DIY Large Work Table

Build a large rolling work table with a chunky 2×10 top and a 2×4 and 4×4 base. The top is about 10' long and 43" deep with a 1" overhang on every side.



Tools

- [ ] Miter saw
- [ ] Thickness planer (optional)
- [ ] Table saw
- [ ] Circular saw
- [ ] Orbital sander
- [ ] Belt sander
- [ ] Router with a roundover bit
- [ ] Kreg Jig
- [ ] Cordless drill
- [ ] Chisel
- [ ] 24" and 48" clamps
- [ ] Spring clamps
- [ ] Stain applicator pad

Supplies

- [ ] 2 1/2" pocket screws
- [ ] Wood glue
- [ ] 5" casters (6), about 6" tall
- [ ] Water-based wood stain in Special Walnut, Behr
- [ ] Water-based matte polyurethane, Behr
- [ ] Sandpaper: 50 grit belts, then up to 220 grit
- [ ] Scrap hardboard (for spacing)

Material list

Qty	Material	Used for
2	4" x 4" x 8' pine	Legs
8	2" x 4" x 8' pine	Table base
5	2" x 10" x 12' pine	Tabletop

Cut list

Qty	Material	Length	Used for
6	4" x 4"	28 1/2"	Legs
4	2" x 4"	54"	Long apron
6	2" x 4"	34"	Short apron and stretchers
2	2" x 4"	37 1/2"	Short apron
2	2" x 4"	59"	Stretcher
3	2" x 10"	120 1/2"	Tabletop, full width (9 1/4")
2	2" x 10"	120 1/2"	Tabletop, ripped to 7 5/8"

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Table plan



Step 1: Plane and rip the tabletop boards

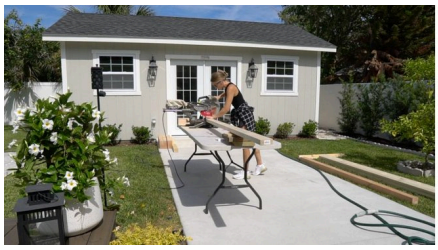
Plane the 2×10s if you have a planer. If not, plan on extra sanding. Then rip the two outside boards so the tabletop is 43" deep. You can use 1x lumber for a lighter top, but 2×10s give it a thick, chunky look.





Step 2: Cut the framing and notch the stretchers

Cut all the framing pieces to size using the cut list. Notch the 3 bottom side stretchers so the long center stretcher can sit across them: mark a 2×4 width in the center, make a series of shallow cuts with the miter saw, knock out the pieces and clean up the notch with a chisel.





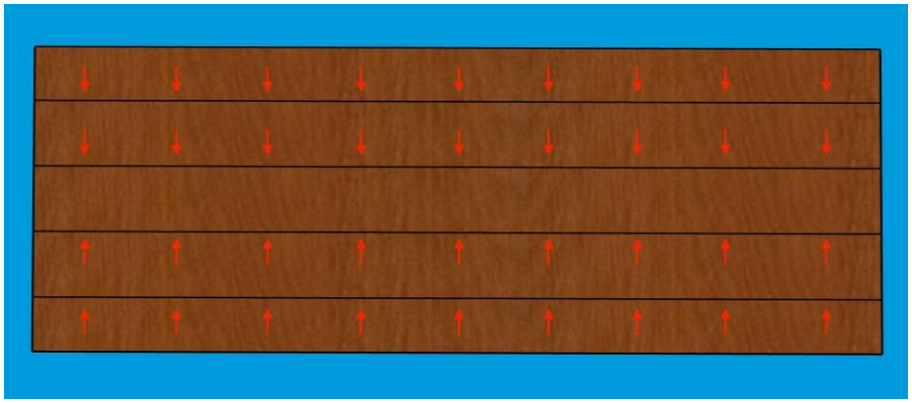






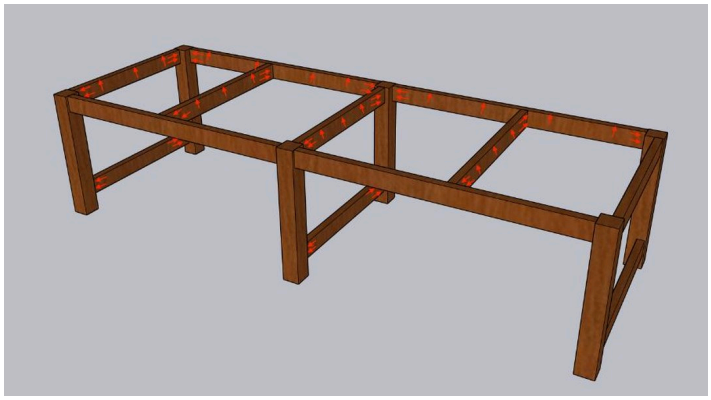
Step 3: Drill the pocket holes

Lay out the 2×10s and mark pocket holes about every 8" following the diagram. Drill them with the Kreg Jig. Then drill pocket holes in all the framing pieces following the second diagram.



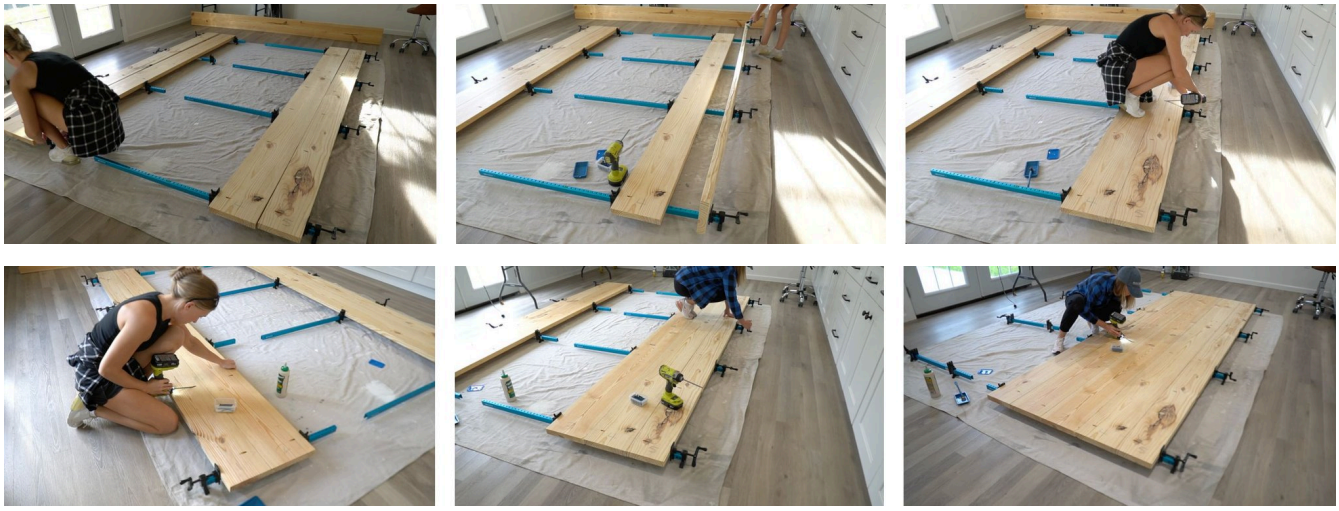






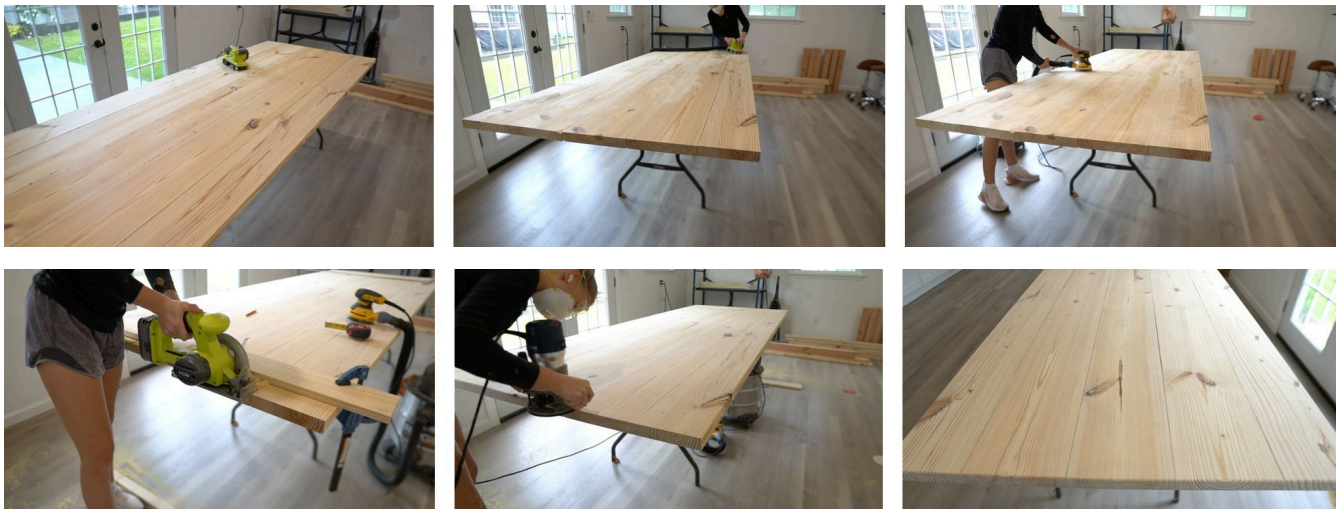
Step 4: Assemble the tabletop

Assemble the top in sections to keep it manageable. Glue one edge, set the next board in place, clamp it and drive 2 1/2" pocket screws, pressing each board flat as you go. Add the next boards the same way, letting the glue set before adding more. The finished top is very heavy, so get help lifting it.



Step 5: Sand, cut and round over the top

Sand the whole top with a belt sander and 50 grit, then the orbital sander up to 220 grit. I kept the board edges slightly rounded so you can still see each board. Cut both ends square with a circular saw to the final length, about 10'. Round over the edges and corners with a router, or with a sander if you don't have one.



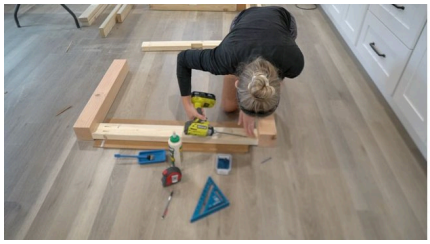
Step 6: Sand the framing and legs

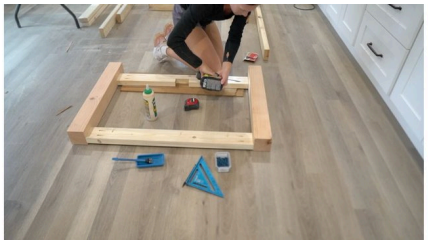
Sand all the 2×4 framing pieces and 4×4 legs.

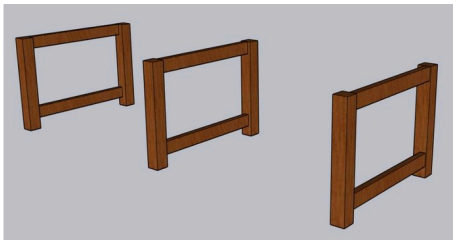


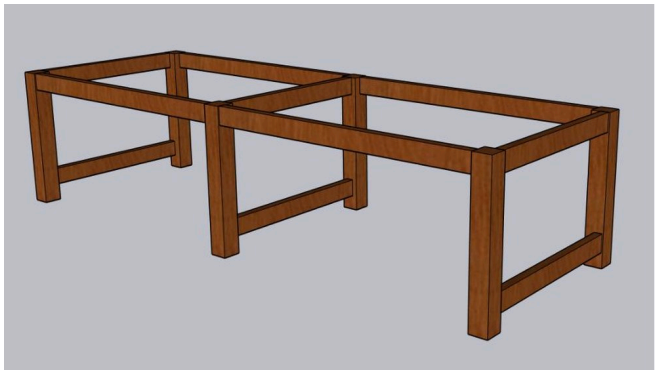
Step 7: Assemble the base

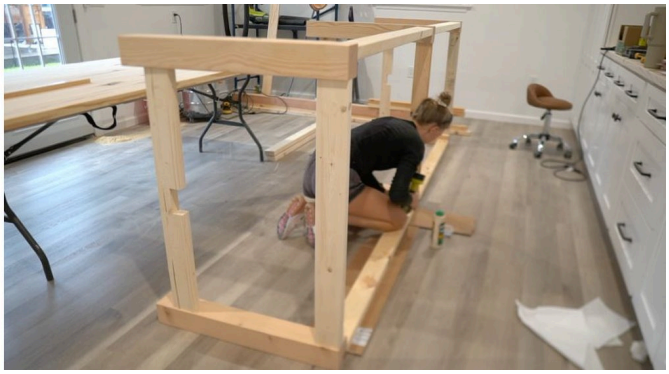
Lay scrap hardboard under the aprons so they sit about 1/4" in from the face of the legs. Attach the aprons to the legs with wood glue and 2 1/2" pocket screws. The bottom apron sits about 3" up from the bottom of the legs. Assemble the short leg frames first, then stand them on their sides to attach the long aprons. Flip the base to attach the long aprons on the other side.











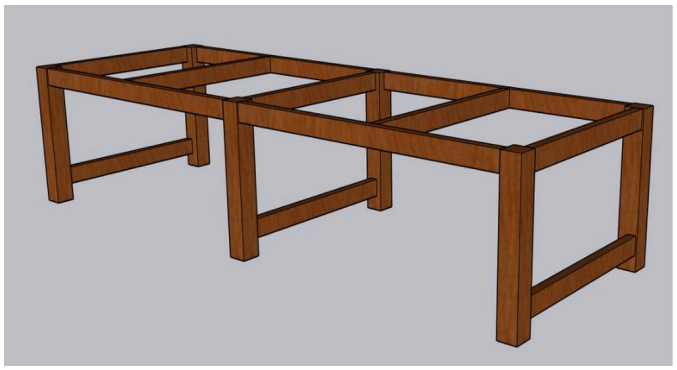
Step 8: Attach the casters

With the base on its side, screw a caster to the bottom of each leg. The casters add about 6" to the height of the table, so plan for that.

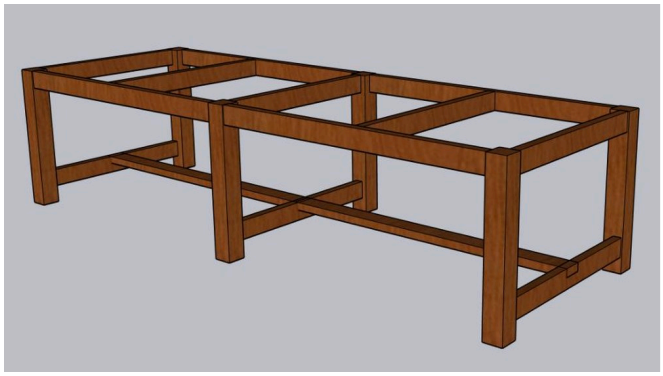


Step 9: Add the support framing

Stand the base upright and add the extra support pieces for the tabletop. Glue and clamp the long center stretcher into the notched stretchers.









Step 10: Attach the tabletop

Set the top on the base with an even 1" overhang on all sides and clamp it to the aprons. Secure it from underneath with 2 1/2" pocket screws through the pocket holes in the aprons.









Step 11: Stain and seal

Apply the stain with a stain applicator pad, which gets into the corners and goes on clean. Once it's dry, apply 3 coats of polyurethane, sanding with 220 grit between coats.









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