LOWE'S creative ideas for

WEEKEND PROJECTS

5 EASY, AFFORDABLE PROJECTS

TABLE & BENCHES, NIGHT-LIGHTS, AND MORE

BUILD THIS **HIGH-STYLE MIRROR** IN A WEEKEND

8 GREAT NEW TOOLS

CREATE A TRAY TODAY

BUILD FURNITURE FROM ROUGH LUMBER

STANDS UP TO A LIFETIME OF TUNE-UPS.

When you reach into your toolbox, you want a tool you can rely on. That tool is Kobalt – the tool you can count on project after project. In fact, Kobalt hand and mechanic's tools are backed by a lifetime hassle-free guarantee. So stop by your nearest Lowe's to test drive one today, or visit **Lowes.com/Kobalt**.

Available only at

LOWE'S

KOBALT
NEXT GENERATION OF TOUGH TOOLS

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WE LOVE FEEDBACK!

Please fill out our reader survey at **LowesCreativeIdeas.com/WPSurvey** for a chance to receive a $100 Lowe's gift card. Hurry, the survey ends November 9. See details online.

Readers' note: Almost any do-it-yourself project involves risk of some sort. Your tools, materials, and skills will vary, as will the conditions at your project site. Lowe's Companies, Inc., and its subsidiaries ("Lowe's") have made every effort to be complete and accurate in the instructions and other content contained in this publication. However, neither Lowe's nor the publisher will assume any responsibility or liability for damages or losses sustained or incurred in the course of your home improvement or repair project or in the course of your use of the item you create or repair. Always follow the manufacturer's operating instructions in the use of tools, check and follow your local building codes, and observe all standard safety precautions. Prices and supply may vary, so check the cost of materials and labor in your area before beginning any home improvement project. We strive to be accurate, but unintentional errors may occur and we reserve the right to correct any error. See a Lowe's store for information regarding product warranties and any available protection plans. All prices and promotions are limited to U.S. locations only. *Creative Ideas for Weekend Projects* is published by Meredith Corporation, 1716 Locust Street, Des Moines, IA 50309-3023. Copyright 2011 Lowe's Companies, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior written permission of the publisher. Lowe's®, the gable design, Never Stop Improving, and Creative Ideas™ are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. All rights reserved. Address all correspondence to *Creative Ideas for Weekend Projects*, 1716 Locust Street, Mail Stop LN-312, Des Moines, IA 50309-3023. *Weekend Projects* is staff produced and cannot be held responsible for any unsolicited material. Printed in the U.S.A.

COOL NEW TOOLS

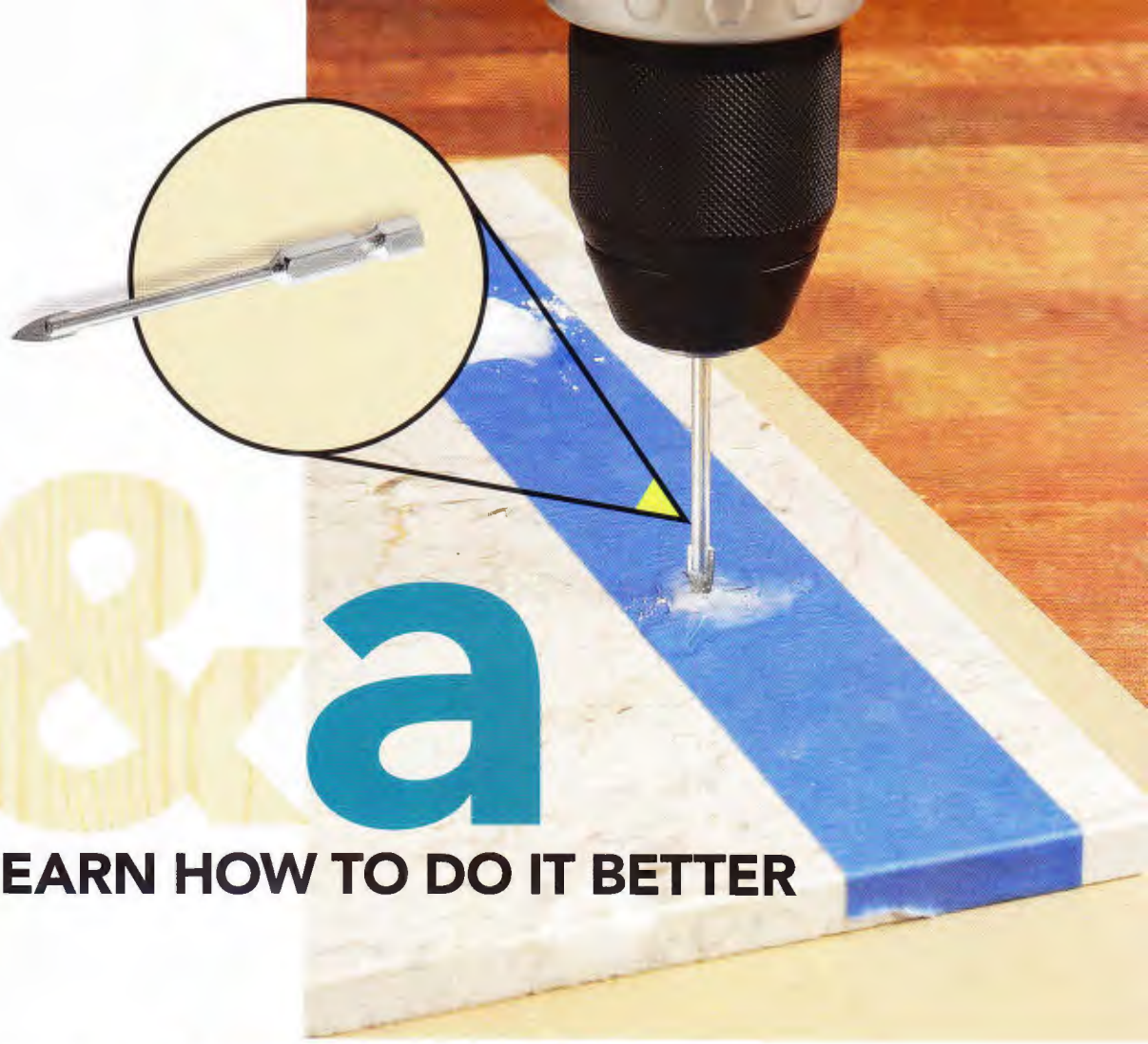
BUILT ON A TRADITION OF SOLID-STEEL MECHANIC'S TOOLS, THIS NEW LINEUP FROM KOBALT IS FORGED TO EXCEED YOUR NEEDS.

Kobalt has expanded its line of tools for the DIYer with a collection of corded and cordless tools. These robust workhorses are built pro-tough with user-friendly features and value. The cordless tools are available with nickel-cadmium or lithium-ion batteries and come in heavy-duty carrying cases. For the corded tools, the new 15-amp **Magnesium Circular Saw (#325953)** comes with a handy 12-foot power cord, and the 12-amp **Orbital Reciprocating Saw (#352635)** features a unique rotating head that can reach into tight places.

18V COMPACT LI-ION DRILL DRIVER, #325808 Features include a 2-speed gear box, ½" keyless chuck, 455 in./lbs. of torque, LED worklight, belt hook, 2 batteries, charger, ergonomic handle design, and soft-shell case.

18V LI-ION IMPACT WRENCH, #325931 This kit includes a pair of 3-amp extended-run-time batteries, 30-minute battery recharger, 300 ft./lbs. of torque, and a hard-shell case.

18V 4-TOOL LI-ION COMBO KIT, #325928 Tools include a 6½" circular saw, LED work-light, variable-speed reciprocating saw with tool-free blade change, drill with a 24-position clutch, 2 batteries, charger, and soft-shell case.



q&a

LEARN HOW TO DO IT BETTER

q: I need to drill a hole in a stone tile to drive a screw, but my drill bits just won't go through. How do I get this done without damaging the tile or ruining my bits?

a: Matching the bit to the material you're drilling is the first step. Use a bit designed for the job, like Kobalt's Glass & Tile Drill Bits, *above*, available in sizes ⅛" to ½". However, bit selection will only get you so far. Follow these additional steps: Place painter's tape on the surface—you can mark on it, and it prevents the bit from wandering as you start drilling. Drill slowly and use light pressure. Finally, add a few drops of water to the hole you're drilling to help cool the bit. For larger holes, you can make a dam for the water using plumber's putty. When drilling in a tile on the wall, use a spray bottle to add needed moisture.

q: I recently added a mirror to a picture frame, but I ran into a problem when the adhesive ruined the back reflective surface of the mirror. What's the best way to keep a mirror in place without repeating this disaster?

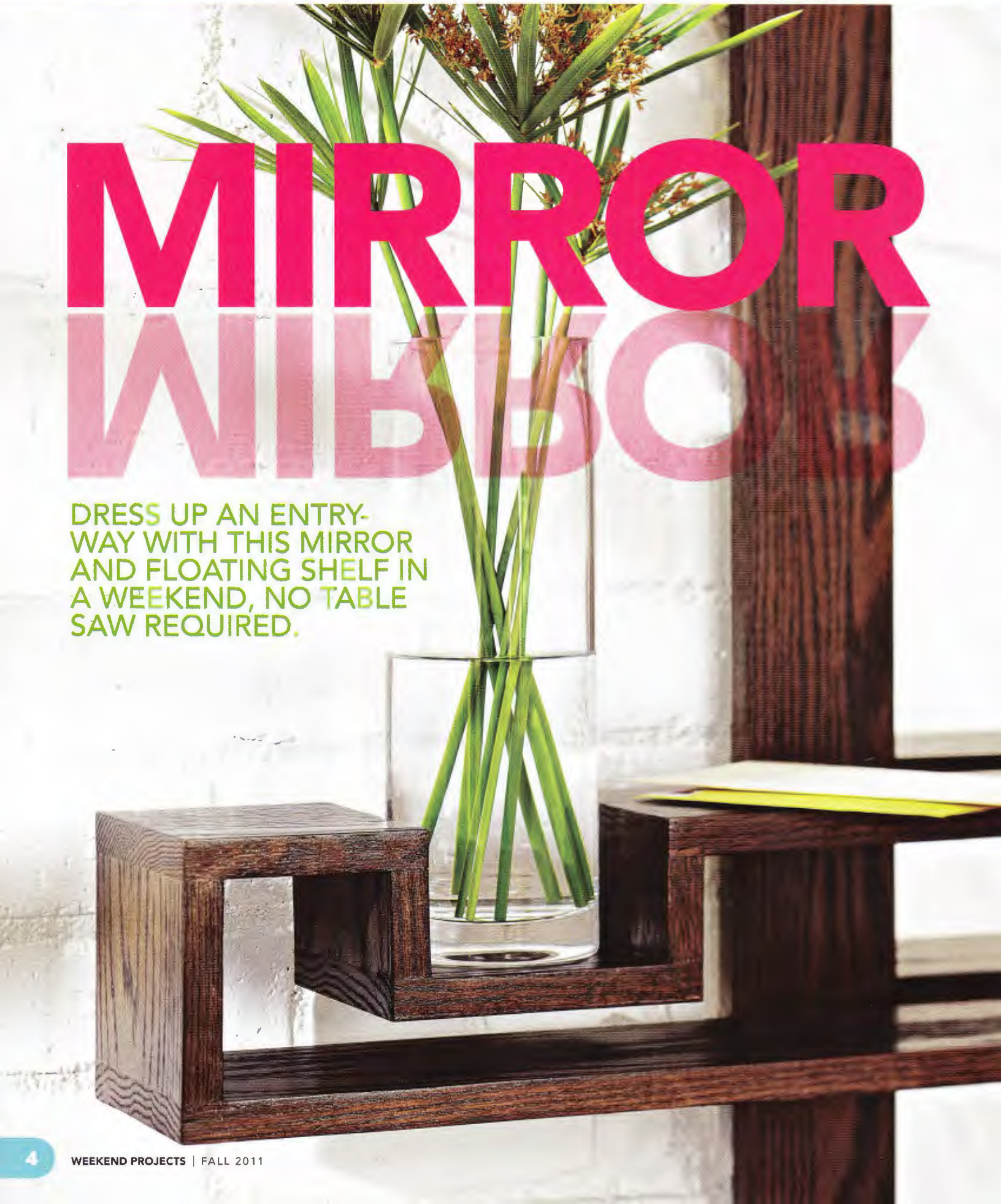
a: The first thing to know is that a mirror should not be hung with only adhesive—there should be a secondary attachment method. Install clips or set the mirror into a frame. This ensures that if one of the attachment methods fails, you won't have broken glass everywhere. For the adhesive, use one that's designed to stick to the mirror coating without causing the coating to come off (this is called "desilvering"). Gardner Mirror Mastic, *below*, is designed just for this purpose. Apply it to the back of the mirror in globs 2" to 3" in diameter for every square foot of mirror. Follow these steps and you'll be able to reflect on your project with a smile.

PROJECT DETAILS

SKILL LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE / **ESTIMATED COMPLETION:** 2 DAYS / **ESTIMATED COST:** $125

MIRROR

DRESS UP AN ENTRY-WAY WITH THIS MIRROR AND FLOATING SHELF IN A WEEKEND, NO TABLE SAW REQUIRED.



With this modern take on an entry mirror, you can check your look before you leave for work and then park your keys when you get home. The only power tools you need to complete the project—made from a few oak boards and hardboard—are a miter saw and a drill. Just have a Lowe's associate precut the hardboard to size to fit in your vehicle. When you're done, step back and reflect on a weekend of woodworking success!

SEE A VIDEO ANIMATION
of this project. Just scan this tag with your smartphone—you can find the free app at GETTAG.MOBI—or go online and visit LowesCreativeIdeas.com/Extras.

CLICK For information on selecting saw blades for your projects, go online to: **LowesCreativeIdeas.com/ShopClass.**


1

2


3


4

Make a Frame

1 From an 8' 1"×4" and 1"×6", cut the narrow stile **A**, top rail **B**, wide stile **C**, and bottom rail **D** to length **(Cutting List, Cutting Diagram)**.

2 Assemble the frame **(Photo 1, Drawing 1)** using glue and clamps.

3 When the glue is dry, sand the mirror frame with 120-grit followed by 220-grit sandpaper.

4 From 3/16" hardboard, cut the back **E**, narrow fillers **F** and **G**, and the wide fillers **H** and **I** to size. A Lowe's associate can rip the material into strips that are 21¾", 1¾", and 3¾" wide **(Cutting Diagram)** and crosscut the back to length. Cut the remaining hardboard parts to length at home using a miter saw.

5 Sand the hardboard with 120-grit sandpaper to roughen the surface; glue the filler strips around the perimeter of the back with the edges flush.

6 Use a mirror adhesive to secure the mirror into the recess created by the back assembly filler strips. **(See Q&A, page 3, for mirror adhesive advice.)**

Build a Shelf

1 Start building the floating shelf by cutting the top **J**, short top **K**, ends **L**, hangers **M**, and trough **N** to length **(Cutting List)**. Sand each component with 120-grit followed by 220-grit sandpaper prior to assembly.

2 Glue and clamp an end **L** and a hanger **M** to the top **J** and short top **K (Drawing 2)**. To reinforce the joints, drill counterbores and countersinks for the screws. The counterbores will receive a wood plug to hide the screws.

TIP: Avoid stripped or broken screws by drilling pilot holes and applying a finishing wax to the screws. This will help reduce friction when threading the screws into the wood.

3 After driving the screws, apply glue to the holes and insert wood plugs. Use a dowel rod that matches the diameter of the counterbore—cut pieces of dowel to 1" long and glue in place. When the glue dries, cut the dowels flush with a saw and sand smooth.

4 Flip the shelf assemblies upside down on your work surface and join the two shelf/end assemblies together by attaching the trough to the hangers. Drive screws through the trough into the hangers. Insert the plugs and sand flush.

5 With just the bottom **O** remaining to complete the shelf, measure and cut the bottom to fit by measuring the overall assembly length. Secure the bottom to the ends with screws and wood plugs **(Photo 2)**.

6 Clamp the assembled shelf in position where shown **(Photo 3, Drawing 3)** and drill 3/16" pilot holes 3" deep through the frame, into the shelf. Temporarily drive the screws.

Stain It and Hang It

1 Remove the shelf and finish sand all of the parts. Remove dust with a tack cloth, and apply a stain of your choice with a foam brush; wipe off excess with a rag. Allow the stain to dry.

TIP: For dark stains like the ebony we chose, you may need to apply up to three coats; allow 6 hours between coats.

2 Apply a clear finish following the manufacturer's instructions (we chose an aerosol finish that dries fast and goes on evenly). Apply three coats; lightly sand between coats with 320-grit sandpaper.

3 When the finish is complete, secure the mirror back in position, centering the back assembly on the frame. Secure with #8×¾" panhead screws. Drive no screws along the top of the back.

4 Using the four 3/16" pilot holes drilled earlier, start driving the screws that hold the shelf through the stiles **A** and **C** so they project 1" from the face.

5 Slip both a ¼" and ⅜" spacer over each screw **(Drawing 4)**, and position the shelf **(Photo 4)**. Drive one screw from each stile into the shelf. With the shelf secured by the two screws, the remaining screws should spin right into the existing holes.

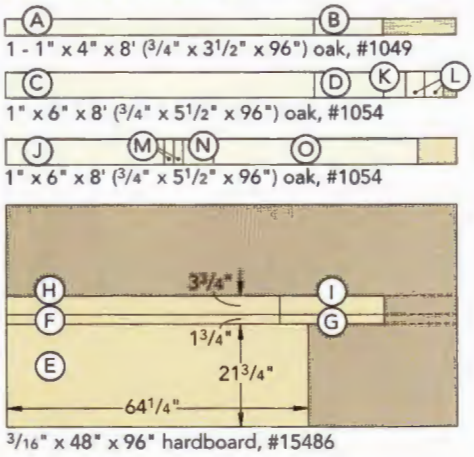
6 Add the picture-hanging system to the mirror back, centering the bracket and locating it flush with the top edge of the back—this will secure the top of the back assembly to the frame.

7 Secure the wall cleat to two wall studs (or use wall anchors) and add bumpers to the bottom rear of the mirror. Hang the mirror and admire the view!

CUTTING LIST

	QT.		PART	T	W	L
FRAME	1	A	narrow stile (oak)	¾	3½	65¾
	1	B	top rail (oak)	¾	3½	14¾
	1	C	wide stile (oak)	¾	5½	65¾
	1	D	bottom rail (oak)	¾	5½	14¾
BACK	1	E	back (hardboard)	3/16	21¾	63¾
	1	F	narrow side filler (hardboard)	3/16	1¾	58¼
	1	G	narrow top filler (hardboard)	3/16	1¾	21¾
	1	H	wide side filler (hardboard)	3/16	3¾	58¼
	1	I	wide bottom filler (hardboard)	3/16	3¾	21¾
SHELF	1	J	top (oak)	¾	5½	33¾
	1	K	short top (oak)	¾	5½	4¾
	2	L	ends (oak)	¾	5½	4
	2	M	hangers (oak)	¾	5½	2
	1	N	trough (oak)	¾	5½	6½
	1	O	bottom (oak)	¾	5½	43½

CUTTING DIAGRAM



Availability varies by market for lumber species and sizes.

GET IT AT LOWE'S

MATERIALS

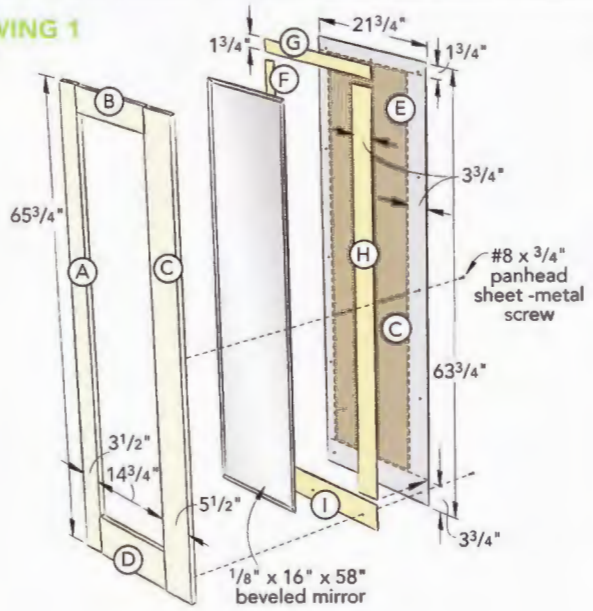
- 16"×58" beveled mirror, #26068
- 5/16"×36" oak dowel, #19444
- 4 - ¼"×⅜"×1" steel spacers, #137118
- 4 - ⅜"×½"×1" steel spacers, #137132
- 18" Hangman picture-hanging system, #56378
- ½"-square bumper pads, #55660
- See Cutting Diagram for lumber list.
- **Wood Options:** Poplar or pine

TOOLS & SUPPLIES

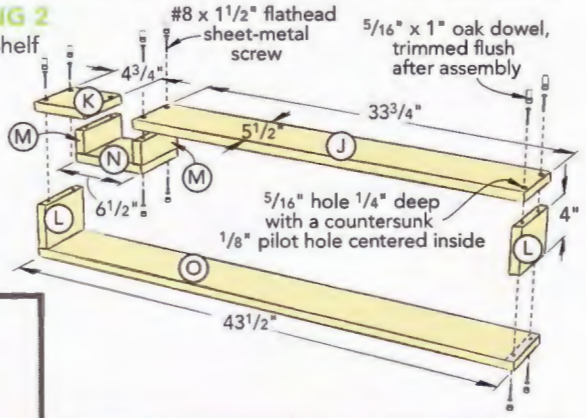
- Miter saw
- Drill with driver bits and #8 countersinks
- 3/16" drill bit
- Random-orbit sander with abrasive discs
- Carpenter's square
- Bar clamps
- #10×3" flathead sheet-metal screws
- #8×1½" flathead sheet-metal screws
- #8×¾" panhead sheet-metal screws
- Titebond wood glue, #86091
- Minwax ebony interior stain, 8 ounces, #35742
- Minwax paste finishing wax, #45898
- Minwax semigloss aerosol polyurethane, #45873
- Paintbrush and rags

Items may be special order in some stores; product availability may vary online or by market.

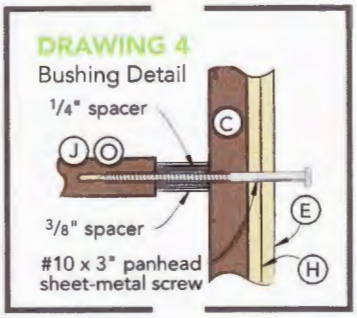
DRAWING 1
Mirror



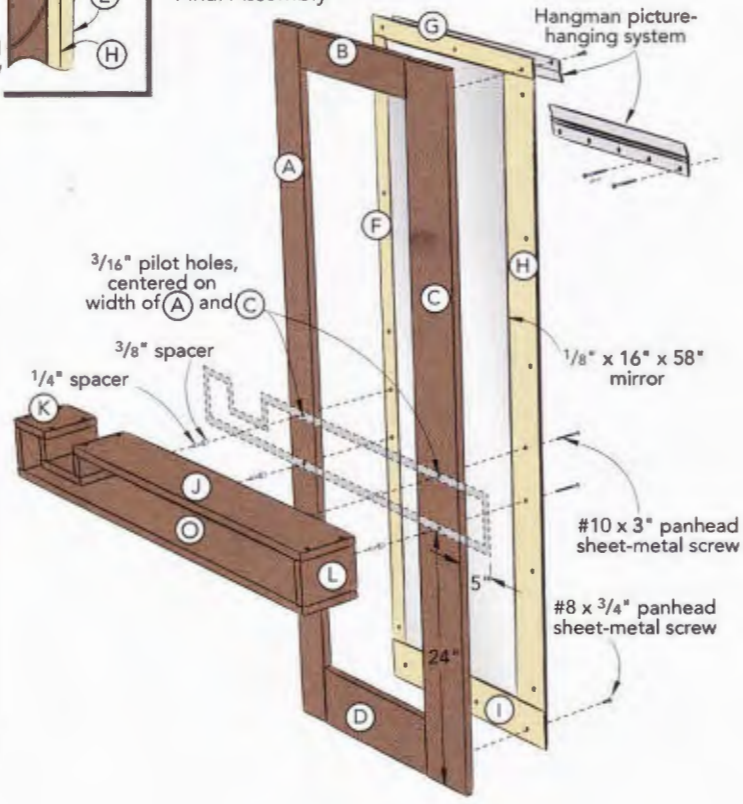
DRAWING 2
Floating Shelf



DRAWING 4
Bushing Detail

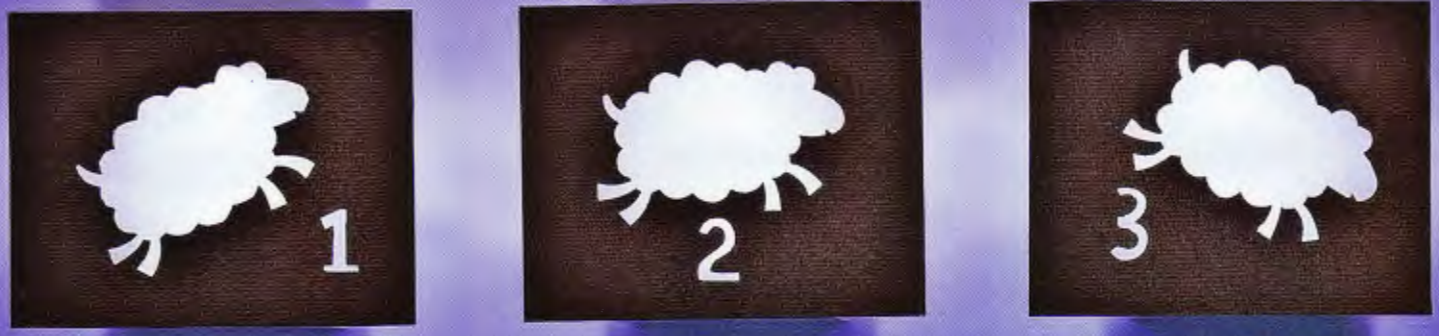


DRAWING 3
Final Assembly



PROJECT DETAILS **SKILL LEVEL:** BEGINNER / **ESTIMATED COMPLETION:** ½ DAY / **ESTIMATED COST:** $90 FOR 3

COUNTING sheep



SLIPPING INTO SLEEPY TIME IS FUN TIME WITH THESE KID-FRIENDLY NIGHT-LIGHTS.

CLICK
For the downloadable sheep (or flower) patterns, go online to: **LowesCreativeIdeas.com/Extras.**

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: CAMERON SADEGHPOUR HOW-TO PHOTOGRAPHS BY: PETE KRUMHARDT PRODUCED BY: JOHN KNIGHT

Add storybook charm to your child's room with these easy-to-make night-lights. They feature handy LED lights that shut off automatically, so there's no wiring (and no interrupting a dream).

Cut the Cork

1 The patterns for the sheep (or optional flower shapes) are available at **LowesCreativeIdeas.com/Extras**. The images print in reverse, but when applied and cut out from the back of the cork, they will appear in the correct orientation.

2 Cut three pieces of cork shelf liner to 9"×11" and tape them to your work surface. Use a spray adhesive to adhere each pattern to the back of a cork liner. Cut out the shapes with a utility knife **(Photo 1)**.

3 Remove the tape from one corner of the liner, peel the backer from one corner of the cork, and replace the tape. Repeat for each corner as you gently remove the backer.

4 Center an 8"×10" piece of Lexan on each piece of cork **(Photo 2)**, and trim the edges of the cork flush with the Lexan using a utility knife.

GOOD TO KNOW

Clear panels come in two varieties and many sizes at Lowe's: acrylic (Plexiglas) and polycarbonate (Lexan). Plexiglas is 10 times stronger than glass, less expensive than Lexan, and cuts with a utility knife. Lexan is more expensive and 30 times stonger than Plexiglas, and requires power tools to cut.

Back It Up

1 From a 1"x 6", cut 9 boards 6½" long for the three light housings. Drill a ⅜" hole where shown in 3 of the boards **(Drawing 1)**; these parts will become the backs of each light.

2 Assemble three boards using glue and finish nails to make each of the housings. Sand the wood and the back face of the Lexan using a 180-grit sanding sponge **(Photo 3)**—sanding the Lexan gives the night-lights a soft glow.

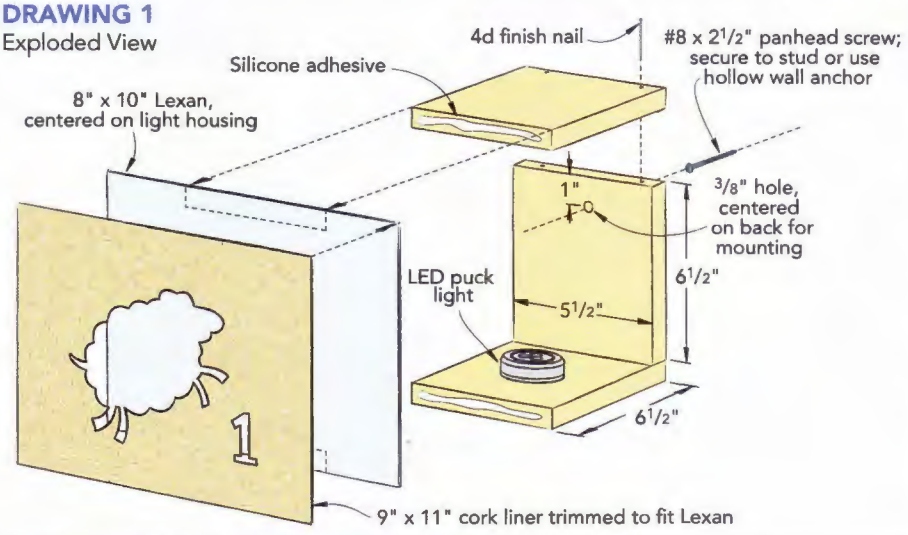
3 Prime and paint the housings. We painted ours white for extra shine.

4 Attach the cork/Lexan faces to the housings using silicone adhesive, making sure the face is centered side to side and flush at the top and bottom of each housing.

5 Install one LED puck light in each housing using the adhesive provided with the light.

6 To mount, drive three #8×2½" panhead screws into the wall studs spaced 16" apart—or use hollow wall anchors—leaving ¾" of each screw still protruding from the wall. Slip the lights over the screws, click them on, and let the dreams begin.

DRAWING 1
Exploded View



GET IT AT LOWE'S

MATERIALS

1"×6"×6' poplar or pine board

3 - .085"×8"×10" clear Lexan, #72055

20"×4' adhesive-backed cork shelf liner, #124858

Silicone clear adhesive, #176219

3 - Sylvania LED under-cabinet puck lights, #165994

Duro general spray adhesive, #54193

TOOLS & SUPPLIES

Utility knife

Painter's tape

Miter box and handsaw

Hammer

Drill with ⅜" drill bit

180-grit sanding sponge

4d finish nails

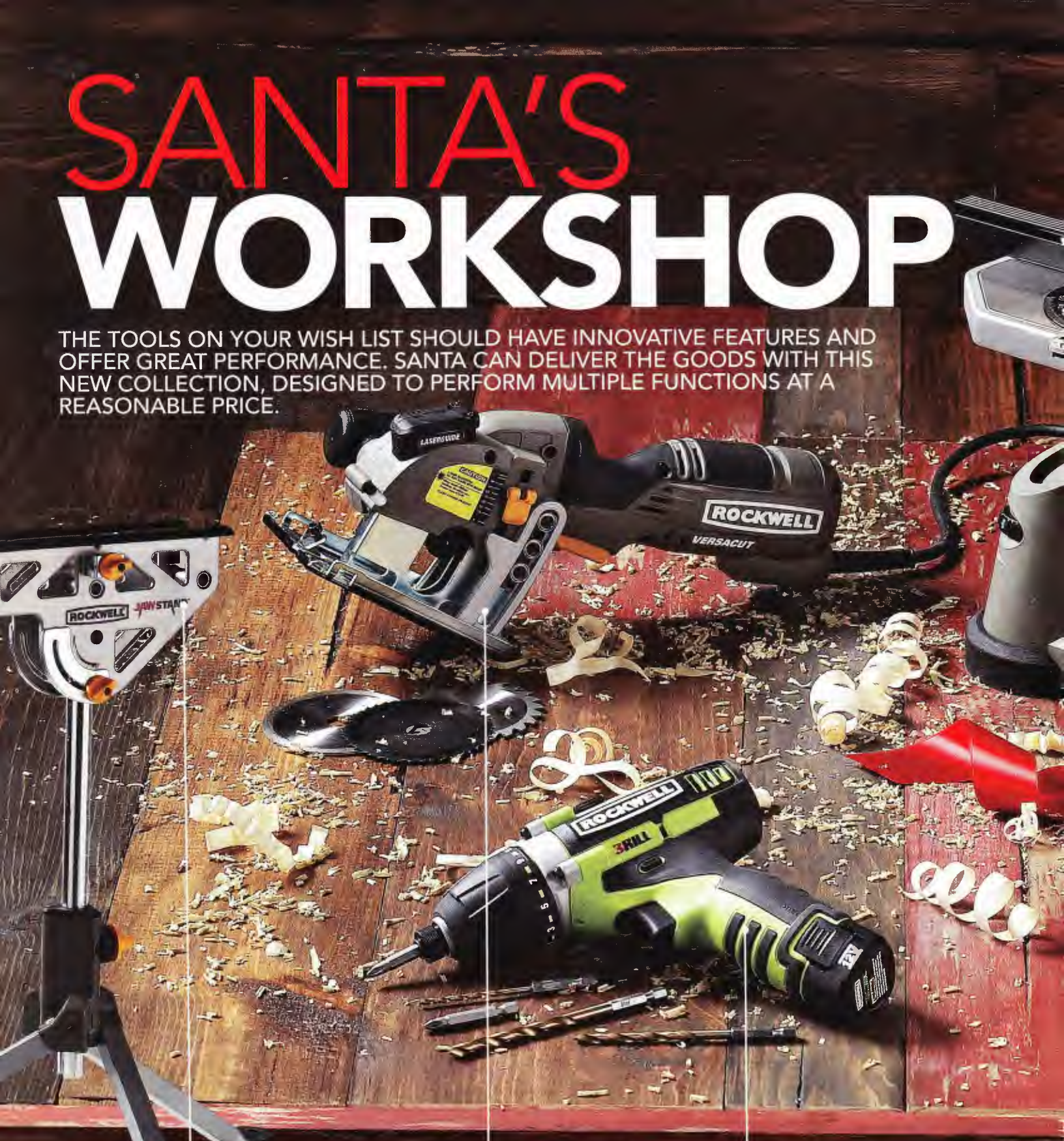
#8×2½" panhead sheet-metal screws

Primer and paint of your choice

Items may be special order in some stores; product availability may vary online or by market.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

THE TOOLS ON YOUR WISH LIST SHOULD HAVE INNOVATIVE FEATURES AND OFFER GREAT PERFORMANCE. SANTA CAN DELIVER THE GOODS WITH THIS NEW COLLECTION, DESIGNED TO PERFORM MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS AT A REASONABLE PRICE.



JAWSTAND, #6664
A versatile work support acts as a second set of hands to help you hold, clamp, support, and feed large pieces. A built-in bubble level and height and miter gauges make this stand rise above all others.

VERSACUT, #255390
This handheld precision tool can be used to cut wood, plastic, metal, and tile. Blade and miter base accessories make it appealing to both pros and DIYers.

12-VOLT DRILL/DRIVER/ IMPACT, #349908
This compact 3-in-1 tool is the first of its kind to combine a powerful impact driver, a screwdriver, and a 2-speed drill.

CLICK
To make Santa's wooden gift tags from veneer, go online to: **LowesCreativeIdeas.com/Extras**.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY

BLADERUNNER MULTI-SAW WITH WALL MOUNT, #346407
A compact all-in-one cutting tool for a variety of materials, this saw can handle it all. The BladeRunner also includes a wall mount that provides out-of-the-way storage when space is an issue.

12-VOLT H3 3-FUNCTION ROTARY HAMMER, #349813
You can get the job done faster without the hassle of changing tools with this workhorse, the first 12-volt lithium-ion SDS rotary hammer with a 3-jaw chuck adaptor and a ¼" hex adaptor.

PROJECT DETAILS **SKILL LEVEL:** BEGINNER / **ESTIMATED COMPLETION:** ½ DAY / **ESTIMATED COST:** $36

CLICK
Deliver lemon bars to your friends. For the tasty recipe, go online to: **LowesCreativeIdeas.com/Extras**.

SERVED WITH style

TRAY CHIC! DRAWER PULLS AND A COUPLE OF FLOORING TILES MAKE A SNAZZY SERVING PIECE.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: CAMERON SADEGHPOUR
HOW-TO PHOTOGRAPHS BY: PETE KRUMHARDT PRODUCED BY: MICHAEL DONOVAN

With a quick trip to the flooring department and two free tile cuts by a Lowe's associate, you're on your way to creating a tray that's so good-looking you can leave it on the table as a centerpiece after the goodies are gone.

Assemble the Tray

1 Cut two 12"×12" tiles to 9"×12". Use a tile bit **(see Q&A, page 3)** to drill handle holes 1" in from the cut edges **(Drawing 1)**. For a no-cut tile option, adjust the length of the sides to account for the full 12" x 12" tiles.

2 For the side supports **A (Cutting List, Cutting Diagram)** cut two pieces of ½"-square dowel to the combined length of the two tiles.

TIP: Due to variations in tile dimensions, and the accuracy of the tile cuts, each part should be cut to fit as you proceed.

3 Align the tiles, finished side down, with the cut edges pointing out. Using epoxy, bond the supports to the tile with the edges of the dowel flush to the edges of the tiles. Cut the end supports **B** to fit between the side supports; secure with epoxy **(Photo 1)**.

4 From a 1"×2" cut the feet **C** to fit between the side supports and bond them to the tile with epoxy; inset the feet 3" from the end of each tile.

5 Flip the tray upright and cut the ends **D** and sides **E**, from ½"-thick oak, to fit around the assembled tile. Sand the parts with 180-grit sandpaper.

6 Place a ¾"-thick scrap as a spacer for the ends and sides to rest upon. This will position the parts above the edge of the tiles to form a lip around the inside of the tray. Bond the ends and sides to the supports and tile using epoxy—painter's tape works as a clamp to hold the pieces while the epoxy cures **(Photo 2)**.

7 Apply painter's tape to the surface of the tile where it meets the oak, and apply three coats of a clear finish to the wood parts. Sand between coats with 320-grit sandpaper.

8 Mount the handles to the tray using the supplied screws. The tile is thinner than a ¾"-thick cabinet door, so you'll need to use a ¼" nut as a spacer to make up the difference in thickness. Now load the tray and serve up a good time.

MATERIALS

2 - 12"×12" marble tiles, #36996

Loctite 5-minute instant mix epoxy, #20640

2 - Amerock 5" satin-nickel subtle arch pulls, #133819

4 - ¼" steel nuts

Material Options:
Wood: pine, poplar, aspen, or maple

Tile: 12"-square tiles of your choice

TOOLS & SUPPLIES

Miter box and handsaw

Drill and 5/16" tile bit

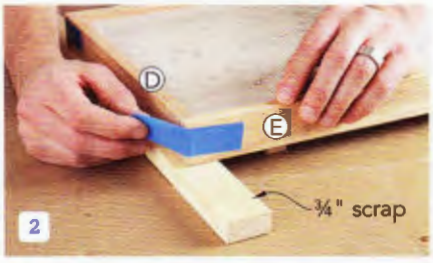
Painter's tape

Sandpaper

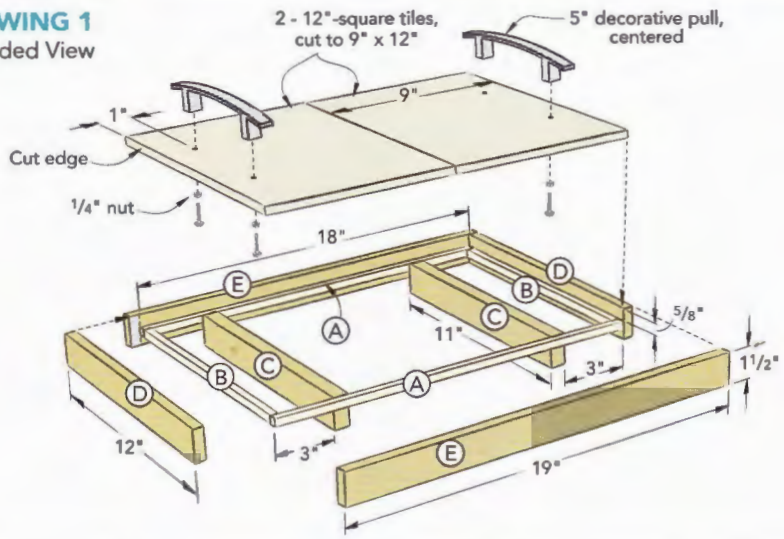
Paintbrush and rags

½ pint Minwax satin polyurethane, #45860

Items may be special order in some stores; product availability may vary online or by market.



DRAWING 1
Exploded View

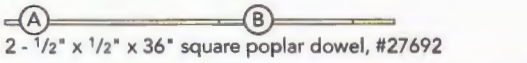


CUTTING LIST

	QT.		PART	T	W	L
TRAY	2	A	side supports (poplar)	½	½	18*
	2	B	end supports (poplar)	½	½	11*
	2	C	feet (oak)	¾	1½	11*
	2	D	ends (oak)	½	1½	12*
	2	E	sides (oak)	½	1½	19*

*See instructions; part lengths may vary.

CUTTING DIAGRAM



2 - ½" x ½" x 36" square poplar dowel, #27692

1 - 1"x 2" x 4' (¾" x 1½" x 48") oak, #1036

2 - ½"x 2" x 4' (½" x 1½" x 48") oak, #1138

Availability varies by market for lumber species and sizes.

PROJECT DETAILS

SKILL LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE / **ESTIMATED COMPLETION:** 3 DAYS / **ESTIMATED COST:** $145

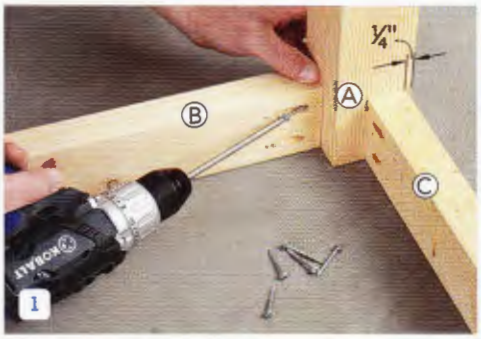
BUDGET BANQUET

TURN ROUGH CONSTRUCTION LUMBER INTO TOP-NOTCH MATERIAL TO MAKE THIS AFFORDABLE TABLE AND BENCH SET. SEE PAGE 18 FOR A NO-TABLE-SAW OPTION.

Building large-scale furniture often requires an oversize investment in tools and materials, but not with this classic dining set. We built this table and matching benches for $145 with stock straight from the lumber bins. To get the tips and learn the tricks of working with construction lumber, go to page 20. Once you see how easy it is to turn dimensional lumber into beautiful pieces of furniture, your dining room will never be the same.

SEE A VIDEO ANIMATION of this project. Just scan this tag with your smartphone—you can find the free app at GETTAG.MOBI—or go online and visit **LowesCreativeIdeas.com/Extras**.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: CAMERON SADEGHPOUR HOW-TO PHOTOGRAPHS BY: PETE KRUMHARDT PRODUCED BY: MICHAEL DONOVAN



Make a Table Base

1 Start by cutting four 4"×4" blanks for the legs **A** to a rough length of 29½". Using a table saw, trim the leg blanks to final width and thickness; using a miter saw, trim the parts to final length **(Cutting List, Cutting Diagram)**. For more on prepping dimensional lumber for woodworking projects, see **"Lumber Conversion" on page 20**.

2 For the remaining table base parts, cut the long aprons **B**, short aprons **C**, corner braces **D**, and stretchers **E** to width and length. Cut a 45° miter on both ends of the corner braces **(Drawing 1)**, and drill a ¼" hole centered on the face of each brace.

3 Drill holes for the pocket-hole screws in the long and short aprons and the stretchers **(Drawing 2)**. Note: You will need to set your pocket-hole jig to pre-drill material that is 1" thick. **(See page 19 for more on pocket-hole settings.)** Sand all parts to 220 grit.

4 Begin building the base assembly by attaching the long and short aprons to the legs using glue and 2" pocket-hole screws **(Drawing 3)**. Note: Inset the aprons ¼" from the outside face of the legs **(Photo 1)**.

5 Glue the corner braces into each corner of the table; reinforce by driving 2" pocket-hole screws through the blocks into the aprons as shown—no pocket holes are required.

6 Using a 3/16" bit, drill a pilot hole into the corner of the leg, centering the bit in the ¼" hole you drilled in the corner block **(Photo 2)**. Reinforce the corner joint by driving a ¼" lag screw through the brace into the leg.

7 Complete the table base assembly by adding the stretchers between the long aprons using glue and pocket-hole screws.

Top and Finish

1 Prepare the four 2"×10"s for the top slats **F**. Cut the planks to rough length, trim to width, and then cut to final length. Sand the slats to 220 grit.

2 Now it's time for finishing. Start the process by easing all of the hard edges of the top and table base with 220-grit sandpaper for a smooth feel. Then wipe down the wood with a tack cloth.

3 Apply a pre-stain conditioner, following the manufacturer's instructions, to prevent the stain from turning blotchy in the soft wood; then apply a stain of your choice to the slats using a foam brush. (We applied two coats of ebony stain to achieve the dark finish on the table and bench tops.)

4 When the stain is dry, brush on three coats of a semigloss polyurethane to the table base and slats. Allow each coat to dry; lightly sand between coats with 320-grit sandpaper to remove rough spots.

Bring It Together

1 Place a couple of sanded scrap 2"×4"s on the floor, and lay your slats on them with the best face down. (The 2"×4"s will protect the finished parts from being scratched by the floor.) Align the ends of the slats and butt them against one another.

2 Center the table assembly on the slats **(Photo 3)** and secure the table base to the slats with 2" pocket-hole screws through the aprons and stretchers.

3 With the top secured, add felt pads to the bottom of each table leg.

4 For instructions on building a matching set of benches for the table, turn to page 18.

CUTTING LIST

	QT.		PART	T	W	L
TABLE	4	A	legs	3	3	28½
	2	B	long aprons	1½	3	68
	2	C	short aprons	1½	3	26
	4	D	corner braces	1½	3	6¾
	2	E	stretchers	1½	3	28½
	4	F	slats	1½	9	78

GET IT AT LOWE'S

MATERIALS

2" pocket-hole screws, #318924

4 - ¼" washers

4 - ¼" x 4" lag screws

1½" round felt pads, #310988

See Cutting Diagram for lumber list.

TOOLS & SUPPLIES

Miter saw

Table saw

Pocket-hole jig

Drill with driver bits and #8 countersinks

3/16" and ¼" drill bits

7/16" socket & ratchet

Random-orbit sander with abrasive discs

Carpenter's square

Paintbrush and rags

Titebond original glue, #86091

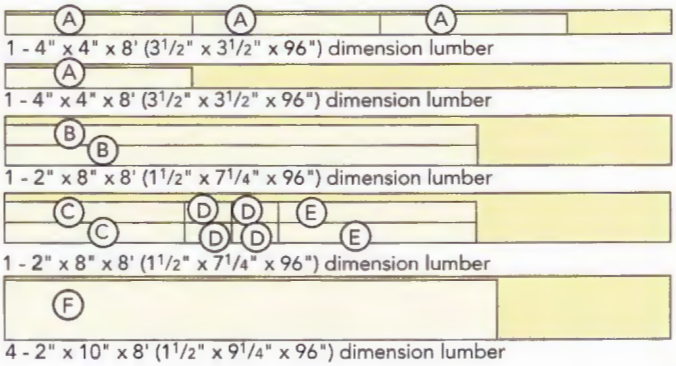
Minwax pre-stain conditioner, #46575

Minwax ebony stain, #35149

Minwax semigloss polyurethane, #45871

Items may be special order in some stores; product availability may vary online or by market.

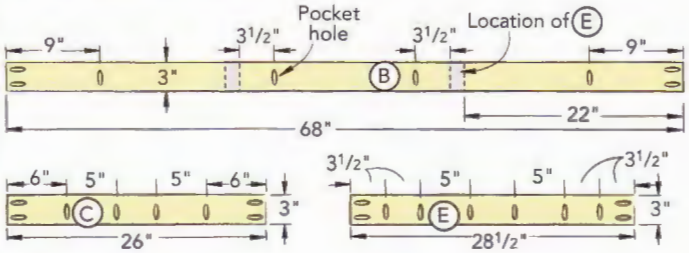
CUTTING DIAGRAM



Availability varies by market for lumber species and sizes.

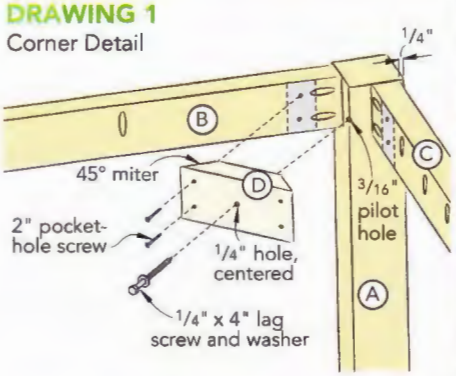
DRAWING 2

Pocket-Hole Locations



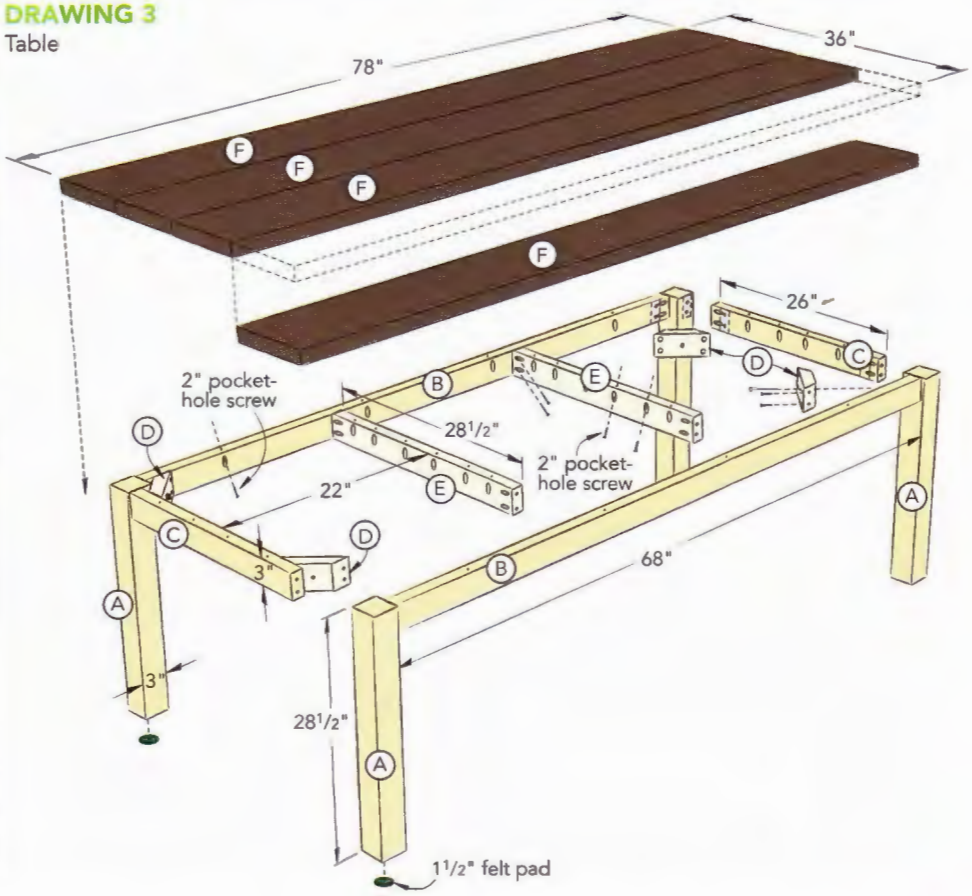
DRAWING 1

Corner Detail



DRAWING 3

Table



GOOD TO KNOW

Can't find non-pressure-treated 4"x4"s in your area? Use 2"x4"s instead. For each leg, cut two boards 31" long, and laminate them together with glue and clamps. When the glue has cured, rip the 3½"-wide laminated blank to 3" in width, taking ¼" of the width off each edge. Trim the laminated blank to 28½" long, and a 3"-square leg is born!

NO TABLE SAW? NO PROBLEM!

If you don't have a table saw, you can still create the table and benches. With a few modifications to the plans—and a lot more sanding—you'll be ready to go. The table legs and aprons will be 3½" wide and simply cut to length from off-the-rack 2"×4"s and 4"×4"s; the top planks will be 9¼" wide and cut to length from standard-issue 2"×10"s; and so on. Just note these minor changes in the plans:

- TABLE: Add 2" to the length of the braces **D**, and 1" to the length of the stretchers **E**.
- BENCH: The braces **B** will be inset 2¾" instead of 2⅞" shown in **Drawing 1, Photo 1**.

Begin the Bench

1 For the benches, use the same procedure to prep the materials as you did with the table: Cut the part 1" longer than called for, trim to width, and then cut to final length. Prepare the material and cut the legs **A** and the braces **B** to size **(Cutting List, Cutting Diagram)**. Cut a 6° angle on the tops of the legs using a miter saw **(Drawing 1)**.

2 Position two legs on your workbench with the bottoms flush. Cut a ¼"-thick spacer to place between the legs. Center the brace on top of the legs with the bottoms flush, and use the angles cut at the top of the legs to mark the angle at the top of the brace **(Photo 1)**.

3 Cut the angle on the brace using a jigsaw. Drill two pocket-holes for securing the seats along the top edge of the braces **(Drawing 2)**; sand the legs and braces to 220 grit.

4 Assemble the legs and braces using glue and screws. Position the parts with the bottoms flush, separating the legs with the ¼" spacer **(Photo 2)**. We drilled ⅛" countersunk pilot holes so the screws would drive easily and not strip.

Set the Seat

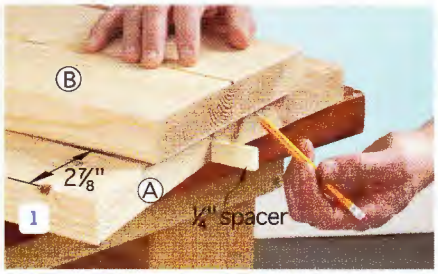
1 Cut the stretchers **C** and slats **D** to length and width. For the stretchers, drill 4 pocket holes equally spaced along the length. Sand the parts with 220-grit sandpaper.

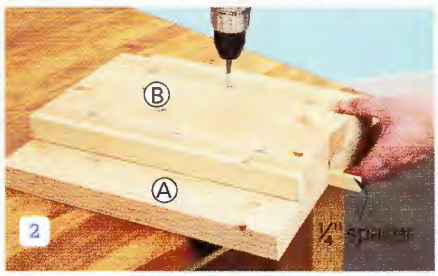
2 To attach the stretchers to the end assemblies, cut a scrap to 11⅞" long, turn the end on its side, and place the stretcher in position, supporting the opposite end with the scrap **(Photo 3)**. Predrill the hole and secure the stretcher to the leg brace with glue and screws. Add a second end assembly, flip the bench over, and add the second stretcher.

3 Apply a finish using the same process you used for the table.

4 Place one of the seat slats on the bench so the edge of the slat is aligned with the ¼" gap between the legs **(Photo 4)** and centered end to end on the bench. Secure the slat to the bench by driving pocket-hole screws from the underside. Place the remaining slat in position and secure.

5 Your bench now just needs some felt pads. Attach them to the leg bottoms and set the table for dinner!

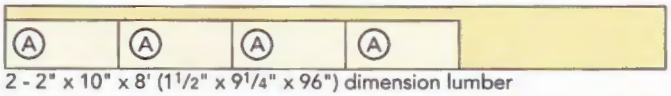




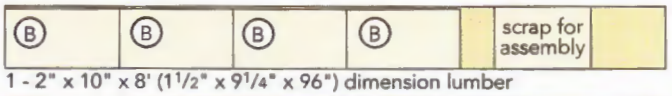
CUTTING LIST

	QT.		PART	T	W	L
BENCH	8	A	legs	1½	7¼	16½
	4	B	leg braces	1½	9	16½
	4	C	stretchers	1½	5½	60
	4	D	seats	1½	9	66

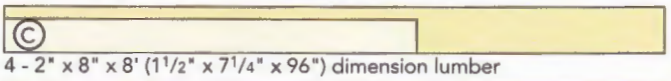
CUTTING DIAGRAM (material for 2 benches)



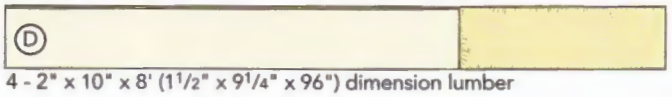
2 - 2" x 10" x 8' (1½" x 9¼" x 96") dimension lumber



1 - 2" x 10" x 8' (1½" x 9¼" x 96") dimension lumber



4 - 2" x 8" x 8' (1½" x 7¼" x 96") dimension lumber



4 - 2" x 10" x 8' (1½" x 9¼" x 96") dimension lumber

Availability varies by market for lumber species and sizes.

GOOD TO KNOW

Let your lumber acclimate to your work space for one week prior to machining. The material will stabilize, and the boards will be less likely to twist when you cut the individual parts from the larger pieces.

GET IT AT LOWE'S

MATERIALS

2" pocket-hole screws, #318924

See Cutting Diagram for lumber list.

TOOLS & SUPPLIES

Miter saw

Table saw

Drill with driver bits and #8 countersinks

Random-orbit sander with abrasive discs

Carpenter's square

Paintbrush and rags

#8×2½" flathead wood screws

Titebond original glue, #86091

Minwax pre-stain conditioner, #46575

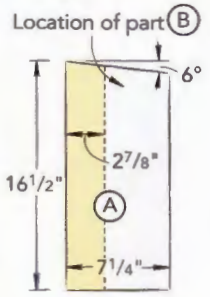
Minwax ebony stain, #35149

Minwax semigloss polyurethane, #45871

Items may be special order in some stores; product availability may vary online or by market.

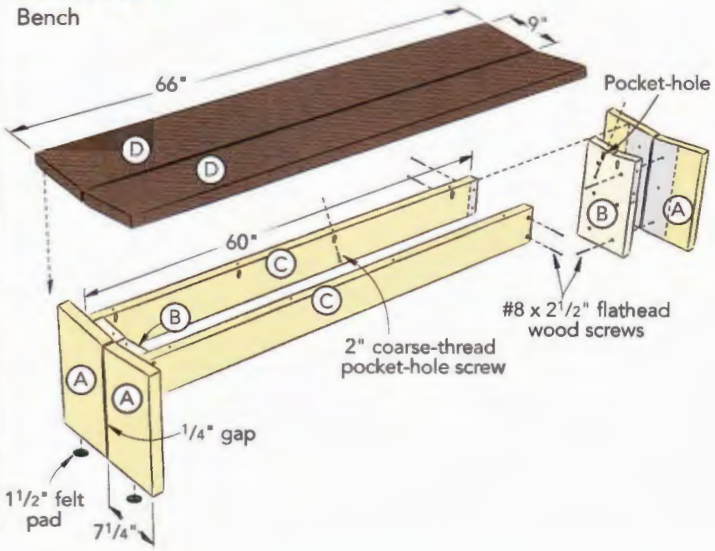
DRAWING 1

Leg



DRAWING 2

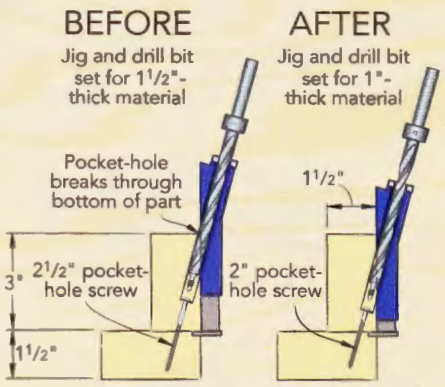
Bench



POCKET-HOLE SOLUTIONS

To drill the pocket-holes in the 3"-wide aprons and stretchers for the table, we set the jig and the stop collar on the drill bit for 1½"-thick material. After drilling a test pocket hole in some 3"-wide scrap, we noticed the hole extended beyond the bottom edge of the aprons. This was easy to fix—we simply adjusted the jig and drill bit setup to drill 1"-thick wood. By altering the settings, the resulting pocket holes slid within the width of the rails. This also required us to use 2" screws instead of the 2½" screws recommended for 1½"-thick stock so they would not extend through the mating parts.

The joints are incredibly strong, and the versatility of the jig paid off! The lesson: Always drill a test hole and drive a screw in a scrap of the same width and thickness of material you are using in your project. You can adjust the Kreg pocket-hole jig to fit almost any situation.



LUMBER CONVERSION

Before you start a project, you probably head for the aisle that contains the ¾" oak, poplar, and pine boards. However, just an aisle or two over you will find construction lumber that is also great for projects. With these easy steps, you can turn those rough boards meant for framing homes into furniture. All you need is a table saw to get started on your project.

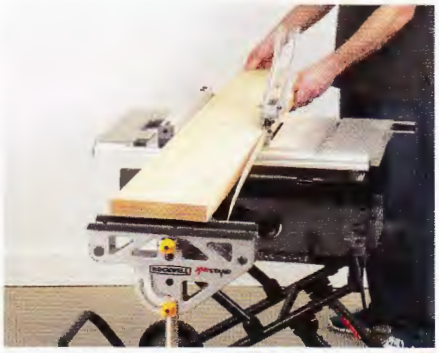
Remember, though, that these construction boards are primarily intended for walls, floors, and roofs—they may contain knots, small splits, and labels that must be removed before you apply a finish. They're also at a higher moisture content than what is preferred for furniture. Purchase the material the weekend before you start your project, and place it in your garage so it can continue to dry before you start building. After a week of drying, the lumber should be ready for the saw, where the beautiful material hiding in those boards can be unveiled.

KNOW YOUR DIMENSION

The "nominal dimension" of a board refers to the size of the material as it's cut from the log (e.g., 2"×10"). The "finished size" of 1½"×9¼" is a result of drying and planing to smooth the wood. Wood species may vary depending on where the tree was grown and your region of the country. You will find woods such as yellow pine, spruce, fir, whitewood, or hemlock—these species are perfect for building homes as well as dining tables.

ROUGH WIDTH AND LENGTH

Cut the board 1" longer than the final length of the part needed—shorter boards are easier to handle. Then remove about ¼" from one edge of the board using a table saw to establish a straight edge. When parts are more than 24" long, use an outfeed stand to support the boards as they come off the saw.

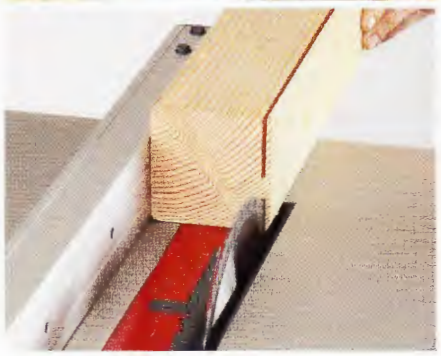


FINAL SIZING

After creating one straight edge, rip the board to the final width you need for the part. With both edges trimmed, cut a small amount of material from one end of the board to square it up; then measure and cut the part to final length. This new part is now ready to be sanded and used in your project.

OVERSIZED BOARDS

Your table saw will not be able to rip the 3"×3" square legs for the harvest table in one pass. Set the fence to 3¼" from the blade, and raise the blade to 2" above the table. Make one pass, flip the part over, and make a second pass. Repeat for a second side, then move the fence to 3" and repeat for the remaining two sides.



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