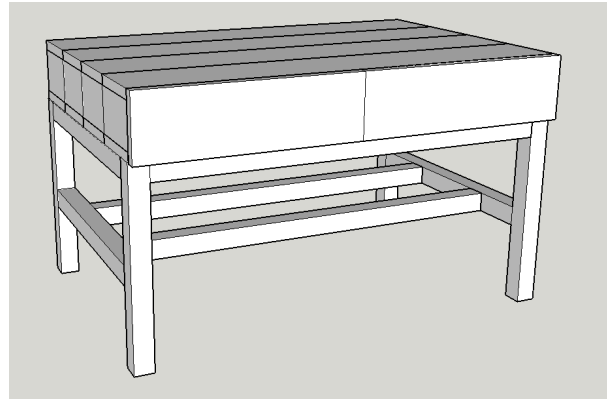
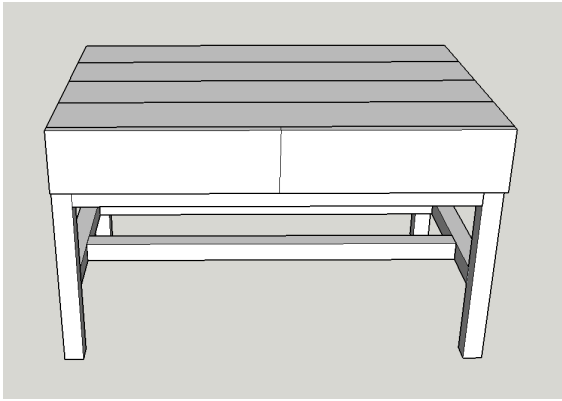




MODERN TRAIN TABLE



FINAL TABLE DIMENSIONS

33-1/2" Wide x 22" long x 20" high

MATERIALS LIST

1 - 10' long 1x6

3 - 8' long 1x6

3 - 8' long 2x2

1 - 2x4 sheet of 1/4" plywood

1 - 8' long 1x4

1 - 6' long 1x4

OR

1 - 2x2 sheet of 3/4" plywood

(This is for the drawers, you can choose plywood or lumber)

I chose to join the box using splines but that is totally not necessary. You can use screws, pocket holes, dowels, whatever joinery method you like.

For the base, I used dowels. Again, not necessary.

CUT LIST

The 1x6 boards are for the main box and drawer fronts. The final dimension of the table is smaller than this, but it is better to cut them longer so you can trim them after the glue up. (Don't cut the 16-3/4" pieces yet if you want continuous grain drawer fronts - see **STEP 11**)

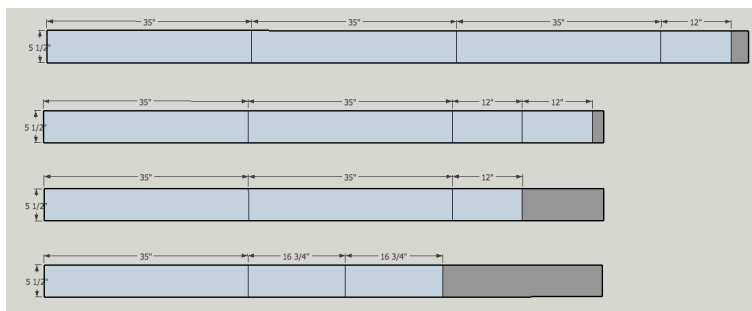
1 - 10' 1x6

3 - 8' 1x6

8 @ 35"

4 @ 12"

2 @ 16-3/4"



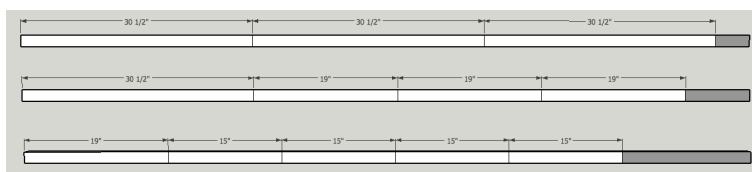
The 2x2's are for the base. It is best to cut the aprons and stretchers after the box is assembled so you can get an exact measurement.

3 - 8' 2x2

4 @ 30-1/2"

4 @ 19"

4 @ 15"



For the drawers you have a choice... You can use 1x4's and rip them to 3" wide or you can use a 2'x2' sheet of 3/4" plywood.

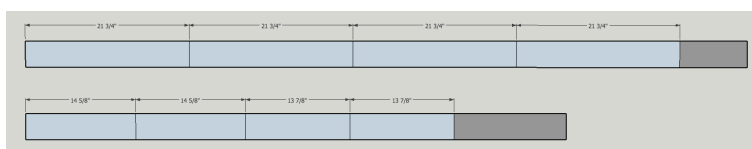
1 - 8' 1x4

3 - 6' 1x4

4 @ 21-3/4"

2 @ 14-5/8"

2 @ 13-7/8"



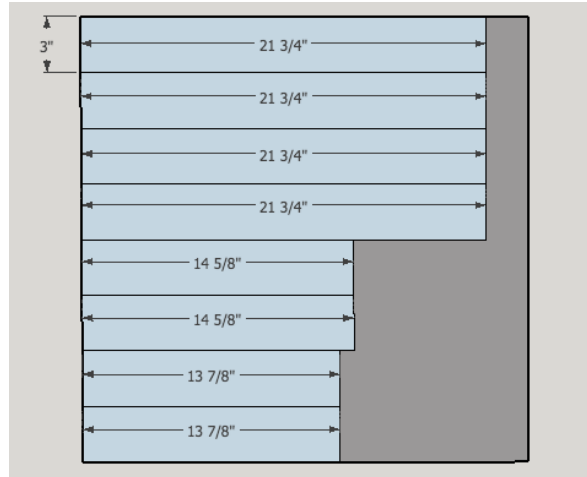
Or...

1 - 2x2 3/4"
plywood

4 @ 21-3/4"

2 @ 14-5/8"

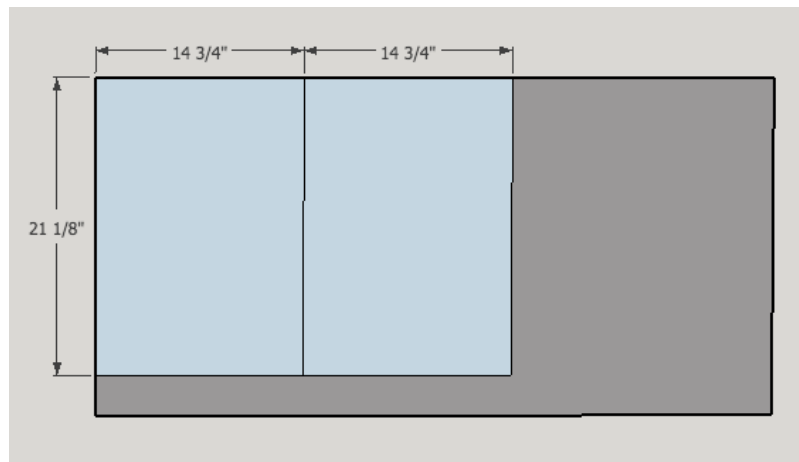
2 @ 13-7/8"



The 1/4" plywood is for the drawer bottoms.

1 - 2x4 1/4"
plywood

2 @ 21-1/8"x14-3/4"

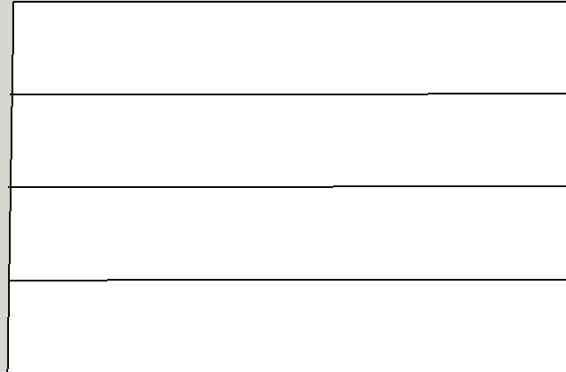


It is also best to cut all these drawer parts after the box is assembled so you get a perfect fit.

STEP 1

Glue up the 2 panels that will make the top and bottom of the main box.
Make the 2 panels using 8 of the 35" long 1x6 boards (4 boards for each panel).
The width of these panels should be 22".

2 @ 35" x 22" panels
made from the 35"
1x6 boards



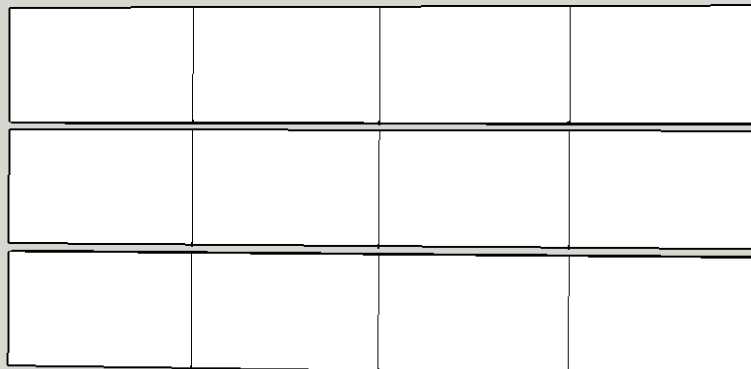
STEP 2

Glue up a third panel for the box sides and divider.
Make this panel from the 4 pieces of 12" 1x6 boards. After it is glued up you can
then cut the panel into 3 parts that are 3-1/2" wide by 22" long.

1 @ 12" x 22" panel
made from 4 of the
12" 1x6 boards

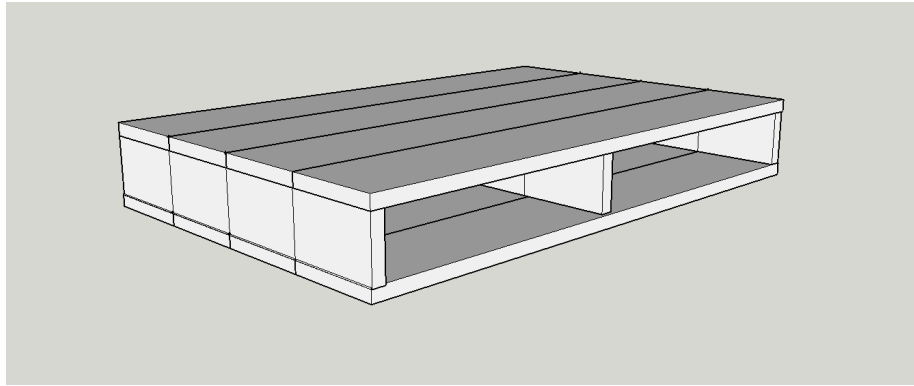
Then cut....

3 @ 3-1/2" x 22"
panels cut from the
12" x 22" panel



You should now have 5 parts to make up the box.
If you are choosing to make the train track design from the template, do that now,
before trimming the top and bottom to final widths.

5 panels in total all
trimmed to final size.



STEP 3

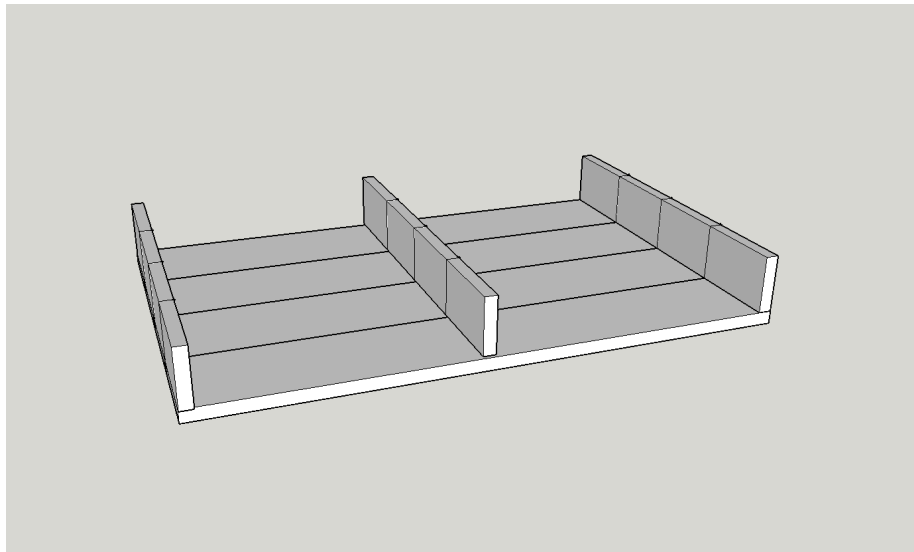
After routing the tracks, trim the top and bottom panels to 33-1/2" wide

STEP 4

Assemble the 2 sides and 1 middle divider to the bottom of the box. Do not put the top on yet because we have to install the drawers first. I used splines, but you can use screws, dowels, pocket holes, dominos, mortise and tenon... anything you feel comfortable with, just be sure that they are perfectly square to the panel so the drawer slides will work correctly. (If using pocket holes, see **STEP 7**)

Sides and dividers
attached to
bottom panel

The center divider
should be installed
in the center which
is at 16-3/4"



STEP 5

Make the 2 drawers.

Measure the insides of the 2 compartments you just made to get a perfect fit for the drawers. The drawer slides I used were 1/2" thick, so I cut the drawer fronts to be 1" less than the inside of the compartments.

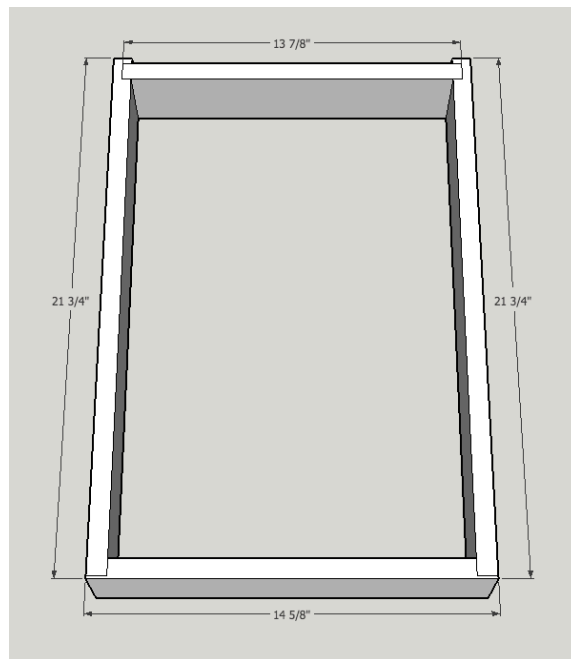
I made the sides and back of the drawers from plywood and the front from oak. You can make the whole drawer out of plywood or you can rip down a 1x4. To each their own...

I used the MLCS Fast Joint system to join the drawer fronts, and a dado for the drawer backs. You can use screws, brad nails, dove tails, rabbets, anything you feel comfortable with.

2 - drawers made from the 3/4" plywood or the 1x4.

or a mix of both...

The 13-7/8 measurement for the drawer back is if you decide to use a dado joint. Not necessary, you can make it shorter and use a butt joint.



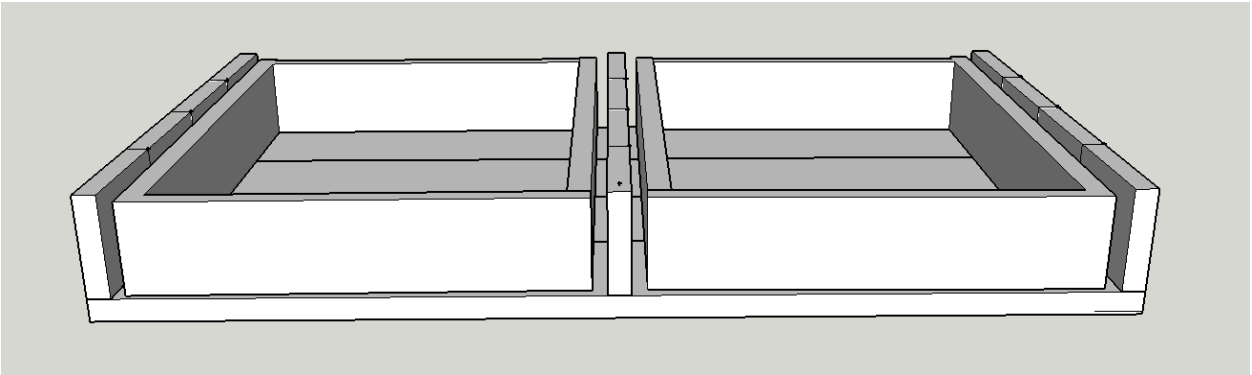
After the drawers are assembled you can attach the 1/4 plywood bottoms. I chose to use a groove on the insides of the drawer to house the plywood. you can also use a rabbet or just glue and brad nail them into place.

If drawers aren't your thing, you can just make storage boxes without drawer slides...

STEP 6

Install the drawers into the main box.

I used spacers to help ensure the drawer slides were installed correctly.

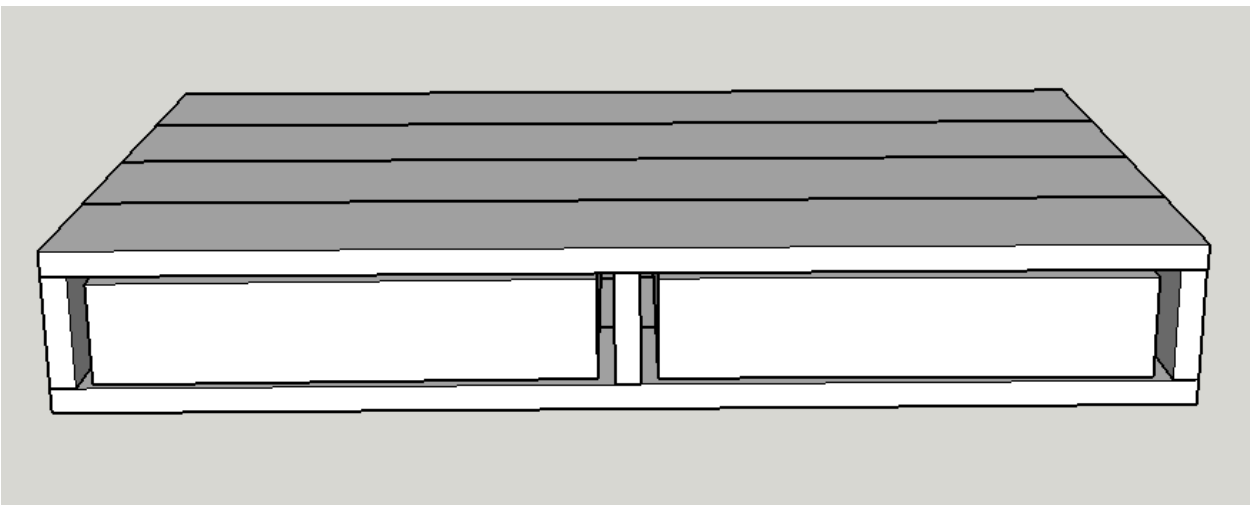


STEP 7

Attach the top.

Again, I used splines, but you can attach it any way you like.

If you prefer pocket hole joinery it might make sense to assemble the table upside down. In **STEP 4**, you could attach the top panel to the sides and divider using pocket holes instead of attaching the bottom panel in that step. Then, install the drawers upside down, and in this step you could just attach the bottom with countersunk screws. (I wish I did it this way...)



STEP 8

Prepare base for assembly.

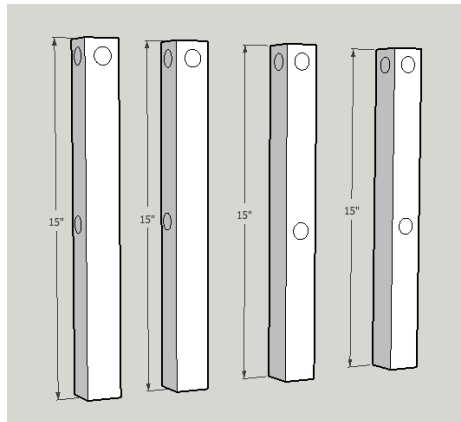
I used dowels to join the base, again, you can use whatever method you feel comfortable with.

I also predrilled all the apron pieces and countersunk those holes before assembly, this makes it easier to attach the top to the base in the last step.

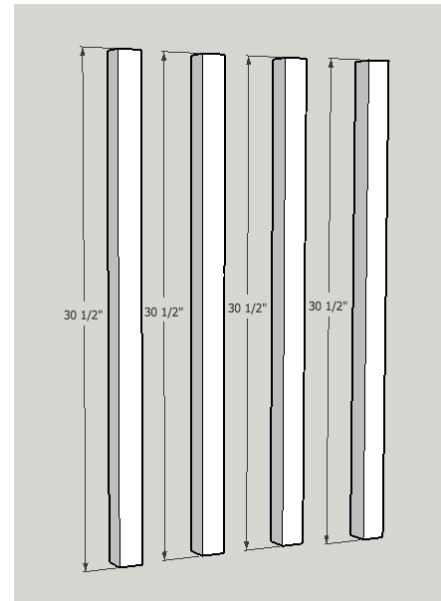
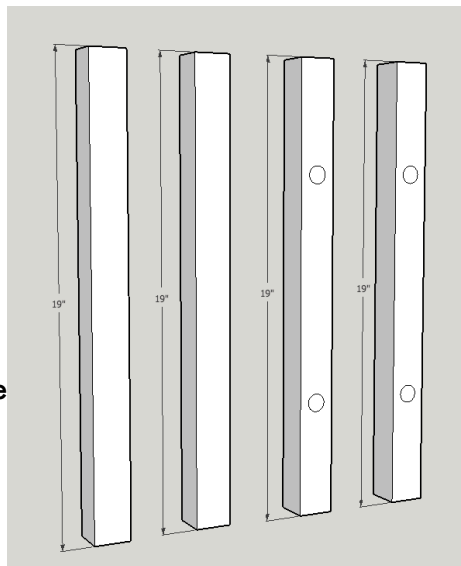
The base is made from the 2x2 pieces.

Legs - 4 @ 15"
Aprons - 2 @ 30-1/2"
 2 @ 19"
Stretchers - 2 @ 30-1/2"
 2 @ 19"

4 - Legs cut to 15"
If using dowel joinery make sure you have 2 right legs and 2 left legs. The holes for the short stretchers should be drilled at 6-3/4" from the bottom of the leg.



4 - Short stretchers cut to 19"
If using dowel joinery, Make 2 holes at 4-3/4" from each end of the stretcher. Also drill holes in the end grain of all the stretchers.



4 - Long stretchers cut to 30-1/2"
If using dowel joinery drill holes in the end grain of all the stretchers

STEP 9

Assemble both short sides of the table.

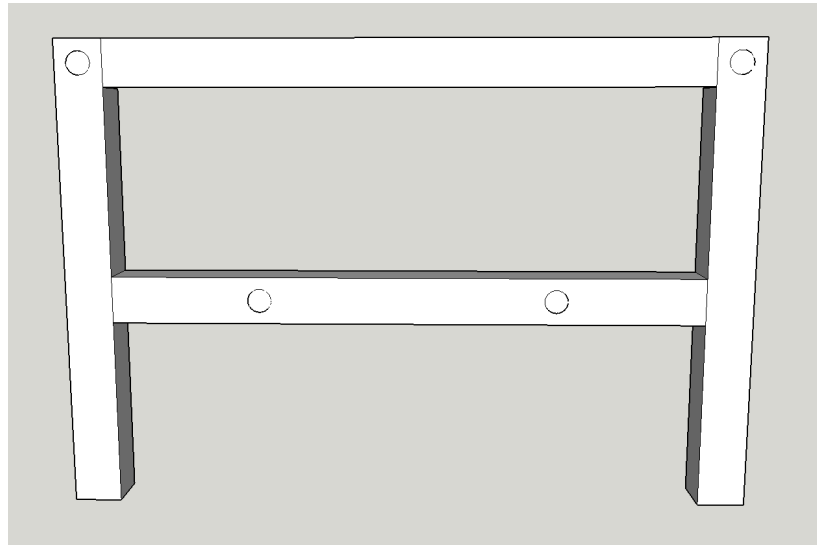
Attach 1 short 19" apron to 2 legs, making sure it is flush with the tops of the legs.

Attach 1 short 19" stretcher to the legs at around 6" up from the bottom of the legs.

2 - Sides of the base should look like this.

If using dowel joinery, make sure the holes for the longer aprons and stretchers are facing the same direction.

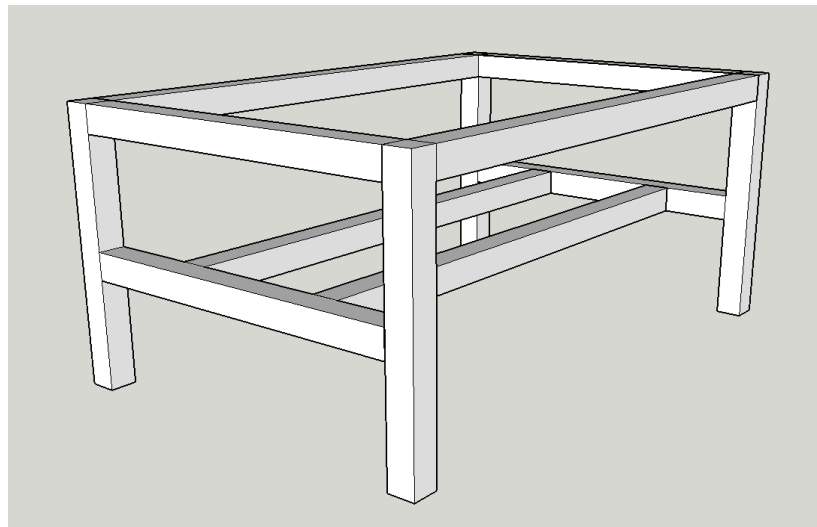
If you predrilled the apron pieces, make sure the countersunk holes are facing down.



STEP 10

Attach the two sides using the longer 30-1/2" aprons and stretchers.

If you drilled the holes correctly for the dowel joinery, everything should line up very easily.



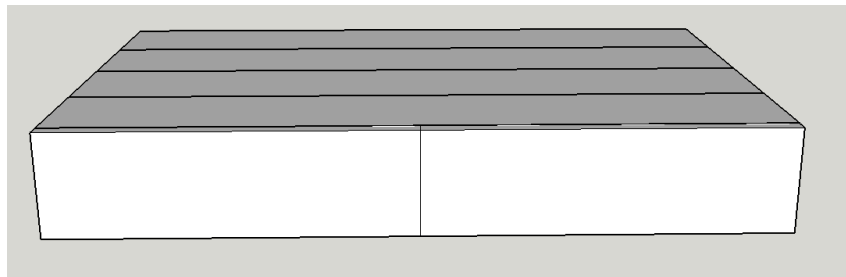
STEP 11

Cut the drawer fronts to size.

If you want the continuous grain look on the front of the table, take one of the leftover pieces of 1x6, rip it to the correct width, and temporarily attach it the front of the table.

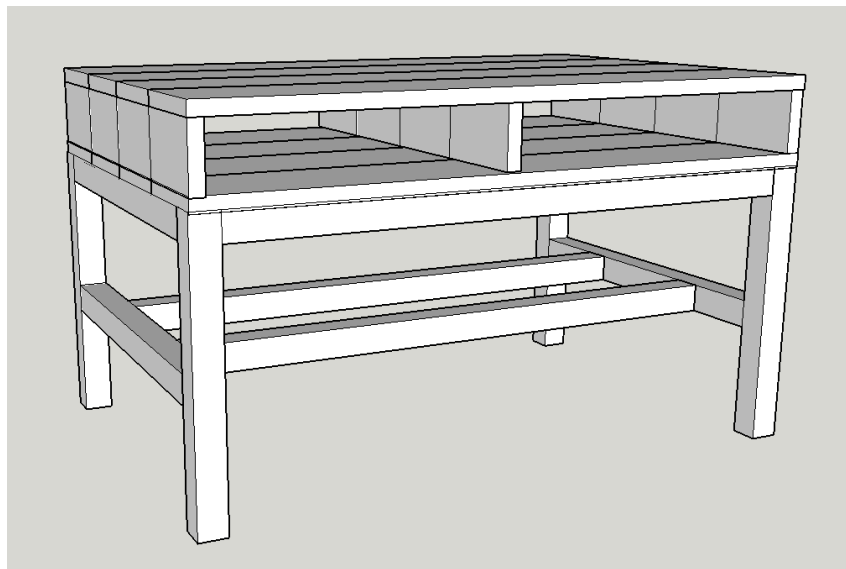


Mark the center of the board, cut it in half then screw them back onto the drawers.



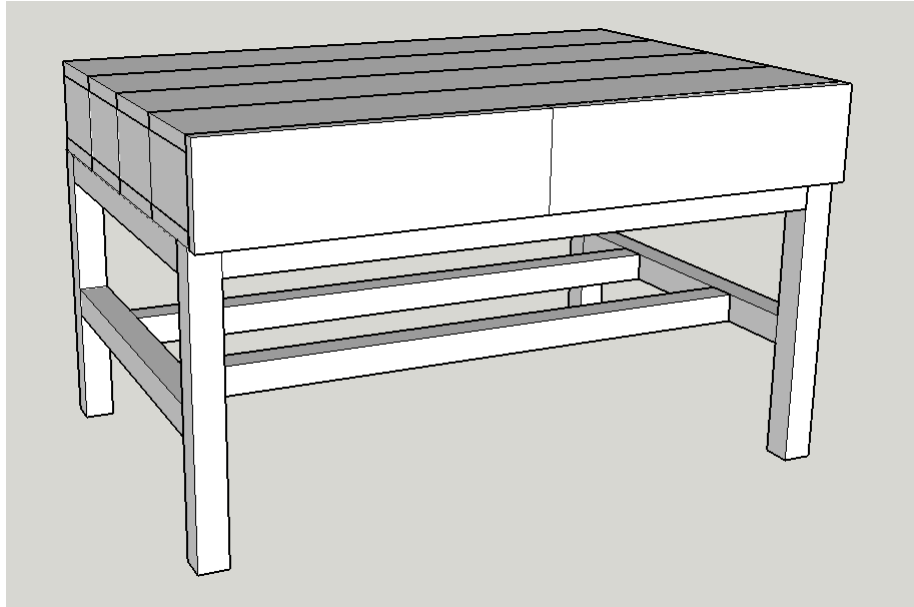
STEP 12

Attach the top to the base using screws through the predrilled holes in the apron.



STEP 13

Put the drawers in place and you're done!



A few things to note about this table....

I made this 20" high because my kids are on the tall side and I won't be using it as a coffee table.

Average play table height is 16"-18".

Also, since I won't be using it as a coffee table I didn't put on a back, this is going against a wall, if you want to use this as a coffee table, consider putting a back on it.

Happy playing!