How to Build Your Own CornHole Game

DIMENSIONS

Here is a diagram with the basic measurements for the Cornhole board game.

SUPPLIES

- 1/2” thick sheet of plywood – one 4’x4’ or two 2’x4’s
- 8’ long 2×4’s (4)
- 4 1/2” long 3/8” diameter carriage bolts (4)
- 3/8” flat washers (4)
- 3/8” wing nuts (4)
- 2 1/2” wood screws (1 box)
Tools needed

- circular saw
- miter saw
- measuring tape
- clamps power drill and assorted bits (up to a 3/8” bit in size)
- sandpaper (course, medium, and fine grit or at least medium)
- hammer
- compass
- jigsaw

LUMBER SELECTION

You’ll find that the dimensions for a cornhole table conveniently coincide with the standard dimensions of lumber. Because of this, we find it’s most efficient and cost effective to build two sets at once. Just double each of the items listed above and buy a 4’x 8’ piece of plywood instead. Recruit a partner for that extra set and you’ll appreciate having a buddy to help with the process.

Take an extra 5 minutes to select some excellent lumber. You want your platform surface to be as smooth as possible to save yourself the extra work of filling in gaps.

We asked the building supply store to cut our plywood in half for easier transport home.

CONSTRUCTION

The first step to building your cornhole table is to cut your wood. The 2×4s will be cut for your frames and legs. For one set (2 cornhole tables) you’ll need boards with the following lengths:

- 4 feet (4)
- 21 inches (4)
- 16 inches (4)

Cut the 2×4s with a miter saw if available or a hand saw. If you plan it right, you should be able to get all these pieces with just the 4 2×4’s we mentioned.

If you purchased a larger piece of plywood, measure and cut your plywood down to size. One side should already be 4 feet long so now just cut it to be 2 feet wide.

Construct your cornhole table’s wood frame with the 2×4’s and screws. We recommend 2 ½ inch wood screws (pre-drill the holes). We also used a couple of clamps to hold the frame together nice and flush. Countersink your screws, if you don’t want them to show after you paint.
Now put your plywood surface on the frame and screw it down (pre-drill the holes again). We used ten or twelve long screws. Your plywood should be a perfectly squared 2’ x 4’ piece of wood.

Make sure you counter-sink the screws just enough that you can cover over them with some putty later on.

Mark the center of the hole – 9” from the top end of the board and 12” from either side. Use a compass or something of the sort to draw a circle six inches in diameter. Use the largest drill bit you have to make a good pilot hole for the starting point of your saw just inside the circle.

Now insert the blade of your jig saw into the pilot hole you just made. Cut out the hole as carefully as you can. If you really take your time you can get a pretty decent looking hole. Any minor discrepancies can be cleaned up with sand paper.

The legs of your cornhole board can be the trickiest part. The leg has several requirements. It must raise the end of the cornhole table 12 inches off the ground. It must also be sturdy.

First we’re going to make a few markings on our legs. Estimate where our bolt will pass through the leg by drawing a line halfway from the side of your leg. (Remember, this midpoint will not be at the 2 inch mark since a 2×4 is not actually 2 inches by 4 inches – it will be more like 1 ¾”). Make another line the same distance from the end of the leg and perpendicular to the first line. These two lines intersect at the point where you will want to pivot your compass. Use a compass to draw a half circle extending out to the edges of the board like shown.

Next, turn your cornhole table over so that the plywood surface is face down. Put a piece of scrap wood in the corner as in the picture to the left (we used the end of a leftover 2×4). Take one of your leg pieces and set it in place next to the scrap wood as shown with our markings facing out. Now, we’ll mark the hole for your bolt. Transfer your leg’s midpoint line (line B) onto the frame. Measure the midpoint of the frame’s 2×4 (line C) which again should be around 1 ¾”. Do not include the plywood in this measurement, just the 2×4 of the frame! Where these two lines intersect is where we want the bolt to go, right through the center of the frame and leg.

Make a little divot with an extra screw or nail at our mark to help guide the tip of the drill bit for this important step. Drill a 3/8” hole through the side of your table and leg.

Make several cuts to rough out that rounded end you sketched.
Clean up your cuts with sandpaper. Now that your legs are properly trimmed, assemble your bolts, washers, and wing nuts.

Put the bolt, washer, and nut in place but don’t tighten things down quite yet.

Make sure your leg is freely moveable from the playing position… to the folded position.

Finally, we need to get the end of your board 12 inches off the ground.

Now position your board so that the leg is fully extended into playing position and dangling off the table. (It should be longer than necessary since we haven’t precisely cut it to length yet.) Take a pencil and make a line that runs flush with the table. Remove the leg and take it back to the miter saw for trimming.

Now angle your miter saw until it is perfectly in line with the line on your board. If you follow these directions just as they are, you should end up with a cut that is close to 45 degrees. After one quick cut you should be holding the perfect leg! Now do the same for the other leg.

As we mentioned earlier, if you measure the front end of your board, you’ll find that it measures around 3 to 4 inches rather than 3 inches exactly as the American Cornhole Organization dictates.

**PAINTING SUPPLIES**

These are the painting products we used to paint our cornhole boards:

- wood filler
- primer (for wood) – 1 quart
- High-gloss latex or enamel paint – 1 quart of each color
- painter’s tape
- contact paper
How to Make Cornhole Bags

SEWING SUPPLIES

- duck cloth – 7” x 7” squares (16 total, 8 per color)
- thread (2 spools, one for each color of bag)
- fabric glue (optional)
- feed-grade dried corn (8 lbs)

Duck cloth is a canvas-type “outdoor” fabric you’ll need to get two distinct colors.

Feed corn is widely available at feed stores. Avoid the temptation to just use popcorn.

STEP 2: SEWING YOUR OWN CORNHOLE BAGS

You already know your way around the business end of the sewing machine. If so, this ought to be a snap. If not, no worries — with minimal effort, you will get the hang of it too and produce some bags you can toss with pride at the next tail-gating party.

Having been trimmed satisfactorily by either you or the fabric counter, your hunk of duck cloth will probably be a long strip 7” wide by 56” long. Now all you need to do is make

By this point, there should be eight squares of duck cloth, 7 inches by 7 inches, to be sewn up into four bags and stuffed with feed corn. You should have sixteen total squares of duck cloth: eight of one color, eight of another.

Place two squares of the same color together so that their edges line up exactly; since the fabric is identical on both sides, it shouldn’t matter which side is up Each seam should be 1/2 inch in from the edge, then repeat again on the same side right next to the first seam in order to get the double-stitch.

Sew three of the four sides, but be sure to LEAVE ONE SIDE OPEN. You’ll need a hole for getting the corn into the bag.

A little bit of fabric glue along the inside of those seams might help give you additional confidence that your seams will hold under pressure.

Turn the bag inside-out. Notice that once turned out, the bag is now the regulation 6 inches in width.

Measure out the corn you’ll need. Each bag should weigh 16 oz. once filled. The material weighs about .5 oz per bag, so we added 15.5 oz feed corn to each bag to make it one pound in total, another option, 2 cups of corn comes pretty close to regulation, third option; get the feed store to separate your order in eight individual bags of one pound each at the time of purchase.
Fold the open ends of the filled bag inward to a depth of 1/2 inch to match the rest of the seams you’ve already sewn. Sewing pins helped to hold the sides closed, and keep the fabric flat in order to keep the folds from slipping apply fabric glue before the pins. Place your stitches as close to the edge as possible. Do not forget to double-stitch here, too.

PAINTING TOOLS

- putty knife
- sandpaper (medium grit should be enough)
- electric sander (optional)
- paint brush (1, medium to large size)
- paint roller and covers (smooth finish)
- utility knife

PAINTING

You will need a well-painted cornhole set.

The first step is to fill all the holes and defects you created while building your cornhole boards (screw holes, knot holes, etc.).

Next sand your cornhole tables smooth.

Sand down any small discrepancies you have on the sides of your table where all the different pieces of wood come together. Try not to alter the plywood surface too much.
Once all your surfaces are smooth you can lightly sand down any sharp edges and corners.

Dust off your boards, set them up off the ground, and detach your legs if you haven’t already. Apply a thin layer of primer on all visible surfaces of the board and legs with a brush or roller and let dry.

I recommend high-gloss enamel paint. High-gloss paint is very durable. It will help your boards hold up to game play a little better which means you’ll have to repaint your boards less often. With time, the slickness will decrease.

Many people prefer to add a coat of clear finish at this point.

Now you have a gorgeous cornhole board! Using the same techniques and a little ingenuity you can add lettering, logos, etc. The possibilities are endless….

You could also add decals purchased from one of many online stores.