

# Art Activity

## Miniature Minimalist Furniture



### Make miniature furniture

Donald Judd was an artist who created minimalist sculptures and prints. Minimalism is an art practice that reduces the art form to its “essence” and eliminates non-essential elements, features, and concepts. So when Donald Judd created his sculpture, *Chair*, he made the simplest chair he could possibly make without any designs, features, or colors. It included lots of clean lines, 90 degree angles, and geometric shapes. Even the functionality is a bit reduced. Let’s create our own mini version of this minimalist piece by Judd.

1

#### SEARCH

Search your home for the suggested materials.

2

#### CREATE

Get creative with each step and think outside the box.

3

#### ENJOY

Enjoy your creation and share with others.



**McNay Connection**  
*Donald Judd's Chair*  
1982.



**McNay Connection**  
*Frank Stella's Ileana Sonnabend from Purple Series,* 1972.



**McNay Connection**  
*Tony Smith's, Asteriskos,* 1968.

## Suggested materials:

- Cardboard (anything recycled; I used an empty cookie box and a piece of a shipping box)
- Scissors (if you are old enough, and have one handy, an Xacto blade or box cutter. Use a cutting mat or similar so you don't damage your table surface.)
- Glue
- Pen, marker, or pencil

## Instructions:

1. Prepare your cardboard and make sure you have some nice flat pieces to work with. Notice how the chair is made up of 4 pieces: a long back, a shorter front, a square piece for the seat and an equal square piece for the bottom.
2. Cut a long rectangular piece to about 5 inches long and 2.5 inches wide. From my cookie box, I used one of the side pieces that was long, flat, and rectangular.
3. Cut another rectangular piece that is about 3 inches long and also 2.5 inches wide. This will be the shorter front piece.
4. Now cut two equal pieces for the seat and bottom pieces that are 2.5 inches wide and 2 inches tall.
5. With a marker or pen, mark the longest 5 inch piece at the 3 inch point. This will be where the seat of the chair goes. Mark again about a quarter inch from the bottom of the longest piece. This will be where the bottom piece goes.
6. Add a line of glue to the long piece where you made your marks. Glue each of the smaller pieces as shown. Press firmly and carefully.
7. Add a line of glue to the ends of those smaller pieces and glue the front piece to them. Press firmly and carefully.
8. Allow to dry before handling. And if you want to make more, try this fun at home challenge:

**At Home Challenge:** Find a chair in your house: What kind of features does it have? How does it compare to Donald Judd's sculpture? What features could you eliminate from your home chair to "minimalize" it? Using these prompts, design and create your own version of the miniature chair.

