



Project 18732EZ: Chess Table

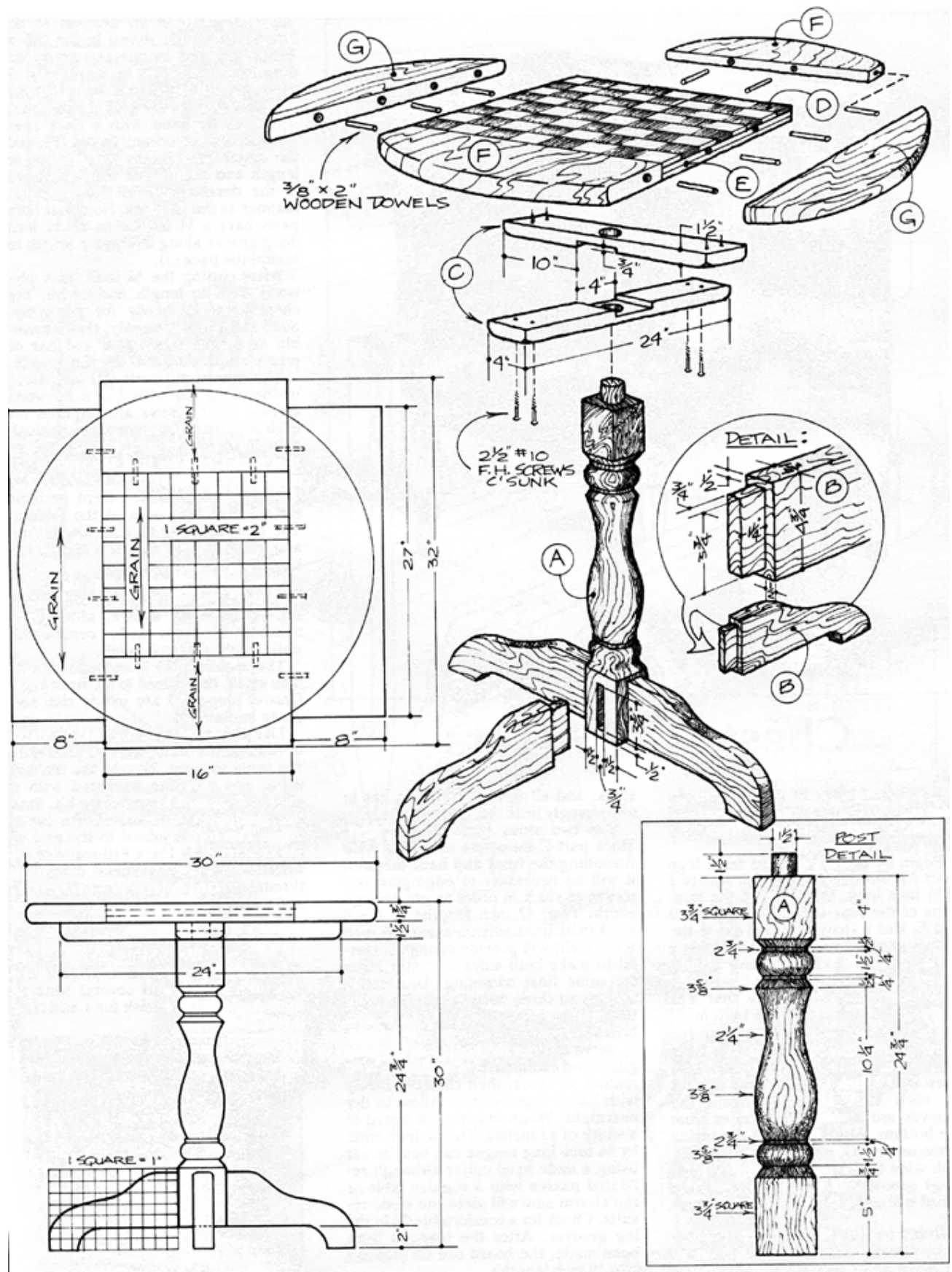
A chess table can be a popular addition to a den or living room, especially since it offers a pleasant alternative to the seemingly endless nonsense coming from the television set. The table can also be used to play the game of checkers, since chessboards and checkerboards are identical.

The one shown was made using an oak pedestal and a pine top, with mahogany and pine for the chess squares. As is generally the case though, the choice of wood is a matter of personal preference — just keep in mind that it is necessary to use woods of contrasting color for the board squares . . . pine, maple, birch, ash, or holly can be used for the light-colored squares. For the dark squares consider mahogany, walnut, butternut, or rosewood.

Chess Table Materials List

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd
A	Post	3-3/4" x 3-3/4" x 26-1/4"	1
B	Foot	1-3/4" x 6-3/4" x 12-1/4"	4
C	Cleats	1-1/2" x 4 x 24"	2
D	Chessboard	1/2" x 16" x 16"	1
E	Chessboard Base	1/2" x 16" x 16"	2
F	Short Top Boards	1-1/2" x 16" x 8"	2
G	Long Top Boards	1-1/2" x 8" x 27"	2

Chess Table Complete Schematic



Chess Table Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Surface plane five pieces 1" nominal stock (13/16" actual) to 3/4" thickness.
2. Face-glue the five pieces of to form a 3-3/4" x 3-3/4" turning square.
3. Clamp securely and allow to dry overnight.
4. Lathe-turn part A to the dimensions shown, including the 1-1/2" diameter by 1-1/2" long tenon.
5. Lay out and mark the location of the 3/4" wide x 3-3/4" long foot mortise.
6. **NOTE** that the mortise begins at a point 1/2" from the bottom of part A.
7. Use a 3/4" diameter drill bit to cut most of the mortise.
8. Use a sharp chisel to clean up the mortises, making it slightly deeper than the foot (part B) tenon to allow for any excess glue or loose chips that might prevent the joint from closing.
9. Cut 2" nominal (1-3/4" actual) thick stock to 6-3/4" wide x 12-1/4" long.
10. Transfer the grid pattern from the drawing.
11. Use the band or saber saw to cut out the pattern.
12. Use a tenon jig or a fine-tooth backsaw to cut the tenon.
13. Make sure that the completed tenon fits snugly in the post (part A) mortise.
14. Plane 2" nominal (1-3/4" actual) stock to a 1-1/2" thickness for the cleats.
15. Cut the cleats to length and width.
16. Half-lap the middle as shown.
17. Drill a hole through both pieces to accept the post tenon.
18. Select one light-colored piece of 1/2" thick stock and one dark colored piece of 1/2" thick stock from which to make the chess board.
19. Cut the two boards to 8-3/4" wide by 20" long to make the chessboard (part D).
NOTE: The extra length and width allows for saw kerf waste.
20. Rip each board into four pieces, each measuring 2" wide x 20" long.
21. Alternate the dark and light strips and edge-glue all eight pieces.
22. Make sure the ends are reasonably close to being flush.
23. Clamp the pieces and allow to dry overnight.
24. Rip 2" wide strips across the grain.
25. Create the alternating chessboard pattern by reversing every other strip, then once again gluing and clamping.
26. Glue two pieces of 1/2" plywood together to make the chessboard base (part E).
27. Cut the base plywood to 16-1/4" to allow for later trimming.
28. Determine the best side of the chessboard.
29. Glue the opposite side to the base.
30. Clamp securely and allow to dry.
31. Trim to 16" square.
32. Edge-join two or more boards to get a 16-1/4" width for the two untrimmed short top boards (F). **NOTE** that when all top parts are joined the grain all runs in one

direction.

33. Edge-join each of the boards to the top with three 3/8" x 2" long dowels as shown.
 34. Clamp firmly, allow to dry, then trim to the exact width of the chessboard (part D).
 35. Join the long top boards (B) in the same manner.
 36. Sand the top smooth.
 37. Cut out the 30" diameter top with a band or saber saw.
 38. Use a router equipped with a 3/8" rounding-over to round the top and bottom edges.
 39. Leave the chessboard surface natural.
 40. Finish the rest of the table was with two coats of Minwax Special Walnut stain.
 41. Apply two coats of satin polyurethane varnish to complete the project.
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