



A TRY

Hammer & Stain DIY Workshop in Gainesville makes crafting fun

Up until a few weeks ago, the only do-it-yourself experience I had came from my stint at scrapbooking camp in fourth grade and weekends spent at my grandma's kitchen table making paper flowers and beaded necklaces.

I've always wanted to be one of those DIY gurus who have perfect farmhouse-style homes and spend their down time staining wood and creating custom works of art for fun. Once I heard about Hammer & Stain DIY Workshop in Gainesville, I knew this was my chance to bring out my inner Joanna Gaines.

Hammer & Stain is a DIY workshop that walks participants through the process of making a farmhouse-style wooden signs or pieces of home decor. It allows everyone to personalize their items with their family name, initials or favorite quote and choose the paint and stain colors for the project.

Here's how it works. You go online and find a workshop location. They have a Hammer & Stain location in Gainesville and Ocala, and according to their website a Lake City location is coming soon. Once you choose your location, a calendar comes up showing the workshop dates along with what projects are being offered on those dates. You book the project online where it asks for the quote you want on your sign or your family name or initials (it depends on what the workshop project is). Then, the Hammer & Stain employees print whatever you want on your sign onto a stencil and it's waiting for you when you go to the workshop.

I chose to do the "Farmhouse Tray" workshop. Each



The Hammer & Stain Gainesville studio is located at 6450 SW Archer Road.

The Hammer & Stain Ocala studio is located at 6158 SW State Road 200 #205.

For more information or to schedule a workshop or private party, visit www.hammerandstain.com.

person got to customize their own farmhouse tray completely from start to finish. Well, almost completely start to finish.

I walked into the Hammer & Stain workshop and the walls were filled with beautiful handmade wooden signs and shelves filled with every paint and stain color you could imagine. At my work station was my plain wooden tray, a pre-cut stencil with my personalization on it and in the center of the table was a wooden tray filled with supplies.

As someone who has never stained wood before, I stared at my board for a few moments while trying to slyly observe how the other people were doing their projects. This was not a workshop with an instructor walking the entire class through the process step-by-step, because each project was different. Soon, a

Hammer & Stain employee quickly came to my side and walked me through the wood staining process.

First, I picked my stain. I figured I couldn't mess up basic brown, and before I knew it I was painting the stain and wiping it off to create that rustic look





like a pro. After my board was stained and dried, I learned how to lay down the stencils on the board and once they were placed I chose my paint color and created my personalization.

After the board was finished, and looking pretty good, I learned that we would each be drilling our own rustic handles into the ends of the board to create a tray. I was slightly terrified of having to use a giant power tool, but quickly got the hang of it.

Once the project was done, I had my own customized piece of farmhouse decor to display in my home.

Now, I went on my own to do the workshop but this is the perfect place to go for a girls night out, date night or to have a DIY birthday party or event. Bring a bottle of wine or sparkling water and spend the evening creating your own custom work of art.

Hammer & Stain's DIY workshops are completely dummy proof, and anyone can make their own beautiful creation no matter how inexperienced they are at crafting. With the holidays right around the corner, it's a great place to go and create personalized gifts.

The workshop prices vary depending on what the project being offered that day is. However, chances are that the price of the workshop is way cheaper than if you were to buy one of these signs from a department store or have one made for you. Plus, it gives you total bragging rights so you can tell everyone who sees your creation that you made it yourself.

I know one thing for sure, I will definitely be going back to create another masterpiece.

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