GRAINBENCH ORIGINAL | CONFIDENT BEGINNER

The Weekday Writing Desk

A simple writing desk with a smooth plywood top, square legs and low side stretchers that keep it steady while leaving open legroom.



SIZE	SKILL	TIME	JOINERY
42 in wide, 22 in deep, 30 in tall	Confident beginner	About a day, plus finish drying	Pocket screws and glue

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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, 8 ft	A front and back aprons, B side aprons
1 x 1x4 board, 4 ft (or an offcut at least 16 in long)	B side aprons
1 x 1x3 board, 4 ft	E side stretchers
1 x 3/4 plywood, 2 ft x 4 ft panel	T top

Choose cabinet-grade plywood with a smooth face for the top; a 2 x 4 ft project panel is enough. Pick legs without twist.

HARDWARE AND SUPPLIES

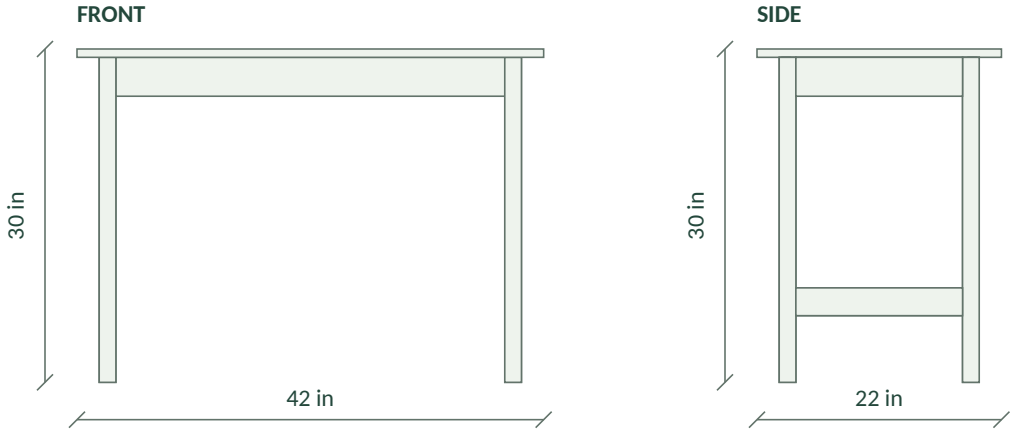
ITEM	AMOUNT
1-1/4 in coarse-thread pocket-hole screws	34, plus a few spares
Wood glue	Small bottle of interior wood glue
Sandpaper	120 and 180 grit
Finish	About 1 L (1 quart) of paint, stain or clear water-based polyurethane
Felt pads (optional)	4

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
- Tape measure, pencil and a combination or speed square
- 2 clamps that open to at least 36 in
- Sander or sanding block
- Safety glasses and hearing protection

FINISHED SIZE



The leg frame is 38 x 18 in, centred under the top with a 2 in overhang. The aprons sit 1/4 in in from the leg faces, flush with the leg tops, and the stretchers sit 6 in above the floor on the two ends.

02 / CUT LIST

Cut the parts.

Cut the four legs together so they match. Cut the top to 42 x 22 in and check its diagonals.

ID	PART	QTY	LENGTH	WIDTH	THICK	FROM
T	Top	1	42 in	22 in	3/4 in	3/4 plywood
L	Legs	4	29-1/4 in	1-1/2 in	1-1/2 in	2x2
A	Front and back aprons	2	35 in	3-1/2 in	3/4 in	1x4
B	Side aprons	2	15 in	3-1/2 in	3/4 in	1x4
E	Side stretchers	2	15 in	2-1/2 in	3/4 in	1x3

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 8 ft

86-1/4 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



1x4 x 4 ft

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



1x3 x 4 ft

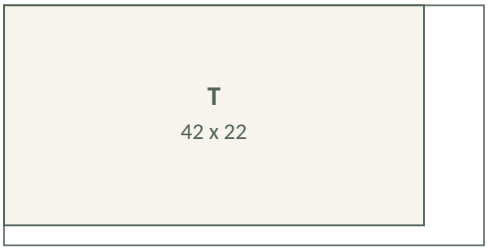
31-1/8 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



02 / CUT LIST, CONTINUED

3/4 plywood, 2 ft x 4 ft

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



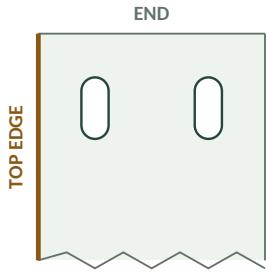
03 / BUILD

Put it together.

STEP 1 Drill the pocket holes

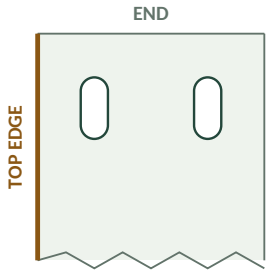
Drill 2 pocket holes at each end of every **A**, **B** and **E** on the inside face. Then add holes along the top edge for the desktop: 3 in each **A** and 2 in each **B**, also on the inside face.

A **Front and back aprons**
Inside face



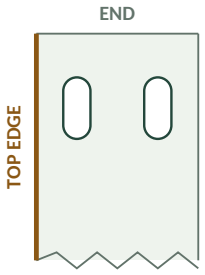
Same at the other end
2 at each end | 8 total
7/8, 2-5/8 in from top edge

B **Side aprons**
Inside face



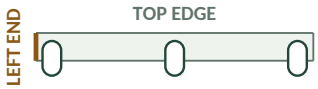
Same at the other end
2 at each end | 8 total
7/8, 2-5/8 in from top edge

E **Side stretchers**
Inside face



Same at the other end
2 at each end | 8 total
5/8, 1-7/8 in from top edge

A **Front and back aprons**
Inside face, top edge



3 per apron | 6 total
2, 17-1/2, 33 in from left end

B **Side aprons**
Inside face, top edge



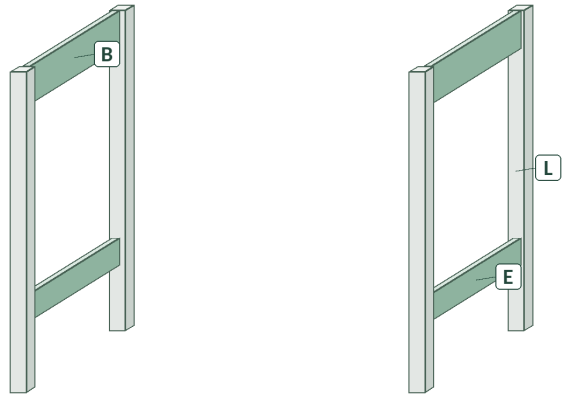
2 per apron | 4 total
3-1/2, 11-1/2 in from front end

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

STEP 2

Build two end frames

Clamp a **B** between two **L** with the tops flush and set 1/4 in in from the leg faces, glue and drive 4 screws. Mark the legs 6 in up from the floor, fit an **E** on the marks with the same setback, and drive 4 more. Make the second frame the same way.

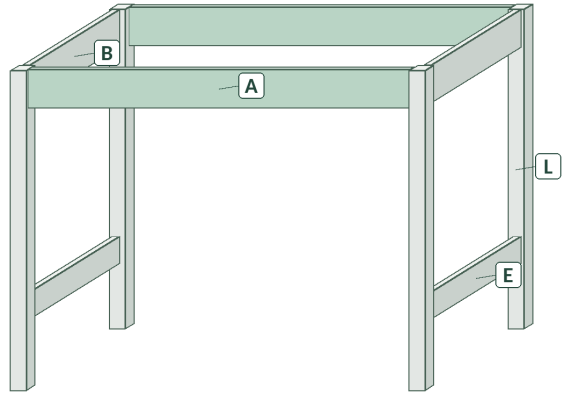


GREEN: added in this step | GREY: already in place

STEP 3

Join the frames

Fit the two **A** between the end frames with the same setback and flush tops. Glue, clamp and drive 8 screws. Check the diagonals match and all four feet sit flat.

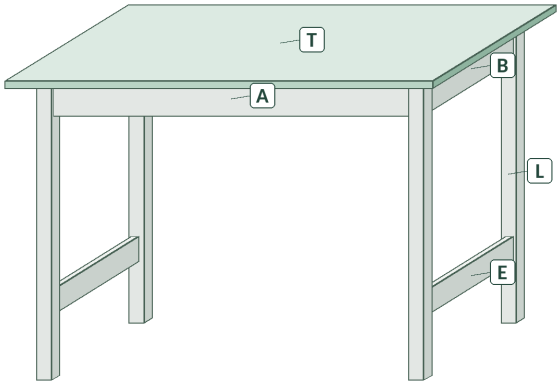


GREEN: added in this step | GREY: already in place

STEP 4

Attach the top

Lay **T** good face down on a blanket. Centre the base on it upside down with a 2 in overhang all round, clamp, and drive the 10 screws from the apron top edges into the top.



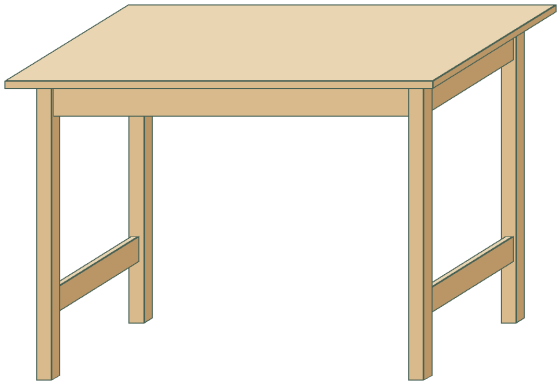
GREEN: added in this step | GREY: already in place

03 / BUILD, CONTINUED

STEP 5

Finish

Sand with 120 then 180 grit, ease the edges of the top, and apply your finish.



CARE

For writing and a laptop. Do not sit or stand on the top. Check the screws now and then and tighten any that loosen.

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