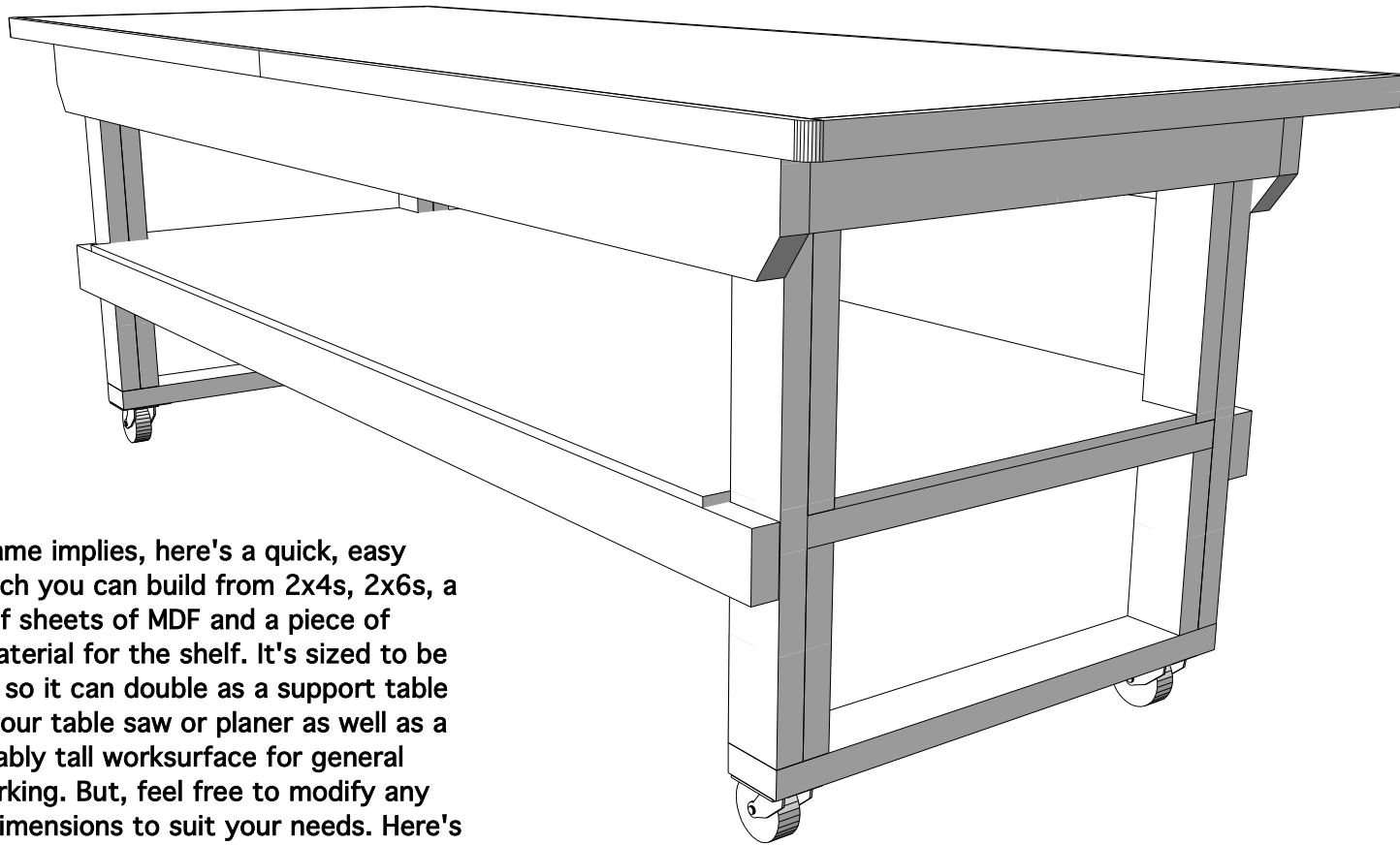


Crusty But Trusty Workbench

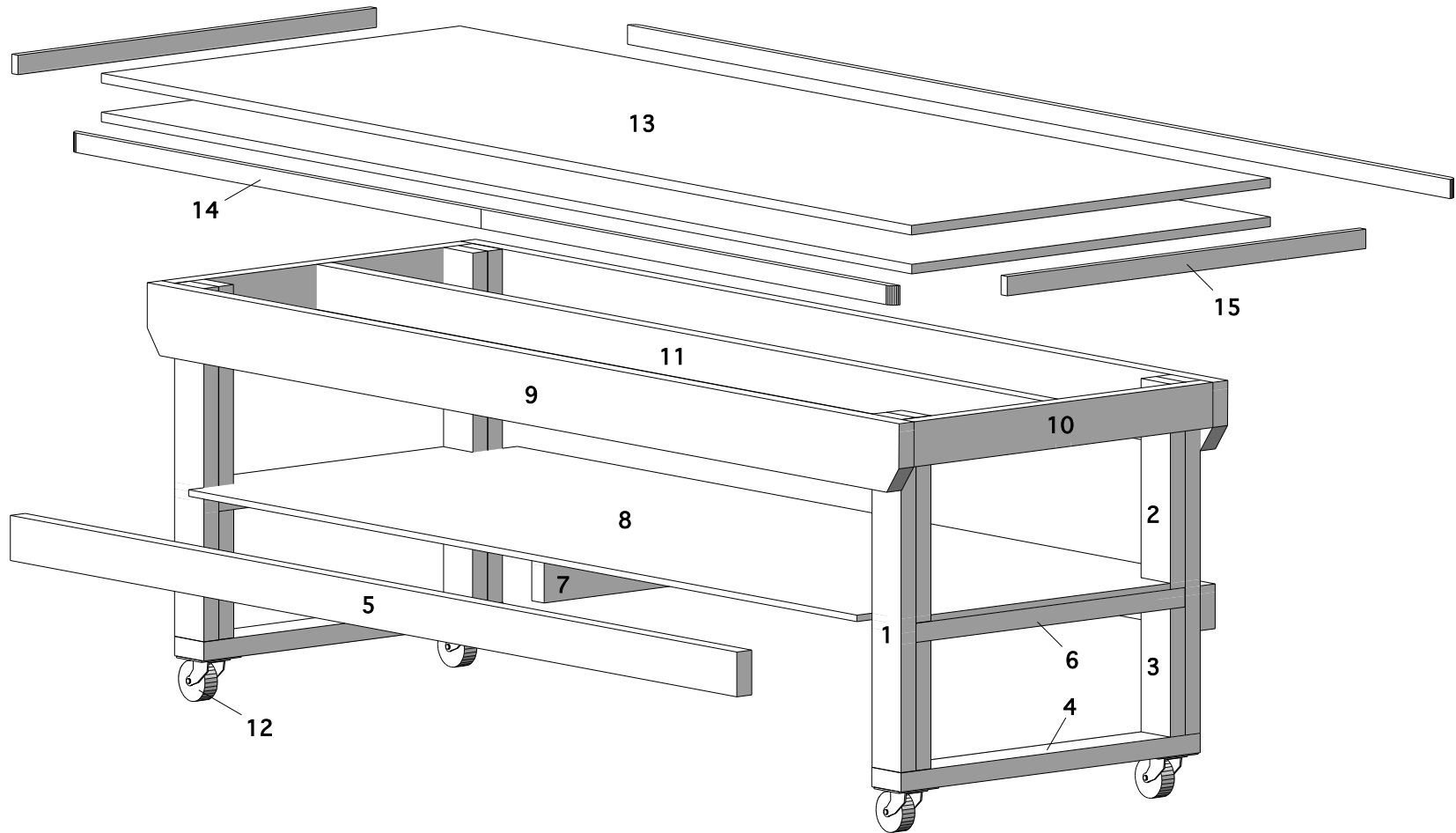
Dimensions: 34T x 37 1/2D x 98 1/2L



As its name implies, here's a quick, easy workbench you can build from 2x4s, 2x6s, a couple of sheets of MDF and a piece of sheet material for the shelf. It's sized to be 34" tall, so it can double as a support table behind your table saw or planer as well as a comfortably tall worksurface for general woodworking. But, feel free to modify any and all dimensions to suit your needs. Here's a bench that probably won't be the crowning achievement of your woodworking hobby, but it's nevertheless an economical and sturdy fixture for any shop. Use it for anything and everything. It can take it.

Crusty But Trusty Workbench

Exploded View



Material List

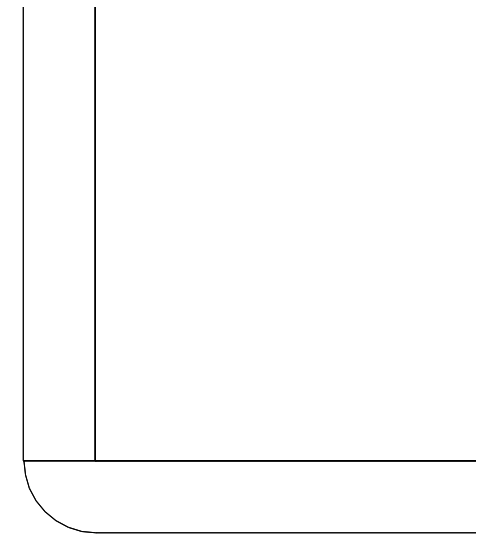
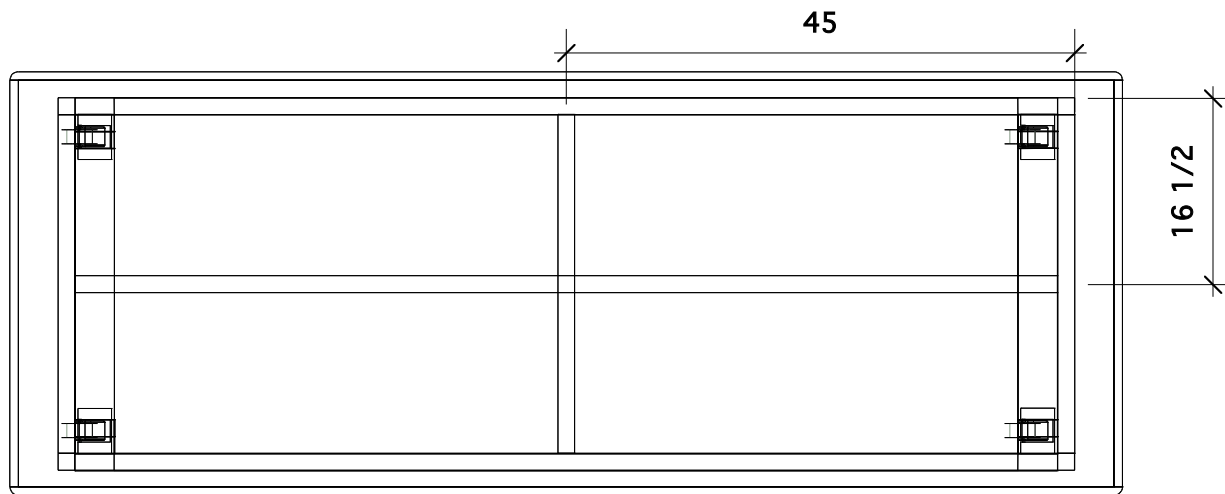
Part (Qty)

Part (Qty)	T x W x L
1 Legs (4)	1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 27 1/2"
2 Shelf Supports-Upper (4)	1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 16"
3 Shelf Supports-Lower (4)	1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 10"
4 Leg Stretchers (2)	1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 30"
5 Shelf Rails-Long (2)	1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 87"
6 Shelf Rails-Short (2)	1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 27"
7 Shelf Stretcher (1)	1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 30"
8 Shelf (1)	1/2" x 33" x 87"

Part (Qty)

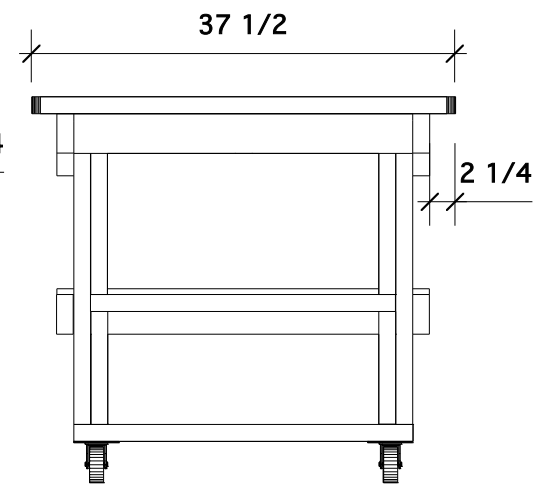
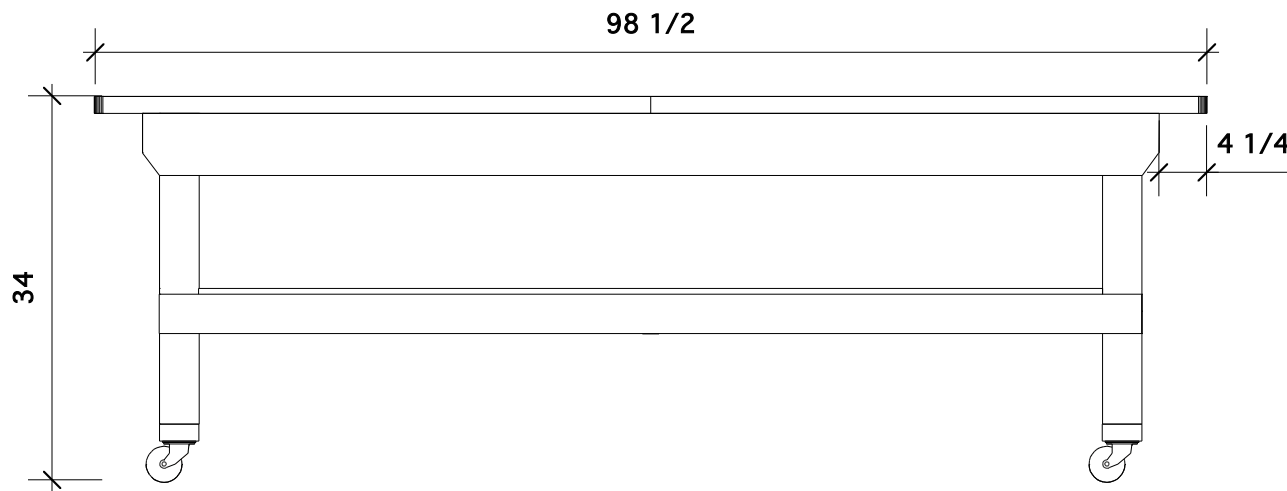
Part (Qty)	T x W x L
9 Long Aprons (2)	1 1/2" x 5 1/2" x 90"
10 Short Aprons (2)	1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 30"
11 Benchtop Support (1)	1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 87"
12 Casters (4)	3" Diameter
13 Benchtop Laminations (2)	3/4" x 36" x 97"
14 Edging-Long (2)	3/4" x 1 1/2" x 98 1/2"
15 Edging-Short (2)	3/4" x 1 1/2" x 36"

Workbench Top Section View



Benchtop Edging Detail
Ease Ends of Long Edging Strips (pieces 14) with 3/4" Radii

Workbench Front, Side Elevations



Crusty But Trusty Workbench

Step-by-Step Instructions

By Chris Marshall

This workbench project is intended to be inexpensive and super simple to put together. So, by all means, take it for what it is: a sturdy mule made from materials you can find at any home center. With the exception of the long aprons, the bench's understructure is made from 2x4s. I laminated two sheets of 3/4" MDF together to make the benchtop, then wrapped the edges with some scrap poplar. This top has proven to be extremely durable and dependably flat, with overhanging edges deep enough to provide sufficient room for clamps. You could certainly omit the casters and make your bench legs longer, but be advised: this is a very heavy project. Without wheels, you'll need a helper to move it around.

Step-by-Steps

1. Cut the legs, shelf supports, stretchers and short shelf rails to length (pieces 1 through 4 and 6).
2. Assemble these parts into two end frames with 3" deck screws.
3. Cut the long shelf rails (pieces 5) to length, and screw them between the end frames. Cut the shelf stretcher (piece 7) and install it between the long shelf rails with more 3" deck screws.
4. Cut your shelf workpiece (piece 8) to size, notching the four corners to fit around the bench legs. Attach the shelf to the shelf rails with 1 5/8" deck screws.
5. Cut the long aprons (pieces 9) to length, and miter-cut the bottom corners to suit the narrower short aprons (pieces 10), which you can also cut to length.
6. Fasten the long and short aprons to the legs with 3" deck screws. Add the benchtop support (piece 11) by driving 3" deck screws through the short aprons and into the ends of the support. That completes the bench framework.
7. Tip the bench on its side and install the casters (pieces 12) with short lag screws and washers. If you wait until after the benchtop is installed, it's a hernia waiting to happen!
8. Cut one of the MDF laminations (piece 13) to size, and fasten it to the bench frame with screws.
9. Cut the second lamination slightly oversized in length and width, and glue and screw it down to the first lamination. Use a piloted flush trim bit in your router to trim the top lamination and so it matches the bottom lamination. It's a slick way to ensure that both are perfectly aligned.
10. While wrapping the edges of your benchtop with some hardwood edging (pieces 14 and 15) isn't critical, I've found that it really adds to the durability of the bench edges. I cut and attached the short edging first with 2" 15-gauge brad nails. Then, I cut the long edging oversized in length, nailed it in place and trimmed off the excess. I eased the corners into 3/4" radii by scribing the curves with a compass, then belt-sanding them to shape. Round over or chamfer the top edges of the edging with a smaller router bit.
11. I've never applied any finish to my bench, but a few coats of varnish would make the MDF top more resistant to those coffee cup rings, stain smudges and glue drips.

Hope you enjoy your new bench!