

Wood Whisperer's Build-or-Buy Worksheet

Difficulty of the Project

- 1 - Very difficult. Will require research, mock-ups, new tools or new skills.
- 2 - Moderately difficult. Will be a good test of your skills but nothing you can't handle.
- 3 - Easy. Should be a slam dunk!

Urgency of Project

- 1 - We needed it yesterday.
- 2 - Can live without it for a couple months.
- 3 - It doesn't matter when it's completed

Likelihood of You Actually Finishing the Project

- 1 - I am not much of a completer, but I love starting new projects!
- 2 - Most of my projects are completed but I occasionally lose interest and abandon one here or there.
- 3 - I finish every project that comes through the shop.

Recipient Patience Level

- 1 - If it's not done on schedule, you are in trouble!
- 2 - It would be nice if it was completed on schedule, but if it takes a little longer it's OK.
- 3 - As long as it's made by you, your recipient has the patience of a saint.

Cost Savings

- 1 - It will actually cost more to build it yourself.
- 2 - It's about the same price.
- 3 - Building it yourself saves you money.

Your Stubborn Pride

- 1 - You are easygoing. One less thing on your to-do list!
- 2 - You prefer to build it yourself, but the purchased piece is welcome in the house.
- 3 - You never let him/her live it down if they actually purchased a piece of furniture.

Quality Level of Store-bought Product

- 1 - Much better than you could build in your shop.
- 2 - About the same quality construction and materials.
- 3 - They can't even come close to your level of craftsmanship.

Visibility the Item Will Get in the Home

- 1 - No one will ever really even see it.
- 2 - Some people might notice it when they visit.
- 3 - It's in plain view and would get a lot of attention from guests.

Need for Customization

- 1 - No specific size/color/species requirements (anything will do).
- 2 - It doesn't have to be perfect, but there is some consideration given to size/color/species.
- 3 - Very specific size/color/species requirements.

If your score falls between 8 and 17, you should buy it. If your score falls between 19 and 27, you should build it. If your score is right in the middle at 18, see below for suggestions on how to break the tie.