

## Materials List:

- (3) True 1"x8"x8' Boards
- (4) 2"x3"x8' Boards
- (1) 2"x4"x8' Board
- (3) 1"x4"x8' Boards
- (1) 1"x2"x3' Board
- (1) 36" Handrail
- 3 or 3-1/2" Screws
- (2) 3/8"x 4" bolts (optional)
- 1-1/2" Screws
- 2-1/2" Screws
- Wood Glue
- Planer (Optional)
- Stainable wood fill
- Variety pack of sandpaper: from 80 to 220
- Sponge brush, rag, and a natural bristle brush
- Pre-stain wood conditioner
- Gel Stain
- Original Waterlox

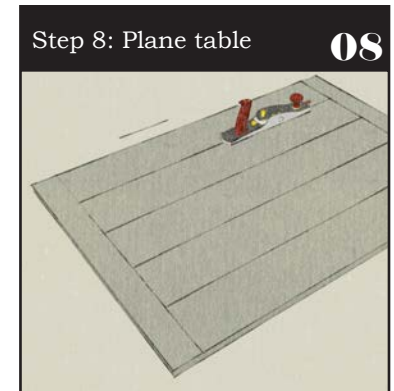
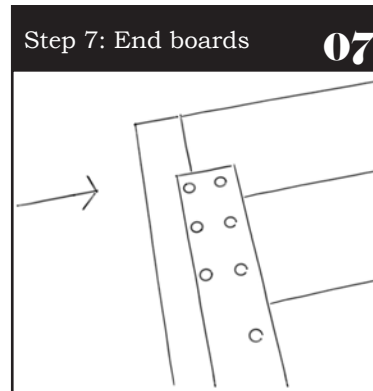
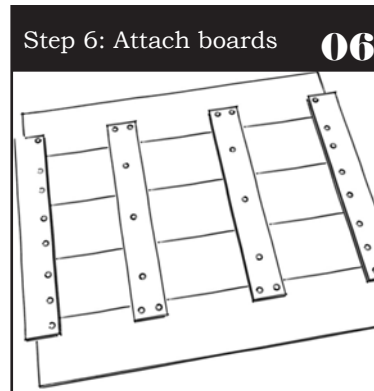
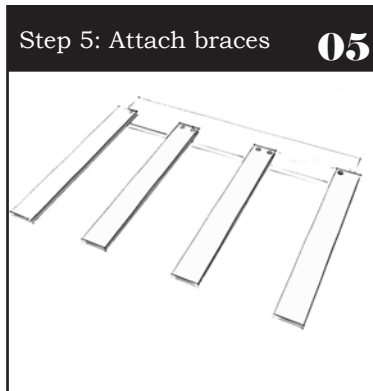
Cut (5) 41-1/2" lengths from the 1x8 boards. With the left over length, cut it down to the width of the table top. May vary depending on boards and spacing. I cut mine down to 2' 11-1/2"--Then rip this board in half. Cut (4) 26-1/2" lengths from the 1x4 boards.

Layout boards with alternating grain direction. Look at the ends to determine which way the tree rings go. Lay the boards in the order that fit best together. Face the nicer looking side up.

For an outdoor table face all tree rings down and leave a 1/8" gap.

On the back side of the first 1x8 board, use a square to measure and locate the first brace. Inset the brace 4 1/2" from side and 2 1/4" from end. Using wood glue and 1 1/2" screws fasten brace to the first board.

This is an example of what it will look like standing on end with two braces attached.



Attach brace on opposite end in the same location as step 3.

Space two center braces evenly. Make sure the braces are square with the board before adding the second screw, the glue will stay wet long enough to wiggle if needed.

Add wood glue to edge of boards and braces to get a tight bond. Immediately screw board into place and repeat until all boards are tightly attached (unless spaced for outdoor table). Drawing above demonstrates approximate screw locations and quantity, all 1 1/2" screws.

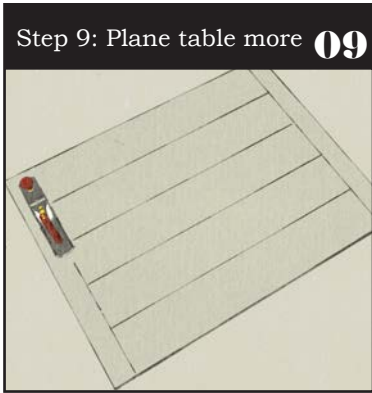
Glue and screw end boards into place. Be liberal with screws as this board is cantilevered and needs additional support.

For outdoor table skip step 08 & 09.

Using a medium or large hand-held planer and run planer along seams to level them out. Run with the grain until the edges are close to the same profile.

**TIP:** Make sure to glue *and* screw all boards in place.

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Below are some topcoat options for your new table top:

*If you are using the table outdoors, apply a Waterlox Marine finish instead of the original formula...it will hold up to water and UV rays. @ www.waterlox.com*

*If you plan to paint it, make sure to use: Advance (a non-oil based paint that acts like one) by Benjamin Moore so that it is not tacky and does not chip and a layer of polycrylic for good measure.*

*Want to skip a step? Use a stain and poly combo.*

Run the planer along the top and bottom seams. This is a bit tricky as you will be going against the grain on the perpendicular boards. When we planed our table, we did end up leaving some scratchy marks but these just added character. Make sure that the blade is super sharp!

Use a pad sander to sand the table top. Begin with a lower grit sandpaper, like 80, and work your way to 220. Always sand in the direction of the grain. Wipe the whole thing down with a barely damp lint-free rag. I really focused sanding along the seams to further smooth out where the boards join.

Especially if you are using a soft wood like pine, you will want to apply a wood conditioner before you stain. This will help the stain take in a more uniform way. Brush it on liberally and let it soak in for 5 minutes, then wipe the excess off with a rag. Apply stain within 2 hours. This is oil-based. Messy.

To further ensure an even stain job --not streaky or splotchy-- I used a gel stain which is thicker than a regular stain and so absorbs more slowly. Apply with a brush or rag. I found the rag gave me the most control. Wipe in the direction of the grain. Repeat after 10 hours for a darker finish. I did 2 coats.



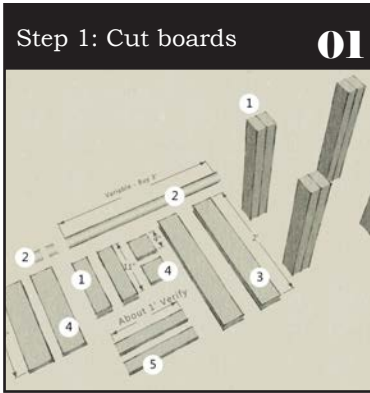
This is what my table top looked like after 2 coats of stain. Nice and even, eh? If you are using Waterlox, you will want to go a bit darker than you actually want because it lightens a bit. Make sure that you let the stain dry for at least 24 hours before applying a top coat.

I applied 2 coats of stain to the back side of the table as well, though I did not bother with the conditioner.

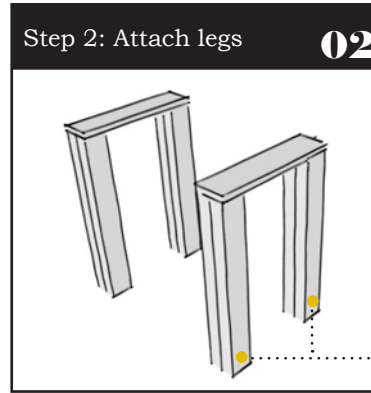
You will need to apply a topcoat of some kind to seal your table. If using Waterlox, leave yourself some time to get this done and VENTILATE. You will need to apply this finish with a natural bristle brush and leave at least 24 hrs between re-coating. I did 4 coats on our dining table.

Wait at least 7 days to use the table. Waterlox takes more time to cure than Polyurethane but it is a more food-safe product when dry and gives the table a nice satin sheen. Clean with diluted white vinegar and warm water. Do not bother waxing because it is a hassle to maintain it.

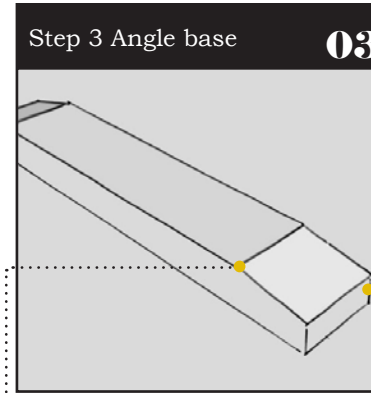
**TIP:** Finish the table top first and while the table top is curing, build the trestle legs. @buckhouseblog.com



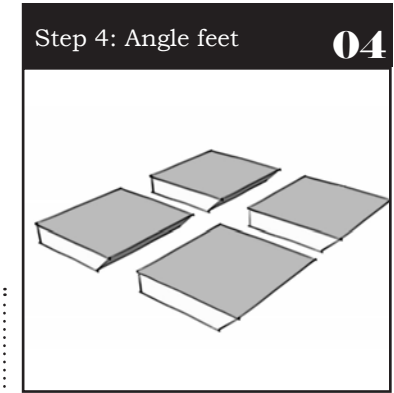
1. Cut the 2"x3" down to (8) 1'-11" lengths and wood glue and screw together with 2 1/2" screws (3 per leg)
2. Do not cut stretcher bar yet.
3. Cut 2"x4" into (2) 2'-0" lengths.
4. Cut remaining 1"x4" into (2) 1'-4" lengths and (2) 4" lengths



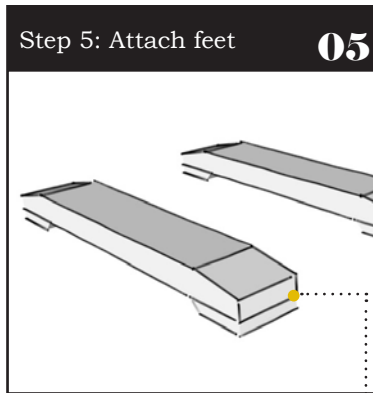
Glue and screw the 1"x4"x1'-4" boards into two legs, aligned with the edge, to connect and to provide a way to attach the legs to the table top later on. Make sure that you face the **nice** side of the glue-lamed legs to the same direction (the side that will end up facing out later on).



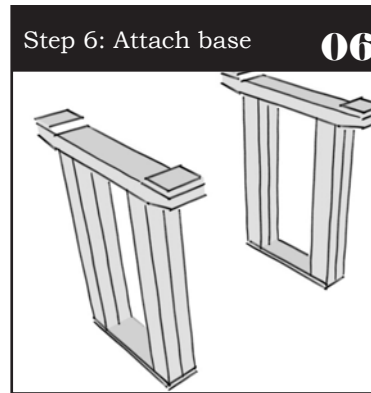
Angle the (2) 2"x4"x2' at each end. We mitered the end at 3/4" **up** the side (about 1/2 way) And **4" in** from the edge. The angle is approximately 20 degrees.



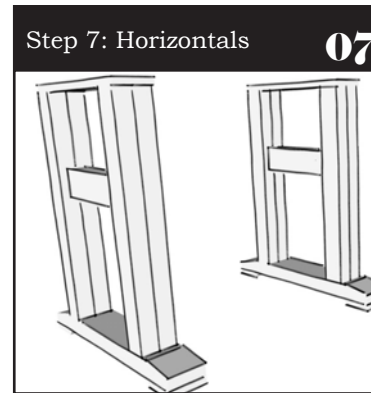
Miter a 45 degree angle of one side of all 1"x4"x4" on the miter saw.



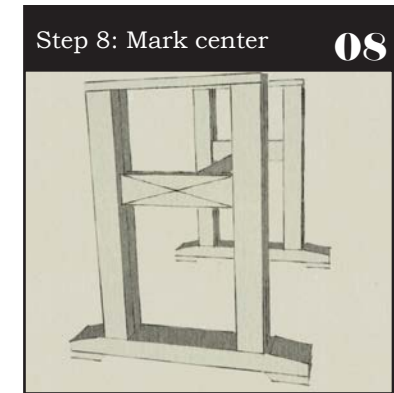
Attach each 1"x4"x4" to the edge of the foot braces, **flat sides** together and flush. Use 1-1/2" screws and wood glue.



Making sure the legs are equally spaced at the top and bottom and centered on the base, attach the legs to the base with 2-1/2" screws and wood glue.



Turn the legs over and measure the distance between the legs to cut the horizontal brace (should be around 11"). Attach the horizontal braces to the legs 8" down from the top and centered on the post. Countersink the 3" or 3-1/2" screws, and toe-nail the top and bottom of the brace. **Sand now!**



Mark center of horizontal brace to prepare for stretcher bar attachment.

Below are some other table leg ideas for your new table top, that are also simple and cost effective:

*If you are using the table in a booth, you can attach one side to the wall with a 2x4 and purchase one pre-fab trestle table leg @IKEA.com*

*Not using it in a banquet? Purchase 4 unfinished table legs and attach them inset into the four corners @www.vandykes.com.*

*Build a more formal trestle leg set using newel posts.*

*Instructions: @www.thisoldhouse.com*

**TIP:** Make sure to measure the space between the horizontal supports *before* you cut the stretcher bar.

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Trestle  
Legs

### Trestle Table Resources

Ana White Picnic table  
@ <http://ana-white.com>

Trestle Table How-To-Plans  
@ [www.popularmechanics.com](http://www.popularmechanics.com)

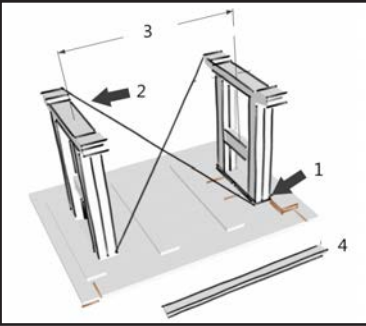
This Old House  
@ [www.thisoldhouse.com](http://www.thisoldhouse.com)

14th Century table  
@ [www.crookedtreefarm.com](http://www.crookedtreefarm.com)

Back to Trestle Table DIY  
on [buckhouseblog.com](http://buckhouseblog.com)

Happy Building!

Step 9: Attach legs **09**



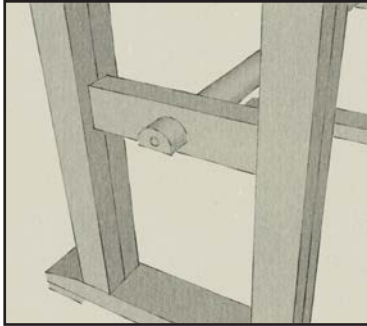
#### Follow numbered steps above:

1. Place legs on table top in the position you plan to attach them.
2. Check to make sure the legs are square and vertically level and modify if needed.
3. Measure distance between horizontal braces.
4. Cut stretcher to fit snugly.



Here is a picture of the legs we built before the lateral supports were attached.

Step 10: Stretcher Bar **10**

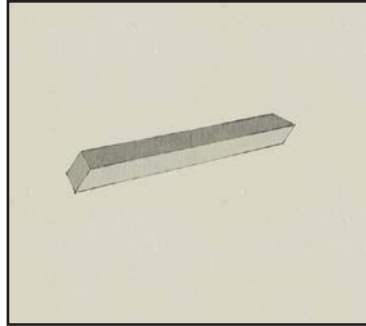


Cut two segments of 1-1/2" stretcher bar to place on outside of horizontal braces. Drill through center of horizontal brace, drill through center of stretcher "segment" and drill into center of longer stretcher. Countersink a large enough hole to fit the bolt head. Assemble and drill bolt in place.



Here is a close up picture of where to place the legs on the table top.

Step 11: Lateral support **11**

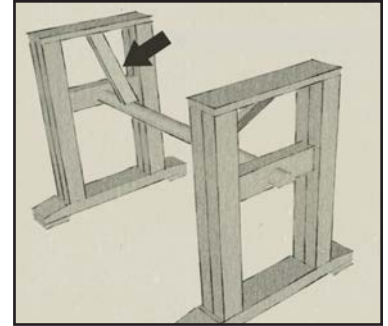


In order to keep the table from rocking, you will need to mount some lateral support bars (see next picture) Measure the distance from the stretcher bar up to top of leg attachments. Angle the lateral support (1"x 2"x Variable) to 45 degrees as demonstrated in picture above.



Once the table legs were built and attached, I wood conditioned, stained, and Waterloxed the legs in place. You can do this before you attach it, which is probably a better idea. I only did 2 coats of Waterlox on the legs because they are not going to get the same wear as the table top.

Step 12: Attach lateral **12**



Hold the lateral support in place and check level of vertical elements and square of trestle legs, then toenail lateral support firmly in place with 1-1/2" screws.



Test the table by having someone eat at it but make sure to protect it with placemats and coasters for a little while. Waterlox can take a while to harden. When it does, it will hold up to heat and spills.

Enjoy!

**TIP:** Test the table where you want to use it and shim the table top + trestle leg connection if needed to keep it level. @buckhouseblog.com