

POTTING BENCH TUTORIAL

FREE PLANS

This project was a blast. We came up with the idea on a sunny Saturday afternoon over a couple of Summer Shandys on our deck. Then, the question came "Can you have it done by Monday? I have a post due"

Thus an element of danger and excitement was added to the mix. I said, "You bet!", and off I went to Home depot at 8:00 on Saturday night. We were done and staining it by dinnertime the next night.

There were some key elements needed to get this done so quickly

- I needed to minimize cuts
- I needed simple but strong joinery
- I needed to come up with a straightforward design with minimal headaches but maximum good looks

The cool thing about things like Potting benches are that they are utility pieces that are going to be outside so you can leverage lumber you have laying around. It just so happen that I had a couple of 6ft long 1X12's that were perfect for the lid.

The Materials:

- 4 - 2X4X6ft
- 13- 1X4X6ft
- 1 - 1X6X6ft
- 2 - 24X48X1/2" sheets of plywood
- 2 - 24X48X1/4" sheets of plywood
- 3-packs of tongue and groove wainscot planks
- Hinges for lid - I used piano hinges, you can go for whatever aesthetic you like.
- The back and bottom of the bin measure 17" X 68" each. I used ½ inch plywood because I had some laying around. You can fill this with whatever you like, planks or plywood.

POTTING BENCH FREE PLANS BY SNAZZYLITTLETHINGS.COM

- Same with Lid you need two sections at 17" X 35 ½" I used 1X12 planks biscuit joined together but ¾ inch plywood handy panels will work just as well.
- One Box 1 ¼" Kreg Screws
- One Box 2 ½" Kreg Screws

- One quart [Varathane Golden Mahogany Stain](#)

The Tools:

- Kreg Jig - I have a [K4 Model](#)
- Table saw - I use a [Riyobi RTS31](#)

- Miter Saw - I use a [Harbor Freight 12" Sliding Compound Miter Saw](#)
- Jig Saw
- Biscuit Joiner - If you use solid wood for lid. Mine is from [Harbor Freight](#). Not needed if you go with Plywood for the lid
- Drill/Driver - I use a [Ryobi](#)

There is no way that we could have completed this build as quickly as we did without the Kreg Pocket hole joinery tool. I've just recently started using one and I am an absolute believer. It makes incredibly quick, strong joints with no visible hardware. I have a Kreg K4. I built a little platform for it to handle panels that are wider than the base and also to hold the bit, driver and some screws. I will put that out soon as a tutorial as well.



The Build:

Step 1

For this portion you will need:

2 - 72" 2X4's

2- 32" 2X4's

2 -68" 1X4's

And 2 - 14" 1X4's

Use your Kreg tool to join the legs and cross braces as below. Use a piece of 1X4 as a spacer to create a $\frac{3}{4}$ " reveal on the front and sides



Step 2

I've cut away one side here to show how to assemble the next portion.

First rip one of the 1X4's down to 3 6ft strips 1"wide. If you don't have a table saw you can substitute 3 6ft 1X2's here. Cut 2 to 14" and 2 to 68".

Cut one 2X4 and one 1X4 to 68" in length

Attach the 2X4, on edge, flush to the top back rail as shown. You can screw through the back of the 1X4 and reinforce by joining the 2X4 to the tall rear legs with pocket holes.

Screw the 1X4 to the 2X4 as show. Make edge flush with the back so you have $\frac{3}{4}$ " of the 2X4 revealed below the 1X4. This assembly will serve as the base for the lid hinges to attach and must be very solid.

Next attach the one inch strips flush to the bottom edge of the bottom rails. This will serve as the base for the floor and back of the bin.



Step 3

Measure and cut the two ½ " plywood to sheets size for each half of the bottom.

Measure and cut the two ¼" plywood sheets to size for each half of the back.

Attach to bottom and back.



Step 4

Cut your 3" wainscot planks to fit and attach to inside of binleaving about two inches at the top of the top rail.

Cut 2 1X4's to 68" and your 1X6 to 71"

Use the Kreg tool to join the 1X4's flush with the back edge of the tall legs as shown to create the back of the shelf.

Use a jigsaw to cut a 1 1/2" X 2 3/4" notch in the the 1X6 to fit the 2X4 posts. Cut two 2 1/2 X 2 1/2 " triangles out of scrap 2X4

Attach as shown.

Measure from the bottom of the shelf to the top of the back rail, cut a 1X4 to length and attach in the center as shown with pocket holes. This piece must be flush with the back so that the back of the tall legs and this center piece are all on the same plane.



Step 5

On your table saw, set your blade t 45" and run 4 six foot 1X4's through with your fence set at 2 ½".

Trim these to 71" long and attach to the back of the potting bench in whatever spacing you prefer.



And Finally...

Step 6

For the lid you will need two pieces 36" by 18". As I mentioned ¾" plywood will work here or if you are feeling ambitious you can biscuit join 2 1X10's and cut them to 36" in length for your two halves of the lid.

Attach the lid with piano hinges or the hinges of your choice to the back rail as shown and your Potting Bench/Bar is ready for stain!

POTTING BENCH FREE PLANS BY SNAZZYLITTLETHINGS.COM

We have already put it to use as both a potting bench and a bar, I have my personal preference but we will leave that up to you.

I hope you enjoy building your own, I would love to see your work. Share it here if you feel like bragging a little.

Potting Bench Free Plans: by SnazzyLittleThings.com