

## Limbert Desk Reimagined

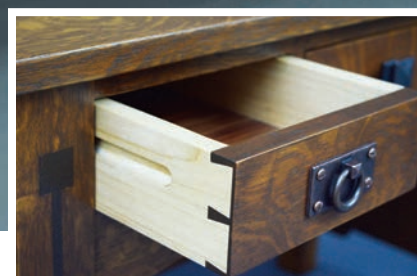
November/December 2018



**A**s I flipped through an old Charles Limbert catalog, a postcard desk caught my attention. The desk appears in the 1915 catalog, labeled #801-24. While this petite desk was too small for my needs, the details of craftsmanship and design were fascinating. Part of his "Ebon-Oak" line of furniture, Limbert's #801-24 featured inlaid ebony designs and natural cane webbing adorning the backsplash.

I felt that a few changes were in order, but I wanted to maintain the essence of the original piece. The entire desk was scaled up in size, and I added solid plank sides featuring rectilinear cutouts. The desk's back is closed in with a sturdy frame and panel, and I changed the original single-drawer design to a bank of three drawers instead.

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### Begin with Some Leg Work

The legs involve a deceptive amount of woodworking and are a good place to start. They measure 2½" square by 30" long, and I chose to laminate them for quartersawn figure on each face. (Rift-sawn stock also works well and skips the laminating step.) Once the leg blanks are milled to final dimension, you can lay out and cut the mortises. There's a mortise in each front leg for the front arched rail and a pair of mortises in each rear leg for the upper and lower back rails: all of them are 1/2" wide and 1½" deep.

Now lay out the square inlay design on the two front legs. By hand or with your largest hollow mortising chisel, carefully exca-

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vate the 1" x 1" square mortises. While the original Ebon-Oak line of furniture used ebony, I find walnut is a reasonable substitute. Rip a strip of walnut until it just fits into the square mortises. Carefully crosscut the pieces to size, and chamfer their back edges slightly to ease the fit into the mortises.

Install an edge guide and 1/4" spiral bit in your router to mill the channel that connects the two square mortises. This groove is 3/8" wide and 1/4" deep; be sure to center it carefully on each leg. Glue the square walnut plugs in place, and measure the required length for walnut strips in the channels. Cut them to fit, and glue them in, too.

When the inlay dries, it can be planed or sanded flush. Knock the corners off the legs with a small roundover bit at the router table, then chuck in a 3/4"-dia. straight bit for the next operation.

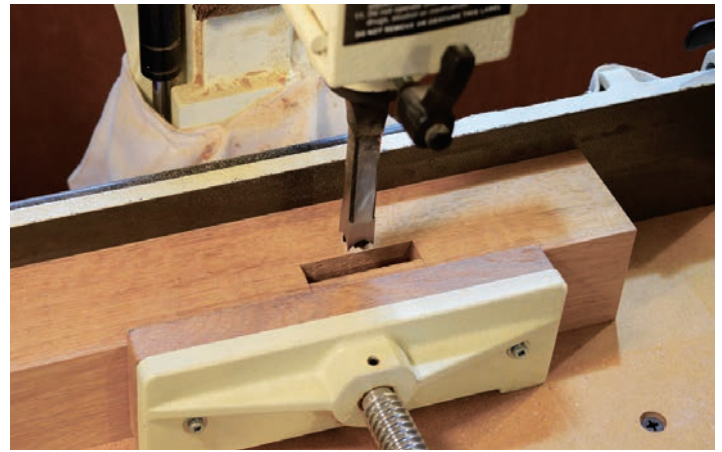


Photo 1

**Photo 1.** Chop the leg mortises with your preferred method. Here, the mortises for the front arched rail are offset 1/2" from the front of the leg. Mortises in the rear legs are centered.

**Photo 2.** Rout a channel between the two square leg mortises for the walnut inlay strip. Make walnut plugs to fill the square mortises (inset), before sizing a long strip of walnut to fit the groove.

**Photo 3.** Create short grooves in the top of each leg with a 3/4"-dia. router bit to register stub tenons for the corbels. Twin featherboards and a stop block help to control the cut. Square up the groove with a sharp chisel.

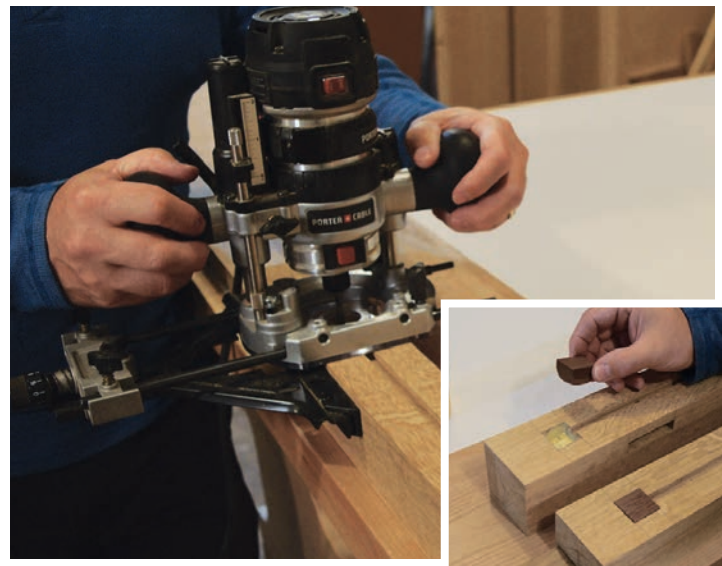


Photo 2

Photo 2 Inset

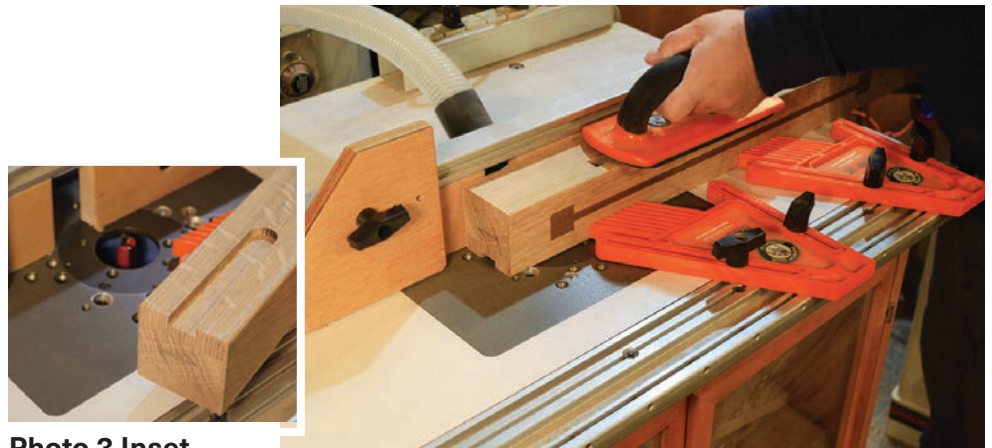
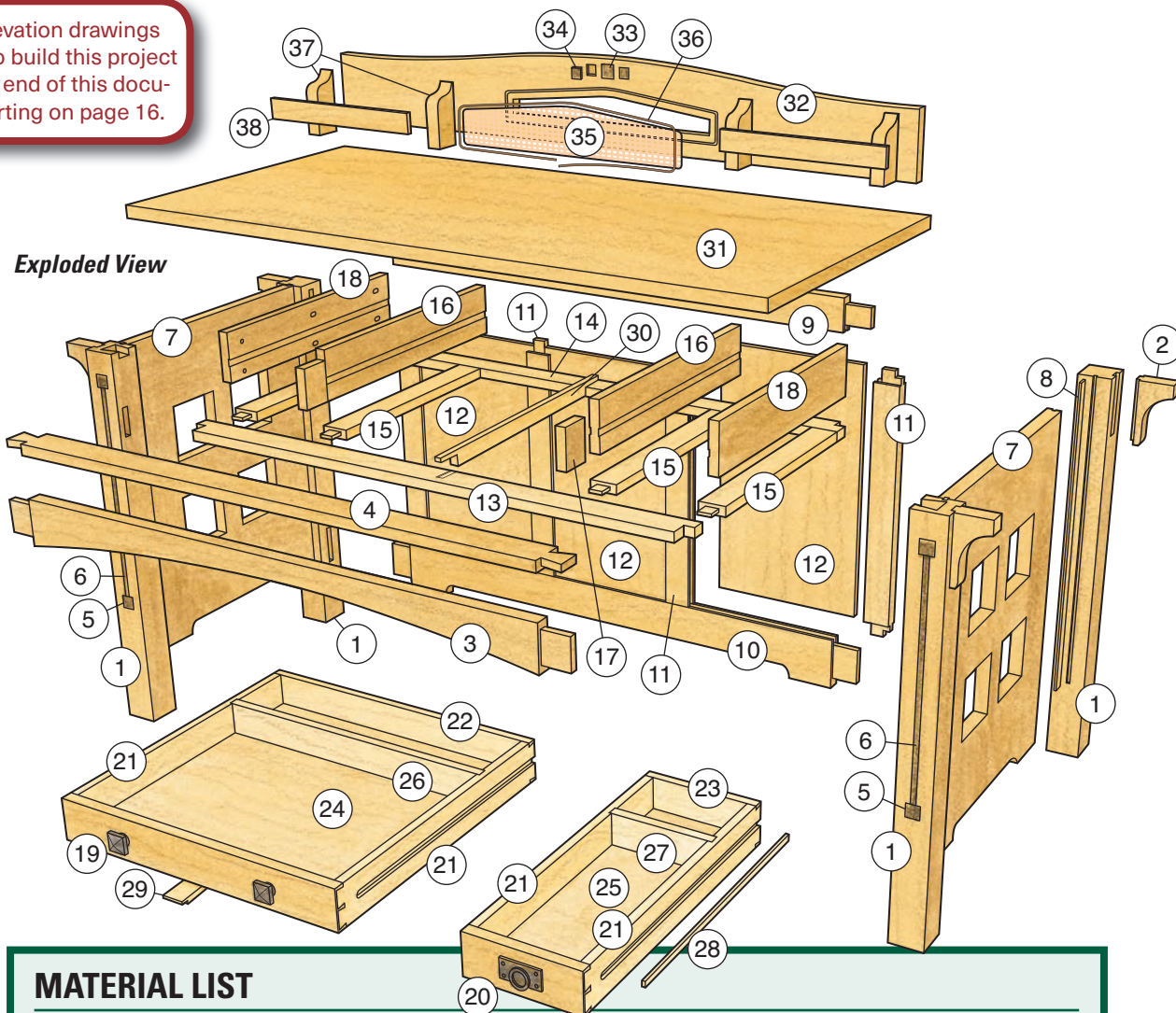


Photo 3 Inset

Photo 3

All the elevation drawings needed to build this project are at the end of this document, starting on page 16.



## MATERIAL LIST

Carcass	T x W x L	Drawers	T x W x L
<b>1</b> Legs (4)	2½" x 2½" x 30"	<b>19</b> Drawer Front (Wide) (1)	¾" x 3" x 21½"
<b>2</b> Corbels (4)	1¼" x 2¾" x 4¾"	<b>20</b> Drawer Fronts (Narrow) (2)	¾" x 3" x 8"
<b>3</b> Front Arched Rail (1)	1" x ¾" x 42"	<b>21</b> Drawer Sides (6)	5/8" x 3" x 20⅞"
<b>4</b> Top Dovetailed Rail (1)	¾" x 2¼" x 42"	<b>22</b> Drawer Back (Wide) (1)	5/8" x 3" x 21½"
<b>5</b> Walnut Plugs (4)	3/8" x 1" x 1"	<b>23</b> Drawer Backs (Narrow) (2)	5/8" x 3" x 8"
<b>6</b> Walnut Strips (2)	¼" x 3/8" x 16¾"	<b>24</b> Drawer Bottom (Wide) (1)	¼" x 20¾" x 20⅞"
<b>7</b> Side Panels (2)	1" x 19" x 25"	<b>25</b> Drawer Bottoms (Narrow) (2)	¼" x 7¼" x 20⅞"
<b>8</b> Splines (4)	¼" x 3/8" x 24"	<b>26</b> Drawer Subdivider (Wide) (1)	5/8" x 2¼" x 20½"
<b>Back Panel</b>		<b>27</b> Drawer Subdividers (Narrow) (2)	5/8" x 2¼" x 7"
<b>9</b> Upper Rail (1)	1" x 2½" x 42"	<b>28</b> Drawer Slides (6)	¼" x 1½" x 20"
<b>10</b> Lower Rail (1)	1" x 4" x 42"	<b>29</b> Center Slide (1)	7/16" x 2½" x 20½"
<b>11</b> Stilts (4)	1" x 2" x 20½"	<b>30</b> Center Guide (1)	¾" x 1" x 20⅞"
<b>12</b> Floating Panels (3)	½" x 11½" x 19½"	<b>Top Details</b>	
<b>Web Frame</b>		<b>31</b> Desk Top (1)	7/8" x 24½" x 50"
<b>13</b> Long Rail, Front (1)	¾" x 2¼" x 40½"	<b>32</b> Backsplash (1)	7/8" x 7½" x 48¼"
<b>14</b> Long Rail, Rear (1)	¾" x 2" x 40½"	<b>33</b> Backsplash Plug (Middle) (1)	3/8" x 1" x 1"
<b>15</b> Short Stilts (4)	¾" x 2" x 18⅞"	<b>34</b> Backsplash Plugs (Outer) (2)	3/8" x 3/4" x 3/4"
<b>Drawer Dividers</b>		<b>35</b> Cane Webbing (1)	6" x 24"
<b>16</b> Horizontal Grain Components (2)	¾" x 3¾" x 19⅞"	<b>36</b> Reed Spline for Cane Webbing (1)	5' of #6.5 spline
<b>17</b> Vertical Grain Components (2)	¾" x 2¼" x 3"	<b>37</b> File Rack Standards (4)	1" x 2" x 4½"
<b>18</b> Filler Blocks (2)	¾" x 3¾" x 18⅞"	<b>38</b> File Rack Crosspieces (2)	3/8" x 1½" x 12½"

## Attaching Corbels

There must be a half dozen ways to mount corbels, but my favorite is to form a groove in the leg and a mating stub tenon on the corbel. This requires a bit more work, but it registers the corbel in position for a simple glue-up. Set and lock your router table fence to center the bit on the legs. Install a stop block on the router table fence as well, to limit the corbel groove to 4¼" long, and use a pair of featherboards to hold the leg blank against the fence. Mill the 1/4"-deep groove in two successively deeper passes for the cleanest possible cut.

Now prepare four corbel blanks, and raise their stub tenons with a dado blade. Size the tenons to fit the leg grooves, but plan for a tenon length that doesn't completely bottom out in the groove. This will prevent excessive glue squeeze-out when you install the corbels.

Next, turn the corbel blanks on end to cut bottom shoulders on the tenons. Use a miter gauge with auxiliary fence to safely guide these cuts. When the corbels fit correctly, go ahead and cut their curved shapes and sand them smooth.



Photo 4

**Photo 4.** Raise a stub tenon on the corbel blanks to fit the leg grooves. Maintaining the same fence position, raise the blade and cut a shoulder on the bottom of the tenon (inset). The corbel should fit flush with the top of the leg, without any additional fussing.



Photo 4 Inset

## Making the Side Panels

Glue up two solid wood side panels. To duplicate their interesting cutouts and shapes, you'll need a full-sized template. The easiest way to make the template is by assembling plywood strips with pocket-hole screws. This plywood template can be used as is, or use it to make a more permanent one-piece template from 1/2" MDF (see photo 5).

Clamp the template to a side panel and rough out the square cutouts with a 1/4" spiral bit and a 3/8"-dia. guide bushing. The squares can be removed in four progressively deeper passes, which leaves a consistent amount of material to be cleaned up later with a flush-trim bit.

For the final trimming operation, a 1/4"-dia. spiral flush-trim bit is best: it cuts cleanly and creates tight inside corners. Flip the workpiece and template over, and complete the final trimming with the template side down.

Since the side panels are simply hardwood slabs (a classic Limbert detail), you'll need to decide what type of joinery works best for you. The legs mate to the side panels with long-grain glue joints, so strength is not an issue. However, it's helpful to have a mechanical connection to register the parts accurately. I opted for splines, but biscuits or loose-tenon joinery would've worked equally well.

Cut stopped grooves in both the side panels and legs to receive splines. Make the groove 1/4" wide x 3/8" deep and about 24" long (an inch less than the panel height). Carefully center a 1/4"-wide dado blade on the thickness of the side panels and make the cut in one pass. Now adjust the rip fence to center the dado blade on the leg, and repeat the groove in each leg.

**Photos 5 and 6.** The author made a rudimentary side panel template of plywood, which he then used to make a one-piece MDF template (photo 5). Rough out the side panel openings first, using a 1/4" spiral bit and 3/8" guide bushing.

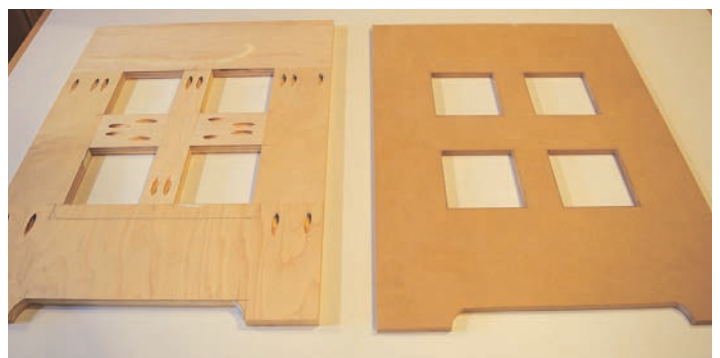


Photo 5

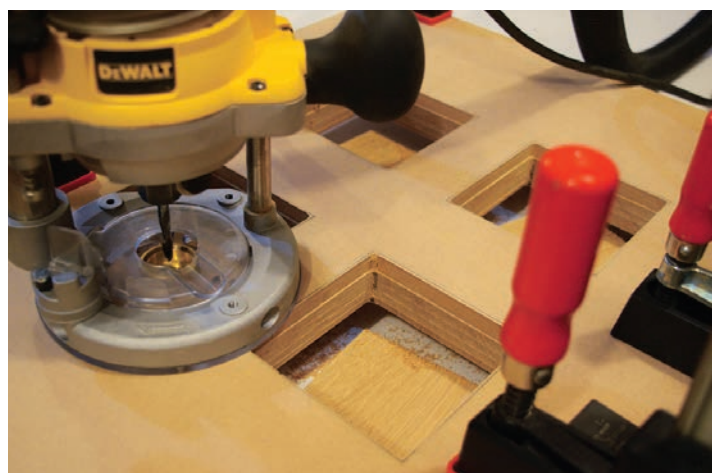
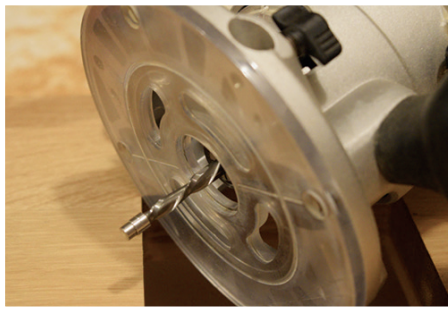
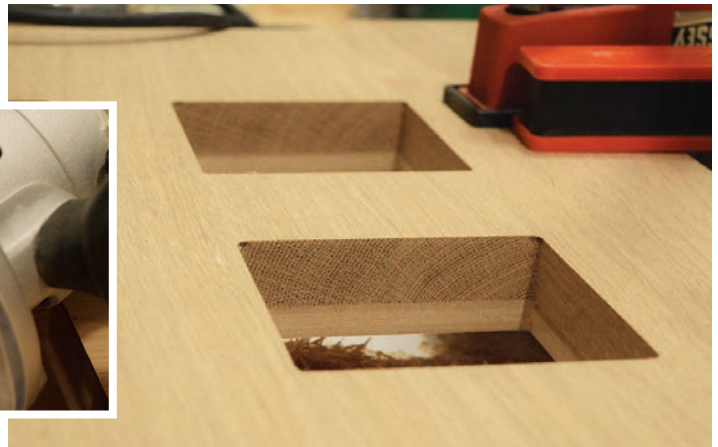


Photo 6



**Photo 7 Inset**



**Photo 7**

**Photo 7.** Final trimming of the panel openings is completed with a spiral flush-trim bit (inset) for clean, smooth cuts. Use a router with a full-sized sub-base to avoid tipping the tool into the cutouts.

**Photo 8.** The author milled centered grooves in the side panels to receive splines. A stop block clamped to the outfeed table limited the groove lengths.

**Photos 9 and 10.** A double-sided template handled the profiling work for shaping the arched and curved rails. Band saw close to the line, then complete the cut with a pattern-routing bit at the router table.

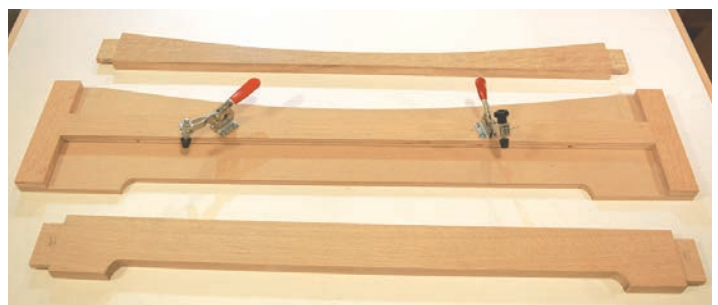


**Photo 8**

### Frame-and-Panel Back is Next

The frame-and-panel back assembly is formed with traditional mortise-and-tenon joinery, with three floating panels. Start by making the long top and bottom rails, as well as the desk's front arched rail. These three parts are all 42" long and should be milled at the same time. Make up four stile blanks, too.

Next, rout 1/2"-deep grooves in the rails and stiles so they just fit a 1/2" hollow chisel. Then lay out and cut four mortises in each rail to a depth of 1/2" for the stiles. Step to your table saw to raise 1/2"-thick x 1 1/2"-long tenons on the two rails as well as the front arched rail. If your shoulder-to-shoulder length is 39", you're right



**Photo 9**

on track. Then adjust your rip fence for a tenon length of 1" and raise tenons on the back stiles. Finally, haunch the outer two stiles and test each joint for a proper fit.

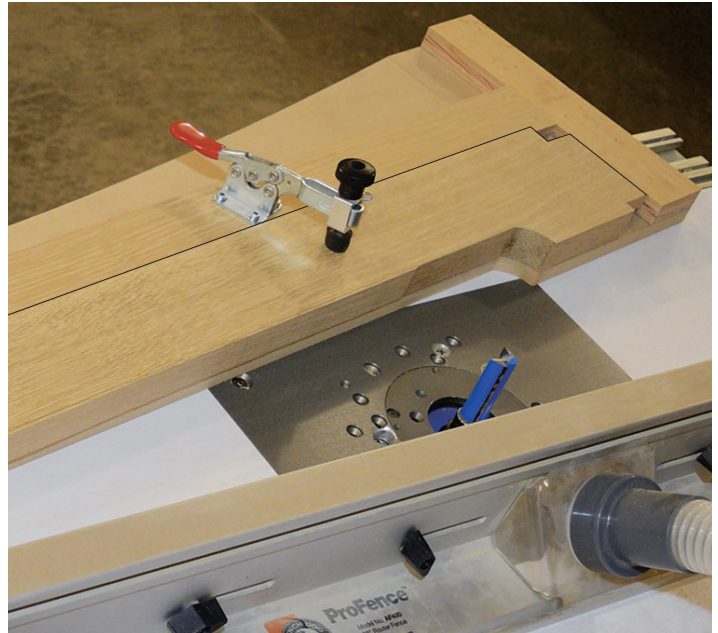
There's still the matter of shaping the bottom rail and the front arched rail. To accomplish this, I suggest building a double-sided template (see photo 9). Use your side panel template to recreate the shape for the lower rail. On the other side of the new template, sand and fair a long arch that thins to a width of 1½" at the apex. Add toggle clamps to hold the workpiece firmly to the jig and to act as easy-to-grip handles.

Next up, build the three solid oak floating panels. They will finish out at 1/2" thick, so I start with thicker boards and plane the panels after the glue has dried. Remove material evenly from both faces until the panels slip easily into the frame. Trim them a little undersized in width to allow for seasonal movement. Finish-sand the panels, as well as the inner edges of the frame, before proceeding. Gluing the panels in place is unnecessary, but I pack the panel grooves with foam weatherstripping to prevent rattling.

To ensure success when gluing up the back panel, break the assembly into phases. This way you can be certain the parts will fit, without gluing more joints than you can handle. Focus on a tight joint line between the outer stiles and the rear legs. Dry-fit the rear legs to the frame, to ensure the rail tenons fit them correctly.

When the frame comes out of the clamps, remove the rear legs. Sand the legs and side panels, and glue them together with splines. Let these subassemblies sit overnight and bring them together, along with the front arched rail and the back panel, the next day.

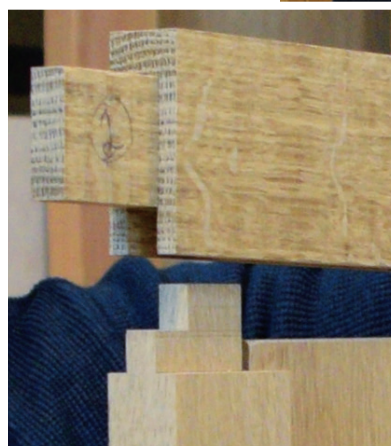
**Photo 11.** *The desk's frame-and-panel back comes together with traditional mortise-and-tenon joinery. Its outer stiles are haunched to fit the rails (inset).*



**Photo 10**



**Photo 11**



**Photo 11 inset**



**Photo 12**

**Photo 12.** Long splines between the side panels and legs help to register these parts. Apply glue and clamp the side assemblies together.

**Photo 13.** Once the side and back subassemblies are completed, bring them together, along with the front arched rail.



**Photo 13**

## Building the Web Frame

The three pencil drawers will be side-hung on wooden slides. Since the middle drawer is wider, it will also be center-guided to prevent racking. Make up parts for the web frame, which are 2"-wide strips, except for the front rail that is 2¼" wide. Assemble them with mortise-and-tenon joints, leaving the rear joints unglued. Make the web frame 1/8" short, front-to-back, to allow the desk's side panels to move seasonally.

As you can see in photo 15, I drilled counterbored holes through the two inner stiles of the web frame from underneath to help me mount the drawer dividers, later. I also drilled several access holes to accommodate a screwdriver shaft, so I'd be able to extend it up through from below for mounting the desk top. Finally, I drilled two counterbored pilot holes for mounting screws through the width of the back rail that align with the middle stiles of the back panel.

Notch the web frame to fit around the legs. Then rout a 1/8" x 3/4" x 1¾" stopped dado across the width of the front long rail and a matching dado all the way across the back long rail. Center them on the frame's length for the middle drawer's center-guide.

Cut slots for four biscuits in the web frame and front arched rail, and glue the web frame into place along its front edge only. Hang the rear of the web frame with a pair of 2½"-long screws, driven into the back panel stiles.

**Photo 14.** Rout a shallow dado across the long rails of the web frame for the wide drawer's center guide. Stop the dado short of the front edge.

**Photo 15.** Install the web frame into the desk. A few biscuit slots help align the web frame flush with the front arched rail.

**Photo 16.** With the single cheek and shoulders established at the table saw, head to the band saw and trim the rail's dovetailed edges to shape. These fit into sockets routed and chiseled into the tops of the front legs.

## Adding a Dovetailed Top Rail

Now we're getting somewhere! Next, it's time to focus on the top rail that joins the front legs. It features lapped dovetails that nestle into sockets in the legs. At the table saw, use your miter gauge and a standard blade to nibble 1½"-long cheeks on the underside of the rail workpiece at both ends. Then turn the rail on edge, and cut single kerfs to delineate the shoulders of the tails. I've come to really appreciate this technique for making lapped dovetails, because it can be done with a single table saw setup — no blade changes or fence adjustments are required. Lay out the dovetail shape on the ends of the rail, and make the angled cuts freehand at the band saw (see photo 16).

With the dovetails defined and a shoulder-to-shoulder distance of 39", lay the rail on top of the front legs and so its back edge is flush with the back faces of the legs. Scribe the dovetails onto the tops of the legs with a marking knife. Now chuck a 1/4" spiral bit into a compact plunge router, and carve the 1/2"-deep dovetail sockets in two successively deeper passes. Clean out the inside corners with a chisel, and test the fit of these joints. Adjust them as needed, then glue the rail to the legs.

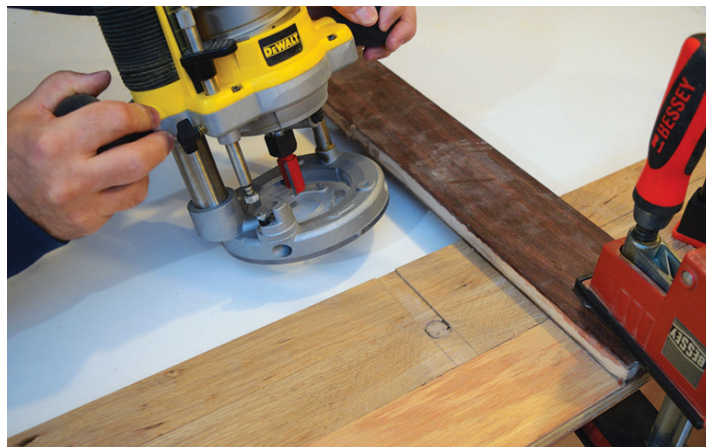


Photo 14

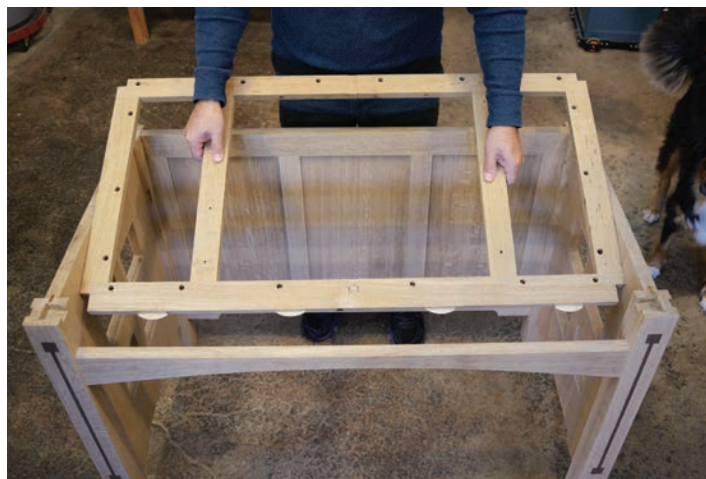


Photo 15

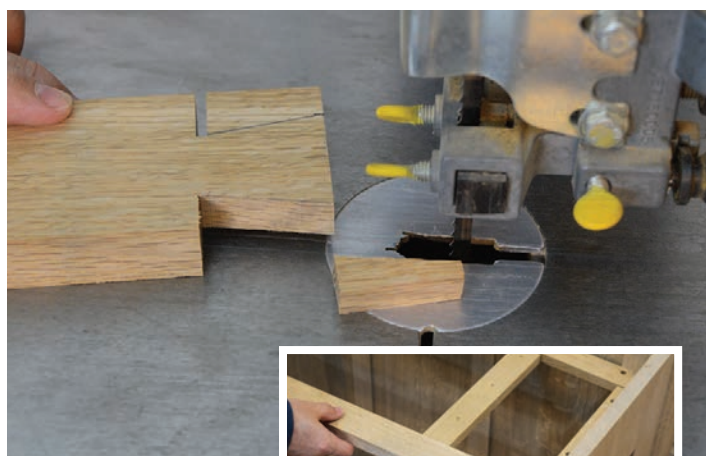


Photo 16



Photo 16 inset



## Drawer Dividers, Filler Blocks

It's time to build a pair of drawer dividers and long filler blocks. The dividers are two-piece assemblies, in order to show vertical grain along their front edges, and the components are glued together with a single #20 biscuit. Make sure to clamp these small pieces firmly to your workbench when cutting the biscuit slots. The two filler blocks straddle the outsides of the narrower drawers and fill the space between the legs. They also serve as mounting surfaces for the wooden drawer slides.

Before you glue the drawer divider parts together, set up the router table with a 1/2" straight bit in order to cut grooves for the drawer slides. Locate these grooves 1 1/4" up from the bottom edges of the dividers and filler blocks. Plow both sides of the drawer dividers, and one side of the filler blocks with 1/16"-deep grooves along their full length. Make sure to register their bottom edges against the router table fence when routing.

Cut the filler blocks 1/8" short, to allow the desk's side panels to move freely. Attach the filler blocks to the side panels through slotted screw holes. Carefully install the drawer dividers as well, making sure they are parallel with one another and the filler blocks as well as square to the web frame.

Now, make up six drawer slides from maple or other closed-grain hardwood, and shape their front ends round. Drill both slotted and standard holes in each, which will help adjust the drawer fit later. Notch the front ends of the drawer divider slides as needed, because they extend slightly beyond the grooves of the dividers in front (see photo 19). Attach the slides to the dividers and filler blocks through their slotted holes for the moment.

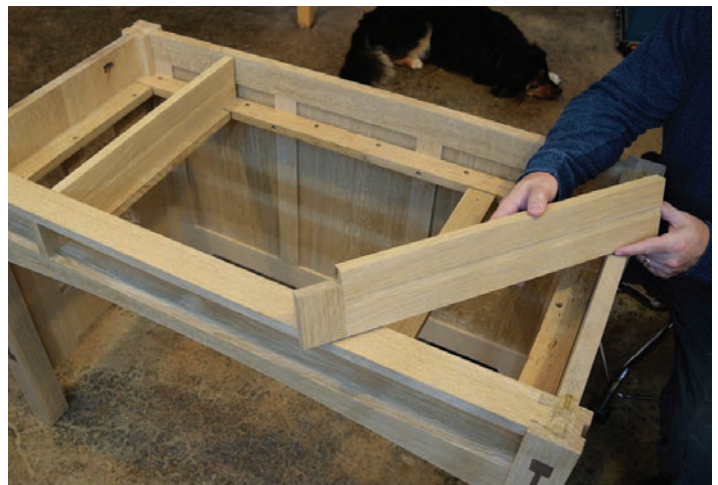


Photo 17



Photo 18

**Photo 17.** Make a pair of drawer dividers with grooves for drawer slides. If you make the vertical grain component 2 1/4" wide x 3" tall, a top notch to fit around the front desk rail forms automatically.

**Photo 18.** Long filler blocks support the outermost drawer slides and are screwed to the side panels through slotted and counterbored holes.

**Photo 19.** Install the drawer slides through their slotted holes at first. Once the drawers are positioned correctly, lock the slides in place by driving screws into their round pilot holes.



Photo 19

## Constructing the Drawers

You're ready to build components for the wide and narrow drawers. I chose slender half-blind dovetails at the front, and through dovetails at the rear, for a traditional look. Capture the 1/4" plywood drawer bottoms in a groove located 1/2" up from the bottoms of the drawers. I ran the drawer fronts, sides and backs through my planer to remove a little material from the top and bottom edges. This let me incrementally set the reveal for the drawers. After each pass through the planer, I checked their fit in the desk openings. Aim for a small, consistent reveal on each drawer.

All three drawers are side-hung, but only the wide drawer is center guided as well. Because of this, there are a few extra steps when constructing the wide drawer. While the drawer front is still an individual component, mortise its back face to receive the center slide. This requires a 1/4" x 2 1/2" centered mortise that's about 1/4" deep. Locate the mortise immediately below the drawer bottom groove.

On the inner face of all six drawer sides, mill a dado for the secret drawer compartment subdividers. Dry-assemble the drawers to check their fit, then finish-sand all of the pieces. Pre-finish the three drawer fronts through all the coloring steps (see finishing section for details). Once the glaze is dry, go ahead and glue up the three drawers.

There are a couple more details to complete for the wide drawer. You need to notch out the back with a dado blade to accommodate the center slide. Cut the notch a little wider than the slide, to allow for some adjustment here. Now, prepare parts for a center guide (mounts to the web frame) and the slide (mounts to the drawer). Notch the drawer guide on both ends, until it seats in the shallow dados of the web frame. Since every component that is oriented front-to-back in the desk needs to account for side panel wood movement, leave extra room at the rear notch, and trim the part short by 1/8" or so.

Cut a centered groove along the length of the slide, sized a bit wide to allow easy movement along the guide when the drawer is opened or closed. Attach the center slide through a slotted hole at the back of the drawer so side-to-side adjustments will be easy to make. Finally, make and install a subdivider in each drawer. I also added turn-stops (not shown) to my subdividers to prevent the drawers from being accidentally opened too far when in use.

**Photo 20.** Mill and notch a center drawer guide to fit into the web frame dados. Elongate the rear mounting hole to allow the desk's side panels to expand and contract freely.

**Photo 21.** An offset tongue on the drawer slide fits into a mortise in the wide drawer front. One screw driven through the slide attaches it in back.

**Photo 22.** Install a subdivider in each drawer. They are glued into shallow dados in the drawer sides to create a secret compartment in back.



Photo 20



Photo 21



Photo 22

## Mounting the Desk Top, Corbels

Prepare some of your most attractive quartersawn oak stock for the desk top, as well as the backsplash and file racks. Glue up a panel that will yield the 24½" x 50" top. Take the panel all the way through your finish-sanding routine. Temporarily mount the top to the desk with “figure 8” fasteners. Position these fasteners around the inner perimeter of the desk, one aligned with each clearance hole in the web frame.

Glue the corbels to the legs so they butt against the top panel, then remove the desk top.

## Assembling the Backsplash

The backsplash features key elements of the desk’s overall style. A trio of walnut plugs complements the inlay on the front legs, and a cane webbing insert adds a unique touch. Cut the backsplash to size and, while it’s still rectangular, mill 3/8"-deep mortises for the three walnut plugs. The middle inlay is 1" square; the other two are 3/4" square.

To shape the backsplash, I came up with — you’ll probably guess — a full-sized template. It also helps when creating a groove for reed spline and the shaped opening. (Reed spline is a natural material that’s traditionally used to attach rattan webbing for chair seats and sometimes chair backs.)

Clamp the template to the backsplash and outfit a plunge router with a 1/8" spiral bit and a 5/16" O.D. guide bushing (If you have an inlay bushing kit for your router, you may already own a 1/8" spiral bit). Cut the reed spline groove in several passes, following the pattern tightly in a clockwise direction, until the groove is 1/4" deep.

With the template still in place, switch to a 1/4" spiral bit and a 1¼" guide bushing to cut out the opening in the backsplash. This size guide bushing isn’t commonly available, so I improvised by adding a short length of 1" PVC pipe to a 1" O.D. guide bushing. A few layers of masking tape create a friction fit between the guide bushing and PVC ring. Elevate the workpiece so you don’t cut into your workbench.

Next, rough out the backsplash’s top curve with a band saw. Affix the template to the workpiece with double-sided carpet tape, and template-route the shape with a bearing-guided bit at your router table. I made my template slightly longer than the backsplash workpiece to safely guide this top profiling cut. Finish-sand the backsplash and attach it to the desk top with biscuits or dowels.

**Photo 23.** Dry-fit the corbels on the legs one final time to be sure they’ll install correctly. Then attach the desk top with figure 8 fasteners before gluing the corbels in place: they need to butt against the bottom of the desk top.

**Photo 24.** With the template clamped to the backsplash, form a 1/8"-wide groove around the opening for the reed spline. Note the scrap of MDF adhered to the backsplash inside the template opening to provide router support.

**Photo 25.** Secure the template to the backsplash with double-sided tape, then pattern-route its curved top profile to final shape.



Photo 23



Photo 24



Photo 25

### **Adding the File Racks**

A couple of file racks dress up the backsplash even further. Once you've made blanks for their vertical standards, mill shallow dadoes into the standards to accept the horizontal crosspieces. Cut and shape the curves on the standards, and glue them to the backsplash. Make up the crosspieces too, but don't install them until after you've applied finish.

### **Multi-step Finish and Hardware**

A dye finish highlights the medullary rays of the white oak, and glazing over the dye lends an aged, classic look to this project. Since I decided to use water-based dye, I wetted the desk and top with a spray bottle of distilled water to raise the grain, let them dry, and scuff-sanded with 320-grit sandpaper. That paved the way for the dye stain, which I applied with a terrycloth-wrapped sponge. I used Transtint Golden Brown dye, mixed one ounce per quart of distilled water.

Once the dye dries thoroughly, seal it in with a coat of dewaxed shellac. Scuff-sand the seal coat and clean the project with a fresh cheesecloth and compressed air. Now glaze the desk with gel stain; I used General Finishes Antique Walnut. When that dried, I sprayed two coats of pre-catalyzed lacquer in a satin sheen. Here's a trick I borrowed from the automotive finishing industry: wet-sand the final coat with a 1,200- or 1,500-grit soft sanding sponge instead of dry-sanding. It's a great way to polish the topcoat silky smooth. I do this for most of my furniture finishing now.

It's amazing how a cheap-looking set of drawer pulls distracts from an otherwise authentic piece, so choose carefully, and pay the extra money for premium pulls. Initially, I planned to use four bronze pyramid drawer pulls. However, when I sketched the project to scale, something didn't look quite right. The square knobs visually fought the square inlay nearby, so I switched to ring pulls on the small drawers to achieve the look I was after. Complete the project by installing cane webbing.

Add an inkwell and a feather quill, and your desk is ready for use.

**Online Extra: Installing Cane Webbing**

Start by soaking the cane webbing and reed spline in warm water for 30 minutes. Once the webbing is pliable, cut it to rough size to make it more manageable. Use a sharp pair of scissors and cut the cane webbing 1½" oversize in all directions.

Prepare the groove in the backsplash with a light sanding. This will remove any wood finish that was inadvertently applied there and ensure the glue makes a good bond. Clamp the desk top and backsplash assembly to a workbench, with the backsplash resting on the bench where it will be easy to reach.

Next, lay the cane webbing over the cutout, and begin removing excess strands that fall outside the perimeter of the groove. Removing vertical, horizontal and angled strands of cane will avoid bulk, and make inserting the reed spline easier.



**Photo 1**

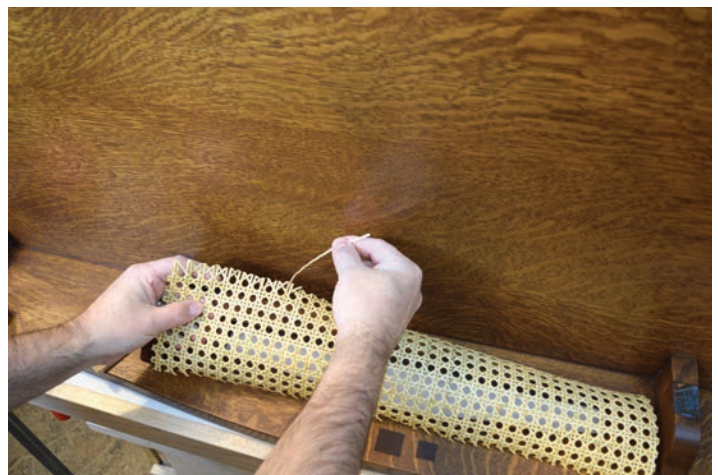
**Photo 1.** Soak the cane webbing and reed spline in warm water for half an hour. Don't skimp on the soak time, as this key step makes the webbing easier to install.



**Photo 2**

**Photo 2.** Here, the desk top is turned on edge and clamped to a workbench. Position the assembly to easily access the backsplash.

**Photo 3.** Lay the cane webbing over the cutout, and remove any strands that fall outside the perimeter of the groove. This step makes it easier to install the reed spline.



**Photo 3**

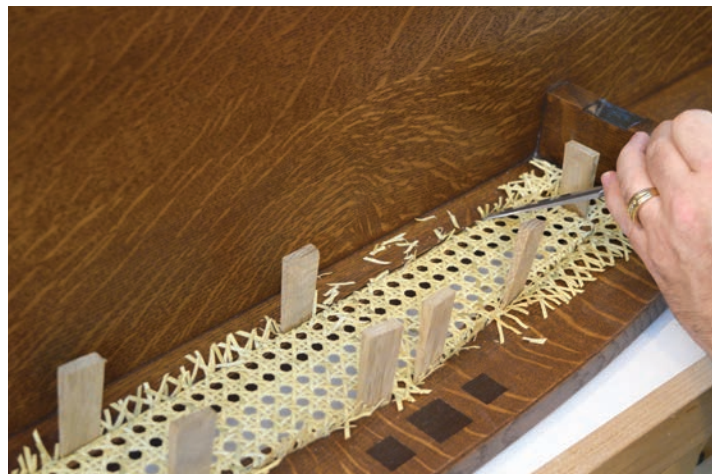
Now make up some wedges from scrap at the band saw and sand them smooth. Carefully center the cane webbing over the opening, paying particular attention to the bottom edge. The lower edge of the cane webbing should be parallel with the bottom of the opening for a consistent look. Once positioned, temporarily secure the cane webbing at the bottom with one or two wedges. Then pull out the slack and set a wedge at the top of the opening. Add a wedge on the left, continue removing slack, and insert another wedge on the right. If you've ever stretched upholstery for a slip seat, you'll feel right at home.

At this point, use a wedge to continue tapping the webbing into the narrow groove. You'll need to rip a wedge in half in order to handle the tight radius corners. When the webbing is secure in the groove all around, it's time to trim off the loose ends with a sharp chisel or utility knife.

Lay a bead of glue (standard PVA wood glue works fine) into the groove, right on top of the trimmed edge. Miter-cut one end of the reed spline, and begin tapping it into the groove, starting at the bottom center of the opening. Use a softwood block or the back of a wedge to gently tap the reed spline into position. Finish the install by cutting a complementary miter in the reed spline with wire snips.



**Photo 4**

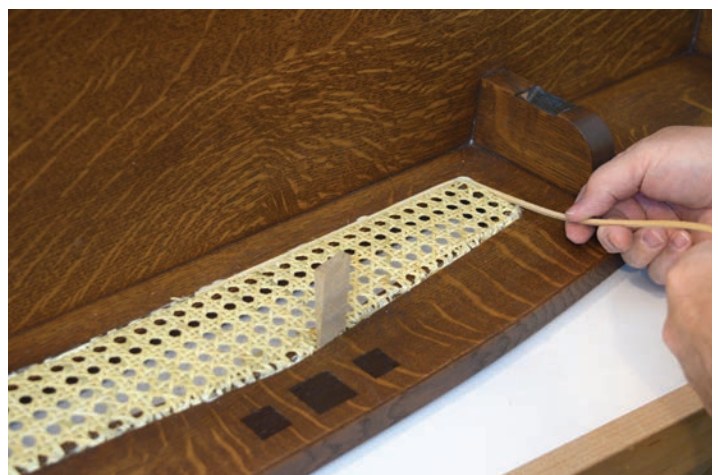


**Photo 5**

**Photo 4.** Use wooden wedges to temporarily secure the cane webbing in the groove. Start by inserting a wedge at the bottom of the cutout, being careful to keep the cane webbing design parallel to the groove.

**Photo 5.** Trim the excess cane webbing with a sharp chisel. In areas where a chisel won't reach, a utility knife will work instead.

**Photo 6.** Apply glue in the groove, and install the reed spline. A hammer and softwood block are useful to tap the reed spline into position.



**Photo 6**

**Photo 7.** Trim complementary miters to finish the reed spline installation. Wire cutters work well for this task.

**Photo 8.** Wipe off any excess glue with a damp rag, and the cane webbing accent panel is complete. As the cane webbing dries, it becomes tight like a drum.



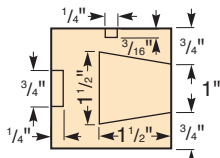
**Photo 7**



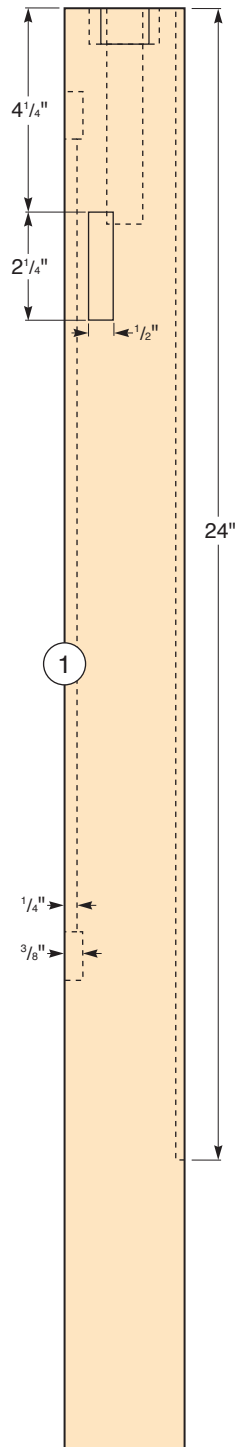
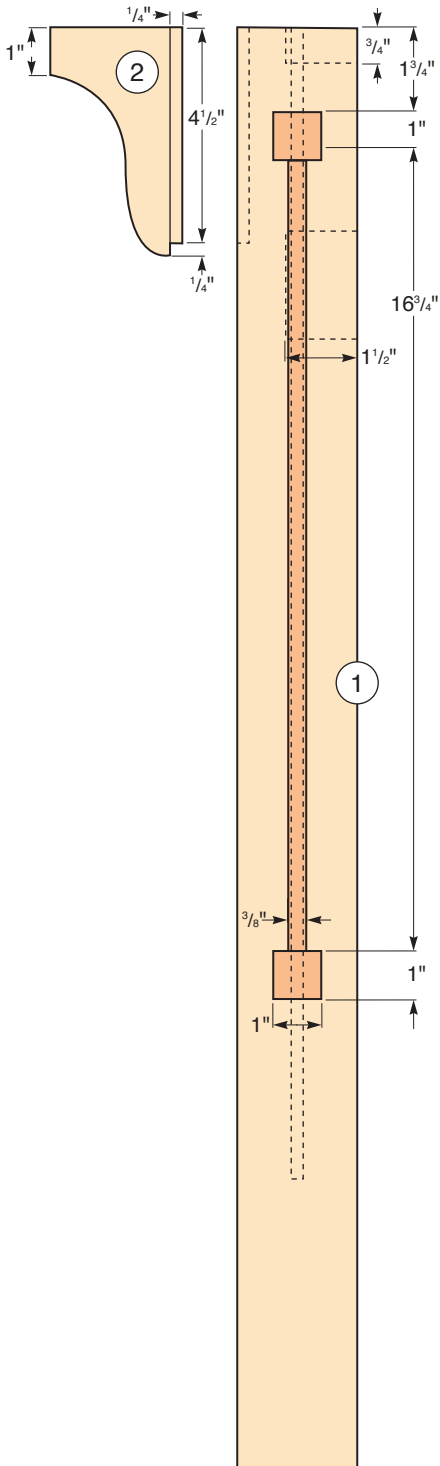
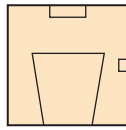
**Photo 8**

**Left Front Leg**

Front and Top Views

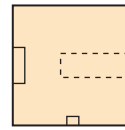


Inside and Top Views

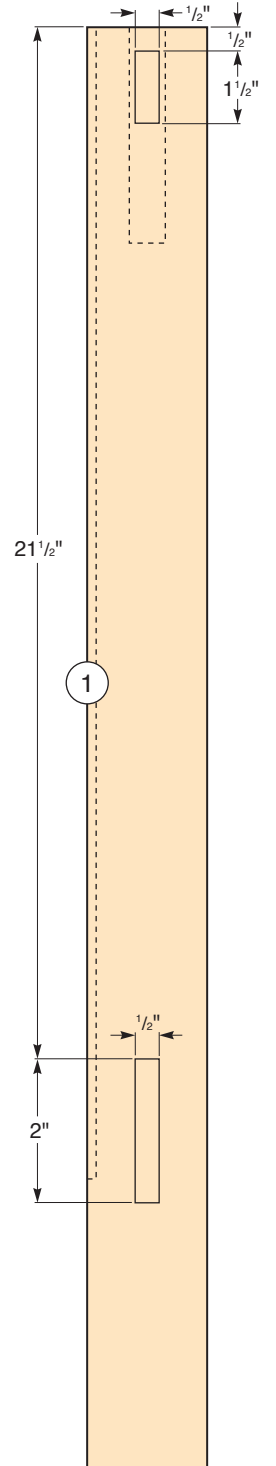
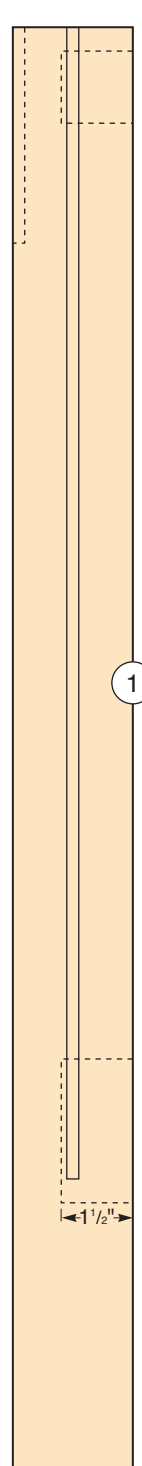
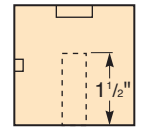


**Left Rear Leg**

Front and Top Views

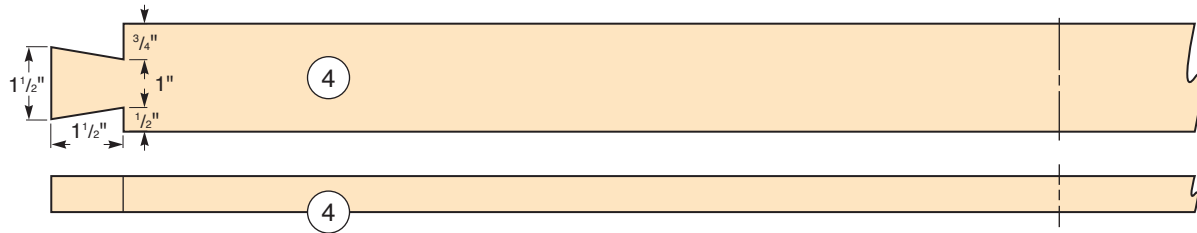


Inside and Top Views

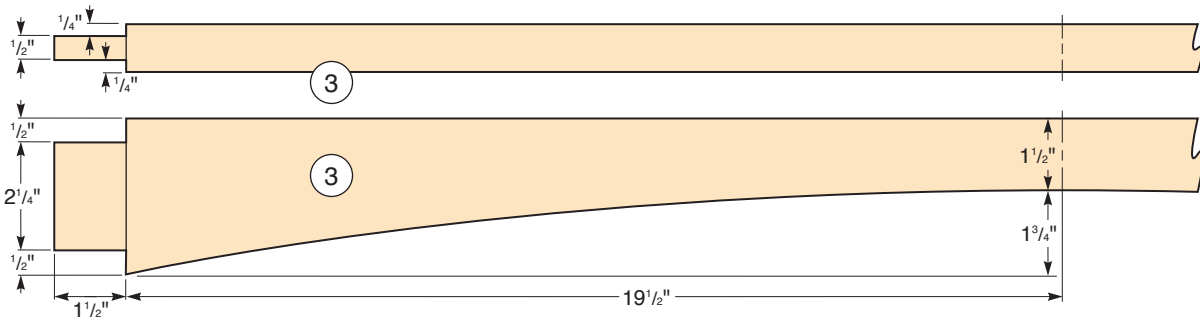




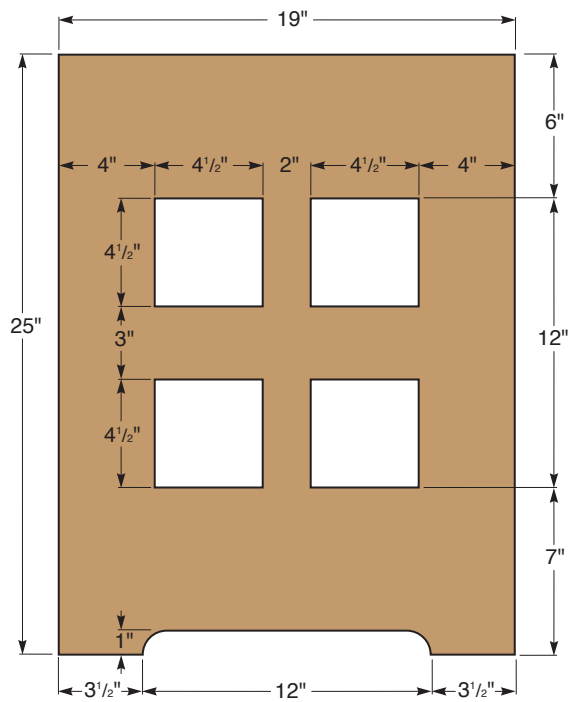
**Top Dovetail Rail**  
(Top and Front Views)



**Front Arched Rail**  
(Top and Front Views)

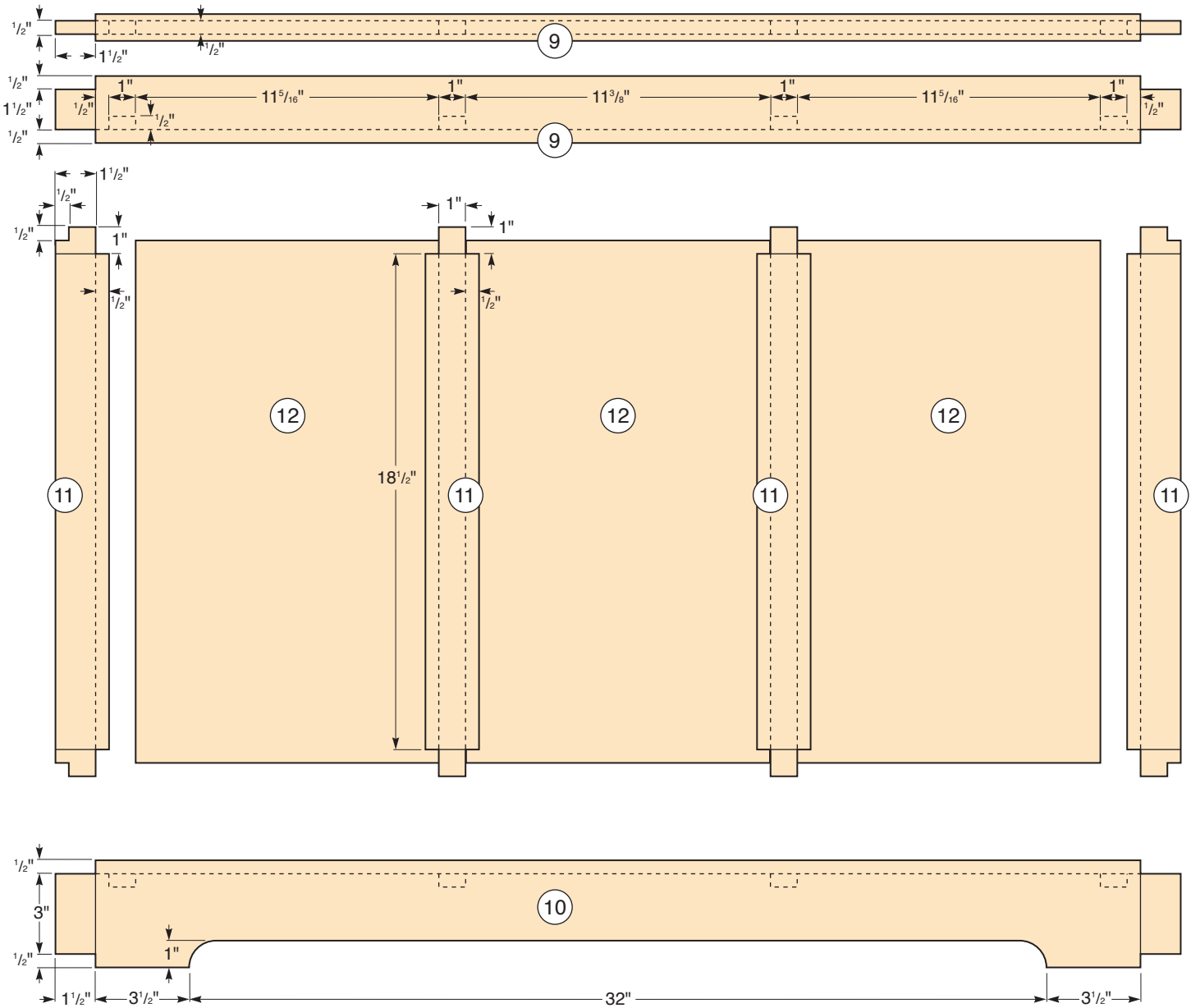


**Side Panel Template**  
(Front View)

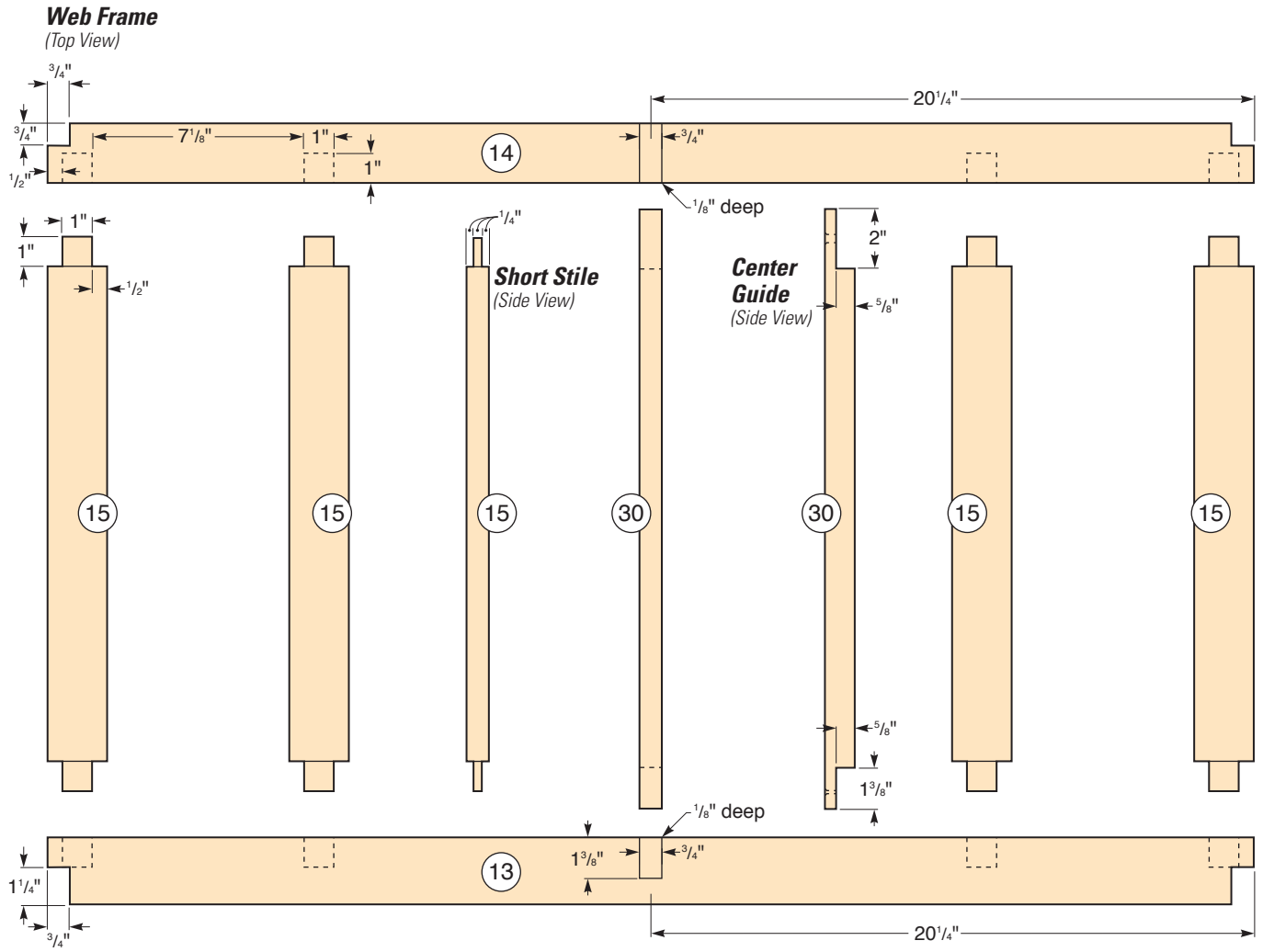


# Back Panel

**Back Panel**  
(Front View)

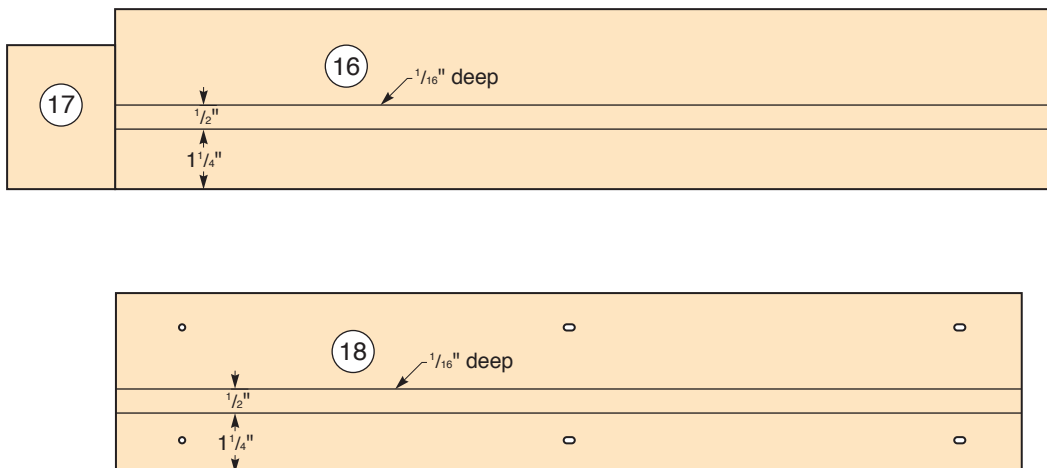


## Web Frame

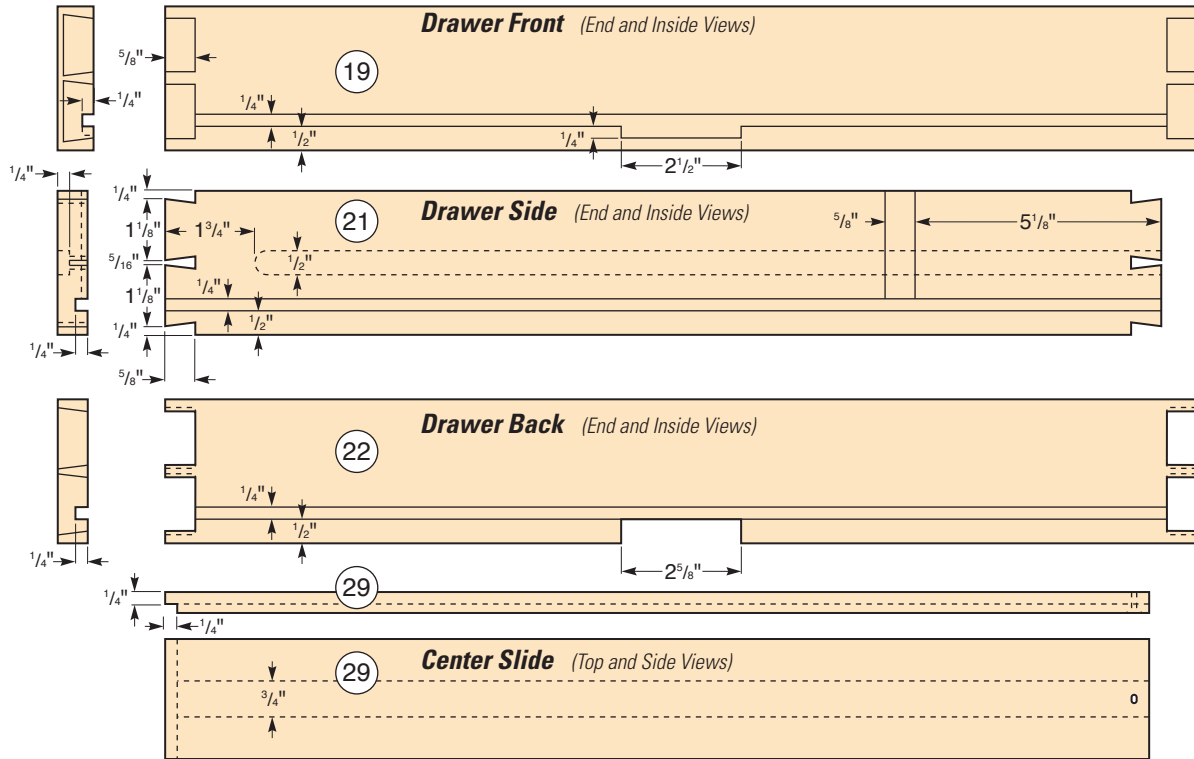


## Drawer Dividers

**Drawer Dividers**  
(Side View)



## Drawers



## Top Details

### Backsplash (Front View)

