GRAINBENCH ORIGINAL | INTERMEDIATE

The Quiet Corner Dressing Table

A compact dressing table with a plywood top and a shallow centre drawer on ball-bearing slides. The drawer sits in a neat inset opening.



SIZE	SKILL	TIME	JOINERY
42 in wide, 16 in deep, 30 in tall	Intermediate	About a weekend, plus finish drying	Pocket screws, glue, screws and drawer slides

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01 / MATERIALS AND TOOLS

What to buy.

LUMBER AND SHEET GOODS

BUY	USED FOR
1 x 2x2 board, 8 ft	L legs
1 x 2x2 board, 4 ft	L legs
1 x 1x4 board, 6 ft	A back apron, E end aprons
1 x 1x2 board, 8 ft	F front rails
1 x 1x3 board, 6 ft	N drawer front and back, S drawer sides
1 x 3/4 plywood, 2 ft x 4 ft panel	D drawer face, G drawer guides, I front infills, T top
1 x 1/4 plywood, 2 ft x 2 ft panel (or an offcut at least 10-1/2 x 14-15/16 in)	B drawer bottom

Choose smooth cabinet plywood for the top and drawer face. Buy the slides before cutting the drawer parts, and measure the finished opening before cutting N and B.

HARDWARE AND SUPPLIES

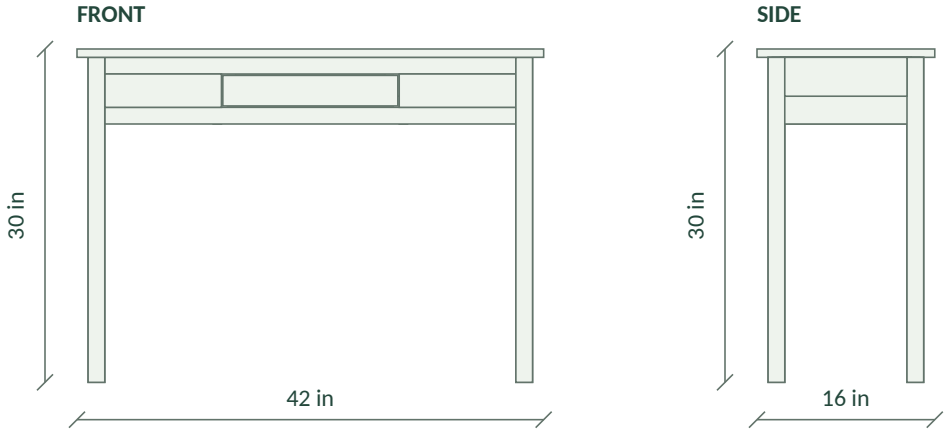
ITEM	AMOUNT
1-1/4 in coarse-thread pocket-hole screws	41, plus a few spares
#6 x 1-1/4 in flathead wood screws	12, plus a few spares
#4 x 5/8 in screws	10, for the drawer bottom
Drawer slides	1 pair of 10 in side-mount slides (KV 8400 or similar), with their screws
Knob	1, with a screw to suit the 1-1/2 in front
Wood glue	Small bottle of interior wood glue
Sandpaper	120 and 180 grit
Finish	About 1 L (1 quart) of paint, stain or clear water-based polyurethane
Anti-tip strap	1, with screws suited to your wall

01 / MATERIALS, CONTINUED

TOOLS

- Circular saw with a straight-edge guide, or have the store cut the plywood
- Saw for straight crosscuts: mitre saw, or circular saw with a speed square
- Pocket-hole jig set for 3/4 in stock, with its stepped bit and a #2 square driver bit
- Drill/driver with a countersink bit
- Tape measure, pencil and a combination or speed square
- 4 clamps that open to at least 24 in
- Sander or sanding block
- Safety glasses and hearing protection

FINISHED SIZE



The legs form a 40 x 14 in frame, 1 in in from the top edges. The aprons sit 3/8 in in from the leg faces. At the front, two rails leave a 16 x 3 in drawer opening between two plywood guides.

02 / CUT LIST

Cut the parts.

Cut the legs together so they match. Cut the table parts first; leave the drawer front, back and bottom (N and B) until the guides are in and you can measure the opening.

ID	PART	QTY	LENGTH	WIDTH	THICK	FROM
T	Top	1	42 in	16 in	3/4 in	3/4 plywood
L	Legs	4	29-1/4 in	1-1/2 in	1-1/2 in	2x2
A	Back apron	1	37 in	3-1/2 in	3/4 in	1x4
E	End aprons	2	11 in	3-1/2 in	3/4 in	1x4
F	Front rails	2	37 in	1-1/2 in	3/4 in	1x2
I	Front infills	2	10-1/2 in	3 in	3/4 in	3/4 plywood
G	Drawer guides	2	11-3/4 in	6 in	3/4 in	3/4 plywood
S	Drawer sides	2	10-1/2 in	2-1/2 in	3/4 in	1x3
N	Drawer front and back	2	13-7/16 in	2-1/2 in	3/4 in	1x3
B	Drawer bottom	1	14-15/16 in	10-1/2 in	1/4 in	1/4 plywood
D	Drawer face	1	15-3/4 in	2-3/4 in	3/4 in	3/4 plywood

CUTTING DIAGRAMS

2x2 x 8 ft

89 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



2x2 x 4 ft

30-1/4 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



1x4 x 6 ft

60-1/4 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



02 / CUT LIST, CONTINUED

1x2 x 8 ft

75-1/8 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



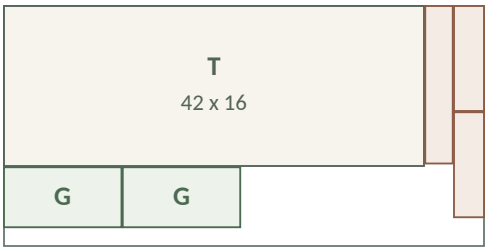
1x3 x 6 ft

49-1/4 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



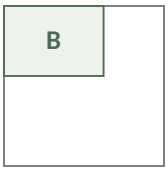
3/4 plywood, 2 ft x 4 ft

Long edge runs left to right. Allow 1/8 in between parts for the saw.



1/4 plywood, 2 ft x 2 ft

Long edge runs left to right. Allow 1/8 in between parts for the saw.



03 / BUILD

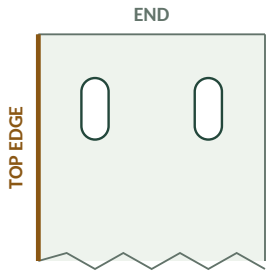
Put it together.

STEP 1 Drill the pocket holes

Drill 2 holes at each end of **A** and both **E**, and 1 at each end of both **F**, all on the hidden face. On each **G**, drill 2 at the front edge and 2 at the back edge on the outside face. Add top holes for the desktop: 3 along **A**, 2 along each **E** and 3 along each **G**. Each **I** gets 1 hole toward its leg and 1 up toward the top rail.

A Back apron

Inside face



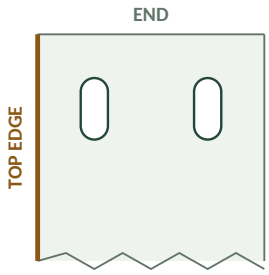
Same at the other end

2 at each end | 4 total

7/8, 2-5/8 in from top edge

E End aprons

Inside face



Same at the other end

2 at each end | 8 total

7/8, 2-5/8 in from top edge

F Front rails

Back face



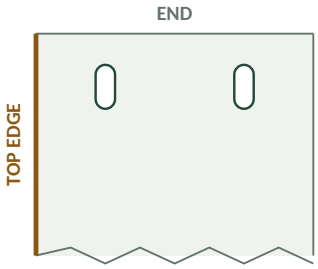
Same at the other end

1 at each end | 4 total

3/4 in from top edge

G Drawer guides

Outside face, front and back edges



Same at the other end

2 at each end | 8 total

1-1/2, 4-1/2 in from top edge

A Back apron

Inside face, top edge



3 along the top | 3 total

2, 18-1/2, 35 in from left end

E End aprons

Inside face, top edge



2 per apron | 4 total

2, 9 in from front end

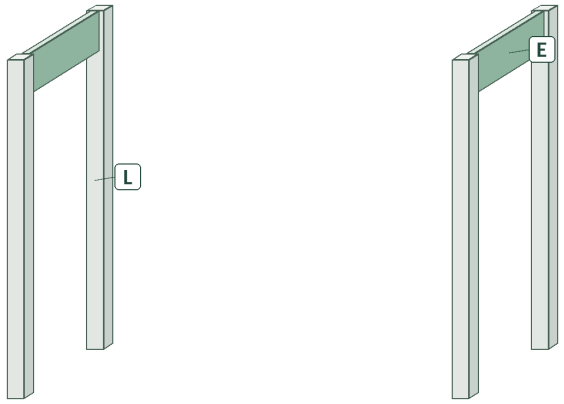
Ovals = pocket-hole entries, enlarged. Not a drilling template.

03 / BUILD, CONTINUED

STEP 2

Build two end frames

Clamp an **E** between a front and back leg, flush with the leg tops and 3/8 in in from the outside. Glue and drive 4 screws. Make the second frame the same way.

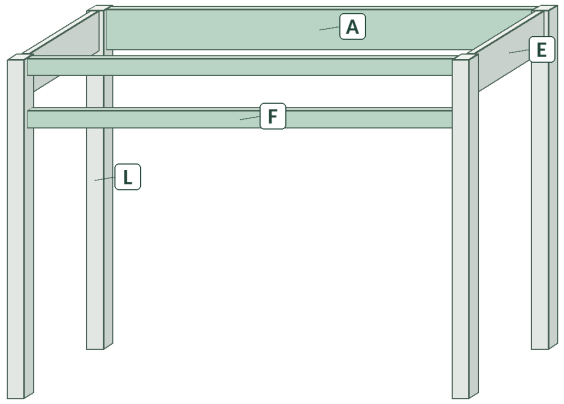


GREEN: added in this step | GREY: already in place

STEP 3

Join with the back apron and front rails

Fit **A** at the back, flush on top and 3/8 in in, with 4 screws. Fit the upper **F** flush with the leg tops and the lower **F** with its bottom 6 in below them, leaving a 3 in gap. Drive 1 screw at each rail end and check the diagonals.

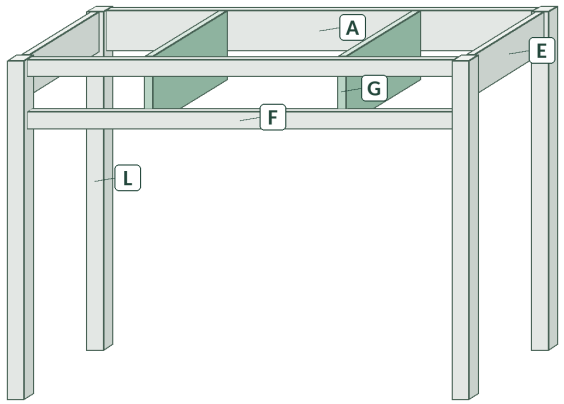


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STEP 4

Fit the drawer guides

Mark the inside faces of the guides 10-1/2 and 26-1/2 in from the inside of the left leg, so they are 16 in apart. Fit each **G** between the front rails and the back apron, flush on top, and drive 2 screws into each.

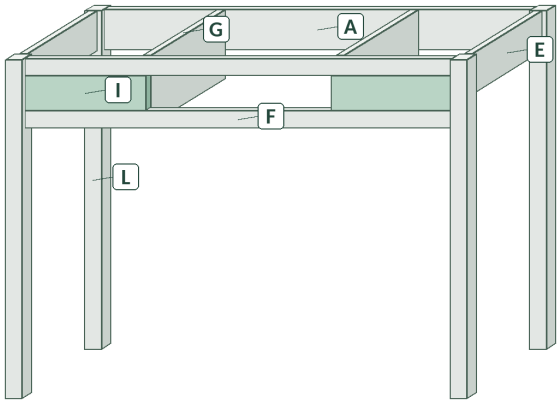


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STEP 5

Fill in the front

Glue each **I** between the rails on either side of the opening, front faces flush, and drive its 2 screws. The opening should be 16 x 3 in.

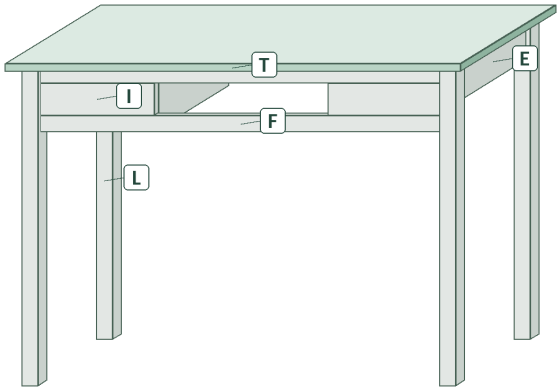


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STEP 6

Attach the top

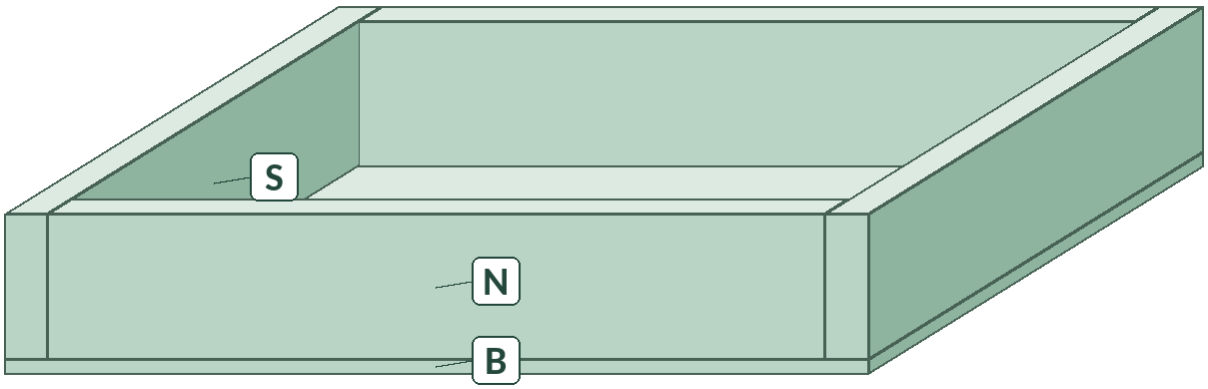
Lay **T** face down, centre the frame on it with 1 in overhang all round, and drive the 13 top screws.



GREEN: added in this step | GREY: already in place

STEP 7 Build the drawer box

Measure the opening between the guides and subtract 1-1/16 in for the slides; with a 16 in opening the box is 14-15/16 in wide. Cut **N** and **B** to suit. Glue **N** between the two **S** and drive 2 screws at each corner through the sides. Glue and screw **B** underneath with 10 small screws.



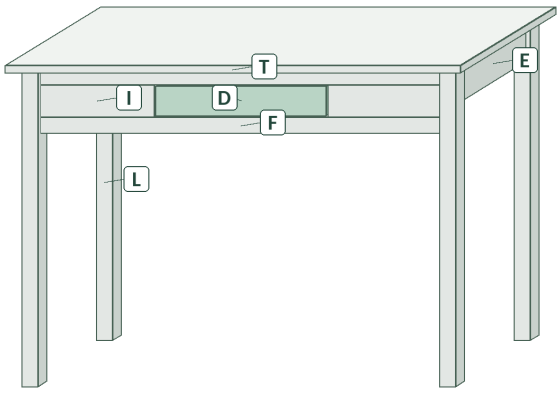
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STEP 8 Fit the slides

Mount the slides on the guides and the drawer following the slide maker's instructions, keeping the box 1/8 in above the lower rail. Check it runs smoothly.

STEP 9 Fit the drawer face

Close the drawer and hold **D** in the opening with 1/8 in spacers on all four sides. Clamp it to the drawer front and drive 4 screws from inside the drawer. Drill for the knob and fit it.



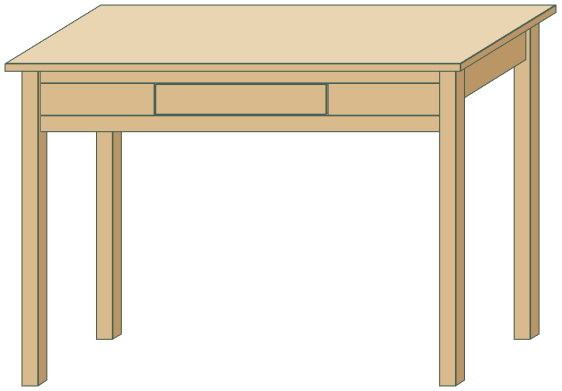
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03 / BUILD, CONTINUED

STEP 10

Finish and anchor

Take out the drawer, sand, and finish everything, keeping finish off the slides. Fasten the anti-tip strap into a wall stud.



CARE

Keep the drawer light. If you hang a mirror above, fix it to the wall, not to the table.

Browse more free plans > **Plan your own cut list >** **How to read a plan >**

Dimensions, part counts and cutting layouts were checked digitally. The plan has not been load-tested.