

Here are the directions we followed to construct the double-sided Plexiglas™ easel:

Materials:

- 2- 20 inch by 32 inch sheets of pre-cut Plexiglas™
- 2- 3 ½ inch door hinges
- 2- 2 foot sections of chain
- A pound box of 1 ¼ inch screws for cedar and pine; and
- 3- 8 foot pine 2 by 4s; two of which are cut in half to make 4- 48 inch pieces and the third is cut into 4- 13 inch long pieces.

Tools:

- Drill and drill bits
- Tape measure
- Safety glasses
- Sand paper; and
- Screwdriver

To construct the easel:

Start by pre-drilling holes in both sheets of Plexiglas™. Because these holes will be used for attaching the Plexiglas™ to the lumber frame, you'll also want to drill holes in the corners as well as a couple in the sides, top, and bottom of both sheets.

Next lay out the wood legs and support pieces in a frame on the floor.

Then put the Plexiglas™ on top of the frame and mark the pre-drilled holes on the legs and supports with a pencil.

Set the Plexiglas™ aside and pre-drill the marked holes in the legs and supports.

Next, put the Plexiglas™ back in place on top of the wood frame and screw into place.

Because this is going to be a double sided easel, repeat this process.

Next, lay both frame pieces on the floor, top edge touching top edge with the Plexiglas™ side down.

Then line up one hinge so that the middle of it lies directly on top of the seam created by the tops of the two sides. Make sure the middle hinge holes line up where the leg meets the top support piece and mark the four outer holes with a pencil.

Set the hinges aside and pre-drill holes for the hinges into the frame.

Screw the hinges into place beginning with two holes diagonally opposite from one another. After checking that everything still lines up finish putting in the remaining screws.

Repeat this process with the second hinge.

Then sand all of the hard edges of the wood and Plexiglas™ to round them a little and clean up any splinters or nicks.

Next stand the easel up and experiment with opening it up to find a safe standing width, which for our easel measured out to be 22 inches from one bottom support piece to the other.

Then attach the chain to the side of the easel where the bottom support piece meets the leg. Don't drill the screw in completely...you want to leave room for the chain to rotate.

There you have it...your own double sided Plexiglas™ easel.

REMEMBER...when making your own materials be sure to know the ages and stages of the children in your care so you can make any additional safety features you might need.