Tradition, Ocean Storm #4004-2B, semigloss
- American Tradition, Yellow Mustard, #3007-1A, semigloss

Instructions

General: Cut all parts to size per the Cut List. [Predrill](#) holes, and [countersink](#) all screws. Fill any voids with wood filler, let dry and sand smooth.

Step 1: Shape the side panels, headboard, and footboard.

- Label the top, bottom, head, and foot of each side panel.
- Measure and mark the centerline of the side panel from the top to bottom. To start the layout line ([see side detail](#)), mark a point on the centerline 10 1/4-inches down from the top. Draw a line from this point to the foot, perpendicular to the centerline. Use a compass to draw 3-inch radius quarter arcs for the curves.
- Use a jigsaw to cut out the shapes with smooth corners. Repeat for the other side panel using this piece as a template.
- Place the side panels on a flat work surface with the bottom [edges](#) touching and the ends flush ([see toe kick detail](#)). Mark 2-inches in from the [ends](#) along the bottom edges of the two side panels. Position the center point of the Forstner bit at this mark

straddling the two side panels, and drill a partial hole. Repeat at the other end. Use a straightedge and pencil to join the apex of the half holes to each other. Use a jigsaw to cut along this line on each side panel ([per the illustration](#)) to create the toe space.

e. Repeat the step above to create similar shapes at the bottom of the headboard and footboard. Use a router and roundover bit to round the edges of the side panels, headboard and footboard.

Step 2: Build and attach the [cleats](#) and slat supports.

a. Cut a 45-degree miter on one end of each short and long slat support.

b. Join the mitered end of one short slat support with the mitered end of a long slat support using glue and nails. Place a support assembly on a side panel, and then mark and cut it to match the length of the side panels. Repeat for a second support assembly and place it on the other side panel.

c. Locate the slat supports so the top edges are 12-inches up from the bottom edges of the side panels. Attach the slat supports to the side panels using glue and 1 5/8-inch screws. Use a countersink bit to drill pilot holes every 6 inches [on center](#) and 3/8-inch deep along the length of the slat supports.

d. Similarly, attach the cleats vertically to the side panels under the slat supports at the head and foot of the bed ([see illustration](#)).

Step 3: Shape the headboard and footboard.

a. Mark a 2-inch radius from the top two corners of the footboard ([see footboard detail](#)), and cut the corners along that line using a jigsaw.

b. Lay out the pattern of the car ([using the grid design pattern](#)) or the dollhouse ([using the illustration](#)), or create your own design. Limit your design to the top 18-inches of the headboard.

c. Use a jigsaw to cut out the design.

d. Round the edges of the footboard and headboard using a router and roundover bit.

e. Mark the location of the holes in the headboard and footboard where they will be joined to the cleats. The first of the four holes for each cleat should be drilled and countersunk 1 7/8-inch in from the sides of the headboard and footboard and 2 1/4-inches up from the bottom edge. Drill and countersink three more holes 1 1/2-inches apart vertically along the centerline of the cleat location as shown in the [illustration](#).

Step 4: Assemble the shelf unit.

- a. Label the good [face](#) of all pieces.
- b. With the good face up, drill pocket holes along the back edge and ends of the lower and mid shelf. Drill pocket holes along the back edge of the upper shelf.
- c. Using glue and pocket hole screws, attach the shelf side panels to the lower shelf.
- d. Use the lower divider to locate the bottom edge of the mid shelf and mark on the shelf side panel. Using glue and pocket hole screws, attach the mid shelf to the shelf side panels.
- e. Locate the centerline of the lower and mid shelves. Draw parallel lines 3/8-inch from the centerline on the front and back edges of both shelves. Using glue and nails, attach the lower divider to the lower and mid shelves between those two lines.
- f. Attach the upper shelf to the shelf side panels using glue and nails.
- g. Repeat the process in Step 4e, using the upper and mid shelf to attach the upper divider.
- h. Attach all nosing pieces to the front of the shelves and dividers using glue and nails following the illustration.
- i. Smooth the front edges of the shelves as well as the side edges of the upper shelf with a router and roundover bit.
- j. Position the shelf unit on the footboard so the bottom edge of the lower shelf is flush with the top edge of the toe space and centered from side to side. Attach the unit to the footboard using glue and pocket hole screws.

Step 5: Paint and assemble the bed.

- a. Paint the bed as desired.
- b. Attach the headboard and footboard to the side assemblies using 2-inch screws in the predrilled holes, and then plug the screw holes with wooden dowel plugs.

Step 6: Install the slats.

- a. Space the slats evenly atop the slat supports.
- b. Attach the slats using two 1 1/4-inch screws at the each end of each slat.

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