

Easter Cross with Bridge Spikes

This is an Easter Cross project that is pretty simple, but can be very dramatic.

Materials needed:

1. 1 x 2 x 11 1/2" pine (with good wood grain).
2. 1 x 2 x 7 1/2" pine (from same wood).
3. Four bridge spikes or nails, 6" long.
4. 20" copper wire, 18 gauge.
5. Clear, glossy, urethane paint, brushes, paint cleaner.
6. White glue.

Before the Meeting

1. Cut wood to length and sand (or sand in meeting).
2. Use a dado blade, router or radial arm saw to cut a channel (3/8" deep x ~ 1.5" wide) into the back side of the short (7 1/2") horizontal arm such that the vertical 1 x 2 will fit snugly into it (see photo of rear side, below).
3. Use a dado blade, router or radial arm saw to cut a channel (1/4" wide x 3/16" deep) into the front side of the short (7 1/2") horizontal arm such that a bridge spike to be mostly recessed. Only about 1/16" of the bridge spike should protrude above the wood.
4. Drill a 1/4" hole about 1/2" deep about 3/4" from one end of the 11 1/2" - 1 x 2 to hang the cross (see photo of rear side).
5. Drill two 1/16" holes, 1/2" apart on each arm of the cross as shown in the photo of rear side (8 holes total).

Assembly at the Meeting

1. Glue side arm (7 1/2") to vertical (11 1/2") wood.
2. Lay cross, face up.
3. Lay bridge spike on the top, vertically, such that it lays in the groove cut into the cross arm. Align the head of the spike about 1/8" below the very top of the cross.
4. Tie on spike using 5" of 18 gauge copper wire.
5. Tie on second vertical spike (see upper photo).
6. Tie on third and fourth spikes to the cross arm (see upper photo).
7. Optional. Seal cross with clear, glossy, urethane paint.
8. Take the crosses home at the next meeting and/ or take the elderly in your community.

