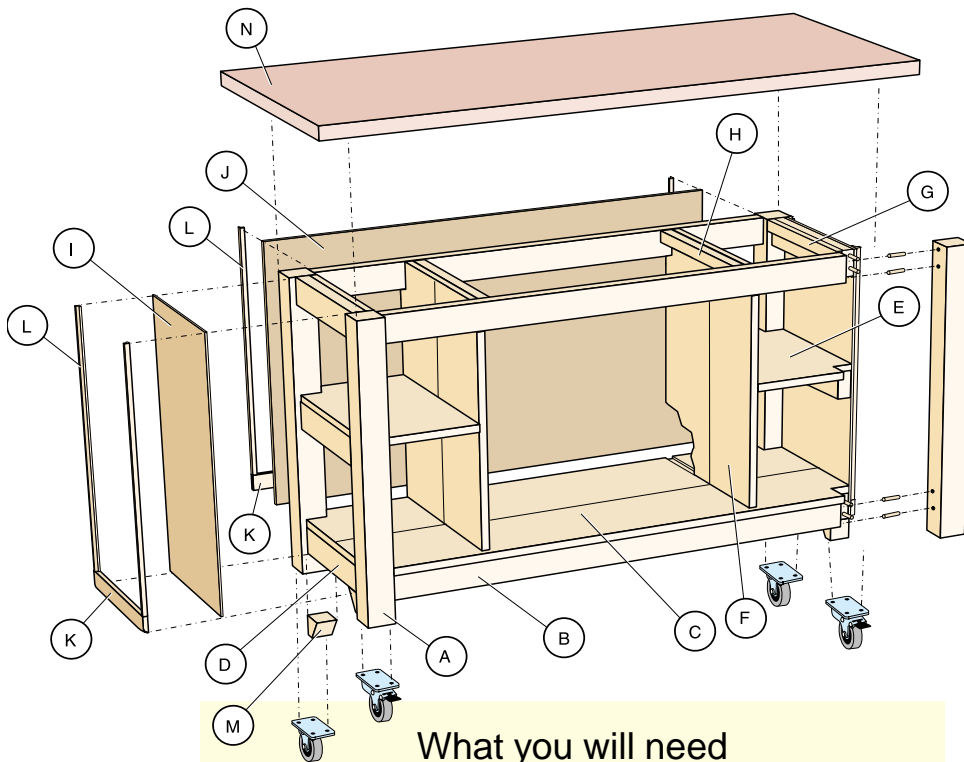


Kitchen island

This roll-away island bench provides oodles of kitchen storage



What you will need

Item	Part	Size	Material
A	Legs (4)	70 x 70 x 770mm	Pine
B	Long rails (4)	70 x 35 x 1220mm	Pine
C	Bottom shelf (2 to make 1)	240 x 19 x 1325mm	Pine
D	Side rails (6)	70 x 35 x 360mm	Pine
E	Side shelves (2)	290 x 19 x 465mm	Pine
F	Dividers (4 to make 2)	240 x 19 x 625mm	Pine
G	Top side cleats (2)	30 x 19 x 360mm	Pine
H	Top centre cleats (2)	30 x 30 x 395mm	Pine
I	Side panels (2)	360 x 710 x 5mm	Plywood
J	Back panel	1220 x 710 x 5mm	Plywood
K	Horizontal beading (total)	42 x 12 x 210mm	Maple
L	Vertical beading (total)	12 x 12 x 4200mm	Maple scotia
M	Castor blocks (4, see step 9)	70 x 60 x 40mm	Pine
N	Benchtop	630 x 35 x 1535mm	Laminated brushbox

A laminated brushbox top will cost about \$345. You will also need a set of 75mm heavy-duty castors (Fallshaw brand, two with brakes), they'll cost around \$80; about forty 10mm dowels; tea towel hooks. Total cost about \$630.

You can't have enough bench space in the kitchen but you also need floor space so everyone can help wash-up. This island bench is the solution. It has a laminated benchtop solid enough for the heaviest task and it rolls away when not required.

Here's how

Step 1 Prepare the legs (A) by squaring lines 15 and 55mm from the top and 75 and 115mm from the bottom on two adjacent faces. Set a dowelling jig to drill 10mm diameter by 23mm deep dowel holes at the centre of each line. Measure 335 and 375mm from the top on the inside side faces and bore dowel holes for intermediate side rails.

Step 2 Measure 15 and 55mm across the end grain of the long rails (B) and square across. Bore dowel holes at the midpoint of each line. Apply a little glue to the dowel holes in the sides of the legs with four holes; spread glue with a nail and push in dowels. Apply glue to holes in the long rails, then join to legs. Assemble both front and back frames. Clamp until set.

Step 3 To make wide boards for the bottom shelf and dividers (C, F), join two 240mm-wide boards by partly driving small nails about 200mm apart into the edge of one board. Nip off nail heads. Apply glue along both edges, cramp the two halves together ensuring they remain aligned. Alternatively, use dowels or a biscuit joiner. As the unit is to be painted, you could also use sheet MDF to avoid edge-joining the timber.

Step 4 Cut the main shelf (C), making sure it is 480mm deep. In the back corners cut out a 52.5mm square notch to fit around the legs. As the front overhangs the rail, the front notch is 70 x 52.5mm wide. Measure 290 and 309mm from each end and

Splash out on a stunning benchtop — here it's beautiful brushbox

Kitchen island

40mm from the front. Set a router to run along a batten to cut two 19 x 5mm deep grooves parallel to the ends and stopped 40mm from the front.

Step 5 Bore dowel holes in ends of side rails (D) as you did on long rails. Join front and back frames with three rails at one end without drawing the joints fully together. Fit the bottom rail at the other end, then install the shelf. Fit the remainder of the rails and draw the front and back together using cramps. Reinforce joints by driving screws at a skew from rails into legs.

Step 6 Cut two 52.5mm square notches in the outside corners of the side shelves (E). Screw the shelves to the middle side rails.

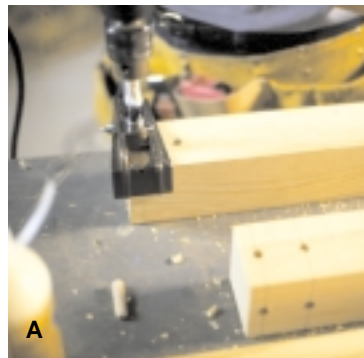
Cramp with clamps

As an alternative to holding dowelled assemblies with sash cramps until glue sets, try this inexpensive idea. Screw a 75 x 50mm batten to one end of a worktop to act as a stop for one end of the frame. Screw a similar piece 20mm from the frame at other end. Cut a couple of wedges and gently drive them between frame and batten to tighten the joint.

A Use a dowelling jig to make sure dowel holes are accurately drilled.

B If you're short on cramps, use wedges to hold frame while the glue sets.

C Leave the frame joints slightly open while dropping in the bottom shelf.



Step 7 Rip dividers (F) to a width of 465mm. Cut a 70 x 35mm notch in both top corners and a 30 x 5mm notch in the bottom front corner. Fit into groove in bottom shelf, align back edges. Screw in place. Ensure shelves are level.

Step 8 Cut top side and centre cleats (G, H) and screw to side rails and dividers. Cut out side and back panels (I, J); tack to rails and edges of small shelves and dividers. Nail horizontal beading (K) to bottom edges of sides and back. Add vertical beading (L).

Step 9 Invert cabinet and trial-fit the castors. If their fixing plates are not fully supported by the legs, cut castor blocks (M) to suit. Glue and screw to legs and side rails. Screw on castors.

Step 10 Sand surfaces and round sharp edges. Paint with an undercoat and two gloss topcoats. Round top and edges of benchtop (N) and paint with three coats of gloss polyurethane on all sides. To fit to cabinet, lay benchtop face down on a blanket; place cabinet upside on top. Drill 2mm oversize holes through top cleats to miss glue joints in the timber. Screw on from the underside with non-countersunk screws and a washer to allow for timber expansion and contraction. Add hooks for tea towels as required.

