



Custom Chair

Learners will consult with a client and create a prototype of a custom chair that fits their client's needs.

Learners will...

- Conduct research for their client
- Design a prototype chair for their client Interview a client
- Revise their designs based on feedback





Instructions

- 1** Before starting, gather building materials. Anything you can find around the house will work. Think paper, popsicle sticks, cupcake liners, toilet paper or paper towel rolls, pipe cleaners, disposable cups and plates, etc.
- 2** The challenge is for your learner to build a scaled down prototype of a chair for their client. You can assign the client, or have them choose for themselves. Anyone works as long as they can do some research about their client's need.
- 3** Once your learner has their client, they will need to conduct research to learn more about their client needs. This can be accomplished in a number of ways including interviews, observation (especially fun if your client is family pet), internet research, etc.
Sample Interview Questions: What would you like to be doing in this chair? What was the least comfortable chair you ever sat in and why?
Sample Observation Topics: Where does your client rest the most? Do they gravitate towards certain materials over others (wood, fabric, etc). How long do they stay in one place?
- 4** Once your learner has built up enough research, ask them to organize their findings. How does their data translate to possible chair ideas?
Sample Data Point: My client is constantly moving around, maybe I can build in wheels or a bounce to the chair to allow for movement.
- 5** Encourage your learner to sketch out their ideas before using any building materials. This is the ideation phase, the more sketches the better!
- 6** It's time to build. Your learner should choose their top two ideas and create a physical prototype from the building materials available.
- 7** Once built, have them take their prototype for review. What's their client's feedback?
- 8** Optional choice to take the feedback and reiterate their design. What can they do to improve upon their first design?

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Homemade Playdough Recipe

Traditional

2 cups water

1.25 tablespoons cream of tartar

1 cup salt

2 cups flour

4 tablespoons kitchen oil (canola, vegetable, melted coconut, etc.)

Optional: essential oils for scent, and food coloring or liquid watercolor paint for color

1. Mix all ingredients minus optional ingredients in the order above in a high sided pot until it comes together.

Mixing in this order will ensure even distribution of cream of tartar and salt into the flour and help make the starting mixture less lumpy.

2. Cook the mixture over low heat stirring often until the dough starts to appear dry.

You'll know it's ready when you can pinch the dough and it stays put!

3. Roll the dough out onto a counter and add optional ingredients. Knead until all ingredients are incorporated and the dough is fully smooth and cooled.

Note: if you are using a colorant—it might stain whatever you are kneading on.

4. Store in an airtight container for up to three months.

Note: I've seen some makers use kool-aid or other quick drink pouches for both smell and color. This isn't necessarily an issue—but note that the sugar has the potential to make things sticky—so use with caution.



Homemade Playdough Recipes

No cook and no cream of tartar!

1.5 cups water

6 tablespoons lemon juice (roughly 3 lemons)

2 cups flour

.5 cup salt

2 tablespoons of kitchen oil (canola, vegetable, melted coconut, etc.)

Optional: essential oils for scent, and food coloring or liquid watercolor paint for color

1. Mix water and lemon juice together and heat until almost boiling (microwave or stovetop is fine)
2. While the water and lemon juice heat, mix flour and salt together in a large heat proof bowl.
3. Slowly pour the hot liquid and optional oils/food coloring over the dry mixture and stir (wooden or silicone tools preferred)
4. Keep stirring until the mixture feels and looks almost like a dough as opposed to a cake mix.
5. Add your oil and stir until a ball forms.
6. Roll your ball onto a counter and knead with your hands until it comes together.

Note: Do NOT add more flour while the dough is still warm. The mixture will thicken when it cools like a gray or a sauce. Also, if you are using a colorant—it might stain whatever you are kneading on.
7. If needed, once cooled, sprinkle more flour (or cornstarch in very humid environments) and knead until incorporated.
8. Store in an airtight container for up to three months.

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