



ANITA YOKOTA

DIY Murphy Bed

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Never imagined we'd build our dream murphy bed. I'm so happy we did.

This DIY Murphy Bed project took 21 days. Yes. 2-1. Thankfully with this guide you will avoid some of the hiccups and challenges we encountered. I'm giving you every tip, trick and sound design advice I can in this guide. Let's get started!

Designer's Pro Tips

1. Buy a quality murphy bed kit. I highly recommend the [I-Semble Vertical Mount Murphy Bed Queen Hardware Kit - Queen Bed Frame Wall Mount Includes Tubular Steel Mattress Frame by Rockler](#). Everything we needed was all taken care of in this kit. Yes, \$489 is a good chunk of change, but it is still better than thousands of dollars.

2. Spray, don't brush. We decided to use a paint sprayer. More importantly, cabinetry paint is ALWAYS best to spray paint. The sheen and no paint strokes, and even professional coverage make it look so PRO.

Have you ever painted over wood even after primer? It's def not the same as wood sprayed on. That is why doors and cabinetry are 100% recommended to spray paint.

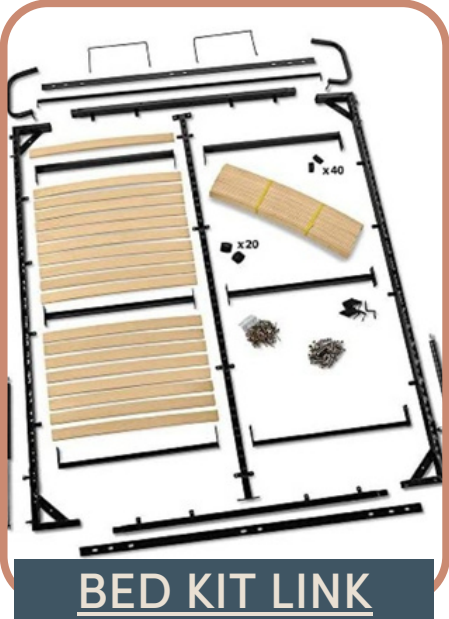
3. When painting the box frame and wood slats, make sure you are in a well-ventilated area, so the paint dries evenly. Be sure to use a good primer first!

4. For wood slats, paint them individually first before nailing them on the door, so they are evenly painted on the sides.

5. When installing the frame inside the box, be accurate as much as possible so that it closes correctly. Otherwise, the door will not close!

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Supply List



Create a supply list of everything you will need for your project based on your plan. Taking care of your physical and mental well-being will help you cope with the DIY stress better. This is a sample of our supply list:

- HARDWOOD PLYWOOD
- [MURPHY BED KIT BY ROCKLER](#)
- SHERWIN WILLIAMS PRIMER
- SHERWIN WILLIAMS PAINT
- DROP CLOTHS
- PAINT BRUSHES & TAPE
- RULERS
- LEVEL
- POWER TOOLS- CIRCULAR SAW, JIG SAW, PAINT SPRAYER, NAIL GUN

Create a Plan

Included in the Rockler murphy bed kit are plans for building the cabinet enclosure. These plans will save you tons of time figuring out the measurements you need for all cabinet pieces.

The plans don't include how to finish the basic murphy bed cabinet. We went with a slat design to complement our desert inspired guest room.

Gather Supplies

Gathering your supplies will make for a happy DIY'er and happy helpers. Nothing is worse than having to stop the flow of progress to jump in the car for a run to get more supplies.

We ended up running back for supplies during the pandemic while running our business and home schooling. I can tell you it was not fun. Learn from our mistake.



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Details Matter



We didn't skip on the details, like using edge banding to create a fully custom-made look. When you see the completed murphy bed, these little details really stand out and say high-end custom.

These details also extend to other finishes, including handle choice, paint finishes, and how you choose to finish the headboard inside the cabinet.

Finding The Right Color



I seriously stressed over finding the right color to paint the cabinet. After a set of polls in my [Instagram](#) Stories and testing samples in the room, I decided on Sherwin Williams Popular Gray SW6071.

To find your perfect color I recommend looking at the reflective value (RV) of each of your selections. Murphy bed cabenits are large and by going with a high RV value they won't weigh down the room . Then test each one on a scrap board, and look at them during different times of the day. You'll be surprised how much they change.

Measure Twice. Cut Once



The old saying, "Measure twice, cut once." hold true on this project. Unless you are ready to buy materials twice it is important to measure and double check all of your measurements. Travis did a great job assuring each cut was correct and straight. This helped minimizes the number of adjustments we had to make after we moved pieces into the room.

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Prime Before Paint



It may take extra time to prime all the sides of all the pieces to create the cabinet for the murphy bed, but it's worth it.

I stress the painting process because this is what will make the final finish on your cabinet. To create an even more professional result, it is important to prime everything and spray large areas. No matter how hard you try, you can always see brush marks in large flat areas.

Assemble Frame



With everything painted, it's time to assemble and attach the frame! The Rockler instruction gives instructions on how to attach the frame to the cabinet and how to adjust the feet to level the bed.

Two Person Doors



The doors are heavy and definitely a two-person job. It took both Travis and me to hang ours. Be sure to take into account the placement of the doors and hinges. This will prevent the need for adjustments later. We had to rehang ours because we set them too high the first time.

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Shimmy Shimmy



If you are going to recreate the look of our murphy bed you'll need to shimmy. I used a 1/4" shim between each slat for the doors to ensure the spacing was even. Then we double-checked with a ruler once they were up. It is worth it to take your time with this part of the process.

Gaps Matter



In design, the gaps matter. Between slats, around doors, and spacing of hardware. This is why it's important to measure all the gaps too. When the gaps are evenly spaced, we only see well-built furniture. However, if they are off, they will skew the balance of the entire piece.

Ready, Slats, Gorgeous



The cabinet has been built, the frame has been assembled, and the finishes have been applied. Slats need to be added to the frame, and the mattress needs to be brought in! It is now time for you to make your bed and enjoy your new gorgeous murphy bed.



FAQ

Creating a murphy bed yourself can be an investment. These are common questions about building your own murphy bed answered so you don't waste your time or money.

Questions:

Q: How long does it take to build a murphy bed?

The average person can build their own murphy bed in about 7 - 10 days—from start to finish! However, if this is your first time building something like this, we recommend taking some time beforehand to plan out all the steps and make sure you have everything on hand before starting construction. That way, when construction time comes around, everything will just flow naturally and easily. Ours took 21 days because we were building during the pandemic while running our business and homeschooling.

Q: How much does a murphy bed cost?

The cost of building a murphy bed will depend on a few factors, including the size and materials you use. If you're looking for something truly budget-friendly, we recommend using wood as your primary material. This is also one of the easiest ways to build your own bed—so if you're just starting out or are unsure where to start, this can be an excellent option!

Q: What tools do I need to build a murphy bed?

It will be important to have power tools to build your murphy bed from scratch. I recommend using a jigsaw, paint sprayer, drill, and nail gun. You'll also need standard tools like a hammer, screwdrivers, level, and tape measure. If you're building a murphy bed with wood boards, you'll need to find something to cut them down to size (such as a circular saw). If you're looking for something more affordable or don't have access to power tools, it will take a bit more planning! Most lumber stores offer cutting services for an extra fee.