

Plywood Gift Crate (Man crate)



Build a plywood gift crate from some scrap plywood and craft boards. This is my interpretation of the popular "mancrate".
Inspiration : mancrates.com

Build this crate and fill it with gifts, nail the top on, and present it along with a crowbar to open it! Who wouldn't have fun opening a gift with a crowbar?

This can be made from scrap wood or you can make the whole crate from one 2' x 2' plywood piece and 16 feet of 1/4" x 1 1/2" craft board (about \$15 for wood).

This plan shows measurements using both 3/4" plywood and 1/2" plywood.

Instead of craft board, you can substitute lattice or you could cut 1 1/2" wide strips of 1/4" plywood. I'm showing pictures of it done both ways.

Shopping List:

1 pc ½" or ¾" plywood @ 2' x 2'

4 pc ¼" x 1 ½" x 4' poplar craft board

OR two 8' sticks of ¼" x 1 ½" pine lattice

OR 1 pc ¼' plywood @ 2' x 2', cut 8 strips, 1 ½" wide,
(this will use half of the piece)

1 ¼" wire nails (for attaching the top -- you want these nails to be removable)

1 – 7" pry bar (for opening up the sealed crate)

Finishing materials for desired finish

Supplies list:

Miter saw

Circular saw or table saw

Nailgun and hammer

Sander or sandpaper

Measuring tape

Wood Glue

1 ¼" finish nails

5/8" brad nails

Finishing materials as desired

Cut list for ½" plywood:

Crate dimensions: 12" L x 12" W x 6 ¾" H

½" plywood:

- 2 pc @ 5 ½" x 10 ½" (sides)
- 2 pc @ 5 ½" x 11 ½" (front/back)
- 1 pc @ 11 ½" x 11 ½" (bottom)
- 1 pc @ 12" x 12" (top)

¼" x 1 ½" craft board/trim:

Crate:

- 4 pc @ 12" (front/back upper & lower trims)
- 4 pc @ 11 ½" (side upper & lower trims)
- 8 pc @ 3" (side upright trims) (measure and cut to fit)

Top:

- 2 pc @ 12" (front/back trims)
- 2 pc @ 9" (side trims)

Cut list for $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood:

Crate dimensions: 12" L x 12" W x 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " H

$\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood:

- 2 pc @ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10 " (sides)
- 2 pc @ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (front/back)
- 1 pc @ 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (bottom)
- 1 pc @ 12" x 12" (top)

$\frac{1}{4}$ " x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " craft board/trim:

Crate:

- 4 pc @ 12" (front/back upper & lower trims)
- 4 pc @ 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (side upper & lower trims)
- 8 pc @ 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (side upright trims) (measure and cut to fit)

Top:

- 2 pc @ 12" (front/back trims)
- 2 pc @ 9" (side trims)

Scrap $\frac{3}{4}$ " wood for crate



Step 1:

Attach sides between front and back as shown.
Use glue and 1 ¼" finish nails.



Step 2:

Attach bottom to box, keeping outside edges flush. Use glue and 1¼" finish nails.



Step 3:

Attach upper and lower trim to sides of box, keeping top and outside edges flush. Use glue and 5/8" brad nails.

**Step 4:**

Attach upright trims to sides of box, keeping outside edges flush. You should measure and cut these to fit. Use glue and 5/8" brad nails.



Step 5:

Attach upper and lower trim to front and back of box, keeping outside edges flush. Use glue and 5/8" brad nails.



Step 6:

Attach upright trim to front and back of box, keeping outside edges flush. You should measure and cut these to fit. Use glue and 5/8" brad nails.



Step 7:

Attach front and back trim to box top, keeping outside edges flush. Use glue and 5/8" brad nails.



Step 8:

Attach side trim to box top, keeping outside edges flush. Use glue and 5/8" brad nails.



Step 9:

Sand piece to smooth cut edges and any rough spots.

Finish as desired. You could leave unfinished if using as a “man crate”.

If desired, you could stencil “Man Crate” or a fun caption on the side after sanding.



Step 10:

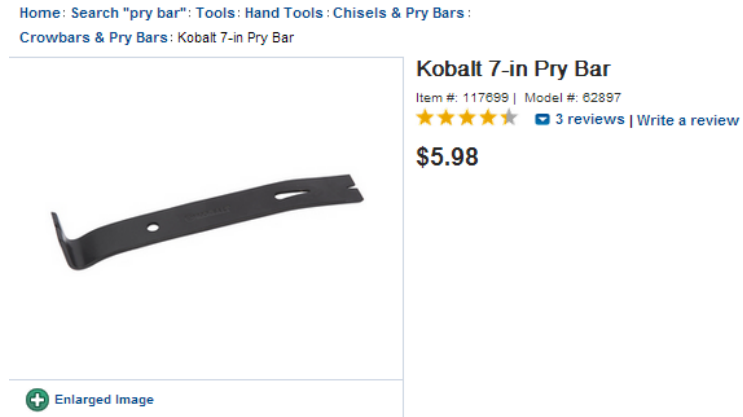
To use this as a “Man crate”, after filling the box, attach the top using wire nails and a hammer. No glue is required here. These would work:



http://www.lowes.com/pd_58185-37672-532407_0_?productId=3036018&Ntt=wire+nails&pl=1¤tURL=%3FNtt%3Dwire%2Bnails&facetInfo=

Step 11:

Use a crowbar to open the top of the box. You can also use it to remove the nails. This would work:



http://www.lowes.com/pd_117699-16878-62897_0_?productId=4777013&Ntt=pry+bar&pl=1¤tURL=%3FNtt%3Dpry%2Bbar&facetInfo=