WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL downloadable plans:

"America's leading woodworking authority"™

In this plan you will be getting:

- Step by Step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Exploded view and elevation drawings.
- How-to photos with instructive captions.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

Get Adobe Reader To download these plans, you will need **Adobe Reader** installed on your computer. If you want to get a free copy, you can get it at: **Adobe Reader**.

Having trouble downloading the plans?

- If you're using Microsoft Internet Explorer, right click on the download link and select "Save Target As" to download to your local drive.
- If you're using Netscape, right click on the download link and select "Save Link As" to download to your local drive.

Country Kitchen Table

Published in Woodworker's Journal "Woodworking for the Home Hobbyist: 27 Great Projects and Techniques for your Woodshop"

$7.95

WJ107

Thanks to a butcher block top and sturdy legbase, this table is equally suited for countertop work or casual family dining.

Country Kitchen Table

Kitchen tables serve as focal points for so many activities: dining, conversation, after-school homework or as roomy work surfaces for food prep. Our casual table, complete with maple butcher block top, is up to task for anything you need it to do. It even has a dual-action drawer that opens from two sides for storing placemats or napkins. Pull it out far enough and you'll discover an added secret compartment, just for fun.

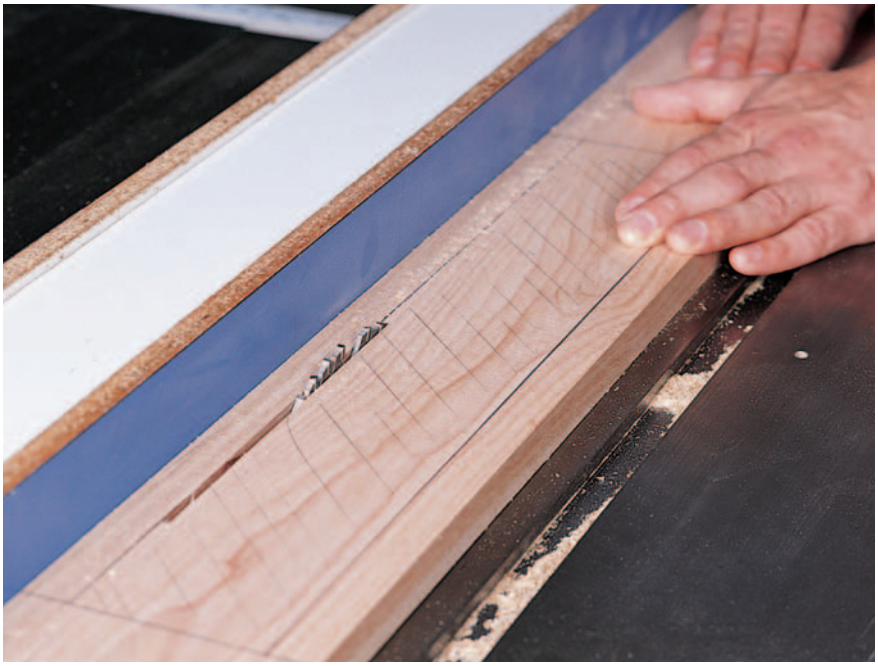


Figure 1: *Use your table saw to make the openings in the front and back aprons for the drawers, finishing up with a jig saw.*

Bordering the George Washington National Forest in beautiful northern Minnesota, our author's old cabin has been in his family so long that his warmest childhood memories are all of gatherings way up North. The best part of those occasions was the food: everything from burgers on the grill in summer to fresh walleye in the depths of winter. The table in the cabin served as both worktop and dining surface. Late afternoons, as the children played by the lake, its sturdy butcher block top was the scene of chopping, slicing, measuring and pastry rolling. By six o'clock it would be cleared off, wiped down and set for the evening meal. If he was lucky, he got a seat halfway down one side—just the right spot to push the two-way drawer into his sister as she took a big gulp of milk!

Making the Legset

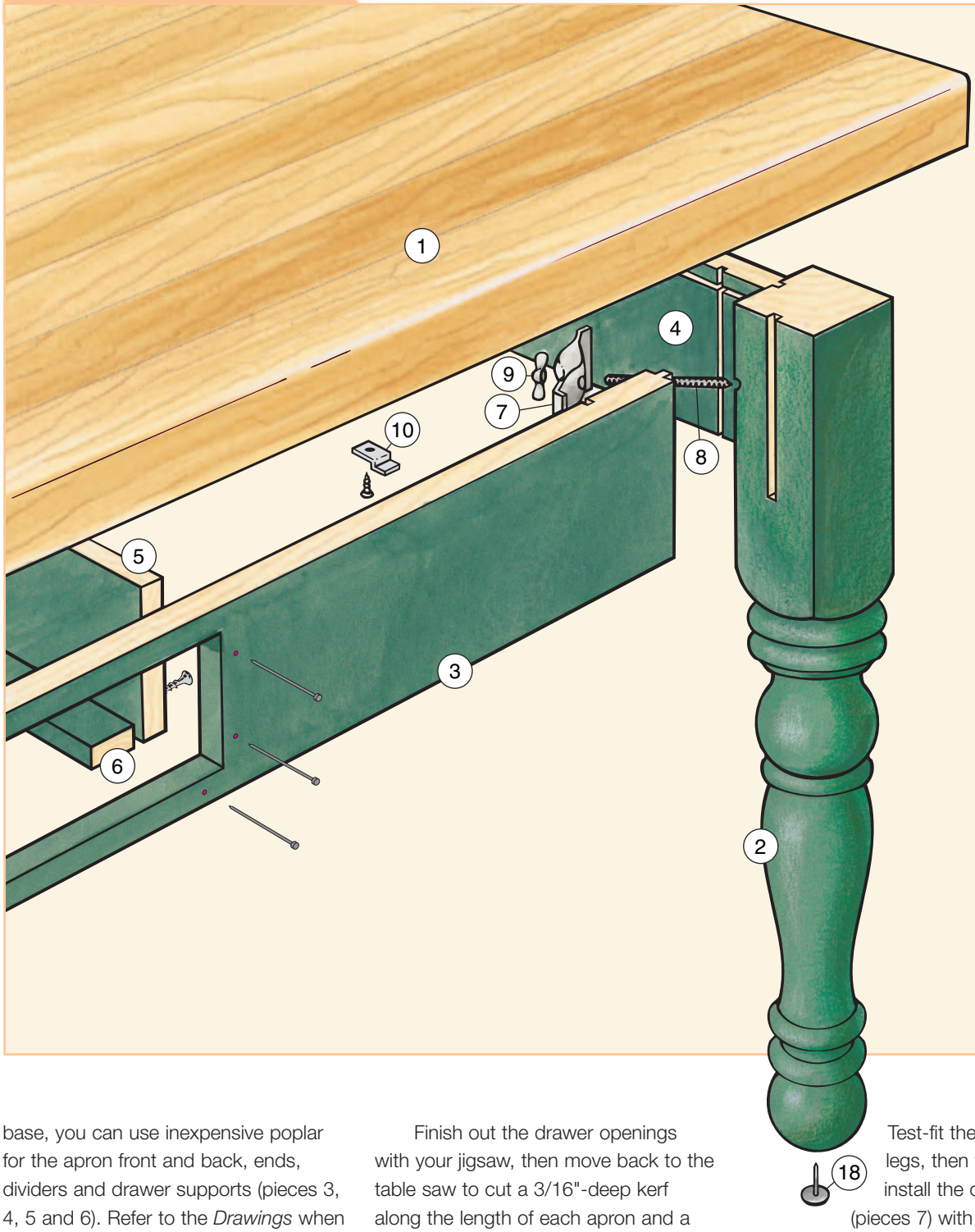
It's no surprise that, given all his fond memories, he knew exactly what to build when the old table finally needed replacing. Butcher block was the immediate choice for the top (piece 1), but the legset needed a little more thought. At a clan gathering, his family finally reached consensus: turned legs with an authenticated historic green paint got all the votes.

Your first decision will be whether to turn the legs yourself or buy them as fabricated blanks. Many mail-order sources offer turned legs, or follow the profile we suggest on page 91 for shaping the legs yourself. With the legs in hand, begin the milling process by cutting two mortises in each (see the *Elevations* on pages 90 and 91 for locations and dimensions). This is an easy job on your router table, using a 1/4" straight bit.

Drill a 1/4" hole at each corner between these two mortises on your drill press, referring to the *Drawings* for the exact locations.

If you decide to paint your table

Table Exploded View

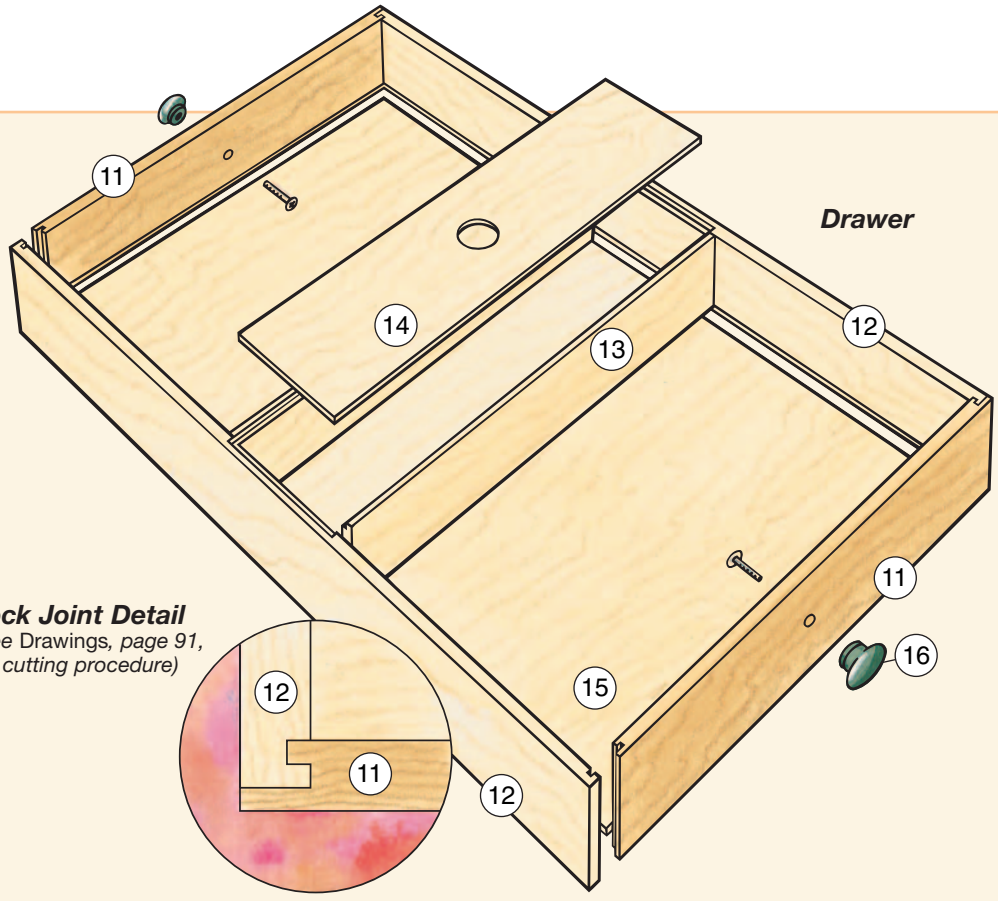


base, you can use inexpensive poplar for the apron front and back, ends, dividers and drawer supports (pieces 3, 4, 5 and 6). Refer to the *Drawings* when laying out the drawer openings in the front and back aprons, then make the long cuts on your table saw by raising the blade up through the piece, as shown in *Figure 1* on page 85. Start and stop each cut by matching up pencil marks on the workpiece and fence.

Finish out the drawer openings with your jigsaw, then move back to the table saw to cut a 3/16"-deep kerf along the length of each apron and a vertical kerf at each end (see *Drawings* for locations). You'll need these kerfs to attach the metal leg braces and tabletop hardware later. With that done, you can switch to a dado head to create tenons on the ends of the aprons (again, see the *Drawings* for details).

Test-fit the aprons and legs, then temporarily install the corner braces (pieces 7) with their hanger bolts and wing nuts (pieces 8 and 9) as shown in *Figure 2*. When everything fits, disassemble this dry-fit and glue the tenons in place. Then tighten the nuts on the bolts, check for squareness, and allow this subassembly to dry.

After a richly deserved coffee



Lock Joint Detail
(See Drawings, page 91, for cutting procedure)

MATERIAL LIST

		T x W x L			T x W x L
1	Tabletop (1)	1½" x 33¼" x 60"	10	Tabletop Fasteners (10)	Steel
2	Legs (4)	3½" x 3½" x 28¼"	11	Drawer Fronts (2)	3/4" x 2 13/16" x 19 13/16"
3	Front and Back Aprons (2)	3/4" x 4½" x 50½"	12	Drawer Sides (2)	3/4" x 2 13/16" x 26⅞"
4	End Aprons (2)	3/4" x 4½" x 23 9/16"	13	Compartment Sides (2)	3/4" x 2 9/16" x 18 5/16"
5	Apron Dividers (2)	3/4" x 4½" x 25¾"	14	Compartment Top (1)	1/4" x 4¾" 19 1/16"
6	Drawer Supports (2)	3/4" x 2 5/16" x 25¾"	15	Drawer Bottom (1)	1/4" x 18¾" x 26¼"
7	Corner Braces (4)	Steel	16	Knobs (2)	Beech, 1½" Dia.
8	Corner Brace Bolts (4)	Hanger Bolts	17	Low-Friction Tape (1)	Nylo-Tape 1/2" x 10'
9	Corner Brace Wing Nuts (4)	Steel	18	Glides (4)	Nickel, 1 1/16" Dia.

QuickTip

Ultimate Sanding Block

How can anything as basic as a sanding block be improved? Easily: saw a 3/8" slot in one face, about 3/4" from the side. Insert one edge of the sandpaper into the slot and wrap it around the block. Just your grip on the block will now keep the paper secure. Keep several sanding blocks on hand, some with square edges, others rounded to different radii. Depending on your application, it helps to have some sanding blocks made of hardwood, such as maple, and softer ones made of pine or poplar.

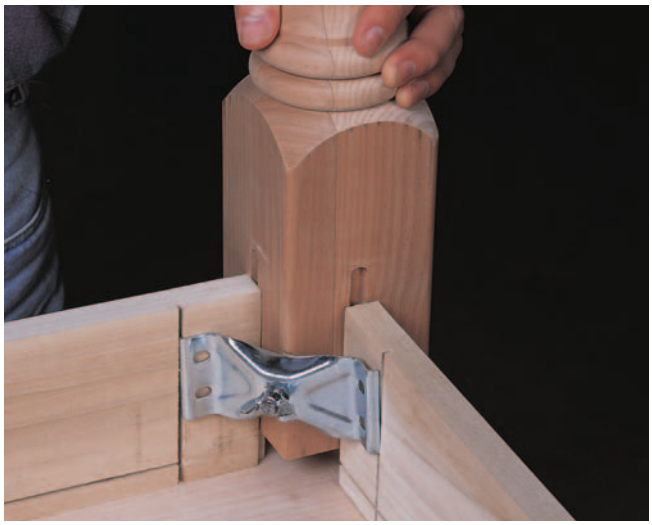


Figure 2: *The legs are secured to the aprons with mortise and tenon joinery that's reinforced by metal corner braces.*

Figure 3: *Specialty hardware is the key to quick assembly on this project. Tabletop fasteners hold the top securely to the base.*

break, glue and screw the apron dividers to the drawer supports through pre-drilled holes. Attach them at the drawer openings (see the *Drawings*) using glue and 6d finish nails.

After setting the nail heads and filling them, refer to the *sidebar* on page 89 for guidelines on making the butcher block. When the top is ready, lay it face-down and center the legset on it, as shown in *Figure 3*, above. Attach the top with metal fasteners (pieces 10) designed to allow for any expansion and contraction that may occur in the glued-up top.

QuickTip

Sawing Thin Wood Safely

Cutting thin pieces on the table saw without some type of hold-down is dangerous. Here's a safe method to follow. First, lower the saw blade and install a zero-clearance insert. Next, position your thin stock over the blade, place the L-shaped hold-down on top of the stock and clamp it in place, as shown in the sketch. Then remove the veneer, turn on the saw and raise the blade until you hear it just touch the hold-down. Back the blade down a bit and you're ready to begin feeding your thin stock through the blade.

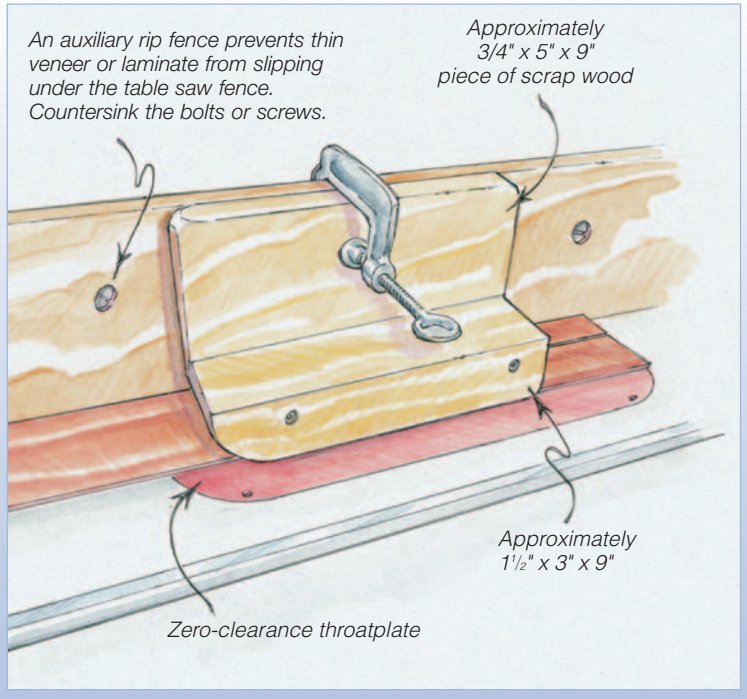


Figure 4: *The center drawer slides in both directions and contains a nifty hidden compartment. Center the pulls on each front.*

Building a Drawer with a Secret Compartment

Cut the drawer fronts (piece 11) from solid maple to match the tabletop. Both the drawer sides (pieces 12) and the compartment sides (pieces 13) can be made from less expensive yellow poplar.

With a 1/4" dado head in the table saw, cut a rabbet in each drawer front and side (see *Drawings*) for the bottom. Staying with the dado head, turn your attention to the lock joints that secure the drawer sides to the fronts. We suggest trying out a test joint in scrap wood before milling the actual workpieces, to refine your saw setups. It's also a good idea to use a tenoning jig to make the cuts in the ends of the long stock, and install a zero-clearance insert in your saw before proceeding with these joints.

Begin making the joints by cutting dadoes in the drawer sides (see Step 1 of the *Drawer Joinery Detail Drawing* on page 91), then cut the deep dadoes across the ends of the drawer fronts (Step 2). Finish up by milling rabbets in the drawer fronts.

Cut the compartment top and the drawer bottom (pieces 14 and 15) from 1/4" plywood, then glue the drawer together. Glue and finish-nail the compartment sides in place next, then cut the rabbet around the top of the compartment for the lid (see the *Drawings*), using a router and a rabbeting bit. Square up the corners with a sharp chisel. Drill a 1⅛" hole in the center of the compartment top to serve as a finger pull, slightly rounding over the edges of the plywood with fine sandpaper.

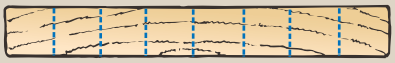
Install the wooden knobs (pieces 16) on the drawer fronts *(see Figure 3)* before applying friction-reducing tape (piece 17) on the drawer supports. Or, wax them instead.

GLUING UP BUTCHER BLOCK

While buying a glued-up slab of butcher block from a local lumberyard is a good option, it's not as much fun as building your own. If you decide to go this route, some issues to be aware of include moisture content, stock alignment and the general challenge of surfacing a large glued up piece. Here are some tips to help the process go smoothly.

Use well-cured stock with low moisture readings. When you're ready to glue up the top, use biscuits or splines to help register the lumber, and watch the grain orientation. After the glue up, scrape all excess glue from the piece and belt-sand diagonally in opposite directions to remove material quickly and evenly. Use coarse sandpaper (36 grit) for this task.

Once the glued up panel is flat and even, cut the top to its final size and sand through the grits until it's as smooth as silk. Ease the top edge with a 1/4" roundover bit and quickly seal the piece with an equal number of coats of finish on all surfaces. If a glued-up top remains unsealed for an extended period of time, it will start to move. Guaranteed.



Cut plain-sawn 5/4 stock into little squares to create the right sized pieces for your tabletop.

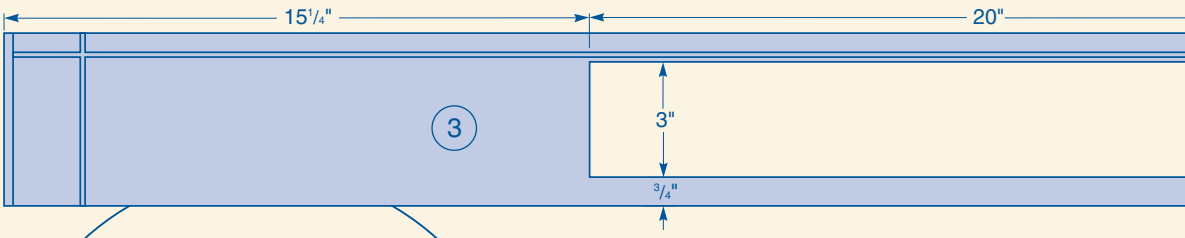
Then flip each piece to get ready for glue up.

Using biscuits to ensure alignment, glue up the squares to create a top that will resist warping and checking.

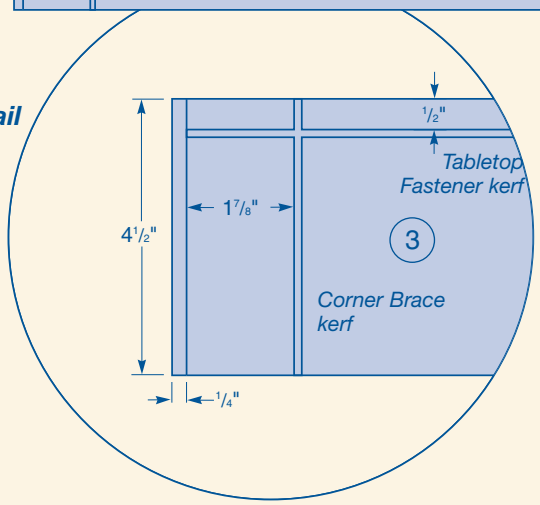
Finishing Up

After installing the glides (piece 18) in the bottom of each leg, remove the tabletop and drawer for finishing. We painted the apron and legs Windsor green after filling all the nail holes and applying a coat of good-quality latex primer. Put a clear, water-resistant finish on both sides of the maple top to enhance the traditional look, and match the drawer front to the top for a visually pleasing contrast with the green base. Then, be sure the person you like to tease sits right in front of the drawer at your next family gathering!

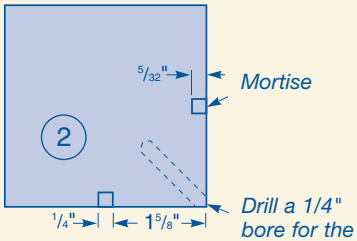
Front and Back Apron
(Inside view)

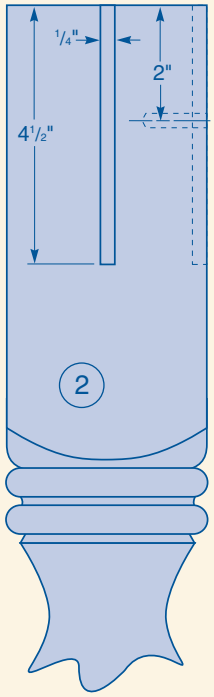


Apron Detail
(Inside view)
Tenon and kerf layout.

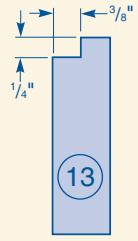


Leg
(Top View)

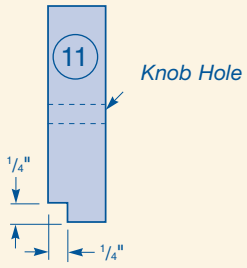




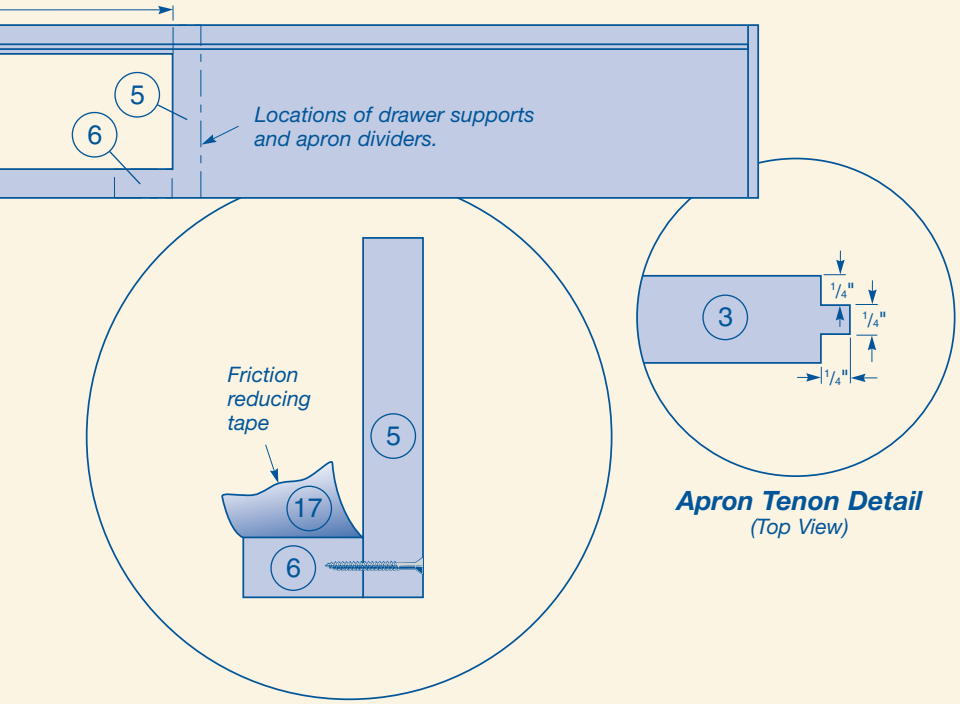
Leg
(Side View)



Compartment Side
(Section View)

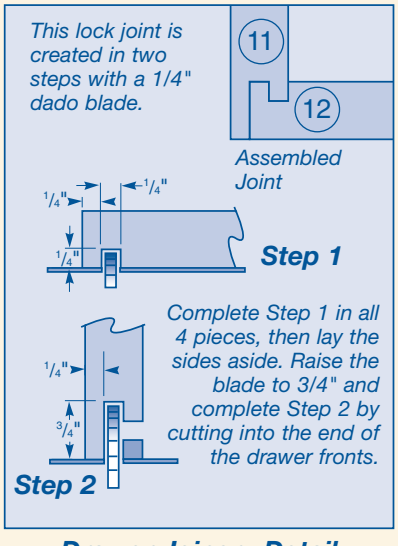


Drawer Front
(Section View)



Apron Tenon Detail
(Top View)

Drawer Support Assembly Detail
(Section View)



Drawer Joinery Detail