

Make Your Own Stand for Tameshigiri

The first thing to do is to read through the instructions and print out the PDF diagram so you can get an idea of the parts you will be making and assembling and the materials you will need.

The next step is to go to the lumberyard, or a well-stocked hardware or home supply store that carries lumber and pick up the supplies you need. All of the materials are readily available and a list is provided on the next page.

When you pick out the materials for your cutting stand make sure to choose a good "construction grade" wood. On the West Coast a good, strong, and inexpensive choice is whatever type of Fir is available in your area. Both Pine and Redwood are too soft and may split in the area around the peg at the top of the stand. Look for wood that is straight, no bends or twists, no cracks, and has as few knots as possible. Also, try to find wood that is dry. "Wet" boards will feel very heavy compared to the wood that is drier. Lumber that has high moisture content is more likely to crack and split over time.

Unless you have the equipment at home you should consider having the lumber cut to size where you buy it. Even though you may have to spend a few extra dollars you will end up with straight, flat cuts that will make assembly easier and look more professional.

Before you do any assembly make sure to sand off any sharp or rough edges on the wood. Your tameshigiri stand will look better and your chances of getting a nasty splinter now or later will be greatly reduced.

A power screwdriver will be very helpful for assembly but is not absolutely necessary. If you will be using a hand screwdriver then it is best to drive the screws all the way through each leg before trying to attach them to the post. You can also pre-drill the screw holes in the legs. If you will be using lag bolts you will have to pre-drill the legs with a hole just big enough for the lag bolt to pass through, and the post with a hole 1/8" smaller than the lag bolt diameter.

1. With the post laying flat on the ground attach one leg at 90°, it doesn't matter whether the leg points to the right or the left. The bottom of the post, and the side of the leg should be flush and 90° to each other.
2. Rotate the post 90° so that the attached leg points straight up. Place the second leg on the post and push it against the side of the first leg. After making sure that the second leg is perpendicular at 90° and flush to the bottom of the post, go ahead and attach it.
3. Repeat the procedure above to attach the third leg. Make sure that the bottoms of the legs are all even. If they are not even the stand will wobble when it is finished.

4. Now stand the post up in the position it will be used so you can attach the fourth leg. At this point it is helpful to have a flat surface to work on and a wall or helper to push against. Place the second leg against a wall or have a helper stand on it while you attach the fourth leg. Set the fourth leg in place making sure it is flat against the floor/ground and pushed up against the third leg. When you are sure that all four legs are touching the ground go ahead and attach the fourth leg.
5. Time to put the hole in the top of the post for the peg. Find and mark the center of the post with a pencil. Use a hand-drill and a 1" spade drill to drill the center hole. Take your time doing this and make sure that the hole is straight. You can also purchase a jig which attaches to your power drill at most hardware stores. The hole should be 2 ½" to 3" deep.
6. Clean up all rough edges with sandpaper. Stain or oil the wood to your preference.
7. The peg is made from a 1" dowel. Just about any type of wood will do, we prefer to use oak. The peg should be 8" to 10" long and should taper to a point or have a bevel on one end so that the target slides over it easily. If the peg sticks up 5 ½" to 7" it will hold the target better.

Materials List

- ❖ 4 x 4 Post, 28" to 36", 1 pc.
- ❖ 2 x 4 Legs, 18" to 22", 4 pcs.
- ❖ 1" diameter dowel, 1 pc.
- ❖ 1" Spade Drill
- ❖ 2 1/2" Screws, Lag bolts, or Nails, 12 pcs.
- ❖ Sandpaper, 80 to 120 grit, 2 or 3 sheets
- ❖ Stain or Oil Finish, 1 pint can (optional)