

***Anyone Can Do It!***  
***Paneled Door Bench***  
***By Zeb Washburn***

*I found the blueprint for this bench in The Resourceful Renovator, by Jennifer Carson. I strayed from Carson's plan, adjusting for materials and tools available to me, and for the inevitable snags that come with any building project.*

**Materials:**

- 4 Panel door, at least 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick (I used a 33  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 82  $\frac{1}{4}$ " door so the following lengths apply to this size)
- scrap piece of 2 x 2, 33" long
- scrap piece of 1 x 1, 17" long
- 3" and 2" drywall or wood screws

**Tools:**

- jig saw
- table saw
- cordless drill
- orbital sander

**What I did:**

1. I cut the door into four sections using the table saw for the straight cut and the jig saw for the rest. **Hint:** have patience—it takes time to cut through a thick, solid door with a jig saw. A blade designed for rough cuts helps a lot.
2. I pieced it together cutting the 2 x 2 in half and using it to support the bench seat, and repeating with the 1 x 1 to support the back. **Hint:** you may be working with a very old door that is off-square. Some additional trim may be needed to make all the pieces fit right.
3. As I was assembling the pieces, I pre-drilled all the screw holes, allowing the screws to go in smoothly (good sense will tell you where the screws are needed to best support the bench).
4. My last step was sanding and painting. I chose a rougher, older look that best compliments all the dents and cracks of the door, and also lets the bench tell a story about the original door. I painted the exposed areas from the cuts, highlighted the trim around each panel, and varnished the finished product. But be creative, and have fun.

***Anyone can do it!***

We hope you enjoy this *Anyone can do it!* Project. All the materials (less fasteners) for these projects are available for sale at the Building Materials Center of Recycle North, located at 339 Pine Street in Burlington, VT. We're open Monday through Saturday, 8.30-5 pm ('til 6pm in the summer). Our phone number is (802) 846-4015.

Our rotating stock of cabinets, windows, mechanical items, radiators, wood stoves, hardware, light fixtures, toilets, sinks, tile, flooring, dimensional lumber, beams, paneling, siding, doors, (and much much more!) arrives from contractors, homeowners, renovators, and our deconstruction crew. In addition to a variety of "raw" materials for the do-it-yourselfer, the BMC also houses Waste-Not-Products, a creative re-use program for the shop-and-go customer. Birdhouses, picture frames, window sash mirrors, chalkboards, and more are available for sale.

The Building Materials Center is one department of Recycle North, a non-profit organization who's mission is to (1) protect the environment by reducing the amount of reusable and repairable items dumped in the landfills, (2) give individuals in transition valuable job skills, technical training and more opportunity, and (3) alleviate the effects of poverty by making vital household goods and building materials available.

Recycle North also has the following departments: appliance sales and service, computer sales and service, electronics sales and service, training programs for youth and adults, a pick-up and delivery service, deconstruction service, a household goods store, and youthbuild. For more information, please call (802) 658-4143.