# **Building an AB/DL Highchair**



Before Purchasing Anything Please look over this whole build! There are several options, upgrades, and ways to build this highchair. This is my third iteration of building an AB/DL highchair and with the first one I just used a wheelchair tray and a highbacked bar chair. With the third build I had added anchor points, a custom tray that uses genuine highchair tray hardware, as well as an upholstered seat and back. I also added a harness to secure squirming babies and anchor points for more kinkier scenes.

#### **Parts List**

• High top bar or deck chair with arm rests



Amazon.com: POLYWOOD® Traditional Garden Bar Chair, Black

Wheelchair Tray



Amazon.com: AlveyTech Wheelchair Tray Table with Cup Holder - Universal

Removable Lap Desk - Ideal for Adults Eating Reading Resting - Compatible with

Drive, Golden, Electric, 18-20inch Wide Standard Wheelchairs: Health &

Household

(Optional)

Go Kart Harness



Amazon.com: Yakitoko Universal 4 point Safety Harness Set 2" Fits Go Kart,UTV,ATV,Racing Blue: Automotive

- 2 x Sheets of MDF 3/4" thick (cut in the Dims of Chair back and seat
- Cloth or material cover for seats
- 2 x Sheets 2" upholstery padding (For seat and back)
- 2 x ½ thick hex bolt screws (For harness standard bolts that come with will not work)
- Anchor Points



Amazon.com: D Ring Tie Down Anchor 1/4" Heavy Duty Trailer Anchor

Lashing Rings 2400 lbs Capacity Trailers Trucks Bed Anchors Bracket

Hooks Kit for SUV,RV,Camper,Van,Car,Boats, Motorcycles Surface Mount

(Black): Automotive

- MDF 3/4" thick 16" x 25" sheet
- 4 x 1.5 in 32" Pine stripes

Highchair hardware



<u>Amazon.com: High Chair Tray Hardware, baby toddler kid child seat stool</u>
<u>antique vintage old retro: Baby</u>

• Various lengths woodworking screws

#### **Tools Required**

- Basic power Drill
- Staple gun with 1/2" staples
- Paint or Clearcoat
- Hand Jigsaw
- Router

This can be the easiest build or a complex one depending on what you are wanting to create. You can also always upgrade the chair as you go.

### **Basic build**

For the basic build you only need two components. A high-backed bar or deck chair that has arms and a wheelchair tray. This build requires no tools at all. Simply use the

Velcro straps on the wheelchair tray on the arm rests of the chair.



# **Adding Anchor Points & Harness**

Using the anchor points and the go kart harness listed and linked in the parts list you can add a harness and anchor points that can be used to secure an ab/dl in their seat. I placed six total anchor points on the chair (Pictured below)



The first set are at either side of the footrest. The second set is just below the front arm rest and the last set is at the back of the chair just by the seat. To install the harness, you will need to pre-drill the hole roughly three inches, six inches apart from the middle back post of the chair. I recommend taking one of the bolts supplied with the harness to a hardware store to find a drivable screw that will fit the harness. (Make sure it is not going to go through the seat back.



## **Building an Upholstered Chair Back and Seat**

To upholster the chair, first, I highly recommend watching a couple of videos on YouTube. The process is very do-able and easy but watching someone do it first will make it far easier. To start you are going to need to have a piece of MDF cut to fit the chair back as well as the seat. You will also need upholstery foam, a staple gun and fabric. For mine I chose an outer cover (Space themed cloth and a back cover (Solid Blue)

To upholster the seat and back, place the fabric that will cover the seat. (Outer side down first) then the upholstery pad then the MDF on top. **Recommendation**: Have several extra inches of spare material. You will be covering it with the back cover later.

I personally found it helpful to kneel on the MDF board. Compressing the padding with the weight as you staple the material to the board will help remove creases and will keep the material tight. Secure one side at a time. Once all four sides are stapled you can cut excess material and then add a back cover material to clean up your work. Then use screws to secure the cushions to the chair.



### **Building a Custom Highchair Tray**

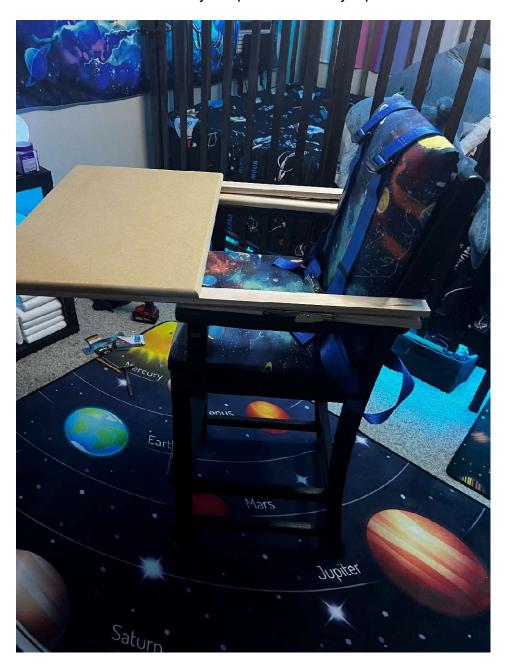
To start, you will need to secure a piece of wood to the armrests with screws. This will add height so that your legs will not hit the tray if you add cushions and additionally it will give you a place to mount the hardware. (See below)



To build a custom highchair tray you will need to cut a tray either from a plywood sheet or you can use a piece of plywood or MDF cut into a 16" x 25" sheet and add runners with screws to make the tray. Both examples are shown below. **Note:** I cannot give exact measurements of where to put the hardware and runners because you will need to line everything up. I suggest using clamps and marking things with a pencil as you figure out how everything lines up.



Lastly, you MUST seal the tray with a clear coat, polyurethane, or some other product otherwise it could seriously warp or absorb any liquid.



Best of Luck Babies!