

Pallet Adirondack Chair



The story



Turned over shopping carts!!

Background & Perspective

As user experience industrial designer with a background in cognitive psychology I find myself constantly watching and analyzing how people interface with their surroundings. My job is to do just this, observe and frequently interact with consumers / users in order to outline problems, create objectives, and design towards them.

TURNED OVER SHOPPING CARTS was the original observed problem in my neighborhood. After a few bike rides past these toppled shopping carts, I realized that the carts were not the problem. They happened to be placed in specific spots along Atlanta's MARTA bus stops as seats. They served their purpose well BUT were often reclaimed by the local big box stores during the weekly round-ups.

Problem

Lack of seating for bus riders in my neighborhood

Objective

Develop an iconic seating device that can be easily mass manufactured from locally salvaged material.

Design Solution

Use the wood from **two previously broken down pallets** and **simple tools** to create one pallet Adirondack chair from an **easy to follow design guide**.

The Pallet Adirondack Chair Kit (pre-drilled wood & screws)
Easy-to-Follow Instruction & Reproduction Guide (the chair kit's how-to)

Market Niche

Designing furniture out of pallets is not new, nor is the manufacturing of Adirondack chairs, BUT making an inexpensive modern seating option that is easy to build out of visibly salvaged material is something that has not yet been mass marketed. This product is meant for the DIY consumer market that is both monetarily and environmentally conscious yet aesthetically aware of their personal belongings and surroundings.

Market

Outdoor furniture that combines modern style with a rugged, sustainable, and affordable material. There are no competitors attempting to produce modern seating out of this material with this an open source / DIY like process.

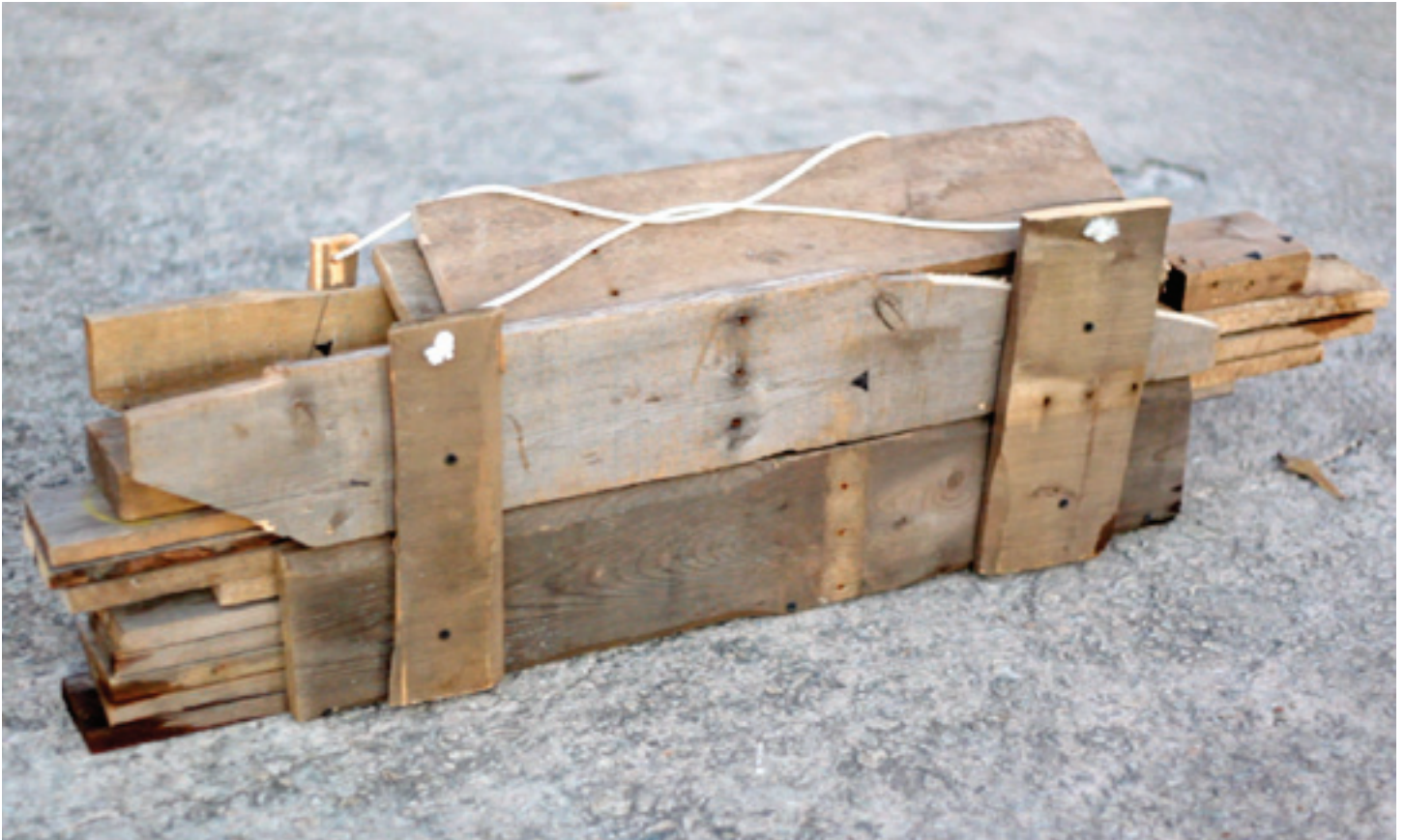
Ultimate Goal

Market the Pallet Adirondack Chair + Guide to the Do-it-Yourself consumer market and take a portion of the profits to develop a program to create similar seating for public needs (park chairs, bus seats, green spaces).

Future Objectives

Sponsor a series of design build for local manufacturing contests with salvaged / local materials to grow the public's input on community design needs for specific areas of the country & world.
&
Continue to do R&D on this design and potential line items.

Kit

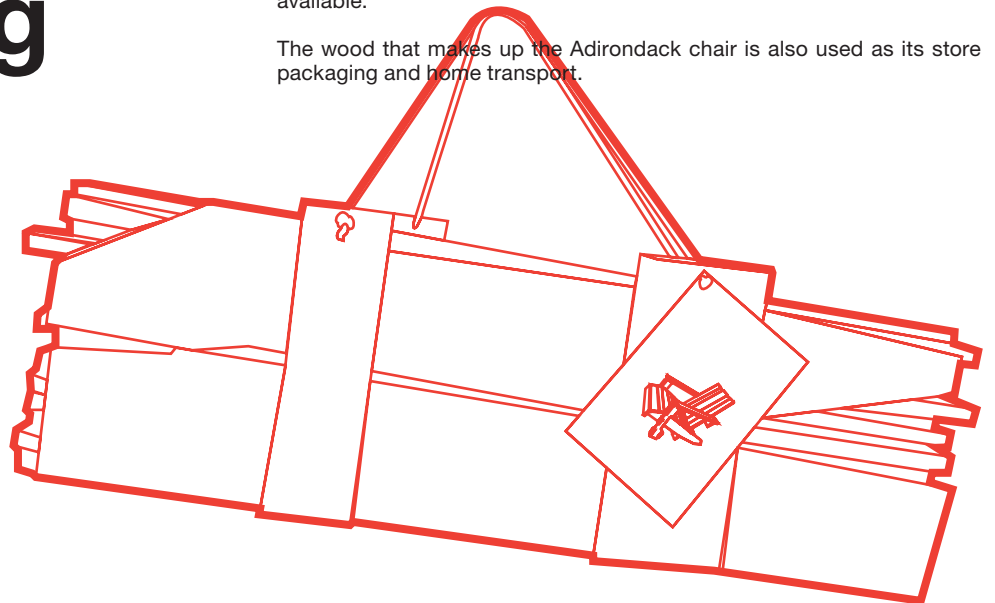


Pallet Adirondack Kit as it would come from the store.

This kit will include all needed wood, screws, and an illustrated instruction guide that can be used to create another chair if additional pallets are available.

The wood that makes up the Adirondack chair is also used as its store packaging and home transport.

Retail Packaging

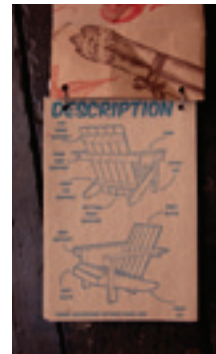
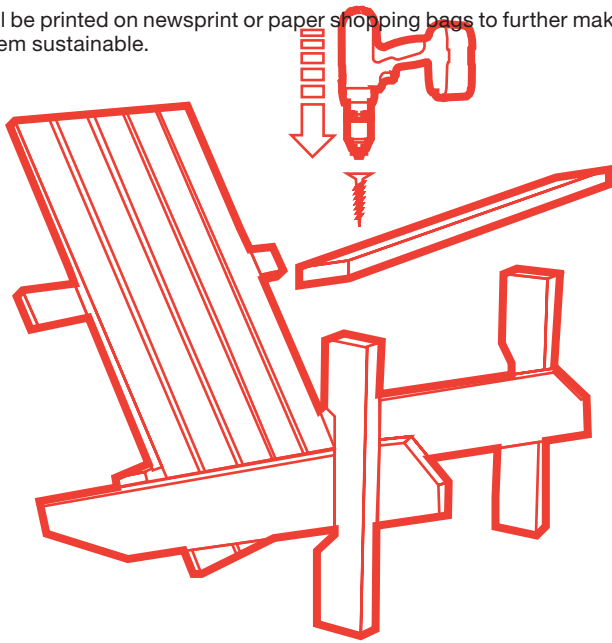


Guide

An open source solution for seating made from salvaged material.

Laid out to look like a blueprint comic book, this guide focuses on illustrating the process of creating the pallet chair. The guide's Ease-of-Use layout follows a similar process as the Georgia Tech Research Institute's Accessibility Assistant product design guides.

It will be printed on newsprint or paper shopping bags to further make the system sustainable.



On pallets



Pallet background

Over half a billion pallets are made each year (about 2 billion are in use in the US).

Pallets are made of softwoods like pine and oak.

The two most common types of pallets are stringer and block.

Stringer pallets contain less structural wood and are considered **disposable**.

It takes **two pallets to produce one Adirondack Chair**.

Pallets are being given away by large industrial companies OR are being discarded in urban neighborhoods where scrappers won't get caught.

The **material is virtually free** and the process to break down a pallet into usable lumber is a simple.

Collecting these pallets for secondary use is a **sustainable act** on many levels.



Enjoy

