Robot makes IKEA job look easy

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Sick of struggling with baffling instructions, planks and screws? Help is at hand with a robot that can assemble an IKEA chair in minutes.

Developed at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University, it produces a chair in eight minutes, 55 seconds - fast work that gives DIY enthusiasts a run for their money.

It starts by taking photos of parts spread on the floor with a 3D camera. Both arms have a similar range of motions to a human, and wrist sensors monitor how much force is being exerted as it picks up tiny parts to put the chair together.

The team is looking to develop the robot so it can construct furniture by copying humans, perhaps reading an instruction manual. But those looking for help with more items from IKEA will have to wait. For now, the unnamed robot can only tackle a chair.