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Project: Bistro Set

Overview: This is a set of four stools and one table that create a complete bistro set. Works great both indoors and out. By removing only a couple screws the entire project comes apart and can be stored flat when not in use.

Materials: Two sheets of 4'x8' plywood

Minimum Cutting Area: 4'x8'

Bit Size: 1/4"

Finishing: These can be painted or stained for interior or exterior use. For this example one color was used on all of the table tops and foot rest while another color made up all the legs.



Always read the entire project details before starting to cut the file yourself

Account for the thickness of the physical material on hand and the material thickness in the file

This file is zeroed to the tables surface, Zero your bit to the tables surface



A hold down file is provided for this project. This will locate the screw locations prior to loading the cut file. Make sure that the proper hold down file is used for the correct board you are cutting.



The same applies to the second board during the cutting process. It is always a good idea to keep an eye on the machine while cutting a file for the first time to ensure everything is going as planned.



Tabs are used to hold the pieces in place while they are being cut. Simply flip the board upside down to expose the tab and push a utility knife through them removing the part. If you have access to a RotoZip this will speed up the process.



After the tabs are removed and the edges are sanded it is not necessary but adds a lot of eye appeal to route all of the edges with a 1/4" round over bit.



This shows how the project can be stored when it is completely taken apart. It is also a good time to sand all of the surfaces of each part before assembly takes place.



To start assembling the table simply hold the grooves over each other and push the side pieces together.



During this process the sides can get hung up so wiggling them back and forth will help the top piece drop down to the bottom.



Find the circle that fits into the groove of the table top. Remember if you plan on taking this apart you do not want to glue anything together.



Make sure this circle sits flush with the table sides.



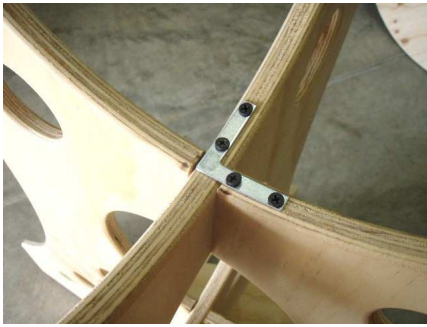
Using a straightedge draw lines from the center of one leg to the center of the next. You are creating a layout line to run screws in, it can just be eyeballed.



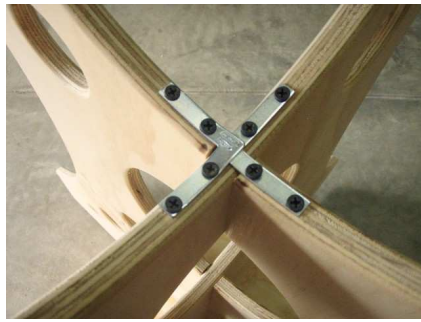
Put a crew in as shown above into the line you traced. Put one in at the 1" and 7" mark. 1 5/8" screws work great for this. Repeat on all four lines.



Find a set of flat corner brackets from your local hardware store. The ones pictured above are 2" long by 3/8" wide.



The screws that came with the brackets did not seem like they would get enough bite, so 1 1/4" screws were substituted in.



Lay the two brackets on as pictured above. Spanning the joint with these brackets really stiffens up the table.



There will be four sets of stools consisting of two sides and a foot rest. Lay them out like the picture above before you are ready to assemble.



As done with the table, hold the sides above each other so they can slip together.



Push them together and if a little force is needed that is fine.



Make sure your stool looks like the one pictured above before continuing on.



Create a layout line for screws like you did earlier with the table. Approximately 1" in from every edge put a 1 5/8" screw down into the legs.



A simple piece of flat stock is all that is needed for support on the stools. These measure 2" by 3/8". They can be hammered in place to fit the contour of the leg.



Make sure you install the strapping over the two gaps in the wood. You want to pick up the piece that is flimsy and hold it to the other leg.



There should now be four stools and one table all assembled except for the tops and foot rest. If you are planning on painting or staining one color please skip down to the assembly steps.



To add some extra “wow” factor to this project, all of the tops and foot stools were painted one color.



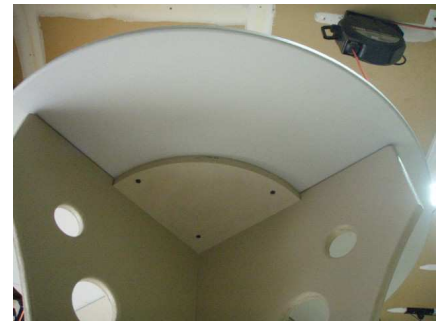
The table and stool legs were painted another color so when they are assembled with the remaining pieces there will be a two tone bistro set.



Always keep an eye out for runs in the paint or stain. Put enough even coats on this project to cover all the wood and really bring it to life.



Set the table top on top of its legs. Eyeball the distance of overhang over each of the legs, when it is close enough by the eye, move onto the next step.



Run three screws into each corner section. Note if you are using 1 1/4” screws and you run them in too deep they can pop up and through the top. Just run them flush with the bottom board.



Push the foot rest into their groove and make sure they are centered on the leg.



Run one screw into each side to keep the footrest tight against the stool leg.



Like you had done before with the table top run 1 1/4” screws into the top making sure you do not go through. Put one screw into each cavity on all of the stools.



Install the stool tops just like the table top, eyeball them so they are centered over the legs of the stool.



It is a good point to go around and touch up any screw heads that might be seen, this helps hide them to the eye. Also check the projects for any dings or scrapes and touch them up.

Remember this project is simply slid together and held with a few screws. This can all be undone so the project can store flat and out of the way if you are not using this. If being used on hardwood floors or uneven surfaces felt pieces or casters can be installed on the bottom of the legs. These can be made as great fundraising projects or simply a nice addition to any home.



Bistro Set 1 Hold Down
Bistro Set 1 Cutout PartWorks
Bistro Set 2 Hold Down
Bistro Set 2 Cutout PartWorks
Bistro Set 1 Toolpath
Bistro Set 2 Toolpath