

# Butcher Block Table & Bench Set

All you'll need to build this attractive outdoor/indoor butcher block dining set are 12  $2 \times 4$ 's 10' long for the table and 10- $2 \times 3$ 's 8' long for both benches. You will also need 5 pounds of 8 d common nails, about a quart of white glue, a length of  $3/4$ " wood dowel, some assorted grades of sandpaper and a small amount of plastic wood or spackle. The only tools required are a hammer, nail set, handsaw, a Surform tool, steel or folding wood rule, combination square, wood brace with  $3/4$ " bit and a wood plane.

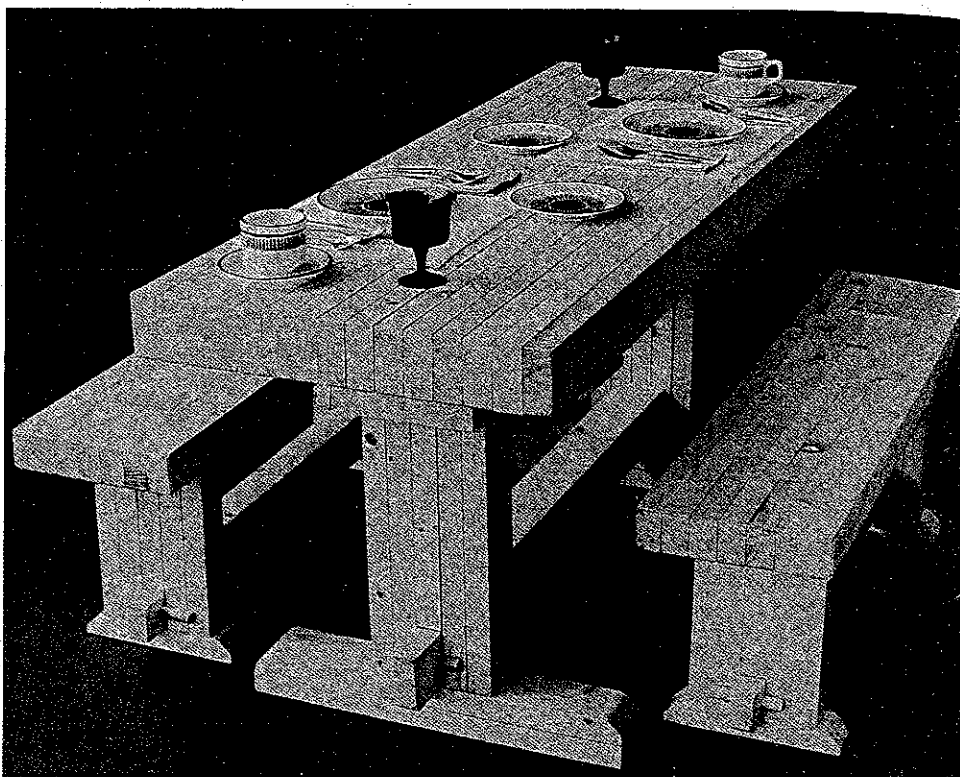
Most  $2 \times 4$ 's and some  $2 \times 3$ 's come with slightly rounded edges and these will produce grooves when the pieces are joined together. Either plane off the rounded edges before assembling or remove them with a rented belt sander after the table and benches are completed.

## Basic assembly: (Fig. 1)

The number and location of nails are given on many of the detail drawings but you'll also be safe if you space nails 10" apart. To avoid having a lot of exposed nail heads to conceal, always start assembling a component by nailing through an inside piece into an outside piece.

## Now you are ready to build:

Begin by making the table top. (Fig. 2, 3 & 4) Cut 12 pieces 60" long, 3 pieces 33" long and 6



pieces 10" long from the best  $2 \times 4$ 's. Use the poorest pieces for the table battens (Fig. 4A) as these will not show.

To assemble the pieces for the top, place one 60" piece face down on the bench or floor, with the best side facing down. Give exposed surface a thin coat of glue and apply glue to face of another piece. Put the two pieces together making sure they are flush at ends and nail. Continue in this fashion until you've got 6 pieces joined. Now make the "mortise" that is formed by leaving a space  $3-1/2$ " deep (the width of a  $2 \times 4$ ) and  $4-1/2$ " wide (equal to the thickness of  $3-2 \times 4$ 's between the 10" pieces

and the 33" pieces of the table top. You don't have to worry about the width of the "mortise" because it is formed by  $3-2 \times 4$ 's. To insure the correct depth of the mortise, secure 3 of the 10" long pieces to one end, making sure that they are flush at the ends. Use a scrap piece of  $2 \times 4$  as a gauge to position the 33" long pieces. Secure the 33" pieces, then the other 3 10" pieces and finish the top with six more 60" pieces.

Turn the top upside down. Cut the two battens (Fig. 4A). Mark and cut the 45° Install the battens (Fig. 3 and 4).

### Pedestals are next:

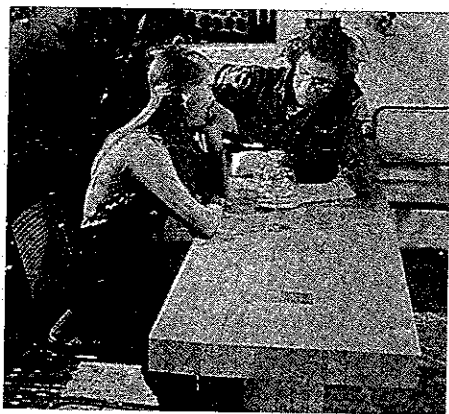
The mortise at the base of the pedestals (See Fig. 5) are formed by the way the pieces are put together. Lay a 23" long piece face down and secure a 26-1/2" piece to it keeping the bottom ends flush. Fasten a 23" long piece to the 26-1/2" piece but make the top ends flush. Fasten a 26-1/2" piece to it and a mortise 1-1/2" wide and 3-1/2" deep is formed to take the stretcher. Secure the final piece of 23" stock in place and add the support blocks (Fig. 5 & 5A).

Fig. 5B shows detail for pedestal foot. Cut a 45° angle on one piece 23" long. To fasten foot to pedestal, first nail the top piece with the 45° angle cuts to the base of the pedestal and then nail the second piece of the foot to it.

The final step is to make up the table stretchers (Fig. 6). This is made of two pieces — one 33" long that goes face down on the edge of a piece 46" long. The top piece needs to be exactly 6-1/2" from the end of the bottom piece.

Insert the stretcher into the holes in the two pedestals and then place the top in place. Push the pedestals so they fit snugly against the top piece of the stretcher and mark the location for the holes. The holes should be located so that when the tapered pegs are installed, they push against the side of the pedestals and make for a nice tight joint. Take the table apart, drill the 3/4" holes for the pegs and put the table together again.

Use a Surform tool to make the tapered pegs as shown in Fig. 7.



Assemble the table, set any exposed nail heads and fill in over them with plastic wood or spackle. Sand or plane to remove any rough spots. Bevel the ends of the stretcher with plane or Surform tool. If there is too much "play" in the mortise at the top, drive in a thin wood wedge.

### Making the benches:

Once you've made the table, the benches are easy because the method of construction is exactly the same except that 2 × 3's are used rather than 2 × 4's, no support blocks are required and there is only one part to the pedestal foot.

Figure 8 gives the dimensions for bench top. Handle the mortise the same way as for the table top but remember

that while it will be the same width (4-1/2") as the table, the depth will be only 2-1/2" because 2 × 3's are used rather than 2 × 4's. The same holds true when you make up the pedestals (Fig. 10). The mortise for the stretcher will be 1-1/2" wide but only 2-1/2" high.

Figure 9 and 11 show the location and dimensions for the bench stretcher and give exact location for peg holes.

### Choose your finish:

If the set is used indoors, it can be finished with oil, varnish, shellac, a clear lacquer or wood sealer. If the set is used outdoors, protect the wood with an exterior wood sealer.



# Butcher Block Table & Bench Set Plan

NOTE- ALL TABLE CONSTRUCTION OF 2x4's (1-1/2" x 3-1/2")

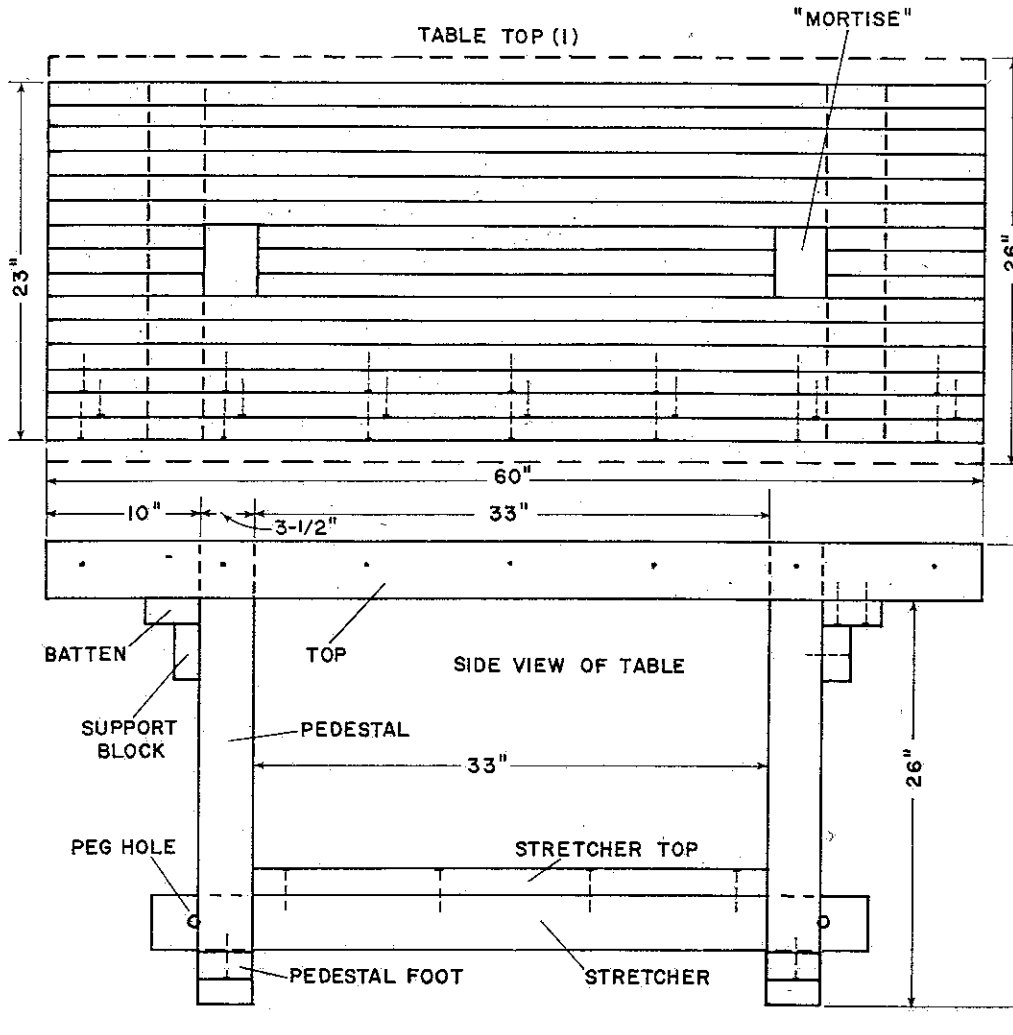


Fig. 2

Fig. 5

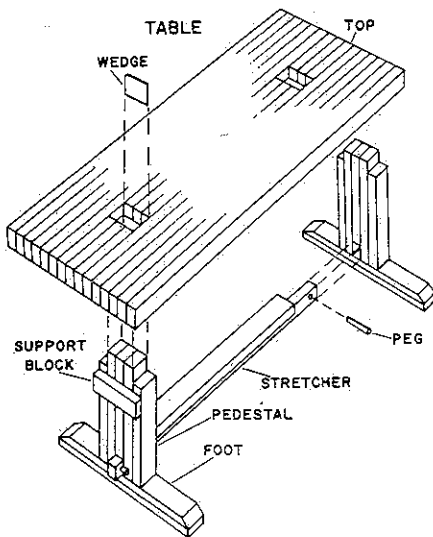
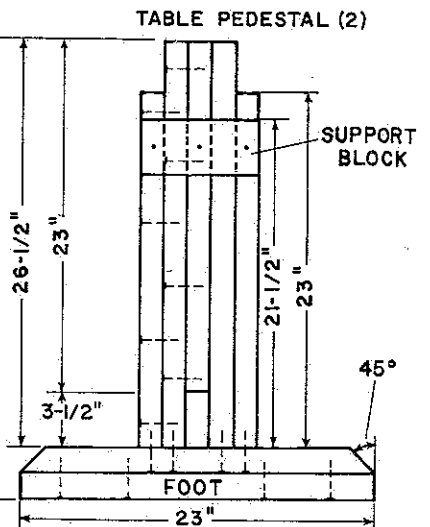


Fig. 1

Fig. 4

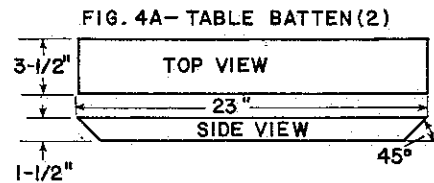


FIG. 5A- SUPPORT BLOCK (2)

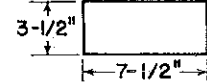


FIG. 5B- PEDESTAL FOOT (2)

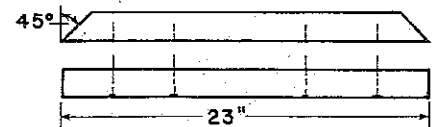


Fig. 3

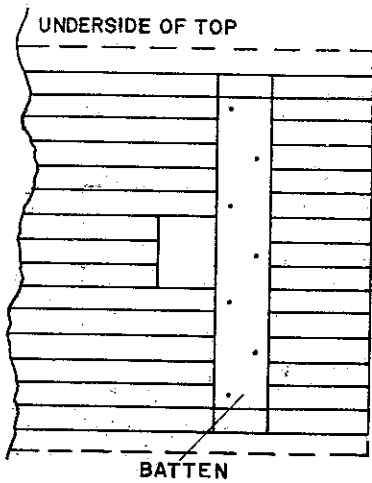


Fig. 6

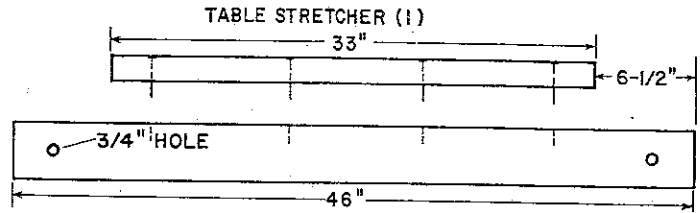
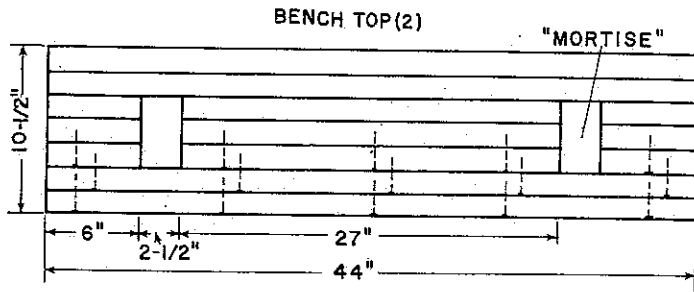


Fig. 8



NOTE- ALL BENCH CONSTRUCTION OF 2x3's (1-1/2" x 2-1/2")

Fig. 10

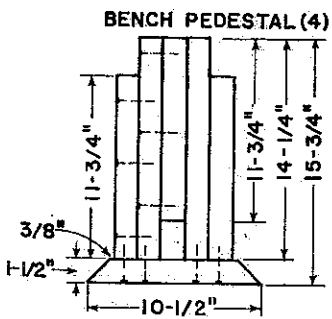


Fig. 9

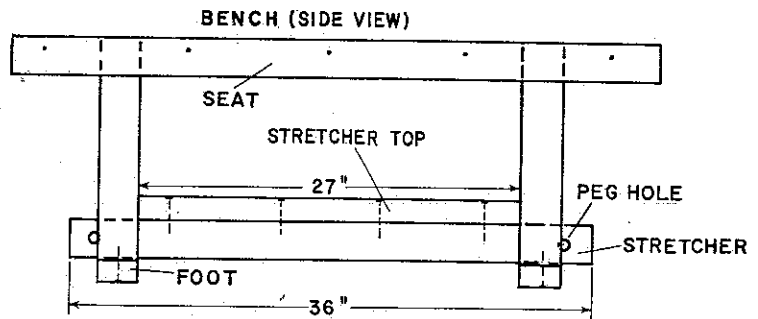


Fig. 11

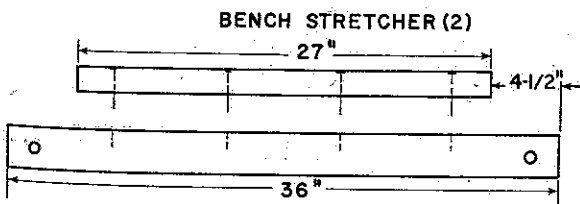
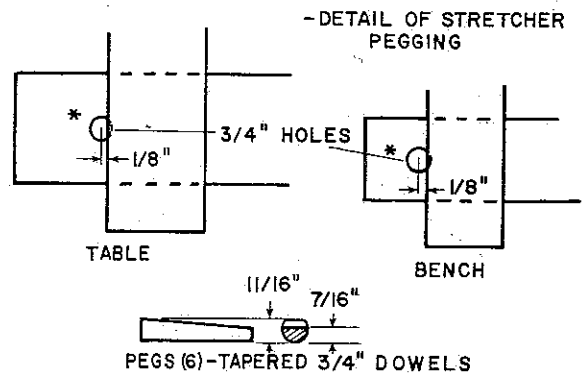


Fig. 7



\*LOCATE PEG HOLES AS EXPLAINED IN TEXT