

“Up-cycling” my Grand-daughter's cot

My 20-month granddaughter is a very poor sleeper and hates her cot. I decided to try to transform it into a House-Bed to add a bit of magic and to enable her to sleep closer to the floor.

Below is a photo of the original cot and the finished House-Bed conversion.



The cot was made of White Beech but I couldn't find any White Beech to buy at a reasonable price and so I had to re-use as much of the original wood as possible.



The sequence of work was as follows:
a) I cut all the white rods off the front frame and then sanded the stumps flat to gain 2 lengths of White Beech to make the 45° “roof” slopes (the stumps of the rails can be seen on the underside)

- b) I carefully sawed through the end joints of the lower cross-bars using as thin a saw blade as I could find), cut the white rods down to 30cm, drilled out the rod-stumps in the cross-bar and glued the cross-bar onto the 7 x 30cm rods and then made an end joint by drilling through the uprights and the end of the cross-bar and gluing in 2 dowels. I did this for each of the 4 joints. These modified end-frames would be used, inverted, to make the ends of the House-Bed.
- c) I then sawed down the 17 rods of the back frame to 30cm, and drilled out the stump of each rod, and glued the cross-bar back onto the 17 shortened white rods.
- d) Then I had to use Pythagoras to work out the required length of the “roof” beams to be at 45° and to match the width of the modified end-frames.
- e) The “roof” beams [*made from the front White Beech cross-rails - see a) above*] were 39mm wide and the end-frame uprights were 44mm wide, so I had to design a joint that would look neat. This required some application of Trigonometry!!! I worked out that if I cut the cross-rail at an angle of 31° and the upright at an angle of 14°, the diagonals would have the same length (45.5mm) and the combined angle would be the required 135°! Then I used 6mm dowels to create the neat end-joints.



f) I need some additional timber to make the roof apex cross-bar and for a cross-bar at the back to give some extra stability. I made these from strip pine (without knots). I made the roof apex cross-bar into a L-shaped profile to give additional rigidity, and used furniture bolts with barrel nuts, plus an unglued dowel, to create each joint.



g) Lastly, I used the remaining off-cuts off White Beech to make a chimney stack, which I dowelled to one of the roof-rails.