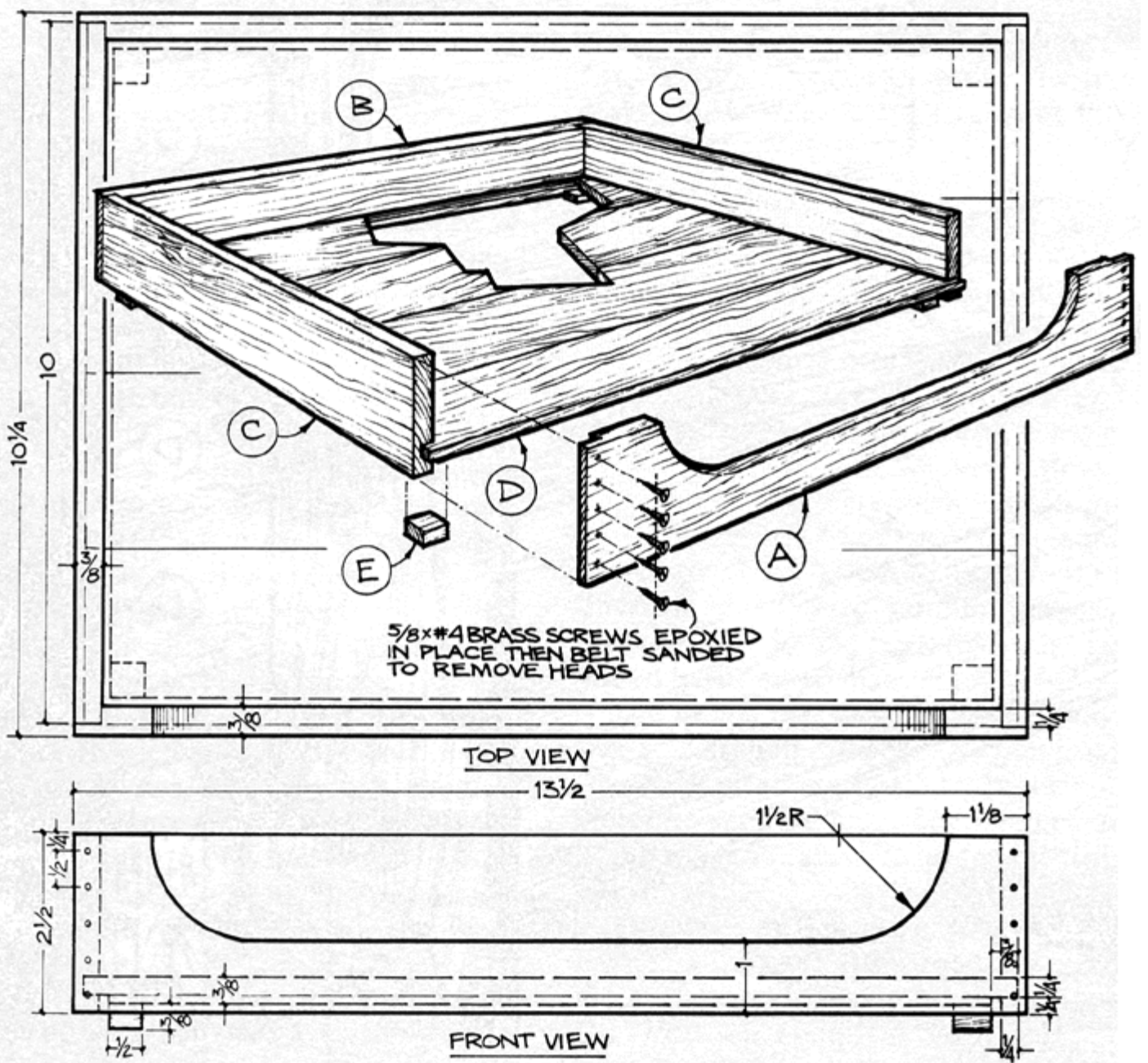


Project 19874EZ: Stacking Desk Tray



Here's an attractive alternative to the run-of-the-mill plastic desk trays. They can be used individually or stacked one upon another as shown. Ours is made from walnut, although oak would also be a good choice, especially if a light colored wood is preferred.

Stacking Desk Tray Complete Schematic



Stacking Desk Tray Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Cut the Stock

1. Obtain enough $\frac{3}{8}$ " stock to make the number of trays you want by planing a piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock to $\frac{3}{8}$ " or by resawing.
2. Cut the $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick stock to a width of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".
3. Make parts A, B, C, and D.
4. Locate the table saw rip fence at a point $\frac{7}{16}$ " from the inside tooth of the saw blade (see **Figure 1**).

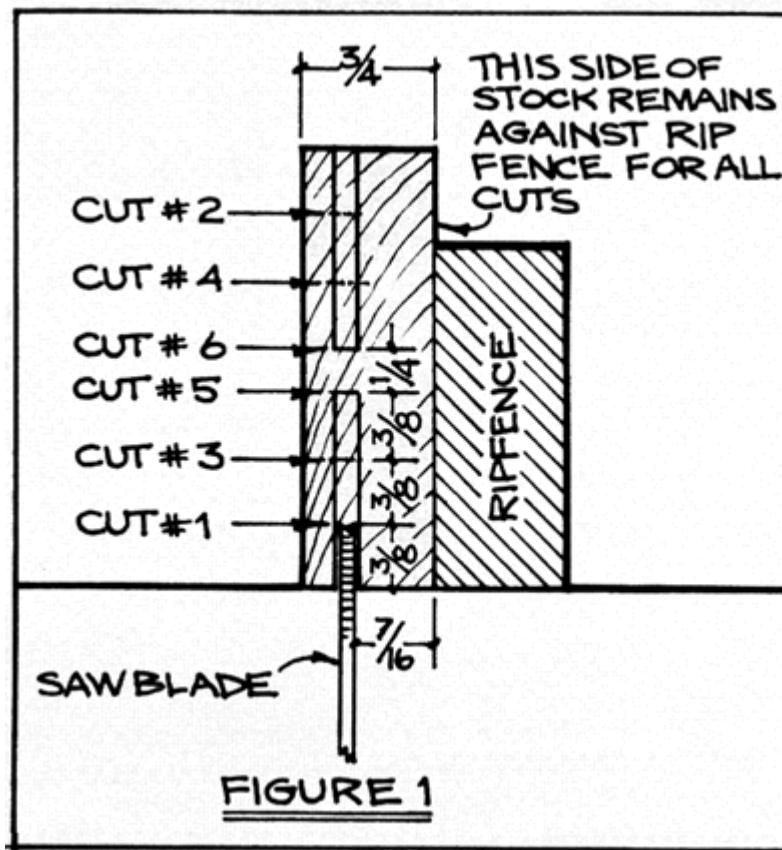


Figure 1. Ripping the Stock

5. Set the blade at a height of $\frac{3}{8}$ ".
6. Use a push stock (to keep hands safely away from the blade) and pass one edge of the stock through the blade (cut 1), then flip the stock over and make the same cut on the opposite side (cut 2).

7. Raise the blade to a height of 3/8".
8. Make cuts 3 and 4 in the same manner.
9. Raise the blade to a height of 1-1/8".
10. Make cuts 5 and 6 in the same manner.
11. **NOTE:** 1-3/4" of material still remains on the stock. For safety sake it's best to remove this using a band saw or a hand saw.
12. Use a sharp hand plane to remove the rough surface and reduce the stock to a thickness of 3/8".

Step 2: Make the Rabbets and Curved Cutout

1. Use a table saw equipped with a dado-head cutter to make the rabbets on each end of parts A, B, C.
2. Use a band or saber saw to make the curved cutout in part A.

Step 3: Make the Bottom

1. Use four lengths of the 2-1/2 resawn stock to make the bottom.
2. Edge-glue the four pieces.
3. Trim the assembly to length.
4. Use the dado-head to cut the rabbet all around the perimeter.

Step 4: Sand, Assemble, and Finish

1. Final sand all pieces.
2. Assemble as shown. **NOTE: For added strength, and an attractive detail, epoxy brass screws in place, then used a belt sander to remove the heads. It results in a series of brass pins at each joint, a small but nice detail. Another alternative is to use 1/8" diameter birch dowel stock.**
3. Add the four small blocks (parts E) and two coats of a good penetrating oil to complete the project.

These plans were originally published in Volume 8, Issue 2 of *The Woodworker's Journal* (Mar./Apr. 1984, page 46).