

WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

downloadable plans:
"America's leading woodworking authority"™

In this plan you will be getting:

- Step by Step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Exploded view and elevation drawings.
- How-to photos with instructive captions.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.



To download these plans, you will need **Adobe Reader** installed on your computer. If you want to get a free copy, you can get it at: **Adobe Reader**.

Having trouble downloading the plans?

- If you're using Microsoft Internet Explorer, right click on the download link and select "Save Target As" to download to your local drive.
- If you're using Netscape, right click on the download link and select "Save Link As" to download to your local drive.

WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL
©2007 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Scroll-Sawn Nightlights



Published in Woodworker's Journal "Woodworking Classics: Skill-Building Projects for the Home Woodworker"

\$7.95

WJ054



Planning Ahead: Scroll-Sawn Nightlight Project

Here's what you'll need to round up to create these nightlights:

- Scroll saw
- No. 2 or 5 skiptooth blade (optional)
- Five-minute epoxy
- 3/4"-wide masking tape
- 1/8"-thick plywood
- Aluminum roof flashing (optional)
- Nightlight kit (National Artcraft Co., part #393-256-03; phone 888-937-2723 or www.nationalartcraft.com)

Scroll-Sawn Nightlights

Looking for something to interest the kids when they can't sleep or to reassure them during a late-night thunderstorm? These simple scroll-sawn nightlights are also a good project for introducing older gradeschoolers to the basics of woodworking. Tighten up a fresh scroll saw blade and let your imagination go.

These nightlight projects are a lot of fun and simple to complete, and they make great gifts. You can make yours from scrap wood or even metal. Stack a few of the same designs together when cutting them out to really speed up the process. If you are introducing kids to the shop, we recommend starting out with 1/8" plywood. As you might guess, kids love this sort of project, particularly since they get to actually operate a power tool! (Scroll saws, if approached properly and with adult supervision, are one of the safest power tools around.)

Even if a child does not do the actual cutting, they can paint or decorate the cutouts as they choose: from a single color (like the flocked frog) or painted with a lot of detail. If you have some attractive leftovers from other projects, you could use a clear finish to show off the wood grain.

Starting Out

Using one or more of the full-size patterns shown on the next two pages, get started on your nightlights by making copies at a local library or copy center. (Permission is hereby granted for your personal use.) Select your material and cut the metal, plastic or 1/8"-thick plywood to overall size. If you are going to stack-cut the parts (as shown in the *photo* on page 141), carefully tape three or four pieces together along the edges. Do not try to cut stacked pieces that add up to more than 1/2" thick as a group—it's too much for a scroll saw. If you want to make your nightlight out of a thin metal such as aluminum or copper, simply sandwich three to four sheets between two pieces of 1/8" thick plywood and cut out as usual.

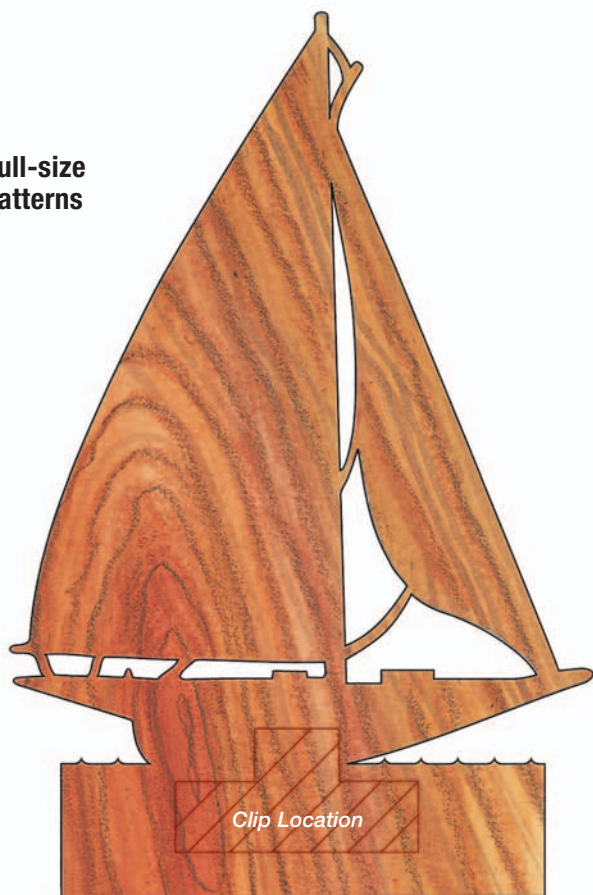
Take your paper pattern and attach it to the top piece of the stack with spray adhesive. (Take care to apply

adhesive to the paper pattern, not the wood.) If the pattern has interior cutouts, drill a 1/8"-diameter starter hole for the blade at each interior cut. Make all your interior cuts first. Then, starting on one edge, form the piece's outside shape by following the pattern. If you're cutting stacked pieces, it's very important that you keep everything together as you cut. Don't hesitate to stop and re-tape if necessary to keep everything properly aligned. Once your pieces are cut, use a block of wood with sandpaper wrapped around it to lightly sand away any burrs or splinters from the front and back surfaces.

Finishing Up

If you are going to leave the wood looking natural, simply brush or spray on a topcoat of a clear satin or gloss finish. If you are going to paint your nightlight one color (such as black),

Full-size Patterns



using a can of spray paint is an easy application method. For fancier paint schemes, apply a light primer coat and hand-paint to suit. Finish up by adding a light, clear topcoat of your choice to seal in the paint.

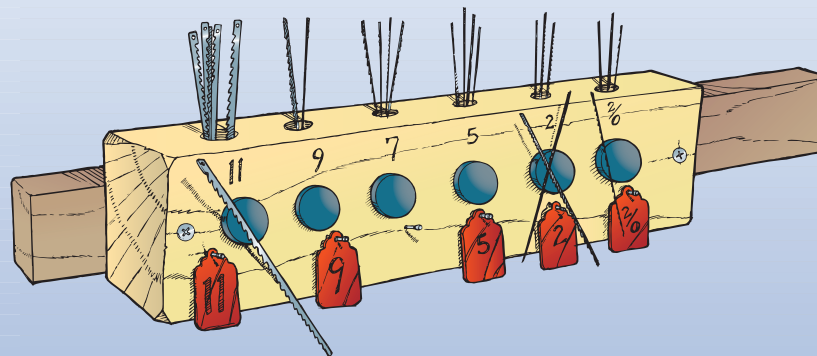
Attach the plastic clip to the back surface of the project (five-minute epoxy works well) where indicated on each of the patterns above. Snap the clip onto the nightlight, add a bulb, and you're done! A wonderfully simple project.

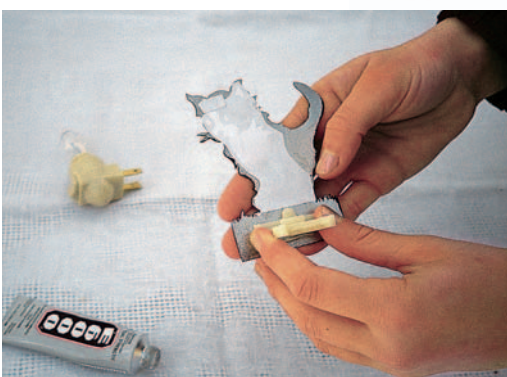
One final tip: On the cat, horse and boat patterns, you might want to hide the lightbulb by gluing a piece of non-stick baking liner paper (parchment paper) across the back surface. (Refer to the *photo* on the next page.) You can get this liner from a grocery or kitchen supply store. This hides the bulb and lends a nice "glowing" effect. Do not use regular paper, as it could overheat.

QuickTip

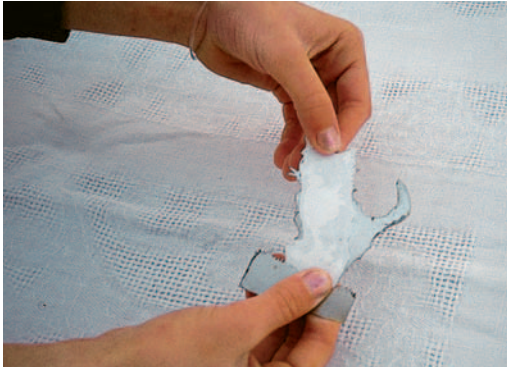
Magnetic Blade Organizer

Here's a simple organizer for scroll saw blades. Whenever you install a blade, attach the relevant number tag to your saw. Then it's always easy to tell what size blade is in the saw. When you change blades, stick the used blade to the magnet in front of the correct hole, so it doesn't get mixed up with brand new blades.





Use epoxy to attach the nightlight's clip to the scroll sawn design. Five-minute epoxy will do fine.



Use parchment paper to line the back of see-through lights to help hide the light bulb.

Stacked cutting is a great way to speed up the process of creating these nightlights. For best results, don't stack parts thicker than about 1/2".

