

# Little Book Scene

By Debbie Young



When I first saw a little scene like this on Pinterest, I fell in love with it and put it on my list of 'things I want to make someday'. I tried to get it done for the 'Something out of Nothing' Challenge that we had here on Create, but, sadly, that didn't happen. So, I decided to make it for our 'Book' month. The project is pretty much made out of a book, and some balsa wood, so it is easy to do with what you have around the house. It turned out to be so much fun to make, I thought you might enjoy making one as well. So, for all the members (current and potential) that visit NAME's Create site...please enjoy this free tutorial.

I used an old *Winnie the Pooh* book, but this would be great with any book...think *Harry Potter* or *A Christmas Carol* or *Sherlock Holmes*... anything you would like to curl up with and read.

**Tools Needed:**

X-acto knife  
Emery Board  
Tacky Glue  
Yes Glue  
Ivory paint

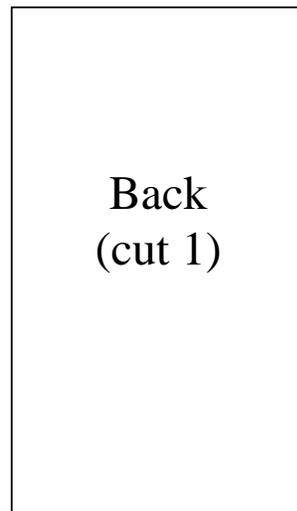
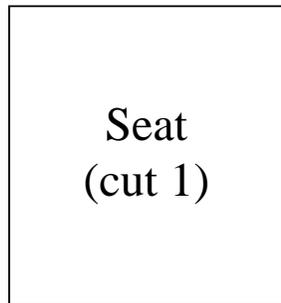
**Supplies Needed:**

1/4" thick balsa wood  
3/8" thick balsa wood  
Plywood or illustration board  
Straw  
1 oz condiment cup  
And a book...

For this project, I used Balsa wood because it comes in a variety of thicknesses, is available in most hobby and craft stores, is easy to cut with an X-acto knife and especially easy to carve and shape with an emery board.

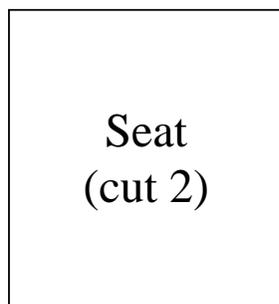
**Out of 1/4" thick Balsa:**

1 pc. 1 1/2" x 1 5/8" (for seat)  
1 pc. 1 5/8" x 2 3/4" (for back)

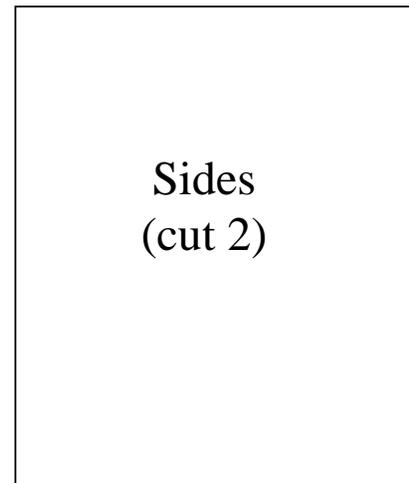
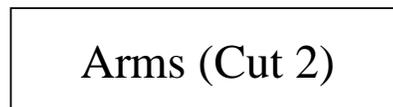


**Out of 3/8" thick Balsa:**

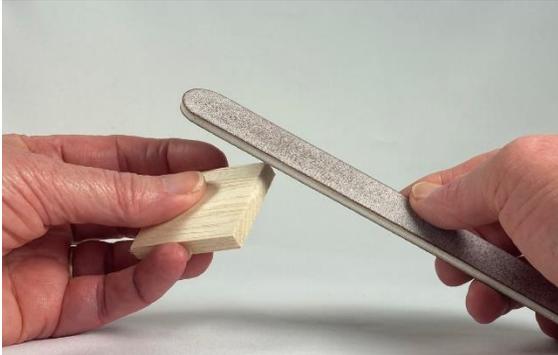
2 pc. 1 1/2" x 1 5/8" (for seat)  
2 pc. 2 5/32" x 2/5/8" (for sides)  
2 pc. 9/16" x 2 1/8" (for arms)  
4 pc. 1/2" x 1/2" (for legs)



Legs (Cut 4)



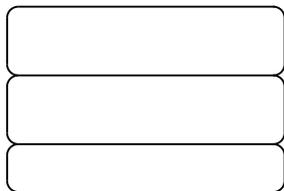
1. Cut out the three pieces that make up the seat – one thin (1/4”) and two thick (3/8”) (they should be 1 1/2” wide x 1 5/8” deep). Slightly round off the front edges of one of the thick and the thin pieces by gently sanding off the harsh edges with an emery board.



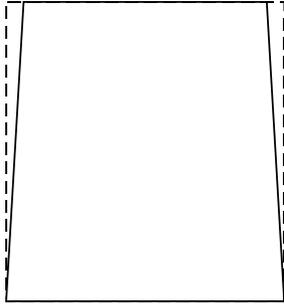
2. Slightly round off all the edges of one of the thick pieces for the top cushion by gently sanding off the harsh edges with an emery board.



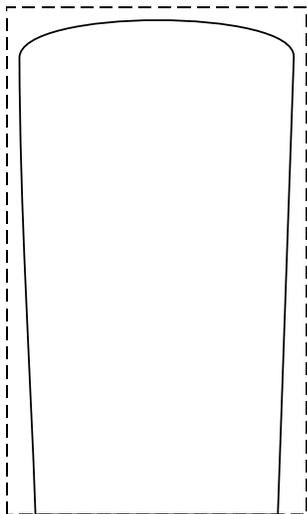
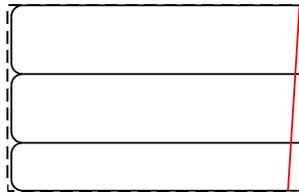
3. Stack the 3 seats on top of each other with the thinner piece on the bottom and the completely rounded cushion at the top.



4. Sand the stack of cushions so that they are slightly narrower at the back as indicated in this illustration.



5. Sand the back of the stack of cushions so that it tapers like the illustration. When the back is added, it should lean back slightly.



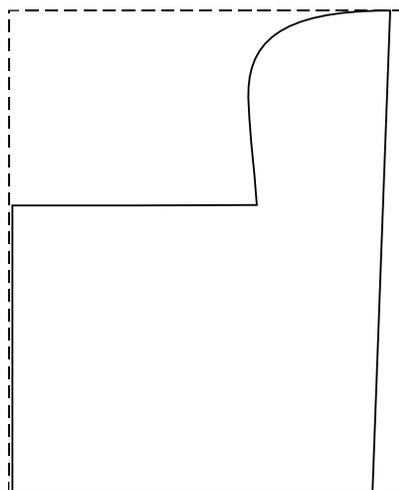
6. Cut a back out of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick Balsa wood (it should be  $1 \frac{5}{8}$ " wide and  $2 \frac{3}{4}$ " tall).

7. Sand a slight curve on the top of the back and a slight taper on the sides as indicated in the illustration. The back will be narrower at the bottom.

8. Sand the front edges of the top and sides, smoothing the curve to look like a rounded cushion. Glue the back onto the stack of cushions, flush at the bottom.



9. Cut 2 sides out of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick balsa wood (they will start out  $2\frac{5}{32}$ " wide x  $2\frac{5}{8}$ " high). Using your X-acto knife and a ruler, cut a taper on the back edge of the side to match the taper on the chair back. Rough cut the arm height and the curve of the wing using the illustration as a guide (you might even print the page and use it as a pattern). You will have one left side and one right side.



10. Trial fit the sides onto the chair. Sand the inside edge of the arm to match the curve in the photo (you will remove a fair amount of material).



11. Sand off the inside edge of both the right and left wings so that a nice round cushion look is achieved.

12. Trial fit the sides onto the chair and sand as needed for a nice, tight fit.



13. Cut 2 arms out of 3/8" thick balsa wood (you will start with two pieces about 9/16" wide and 2 1/8" long). Sand off the edges until you have roughly a half circle. Trial fit onto the sides, flush at the top of the arm, and glue into place.

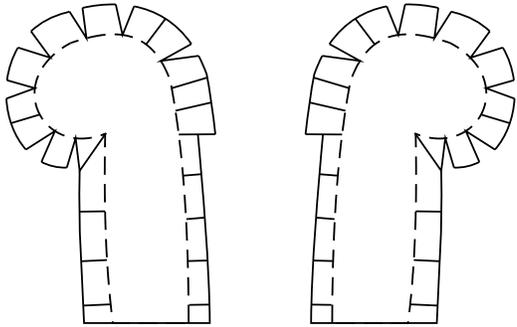


14. Sand as needed to integrate the arm into the chair and smooth out any rough edges or harsh angles.

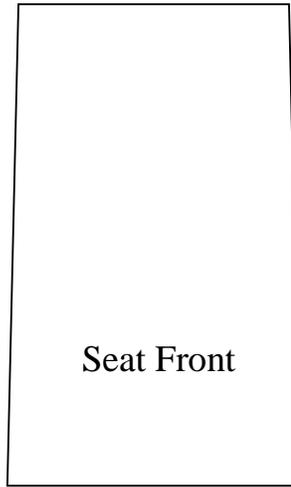


15. Paint the chair. The paint will act as a sealer for the wood and will also make it firmer and easier to upholster. Since I used an old book with yellowed pages to upholster with, I chose an ivory paint.

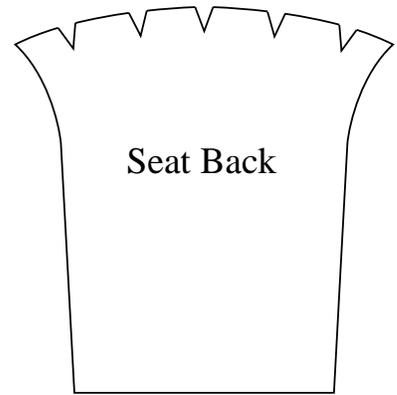
# Upholstery Patterns



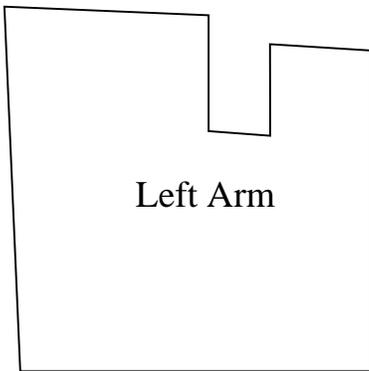
Arm Fronts



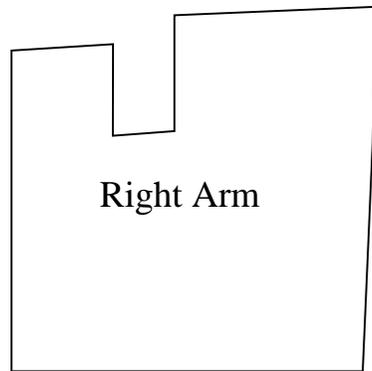
Seat Front



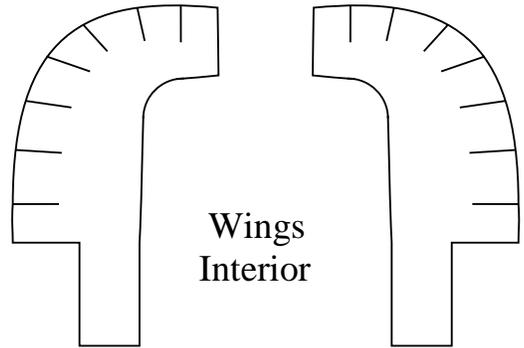
Seat Back



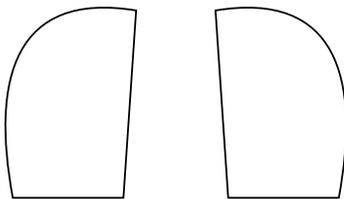
Left Arm



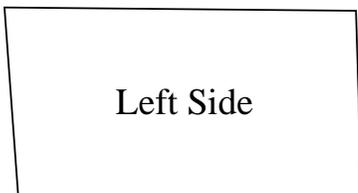
Right Arm



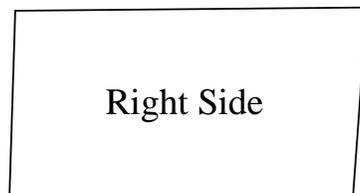
Wings Interior



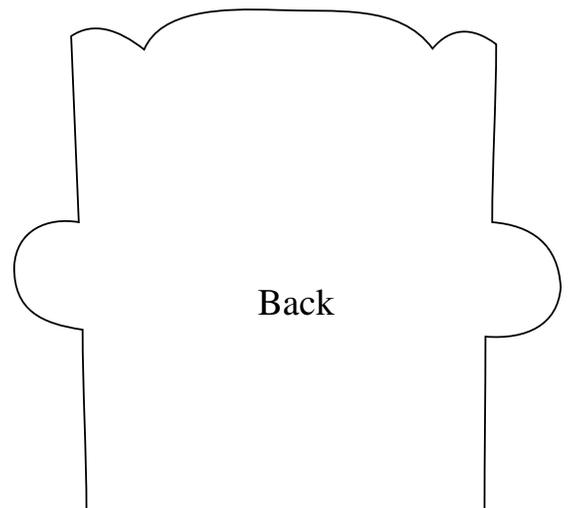
Wings - Exterior



Left Side



Right Side



Back

16. Now it is time to upholster the chair. I used an old Winnie the Pooh book from when I was a child. (Actually, I think Jeff and I each had one and I think I saved mine and used his...don't tell.) I wanted to leave the outside of the pages intact so they looked pretty when they were glued together, so I only used the interior bits, cutting the printed page out, but leaving about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " at the top and  $\frac{3}{4}$ " at the outside edge still attached to the book. (You might be able to slice the whole page out of the book with a razor blade, but I was afraid mine would show from the top if I did that. So...decide what pages of your book you would like to use as the background of your scene and be sure to not cut them, but cut out 4 or 5 pages (leaving the top and side borders in the book).

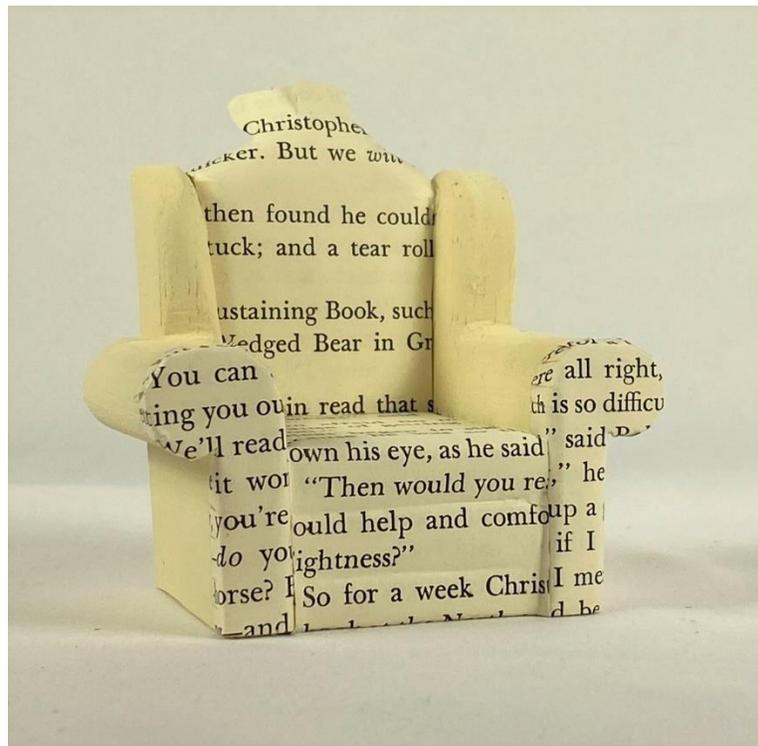
17. Print out the upholstery pattern sheet. Cut each pattern piece out as you need it, starting with the two arm fronts. Every person will have sanded their chair differently – that is not a bad thing, but the pattern pieces have been cut to the way I sanded my chair. You will need to trial fit each piece into position and adjust the pattern piece as necessary. Trial fit the arm fronts onto your chair and see how the notched areas will wrap around the arm fronts.



18. Cut the arm fronts from the pages of the book and glue them onto the front of the arms, using YES glue, wrapping the excess paper tight onto the chair. Press the paper into the wood and around the edges for a smooth and tight fit.

19. Cut out the seat front pattern and trial fit the pattern onto the chair. You will start with the narrow back tucked into the seam between the seat and seat back and then wrap it around and down the front. Adjust the pattern as necessary and then cut the seat front out of a page from the book. Glue the seat front into place, pressing it into the seams between the three cushions. Trim off any excess at the bottom.

20. Cut out the seat back pattern and trial fit the pattern onto the chair. You will start with the base tucked into the seam between the seat and the seat back and then wrap it up the back and around the top edge. Adjust the pattern as necessary and cut the seat back out of a page from the book. Press the paper into the wood and around the edges for a smooth and tight fit.

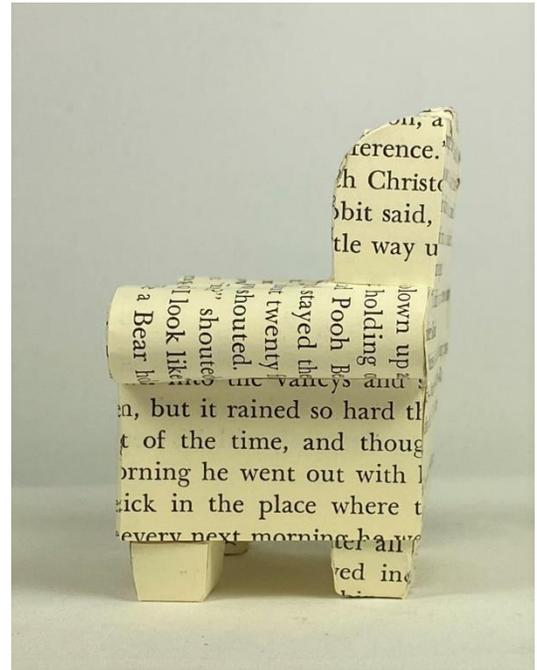


21. Cut out the right arm pattern piece and trial fit it on the right arm (the right is as you look at the chair from the front). The rectangular cut out on the pattern faces the back of the chair and is where the pattern piece fits around the wing. This pattern piece will slip over the wing and one side will curve down the inside of the arm until it hits the seat. The other side will wrap around the arm and stop at the bottom of the curve. Adjust the pattern piece as necessary and cut the pattern out of a page from the book and glue it on. Repeat for the left arm.

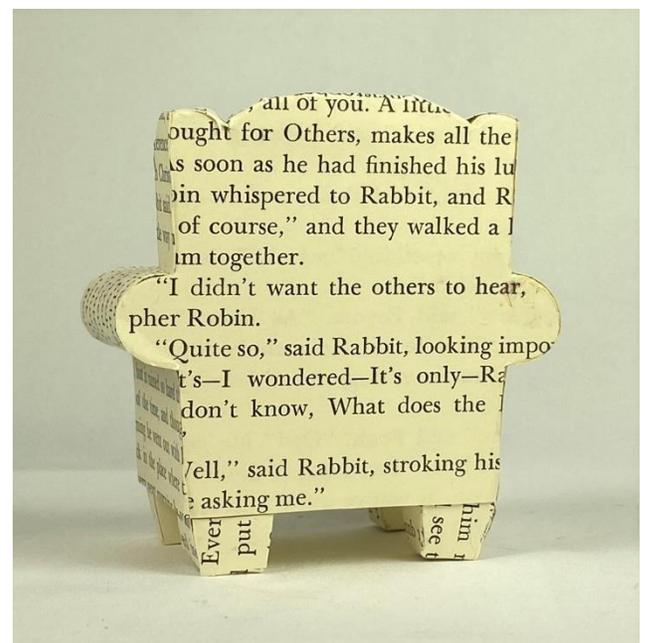
22. Cut out the wing interior patterns – there will be a right and a left side. The pieces will fit tucked in the seam where the back and the side meet and wrap around the front edge of the wing. Adjust the pattern as necessary and cut the pieces out of book pages. Glue the pieces on wrapping around the front edges – pressing the paper flat for a smooth and tight fit.

23. Cut out the wing exterior patterns – there will be a right and a left side. The pieces should just cover the small wing exterior. Trim as needed, cut the pieces out of book pages and glue onto the left and right wing exteriors.

24. Cut out the right and left side patterns, trial fit and adjust as necessary. Cut the pieces out of book pages and glue into place on the exterior of the left and right sides.



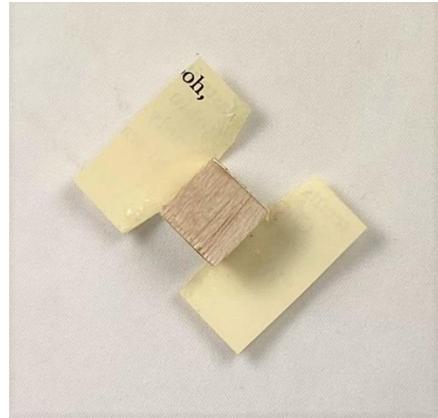
25. Cut out the back pattern, trial fit and adjust as necessary. Cut the back out of book pages and glue it into place on the back – smoothing edges down.



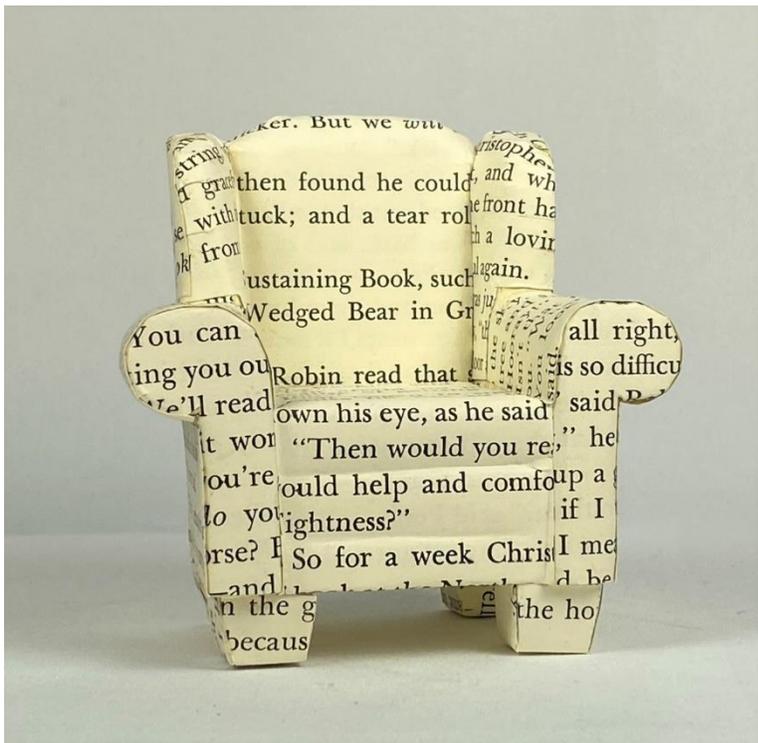
26. Cut four legs out of 3/8" thick balsa wood – they should start out as 1/2" x 1/2" squares. Sand a taper on all four sides so that the legs are narrower at the bottom as in the illustration.



27. Cut 4 – 1 1/2" squares out of book pages. To cover the legs with book pages, start with YES glue on the bottom and two opposite sides of the leg. Glue the narrow part of the leg in the center of the back side of the paper and wrap two sides up and onto the block. Clip those two sides as close as you can to the edges.



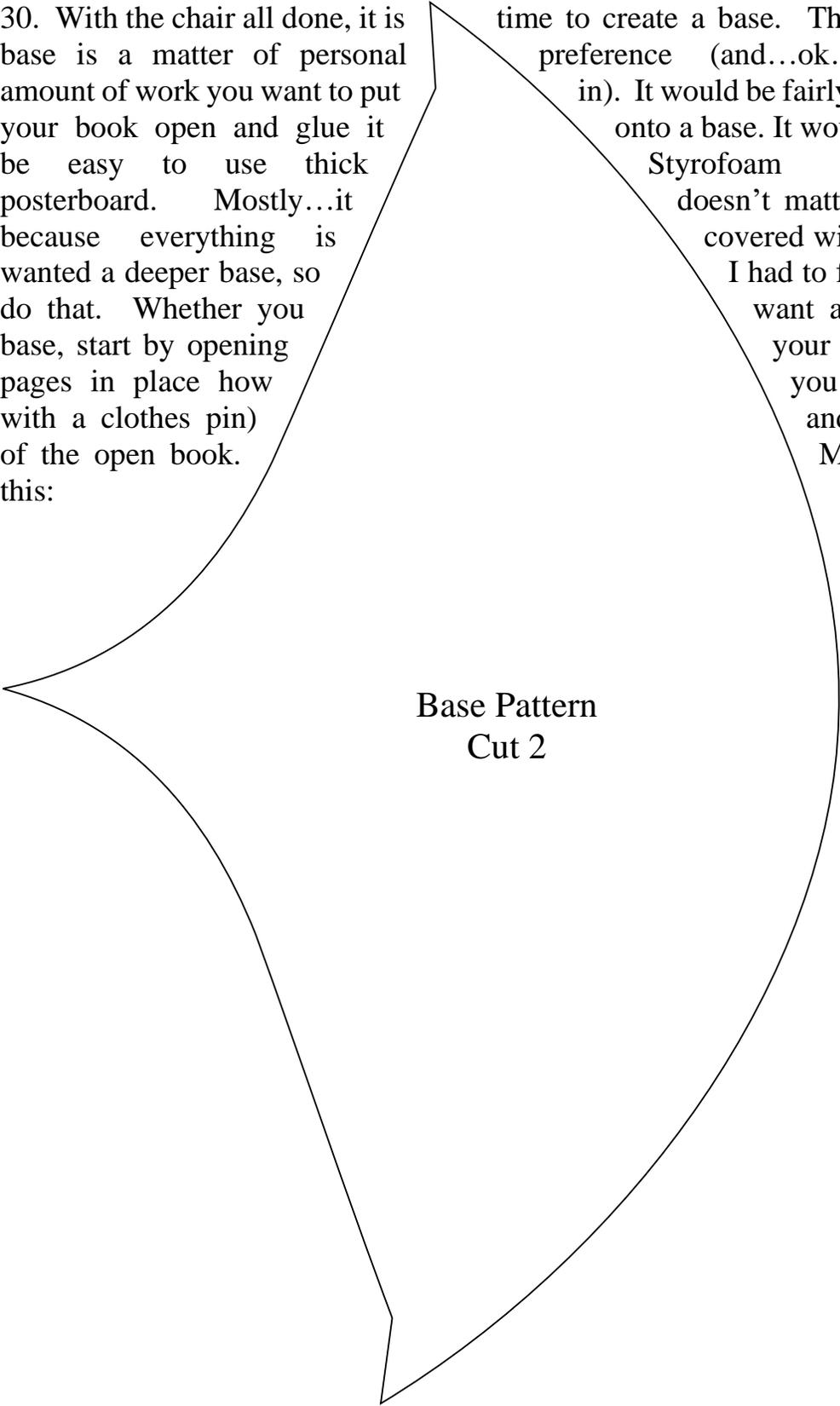
28. Bring the remaining two sides up and trim off the excess paper. Cover the remaining two sides with paper and trim off any excess. Repeat 3 more times.



29. Glue the 4 legs to the bottom of the chair.

30. With the chair all done, it is base is a matter of personal amount of work you want to put your book open and glue it be easy to use thick posterboard. Mostly...it because everything is wanted a deeper base, so do that. Whether you base, start by opening pages in place how with a clothes pin) of the open book. this:

time to create a base. The height of your preference (and...ok...also on the in). It would be fairly easy just to glue onto a base. It would also probably Styrofoam covered with doesn't matter what you use covered with paper. But, I I had to figure out how to want a thick or a thin your book (hold the you would like them and draw the shape Mine looked like



Base Pattern  
Cut 2

31. I cut two identical base size pieces of wood (you could use illustration board) – one for the top and one for the bottom. I also cut a bunch of 1” high spacers (these would be great cut out of any remaining balsa wood). Glue the spacers onto the base bottom, making sure there are some contact points at the back edges to glue the book to and the front edges to glue the trim piece to. Glue the base top on, making sure the edges are even. Weight with something heavy while the glue dries.

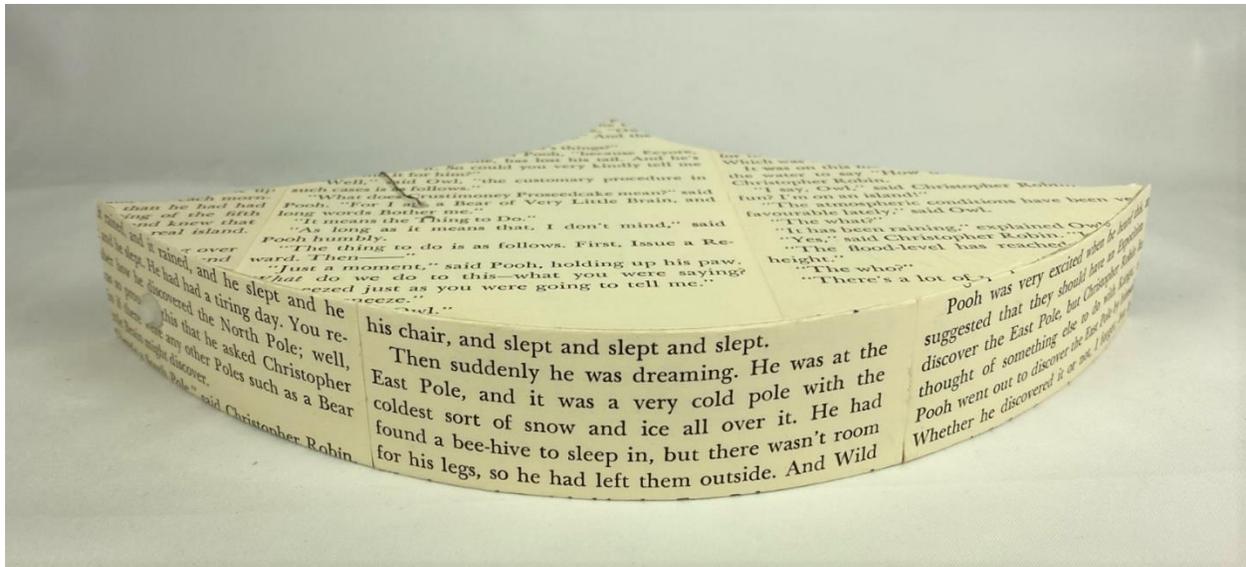


32. Cut a piece of posterboard the total height of your base – making sure it is long enough to cover the entire front edge.

33. Paint the base and posterboard front edge ivory.

34. Cover the top of the base with pages from the book. You will probably have to piece the pages together – I found it looked best to at least line up the words. Glue book pages on with YES glue.

35. Cover the front edge with book paper. I wrapped the paper around the edges for a more finished look. You will probably need to piece several pages together for this as well. Glue the front edge to the base. Make sure you have a nice glue joint – gluing to curves is always tricky.



36. Just for fun (because it is fun) hold up the book to the base and sit your chair in front...isn't this going to be sooooo cute?

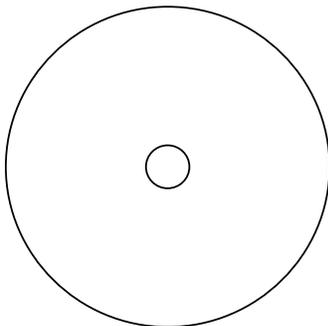
37. To break up the monotony of all the words...I thought it might be nice to use an illustration from the book as a rug. Find an illustration (if there is one) and cut an oval from a page. Cut several pieces of unprinted page border about 1/2" wide to use as fringe around the edges of the rug.



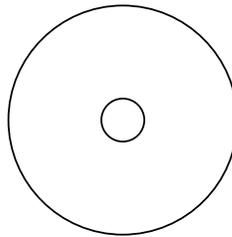
38. Now all that is needed to complete the little scene is a reading lamp. To create the reading lamp, I used: 3 wood circles, a paper straw and a 1 oz. condiment cup.



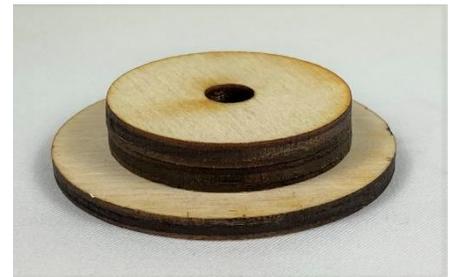
Cut a base out of illustration board or wood or whatever you have around (you could even use a water bottle cap – go dig through the recycling). Because I have a laser and lots of wood, I cut 3 1/8" thick circles – one large and two smaller. Drill a hole through your base that will fit your paper straw (I was going to use whatever straw I had in the cupboard...but was lucky to find a paper straw because it is so much easier to glue to paper than it is to plastic.)



Cut 1



Cut 2



Side view of lamp base before covering

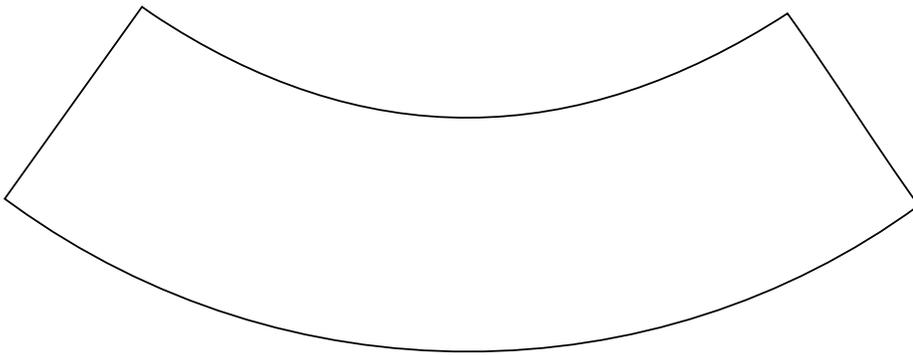
Now, cover the base with pages from your book. (I cut circles slightly bigger and folded the paper down the edge, clipping as necessary for a nice fit and then trimmed off the excess.)

39. To support the lampshade, snip the straw about 3/8" down in several places and fold the pieces perpendicular to the straw. Cut straw to desired height and cover the straw with pages from your book.



40. I use these condiment cups for paint, so I have lots of them kicking around, but, if you don't have any, you might be surprised what you can find in your recycling. If you can't find any, you might need to order in for dinner tonight. Paint the cup ivory – both inside and out.

41. Cut a pattern for the shade. Depending on the size of your cup, it may vary, but you can use this pattern for a start. Once you have a nice pattern that will wrap around the cup, cut a lampshade out of the pages of your book and glue it on to the condiment cup. (OK...I do have to admit...in the project in my head the lampshade had a pleated shade...wouldn't that look even cuter?)



42. Glue the straw into the base and the condiment cup lampshade onto the splayed straw. (OK...full disclosure...I did light my lamp and it is super cute. I just used one of the single chip light kits from Evan's Designs [www.evandesigns.com](http://www.evandesigns.com) – hung the lightbulb out the top of the straw and ran the wires down the straw and out the back...I am telling you this because it will be way easier to do before the book is glued on.)



43. Trial fit your book in place on your base. When you are certain that you won't need any more of the pages, glue the pages of the book together. Glue the ones you cut the center out of to the previous page and glue the others together so that there is a little bow to the pages. (I just used a little YES glue on a paintbrush to glue the pages.) When the pages have dried, glue the open book to the base and glue the rug, lamp and chair onto the base.

If you build one, send photos to me, Debbie Young at [yngathrt@gv.net](mailto:yngathrt@gv.net). I would love to see how your Little Book Scene turned out.

