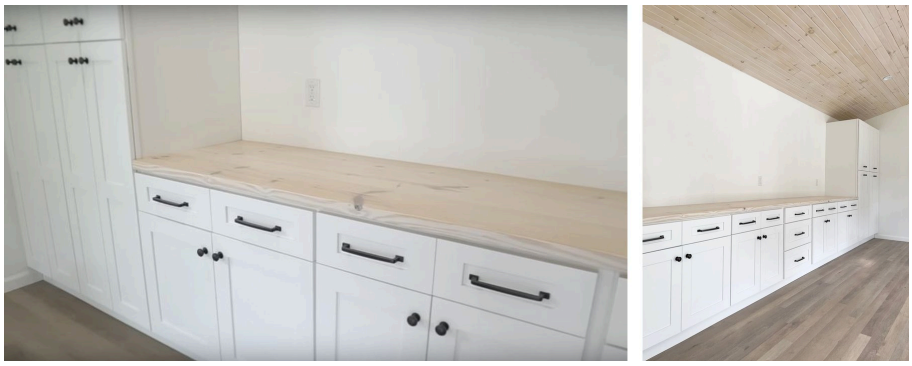
DIY Countertops for Under $60

Build a long wood countertop out of 2×10 pine boards for about $56 in lumber. Ours is over 13' long and 25 1/2" deep, sitting on a run of base cabinets in the workshop.



Before (left) and after (right)

Tools

- [ ] Miter saw
- [ ] Table saw
- [ ] Thickness planer (optional)
- [ ] Belt sander
- [ ] Orbital sander
- [ ] Jig saw
- [ ] Circular saw
- [ ] Router with a roundover bit
- [ ] Kreg Jig
- [ ] Cordless drill
- [ ] 48" bar clamps
- [ ] Panel clamps
- [ ] Scraper
- [ ] Paint brush and clean rags

Supplies

- [ ] 2" x 10" pine boards: one 12' and four 8' (for a 13' countertop)
- [ ] Wood glue
- [ ] 2 1/2" pocket screws
- [ ] 1 1/4" screws
- [ ] Wood filler

- [ ] Sandpaper: 60 to 80 grit belts, then 120 and 220 grit
- [ ] Painters tape
- [ ] White paint and water for whitewash (1 part paint, 1 part water)
- [ ] Polyurethane

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Step 1: Plane the boards

Plane all the boards to the same thickness. If you don't have a planer, skip this step and plan on more sanding later.



Step 2: Rip the boards

Rip every board to 8 1/2" wide on the table saw so three boards make a 25 1/2" deep countertop. Trim both edges of each board to get there so every edge is square.

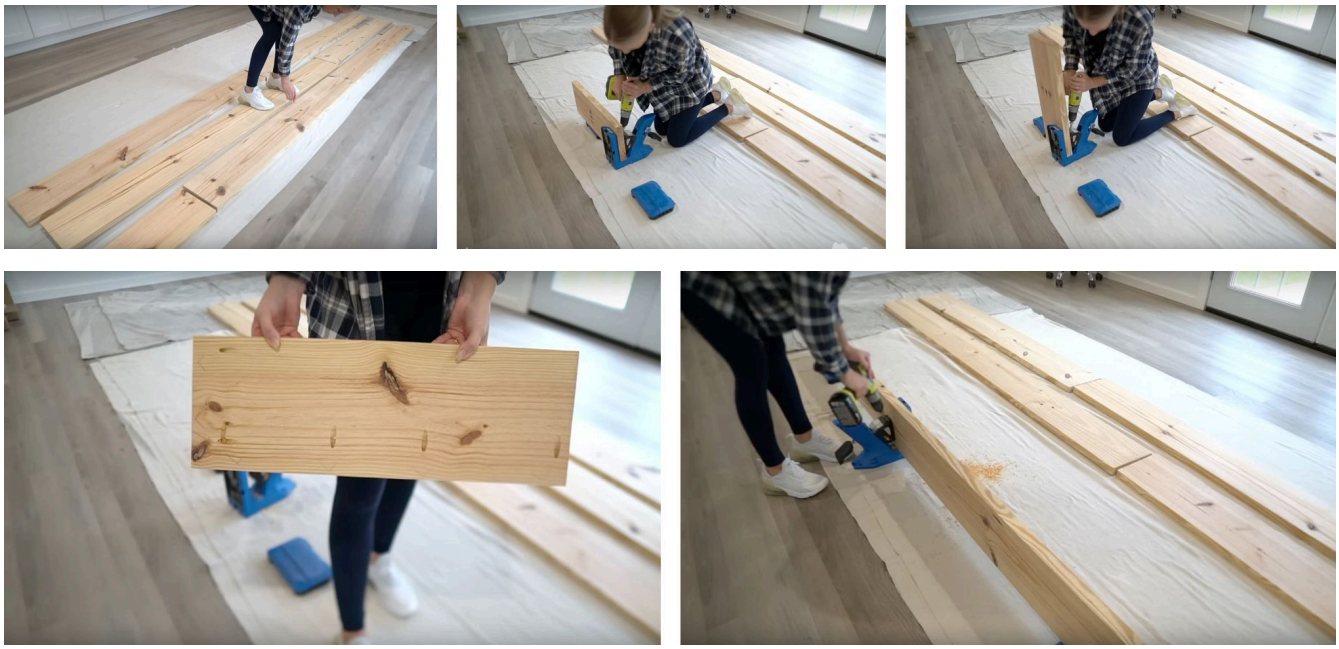


Step 3: Arrange and cut the boards

Cut the boards to rough length with the miter saw, leaving about 6" extra on each end for the final cut. Our countertop is over 13' long, so we spliced boards together using one 12' board and four 8' boards. Stagger the seams so they're less noticeable.

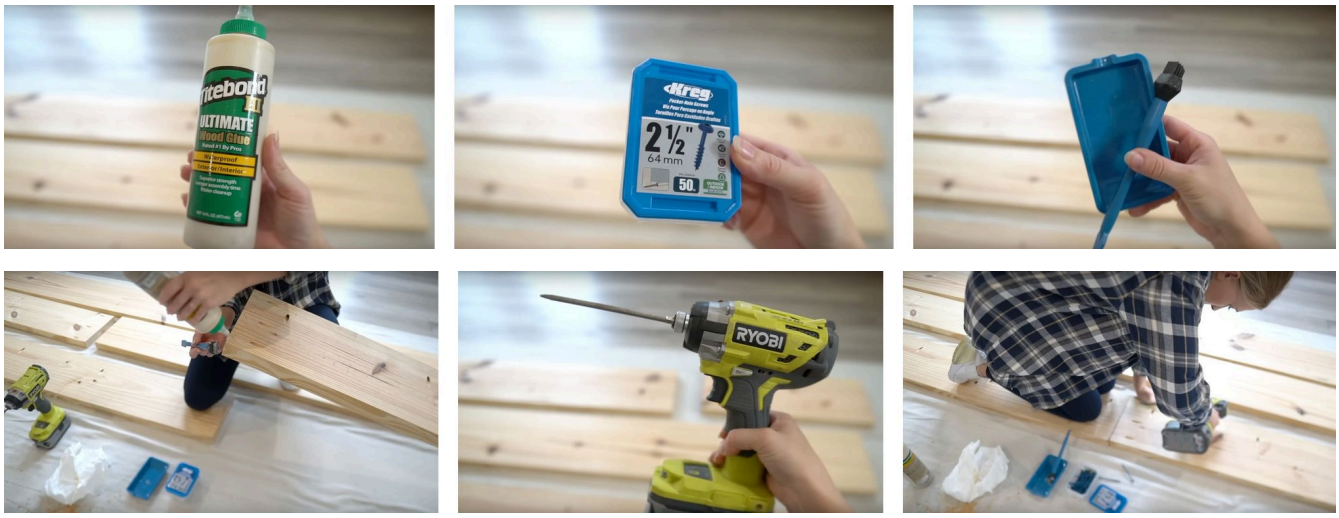
Step 4: Drill the pocket holes

Arrange the boards with the good face down and mark all the pocket holes. The two outside boards get screwed into the middle board. Drill the pocket holes with the Kreg Jig.



Step 5: Join the boards end to end

Join the spliced boards lengthwise first with plenty of wood glue and 2 1/2" pocket screws.



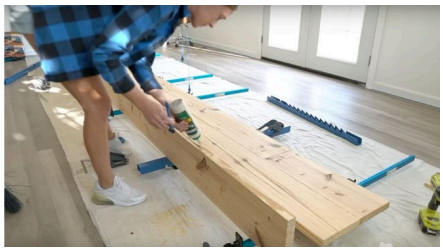
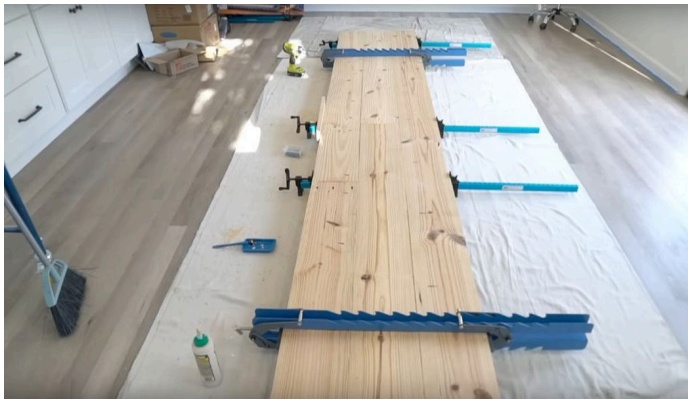
Step 6: Glue, clamp and screw the width

Set up the panel clamps to keep the boards flush and flat, and the 48" clamps to pull them together. Glue the edge of the first board, set it in place, then work down the line clamping and screwing the boards together. Add the last board the same way. Let it dry overnight.







Step 7: Sand

Scrape off the dried glue. Sand the whole top flat with the belt sander using 60 to 80 grit. Then go over it with the orbital sander up to 120 grit to remove the sanding marks.











Step 8: Fill seams and holes

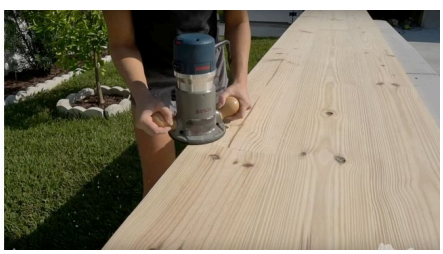
Fill any small seams with wood filler. Once it's dry, sand again with 120 grit, including any exposed edges.



Step 9: Cut to final size

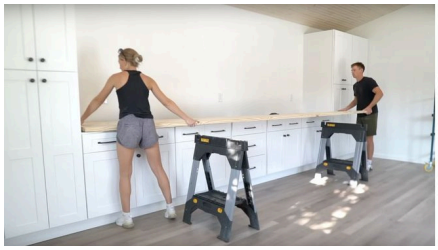
Measure the cabinets and cut the countertop about 1/4" short overall, 1/8" on each end, so it still fits if the walls are a little out of square. Use scrap wood as a guide and cut each end with a circular saw, avoiding the pocket screws. Notch the front corners with a jig saw to fit around the face of the neighboring cabinets. Round over the front edge with a router, or soften it with a sander.

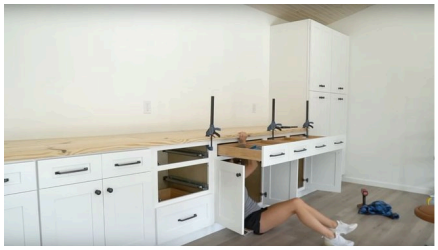




Step 10: Install

Set the countertop on the cabinets. Leave it unfinished until it's installed in case you need to make adjustments. Drill a small hole in each corner block of the cabinets and drive a 1 1/4" screw up through the block into the countertop. If the top is a little warped, clamp the front edge and secure it first, then put weight on the back edge while you secure it.



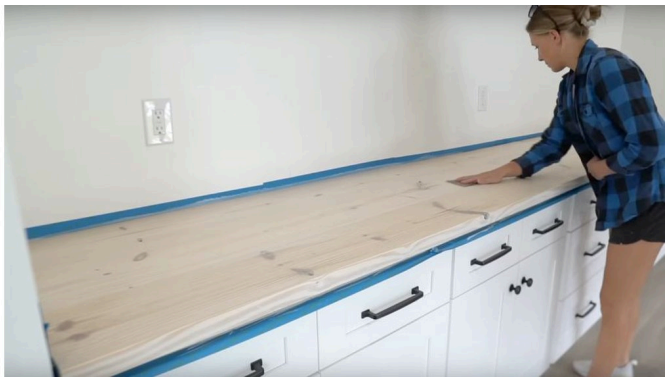


Step 11: Whitewash and seal

Tape off the edges. Brush on whitewash (1 part paint, 1 part water) and wipe it off right away with a clean rag. Once it's dry, apply 3 thick coats of polyurethane, sanding with 220 grit between coats.







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