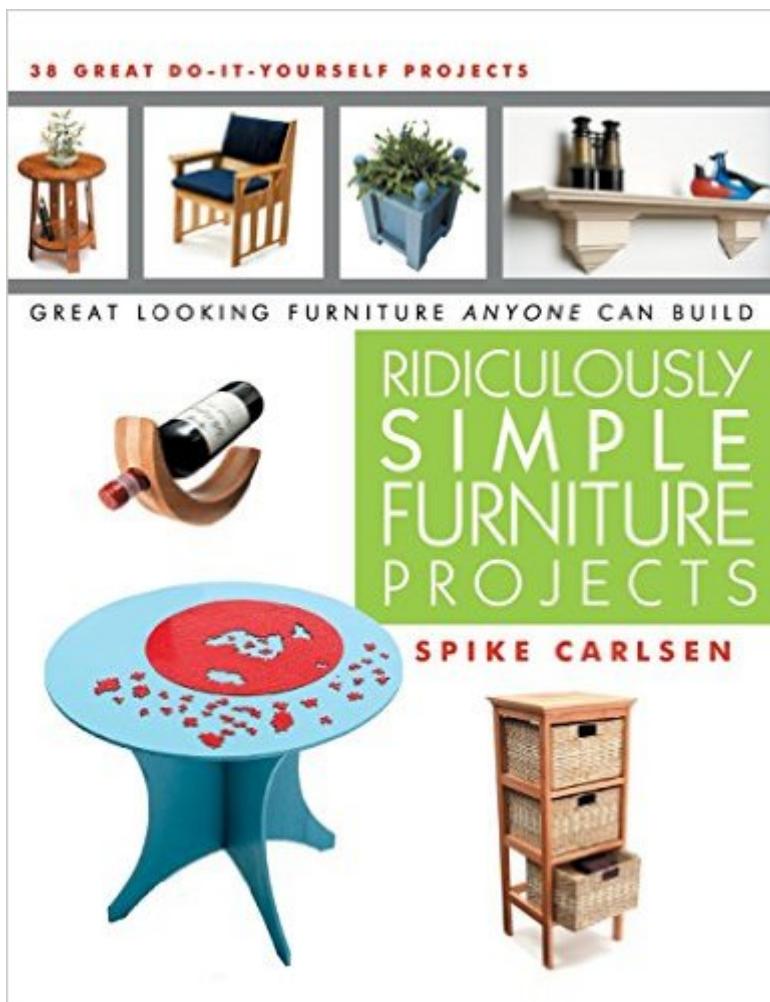


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# Ridiculously Simple Furniture Projects: Great Looking Furniture Anyone Can Build



## **Synopsis**

Blending the practicality of IKEA with the creativity of Martha Stewart, this collection of innovative projects is presented with simplicity of construction in mind. The suggested pieces are practical, have broad appeal, and carry a high brag factor upon completion. Requiring minimal assembly time and tools, this concise, engaging, and even humorous guide offers countless tips as well as clear and instructive photography. The majority of the projects also incorporate clever construction, such as the use of bifold doors, stock cabinets, and off-the-shelf lumber, guaranteeing that the required materials are both inexpensive and easily accessible. Featuring ideas for furnishing both the interior and the exterior of the home, this handbook is ideal for weekend woodworkers.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Linden Publishing (April 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1610350049

ISBN-13: 978-1610350044

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.3 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (49 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #552,637 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 inÂ  Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking > Furniture & Carpentry #95 inÂ  Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Furniture #308 inÂ  Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Carpentry

## **Customer Reviews**

Spike Carlsen's new book, Ridiculously Simple Furniture Projects is deceptive. Upon first glance, I thought it was a beginner's book (the cover has the same "feel" as Aime Fraser's book Getting Started in Woodworking). They are aimed at different audiences though. Spike's book also has a great list of projects using standard hardware store and home supply places, but then it diverges. "Simple" is not really so. While he make the projects look easy, the assumption is you have a working knowledge of woodworking basics. Helping this book is Spike's ability to actually write well (but since you've all read is Splintered History of Wood you knew that already! Haven't read it yet? Shame!! Go read that also. It's on Rosenblatt's required book list. You can't read finish this review

until you have. I have time. I'll wait). Usually, when you open a book like this, chapter one is a list of the tools you need, or want, or some idea of what you should get. If that's what you need, go and get Aime's book, then come back to this one. Within the four chapters of the book are projects and, even more important: Techniques. It's not a how to if you don't know how. It's a: Here is a better and easier way to do what you've probably tried in the past. And it's terrific for that. I love this book on so many levels, I can't really describe how. It has some great things to build, and best of all, they are practical. There are few homes that won't need at least a couple of the things he's laid out for you. Look through the book, read his brief but clear set of instructions, look at the plans, study the photos, learn from his techniques, and the next thing you know, you've got in your home (or given as gifts) some really great stuff.

I am writing to thank you for your wonderful book and to tell you about how you have helped our family. My wife and I became very interested in the article by Spike Carlson on the Limbert Footstool. We decided that a replica Limbert footstool would be the perfect "heirloom" for our children and grandchildren. I downloaded the full-size plans from your website and made templates out of 1/8" plywood. I am 60 years old and I already have the woodworking tools necessary for just such a project. Taking stock of my lumber supply we determined we could make 15 stools, one for each of my siblings, my wife, each of our children, and one special granddaughter, Lilly! I did not have enough 12" boards so I started by gluing some smaller ones up where necessary. We had enough for four stools made of black walnut, five white oak, and two each of hickory, red oak and white ash. Over the Thanksgiving weekend, my sons, son-in-laws and grandsons all came to my garage where we had our "King Family Footstool Factory" set up. Some drew patterns; some cut pieces on the table saw and others cut the curved aprons on the band saw. One son-in-law drilled the holes in the legs and the tops while the other sanded the holes smooth on the spindle sander. My oldest son used the scroll saw on the leg cutouts and the grandsons did much of the sanding. We had a great time in this family project. By the end of the day we had all of the parts (and a couple of "spares" and "rejects") cut out and ready for assembly. Over the next couple of weeks we routed some of the edges and then assembled, sanded and finished the footstools. We stained a few of them and then put 3 coats of lacquer on them all.

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