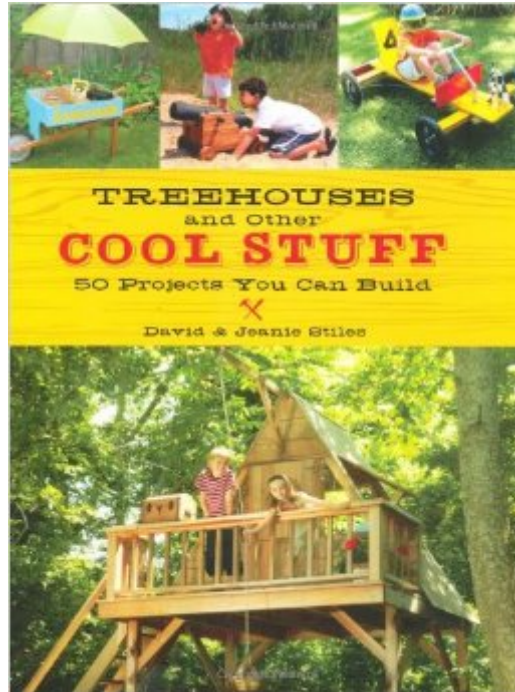


The book was found

# Treehouses And Other Cool Stuff: 50 Projects You Can Build



## Synopsis

Remember the handcrafted mischief of the gangs on *The Little Rascals*, *Gilligan's Island*, and *The Swiss Family Robinson*? This cleverness is back in the old-fashioned fun of *Treehouses and Other Cool Stuff You Can Build*. Imagine building an old-fashioned go-cart, an A-frame treehouse, a portable lemonade stand, a seesaw, a scooter skateboard, a tub fiddle, and even the ultimate in entertainment-an erupting volcano. Also included is a useful section on carpentry tips and tools such as: Sawhorse, Saw Guide and Crosscutting, Ripping Wood, Pilot Holes and Drilling Screws, Toolbox.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

I'm not a carpenter, barely an 'about the house' handyman, but I have 2 little kids, and a space to put a playground or swingset by Walmart or better- build a treehouse. I've always wanted a treehouse. By chance on Google, I discovered the plans for Stiles' A-frame treehouse graciously offered free online. And with little know how, but committed, I followed the brief instructions, working on the weekends, to the tee, and by golly, we have a beautiful treehouse. This book I bought later, and it contains the original A-frame treehouse among other designs and indeed 'other Cool Stuff', e.g., accessories for the treehouse, a working cannon for kids, a simple boat, unusual swings,

homemade toys etc. There are some color photos of the creations, cute drawings, and the simple schematics. There's info on basic construction and woodworking and they give you just enough to put it together. I learned as I went. I own their other book 'Treehouses you can actually build'(never used it-intended to- until now), another Stiles' gem, and found it very helpful. A few suggestions from a total novice: 1. Right tool for the right job. Few tools are needed. They list them for you, e.g., circular saw, jigsaw, 2 electric drills, level, and so forth. Buy good equipment, good blades-lots of teeth, screws- I like the ones with star head inserts, less slippage, etc.- it helps immensely. 2. Get help- to hold poles, lift frames, give insight. I built the A-frame treehouse alone, Lone Ranger style- doable but somewhat hard. Stay focused; keep attention to detail, review every aspect of the drawings. Not all the minute specifics are given. You must think out your steps, review different types of screws and materials and how to approach the next task especially if you don't know anything like me. The Home Depot/Lowes' crews helped in that department plus Googling. 3. "Plumb and Level"- get the foundation and the frame right and the rest is much easier; 4. Plan for safety- soft ground cover like chopped, colored rubber; a higher railing for the treehouse patio; extra wooden bars for the windows if kids falling out is an issue; 5. Modify the plans if reasonable- my wife suggested the staircase rise up into the treehouse not alongside it with a 'secret' hatch (the Stiles recommend similar in their other book); I used redwood instead of cedar railings, added another small window in the back with a bell to ring... 6. Take your time and have fun or do something else!

My kids are desperate for a tree house or fort in the back yard. After pricing commercially available options, I decided that I could build one for a fraction of what a Play Nation solution would cost. So, I started looking for plans. I saw these Stiles publications (Treehouses and other Cool Stuff and Tree Houses, Huts and Forts.) at [Amazon.com](#), and thought they looked promising. Well, "promising" just about describes it. There are two Tree Fort plans in this book that fit the bill for my kids, and these come with material lists, but the detail - especially for building the roof - is simply not there. I've never built a house, so am unfamiliar with construction techniques for building a roof. Additional research will be required to build either fort. (In How to Build Treehouses Huts and Forts, there is a scant page dedicated to roof construction, that may be sufficient for me to get started.) Flipping through the rest of this book, I found several projects that might be fun to do with the kids. But, building an exploding cannon that uses a CO2 fire extinguisher to propel a cannon ball? Not so sure...

I bought this book as a gift for my brother, who has 2 young sons. He is experienced in building everything from model airplanes to sheds. So, this was a perfect book for him - it doesn't waste time

on pesky details for the beginner. Instead, flipping through the book, it seemed as if each project had 2-3 pages dedicated to it. I was especially amused by the Dinosaur Fort and the pictures (nicely drawn, easy to read pictures) that showed the wood frame with dimensions labelled (yes, all in one picture) and some other vague instructions of covering the frame with chicken wire, dipping burlap into plaster, and laying the burlap on the chicken wire to dry. If what you just read was almost enough instructions for you to get started, then by all means, this is the idea book for you. If you need a LOT more detail, then pass on this one. I do like the ideas in this book, without describing anything specific I would say that they remind me of the "good old fashioned fun" that I had as a child, growing up in the country. Sure, some things might seem a bit dangerous, but there will need to be a tad bit of danger involved if we want the kids to get away from the video games and play outside, right? (Nothing in this book is super dangerous, just exciting). Only reason for the 4 stars is - I don't think it's clear by the title and description that this book is NOT for a beginner.

I'm not one to write reviews of books, but this time I feel compelled to do so. The Stiles books on building are really quite unique and I particularly like their new one on Tree Houses and Other Cool Stuff. It is filled with inventive projects that parents can do with children. The instructions are just wordy enough and the illustrations look quite easy to follow. I'm going to give this book as gifts. It would make a good gift for a Mom or Dad with young children, or for active grandparents, come to think of it.

I purchased this book looking for not just ideas on things to build, but how-to guides as well. Most of the projects do not have what I would consider the bare minimum which is a materials list. It also doesn't go into much detail about how to actually build anything, with most of the 'instructions' as loosely organized pieces of the puzzle with some crude sketches. Most of the ideas are fun and cool looking, but I was expecting much more details out of it. I am building the cannon right now, and it's not a difficult project, but if I didn't already know how to do most of it, this book would not have been much use.

I thought it would step me through the building of the projects better. Some projects are very simple. Others are quite complex and don't include enough instructions for someone to easily build. You have to know what you are doing for those projects and come up with some engineering yourself. Seems like it should have an equal level of experience projects together.

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