

# Super-simple workbench

Got two hours on your hands and 50 bucks in your pocket? Do we have a workbench for you!



by Travis Larson  
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**This sturdy 30-in. x 6-ft.-long workbench is the ultimate in simplicity.** It's made from only fifteen 8-ft.-long 2x4s and one sheet of 1/2-in. plywood. Follow the cutting diagrams to cut the parts: **Figure B** to cut the plywood tops, then **Figure C** to cut all the framing. Use the lengths provided in the Cutting List. You can either screw the framing together with 3-in. screws or hand- or power-nail it together with 3-in. nails. Screw the plywood down with 1-5/8-in. screws.

**To make these project plans even easier to follow, we tinted the parts that get added at each step.**

**Figure A** Main workbench parts



## Accessorize it!

### Lighting

Good light is mandatory for any workbench. Buy a 4-ft. shop light for under \$15 and screw it right to the underside of the top shelf.



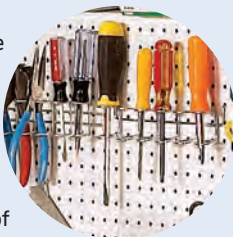
### Power strip

Forget extension cords. Mount a power strip to one of the legs and you'll have all the power you need for tools and chargers. Use its switch to control the light.



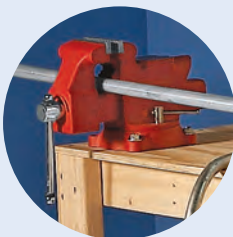
### Pegboard

Whether you cover the whole back or just the lower half, keep down the bench clutter by stowing all of those tools you use every day within easy reach.



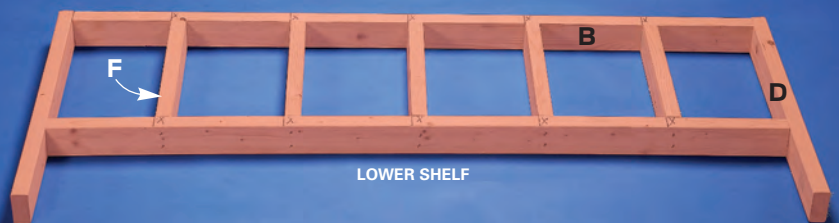
### Bench vise

Yes, it'll cost as much as or more than the bench, but what workbench would be complete without one?



**1**

Assemble the frames for the work surface and lower shelf



**2** Screw the legs to the work surface frame



**tip**

Use paint cans to support the lower shelf frame when you're attaching it to the main workbench legs.



**3** Flip over the bench and attach the lower shelf frame



**Cutting List**

KEY	QTY.	SIZE & DESCRIPTION
A	9	71-7/8" (backer boards, upper shelf legs and rims)
B	4	68-7/8" (work surface and lower shelf rim)
C	4	35-1/2" (legs)
D	4	27" (end rims)
E	5	24" (work surface joists)
F	5	15" (lower shelf joists)
G	7	9" (upper shelf joists)

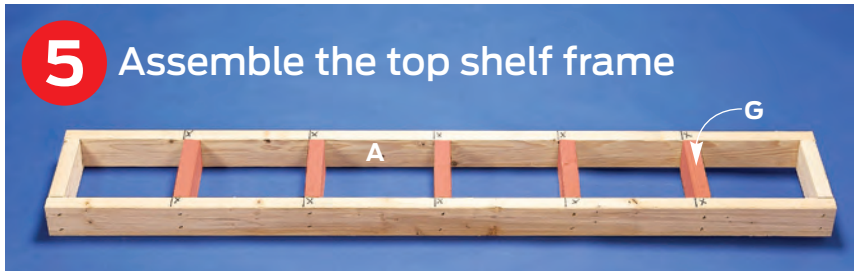
**4** Screw the plywood to the frames



**Figure B**  
Plywood cutting diagram



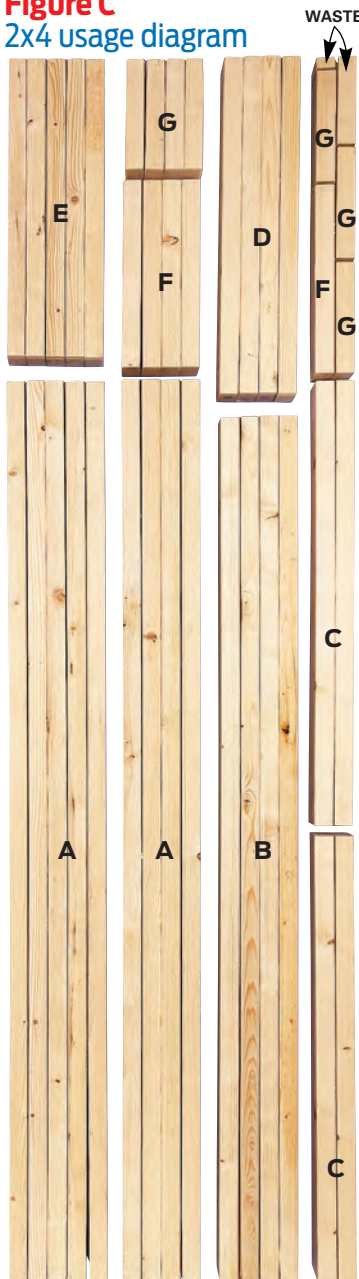
**5** Assemble the top shelf frame



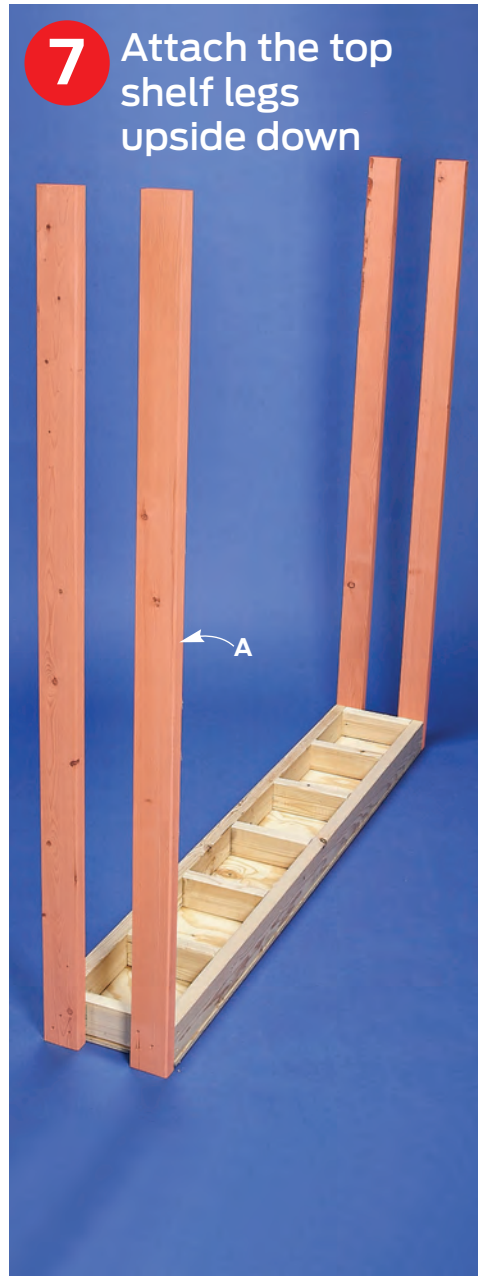
**6** Add the plywood



**Figure C**  
2x4 usage diagram



**7** Attach the top shelf legs upside down



## DIY Success Story

Around these parts, everyone knows I'm the least "wood savvy" of all the editors. So when Travis heard I wanted to build a workbench for my son, he handed me his design. My job was to build it and report back on how it went.

Maybe Travis can build this baby in two hours, but it took "Musco Junior" and me about 3-1/2. The most time-consuming part was cutting the studs according to the diagram to get maximum yield from the lumber. Once cut, the pieces flew together (we used a framing nailer). Since he'll be sharing the workbench with his wife and her gardening stuff, we added a replaceable 1/8-in. hardboard workbench top coated with glossy paint to make it easier to clean. Next, we made the pegboard area larger and added two 5-in. shelves to hold plastic parts bins. The hardboard and pegboard added \$16 to the cost. Then we spent \$85 on a cold-start fluorescent fixture and bulbs, a vise, plastic bins and pegboard tool holders. This was a great father-son project. If we can do it, so can you!

*Rick Muscoplat*

## 8 Screw the legs to the bench and add the backer boards

