

Easel-Style Chalkboard

By Pam Rashilla

Create this easel-style chalkboard. You can actually write on it!

What You'll Need:

(Note: All balsa wood should be $\frac{1}{16}$ " thick.)

- $\frac{3}{16}$ " strip of balsa wood (or wooden coffee stirrers of the same size) cut into:
 - 4 - $3\frac{1}{2}$ " lengths (A)
 - 2 - 2" lengths (B)
 - 1 - $\frac{7}{16}$ " length (C)
- $\frac{1}{8}$ " strip of balsa wood cut into:
 - 4 - 2" lengths (D)
- 2 - 2" x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles of $\frac{1}{16}$ " thick balsa wood (E)
- Black "blackboard" spray paint (black acrylic paint can be substituted if you don't want to be able to write on your blackboards)
- Small scrap of black felt ($\frac{7}{16}$ " x $\frac{3}{16}$ ")
- White acrylic paint (optional)
- Chalk or white modeling clay
- Aleene's Fast Grab Tacky Glue
- Stain (optional)
- Utility knife (with adult supervision) OR scissors because balsa wood is so soft
- Emery board or nail file

1. Cut all balsa pieces to the sizes specified above.
2. Spray paint the 2 rectangles (E) with blackboard paint. Set aside to dry.
3. Glue 2 balsa strips (D) to 1 balsa strip (B) in order to create one chalk tray. Repeat for second chalk tray. Set aside to dry.
4. Use emery board to file down one end of each of the 4 balsa strips (A). File at an angle so that when the strips are glued together at the top, they fit together neatly.
5. Glue 2 balsa strips (A) together at the angled ends to create

1 upright support. Repeat for second upright support, making sure that the angle of this support is the same as the first. Set aside to dry.

6. Stain balsa strip (C) if desired. Glue scrap of black felt onto strip to create eraser. Set aside to dry.

7. Form very tiny pieces of chalk from larger "people-size" chalk, or craft chalk from white modeling clay.

8. Glue eraser and chalk onto one of the chalk trays made in Step 3.

9. Optional: When 2 rectangles (E) are dry, paint thin line of white acrylic paint around the



border of each rectangle to give blackboards a more finished look. Set aside to dry. Use real chalk to write messages on blackboard.

10. Glue blackboards onto upright supports which should be spaced approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ " apart. The blackboards should be placed approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " down from the tops of the upright supports.

11. Glue chalk trays onto upright supports approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " below each chalkboard.

12. Your chalkboard is ready to use. ■

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