

WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

"America's leading woodworking authority"™

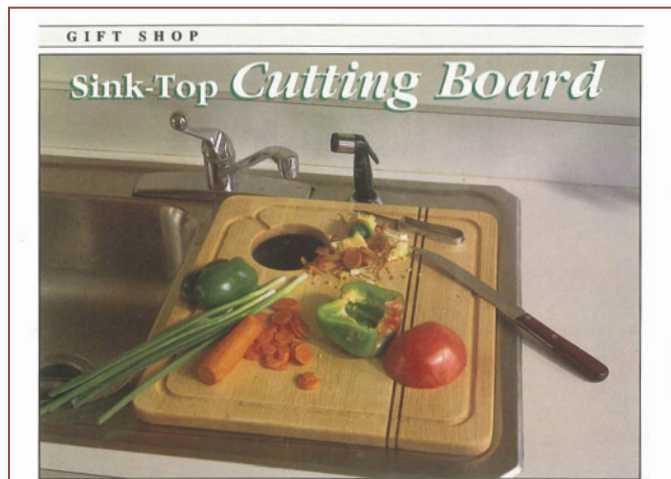
Classic Project



In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

Sink-Top Cutting Board



We've seen cutting boards in all kinds of shapes and sizes, but this variation has to be one of the most useful. It fits on the sink-top, with a hole added to make it easy to push the scraps off the board and into your sink where the garbage disposal takes over. If you don't have a garbage disposal, a bowl under the hole will collect the scraps. The routed groove around the perimeter directs any liquids to the hole.

Sink designs and sizes can vary considerably, so for most readers our dimensions will only serve as guidelines. The length and width of the cutting board, the location of the hole (if you want to get a bowl under it, the hole can't be too close to the corner), and the location of the cleat will probably need to be adapted to suit your sink.

Begin by getting and preparing the stock. You'll want a wood that's hard and close grained. We used maple, with walnut for the decorative accent stripes. It should be reasonably straight-grained (if it isn't it may tend to warp). Also, look for stock that's free from knots or other defects.

The 1/8 in. walnut accent stripes should be ripped from stock that is the same thickness as your maple boards. That way, when the boards are edge-glued, the surfaces will be flush.

When preparing stock for edge-gluing, it's always a good idea to cut the boards a bit longer and wider than necessary. Later, after the glue has dried and the clamps are removed, you can trim the stock to the final length and width dimensions.

Don't use white or yellow glue for this project. The cutting

board will be regularly exposed to water, and white or yellow glues are not likely to hold up for long. Instead, we used plastic resin glue, which has good water resistance in an application like this. You'll find plastic resin glue at just about any hardware store. It comes in the form of a brown powder that is mixed with water just before use. However, if you plan to regularly wash the board in a dishwasher, we'd suggest you use resorcinol glue. This two-part glue has some drawbacks (it's expensive, a bit messy to use, and leaves a dark red glue line), but it's completely waterproof.

Apply a coat of glue to all the mating edges, then use three or four clamps to apply pressure. Apply just enough pressure to insure firm contact. (If you tighten the clamps too much you'll squeeze out most of the glue and the joint won't be strong enough.) Should the edges start to slide out of alignment, several pairs of cleats across the boards will help keep them lined up. To keep the cleats from adhering to the stock when the glue dries, add a coat of paste wax to the cleats or slip wax paper between the cleats and the stock. Once the glue dries, trim the cutting board to its final length and width, then scrape away any glue squeeze out and sand the top and bottom surfaces with 100-grit sandpaper. Use a hand saw to cut the 1 in. radius on each corner before sanding the edges smooth. A disk sander, if you have one, will come in handy here.

Next, lay out the centerline location of the hole, then use the drill press and a circle cutter to cut it out. The router and a 3/16 in. radius ball-bearing guided roundover bit are then used to

54

The Woodworker's Journal



To download these plans, you will need **Adobe Reader** installed on your computer. If you want to get a free copy, visit: <http://adobe.com/reader>.

Having trouble downloading the plans?

Right click on the download link and select "Save Target As..." or "Save Link As..." (depending on the web browser you are using) to download to your local drive.

Published in *Woodworker's Journal* March/April 1991

Copyright *Woodworker's Journal* © 2010
This pattern is copyrighted by *Woodworker's Journal*.
Purchasers of this plan may make three copies for personal use in the shop. The pattern itself, however, is the property of *Woodworker's Journal* and is not to be reproduced for distribution or resale. Doing so, including via any electronic methods, is a violation of copyright law.

www.woodworkersjournal.com

\$1.00

WJC071

Sink-Top *Cutting Board*



We've seen cutting boards in all kinds of shapes and sizes, but this variation has to be one of the most useful. It fits on the sink-top, with a hole added to make it easy to push the scraps off the board and into your sink where the garbage disposal takes over. If you don't have a garbage disposal, a bowl under the hole will collect the scraps. The routed groove around the perimeter directs any liquids to the hole.

Sink designs and sizes can vary considerably, so for most readers our dimensions will only serve as guidelines. The length and width of the cutting board, the location of the hole (if you want to get a bowl under it, the hole can't be too close to the corner), and the location of the cleat will probably need to be adapted to suit your sink.

Begin by getting and preparing the stock. You'll want a wood that's hard and close grained. We used maple, with walnut for the decorative accent stripes. It should be reasonably straight-grained (if it isn't it may tend to warp). Also, look for stock that's free from knots or other defects.

The 1/8 in. walnut accent stripes should be ripped from stock that is the same thickness as your maple boards. That way, when the boards are edge-glued, the surfaces will be flush.

When preparing stock for edge-gluing, it's always a good idea to cut the boards a bit longer and wider than necessary. Later, after the glue has dried and the clamps are removed, you can trim the stock to the final length and width dimensions.

Don't use white or yellow glue for this project. The cutting

board will be regularly exposed to water, and white or yellow glues are not likely to hold up for long. Instead, we used plastic resin glue, which has good water resistance in an application like this. You'll find plastic resin glue at just about any hardware store. It comes in the form of a brown powder that is mixed with water just before use. However, if you plan to regularly wash the board in a dishwasher, we'd suggest you use resorcinol glue. This two-part glue has some drawbacks (it's expensive, a bit messy to use, and leaves a dark red glue line), but it's completely waterproof.

Apply a coat of glue to all the mating edges, then use three or four clamps to apply pressure. Apply just enough pressure to insure firm contact. (If you tighten the clamps too much you'll squeeze out most of the glue and the joint won't be strong enough.) Should the edges start to slide out of alignment, several pairs of cleats across the boards will help keep them lined up. To keep the cleats from adhering to the stock when the glue dries, add a coat of paste wax to the cleats or slip wax paper between the cleats and the stock. Once the glue dries, trim the cutting board to its final length and width, then scrape away any glue squeeze out and sand the top and bottom surfaces with 100-grit sandpaper. Use a band saw to cut the 1 in. radius on each corner before sanding the edges smooth. A disk sander, if you have one, will come in handy here.

Next, lay out the centerline location of the hole, then use the drill press and a circle cutter to cut it out. The router and a 3/16 in. radius ball-bearing guided roundover bit are then used to


round the edges of the hole and the outside edges of the cutting board, both top and bottom.

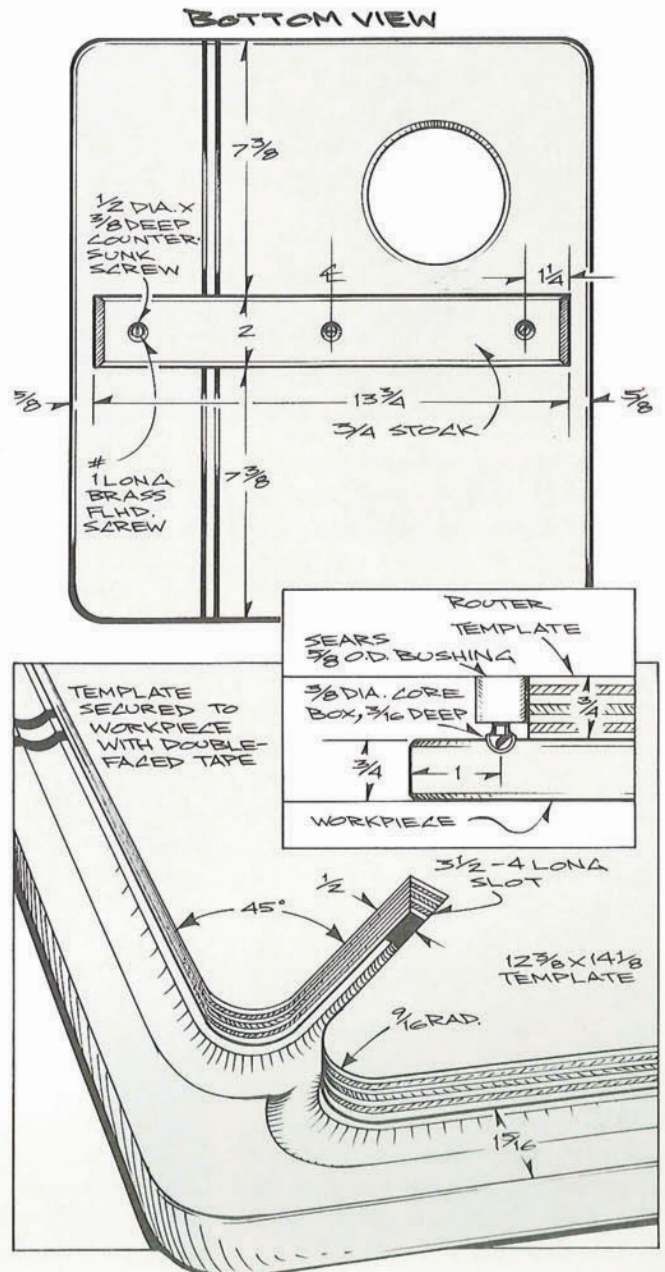
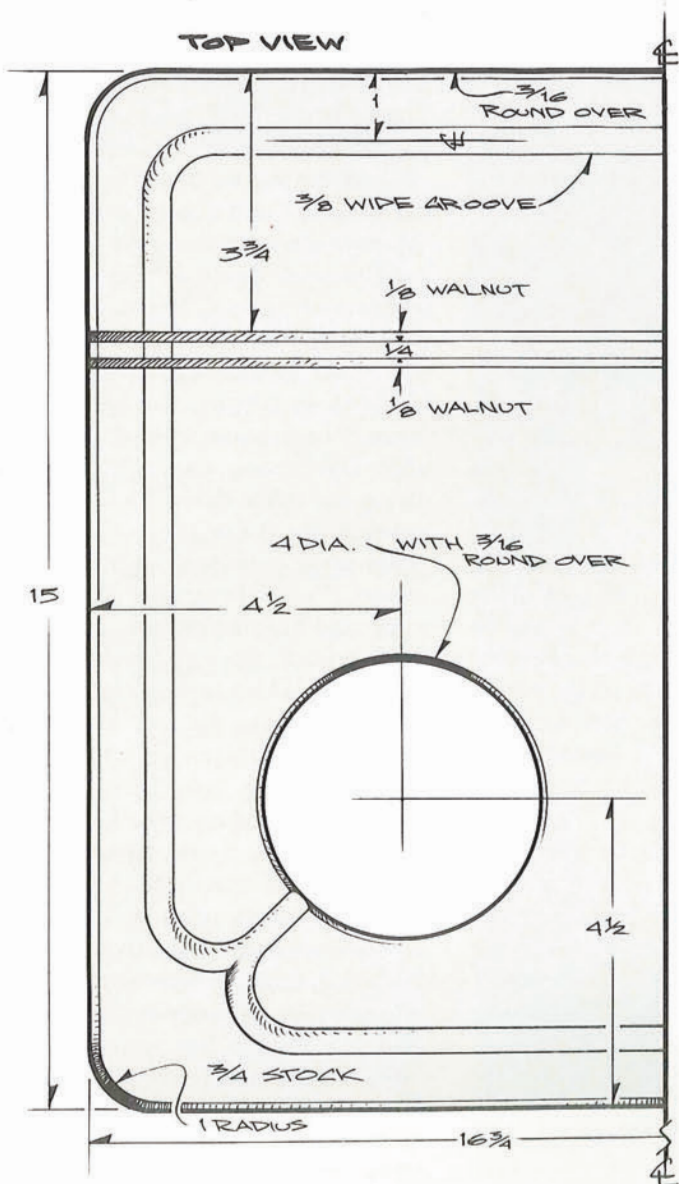
To cut the groove we used a Sears router along with their $\frac{5}{8}$ in. O.D. (outside diameter) guide bushing and a $\frac{3}{8}$ in. core box bit. As shown in the drawing detail, the Sears $\frac{5}{8}$ in. bushing requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick template to guide the router. The template is secured with double-faced tape that's applied between the template and the cutting board. Because of the thickness of the template, you'll need a core box bit with an overall length of at least 2 in.—any shorter and the shank won't go far enough into the collet. If you don't have a $\frac{3}{8}$ in. core box bit that's 2 in. long, you can order one from Eagle America, P.O. Box 1099, Chardon, OH 44024. Order part no. 130-0602. The current price is \$15.38 each plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.

With the Sears setup our cutting board required a template that measured $12\frac{3}{8}$ in. wide by $14\frac{1}{8}$ in. long. Three of the template corners have a $\frac{7}{8}$ in. radius, the remaining corner (the one nearest the hole) is shaped as shown in the drawing. Of course, if your cutting board is a different size than ours, the size of your template will change. Also, other router manufacturers may have different guide bushing designs, which will also affect the template size.

To produce a clean cut, and to reduce the chance of burning the wood, we made the cuts in two passes, with the second pass removing only $\frac{1}{16}$ in. of stock. Once cut, remove the template and give the board a thorough final sanding, finishing with 220-grit.

To keep the board from cupping, the cleat is attached across the grain. On our board, the cleat also helps to center the board in the sink. Be sure to use brass (or stainless steel) screws to avoid corrosion problems. To allow the board to expand and contract with changes in moisture content, you'll need to bore the screw shank holes slightly oversized. If you would also like to be able to use the board on a regular kitchen counter (with only one cleat it rocks on a flat surface), glue a small ($\frac{3}{4}$ in. by 1 in. by 1 in.) block in each corner.

Since the cutting board will be in direct contact with food, the finish used must be non-toxic. We used Behlen's Salad Bowl Finish, which is non-toxic once it has dried 72 hours. If not available locally, it can be ordered from Armor Products, Box 445, East Northport, NY 11731. The price for a one pint can is \$6.50 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. 



WOODWORKER'S WJOURNAL

Thank you for purchasing this *Woodworker's Journal* Classic Project plan.

Woodworker's Journal Classic Projects are scans of much-loved woodworking plans from our library of back issues. Please note that specific products and sources cited in a plan when it originally appeared may no longer be available.

If you experience any problems with this plan, please contact: info@woodworkersjournal.com

or

Attn: Classic Projects
Woodworker's Journal
4365 Willow Drive
Medina, MN 55340

Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

Matt Becker
Internet Production Coordinator