



Permissions For Reprints Contact: 1-800-640-8285

How To Repair Broken Furniture Legs

A thin chair or sofa or table leg breaking is not a frequent occurrence; but when it happens, it is far more expedient to fix it yourself than to call someone in for help. The only possible difficulty you'll encounter is having to turn over the piece of furniture so you won't be forced to work lying down. Don't tackle really heavy furniture by yourself.

Utensils

Rasp
Diagonal cutters
4-penny [or larger) nails, depending on the diameter of the leg
Electric or hand drill
Small fine file

Ingredients

Masking tape
Paraffin wax
Casein or white polyvinyl glue
Roll of waxed paper
4' to 5' feet of strong twine

Approximate Time: 30 Minutes

1. Turn over piece of furniture so legs are pointing up (Fig. 15A).
2. If leg has been broken before, clean away old glue with rasp.
3. Tape broken pieces of leg together in original position with masking tape (Fig. 15B).
4. With diagonal cutters, cut off the head of a 4-penny nail.
5. Insert nail in drill for use as bit.
6. Drill two holes through leg at right angle to break (Fig. 15B).
7. Insert a 4-penny nail into each drilled hole so nails are protruding at both ends of hole (Fig. 15C).
8. Remove masking tape from leg.
9. Rub paraffin wax on finished sections of leg, but avoid waxing broken joint, as wax will prevent glue from sticking.
10. Apply glue into the broken joint, making sure both sides of the break are glued.
11. Squeeze sections firmly together until glue oozes out of joint.

12. Wrap joint with waxed paper and hold in place with several tight turns of twine.
13. Permit to dry overnight.
14. Remove twine and waxed paper.
15. Cut off protruding nails as close to the leg as possible with diagonal cutters.
16. File nail end until flush with surface of leg.
17. Turn furniture piece right side up.

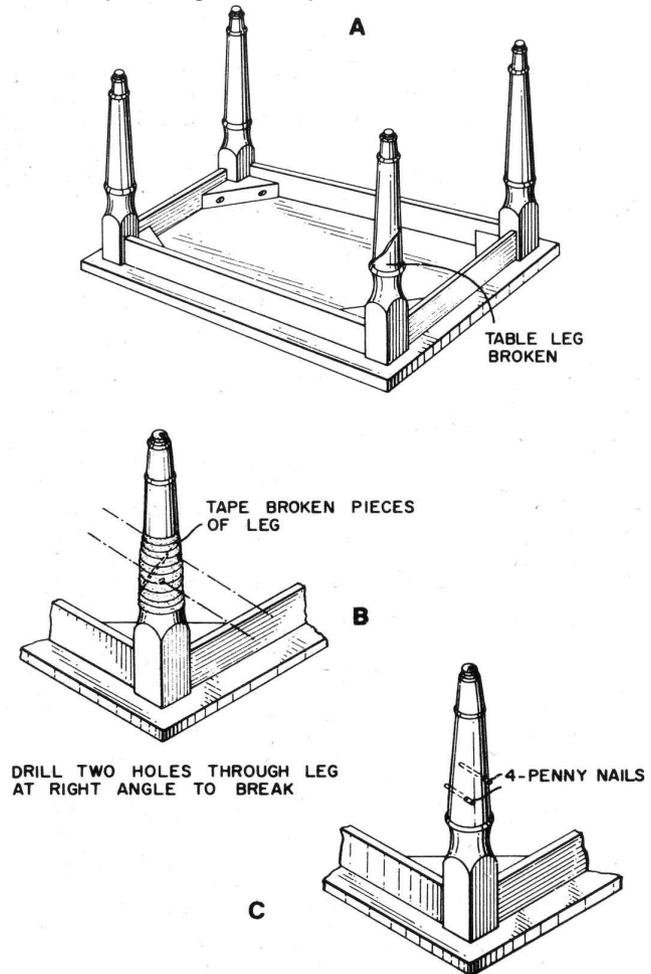


Figure 15.
Repairing Broken Furniture Leg