

Fit for a fairy



Fashion a one-of-a-kind chair using twigs and Marilyn Cosho's original technique

TOOLS

- Pruning shears
- Needle-nose pliers
- Wire clippers
- Glue gun and glue sticks for woodworking
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Beads
- Jewels
- Charms
- Fibers
- 24 or 26-gauge silver and gold wire
- Gold thread
- Glitter glue
- Feathers
- Lichen
- Acorns
- Virginia creeper or grapevine tendrils

Boise, Idaho (my hometown) is known as “the city of trees” making it an ideal spot for twig hunting. I look forward to my neighborhood walks after a good wind-storm. It is then I find the best twigs and branches for making fairy chairs.

I have made over 200 chairs and have never had to worry about coming up with new ideas. Since no two twigs are alike, each chair's uniqueness is assured.

Tips:

- Select clean, dry twigs with bark that is firm and smooth.
- Use twigs from the same variety of tree for each chair.
- Wood that is similar in color and texture makes the chair look more unified.



- After you have cut the first leg, use it to measure the succeeding legs. It's a quick and easy way to ensure accuracy.
- If the chair is wobbly upon completion, carefully trim one leg at a time until the chair is stable. While grasping the chair firmly, the bottoms of all four legs can also be lightly rubbed back and forth across sandpaper to give a smooth finish.



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- Try making different sizes of chairs. I have made chairs as small as 1 inch tall and as large as 15 inches tall.
- A table is simply a chair with taller legs and without the high back. For the top, I use a heavy paper with a leathery look made by Provo Craft.

Steps in Making a Fairy Chair:

1. Cut ten 1-inch lengths of reasonably straight twigs. Two will be used as front legs and the remaining eight will be the supports between the legs. (They must be equal regardless of length).
2. Cut two longer lengths of twigs for the back legs and back of the chair. I usually

Top: start by gluing two support twigs between the two longer length twigs.
Bottom: You can use a 1-inch leg to measure how high to make the twig support for the seat.



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cut pieces between 3 and 6 inches long. The size is not critical. You can always trim later.

3. Glue the legs and supports together using a glue gun. Start by gluing two supports between the two longer length twigs. You can use a 1-inch leg to measure how high to make the twig support for the seat.

4. Select twigs with interesting twists and turns to fill in the back of the chair and glue them into place.

5. Trim enough small twigs to lie across the seat frame. Glue into place.

6. Embellish chair with whatever you think will attract fairies such as jewels, beads and charms. Fairies can't resist things that glitter.

Top: Embellish your chair with jewels, beads and charms. Bottom: Try making different sizes of chairs.