

Building a Plant Pedestal

Project Level: **Intermediate**

Proudly display your favorite houseplant with this easy-to-make wooden pedestal. The pedestal is easy to make and can be built in a day for around \$25. This attractive plant pedestal could also display a lamp or artwork. Beaded-board paneling, simple moulding, and a whitewashed finish contribute to the time-worn appearance.

Safety Note: To avoid inhaling sawdust, it is a good idea to wear a dust mask when cutting or sanding wood.

Follow these simple instructions to build a perfect plant stand. These dimensions will render a pedestal approximately 36 inches tall with an 11-inch-square base, an 8-1/2-inch-square top, and a 6-5/8-inch-square column. The dimensions can easily be adjusted for the size you require.



Tools

- Table saw ⓘ
- Biscuit joiner
- Router ⓘ
- Router bits ⓘ
- Hammer ⓘ
- Paintbrush ⓘ
- Dust mask
- Goggles
- Hearing Protection

Materials

- 1 (8-foot) 1 x 4 white pine board
- 1 (8-foot) 1 x 6 white pine board
- Biscuits
- 1 (4- x 8-foot) beaded-board paneling
- Wood glue ⓘ
- Wire brads
- 8d finishing nails
- Paint ⓘ
- Wax
- Sandpaper ⓘ
- Stain

Step 1: Begin construction by building panels to make the sides of the column. Cut two (33-inch-long) 1x4 pine boards. Rip them into four boards that are 1-1/2 inches wide. Rip another 33-inch-long board into four more boards that are 5/8 inch wide. Rip a 30-inch board to 3 inches, and cut into eight 3-5/8-inch lengths. (**Note:** You will have a small amount of scrap left over; it can be discarded.) All of these pieces will make the rails and stiles of the sides.

Step 2: Take two 1-1/2- x 33-inch boards and two 3-5/8- x 3-inch boards. The longer boards will make the stiles of one side of the pedestal, the shorter boards will make the rails. Join the rails and stiles together with a biscuit joiner to complete one side. Repeat Step 2.

Step 3: Now take the two 5/8- x 33-inch boards and two 3-5/8- x 3-inch boards, and make a side, following the process in Step 2. Repeat to complete the last side. Cut the beaded-board paneling into four pieces that measure 4-1/2 x 28 inches with the beaded detail running the longest length. Glue and brad these pieces to the rails and stiles that you just assembled. (**Note:** It is important to keep the beaded detail parallel to the rails of the sides. This will give a more professional look when finished.) After the glue dries, you are ready to assemble the column.

Step 4: Assemble the column by gluing one wide panel and one narrow panel together, and securing with 8d nails. (**Note:** When assembling the sides, the narrow panel is joined to the back of the wide panel.) Repeat with the other panels. Now assemble both of these pieces together to make the column. Take a router with a 45-degree chamfering bit. Run the router down the corners of the pedestal (be careful to not hit any of the nails holding the sides together). This detail will add interest to the finished piece.

Step 5: It is time to assemble the bottom. With the biscuit joiner, join two 1- x 6- x 11-inch pine boards, and glue together to form an 11- x 11- x 3/4-inch board. After the glue dries, route the edges of the board with any router bit that suits your taste.

Now, rip a 50-inch 1x4 to 3/4 inch wide. Cut and miter these four pieces to the bottom of the 11- x 11- x 3/4-inch board. Glue and nail this assembled piece to one end of the column. This forms the bottom of the column. Now, take a 1x4 that is approximately 40 inches long, and rip it to 1-1/4 inches wide to form four pieces. Route one edge of each board with the same bit that was used



on the bottom. Cut and miter these pieces, and nail and glue them around the column where it attaches to the base. This detail will add decorative interest and visual weight to the base to keep it from looking top-heavy.

Step 6: It is now time to assemble the top, which measures 8-1/4 x 8-1/2 x 3/4 inches. With the biscuit joiner, join two 1- x 6- x 8-1/4-inch pine boards, and glue together. After the glue dries, rip it to a finished width of 8-1/4 inches. To chamfer the top edge, set a table saw at a slight angle, and trim all four sides. The top is now ready to be glued and nailed to the top of the column.

Step 7: The last step is to apply a paint finish to the pedestal. First, set and fill all nail holes. Sand the entire column smooth, and apply a coat of wood stain. Then, apply a coat of flat exterior latex paint in the color of your choice. If you want a white-washed look, thin the paint with water. For a distressed look, lightly sand the column again to let the wood show through in places, and then apply a coat of paste wax. Now you can relax and enjoy the pedestal.

