Herringbone Table

Build a 74" x 42" dining table with a herringbone top made from 1×6 poplar on a plywood base. I paired it with salvaged turned legs and a natural stain so the pattern really shows.



Tools

- [ ] Miter saw or circular saw
- [ ] Tape measure
- [ ] Speed square
- [ ] Kreg Jig with drill bit
- [ ] Cordless drill
- [ ] Brad nailer with 1 1/4" brad nails
- [ ] Clamps and a straight scrap board (cutting guide)
- [ ] Putty knife
- [ ] Hand sander and sandpaper
- [ ] Poly brush and rags

Supplies

- [ ] 2" pocket screws
- [ ] 2 1/2" pocket screws
- [ ] Wood glue
- [ ] Wood filler
- [ ] Water-based pre-stain wood conditioner
- [ ] Stain: Natural, Varathane
- [ ] Water-based polyurethane (gloss)

Lumber list

Qty	Material	Used for
3	2" x 4" x 8'	Supports
1	2" x 2" x 8'	Middle support
3	3/4" x 1" x 8' poplar	Table trim
1	15/32" x 4' x 8' plywood	Table top base
5	1" x 6" x 8' poplar	Herringbone top
3	1" x 6" x 6' poplar	Herringbone top
4	Table legs, about 28 3/4"	Legs (mine are salvaged)

Cut list

Qty	Material	Length	Used for
2	2" x 4"	66 1/2"	Long supports
2	2" x 4"	34 1/2"	Short supports
1	2" x 2"	37"	Middle support
1	15/32" plywood	72 1/2" x 40 1/2"	Table top base
2	3/4" x 1"	74" (45 degree ends, long point to long point)	Long trim
2	3/4" x 1"	42" (45 degree ends, long point to long point)	Short trim
Varies	1" x 6"	Cut as you go	Herringbone top

For a 74" L x 42" W x 30" H table. Home Depot can cut the big pieces so they fit in your car. This plan contains affiliate links. If you buy through one, I earn a small commission at no extra cost to you.

Step 1: Cut the materials

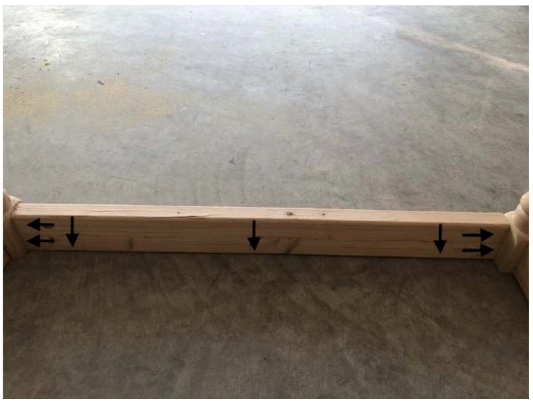
Cut everything on the cut list except the 1×6 herringbone pieces. You'll cut those as you go once the plywood top is cut to size.



Step 2: Drill pocket holes

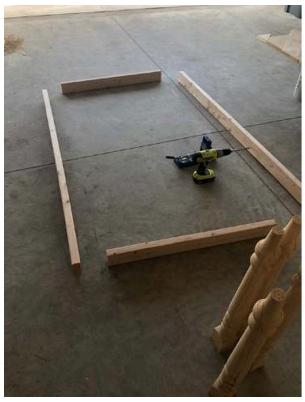
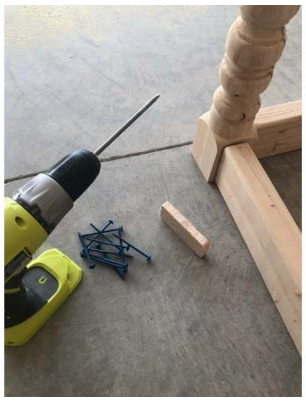
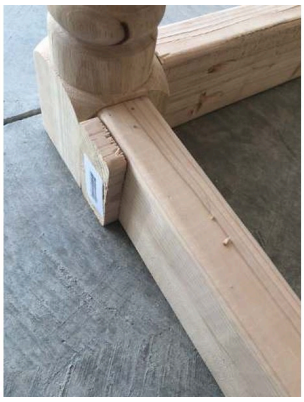
Set your Kreg Jig and drill bit for 1 1/2" material. On each of the 4 supports, drill 2 pocket holes in each end and 2 to 3 along the top edge. Watch the Kreg Jig how-to video if you're new to it.





Step 3: Attach the supports to the legs

Secure the supports to the legs with wood glue and 2 1/2" pocket screws. I used a 1/4" scrap spacer so each support sits 1/4" back from the face of the leg instead of flush. Keep the top pocket holes facing up so you can screw into the table top later.


Step 4: Install the middle support

Cut the 2×2 middle support to fit, drill 2 pocket holes in each end, and screw it between the long supports with 2" pocket screws.

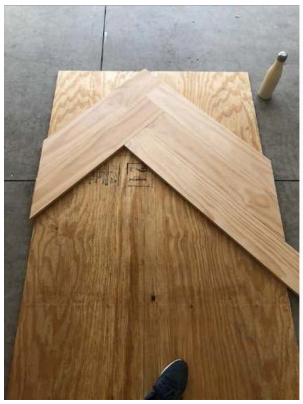
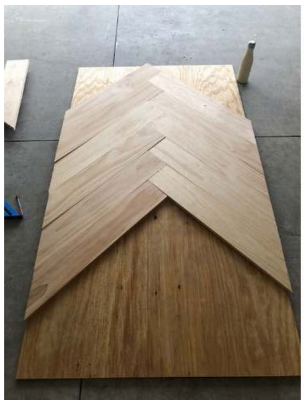


Step 5: Lay the herringbone top

Draw a line down the middle of the plywood as a guide. We shifted ours about 2 1/2" to the left so the zigzag ended up centered on the table.

Cut a 45 degree angle on a 1×6, line up its top corner on your line, and keep cutting and placing 45 degree pieces until the whole plywood is covered. It's fine if the boards hang off the edges. You'll trim them next.

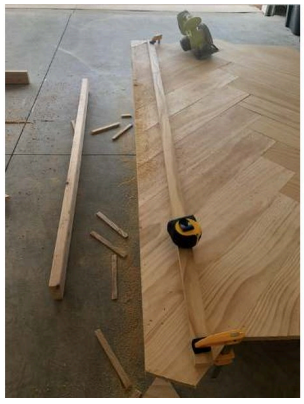
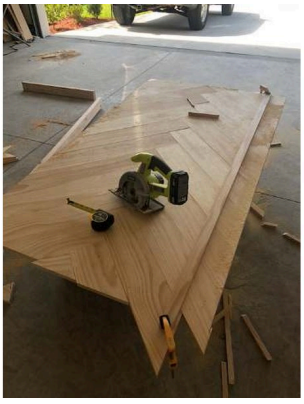
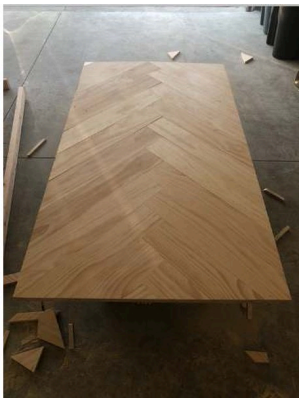
Once everything is dry fit, secure each piece with wood glue and 1 1/4" brad nails. Stack weight on top overnight while the glue sets.



Step 6: Cut off the excess

Clamp a straight scrap board along the edge as a guide and cut off the overhanging 1×6 ends with a circular saw. Repeat on every side.

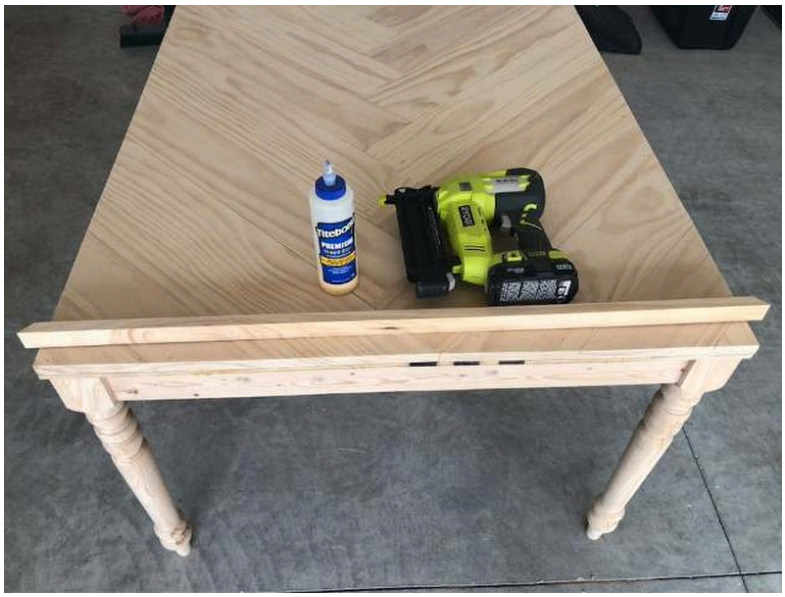





Step 7: Attach the top to the base

Flip the top face down on a flat, clean surface. Flip the base over, center it on the top, and drive 2" pocket screws through the top pocket holes into the plywood.

Step 8: Nail on the trim

Miter the trim at 45 degrees and attach it with wood glue and brad nails. Gaps between the trim and the top, or in the corners, can be filled with wood filler. We ran our trim through the table saw to shave it down to the same depth as the table top.



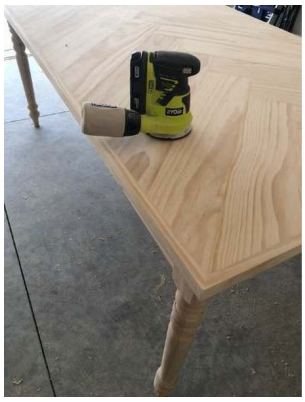
Step 9: Fill the holes and cracks

Fill all the cracks, gaps and visible nail holes with wood filler and a putty knife. The filler I used goes on pink and dries clear.



Step 10: Sand

Sand the whole table top with an electric sander and the legs by hand. Start with a rough grit and work up to a fine grit, and soften the corners so they aren't sharp.





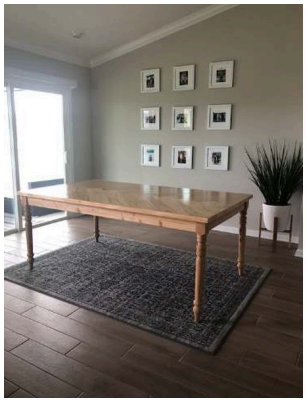
Step 11: Stain and seal

Apply the pre-stain wood conditioner, then the stain, then the polyurethane, following the directions on each can. Natural stain keeps it light so the herringbone pattern stands out.











More from this project

- Kreg Jig how-to video
- Dark Herringbone Table
- More DIY projects