

MAKE IT **WOOD**

Do your world some good

PLANET ARK

CASE STUDY



Mark Wakeham, ‘The Timber Tailor’ Castlemaine, Vic 3450

Mark Wakeham is a wood crafter who runs his own business called ‘The Timber Tailor’. He takes pride in using recycled wood. He upcycled two wooden pallets destined for landfill into two beautiful bedside tables.

What have you made with your pallets?

I’ve made two bedside tables from my pallets.

Where did you get your inspiration?

My inspiration comes from furniture designers Jim Krenov and George Ingham.

How many pallets did you use and where did you source them?

It only took me two pallets to produce these two beautiful bedside tables. They came from the Waste Converters depot in South Dandenong, Victoria.

What species of wood is in the pallets that you have used?

All sorts of different types of wood can be found in pallets. The ones that we used came from the USA and were made of elm and sycamore.



“Form is only a beginning. It is the combination of feelings and a function; shapes and things that come to one in connection with the discoveries made as one goes into the wood, that pull it together and give meaning to form.”

Jim Krenov



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Tell us about your experience in working with the pallets

This is my first experience reusing pallets. Pulling the pallets apart was the first task, which proved tricky as I wished to use all the wood including the smaller cross bearers. Removing the nails required careful checking prior to machining the wood. Resawing revealed an interesting feature in the Sycamore along with some plainer portions. The elm looked usable in smaller portions.

I originally intended to make a chair, but felt the usable wood might limit this option. The interesting figure in the sycamore and the typical Elm figure turned me to two small bedside tables where I could highlight the figure and rely on smaller portions of the available materials.

Did you come across any difficulties in reusing wood pallets?

The quality of the material was very variable. The nails were difficult to remove and caused much damage to the materials resulting in a high degree of design adaptation to accommodate and work around these limitations. Of course, these issues are all part of the challenge.

Why do you think it's important to reuse materials such as pallets?

Pallets contain good quality wood that can be reused and upcycled into a better product. This material would otherwise go to landfill or suboptimal use.

