

Creating a Paddle for a Sister in your Sorority

By: Taylor Sandoval



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	iii
Introduction.....	v
What is a paddle?	7
What is a paddle?	3
It's not just a piece of wood.....	3
What is a big or little?.....	3
When do you give your paddle?.....	4
Materials	5
Materials	7
The Basics	7
Gathering your Materials.....	7
Designing your paddle	9
Designing your paddle	11
First	11
Next.....	11
Constructing your paddle	13
Constructing your paddle	15
Step 1	15
Step 2.....	15
.....	15
Step 3.....	15
Step 4.....	15
Step 5.....	16
Step 6.....	16
Step 7.....	16
Step 8.....	16
Step 9.....	16
.....	16
Step 10.....	17
Step 11	17
.....	17

Step 12..... 17
Step 13..... 18
Step 14..... 18
Index 19

Introduction

So you want to make a paddle for your sister? This manual is here to help you make a paddle she will love. You will find out where to buy supplies and what is needed to complete it. It will also take you through step-by-step instructions on how to make a basic paddle. The paddle you create will last a lifetime that your sister will cherish. Whether it's hanging on their wall or in a keepsake box, this paddle will always be remembered as a special gift.

Warnings will be presented like this throughout the manual.



What is a paddle?



What is a paddle?

It's not just a piece of wood

A paddle is traditionally a gift you give your big or little sister, but it's not just for them. They can be given as a gift to a good friend, or someone you really look up to. It is a hand crafted wooden board that can be in many shapes and sizes. You can decorate it in so many different ways; there are unlimited possibilities.

What is a big or little?

A big is an older member in the sorority that is willing to mentor a younger member. When each sorority gets new members they have girls who want to be bigs, or mentors. The bigs are there to help the new members with anything they need, from advice to hanging out when they need something to do. The new member that is receiving a big is called a little. Bigs help the littles get more comfortable with the organization.



*Pictured above are “family” pictures. The one at the bottom is a little and the one above them is their big.

When do you give your paddle?

Each sorority has a different way of presenting the paddle to one another. In my chapter the bigs give the littles key shaped paddles, because our symbol is the key. The littles give the bigs traditional straight paddles. Some chapters do a reveal where they surprise one another and exchange the ones they crafted. It's a surprise do you won't see what the paddle you are going get until the reveal. Each chapter does something different with the reveal it just depends on what yours does.



Materials



Materials

The Basics

The basic materials you will need for any paddle are:

- The wooden paddle itself
- Paint

Depending on if you do not want to only paint the entire thing you might also need; these items are optional

- Scrapbook Paper
- Stickers
- Glitter
- Wooden letters or sticker letters
- Glue – hot glue or super glue works best
- Scissors
- Ribbon
- Sharpie black or silver depending on the color you paint with

Gathering your Materials

First you need to go to a Greek memorabilia store that sells pre-cut paddles or order one from off line. Some online stores allow you to order your paddle completely decorated, which makes it easier on you if you don't have a lot of time or you're not very creative. It is a lot more fun if you make it yourself and it's a lot more of a personal gift.

If you don't get a precut paddle then you can cut your own out off a sheet of wood. You would have to go get wood from your local hardware store.

For the decorations you need to go to a craft store. I would suggest going to hobby lobby or Michael's, but any store with crafting supplies will work.

Designing your paddle



Designing your paddle

First

Take into consideration what the person receiving it is interested in. You can use their favorite color for reference and anything else they like. There are unlimited options when it comes to designing your paddle. It really can look like anything. I would suggest asking the other person what she likes and if you want it to stay a surprise then ask discreetly. If you are still not too sure what they like, then make it all about their sorority. Their sorority has symbol, flowers, mascots, and colors so use them because every girl loves to have their sororities' items on it.

Next

You need to decide if you are going to paint the whole thing or are you going to glue items on it. Just make sure whichever way you choose to craft it have your sorority's letters on it. Every paddle has their letters somewhere on it. Paddles also usually say your name and either your big or little's name depending on who is receiving it. Other than those two things you can be as creative as you want with the layout and design. After you figure out what you want on it you can start crafting it.

Constructing your paddle



Constructing your paddle

Step 1

You need to put newspaper down or a trash bag so you won't get paint on the table or floor you are working on.

Warning: You may get paint on yourself or your clothing so wear something you wouldn't mind getting paint on.

Step 2

Once you have the paddle in the shape that you want, you first start by putting on the first coat of paint. You want to paint all sides. Make sure the front, back, and sides are covered in paint. After you're done you let it dry.



Step 3

Once the first coat is dry, paint a second coat of paint over everything and let that sit and dry. You will probably only need two coats of paint, but if you want to paint more coats then that's up to your discretion.

Step 4

After the last coat of paint is dry, set your scrapbook paper upside down on the table or floor where ever you're crafting at. Now place your paddle on top of the paper upside down also.

Step 5

Using a pencil trace the shape of your paddle on the scrapbook paper. Make sure it's traced bigger than the paddle, because it is easier to shape later when you are cutting it to the exact size of the front.

Step 6

Take the paddle off the scrapbook paper and set it to the side. Cut the paper where you traced it.

**Step 7**

Next using a paintbrush, preferably a sponge brush, spread glue all over the front of your paddle. The glue should be on the front side where the scrapbook paper will be.

Step 8

Lay the scrapbook paper on the glued side of the paddle with the right side facing up. Press down on the paper to make sure it sticks to the paddle.

Step 9

Let the glue dry for a few minutes. While that is dry you can get your wooden letters and paint those with the first coat of the color you want. Let that first coat of paint dry.



Step 10

After the first coat of paint dries on the wooden letters, paint them with another coat of the same color paint. Set those aside and let them dry.

Step 11

Now get your paddle again and the glue under the scrapbook paper should be dry, so using scissors start trimming the edges of the paper to where it meets the edge of the paddle perfectly. You trim it all the way around the paddle. Do not leave any edge longer than the paddle.

**Step 12**

After the edges of the paper are all trimmed and the paper now fits perfectly on the front of the paddle, you need to make sure your wooden letters are dry. If they are dry you can lay them on the paddle where you want them to be in the end. I would also get the other items you go to put on your paddle, whether that may be paper flowers, scrapbook stickers or rhinestones, get them and lay them out on the paddle before you glue down to make sure that's where you want them to be placed.

Step 13

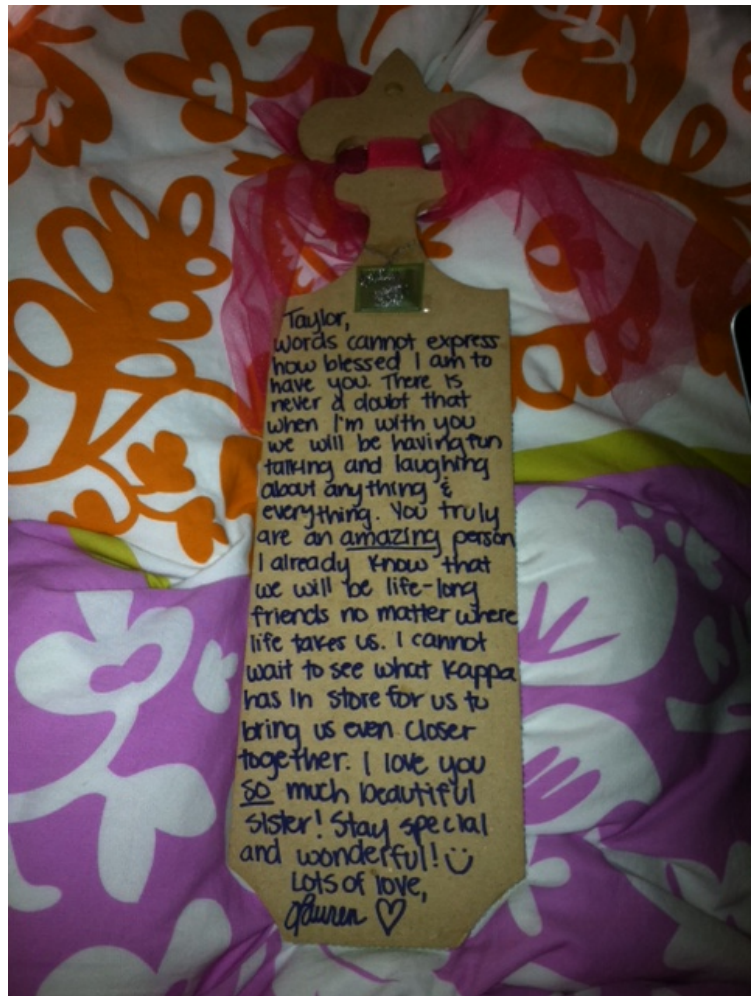
After you have your items laid out on the paddle, it's time to start gluing them down. You should use hot glue or super glue to paste these items down. Let the glue dry then you should be done with the front of your paddle.

Warning: Before you use hot glue be careful the glue is hot and you can burn yourself. Keep it away from your body and don't let it touch your skin. If you use super glue it is very strong you don't want it touching you because it could tear skin off. Only put the glue on the items you want to glue down.

Step 14

Now your paddle is almost complete.

It needs one more thing. The back of your paddle is blank and is only painted with one color. Most girls will write a paragraph or so, in sharpie, on the back of your paddle. The note is a way to tell the other person how much you care about them. This will be on their paddle forever so write them something nice that they will really appreciate. Once you write a note on it your paddle is now complete.



Index

	B		L
big, iii, 3, 11		littles, 3, 4	
	C		M
Constructing, iii, 13, 15		Materials, iii, 5, 7	
	D		P
Designing, iii, 9, 11		paintbrush, 16	
	G	pencil, 16	
glue, 7, 11, 16, 17, 18			W
		Warning, 15, 18	