



**SO
that's
how you...**

Flatten a rug corner, slice perfect brownies, and get a pen stain out of jeans. Master these and other around-the-house jobs with expert tips.

...build a roaring fire

With this top-down method from Ashley Eldridge of the Chimney Safety Institute of America, you can achieve a brilliant blaze using only wood and matches. Make sure the wood is dry. Store it outside, off the ground, in a loose stack for at least six months before burning it.

STEP 1 Arrange a row of the biggest logs on the grate in the hearth, leaving

an inch or two of space between each one. (Or lay them directly on the fireplace floor; you don't have to use a grate, Eldridge says.)

STEP 2 Stack slightly smaller logs on top, arranging them perpendicular to the first layer.

STEP 3 For the next two layers, add kindling (twigs and narrow logs), alternating so each row is perpendicular to the one below it,

with each layer smaller than the one below it, so the stack comes to a peak.

STEP 4 Add the final layer, tinder, which is made of small pieces of wood, like chips and shavings. (The top of the stack should be about halfway up the height of the firebox.) The top layer will light easily with a match, so you won't need newspaper. As the fire burns, it will ignite the wood below it, producing a robust blaze.