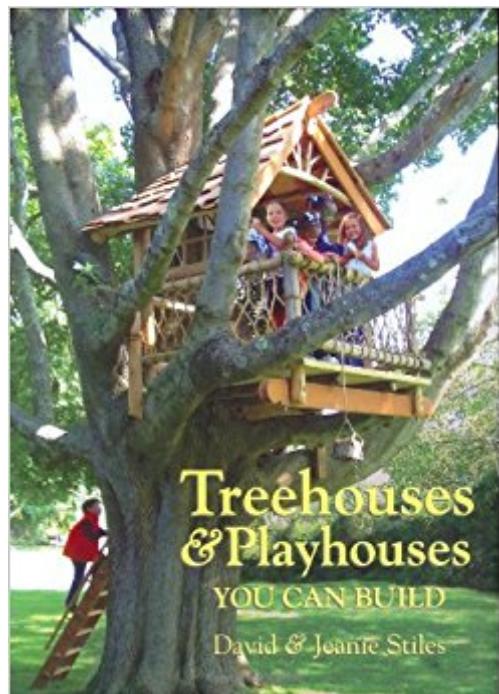


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# Treehouses & Playhouses You Can Build



## **Synopsis**

Treehouses & Playhouses You Can Build shows how average "do-it-yourself" families can easily and affordably bring to life a "Hobbit's Treehouse," a "Pirate's Playhouse," or a "Crow's Nest" in their own backyards! There are a lot of books out there filled with enchanting photos of elaborate treehouses and playhouses built by professionals and costing tens of thousands to build. For the rest of us, there's bit of elbow grease, a lot of imagination, a trip to the hardware store-and Treehouses & Playhouses You Can Build. Authors David and Jeanie Stiles are the best-selling authors of a number of books on treehouses with sales of over 150,000 copies. They have created another straightforward how-to-build book filled with beautiful hand-drawn step-by-step illustrations that are easy to follow and describe in detail how to create each project. They include tips on budgeting, using basic tools, buying materials, and kid- and adult-friendly instructions! Even for DIY novice types, this book simplifies the building process and inspires families of all types to work together and build cool stuff.

## **Book Information**

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Grade Level: 5 - 6

## **Customer Reviews**

Every kid dreams of a cabin in the sky, so take advantage of the warmer weather and build a treehouse together. -- Family Circle, April 2007

Treehouses & Playhouses YOU CAN BUILD David & Jeanie Stiles Nails, screws, lumber and some elbow grease are about all that's needed to create the magic and adventure of a private hand-made wooden kids' club in the treetops. Build an imagination inspiring Hobbit Treehouse, a Pirate Ship Playhouse with working water cannons, or any of 40 unique projects by following simple steps in Treehouses & Playhouses You Can Build. Detailed step-by-step instructions and beautiful hand-drawn illustrations make these backyard-construction activities as much fun to craft as they will be to use. Parents and children can spend time together sculpting in the sky and learning woodworking skills just by setting aside a few weekends to go outdoors and build. Kids and adults alike will have a beautiful, wild space to call their own for hours of creative play or relaxation. Treehouses & Playhouses shows the average "do-it-yourself" family how to easily and affordably bring such structures to life by their own hands in their own backyards. Build a treehouse or playhouse on a budget, using basic tools and minimal building experience. Choose from different projects including a Victorian Playhouse or Treeless Treehouse, a zip line, a crow's nest, an escape hatch, a secret lock box, a hidden message board, pulleys, lifts, lofts, skylights, ladders, bridges and swings. Use the skills you learn from the detailed projects to build "fantasy" structures such as a Climb & Slide Mountain, Delta Wing Space Vehicle, Dragon House, Giant Glasses, Jet Racer, Meditation Hut, Suspended Monster Playhouse or Swinging Treehouse. For regular dads and moms or weekend carpenters, this book offers a layperson's manual to bring the dream of an exciting and personal spot for the kids into reality. Author David Stiles, a designer/builder who has built several houses in the East Hampton area, is also an illustrator who specializes in writing "how-to" books. In the past, David worked as an architectural renderer for most of the leading architectural firms in New York City, and received two awards from the NYC Planning Commission for his playground design for handicapped children.

I hit up the library for a dozen books on treehouse building. This one was the one I chose to buy for myself. Not only does it have excellent advice about treehouse building, but it has the best accessories. Things like rope bridges, ladders, trap doors, etc.

I looked at about ten books on constructing tree houses (via inter-library loan) and then bought this one, which was the best of the group I looked at. I built a 10x10' tree house for my kids using it as my only reference work. This was my first large carpentry project (larger than a birdhouse, that is!) Our treehouse is basically "the Hobbit treehouse" but as a platform. The rope lacing pattern is much easier to figure out if you do it with a couple of pieces of string and some sticks first.

This is the latest installment in a long string of wonderful books from David and Jeanie Stiles. Inside you won't find glossy, double page spreads of extravagant treehouses ... this is not a coffee table book. Rather, it is a how-to book, and the best one available for those that want to build their own whimsical play structure. Inside you will find excellent line drawings and readable explanations of intelligent, creative, and well thought-out designs. David starts with the basics: tools. From there you follow a complete and logical progression to completed treehouse. In between you'll get solid building advice. David has built his designs. He knows how to make life easier for you by using common materials and minimizing cuts. The building advice is spot on throughout. The huge, huge, huge problem with this book is the 20 or so options David gives you for connecting lumber to tree. They are almost all bad. Never girdle a growing limb with rope or cable. Never use nails. This leaves you with only lag bolting. To be sure, there are other ways. But the only safe and tree-friendly way presented in this book (and any of his other works) is to use lags. This is the by far the best book to give to a young builder and is probably a treasure to any 8 or 9 year old lucky enough to have a copy. It will get their mind working. The crazy schemes they come up with will amaze you. The ideas inside this book are great. Fun, imaginative, unique. If you know a young boy (or girl) with a tree, get him this book. And when it comes time to actually build their creation, call an arborist and he'll set you straight about properly attaching it to a tree.

I bought three different books on building tree houses. I have absolutely ZERO experience in building anything. I simple used the plans in this book for a basic tree house and just modified it a little bit. If I had only bought the other two books I would have probably given up on the idea. This book made it so easy that now my kids have the coolest tree house in the neighborhood. In fact, if I took a picture of this thing and sent it to the author he would probably include the picture in the next edition. The only advice I can give you is, buy this book and plan on spending double whatever you are planning to spend and you will be the coolest dad in the world.

"Love it - Bought three books for a treehouse project I am currently planning - this one has some how-to instructions for a few simple treehouses that are site specific (no trees, one tree or two trees design) along with the parts list associate with the design. Also has some great ideas for accessories along the way - Overall a good one to have for the treehouse project.

It's a good book

A lot of great ideas for playhouses. Although if you build it yourself it will take more than a weekend. I ended up choosing the one I liked and taking it to a builder. I built a playhouse, but there are plans for a pirate ship that look like great fun.

The book has lots of illustrations of different ways to solve problems that might come up in building a treehouse, and I really like that. Lots of good pictures too. I'm in love with ideas and the pictures and illustrations gave me lots of them. The text is well written and easy to follow. This would be a good book for a novice or an expert.

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