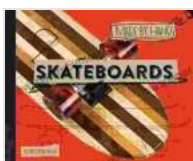


# Skateboards Made By Hand: The Ultimate Guide to Building Your Own Custom Skateboard

In the world of skateboarding, there's nothing quite like the satisfaction of riding a board you've made yourself. Whether you're a seasoned skater looking to expand your skill set or a beginner eager to learn the craft from scratch, this guide will provide you with everything you need to know to build a skateboard by hand.

## Chapter 1: Gathering the Necessary Materials

To begin your skateboarding adventure, you'll need to gather the following materials:



### Skateboards (Made by Hand Book 1) by Patricia Lakin

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 5615 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 32 pages



- **Deck:** The foundation of your skateboard, choose a deck that suits your riding style and preferences.
- **Trucks:** These metal components connect the deck to the wheels and provide stability.

- **Wheels:** Choose wheels that match the terrain you'll be skating and provide the desired speed and grip.
- **Bearings:** Allow the wheels to spin smoothly and quickly.
- **Grip tape:** Provides traction and prevents your feet from slipping on the deck.
- **Hardware:** Bolts and nuts to secure the trucks to the deck and wheels to the trucks.
- **Tools:** Basic tools such as a socket wrench, screwdriver, and Allen key for assembly.

## Chapter 2: Crafting the Deck

The deck is the heart of your skateboard. To craft your own, you'll need:

1. **Choose the wood species:** Select a durable hardwood such as maple, oak, or ash.
2. **Laminate the layers:** Glue multiple layers of wood together with wood glue, alternating the grain direction for strength.
3. **Shape the deck:** Use a template or draw the desired shape on the laminated wood and cut it out with a jigsaw.
4. **Sand the deck:** Smooth the edges and surface using sandpaper to prepare it for grip tape.

## Chapter 3: Assembling the Trucks and Wheels

To assemble the trucks and wheels:

1. **Attach the trucks:** Bolt the trucks to the deck using the hardware.

2. **Install the wheels:** Insert the bearings into the wheels and slide them onto the trucks.
3. **Tighten the nuts:** Secure the wheels to the trucks using the nuts.
4. **Adjust the tightness:** Use the Allen key to adjust the tightness of the trucks, allowing for smooth turning and stability.

## Chapter 4: Applying Grip Tape

To provide traction, apply grip tape to the deck:

1. **Remove the backing:** Carefully remove the backing from the grip tape.
2. **Align the grip tape:** Position the grip tape on the deck and align it evenly.
3. **Press down:** Apply pressure with your hands or a roller to ensure the grip tape adheres to the deck.
4. **Trim the excess:** Use a razor blade or scissors to trim away any excess grip tape around the edges.

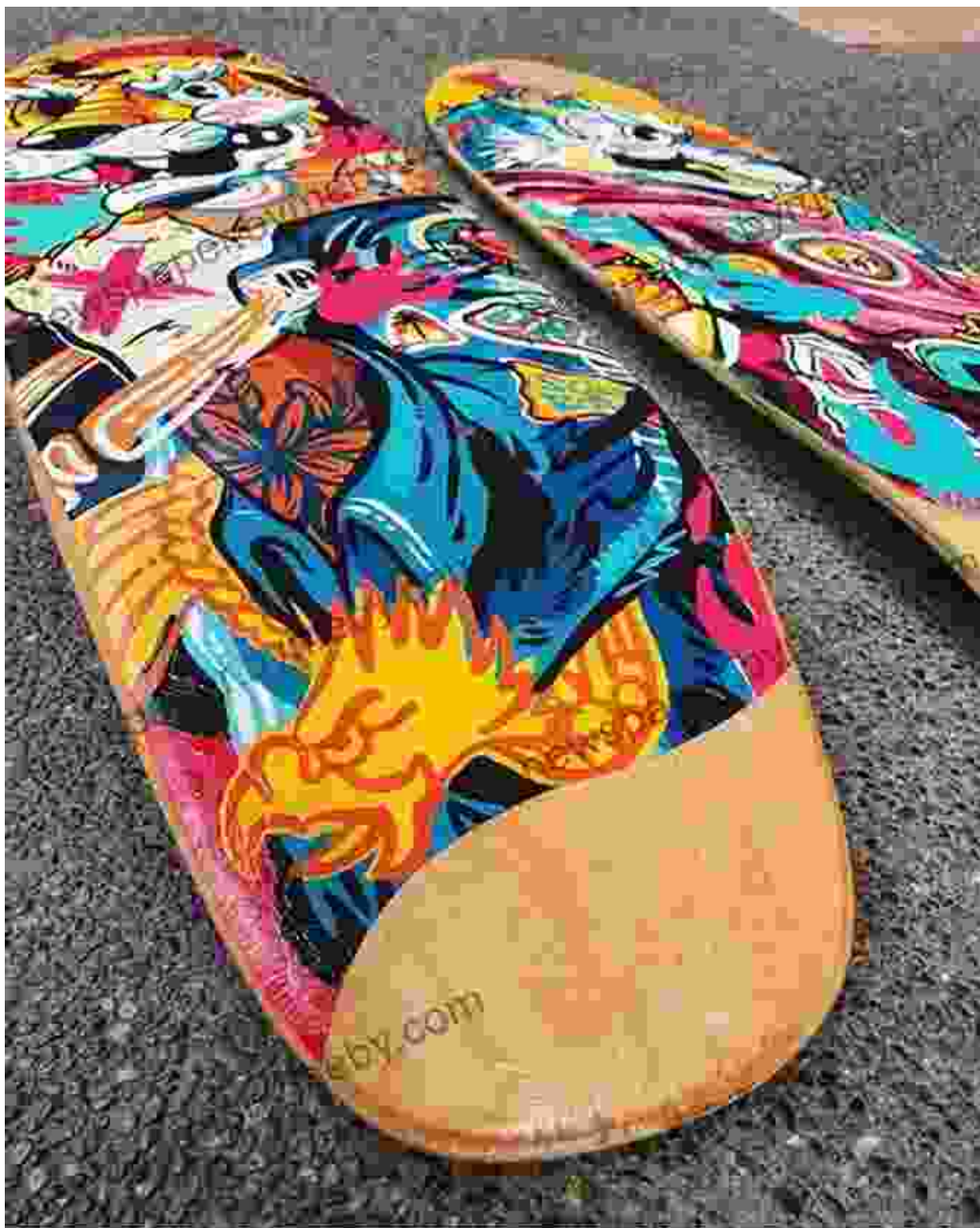
## Chapter 5: Finishing Touches

To complete your custom skateboard:

- **Customize your design:** Paint, draw, or apply stickers to personalize your skateboard.
- **Protect the deck:** Apply a clear coat or polyurethane to protect the deck from scratches and moisture.

- **Break in the deck:** Ride your skateboard regularly to break in the deck and make it more comfortable to ride.

Building a skateboard by hand is a rewarding and empowering experience. By following the steps outlined in this guide, you can create a custom board that perfectly matches your style and preferences. Embrace the craftsmanship and enjoy the satisfaction of riding a skateboard you made yourself.





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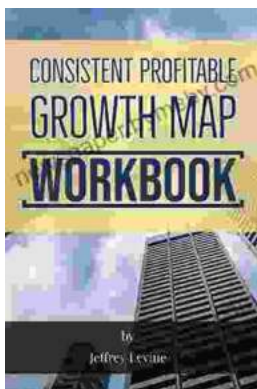
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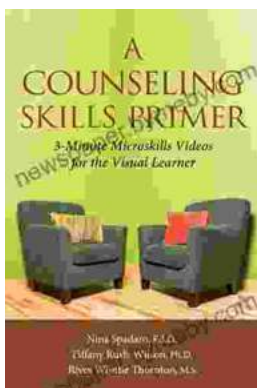
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