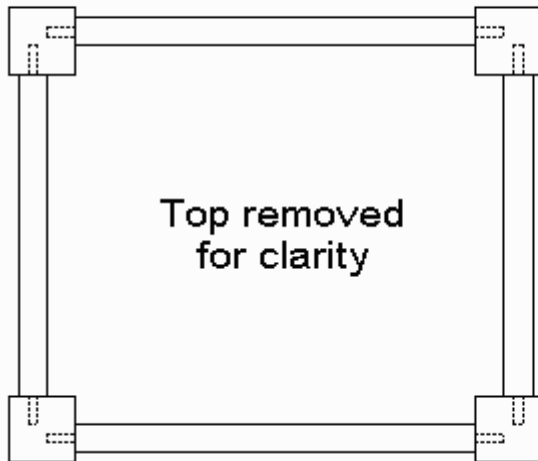


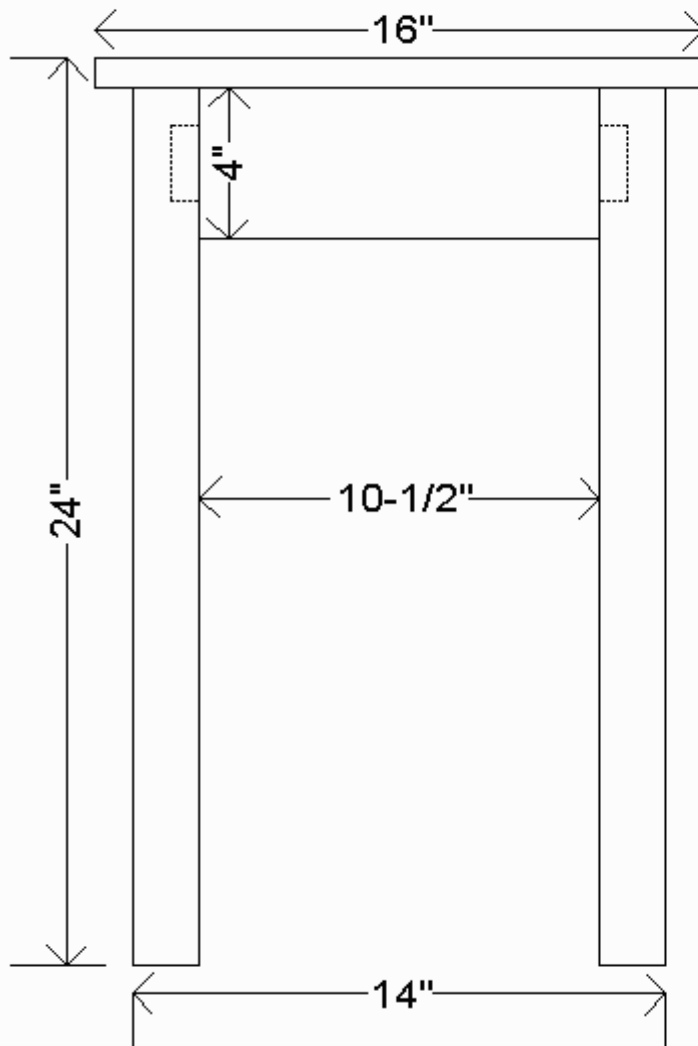
Basic Table

Top View

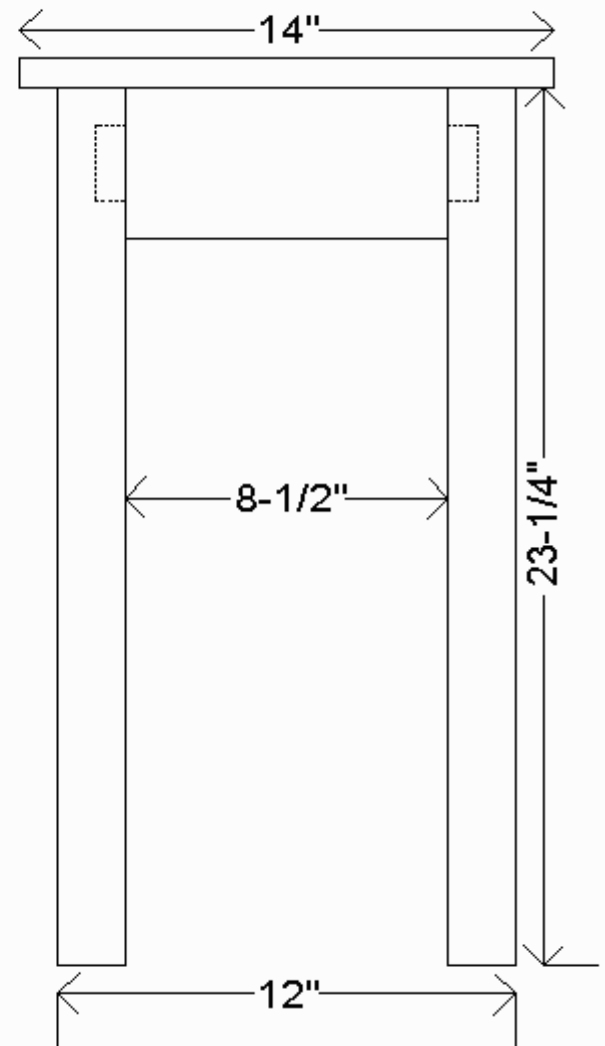


Top and apron are 4/4 stock
(3/4" nominal thickness)

Legs are 8/4 stock (1-3/4"
nominal thickness)



Front View



Side View

Stock Selection:

Try to get some North American Eastern White pine, probably available up there in Canada. In the states, Idaho pine is a good substitute, because of it's easier tooling and fewer and smaller knots. Home center Ponderosa pine from the North West has much large knots and doesn't hand tool as well.

Because the nominal thickness is standardized, your planing will be limited to mostly jointing & smoothing. Unless you add a drawer, (more good experience) then you'll want to thickness the stock down.

Tool Required:

The basic list of tools needed for this project is small. Some of the variants will require some other tools (see below).

- **Layout Tools**
A good ruler (tape measure will do) and a very important tool called a square. Get a marking gauge as well.
- **Saws**
26" Crosscut saw and a 10-14" backsaw.
- **Planes**
Eventually you'll need a scrub, jointer, and smooth plane too, but you can start by getting a common Stanley #5 jack plane and a fully-adjustable (mouth and blade) block like the Stanley #65 or #18.
- **Chisel**
Since we will be doing mortises in this project, a 1/4" mortise chisel will be needed. Alternately, a brace with a 1/4" bit and a paring chisel could be used.
- **Stones**
I won't start an argument over which are better, and yes you can use Silicon Carbide sandpaper to sharpen too. But I will say that without a doubt, Sharpening is the most important skill you must learn. Otherwise most of the above tools are useless, resulting in frustration.
- **Bench**
Hey, perhaps this should be your 1st project... Make sure you get a good quality and large faced woodworking style vise.

Optional Tools:

These are tools that either make the job easier, or are needed for some of the variants on the original design.

- **Smooth Plane**
A #3 or #4 is a very handy tool for final smoothing of the parts.
- **Mortise Gage**
Not strictly necessary, but makes laying out mortise and tenon joints much easier.

- **Rip Saw**
If you would like to use tapered legs, a 26" rip saw will make the job easier.
- **Drawknife**
Another good way to taper the legs is with a drawknife.
- **Spokeshave**
If you will be using curved aprons, a round-soled spokeshave will be needed to smooth the curves. Either metal or wooden will do.
- **Coping Saw or Turning Saw**
If you will be using curved aprons, you will need a saw capable of cutting the curves.

Making the Legs

Leg Variants

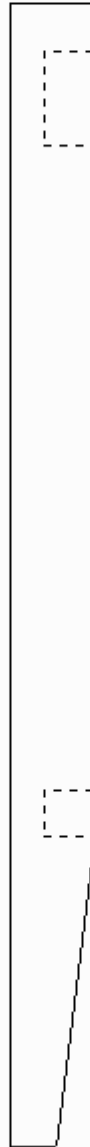
Standard



w/Shelf



Tapered
w/Shelf



Inside
Taper



Outside
Taper

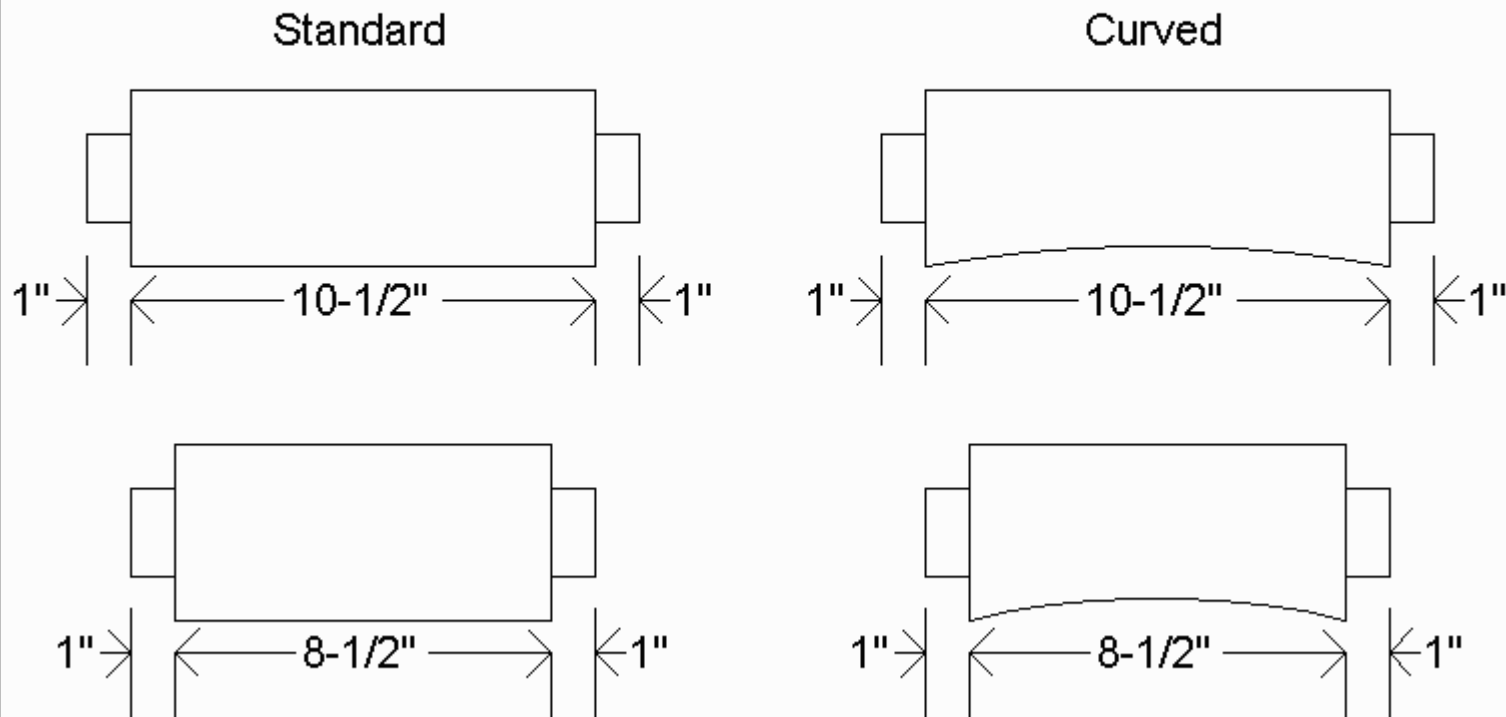


Start with the legs. Either get 8/4 (actual size 1-3/4") square stock, or joint and glue some up into four usable squares of the desired length. The jack plane should be fully capable of jointing a 24"-30" length. Glue & clamp overnight. Then remove & smooth all four sides.

Now cut the mortises for the rails to join into. Lay them out on those same two "inside" sides of each leg. Mortises should be 1/4" wide and 1" deep, set 1/2" back from the front face. Mortises can be either chopped with a mortise chisel, or bored with a brace and bit and cleaned up with a paring chisel. Either way is pretty simple.

Making the Aprons

Apron Variants



Cut your 4/4 (actual size 3/4") stock to *FULL* length and lay out the tenons. Score the tenon shoulders first with a knife or chisel edge. Use your backsaw to remove the cheeks & cleanup with a chisel. If you will be using the curved aprons, lay out and cut the 1/2" deep curve last, and clean up with a spokeshave.

Glue the tenons into their appropriate mortises & clamp the entire assembly together. Check the diagonals and ensure that the entire assembly is square and level (or even on the top).

Making the Top

Normally, the top is probably already glued up & ready to be mounted at this time. But assuming that you didn't multi-task, let's cover making one now.

Saw the boards to length, watching for stock that might twist or cup after glueup. Lay them out and mark the face around each joint for ensure the proper order for assembly. Since this is a basically small project the jack plane can be used as a jointer.

As a newbie, joint the edges two at a time, back to back. This way if you can't plane nice & square, the bevel on Each will offset the other, and your panel will be flat.

Learn during planing to press on the toe upon entry and the heel during exit. This helps avoid rounding down the ends of the board being planed. When you are getting complete shavings for the entire length of the stroke, and the boards join together without any light appearing through anywhere, move on to do the other side of board #2 with board #3.

Glue, clamp, set overnight. Remove, cut to size, clean up. Smooth the top with your jack plane very sharp & set very fine (if you have a smoother, use it instead). Plane the top as smooth as possible, and finish by knocking off the corners with your block plane.

Attaching the Top

When attaching the top, be sure to allow for seasonal movement of the wood!

The easiest method is to put corner blocks in the rails, and attach the top with a couple of small screws in from the bottom. Alternatively, you could use any of the commercial "button" attachments, or use L-shaped cleats which engage a groove in the apron. Any good woodworking book should show several options for this.