



I'M IN THE GARDEN

Corn  
Parsley  
Lyme  
Basil

With space for storage and an ample work surface with a removable plastic tub, this traditional cedar potting bench will whip garden supplies and chores into shape. Pots, plants and garden tools from Cruickshank's and Horticultural Design.

# Build a cedar potting bench

## Directions

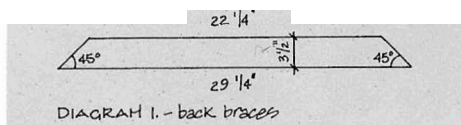
As shown on pages 58 and 59

The potting bench measures 59-1/2" h. x 49-1/4" w. x 24" d. It can be used outdoors or inside. When using it outdoors or for more visual effect, finish it with a good-quality exterior preservative or stain. Pine can be substituted for cedar but must be stained or painted. The plastic sink-tub is optional. If you decide to omit it, simply use four 47-1/4" pieces of 5/4" x 6" cedar for the main surface (but do install a beam underneath to support this surface).

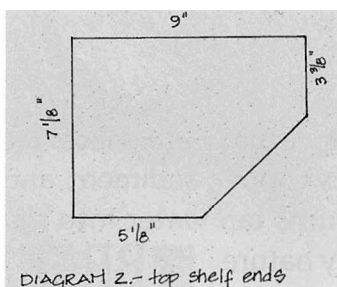
### Step 1. Measure and cut cedar

Cut cedar pieces to the following measurements:

- 2 pieces 2" x 4" @ 56" (back legs)
- 2 pieces 2" x 4" @ 37" (front legs)
- 5 pieces 2" x 4" @ 22" (4 leg braces; 1 sink support brace)
- 2 pieces 5/4" x 6" @ 47-1/4" (main surface)
- 1 piece 5/4" x 6" @ 47-1/4" (backsplash)
- 4 pieces 5/4" x 6" @ 44-1/4" (bottom shelf)
- 2 pieces 2" x 4" @ 29-1/4" with a 45° mitre on both ends (back braces) (see Diagram 1)



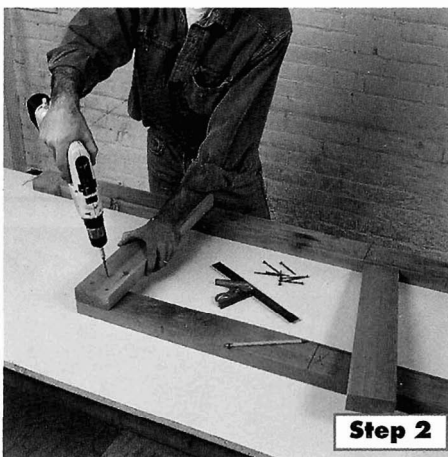
- 1 piece 2" x 4" @ 15" (spacer bar)
- 2 pieces 5/4" x 6" @ 2-1/4" (main surface)
- 2 pieces 5/4" x 6" @ 30-1/4" (main surface)
- 2 pieces 5/4" x 6" @ approximately 23-1/8" (main surface side trim/apron - measure and cut these pieces once the bench is assembled to ensure a proper fit)
- 1 piece 5/4" x 6" @ 49-1/4" (main surface front trim/apron)
- 2 pieces 2" x 8" @ 47-1/4" (top shelf and shelf backing)



2 pieces 2" x 8" @ 9" (top shelf ends trimmed as per Diagram 2)

### Step 2. Construct bench sides

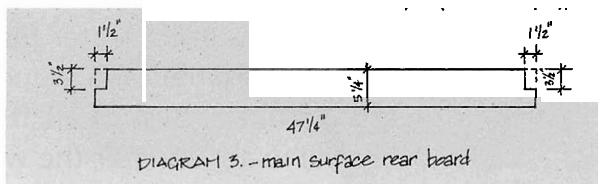
Lay out two legs (a front and a back) in front of you so that the bottoms of the legs are facing you and the shorter (front) leg is on the right. Lay a leg brace on the legs with the bottom of the brace 11-1/2" up from the bottom of the legs. Use the square to ensure that the legs and the brace are at 90° to each other. Screw through the brace into the legs. Lay the upper brace on the legs so it is flush with the top of the front leg and the bottom of the brace is 37" up from the bottom of the back leg. Screw through the brace into the legs. Lay out the second set of legs as you did the first but with the shorter leg on the left (see photograph, below). Attach the braces as you did on the first set.

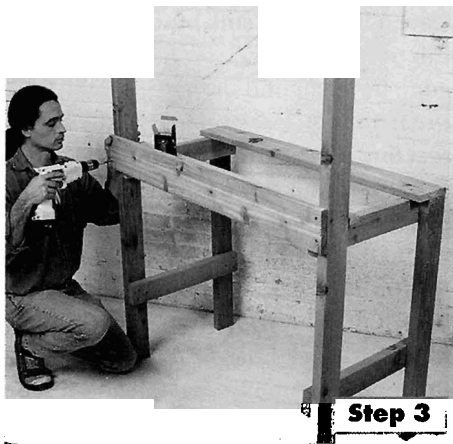


### Step 3. Attach bench top and back to legs

One 47-1/4" main surface piece must be trimmed to fit around the back legs. At both ends, measure and cut 3-1/2" into the width and 1-1/2" into the length (see Diagram 3).

Position the two bench sides so that the braces attaching the legs will be inside the legs. Attach the uncut 47-1/4" main surface piece to the top of the top braces at the front of the top braces, flush with the





front of the front legs. This will be part of the main surface of the bench. The ends of the main surface piece should be flush with the outer edges of the legs. Screw the 47-1/4" piece with the corners cut out to the top of the top leg braces at the back of the bench. To create the backslash for the main surface, attach the 47-1/4" backslash piece to the back of the legs so that it is perpendicular to the main surface and rises 2" above the top of the main surface. Screw through the back of the backslash into the back of the rear legs (see photo-

graph, left). Use the square to ensure that the backslash and the legs are at 90° to each other.

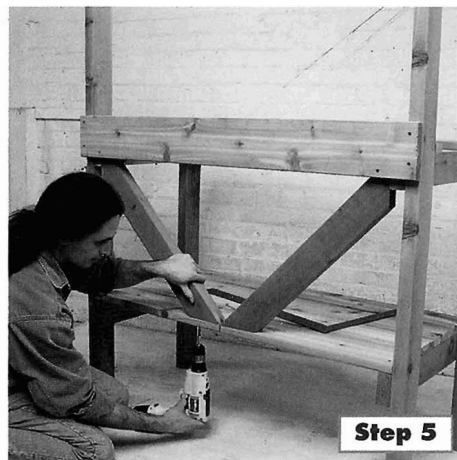
#### **Step 4. Attach bottom shelf to bottom leg braces**

Place one 44-1/4" bottom shelf piece flush with the back of the lower leg braces in between the two legs. Using two screws on each end, screw through the shelf board into the brace. Position and attach another bottom shelf board flush with the front of the lower leg braces. Repeat for the last two boards, spacing them evenly between the front and back boards with the ends even with the edges of the braces.

#### **Step 5. Attach back braces**

Position one mitred back brace so that one of its mitred ends rests on the bottom shelf (flush with the back of the back board) and the other fits tightly in the corner created by the insides of the upper leg brace and the main surface's backslash (see photograph, right). Position the other back brace, resting it against the back of the bottom shelf and the other back cor-

ner created by the upper leg brace and the main surface's backslash. The two back braces should sit tight up against each other on the bottom shelf. Affix each back brace with two screws through the bottom of the shelf into the bottom of the brace and one screw through the back of the backslash and into the back brace.



#### **Step 6. Finish main shelf**

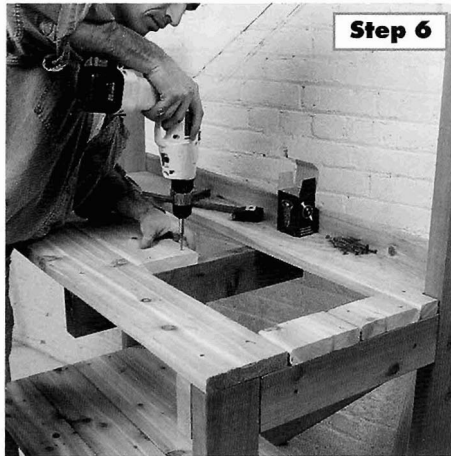
To support the left side of the sink-tub, a

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*Continued from page 77*

brace must be installed underneath the main surface. Attach the 22" sink support brace underneath the two boards that are



already installed for the main surface and 13" from the inside edge of the top leg brace on the right side of the bench. Screw through the two top boards down into the support brace. (This support brace can be

seen in the photograph, left).

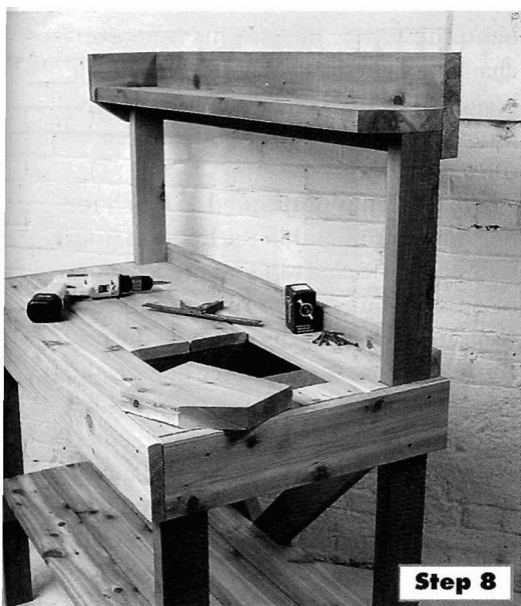
To support the 2-1/4" end pieces at the right-hand end of the main surface, place the 15" spacer bar in between the legs outside the leg brace and flush with the top of the legs and the top of the brace and screw through the spacer bar into the leg brace. Leaving 1/4" between each board, attach the two 2-1/4" end pieces on the right side of the main surface (drill countersink holes in these small pieces beforehand so they won't split when you screw through them). These should be flush with the outside edges of the legs and the spacer bar. (There will be a 3/4" lip of the leg brace to support the sink-tub.)

On the other side of the sink hole attach the two final main surface pieces, screwing the left-hand ends to the left-hand leg brace and the right ends to the sink brace (see photograph, left). Space these pieces 1/4" apart and 1/4" from the already installed front and back main surface pieces. These final two pieces should also be flush with the outside edges of the legs (i.e. they will protrude 1-1/2" beyond the brace). On their right-hand ends they will

leave a 3/4" lip of sink brace for the sink-tub to rest on. You now have a recessed edge for each end of the sink-tub. Trim the front and back boards of the top so that the tub will drop easily into the bench top. Place the tub upside down on the bench top, aligning the ends so that they would fit into the recessed ledges. Trace the front or back edges onto the two long boards of the top. With a jigsaw, trim the front and back boards of the top so that the tub will drop into the top and rest on the two ledges at its ends.

### **Step 7. Attach main surface trim/apron**

Attach one piece of trim/apron to one end of the main surface, screwing through the trim/apron into the front and back legs in two places. The trim/apron piece should be flush with the top of the main surface and flush with the front of the front legs, but will protrude about 1" beyond the back legs (to be flush with the backsplash). Repeat for the trim/apron on the other end. Attach the front trim/apron piece to the main surface so



that it is flush with the main surface top and with the outside edges of the side trim/apron on either end. Screw through the front trim/apron into the legs at two places at either end. Screw the front trim/apron to the sink support brace in two places as well.

### **Step 8. Attach top shelf**

Screw the top shelf to the tops of the back legs so that the shelf is flush with the back and outside edges of the back legs. The top shelf backing is attached to the back of the shelf and legs, protruding above and descending below the top of the shelf. Screw the top shelf backing to the legs in two places at each end and screw through the backing into the top shelf in two places along the shelf. The part of the backing that descends below the shelf can be fitted with nails, hooks or thumbtacks to hold tools or tack up seed packets. Attach shelf sides flush with the top of the shelf back, screwing each to the top shelf in two places and to the top shelf backing in two places (see photograph, above).

### **Step 9. Stain the bench**

We did not stain or treat our bench. An untreated cedar bench that is left outside will weather to a silvery grey colour, and will last many years. If you would like to finish your bench, stain it or treat it with a clear preservative (particularly if you have used pine). When stain is dry, place the plastic tub in the sink hole. **GL**