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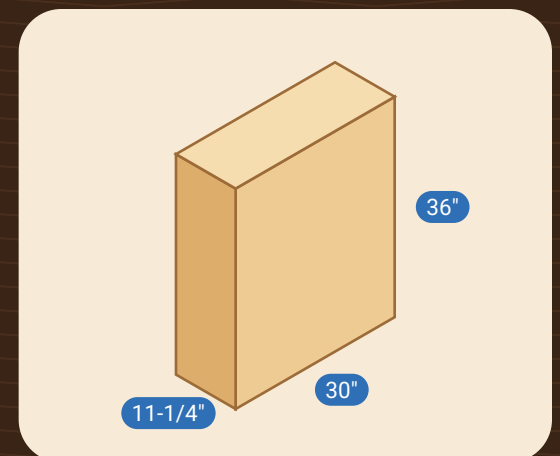
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10 PROJECTS WITH CUT LISTS

EASY WOODWORKING PLANS

Ten weekend projects drawn to scale, with the exact cut list, what to buy and the steps. US lumber, inches.

- ✓ Cut list for every project
- ✓ Drawings with measurements
- ✓ Shopping list and cost
- ✓ Step-by-step assembly



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Pick a project, buy exactly what the list says, cut everything first, then assemble in order.

1

Read the whole page

Look at the drawing and the steps before you cut anything.

2

Buy from the list

"What to buy" already adds up all the pieces into 8 ft boards.

3

Cut all parts first

Use the cut list. Label each piece with tape and a pencil.

4

Dry fit, then glue

Assemble without glue to check, then glue and screw.

THE 10 PROJECTS

#	PROJECT	SIZE (in)	LEVEL	TIME	PAGE
01	Simple Bench	46 x 11 x 18	Easy	2 hours	5
02	3-Shelf Bookcase	30 x 11-1/4 x 36	Medium	3 hours	6
03	Planter Box	24 x 12 x 11	Easy	2 hours	7
04	Floating Shelf	36 x 6-1/4 x 3	Medium	2 hours	8
05	Coffee Table	40 x 22 x 18	Medium	3 hours	9
06	Wood Stool	14 x 14 x 18	Medium	2 hours	10
07	Shoe Rack	30 x 11-1/4 x 18	Easy	2 hours	11
08	Nightstand	18 x 11-1/4 x 24	Medium	3 hours	12
09	Tool Tote Box	19-1/2 x 7 x 10	Easy	2 hours	13
10	Workbench	48 x 24 x 36	Advanced	4-5 hours	14



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



BEGINNER OK

Simple tools



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SAFETY FIRST

1 Eyes and ears

Safety glasses every cut. Ear protection for saws and sanders.

2 Let the blade stop

Hands at least 6" from the blade. Unplug to change blades or bits.

3 Treated lumber

Wear a mask when cutting it. Never burn it. Not for cutting boards or food.

4 Pallets

Only use pallets stamped HT (heat treated). Never use pallets marked MB (chemical).

BASIC TOOLS

- ✓ Tape measure + pencil
- ✓ Circular saw or miter saw
- ✓ Countersink bit
- ✓ Sander + 80/120/220 paper
- ✓ Speed square
- ✓ Drill/driver + bits
- ✓ 2 clamps (12" or more)
- ✓ Safety glasses + ear muffs



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



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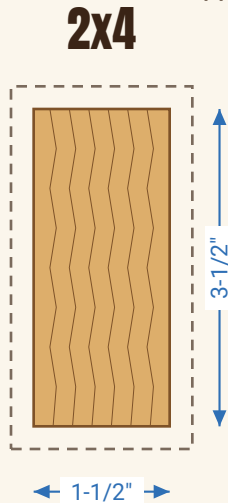


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REAL LUMBER SIZES

A "2x4" is not 2 by 4 inches. Every plan in this guide uses the REAL size.



NAME	REAL SIZE	USED FOR
1x2	3/4" x 1-1/2"	rungs, end caps
1x4	3/4" x 3-1/2"	slats, aprons, rails
1x6	3/4" x 5-1/2"	tops, planter sides
1x8	3/4" x 7-1/4"	box ends
1x12	3/4" x 11-1/4"	shelves, sides
2x2	1-1/2" x 1-1/2"	legs, posts, cleats
2x4	1-1/2" x 3-1/2"	legs, frames, benches
Plywood 3/4"	23/32" (≈3/4")	bench top, shelves

QUICK GLOSSARY

Apron

board under a top that joins the legs

Rip

cut along the length to make a board narrower

Square

corner at exactly 90°; check equal diagonals

Kerf

wood the blade removes (about 1/8")

Flush

two surfaces perfectly even

Pre-drill

small pilot hole so the wood does not split



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



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PROJECT 01 OF 10

SIMPLE BENCH

FINISHED SIZE

46" W x 11" D x 18" H

TIME

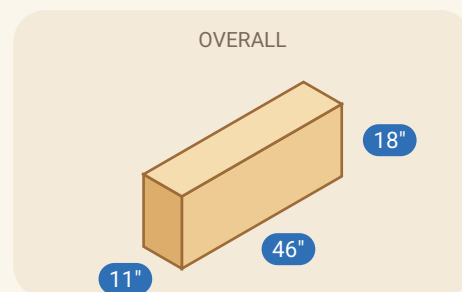
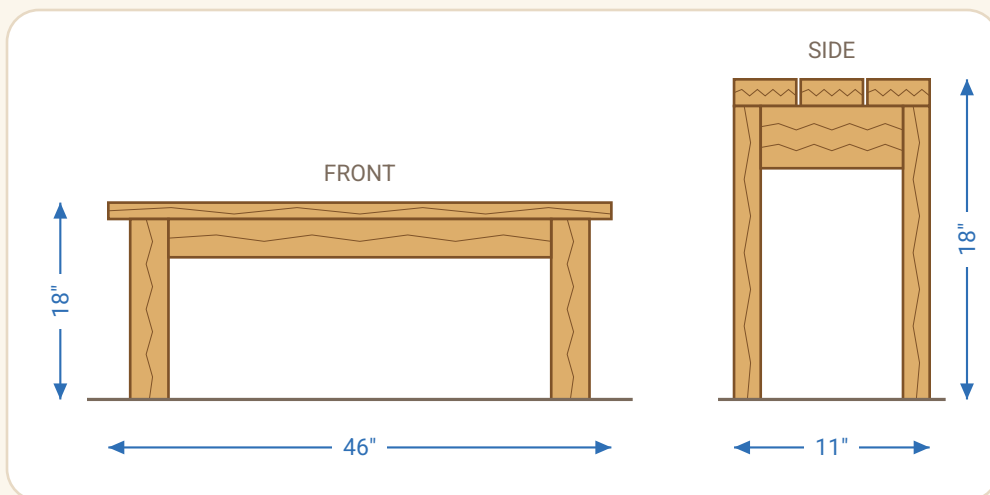
2 hours

LEVEL

★ ★ ★ Easy

MATERIAL COST

\$26–\$38



WHAT TO BUY

✓ 4 boards 2x4 x 8 ft

Hardware: 3" wood screws (1 lb box), 2-1/2" screws, wood glue

\$26–\$38 · approx., varies by store/region

CUT LIST

PART	QTY	LUMBER	LENGTH	NOTE
Top boards	3	2x4	46"	
Legs	4	2x4	16-1/2"	
Long aprons	2	2x4	35"	between legs
Short aprons	2	2x4	8"	between legs

STEP BY STEP

- 1 Cut all pieces with the cut list. Sand the ends smooth.
- 2 Build two leg pairs: one short apron between two legs, top edges flush. Glue + two 3" screws per joint.
- 3 Stand the leg pairs up and connect them with the long aprons (flush on top).
- 4 Check the frame is square: both diagonals must measure the same.
- 5 Lay the 3 top boards with a 1/4" gap (use a pencil as spacer), 2" overhang at each end.
- 6 Screw the top to the aprons from above: two 2-1/2" screws per board at each apron.
- 7 Sand (80 then 120) and seal. Outdoors: use exterior screws and finish.

PRO TIP

Pre-drill near board ends so the 2x4 does not split.



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



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PROJECT 02 OF 10

3-SHELF BOOKCASE

FINISHED SIZE

30" W x 11-1/4" D x 36" H

TIME

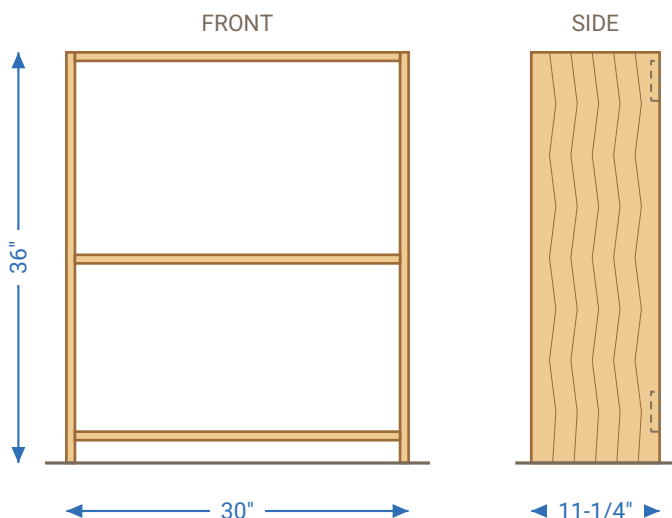
3 hours

LEVEL

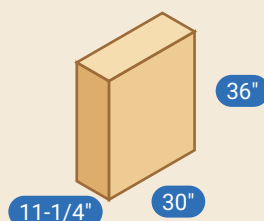
★★★ Medium

MATERIAL COST

\$65-\$92



OVERALL



WHAT TO BUY

- ✓ 2 boards 1x12 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 board 1x4 x 8 ft

Hardware: 1-5/8" wood screws, 1-1/4" screws, wood glue, wood filler

\$65-\$92 · approx., varies by store/region

CUT LIST

PART	QTY	LUMBER	LENGTH	NOTE
Sides	2	1x12	36"	
Shelves	3	1x12	28-1/2"	between sides
Back rails	2	1x4	28-1/2"	top + bottom

STEP BY STEP

- 1 Cut the 2 sides and 3 shelves from 1x12, and 2 back rails from 1x4.
- 2 Mark shelf lines on both sides: bottom at 2", middle at 17-1/2", top flush with the top.
- 3 Glue and screw the top shelf between the sides (three 1-5/8" screws per side).
- 4 Add the bottom shelf, then the middle one. Check square after each one.
- 5 Screw the back rails behind the top and bottom shelves: they stop the racking.
- 6 Fill screw holes, sand 120 then 220, paint or stain.
- 7 Anchor it to the wall with an anti-tip strap.

PRO TIP

Clamp a scrap block on the shelf line as a stop: every shelf lands level.



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



BEGINNER OK

Simple tools



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PROJECT 03 OF 10

PLANTER BOX

FINISHED SIZE

24" W x 12" D x 11" H

TIME

2 hours

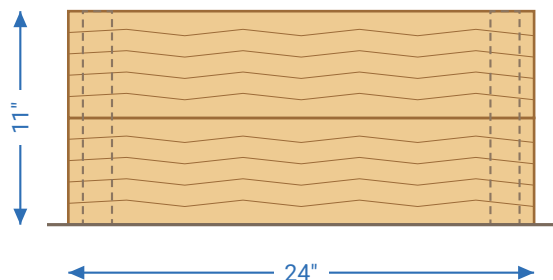
LEVEL

★ ★ ★ Easy

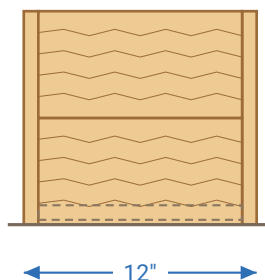
MATERIAL COST

\$32-\$49

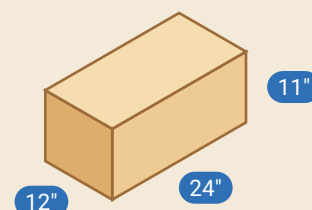
FRONT



SIDE



OVERALL



WHAT TO BUY

- ✓ 1 board 1x4 x 8 ft
- ✓ 2 boards 1x6 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 board 2x2 x 8 ft

Hardware: 1-1/4" exterior screws,
landscape fabric (optional)

\$32-\$49 · approx., varies by store/region

CUT LIST

PART	QTY	LUMBER	LENGTH	NOTE
Long sides	4	1x6	24"	2 rows
Short sides	4	1x6	10-1/2"	between long sides
Corner posts	4	2x2	11"	inside corners
Bottom slats	6	1x4	10-1/2"	end slats notched 1-1/2"

STEP BY STEP

- 1 Use cedar or rated outdoor lumber. Cut all pieces.
- 2 Screw two short sides to two corner posts (posts flush on top). Make two end panels.
- 3 Join the end panels with the long sides, screwing into the posts.
- 4 Notch the two end slats 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" at both corners to clear the posts.
- 5 Lay the 6 bottom slats across the box with small gaps for drainage; screw into the posts and sides.
- 6 Drill extra 1/2" holes if your slats are tight. Line with landscape fabric.
- 7 Finish only the outside, or leave cedar raw.

PRO TIP

Never use old pallets marked MB for a food garden: only pallets stamped HT.



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



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PROJECT 04 OF 10

FLOATING SHELF

FINISHED SIZE

36" W x 6-1/4" D x 3" H

TIME

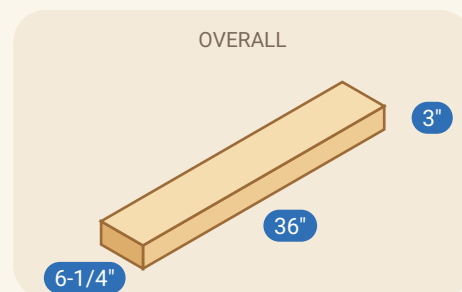
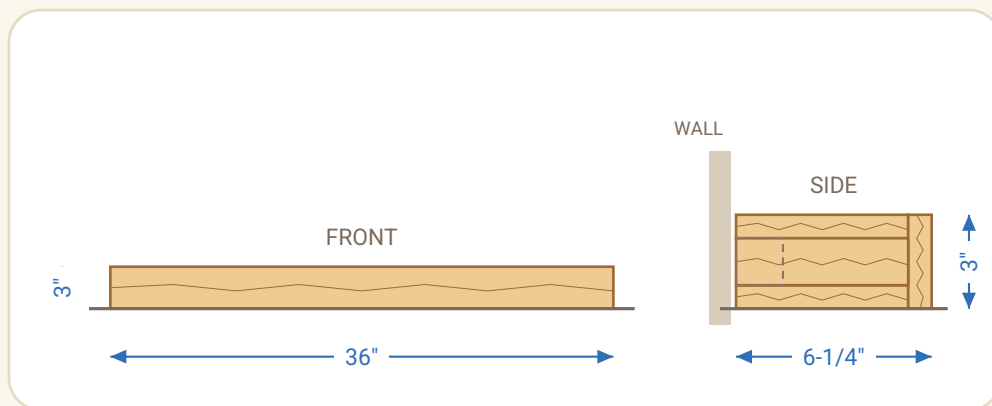
2 hours

LEVEL

★★★ Medium

MATERIAL COST

\$28-\$43



WHAT TO BUY

- ✓ 1 board 1x2 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 board 1x4 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 board 1x6 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 board 2x2 x 8 ft

Hardware: 1-1/4" screws, 3" screws for the studs, wood glue, stud finder

\$28-\$43 · approx., varies by store/region

CUT LIST

PART	QTY	LUMBER	LENGTH	NOTE
Top	1	1x6	36"	
Bottom	1	1x6	36"	
Front face	1	1x4	36"	ripped to 3" wide
Wall cleat	1	2x2	34-1/2"	goes on the wall
End caps	2	1x2	5-1/2"	on edge

STEP BY STEP

- 1 Find two studs with a stud finder and mark them.
- 2 Screw the 2x2 cleat level on the wall: two 3" screws into each stud.
- 3 Build the box: glue and screw the end caps (on edge) between top and bottom at each end.
- 4 Glue and nail/screw the front face on; it covers all front edges.
- 5 Test-fit the box over the cleat; it should slide on snug.
- 6 Sand and finish the box before the final install.
- 7 Slide it on and drive 1-1/4" screws down through the top into the cleat.

PRO TIP

Into drywall alone it will sag: always hit at least 2 studs.



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



BEGINNER OK

Simple tools



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PROJECT 05 OF 10

COFFEE TABLE

FINISHED SIZE

40" W x 22" D x 18" H

TIME

3 hours

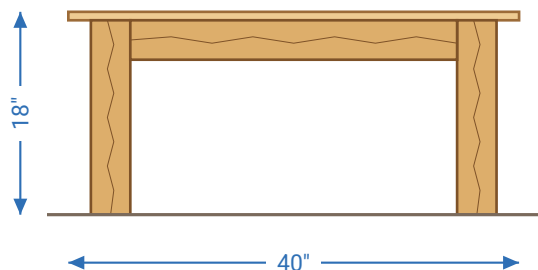
LEVEL

★★★ Medium

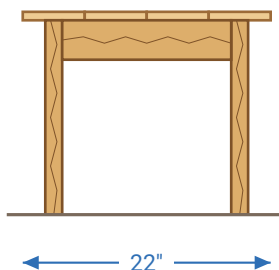
MATERIAL COST

\$34–\$50

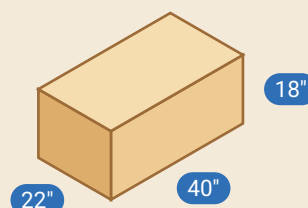
FRONT



SIDE



OVERALL



WHAT TO BUY

- ✓ 2 boards 1x6 x 8 ft
- ✓ 2 boards 2x4 x 8 ft

Hardware: 2-1/2" screws, 1-1/4" screws, wood glue, wood filler

\$34–\$50 · approx., varies by store/region

CUT LIST

PART	QTY	LUMBER	LENGTH	NOTE
Top boards	4	1x6	40"	
Legs	4	2x4	17-1/4"	
Long aprons	2	2x4	29"	between legs
Short aprons	2	2x4	15"	between legs

STEP BY STEP

- 1 Cut legs and aprons from 2x4, top boards from 1x6.
- 2 Make two end frames: a short apron between two legs, flush on top.
- 3 Connect the end frames with the long aprons. Check square (equal diagonals).
- 4 Lay the 4 top boards tight, 2" overhang on every side.
- 5 Screw the top down into the aprons with 1-1/4" screws, two per board per apron.
- 6 Fill, sand 120 then 220, round the sharp corners.
- 7 Stain or paint, then 2 coats of polyurethane for cups and spills.

PRO TIP

Pick the straightest 1x6 at the store: sight down the edge before buying.



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



BEGINNER OK

Simple tools



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PROJECT 06 OF 10

WOOD STOOL

FINISHED SIZE

14" W x 14" D x 18" H

TIME

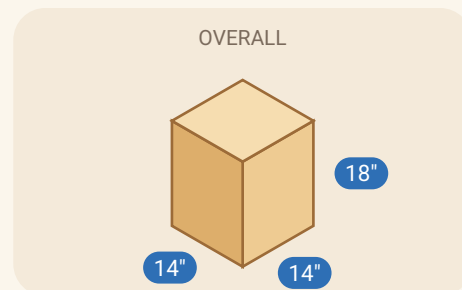
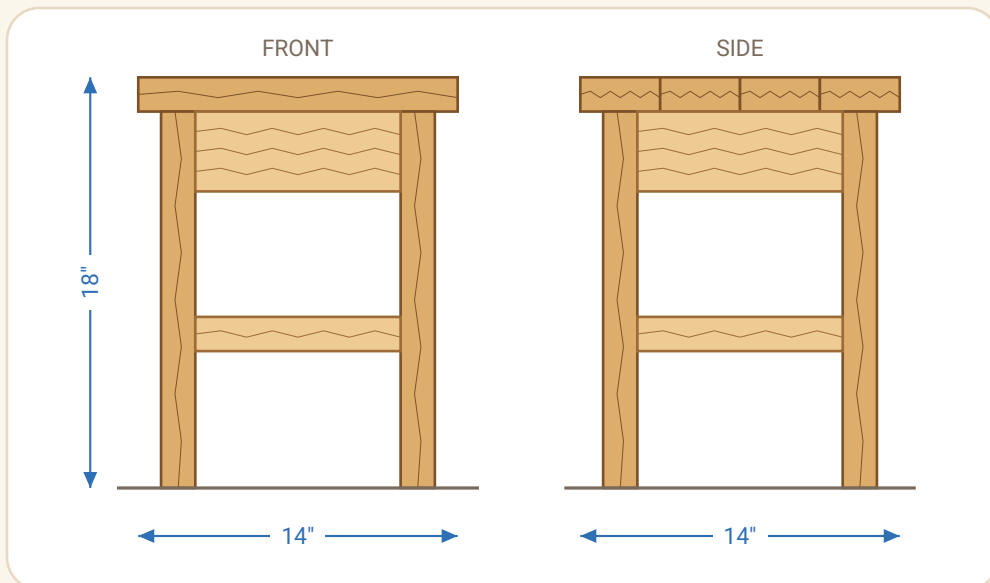
2 hours

LEVEL

★★★ Medium

MATERIAL COST

\$22–\$35



WHAT TO BUY

- ✓ 1 board 1x2 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 board 1x4 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 board 2x2 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 board 2x4 x 8 ft

Hardware: 2" screws, 1-1/4" screws, 2-1/2" screws, wood glue

\$22–\$35 · approx., varies by store/region

CUT LIST

PART	QTY	LUMBER	LENGTH	NOTE
Seat boards	4	2x4	14"	
Legs	4	2x2	16-1/2"	
Aprons	4	1x4	9"	between legs
Rungs	4	1x2	9"	6" from floor

STEP BY STEP

- 1 Cut all pieces. Mark the rung line 6" up on every leg.
- 2 Make two sides: two legs + one apron (flush on top) + one rung. Glue and 2" screws.
- 3 Join the two sides with the other two aprons and rungs.
- 4 Check that it sits flat on the floor; sand a long leg if it rocks.
- 5 Center the 4 seat boards with 1" overhang all around.
- 6 Screw the seat into the aprons from below with 1-1/4" screws, or from the top with 2-1/2" into the legs.
- 7 Round the seat edges, sand, finish.

PRO TIP

Glue every joint: screws alone loosen on a stool people sit on every day.



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



BEGINNER OK

Simple tools



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PROJECT 07 OF 10

SHOE RACK

FINISHED SIZE

30" W x 11-1/4" D x 18" H

TIME

2 hours

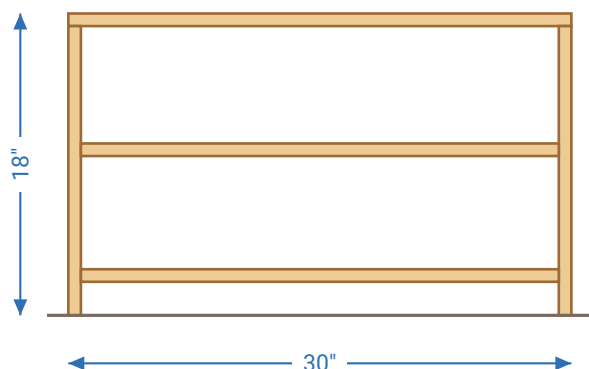
LEVEL

★ ★ ★ Easy

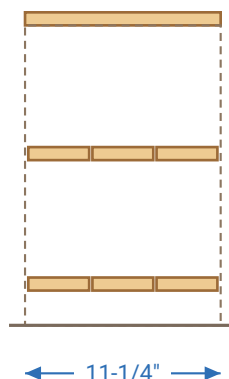
MATERIAL COST

\$43-\$63

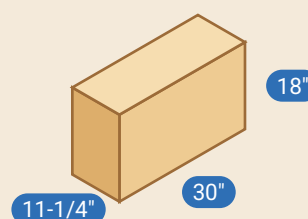
FRONT



SIDE



OVERALL



WHAT TO BUY

- ✓ 1 board 1x12 x 8 ft
- ✓ 2 boards 1x4 x 8 ft

Hardware: 1-5/8" screws, 1-1/4" screws, wood glue

\$43-\$63 · approx., varies by store/region

CUT LIST

PART	QTY	LUMBER	LENGTH	NOTE
Top	1	1x12	30"	
Sides	2	1x12	17-1/4"	
Shelf slats	6	1x4	28-1/2"	3 per shelf

STEP BY STEP

- 1 Cut top and sides from one 1x12, slats from 1x4.
- 2 Mark two shelf lines on the inside of each side: 2" and 9-1/2" from the bottom.
- 3 Screw the 3 bottom slats between the sides, evenly spaced (about 3/16" gaps).
- 4 Add the 3 upper slats the same way.
- 5 Glue and screw the top on, overhanging nothing (flush with the sides).
- 6 Sand and finish; slats let shoes breathe and dirt fall through.

PRO TIP

Use a 3/16" drill bit as a spacer between slats.



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



BEGINNER OK

Simple tools



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PROJECT 08 OF 10

NIGHTSTAND

FINISHED SIZE

18" W x 11-1/4" D x 24" H

TIME

3 hours

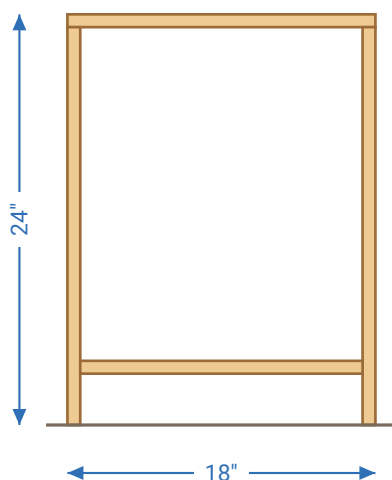
LEVEL

★★★ Medium

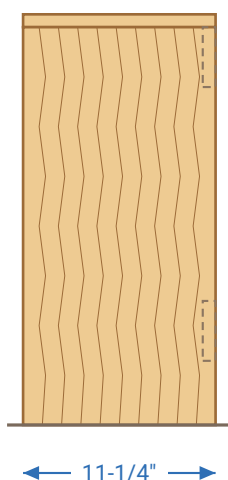
MATERIAL COST

\$38-\$55

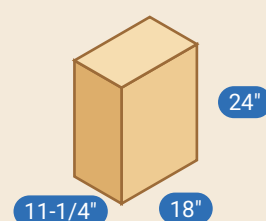
FRONT



SIDE



OVERALL



WHAT TO BUY

- ✓ 1 board 1x12 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 board 1x4 x 8 ft

Hardware: 1-5/8" screws, 1-1/4" screws, wood glue, wood filler

\$38-\$55 · approx., varies by store/region

CUT LIST

PART	QTY	LUMBER	LENGTH	NOTE
Top	1	1x12	18"	
Sides	2	1x12	23-1/4"	
Bottom shelf	1	1x12	16-1/2"	between sides
Back rails	2	1x4	16-1/2"	top + bottom

STEP BY STEP

- 1 Cut the top, sides and shelf from one 1x12; rails from 1x4.
- 2 Glue and screw the bottom shelf between the sides, 3" up from the floor.
- 3 Screw the top back rail between the sides, flush with the top edge at the back.
- 4 Add the bottom back rail under the shelf, at the back.
- 5 Glue and screw the top on, flush with the sides, or let it overhang 1/2".
- 6 Fill holes, sand 120 then 220, paint or stain.
- 7 Optional: add a small basket on the shelf as a drawer.

PRO TIP

Cut the two sides together, clamped, so they come out the same length.



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



BEGINNER OK

Simple tools



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PROJECT 09 OF 10

TOOL TOTE BOX

FINISHED SIZE

19-1/2" W x 7" D x 10" H

TIME

2 hours

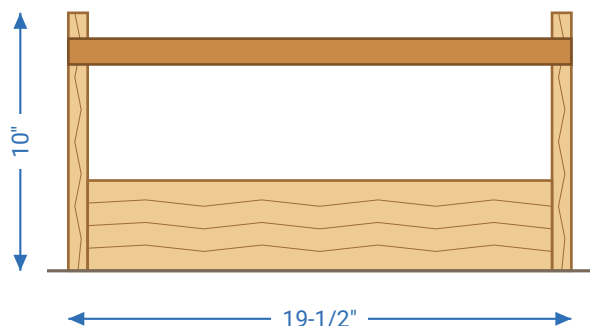
LEVEL

★ ★ ★ Easy

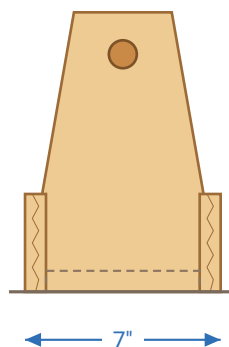
MATERIAL COST

\$36–\$54

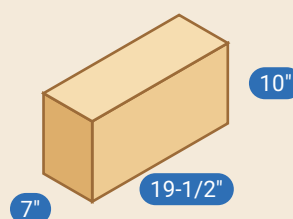
FRONT



SIDE



OVERALL



WHAT TO BUY

- ✓ 1 board 1x4 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 board 1x6 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 board 1x8 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 1" dowel x 36"

Hardware: 1-1/4" screws, wood glue, 1" spade bit

\$36–\$54 · approx., varies by store/region

CUT LIST

PART	QTY	LUMBER	LENGTH	NOTE
Bottom	1	1x6	18"	
Sides	2	1x4	18"	
Ends	2	1x8	10"	ripped to 7", tapered to 3-1/2" on top
Handle	1	1" dowel	19-1/2"	1" dowel

STEP BY STEP

- 1 Cut the bottom and sides. Rip the two ends to 7" wide.
- 2 On each end, mark 3-1/2" centered on top and cut the taper lines to the bottom corners.
- 3 Drill a 1" hole centered 1-1/2" below the top of each end.
- 4 Glue and screw the ends to the bottom (the bottom fits between the ends).
- 5 Attach the two sides to the bottom and the ends.
- 6 Slide the dowel through both holes; lock it with one screw from each end.
- 7 Sand all edges smooth so it does not cut your hands.

PRO TIP

Drill the dowel holes before assembly, with a scrap block under the board.



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



BEGINNER OK

Simple tools



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PROJECT 10 OF 10

WORKBENCH

FINISHED SIZE

48" W x 24" D x 36" H

TIME

4-5 hours

LEVEL

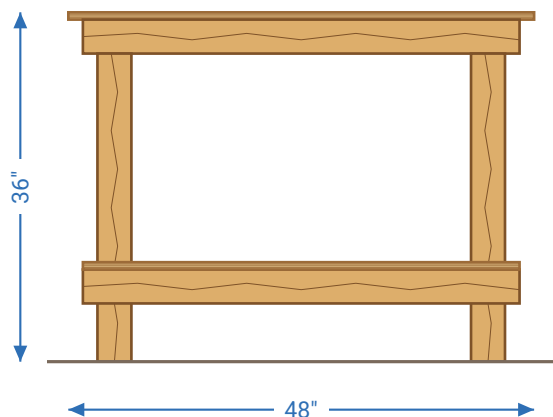


Advanced

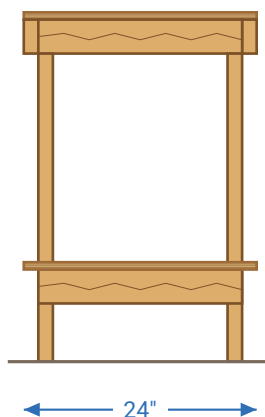
MATERIAL COST

\$69-\$95

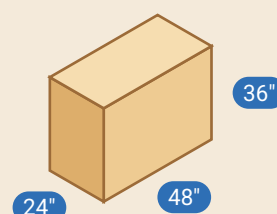
FRONT



SIDE



OVERALL



WHAT TO BUY

- ✓ 5 boards 2x4 x 8 ft
- ✓ 1 half sheet 3/4" plywood (4 x 4 ft)

Hardware: 3" screws, 2-1/2" screws, 1-1/4" screws, wood glue

\$69-\$95 · approx., varies by store/region

CUT LIST

PART	QTY	LUMBER	LENGTH	NOTE
Top	1	3/4" plywood	48" x 24"	
Lower shelf	1	3/4" plywood	45" x 24"	notch 4 corners 5" x 3"
Long rails	4	2x4	45"	2 top + 2 bottom
Short rails	4	2x4	21"	2 top + 2 bottom
Legs	4	2x4	35-1/4"	

STEP BY STEP

- 1 Cut all 2x4 parts. Have the store rip the half sheet into 48 x 24 and 45 x 24.
- 2 Build the top frame: 2 long rails + 2 short rails between them (45 x 24 outside). Glue + 3" screws.
- 3 Build the bottom frame the same way.
- 4 Screw a leg inside each corner of the top frame (3" screws, legs flush on top).
- 5 Slide the bottom frame on and screw it to the legs 6" above the floor.
- 6 Notch the shelf corners and drop it on the bottom frame; screw it down with 1-1/4" screws.
- 7 Screw the top on with 1-1/4" screws every 8"; it overhangs 1-1/2" at each end for clamping.

PRO TIP

Build it on a flat floor: the bench will copy whatever twist the floor has.



SAFETY FIRST

Glasses, ears, sharp blades



REAL SIZES

2x4 = 1-1/2" x 3-1/2"



BEGINNER OK

Simple tools

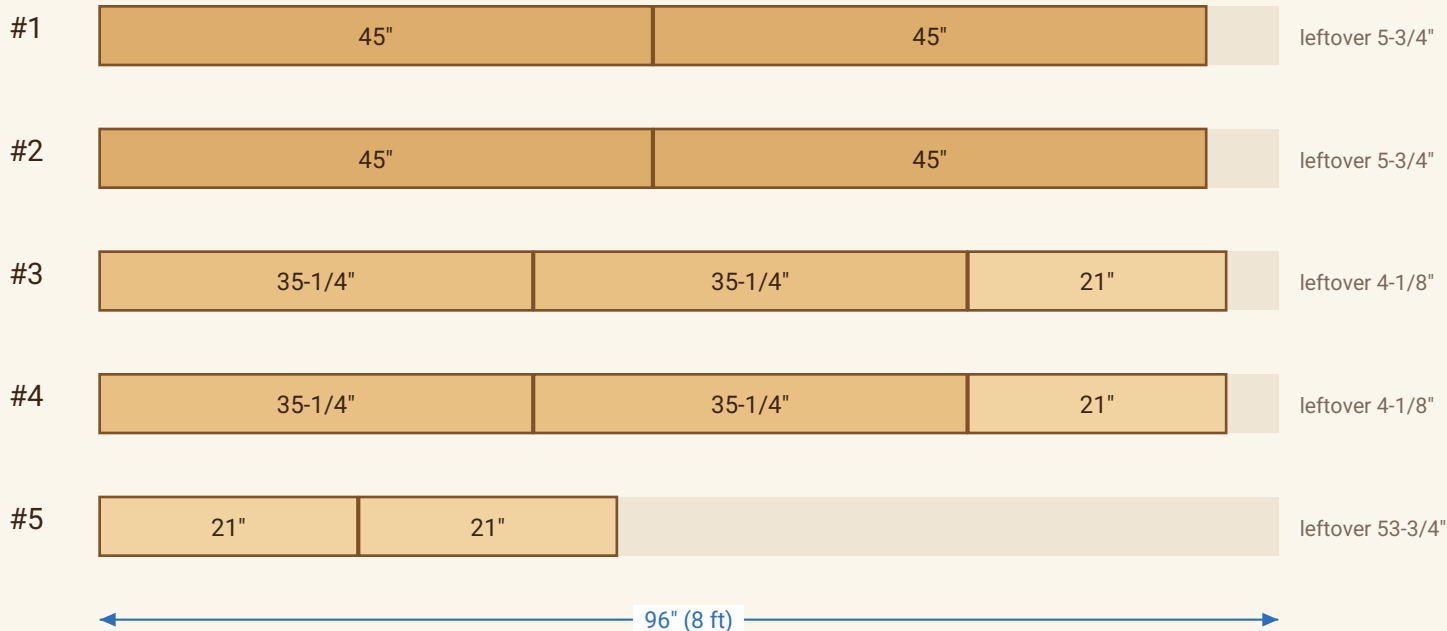


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CUT PLAN EXAMPLE

Workbench legs and rails laid out on 8 ft 2x4 boards. Longest pieces first, leave 1/8" for each saw cut.



- ✓ Cut the longest parts first; use leftovers for short parts.
- ✓ Measure from the same end each time and mark with a V, not a line.
- ✓ Cut on the waste side of the mark so the piece keeps its length.
- ✓ Clamp a stop block to cut identical parts (legs, slats).



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WHICH SCREW?

JOINING	SCREW	TIP
3/4" board to 3/4" board (face)	1-1/4"	countersink the head
3/4" board into an edge/end	1-5/8"	pre-drill near ends
3/4" board to a 2x	1-1/4" to 1-5/8"	glue too
2x to 2x (face)	2-1/2"	two per joint
2x into end grain of 2x	3"	pre-drill, glue
Cleat into wall studs	3"	find 2 studs
Outdoor projects	exterior coated	never plain steel

SANDING & FINISH

80 grit

flatten, remove marks and fuzz

120 grit

smooth all faces and round sharp edges

220 grit

final pass before paint or stain

Seal

wipe dust, then 2–3 thin coats: poly inside, exterior finish outside



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