

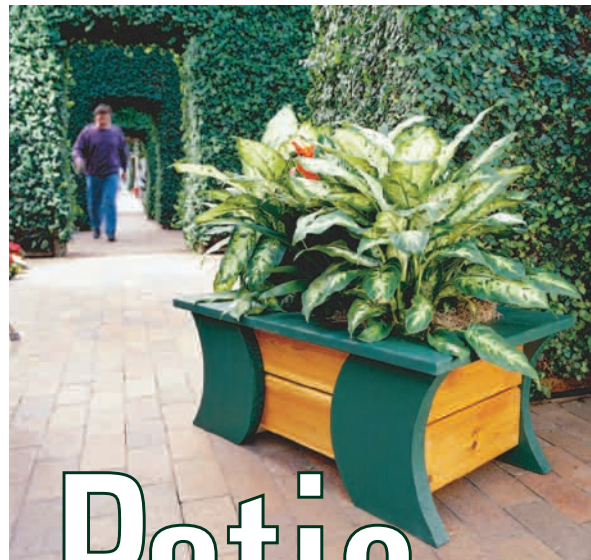


Patio planters

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Patio planters

Build them any size

Give your potted plants
a simple, stylish home—
outdoors or in

by **David Radtke**

This planter is designed to make your patio or deck gardening much easier. Instead of filling it with dirt and planting each flower or plant individually, you simply set prepotted plants right into the planter. You can conveniently switch plants as the season changes or unload the planter and move it to a new location.

We designed this project to fit any pot with an 11-in. diameter or less and a maximum height of 10-1/2 in. To create the illusion of a fully planted box, you just fill in around the pots with wood chips, bark or other mulch covering. The base or bottom of the planter has 7/8-in. holes drilled every 6 in. to drain away any excess water. The side boards have a 1/4-in. space between them to ventilate the mulch and keep it from getting soggy.

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Cost

\$75

Time

6 to 8 hours

Skill level

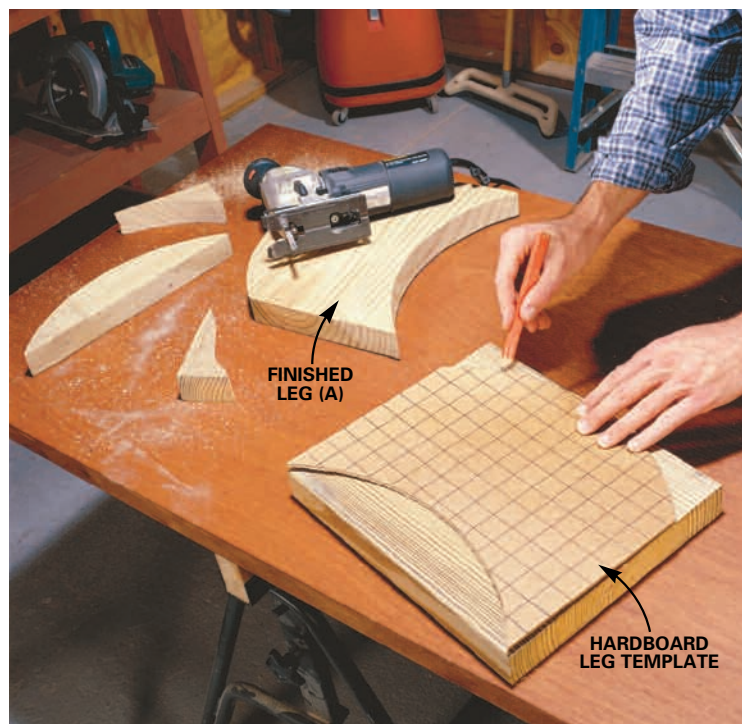
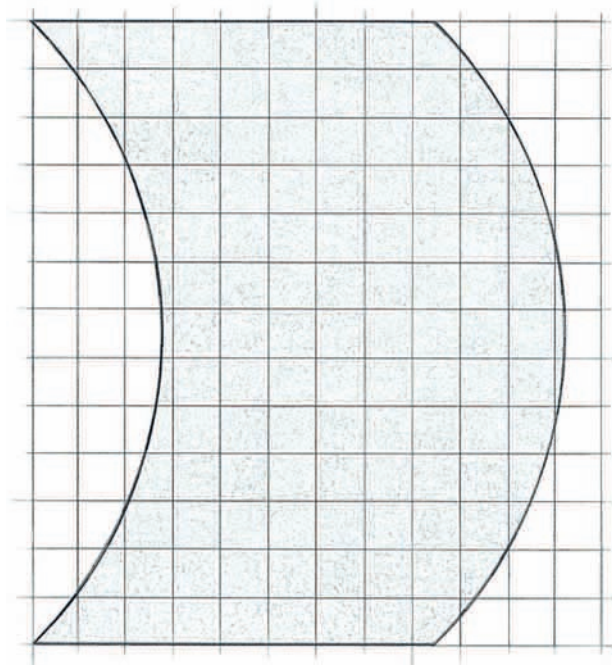
Beginner/intermediate

Tools

- Jigsaw
- Circular saw
- 12-in. Speed square
(as cutting guide)
- Drill with
pilot/countersink bit
- Power screwdriver
- Clamps
- Hammer
- Tape measure

Patio planters

FIG. A
LEG TEMPLATE
(ENLARGE 400%)



1 **USING** a full-size template made from Fig. A, trace the outline of the planter legs onto pressure-treated 2x12 pine boards. Sand the edges with a finish or belt sander followed by 100-grit hand-sanding to gently ease the edges.



2 **MAKE** straight cuts using a 12-in. Speed square held firmly against the back of the 2x6.



Cutting List for Large Planter

KEY	QTY.	SIZE & DESCRIPTION
A	4	1-1/2" x 11-1/4" x 13" treated pine legs
B	1	1-1/2" x 11-1/4" x 48" treated pine base
C	4	1-1/2" x 5-1/2" x 48" cedar side panels
D	4	1-1/2" x 5-1/2" x 14-1/4" cedar end panels*
E	2	1-1/16" x 4-1/2" x 57" cedar side aprons
F	2	1-1/16" x 4-1/2" x 20-1/4" cedar side aprons*

*Cut to fit

Cutting List for Small Planter

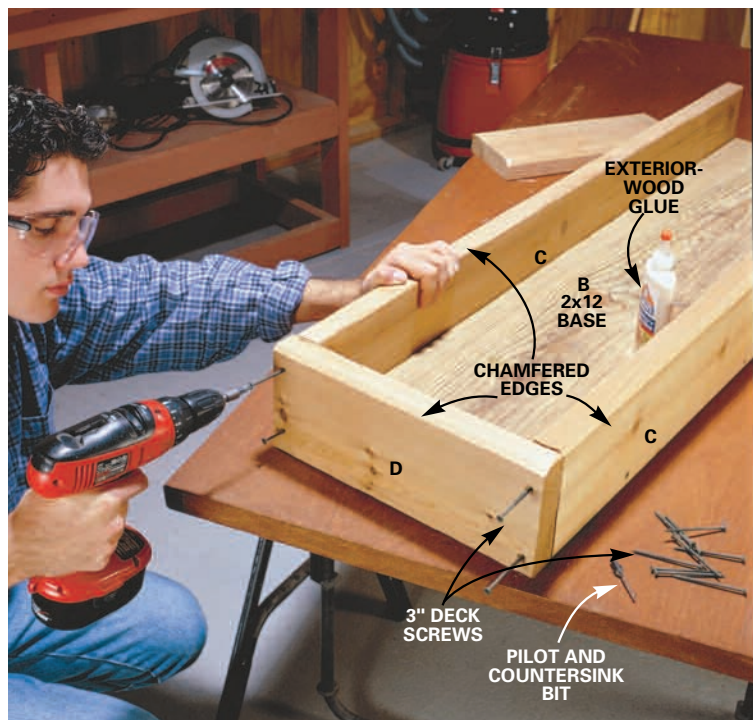
KEY	QTY.	SIZE & DESCRIPTION
A	4	1-1/2" x 11-1/4" x 13" treated pine legs
B	1	1-1/2" x 11-1/4" x 36" treated pine base
C	4	1-1/2" x 5-1/2" x 36" cedar side panels
D	4	1-1/2" x 5-1/2" x 14-1/4" cedar end panels*
E	2	1-1/16" x 4-1/2" x 45" cedar side aprons
F	2	1-1/16" x 4-1/2" x 20-1/4" cedar side aprons*

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3 PLANE only the edges where the side boards C and D meet. This chamfered edge should be about 3/8 in. wide when completed. Clamp a board to the edge of your workbench to stop the workpiece from drifting while you stroke the edge of the board with the plane.



4 CUT your 2x12 base to length, then screw the lower sides (C) to the base. Align the base and sides so they're flush on the bottom sides. Predrill for each screw using a pilot/countersink combination bit. Then screw the ends to the sides.



5 SHIM the base up 1-3/4 in. on each side using scrap pieces of wood, then clamp the legs one at a time to the sides (C). Screw the sides to the legs with 2-1/2 in. deck screws. Use three screws per leg.

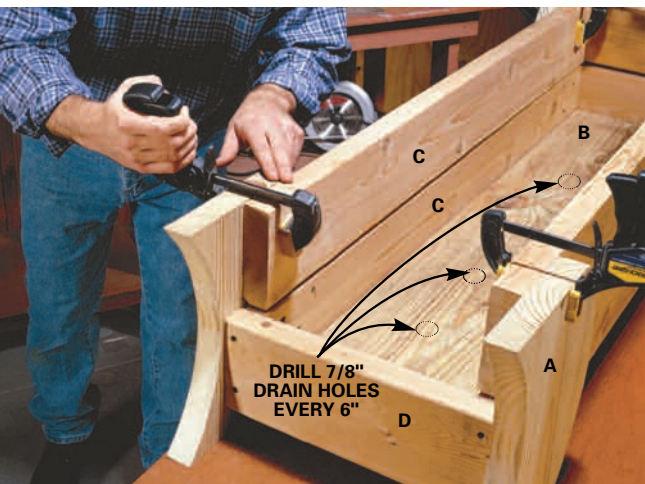
We've shown you two planters of different lengths, but you can adapt them to fit your unique space. You can even change the width by nailing a treated 2x2 to the side of the 2x12 base piece to accommodate a slightly wider pot. To build either the small or large planter shown, follow our clear step-by-step photos and refer to the Cutting List for lumber lengths.

Buying the right lumber

You'll notice the legs are treated pine and not cedar like the sides and top apron. Treated pine is less likely to split along the grain (a nasty problem with cedar). Pick treated 2x12 material for the legs with as few large knots as possible. You'll be able to cut around knots on a single board, so bring a tape measure when you select the lumber. Choose straight cedar for the sides and remember that some knots here can add to the overall beauty.

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Patio planters



6 CLAMP the upper sides flush to the tops of the legs. Be sure to align the upper and lower side ends before drilling and screwing this piece in place. Again, use three 2-1/2 in. deck screws per leg. Next, screw the upper end panels (D) to the upper sides. Make sure the chamfers face each other on each side.

Feel free to use other species of wood such as redwood, cypress or even a plantation-grown tropical wood like ipe (available at some lumberyards).

Use paint, stain or a combination of both

We chose an exterior enamel paint for the legs and apron pieces to accent the deck oil stain/sealer on the base and sides. Stain is a better choice than paint for the base and sides because they'll be exposed to more moisture than the legs and top. The photo below shows the excellent results you can get by staining the entire project with an exterior oil deck stain. 🏠

Art Direction • HOPE FAY
Photography • BILL ZUEHLKE
Project Design • DAVID RADTKE



8 GLUE AND NAIL the side apron pieces (E) flush with parts C below. Next, nail the apron end pieces to the end panels (D). You'll notice the inside edge of F will be about 1/4 in. out from the inside of the planter to adequately cover the tops of the legs.