

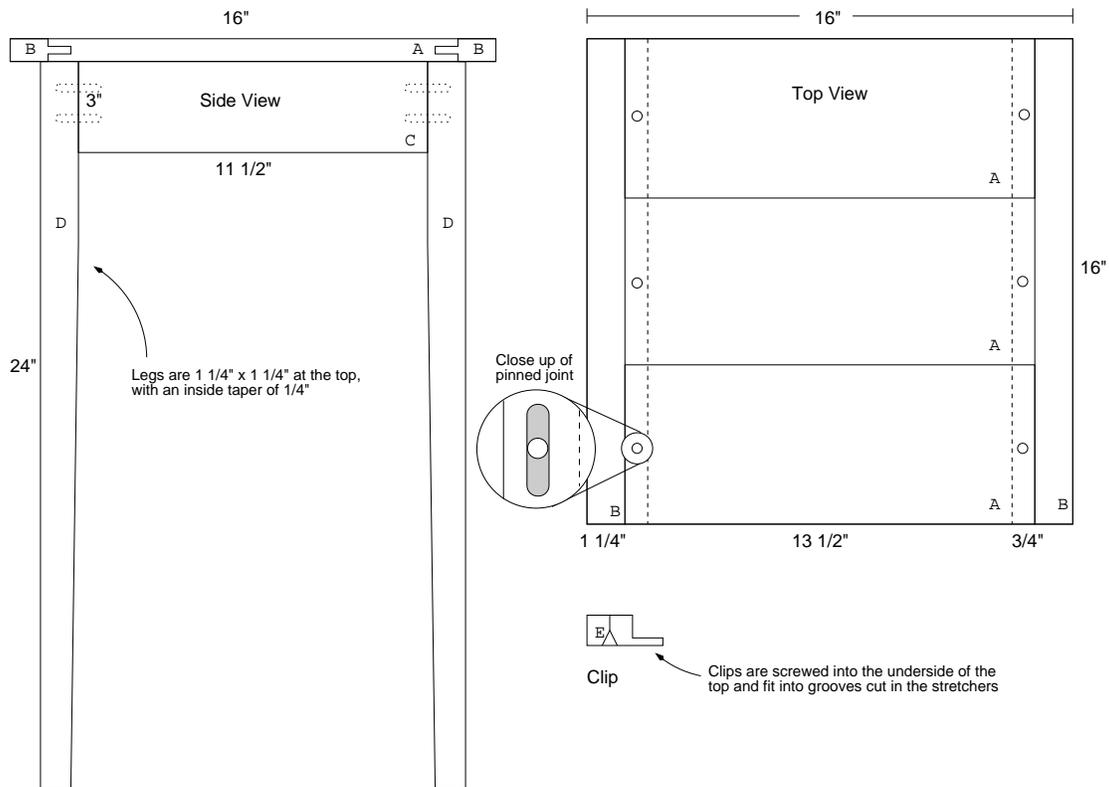
Bedside Table with Breadboard Ends

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1 Introduction

Here's a simple project with some nice details that can be built in a few hours. My version of this table was made from Alaskan birch and finished with Paddy's (<http://www.shellac.net>) de-waxed orange shellac.

2 Plan



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3 Cut List

Key	Qty	Description	T	W	L	Notes
A	3	Table top	3/4	≈ 5 1/4	15	Total length of these pieces should be 16 inches. Long edge of the glued top panel has a 1/4" thick x 3/4" deep groove cut along it's length (shown as a dotted line on the Top View).
B	2	Breadboard ends	3/4	1 1/4	16	1/4" x 3/4" tongue cut out of one edge that matches the groove in the top.
C	4	Stretchers	3/4	3	11 1/2	Stretchers have a 1/4" groove cut along the back for the tongue on the clips.
D	4	Legs	1 1/4	1 1/4	24	Legs have an inside taper of 1/4" starting 6 - 8 inches from the top on both inside faces.
E	6	Clips	3/4	1	2	Clips are screwed into the table top such that the tongue fits into the grooves cut in the stretchers.

(All dimensions are in inches)

To construct the table, first joint the edges of the three (or fewer if you have wider boards for the top) top pieces (A) and glue them together. To make planing the top easier, choose boards whose patterns match with the grain oriented in the same direction. Once the glue dries, cut a groove 1/4" wide and 3/4" deep into the two long sides of the top.

Next, size the breadboard ends (B) and cut the tongue to match the groove in the top. The tongue should slip into the groove by hand, but have a nice even, tight fit.

To attach the breadboard ends to the table top, clamp the three pieces together and drill six holes through the middle of the top such that they go through the middle of the edge grooves and the tongue (shown as small circles on the Top View). Your holes should be the same size as whatever dowel or square peg you plan to use to hold the ends on the table. Remove the top from the clamps and elongate the four outer holes in the tongue so that the middle boards can expand and contract while keeping the breadboard ends attached (See the enlarged section in the figure above). I used a hole saw to extend the drill holes, but a jigsaw or a round file would also work. The middle holes in each tongue should be left alone.

Put a dab of glue in the middle of each tongue and in the insides of the dowel holes on the glued-up middle section. Use glue sparingly, as we want the middle section of the top to expand and contract with changes in humidity. Slip the pieces together and put them back in the clamps. Finally, drive the dowels into the holes and let the glue dry.

While the glue dries, cut the stretchers (C) and legs (D) to size. Be sure to mark which faces get tapers on each leg before cutting them so you'll have an inside taper on all four legs. Also cut the grooves in the top of each stretcher. The grooves are about 1/4" wide, 1/4" to 1/2" deep and begin about 1/2" down from the top edge of each stretcher.

Plane and smooth all the pieces and the top (once the glue dries). I also rounded the edges of the tabletop using a round-over bit in my router, but you could use sandpaper or a hand plane to achieve the same effect.

To join the stretchers and the legs I used dowel pins, but you could use a mortise and tenon joint if you like. The table won't carry much weight, so dowels are sufficient.

Finally, cut some clips (E) so that their tongue will fit into the grooves in the stretchers when the clip is fastened to the tabletop from underneath. After all the glue has dried, connect the top using the clips. Be sure to plan for the movement of the top when attaching the clips.