



HOW TO BUILD THE ULTIMATE POTTING BENCH

GETTING STARTED

TOOLS:

Miter Saw and/or Circular Saw
Jig Saw
Drill
Square
Tape Measure
Pencil
Safety Glasses



MATERIALS:



**One 4" x 4" x 12'
Pressure Treated Post**

Cut List:

Four 33" posts

(SKU 258132)



**Six 5/4" x 6" x 16'
Pressure Treated
Decking Board**

Cut List:

8 – 71 1/4"

12 – 23 1/4"

6 – 24 3/4"

(SKU 128966)



One 2" x 4" x 10'

Cut List:

Two 30" TOP B sides

One 21 3/4" TOP B front and back/

Bottom Inside Frame

(SKU 124380)



**One 1" x 12" x 6'
Common Board**

Cut List:

One 71 1/4"

Three 10" x 8" **heavy-duty
shelf brackets**

3" **exterior screws**

2" **exterior screws**

Six (or desired quantity)
square bend screw hooks

**Behr Premium Exterior Stain
in Natural or paint**

(SKU 458511)



**Five 2" x 4" x 12'
Pressure Treated Boards**

Cut List:

Two 68 1/4" Bottom Face Frame

Four 60" Rear Legs

Four 20 1/4" TOP A and C front and back

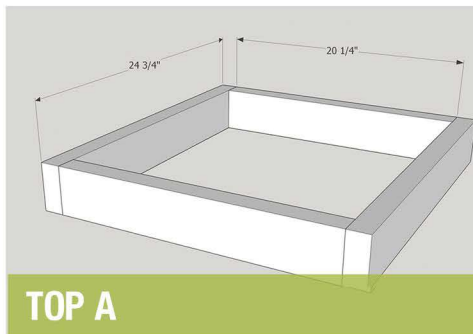
Three 21 3/4" TOP B front and back/ Bottom Inside Frame

Six 24 3/4" TOP A sides/ TOP C sides/ Bottom Outside Frame

(SKU 168161)

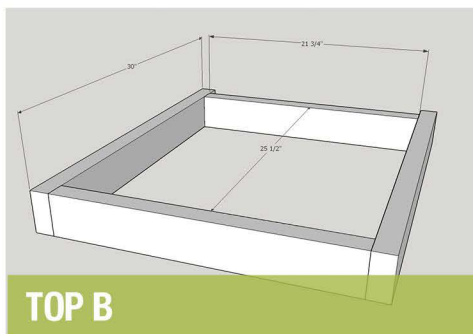
CONSTRUCT THE FRAMES

The bench is constructed of multiple frames suspended between the legs of the bench. All frame pieces are secured together with 3" screws.



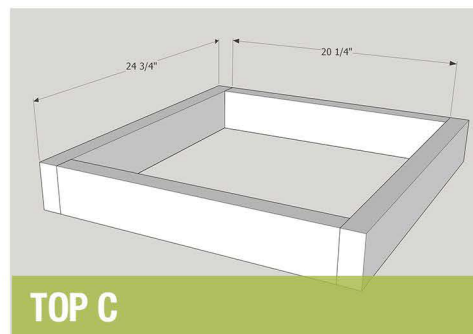
STEP 1

The first top frame is constructed using two 24 3/4" and two 20 1/4" pieces of 2" x 4" pressure treated board. Label this frame TOP A.



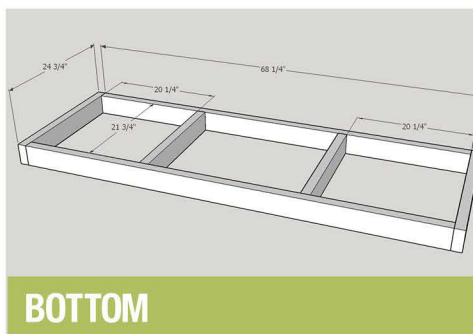
STEP 2

The second top frame uses two 30" and two 21 3/4" pressure treated boards. The frame has a 1 1/2" indent along the back side. Label this frame as TOP B.



STEP 3

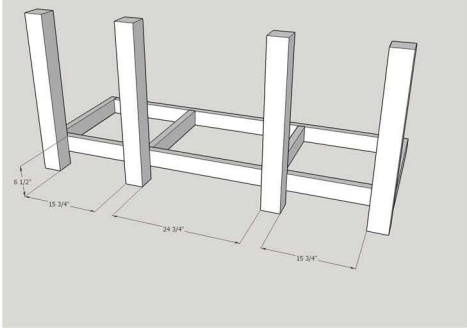
The third top frame is constructed using two 24 3/4" and two 20 1/4" pieces of 2" x 4" pressure treated board. Label this frame TOP C.



STEP 4

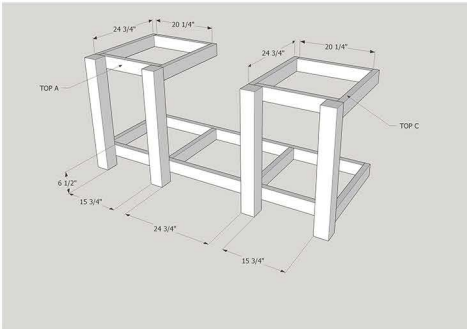
Lastly construct the lower shelf frame using two 68 1/4", two 24 3/4" and two 21 3/4" pressure treated boards. The interior frame boards are inset 20 1/4" in from each respective side. Label this frame BOTTOM

ASSEMBLING THE TABLE



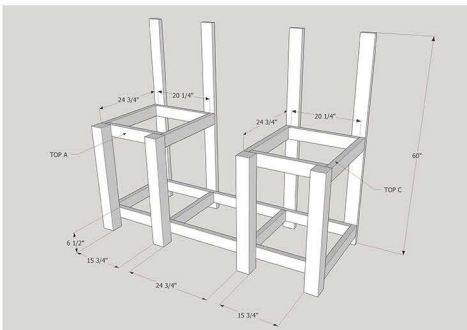
STEP 5

On each of the four cedar posts, use the square and pencil to create a line across the face of the posts 6 1/2" from the bottom. Lay the post marked-side-up on the ground and use the lines you made as a guide for placing the "BOTTOM" frame. The top edge of the bottom frame is even with the line and secured with screws driven from the inside of the frame and into the posts.



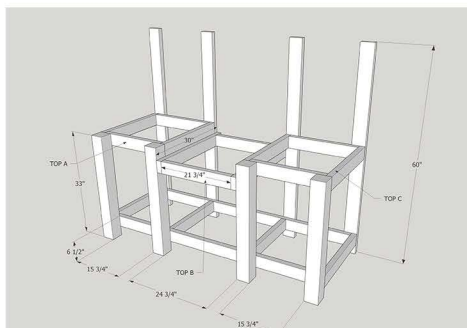
STEP 6

With the frame still on the ground, add the TOP A and TOP C frames next. The top edge of the frames are flush with the top of the posts and their outside edges.



STEP 7

The back legs are constructed with the 60" long 2" x 4" boards. Before placing the boards, guide lines need to be created. On each board create a line at 6 1/2" up from the bottom and another line at 33" up from the bottom. The 6 1/2" line is even with the top edge of the bottom frame. The 33" line is even with the top edge of frames TOP A and TOP C.

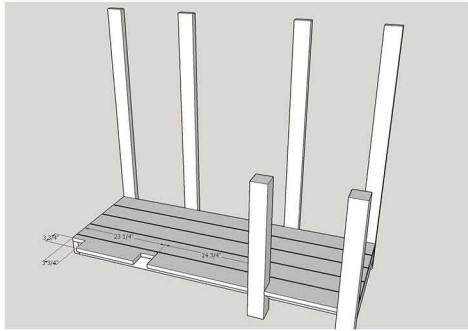


STEP 8

To help bind the bench sections together, frame TOP B is dropped into the middle of the bench. The top edge of frame TOP B is even with the bottom edges of frames "TOP A" and "TOP C". Secure the frame into place by driving screws from the inside of the frame into the post and rear legs. Once the middle frame is secured, stand the bench up with the help of a partner.

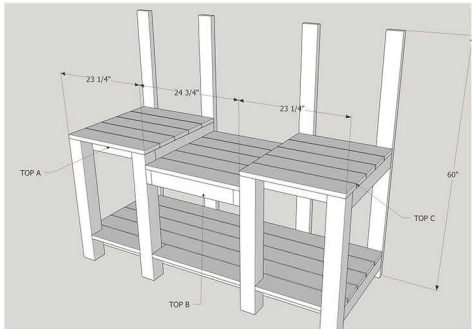
DECKING THE BENCH

Lay all decking from back to front to make spacing easier. Use 2" exterior screws to hold planks in place.



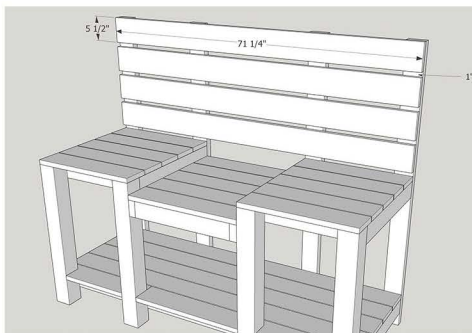
STEP 9

With the frame completed, the decking is added starting with the bottom shelf first. The shelf is lined with five 71 1/4" long decking boards arranged back to front with 1/4" spacing between boards. Lay four of the boards down and check spacing before driving screws into the bottom frame. The front deck board is made up of the three pieces, two 23 1/4" each with a 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" notch cut into each end with the jig saw. This allows the board to fit around the posts. The middle board is 24 3/4" long.



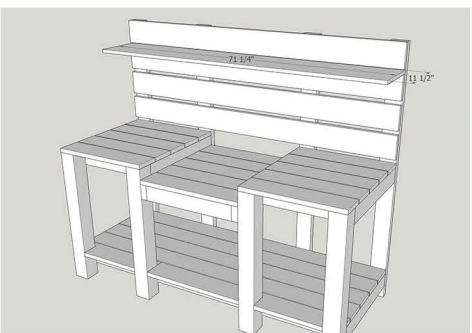
STEP 10

The three tiers of the bench are covered with five decking planks each spaced 1/4" apart just like the bottom shelf. The planks for frame "TOP A" are 23 1/4" long and once test-fitted, can be screwed into place. The planks for frame "TOP B" are 24 3/4" long and once test-fitted, can also be screwed into place. The planks for frame "TOP C" are also 23 1/4" long.



STEP 11

The back board is made up of four 71 1/4" long planks spaced 1" apart starting at the top and working down towards the bench top. Secure the planks into place with 2" long exterior screws driven through the planks and into the rear legs.



STEP 12

The 1" x 11"x 6" shelf is slotted just below the top most back plank and is supported by the shelf brackets. To hold your various garden tools, screw the square bend screw hooks (or whatever hooks you choose) into the backing planks and/or into the side panels of the bench.

FINISHING TOUCHES



Personalize the bench with the touches that make it work best for you.

We finished our bench with a coat of [Behr Premium Plus Outdoor Stain in Natural](#). For maximum efficiency, locate the potting bench close to a hose and spigot so you can water seedlings and newly planted containers. This bench can be decorative, too, just fill it up with your favorite outdoor decor like [lanterns](#), [terra cotta pots](#) and [garden art](#) from the Garden Center. For more ideas, see [How to Customize a Potting Bench](#).