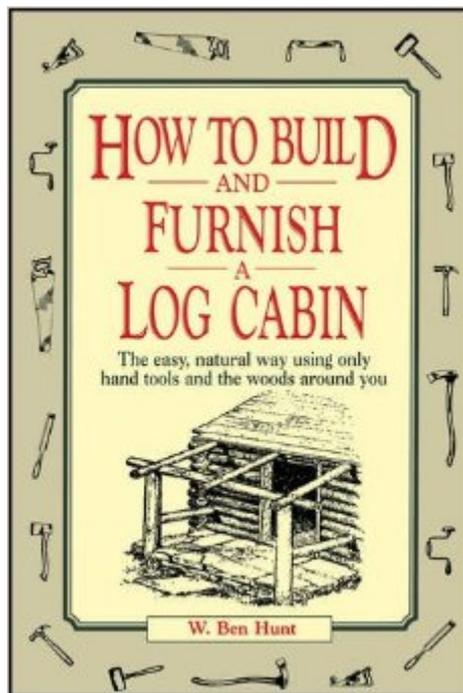


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# How To Build And Furnish A Log Cabin: The Easy, Natural Way Using Only Hand Tools And The Woods Around You



## Synopsis

W. Ben Hunt's classic has earned a reputation as the "authentic handbook since it was first published in 1939. Updated in 1974, it remains the only step-by-step guide to building log cabins and log furniture -- pioneer style."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I built a log cabin in the 1980's using this book and two others. The cabin is still dry and clean and will probably stand for another 100 years, especially after adding a steel roof 8 years ago. There is some very good information on various parts of the cabin. The book falls short in a few areas, however, because of newer technologies and available materials that can help keep a cabin strong and insect free for much longer. For instance, the use of "oakum" and mud for chinking which would always need replacing, perhaps yearly. A much better lifetime product would be PermaChink which you can find on the internet. Another example would be the building of cement piers without instructing about the use of a termite shield. A simple piece of angled flashing will keep termites from ever touching any wood of the cabin as long as the sill is at least 2 inches from the soil. But these are things that COULD be added in an update. The info that was used looks like something from the 50s, so it's no surprise that the book is dated. However most of the log construction methods are solid. The tools may have changed but the concepts are basically the same. If you are truly interested in the grueling-yet-fun experience of building a log cabin, I would also seek out "How

to Build Your Home in the Woods" by Bradford Angier, as well as "Building a Log Cabin From Scratch" by Dan Ramsey. Each of these would help round out your education and the latter is the most modern and complete of these. NOTE: Be prepared for HARD WORK over several months. This is not something to be attempted by lazy people!

This 'older' book shows you in simple diagrams how to build rustic log structures and furniture the original way. I have used the methods to build a fantastic fence from trees harvested from my own property. I have also built most of the birdhouses. This book is not really for building a log cabin. It is the greatest book of folk art for rustic log furniture and structures I've ever seen.

I got this for my 12 year old son who was fascinated with the PBS special showing the man who built a cabin in Alaska. It was a big hit! He has been reading it ever since Christmas morning. He says it really tells you how to build and furnish a Log cabin - and what tools you need. Anything that gets a 12 year old excited about reading is good in my book.

I think maybe I should build a log cabin. If you build the cabin as so many of the pioneer people did, you won't have Portland cement, or 20 penny nails. A lot of the fasteners were no more than wooden pegs or hand made dowels. As far as the footing on the cabin is concerned, use gravel after you have cleared and flattened the area you wish to build on. For the footing, one can use hand made 4 x 6s or square four sides of logs. Go from there and put in a wooden floor, ( fashion your own boards). Too many people today are too modern. They seem to want at least 1/2 of everything they use made for them. Decide what you want and go for it. Don't complain about what you don't have. OK, I'll shut up. Thanks for your time. John

I loved the book. It will help you gain a better understanding of many of the details that must be considered when building a log cabin, from tools, to site selection, to the joints used in joining log corners, to the installation of windows and doors. I will say though, that the part of the title "using only hand tools and the woods around you" is total bull. He calls for all kinds of things that cannot be foraged from the woods, like portland cement and 20 penny nails to name a couple. I wish I could find a book that took that title to heart and actually used only natural materials; if such a book does exist this is surely not the one.

I paid less than \$3 plus shipping for a used copy of this book and it was not worth it. It is so sketchy

in its instruction that it is less than useless. It advertises itself as a guide to building a cabin with nothing but hand tools and the trees on property and then instructs you to get a contractor, use cement, milled lumber, nails, etc. For instance, when it discusses chimney construction, it instructs you to hire a mason. There is no real instruction in the use of the arcane hand tools, such as an adz, broad axe, or froe. If you are a neophyte, this is not the book for you. It is a poor introduction to the subject. In fact, I can't imagine anyone who would benefit from this book. Foxfire volume 1 is a far more comprehensive and instructive guide to cabin building. If you have that book, don't buy this one. I give it two stars because some of the instructions concerning furnishings, the second half of this "pamphlet" (it's pretty short), are useful. However, you can find all of them in different editions of Foxfire so if you have the set, don't bother with this book.

My son and I plan to build a rustic "get away" on some mountain land using onsite logs from standing trees. Essentially camping with a more substantial shelter. This book does a better job than any of the other books for our purposes. The other books deserve looked at to "round out" what is available. Don't forget to look over You tube for more info!

I bought this book not planning to build a log cabin but just for general knowledge. The book is quite sound in it's advice although somebody building a log cabin today would certainly use some more modern techniques. However, I will say that if you needed to build a log structure basically by hand this book could probably get you through it. It may not be a resort but it will be dry. I particularly liked the section on rustic furniture and fence building. I built several of the projects and they turned out quite well. This book is good for any fan of the outdoors and rustic building. Just amazing to think that not too long ago this is basically how things were done.

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