



HOME TRAINING IN CABINET WORK. PRACTICAL TALKS ON STRUCTURAL WOOD-WORKING—THIRD OF THE SERIES



It is a pleasure to find, as in the following extract from a personal letter from Dr. Edward C. Kirk, editor of *The Dental Cosmos*, Philadelphia, so strong a confirmation of my purpose and conviction, coming as it does from a professional point of view. The same subject is further developed in an able editorial article which appeared in the *Cosmos* and is quoted elsewhere in this issue of THE CRAFTSMAN.

Dr. Kirk writes: "I have been reading with much interest your articles in THE CRAFTSMAN relative to amateur cabinet work, and, between the lines, their animating motive. I have been much interested in the cultural value of that class of work, and have studied for many years the value which hand training has in the development of character, quite apart from the manual skill which is its direct result.

"I believe that much can be done in the way of character development by the right application of manual training. So much of your work seems to me to embody just the kind of educational quality most needed for the growing generation, that I am taking the liberty of calling your attention to this matter, and further, of expressing my appreciation of what you are doing in your particular field for the

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rising generation. The rising generation, by the way, is in my judgment the most fruitful and hopeful field of development.

“Right ideas of living and proper standards of appreciation of material things can best be impressed upon growing minds. They have no preconceived notions to undo. Their mental fiber is still receptive and flexible. They are without ingrained prejudices, and, if the proper impression is made upon their minds, it is they who will determine the ideals and standards of society for the future. I believe that your crusade in favor of simplicity and beauty would receive a new impetus and bear larger fruit if *THE CRAFTSMAN* could devote increased attention to the young amateur by stimulating his interest in the principles you are endeavoring to inculcate.”

A further confirmation of the vital and pressing need of more attention on the part of parents and guardians to the subject of manual training, comes from the State Industrial School of Colorado, and the practical results are ably presented in the illustrated article printed in this issue of *THE CRAFTSMAN* under the title of “Craftsmanship as a Preventive of Crime.”

Readers of this article will find in it many interesting and convincing statements which have a far broader application than one which would include only slum-reared children, or boys criminally inclined. The restless activity of the growing boy, whatever his grade in life, or however fortunate his surroundings, is a normal expression of his nature. Upon the direction of this activity during the formative years of his life depends the success or failure of his future career and the measure of his coming usefulness as a citizen. As the writer states, the mere inculcation of principles of right and wrong does not necessarily lead to right living and right doing. Ethical theorizing is an easy matter, but before precepts and theories can be made objective as the mainspring of habitual right action, the element of a sturdy resolution to achieve must be built into the developing character by the habits of daily life. And to me it would seem that nothing is clearer than that “the direct contact with Nature’s forms and forces leaves an impress upon the soul of the worker.”

Honest work has never yet degraded man or boy, and when an over-indulgent parent encourages in a child the false notion that he has no need to work with his hands, that parent is trifling in dangerous fashion with forces as strong as Fate in shaping life for good or ill.

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Unfortunately, the records of modern life show that the juvenile criminal class is not recruited entirely from the slums, where the manifest disadvantages of environment might furnish a reasonable excuse for ill-doing, and it is an impressive fact shown by statistics that the average adult criminal is not uneducated, but unskilled.

The natural, instinctive pride of a boy in being able to do something needs only to be directed into some channel adapted more or less to his tendencies and capabilities, to furnish a right and healthful outlet for the energies that work so much mischief when wrongly applied. It is just here that manual training, and especially skill in wood-working, can be made to carry an almost irresistible appeal to the boy in the home, as something that he can learn to do, and to do well, if given the opportunity, tools and materials.

The cost of an outfit, as stated in the foregoing articles of this series, is trifling as compared with its importance as a factor in moral and mental development, and as a means to the self-discipline that alone ensures stability in character-building. This is a fact so self-evident to all thoughtful people that it would seem needless for me to urge upon parents or guardians the consideration of these things in their true relation to life as shown in their shaping potency and saving grace.

To encourage all, and especially the young people who may be interested in this series of articles treating of home training in cabinet work, I may say once more that I shall be glad to receive photographs of any pieces made, for criticism if needful, and for reproduction in the pages of *THE CRAFTSMAN* as examples of practice work in cabinet-making.

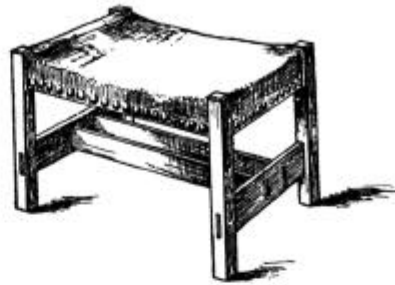
Twelve models having been given in the foregoing articles of the series, I have chosen for the current number six additional pieces, which include a desk and desk-chair, a foot-rest, a shirt-waist box, a screen and a garden bench. These are all comparatively simple, easily made and suited to common uses, and with the others already published would seem to give, for the present, sufficient variety to select from for practice.

In the next number I hope to take up the subject of the various woods and their qualities, and to illustrate, as far as possible, the varying charm of grains, tints and textures, with such suggestions in regard to staining and finishing as will preserve the natural beauty of the wood, without disguise or falsity.

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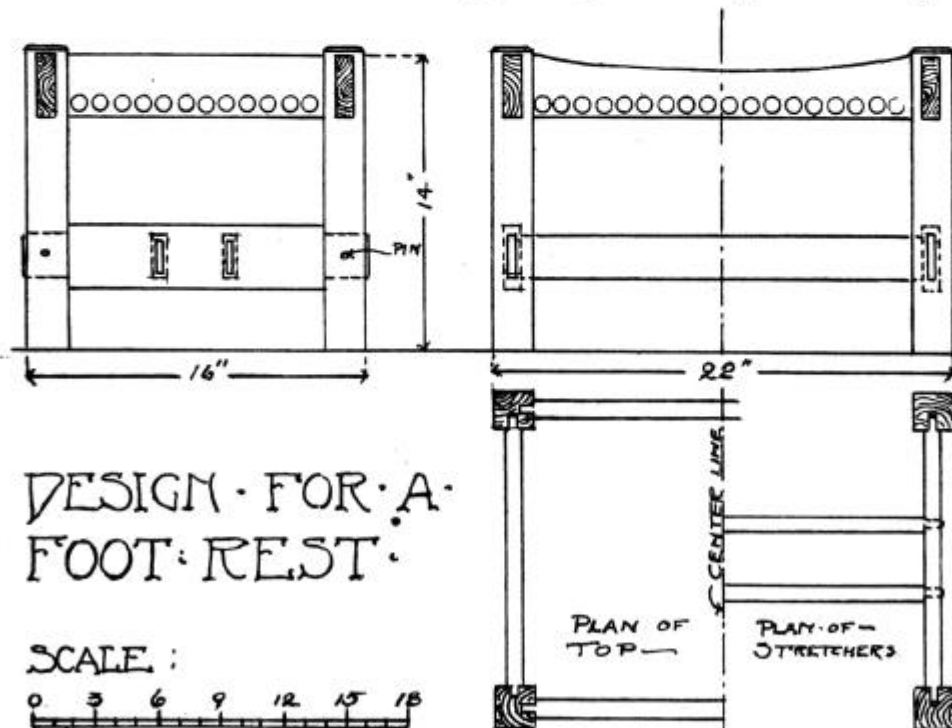
A FOOT REST

THIS piece of furniture is designed for a foot rest, but might find plenty of use in a house, especially in a bedroom, where it could be used for a slipper stool. Its construction needs no further explanation than is apparent from the drawing. The wood could well be one of the harder variety: oak, chestnut, mahogany or maple—either fumed or stained. The seat cover could be of leather or tapestry fastened with brass, copper or iron nails. For a section showing the method of upholstering, attention is called to the plans of the desk chair shown on another page.



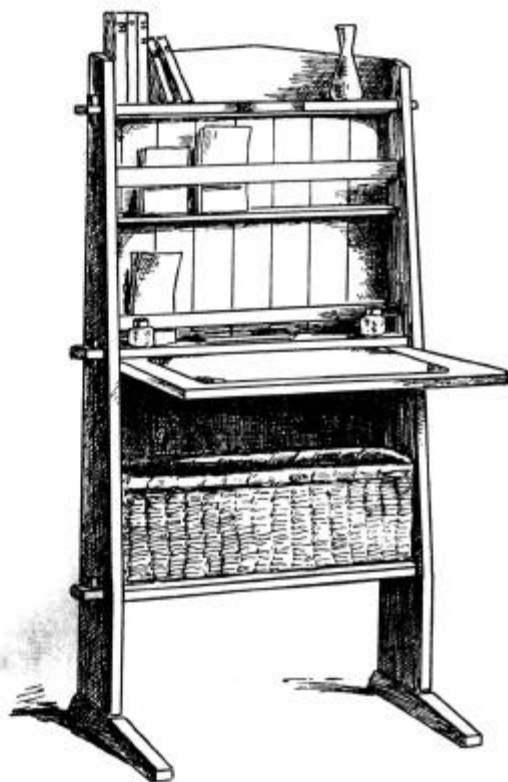
MILL BILL FOR FOOT REST

| Pieces | No. | Long | ROUGH | | Thick | Wide | FINISH | Thick |
|-------------------|-----|--------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| | | | Wide | Thick | | | | |
| Legs | 4 | 15 in. | 2 in. | 2 in. | 2 in. | 1 3/4 in. | 1 3/4 in. | |
| Seat rails | 2 | 20 in. | 3 in. | 1 in. | 1 in. | pattern | 7/8 in. | |
| Seat rails | 2 | 15 in. | 3 in. | 1 in. | 1 in. | 2 3/4 in. | 7/8 in. | |
| End stretchers | 2 | 17 in. | 3 in. | 1 in. | 1 in. | 2 3/4 in. | 3/4 in. | |
| Center stretchers | 2 | 22 in. | 1 3/4 in. | 3/4 in. | 3/4 in. | 1 1/2 in. | 1/2 in. | |



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DESK

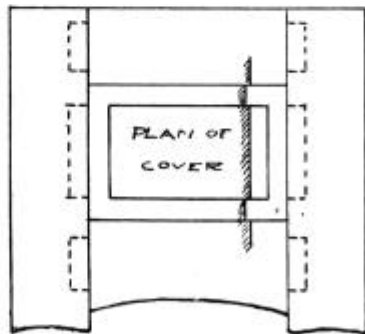
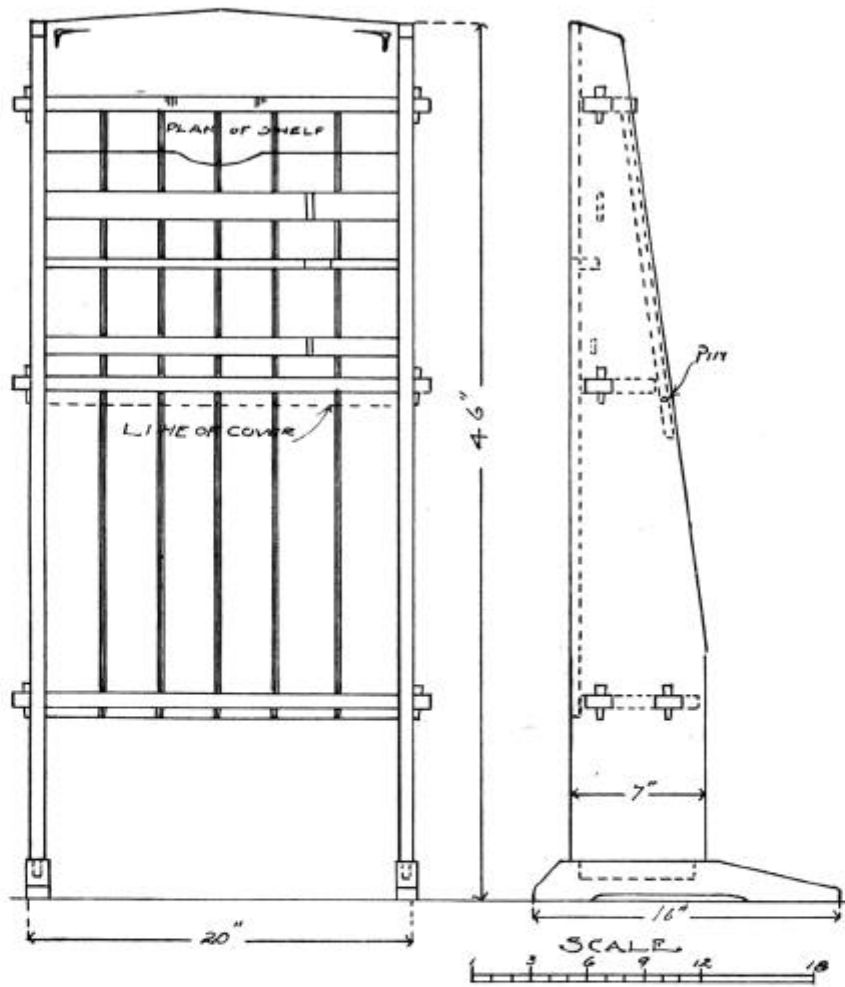


THE desk which we present to our builders is not so difficult a problem as it may appear at the first glance. The lid can be made first—then the sides and shelves carefully fitted, and a quarter inch iron pin inserted between the sides and the lid, and all is fastened together at once. Then the back is put in and is held in place by small round-headed screws. After this the letter and blotter rack may be sprung into place, and with a little button at the top under which is a leather washer, our desk is quite complete, excepting for the basket. This is made of reeds and raffia, which is easily to be had, or could be made from swamp reeds or rush. The method of working is as follows: First make the reeds pliable by soaking in water for several hours, and begin by laying the reeds in flat basket weave for the bottom, then turn them up for the sides and twine with three strands of raffia to required height. Finish by turning the reeds back and covering the edge with a roll of raffia held in place by overcasting with a single raffia thread used in a needle.

MILL BILL FOR A DESK

| Pieces | No. | ROUGH | | | FINISH | |
|--------------------|-----|--------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | Long | Wide | Thick | Wide | Thick |
| Sides | 2 | 46 in. | 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. | 7 in. | 1 in. |
| Top | 1 | 24 in. | 3 in. | 1 in. | pattern | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. |
| Shelf | 1 | 24 in. | 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | 1 in. | 4 in. | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. |
| Bottom | 1 | 24 in. | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. | 1 in. | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. |
| Foot | 1 | 17 in. | 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | 2 in. | 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. |
| Back | 6 | 33 in. | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | $\frac{1}{2}$ in. |
| Small shelf | 1 | 20 in. | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. | 1 in. | $\frac{1}{2}$ in. |
| Letter rack | 1 | 20 in. | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. | $\frac{3}{8}$ in. | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. | $\frac{1}{4}$ in. |
| Blotter rack | 1 | 20 in. | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | $\frac{3}{8}$ in. | 1 in. | $\frac{1}{4}$ in. |
| Cover stiles | 2 | 18 in. | 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | $\frac{7}{8}$ in. | 4 in. | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. |
| Cover rail | 2 | 13 in. | 5 in. | $\frac{7}{8}$ in. | pattern | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. |
| Cover rail | 1 | 13 in. | 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | $\frac{7}{8}$ in. | 4 in. | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. |
| Cover panel | 1 | 13 in. | 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. | 9 in. | $\frac{1}{2}$ in. |
| Top of back | 1 | 20 in. | 5 in. | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. | pattern | $\frac{1}{2}$ in. |
| Key | 1 | 9 in. | 2 in. | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. | $\frac{1}{2}$ in. |

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DESIGN "FOR"
"A" DESK

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DESK CHAIR

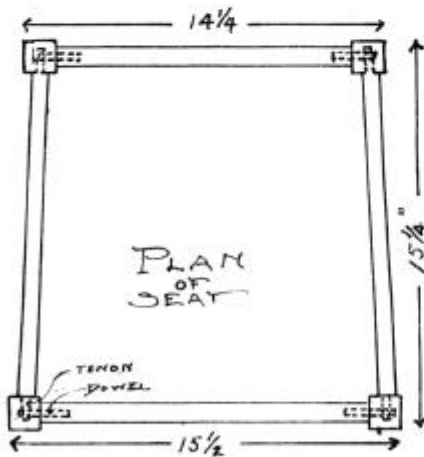
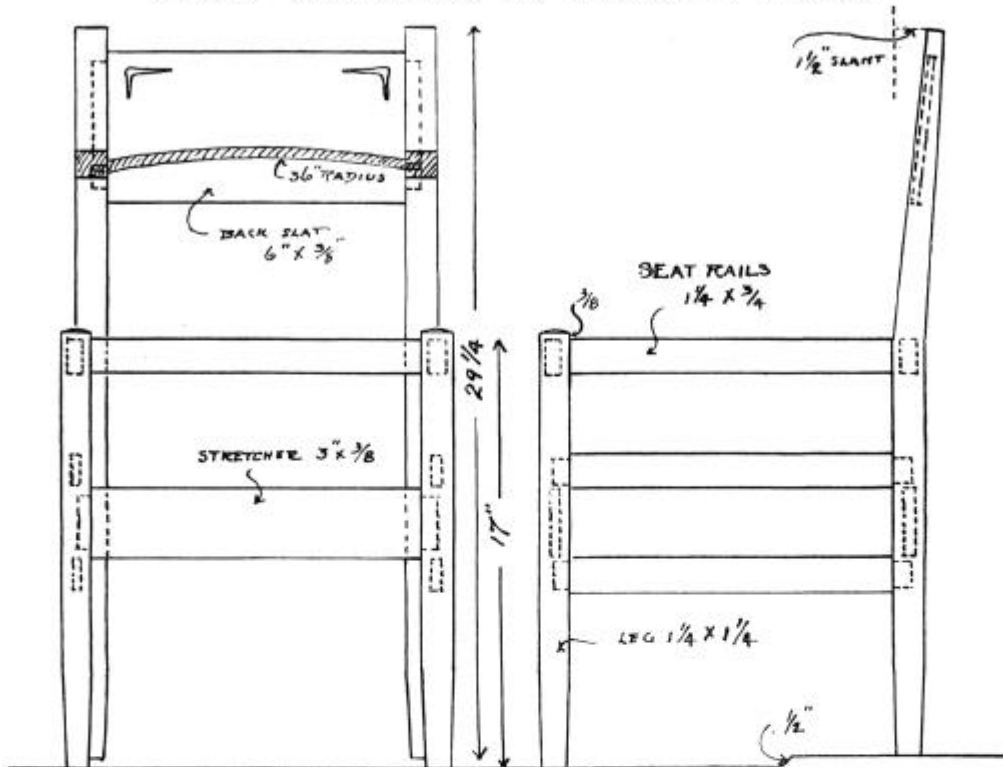
IN building a chair the sides are put together separately and then the front and back rails and stretchers last, the side seat rails being mortised and tenoned, the front and back seat rails are dowelled, thereby pinning the tenons. The slight difference in the length of the front and back legs gives a comfortable slant to the seat. The back slats are curved, which is done by thoroughly soaking the wood with water, or better, steaming it and then pressing it into shape and allowing it to dry in the little press which is shown herewith.



MILL BILL FOR A DESK CHAIR

| Pieces | No. | Long | ROUGH Wide | Thick | Wide | FINISH | Thick |
|------------------------------|-----|--------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Front posts | 2 | 18 in. | 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. | 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. |
| Back posts | 2 | 31 in. | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. | 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. | pattern | | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. |
| Seat rails | 4 | 15 in. | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. | 1 in. | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. |
| F. & B. stretchers | 2 | 15 in. | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | $\frac{1}{2}$ in. | 3 in. | | $\frac{3}{8}$ in. |
| Side stretchers | 4 | 15 in. | 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. | $\frac{1}{2}$ in. | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | | $\frac{3}{8}$ in. |
| Back slat | 1 | 15 in. | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. | $\frac{1}{2}$ in. | 6 in. | | $\frac{3}{8}$ in. |

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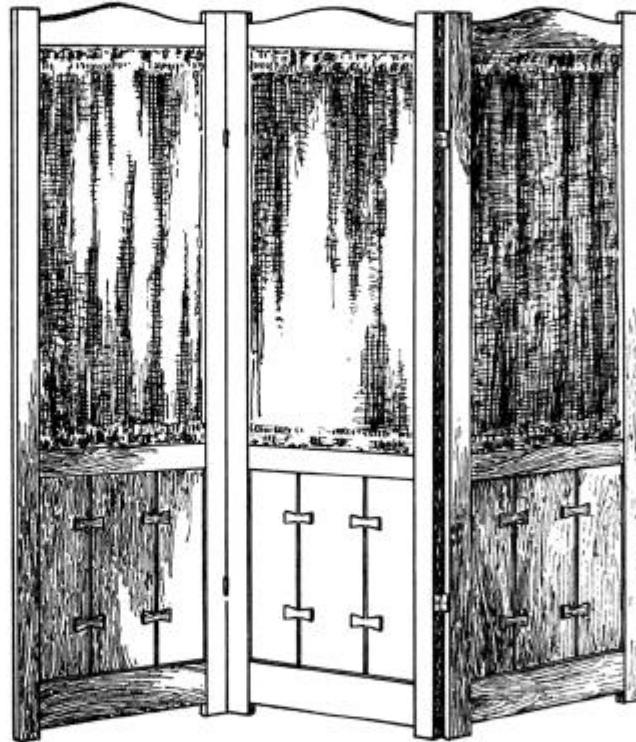
DESIGN FOR A DESK CHAIR

HOME TRAINING IN CABINET WORK

SCREEN

A GOOD screen is one of the very useful things which go toward the furnishing of a house. The one given herewith is of such a size that it is convenient for general use and not so heavy as to be hard to move about from room to room wherever it may be needed. The wood of which it is made may vary, but we will suppose it is made of poplar, a light weight wood, and stained gray-green. The fabric part of the screen may be inexpensive or of medium price as, for instance, a Japanese silk of a green tone just a little darker than the wood stain, a quiet color effect which would harmonize with almost any color scheme.

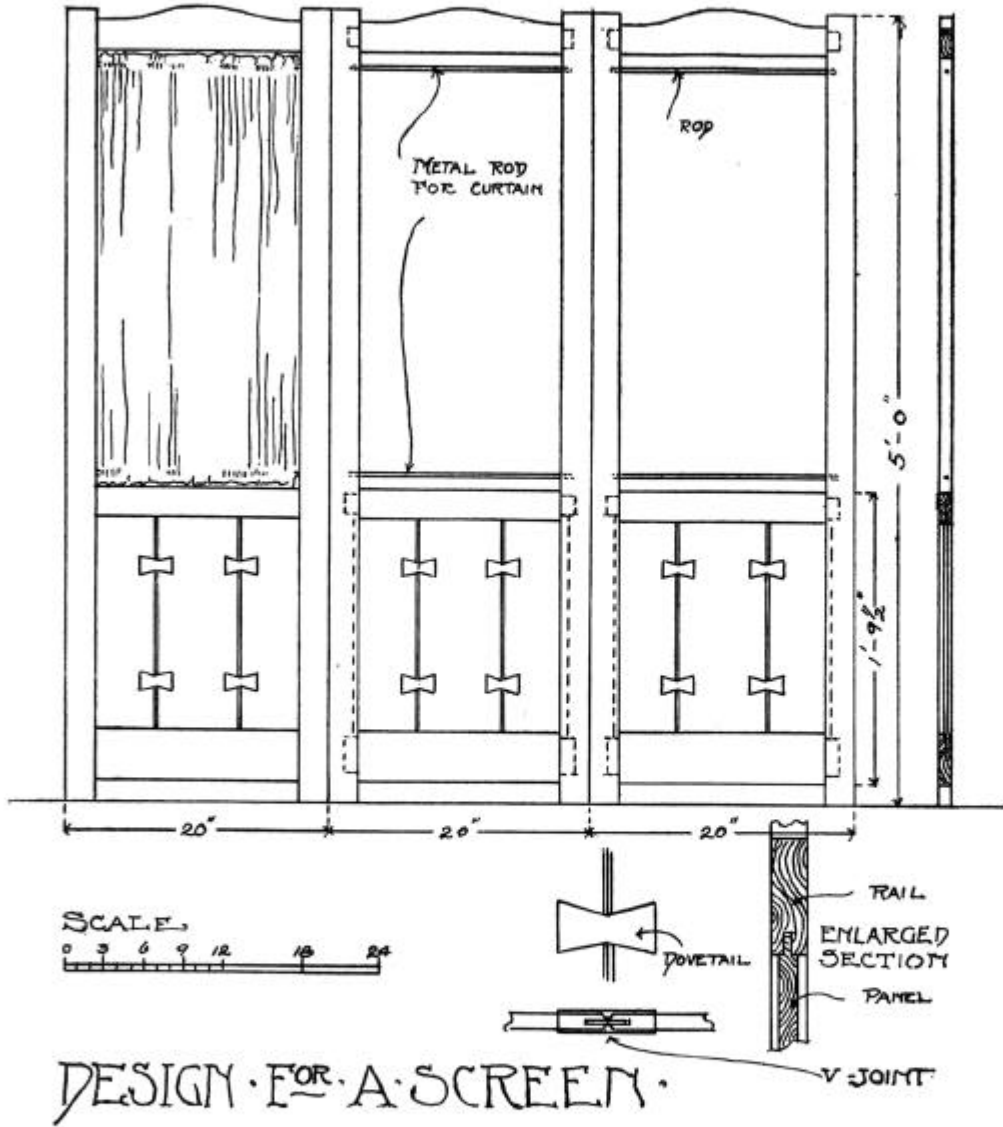
The curtain hangs on quarter inch solid brass rods at top and bottom. Care will need to be taken in cutting and fitting the dovetails which project one-sixteenth of an inch beyond the face of the panel. The panels being V-jointed and splined gives them a chance to shrink and swell without making ugly looking cracks.



MILL BILL FOR SCREEN

| Pieces | No. | ROUGH | | | FINISH | |
|-------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| | | Long | Wide | Thick | Wide | Thick |
| Sides | 6 | 61 in. | 2½ in. | 1⅛ in. | 2¼ in. | 1 in. |
| Tops | 3 | 18 in. | 4 in. | 1⅛ in. | pattern | 1 in. |
| Center rail | 3 | 18 in. | 2½ in. | 1⅛ in. | 2¼ in. | 1 in. |
| Lower rail | 3 | 18 in. | 4½ in. | 1⅛ in. | 4 in. | 1 in. |
| Panels | 6 | 18 in. | 5½ in. | ¾ in. | 5 in. | ½ in. |
| Panels | 3 | 18 in. | 6¾ in. | ¾ in. | 6½ in. | ½ in. |
| Dove-tail | 1 | 9 in. | 9 in. | 1 in. | pattern | ⅞ in. |

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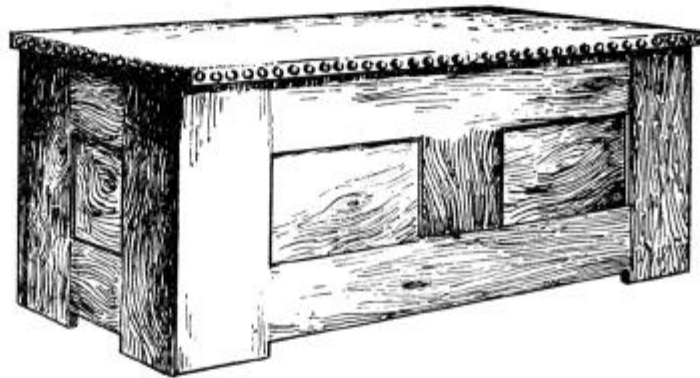


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SHIRT-WAIST BOX

THIS piece of furniture is one that would take the place of the ordinary chintz-covered cracker-box which, placed under a window, makes a convenient window-seat. If the tray were left out it could be used as a hall chest and a place to keep overshoes. Here it would be made of oak and its top covered with leather fastened by brass or copper nails.

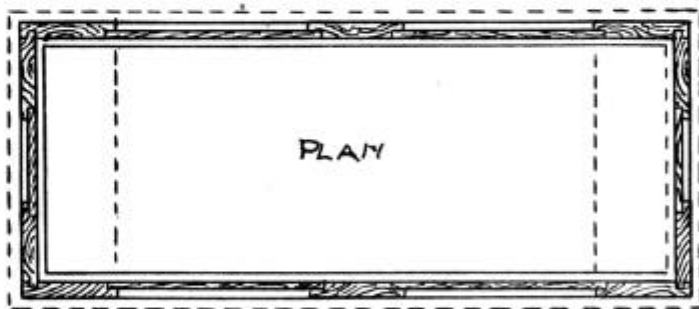
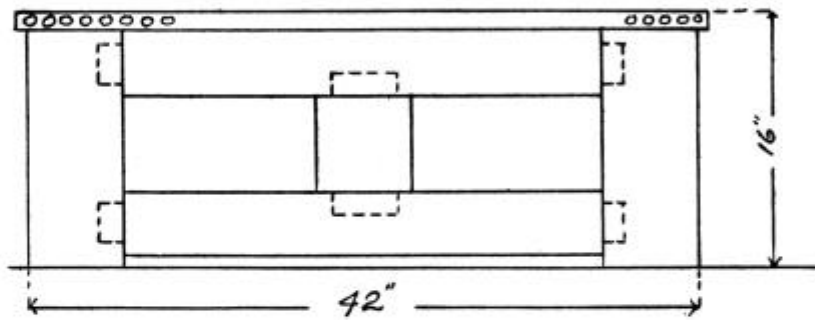
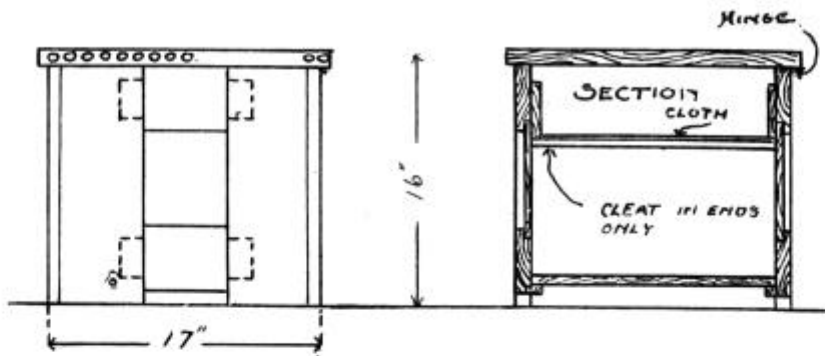
The top is made firm by two strips running across the ends into which the center portion is tongued. The till is simply a box without any bottom and around the lower edge is tacked a piece of light weight canvas. This makes all the bottom necessary and adds much to the lightness of the tray. Small loops of canvas, by which it can be lifted, are tacked to the ends.



MILL BILL FOR SHIRT-WAIST BOX

| Pieces | No. | Long | ROUGH Wide | Thick | Wide | FINISH | Thick |
|-------------------------|-----|--------|---------------|--------|---------|--------|-------|
| Center of top | 1 | 33 in. | 18½ in. | 1 in. | 18 in. | | ⅞ in. |
| Ends of top | 2 | 19 in. | 6¾ in. | 1 in. | 6½ in. | | ⅞ in. |
| Front and back stiles | 4 | 16 in. | 6½ in. | 1⅛ in. | 6 in. | | 1 in. |
| End stiles | 4 | 16 in. | .. | 1⅛ in. | .. | | 1 in. |
| Top and bot. rails . . | 4 | 34 in. | 4½ in. | 1⅛ in. | 4 in. | | 1 in. |
| Center stile | 2 | 10 in. | 6½ in. | 1⅛ in. | 6 in. | | 1 in. |
| Panels | 4 | 14 in. | 8½ in. | ¾ in. | 8 in. | | ½ in. |
| End panels | 2 | 8 in. | 8½ in. | ¾ in. | 8 in. | | ½ in. |
| Bottom | 1 | 41 in. | 16 in. | ¾ in. | 15½ in. | | ½ in. |
| Tray sides | 2 | 41 in. | 4½ in. | ½ in. | 4 in. | | ⅜ in. |
| Tray ends | 2 | 16 in. | 4½ in. | ½ in. | 4 in. | | ⅜ in. |
| Lineal feet strips . . | 9 | .. | 1 in. | ¾ in. | ¾ in. | | ½ in. |

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SCALE

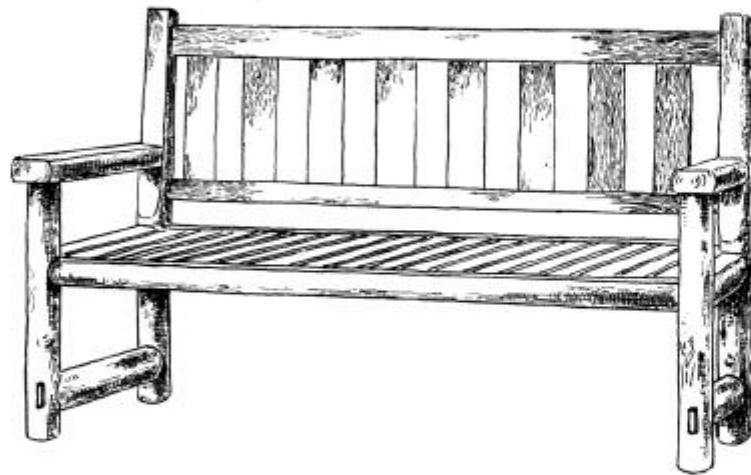


DESIGN FOR A
SHIRT-WAIST BOX.

HOME TRAINING IN CABINET WORK

GARDEN BENCH

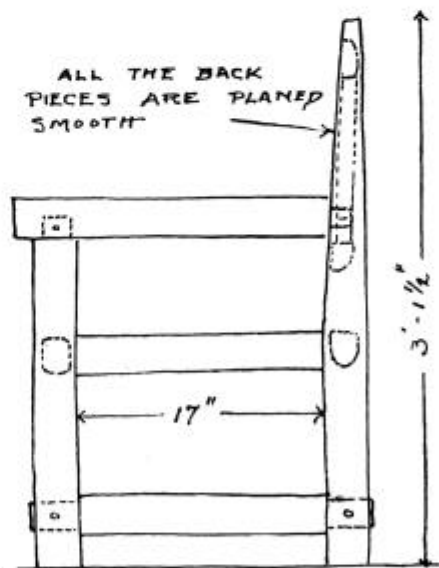
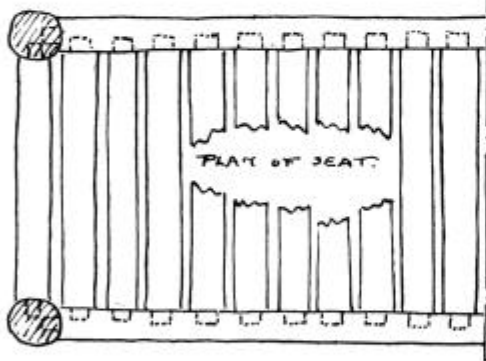
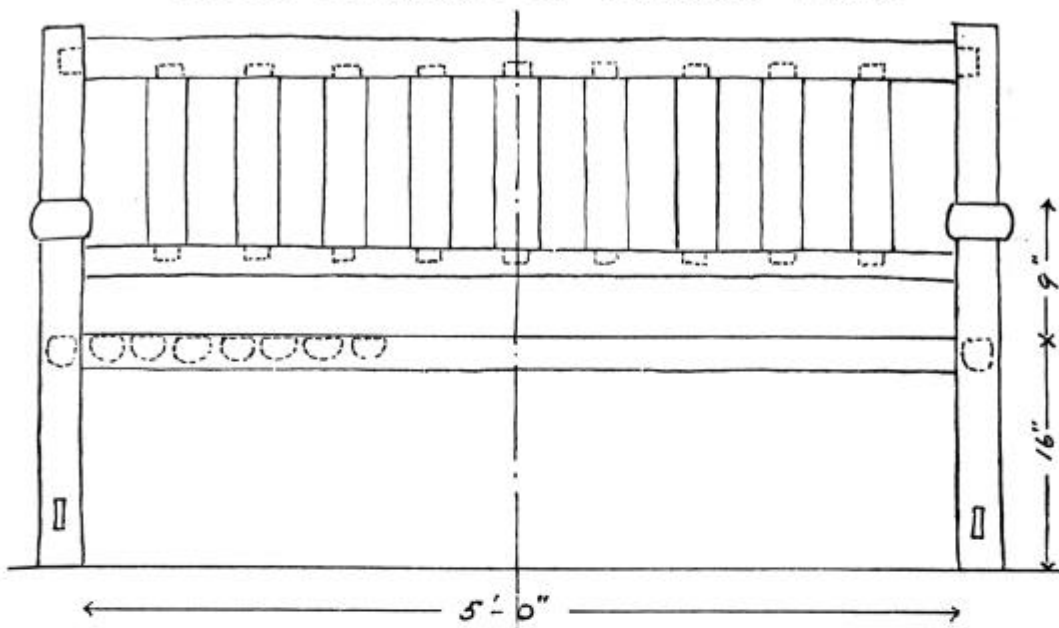
THIS garden bench is made of white cedar stock stripped of the bark and left in the natural color which in time takes a silver gray tone and a beautiful texture. The seat rails, back and arms are smoothly planed so that no rough, disturbing places are left. Each piece will need to be fitted with care, as after the tenon and mortise are cut the entire stick must be slightly set into the piece to which it is joined. This prevents the water from getting into the joint and makes a workmanlike job. A chair can easily be made from these plans by making the front and back rails twenty-six inches in length and using only eight rails for the seat.



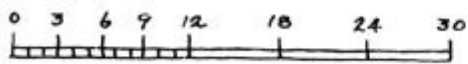
MILL BILL FOR GARDEN BENCH

| Pieces | No. | Long | Thick | |
|--------------------------|-----|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| Front posts | 2 | 29 in. | 3½ in. diameter | round |
| Back posts | 2 | 39 in. | 3½ in. diameter | round |
| Top of back | 1 | 64 in. | 3 in. diameter | ½ in. round |
| Front and back seat rail | 2 | 64 in. | 3 in. diameter | ¾ in. round |
| Back slats | 9 | 15 in. | 2½ in. diameter | ½ in. round |
| Arms | 2 | 24 in. | 5 in. diameter | 2½ in. thick |
| End seat rails | 2 | 21 in. | 3 in. diameter | ¾ in. round |
| Seat rails | 20 | 21 in. | 2½ in. diameter | ½ in. round |
| End stretchers | 2 | 25 in. | 3 in. diameter | round |

HOME TRAINING IN CABINET WORK



SCALE.



DESIGN FOR A GARDEN BENCH