

Invisible Book Shelf

by [dorxincandeland](#) on January 29, 2007

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Intro: Invisible Book Shelf

Cast levitation level 7 on your books!



step 1: What You'll Need

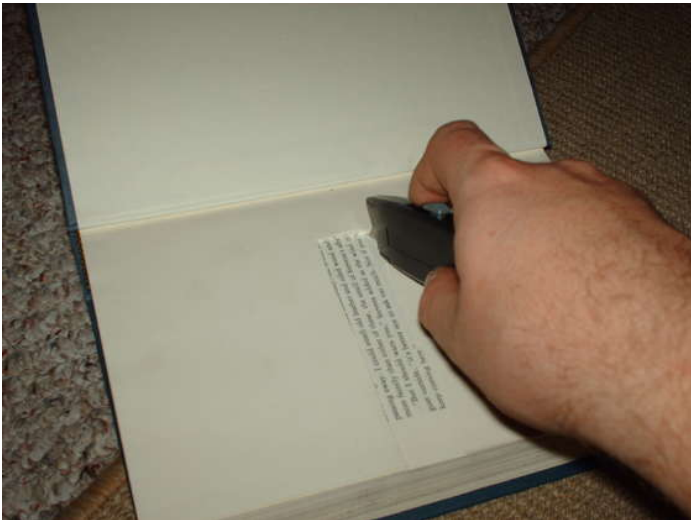
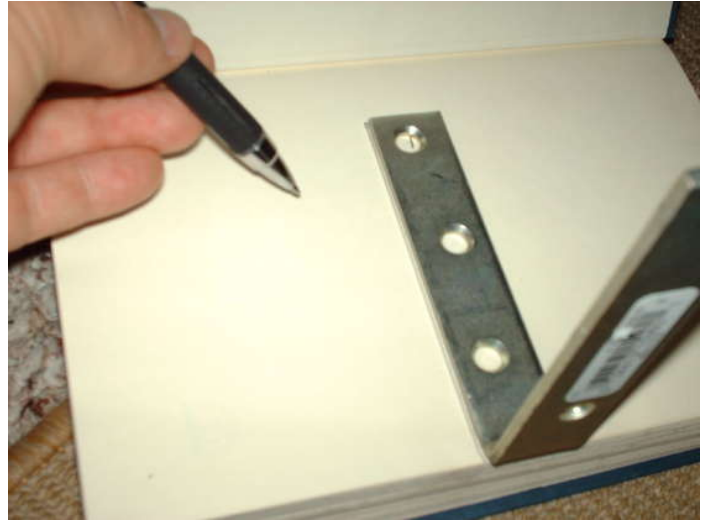
- Book
- Good sized "L" Bracket
- Carpet Knife
- Pen
- Small wood screws (of the flat headed variety)
- Large wood screws
- Tape Measure or Ruler
- Glue
- A Stack of Books for Weight

A friend at work gave me a stack of Stephen King books that were collecting dust in his garage. My previous two shelves from the introduction were free books that my public library was trying to get rid of. Use a book you don't mind never reading again.



step 2: Measure Twice, Cut Once.

Measure the half way point, make a mark, set down your bracket, draw an outline, measure again, cut out a hole deep enough that the bracket will set flush. You are doing this to the back or bottom of the book, the part that will be visible in the finished product.



step 3: Don't Put Away the Carpet Knife Yet!

Use your knife to make a notch for the "L" bracket so the book can sit flush against the wall.



step 4: Screw Stephen King!

...or at least place your small wood screws to secure the "L" bracket in place, and one on either side toward the edges of the book to secure the pages of Stephen Kings book together. Hanging the bracket over the edge of a desk, chair, or counter is helpful. The pages will try to rise up the screw as you insert it, so make sure you're putting some pressure on them to keep them in line. If this part is not done correctly the end result will show the pages as wavy and will tip off the viewer that something is amiss. The picture shows me using a cordless drill, but I found that doing it by hand was much more effective.



step 5: Glue, and Apply Pressure

The glue will hold the bottom cover of the book in place, and the screws hold the pages together. Put the stack of books on top of the whole deal and wait overnight.



Image Notes

1. there is a screw here. though you can barely see it.



Image Notes

1. my son... good eyes man!

step 6: No. Seriously, Wait Overnight.

Did you think I was kidding?



Image Notes

1. my son... good eyes man!

step 7: Attach it to the Wall.

...sorry to switch books, but I wanted to finish the Instructable while the glue was drying.

use a large wood screw to attach the whole mess to the wall. Find a stud first.



step 8: Load it Up!

put some books on it to cover your handiwork. make sure you put enough books to cover the bracket, don't leave it like this picture.



step 9: Forget That it's There...

...and wait for the crazy looks on peoples faces when they notice it and can't figure it out.



Image Notes

1. leave a picture crooked to annoy teh internets!



Related Instructables



The Invisible Bookshelf (slideshow) by lukethebook333



Inverted Bookshelf by fungus amongus



Tube Shelves (slideshow) by nagutron



How to Make and Install Hungarian Shelves by juliofo



Animated Optical Illusion! (video) by signalred



How to build wall mounted bookshelves for less than \$100 by kabira



Zero Point Shelf by mada



The 59 Minute Bookshelf by Mr. Rig It

Comments

50 comments [Add Comment](#)

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khush says:
good n nice thinking

Dec 16, 2009. 1:43 AM [REPLY](#)



Zilla_Lette says:
yea this is a serious solution to my huge collection of books and looooooots of wall space lol i'm so going to do this freakin 5 stars bro! lol

Dec 9, 2009. 10:38 PM [REPLY](#)



stewart says:
Here is the one I built. I did it with two brackets and it turned out great. Awesome instructable!

Nov 16, 2009. 8:55 AM [REPLY](#)



ElQuintero says:
i live in an apartment and i dont want to screw up my walls is there any substitute to the wood screw into the stud

Aug 16, 2009. 9:06 PM [REPLY](#)



bassclarinet23 says:
Attach it to one of your own shelves?

Nov 15, 2009. 8:53 AM [REPLY](#)



epoh says:
Hi everyone,
I'd like to thank for this great instructable!

Oct 26, 2009. 4:04 PM [REPLY](#)

I was planning to do my bookshelf for about 6 months. When I finally got to round to it, it took me about an hour or two.

I used an old calendar notebook with metal binding on the side so I can hang my earring collection :)

Thanks again!



bassclarinet23 says:
I used Jorgensen clamps instead of the "heavy object". It worked fine.

Oct 25, 2009. 11:43 AM [REPLY](#)



Salsa766 says:
great idea not to offend u or anything but this is also on vat19.com.
<http://www.vat19.com/dvds/conceal-invisible-book-shelf.cfm>

Oct 20, 2009. 5:41 PM [REPLY](#)



hyperphreak says:
You dont need a stud finder! I'm right here!

Aug 8, 2009. 4:34 PM [REPLY](#)



flipmee says:
LOLL

Oct 17, 2009. 7:52 PM [REPLY](#)



dingballs says:
i love how he sais use a book that you dont want to read again and shows us eragon LMFAO

Oct 12, 2009. 1:47 PM [REPLY](#)



blubbersmith says:
eragon

Sep 30, 2009. 1:30 PM [REPLY](#)



cczec002 says:
Loved the idea! Working on the project this week. _ Thanks for the project.

Sep 23, 2009. 6:10 PM [REPLY](#)



yeladot says:
I would also screw in the bracket.

Sep 6, 2009. 1:52 PM [REPLY](#)



Visitor says:
If you use two angle brackets you can leave the upper cover of the book unglued and cut a small secret box inside the book, between the brackets.

Jan 30, 2007. 6:03 AM [REPLY](#)



swolleneyeball says:

Sep 4, 2009. 1:55 PM [REPLY](#)

Yes and james bond would smile down on you for it. But the idea of a hollow book is to hide something, usally with as little attention as possible, the idea of this thing is to draw attention. Although most ppl would be so amazed at the levitation trick they probly wouldnt pay attention to much else



thecosas says:

Feb 3, 2007. 8:51 PM [REPLY](#)

yeah, but good luck finding studs in your wall that are that close together. I wouldn't trust this thing to drywall alone.



Cubie2 says:

Sep 30, 2009. 2:25 PM [REPLY](#)

that's why you put drywall screws in and THEN you put in the regular screws.



Visitor says:

Feb 6, 2007. 2:20 AM [REPLY](#)

I am going to estimate the weight of a single book to 1.5kg. If this shelf is going to hold five books, that makes 7.5kg. Since the center of gravity for the books is about as far from the wall as the fastener is from the corner of the angle iron, the fastener should be able to take 10kg pulling load to make this setup safe. There are special fasteners (or one could as well call them "common fasteners" since they are available in every hardware store) for drywall to which one can safely hang this kind of a load. Search google for "drywall fastener." And keep in mind that when you use two angle brackets, the load to the dry wall is divided evenly to the two fasteners. In this case 5kg pulling load would be enough.



bowlerhatman says:

Nov 10, 2009. 3:44 AM [REPLY](#)

1.5kg is a very...generous...estimate. That's sort or, hardback oxford dictionary weight, roughly speaking. I think it would be uncommon to find multiple books weighing a kilo and a half in a single house. This is just going on my years as a library shelver. I carry somewhere around fifteen books at a time, that's an armload. I'm not hugely strong, and there's no way I could carry 22.5kg on my left arm.

The rest of your points are 100% valid though. Just thought I'd point out the exaggerated weight estimate.



Fieldownage says:

Aug 28, 2009. 6:59 AM [REPLY](#)

Alternative option would be to buy simple metal-bookend and just make holes to it. This one was nice but you converted your book into "art".



fourletterfame says:

Aug 25, 2009. 9:32 AM [REPLY](#)

First completed instructable for my apartment, pulled off two of them after work. 6 dollars worth of supplies for what I have to say is the coolest bookshelf I've ever owned.



TriAd21991 says:

Sep 23, 2008. 11:10 AM [REPLY](#)

good idea once built a shelf the same way out of a skateboard. Sweet series by C.S. Lewis



Carrigan says:

Aug 24, 2009. 5:40 PM [REPLY](#)

Yeah, I was impressed to see Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra and That Hideous Book!



Carrigan says:

Aug 24, 2009. 5:41 PM [REPLY](#)

See the related instructable about storing written correspondence: The Screw/Tape Letters.



Stephen D. Alvarez says:

Aug 23, 2009. 6:36 AM [REPLY](#)

I have that drill



EnigmaMax says:

Aug 12, 2009. 10:59 PM [REPLY](#)

this is probably level 1 or 2 levitation. Level 7 would be sending a snowball into space and directing a volcanic explosion towards it.



knex_mepalm says:

Aug 14, 2009. 1:03 AM [REPLY](#)

what does all this level stuff mean?



EnigmaMax says:

Aug 14, 2009. 3:23 PM [REPLY](#)

I'm afraid we cannot disclose that information.



endawmyke says:
why? comedy reasons

Aug 19, 2009. 8:15 PM [REPLY](#)



Tommyhzy says:
There is nothing to fear but fear itself -Frankie Roosevelt

Aug 18, 2009. 5:18 PM [REPLY](#)



Templarix47 says:
I love eragon! Thats a very good series. Nice choice!

Aug 16, 2009. 4:41 PM [REPLY](#)



diggy123 says:
wow. i like gorilla glue for tougher projectts that i can throw away afterward because it expands so much.

Jun 19, 2008. 5:53 PM [REPLY](#)



JoshWaar says:
Gorilla glue.. the stuff is magic.. i use it to glue my old set of drawers back together lmao.. cause i'm cheap. and the tape works wonders to.. i like playing with it when it expands

Aug 15, 2008. 2:39 PM [REPLY](#)



thockel says:
That's what she said.

Sep 8, 2008. 4:45 PM [REPLY](#)



boristherussian says:
real mature.

Aug 15, 2009. 6:12 AM [REPLY](#)



Sheamus says:
rofl

Sep 17, 2008. 4:44 PM [REPLY](#)



nicknack171 says:
lol nice

Sep 8, 2008. 7:32 PM [REPLY](#)



jillg says:
good one *)

Sep 13, 2008. 6:01 PM [REPLY](#)



CrunchyMamaSky says:
haaaaahahaha - boys

Feb 4, 2009. 9:45 PM [REPLY](#)



D.L.H. says:
Great idea I might try it soon

Aug 12, 2009. 8:21 PM [REPLY](#)



Ghobian says:
I did this with an NES game and a dremel! It's pretty rad. I think it would be better to have two L brackets instead of 1 though. I have like 20 games on my shelf and I must admit...it's a bit wobbly.

Aug 10, 2009. 5:34 PM [REPLY](#)



spydyr says:
Do you think it could be possible to take this idea and create an archway of books? I mean two invisibles angled opposite eachother and a third verticle mounted invisible with books stacked between them.

Mar 23, 2009. 8:19 PM [REPLY](#)



trochee says:
I don't think it'd work. The books would have to be sedentary or else when you go to grab one that particular section would collapse.

Aug 10, 2009. 2:01 PM [REPLY](#)



kolao4 says:

This is a great idea. It was even displayed at the maker faire 2009!

Jul 28, 2009. 12:53 PM [REPLY](#)



Hickster5000 says:

A great idea! I ran one off, took me about an hour from starting to having it on the wall. My first Instructable project and a roaring success! Thanks dorxincandeland!

Jul 19, 2009. 5:45 AM [REPLY](#)



curryhackett says:

I haven't built one yet, but I was looking at another, much more expensive bookshelf with this concept in mind (image included). Couldn't this method be taken further to make this? I was thinking a base platform on the bottom with a pole attached having several of these L-brackets attached incrementally on the pole to achieve pretty much the same look as the \$2-300 counterpart. When and if I ever get around to making it, I'll be sure to post it here. Check out the original and a couple other unique bookshelves here. [<http://weburbanist.com/2008/04/28/20-brilliant-bookcase-and-bookshelf-designs-creative-modular-and-unique-urban-furniture/>]

Jul 8, 2009. 1:25 AM [REPLY](#)



alexanderbly says:

I would recommend using two L brackets if you plan to add more/heavier books.

Jul 2, 2009. 6:03 AM [REPLY](#)



busyb0y says:

lol - novel idea !!

May 15, 2009. 11:50 AM [REPLY](#)



SNKCHRM says:

Hehehe I love puns.

Jun 26, 2009. 8:45 PM [REPLY](#)

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