



MAKE IT YOURSELF  
LIVE-EDGE CHARCUTERIE BOARD





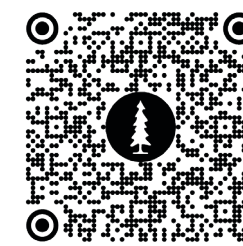
# MAKE IT YOURSELF

## Live-Edge Charcuterie Board

#LVMadeByMe #LVLetsDoSomething

**Skill Level:** For adults, beginner to intermediate. Also appropriate for children 14 years and older when supervised by an adult.

**Tip:** The video and instruction booklet go hand in hand to both tutor and guide you through the steps. We suggest you watch the video first, especially if you are a visual person, and then read through the instructions before you start. At the very least, be sure to read all the product instructions to familiarize yourself with how to use each finishing product. For best results, always follow the product directions and safety notifications.



Scan here to watch the video.

**Time to Complete:** 2 days, allowing a few hours on the first day, drying and curing time overnight, and less than 30 minutes on the second day.

**Tip:** While the estimated time to complete is based on our tests, we encourage you to take your time. Savor the experience. Let the maker in you out to play. We want to you to enjoy making your charcuterie board.

### **Skill Development: Surface Preparation and Wood Finishing**

Develop your wood finishing skills by using a piece of Eastern black walnut to make a live-edge charcuterie board. For this project, you will learn the fundamental skills necessary for the preparation of a wood surface before applying a finish. You will also learn how to use three different finishing products that will ensure your board will last for years: QuickCure 5 epoxy for filling voids and cracks, Walrus Oil cutting board oil to seal the natural wood tones and Clapham's beeswax finish to give it a soft lustrous shine.

# KIT CONTENTS

- Eastern black walnut board, dressed and approximately 16" × 8" × 3/4" thick
- 1/2" Narex bevel-edge chisel
- 8 fl oz (236 ml) QuickCure 5 epoxy
- 2 fl oz (59 ml) Walrus Oil cutting board oil
- 1.75 oz (50 g) Clapham's beeswax salad bowl finish
- 3 Sanding sponges: 120x, 180x and 220x
- Bahco steel cabinet scraper, 2 3/8" × 5 7/8" × 0.032" thick
- Cotton rag
- Pair of vinyl gloves
- Mixing cup
- Tongue depressor
- High-friction guard tape
- 2 Veritas extra-long adhesive bandages (just in case)

**Note:** Our walnut board has been planed on its faces, and these have been sanded to 80x to start you off with smooth surfaces.

Other items you might find helpful to have on hand (not included): safety goggles, respirator, a small bowl of water, coffee grounds or unsweetened cocoa powder, and a couple of spacers to elevate the board off your worksurface (e.g., slim dowels, chopsticks).

**Tip:** Feel free to use any other tools you have on hand that you think might be useful.





**DAY 1: COVERS STEPS 1 TO 5. SHOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY 1 1/2 HOURS. ALLOW TO DRY AND CURE FOR 24 HOURS.**

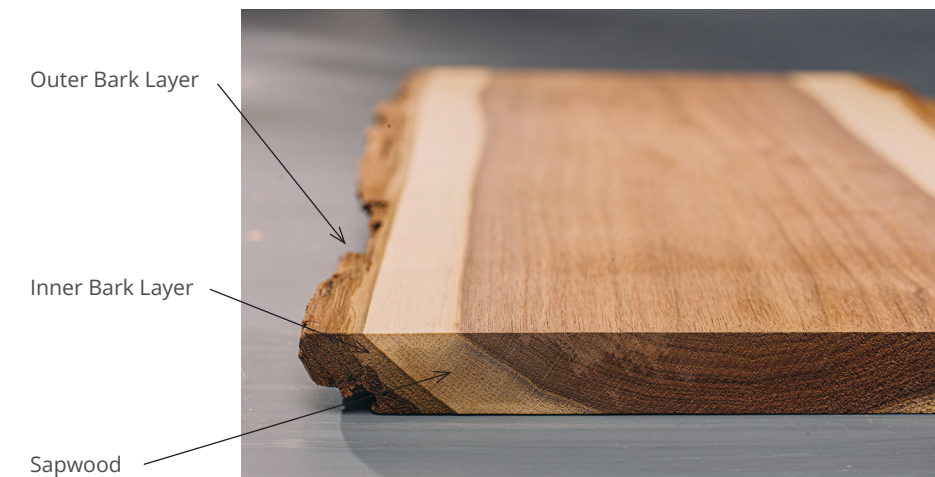
## 1 SETTING UP YOUR WORKSPACE

Select a clean, open work area. Remove the contents of the kit from the box and set them aside, but close at hand. Unfold the empty box and place it on top of your work surface to protect it.

**Tip:** As you unpack the contents, take a moment to mark the grit of each sanding sponge on the side so that you can easily tell them apart when you reach **step 4. Preparing the Surface**. If the grit is not labelled on the sanding sponge, the best way to identify the grits is to do a test sand to get a feel for the grit. You will see and feel the difference between the grits. The 120x feels the roughest of the three sponges, while the 220x feels the finest.

## 2 REMOVING THE BARK

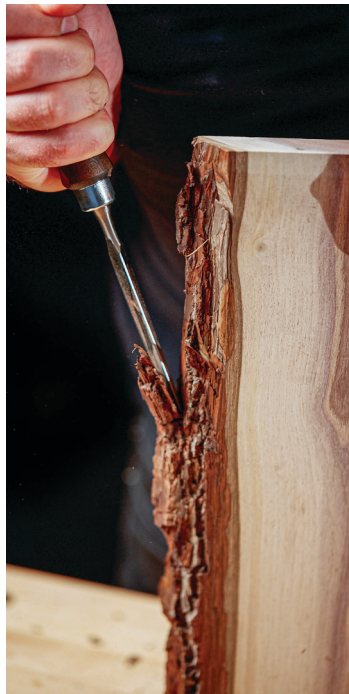
**Tip:** What is live edge? A board with a live edge is milled with the natural outside curvature of the wood intact, and most often still includes the bark. Since the outer bark and the inner wood dry at different rates, the bark may start to peel off and come loose. For a charcuterie board that will have food placed on it, it is best to remove the outer bark layer altogether so there is no potential for food to get trapped.



**Caution:** The chisel blade is sharp; careless handling can result in injury. Always wear proper eye protection. Always work with the chisel blade pointing away from your body, and keep your hands behind the cutting edge.

**Tip:** To increase grip and protect your fingers against cuts and abrasions, wrap some high-friction guard tape around your fingers.





Bark Beginning



Bark Middle



Inner Bark

- a. Stand the board on one end and place the chisel between the darker colored outer bark and the lighter colored inner bark. Position the back face of the chisel blade toward the inner bark, right where the inner bark meets the sapwood to minimize any amount of remaining inner bark that will need to be removed. While holding the chisel in place with one hand, use the other hand to raise the board, then tap the board down on your work surface. The chisel serves as a wedge to release the bark. Adjust the position of your chisel as required, and continue to tap until the bulk of the outer bark is stripped off. Turn your board, and remove the outer bark along the other edge.
- b. To remove the inner bark, place the board flat on your work surface. Hold the chisel in your dominant hand, with the blade bevel down and positioned at an angle between the inner bark and the board. Keep your non-dominant hand behind the cutting edge of the blade. Apply downward force on the board to prevent it from shifting. Push down on the chisel and use short, controlled movements to shave small bits at a time. Make successive passes until the board edges are almost clear of the inner bark.

**Tip:** How much inner bark you remove depends on a number of factors, mostly your patience and what you think is acceptable. There is no right or wrong. Take it all off or keep some bits here and there. Your chisel gouged the edge? No problem. You can sand it smooth or leave it. The important thing is to make it your own. The additional characteristics, no matter how accidental, are part of the story of how you made this board.



- c. Use the chisel to further clean any voids or remove any loose bits from areas of the board that contain knots.

### 3

## FILLING VOIDS

**Note:** Inspect your board for cracks, voids and knots. While the majority of our Eastern black walnut boards will be free of imperfections, you may have received one with some minor cracks and voids that will need to be filled with epoxy. This is to be expected. However, if the board you received looks clear of imperfections, you may skip this step and proceed with **step 4. Preparing the Surface.**

- a. Wipe your board down with a dry piece of the cotton rag to make sure the surface is free of wood dust.



**Caution:** Epoxy is a moderately hazardous chemical. It is used for levelling the surface and filling any voids and cracks. When working with epoxy, be sure to work in a well-ventilated area and wear a respirator and gloves. Be aware that epoxy will create a bit of heat and emit fumes and unpleasant odors. You will start to feel the cup warming up, but the mixing cup will not melt. Keep in mind the differences between working time and cure time. Working time is the time you have to mix and apply the epoxy. Cure time is the amount of time the epoxy needs to fully harden.

- b. Slip the vinyl gloves on and use the mixing cup and tongue depressor to mix the two-part epoxy.



**Caution:** Be sure to follow the instructions on the product packaging. The 1:1 mix ratio by volume is critical for proper cure. For example, if you put 10 ml of the resin in the cup, you would need an equal amount of the hardener, 10 ml. Since epoxy hardens quickly, mix only as much of the epoxy as you think you will need. Add the resin first, and the hardener second. Keep an eye on the clock as you thoroughly blend the mixture for the amount of time indicated on the packaging.

**Tip:** If you want, you can mix in a little bit of coffee grounds or unsweetened cocoa powder to tint the epoxy. The coffee grounds will yield a darker brown, while the cocoa powder will provide a light brown.



- c. Use the tongue depressor to rub a thin, even coat of epoxy into the voids and cracks. Scrape away the excess. Hardening time can vary from 4 to 7 minutes, but for this project, let the epoxy cure for about 10 to 15 minutes at 70°F/20°C before performing the next step. Let the unused epoxy fully harden in the mixing cup, then dispose of the cup and tongue depressor in your garbage.
- d. Hold the steel scraper with two hands, flexing it just enough to bow it slightly so its corners don't mar the wood surface. Pull the scraper toward you or push it away from you (whatever is most comfortable for you) as you draw it over the dried epoxy with light sweeping strokes. Scrape with the grain and take as many light passes as required to flatten the dried epoxy until it is level with the board.
- e. Use the 120x sanding sponge (dry) to remove the rest of the residue and even out the epoxied area.



## 4 PREPARING THE SURFACE

**Tip:** Cut the cotton rag into three pieces so you have one piece for wiping down the board, one for applying the cutting board oil and another for buffing the beeswax.

**Tip:** Why do I need to do so much sanding? Each of the three sanding sponges included in the kit have different grits, or surface roughness, labelled as 120x, 180x or 220x. The 120x sanding sponge is the coarsest of the three. The first grit – 120x – is for rough sanding. Use it to eliminate mill marks and to flatten the surface. Take your time with this first sanding step. And don't be tempted to skip the 120x or the 180x and go straight to using the 220x. The 120x will create new scratch marks, but those will be smaller than the board as it was received. After sanding with the 120x sponge, use the 180x and repeat the sanding step. Before sanding with the final grit (220x), it's a good idea to raise the grain. This step is particularly beneficial when using water-based finishes, but is a good practice generally. The sanding steps tear the wood fibers at a minute level, and raising the grain makes them stand up so you can cut them back to the surface with a fine grit. For the purposes of this project, there is no need to use a grit any finer than 220x. The idea is to sand the surface smooth enough for the finishing product to penetrate the wood.

- a. To clean up any residual inner bark, moisten a small area of the board's edge at a time with a piece of the cotton rag dampened in water. Rub the 120x sanding sponge along that area. Moisten another area and rub it out with the sponge. Continue sanding this way until you have removed as much inner bark as you want.
- b. Run the 120x sanding sponge along the corners on the ends until the edges are slightly rounded to remove the sharpness.



- c. Next, use the 120x sponge to sand the live edge along its length. Proceed with sanding the front surface of the board in the direction of the grain. Sand the right half of the board, then flip it end for end to sand the left half. Flip the board over, and sand the back surface of the board the same way as the front.
- d. Repeat the previous step with the 180x sanding sponge. Sand the end grain with the 180x sponge turned on its edge so as not to further round the edge.
- e. After sanding with the 180x sponge, wipe the entire board, including the front and back, sides and ends, with a lightly dampened cotton rag. This will expand the fibers and raise the grain slightly. Let the water evaporate for approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

- f. When the board is dry to the touch, proceed with sanding the board with the 220x sanding sponge. As per the previous two sanding steps, begin with the ends, followed by the live edges, then the front and the back. Use a dry piece of the cotton rag to remove the sanding dust.



## 5 APPLYING THE WALRUS OIL

- a. Wipe any wood dust from your worksurface and elevate the board off of your worksurface with a couple of spacers. You can use whatever you have on hand, e.g., slim dowels, chopsticks.
- b. Slip the vinyl gloves on and squirt a generous amount of Walrus Oil on the board. Use another piece of the cotton rag to rub the oil all over the board: the front and back, live edges and ends.

**Note:** For many woodworkers, the application of the oil is the most satisfying step. The oil brings out the natural beauty of the wood and often reveals some characteristics that were previously hidden. Take a moment to let that sink in – both literally and figuratively. There's something quite delightful about watching the wood grain come alive right before your eyes.

- c. Place the oiled board on the spacers and allow the cutting board oil to penetrate 24 hours, or overnight.

### END OF DAY 1





**DAY 2: COVERS STEP 6.**  
**SHOULD TAKE LESS THAN 30 MINUTES.**

## 6 APPLYING THE BEESWAX

- Apply a thin coat of the beeswax finish with a clean piece of the cotton rag. Let the beeswax dry for 10 minutes or so, then buff to a shine in the direction of the grain with the cotton rag. You may need to use a little bit of elbow grease to buff the surfaces out to obtain a semi-gloss sheen.
- The board is ready to use immediately after the beeswax application. The polished beeswax finish will protect the board from water, grease and oil.



## MAINTENANCE

Clean the charcuterie board with light soap and lukewarm water after each use. Let dry completely before putting it away in a cupboard. Never put your charcuterie board in the dishwasher. Periodically reapply the beeswax finish for continued protection. Over time, when your board shows signs of knife wear or looks dried out, you will need to sand your board down and reapply the Walrus Oil as described earlier, then buff with the beeswax finish.

## NOW WHAT?

We deliberately provided more than enough products so that you would have leftovers to make more charcuterie boards. All you need is another board. For cutting boards and charcuterie boards, choose a non-porous hardwood, such as hard maple, cherry, oak, teak, acacia or walnut. Rough-sawn lumber will first need to be dressed to 80x.

Another way to keep practicing your new skill is to refinish your wooden cutting boards and wooden kitchen utensils.

Visit our website for information on how to sharpen the chisel and cabinet scraper.



Learn more about  
sharpening



Learn more about  
chisels

The guard tape can be used any time you need to protect your fingers against cuts or abrasion. Unlike gloves, guard tape won't affect your dexterity or flexibility. Since the guard tape sticks to itself, but not other things, it makes an ideal wrap to increase tool handle friction.

As for the tools themselves, you can reassemble the box and store the tools in it so you know where to find them when the need for them arises. The more you make, the more the tools will be of continued service.

## CHARCUTERIE BOARD IDEAS

The size of this board can serve two people. A charcuterie board is traditionally plated with an assortment of “charcuterie” (French for cured meats) and cheese; however, you can and should make it your own. Keep on mind that little goes a long way. You can start with a featured or anchored item (think baked brie, cheeseball, blooming onion, seasonal item, overlooked item in the fridge) or select a theme (brunch, tapas, antipasto, Mediterranean, dessert). Plan for about 3 to 5 ounces of meat/cheese combination per person. Include 2 or 3 types of pre-cut or sliced cured meats, 2 or 3 types of cheese, use little bowls for dips and spreads (e.g., hummus, mustard), then pair with complementary accents, such as fruit, nuts, vegetables, bread, crackers and pickles. For an added touch, add little tags to identify each component and little picks for easy collecting.



**CREATED BY LEE VALLEY. #MADEBYME**

Now that you have completed your project, we would love to hear about your experience and see the finished project.

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Lee Valley Tools Ltd. Ottawa ON K2H 1C2 Canada [leevalley.com](http://leevalley.com)

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