

Fold-out table

Get the extra table area you need to entertain

Do you need extra table space when guests drop by? And, what do you do with it when it's not needed? Our fold-out table gives a 1465 x 850mm table area, but folds down to use only about 300 x 850mm floor space, small enough to store in a hallway.

By Dieter Mylius

Here's how

1 Measure legs (A), mark the cuts with a square and cut with a fine-toothed tenon saw. On one face of each leg mark 10mm from top and 150mm from the bottom. Find the centre and set the dowelling jig to these marks using the 10mm sleeve. Place tape around a 10mm bit to drill to a depth of 25mm. Drill through the sleeve of the dowelling jig.

2 Keep legs in pairs. Starting with their holes facing up, turn each leg in so drilled holes face each other. Mark the same distances from the ends, but for the bottom hole only measure 10mm from the inside edge. Use dowelling jig to drill holes. Repeat for other legs.

3 Cut the short rails (B) and set the dowelling jig to drill holes in the centre of each end. Drill the holes. Put a little PVA glue into the holes of the face without the offset hole, insert 10mm dowels and tap on the short rails. The top rail is installed flat and the bottom rail is on edge. Add the other leg; clamp together until the glue dries.

4 Prepare the long rails (C) in the same way and dowel the two end assemblies together. Back of the bottom rail must be flush with the inside edge of the leg, leaving room for the gate-leg.

5 For gate-legs, cut uprights and rails (D, E) to length. From the bottom of the long upright mark 130mm for the lower edge of the bottom rail and 16mm from the top for the upper edge of the top rail. This allows for 1mm clearance under top rail and gives 4mm clearance for the piano hinge.

Hold together and mark centre of all joints; use dowelling jig to drill holes. Join with dowels and glue. Screw to frame using 50mm flush hinges (K) spaced 70mm from the top and bottom of short uprights.

6 Close the gate-legs to mark the position of two notches to be cut in the top rails of the table to house the leg. Allow a little clearance, then saw and chisel out neatly to a depth of 19mm.

7 On the underside of a sheet of plywood, measure the tabletop (F) and use a circular saw with fine

tooth blade to cut. The tabletop width lets the flaps hang clear of the hinges and supports when folded down. Run the saw along a straight timber batten spaced and clamped to allow for the distance between the saw blade and edge of the base plate of saw. While on the underside, set the saw to cut a 4 x 15mm deep rebate for piano hinge. Use a batten to guide the saw, or use a router or table saw. Cut two flaps (G) in the same way but without rebates.

8 Cut piano hinge (H) to length with a hacksaw. Lay the flap with the face side down and the tabletop with face side up, aligning edges. Mark screw holes from the piano hinge, pre-drill and screw the hinge to the edges.

9 Lay the tabletop and flaps face

down on the bench, centre the table legs in both directions and screw the frame to the tabletop.

10 Swing gate-legs out to where they are 50mm from the edge of the flap. Mark this spot along the underside of the flap. Cut the support stops (I) according to the dimensions in the diagram; screw in place. Check the angled section faces the outside of the flap and clears the bottom rail when the table is folded down. Adjust the position if necessary. As the support upright is 4mm short to clear the piano hinge, add a spacer (J) in front of the stop. The leading edge of this spacer is sanded to a bevel so support does not catch.

11 Sand unit carefully. Use several coats of Danish Oil to finish.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Item	Part	Size	Material
A	Table legs (4)	42 x 42 x 730mm	Pine
B	Short rails (4)	42 x 19 x 160mm	Pine
C	Long rails (4)	42 x 19 x 710mm	Pine
D1	Gate-leg uprights (2)	42 x 19 x 726mm	Pine
D2	Gate-leg uprights (2)	42 x 19 x 580mm	Pine
E	Gate-leg rails (4)	42 x 19 x 623mm	Pine
F	Tabletop	850 x 265 x 18mm	Pine plywood
G	Flaps (2)	850 x 600 x 18mm	Pine plywood
H	Piano hinges (2)	850mm	Chrome
I	Support stops (2)	42 x 19 x 47mm	Pine
J	Spacers (2)	65 x 65 x 4mm	Scrap plywood
K	Flush hinges (4)	50mm	Chrome

All joints are glued and dowelled unless otherwise indicated. Check components against actual unit as it is being built. We used ordinary furniture grade plywood. For neat and accurate dowelled joints it's worthwhile investing in a dowelling jig (from about \$40).

