

# The Sunset side table

## WHAT YOU NEED

We built the table of kiln-dried clear redwood, but you can use any clear wood such as cedar, mahogany, fir, or pine. Paint it or seal it with a penetrating sealer designed for decks; for a glossier look, use a spar varnish-type product.



An 8-foot 1-by-3

A 10-foot 1-by-3

A 6-foot 1-by-4

A 4-foot 1-by-6

A 1- by 4-foot piece of  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch plywood (for cutting guide)

Wire brads (for cutting guide)

52  $1\frac{1}{8}$ -inch #8 wood or deck screws

Wood glue

Oil-base enamel paint, clear exterior sealer, or spar varnish-type product

## TOOLS

Tape measure

Pencil

Circular saw (optional)

Saber saw or handsaw

Hammer and nails (for cutting guide)

Sander (with medium and fine paper)

Electric drill

Countersink bit for wood screws

Framing square

Yardstick (for drawing straight lines)

Combination square (for marking screw holes and distances from edges)

Paintbrush

## ASSEMBLING THE BASE

**1.** Following plans (see **Cutting the Pieces**), cut pieces. Mark and drill countersunk holes for the screws in the legs and side braces. (Note that the legs will be attached to the outside of the end braces, with tapered sides facing each other.)



**2.** Place the side and end braces with top edges down on a work surface. At each joint, butt the end brace square against the inside face of the side brace, and use two screws to connect the pieces. (For added strength, glue joints.)

**3.** Align legs so their wide ends are flush with side braces; secure with two screws through each leg into the side brace. For added strength, add a third screw into the wide end of each leg from the inside of the end brace.

## ADDING THE TOP

1. Lay the eight top pieces with upper sides down in pairs so triangular cuts face each other to make diamond shapes. Butt their ends against a framing square, then draw two lines across the assembled boards, each line 2 inches in from one end (these lines will help you position the boards on the frame).



2. Turn the boards over, keeping them in order, and butt their ends against the framing square. This time draw a line  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches in from each end of each board. Place one top board on the base to check that these pencil lines align over the centers of the two side braces; adjust the lines, if necessary.

3. Using the combination square, mark points on the lines  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the long sides of each board (except the two outer boards) for screw holes into the base.

4. On each outer board, mark a point on each line  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the inside edge. Draw a line  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch from and parallel to outside edge. Mark two points on that line that are each  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches from one end.

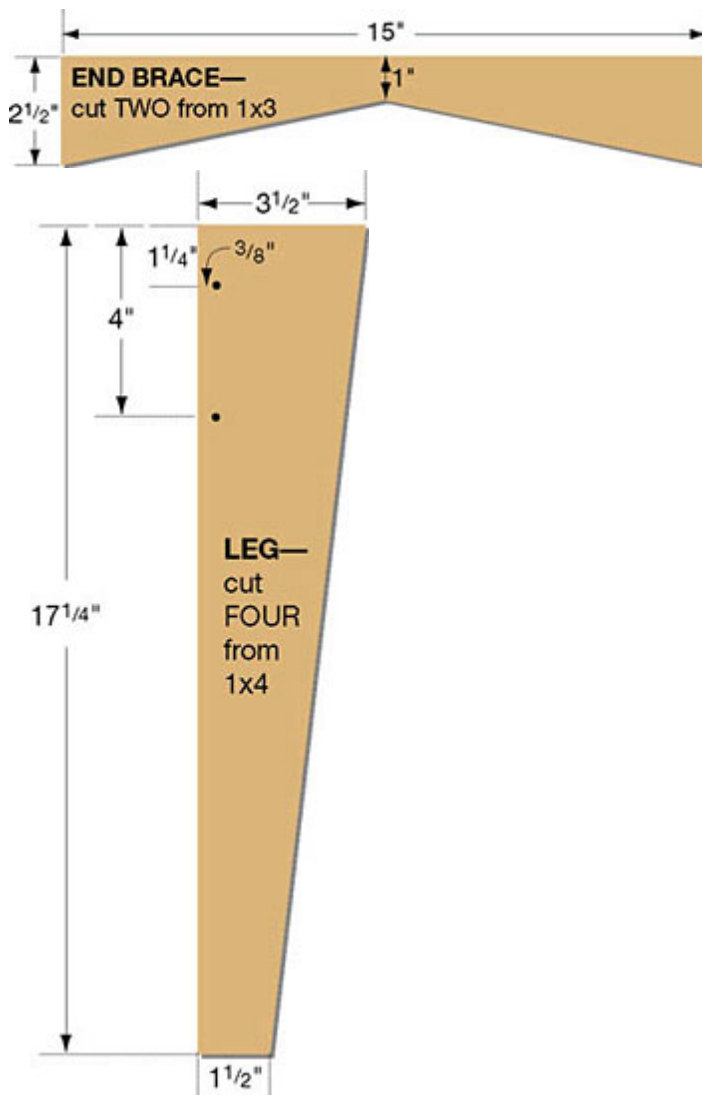
5. Drill countersunk holes through all the marked points on the tops of the eight boards and sand off pencil marks.

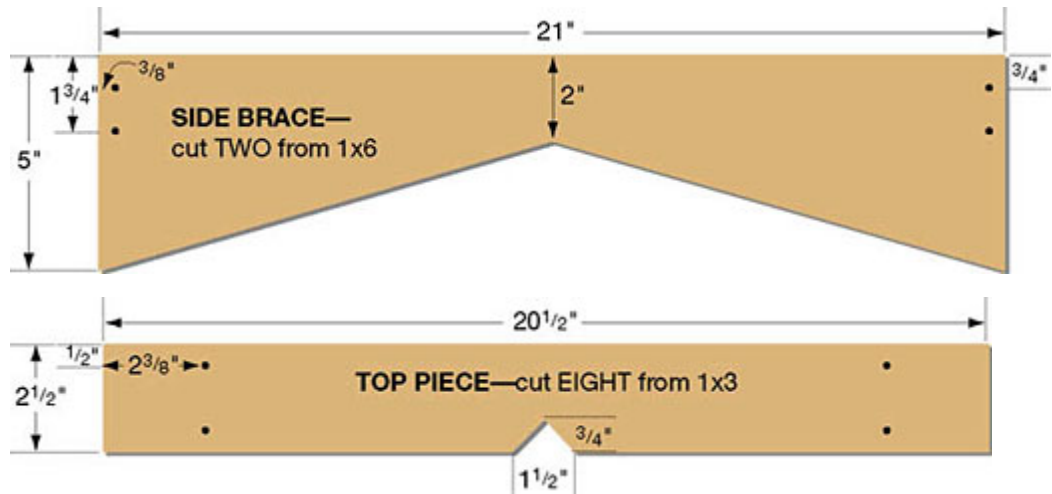
6. Place an outer board with the point of the V over the inside face of an end brace so two of the outer board's screw holes align over the side braces and its other two screw holes align over the legs; secure with screws. Equally space remaining top boards on the frame. (Space between boards should be about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch.) Using the framing square as a guide, screw each board to the base with one screw at each end. Check alignment and spacing, then add remaining screws.

7. Paint or seal wood as desired.

To make the long, angled cuts on the inside edges of the legs, you'll need a cutting guide sized to your circular saw. From the 1- by 4-foot piece of plywood, rip a 2-inch by 4-foot strip (one side should be the straight "factory" edge). Glue and nail the strip along one edge of the larger plywood piece, with the straight edge facing in. Butt the saw's base, or "shoe," against this edge, and trim the excess off the larger piece. Draw the angled cut lines of the leg pieces on the 1- by-4. To cut each piece, align the guide's cut edge with the cut line and tack the guide in place with wire brads.

1. Following the diagrams at left, mark and cut out all table pieces, using a circular saw, saber saw, or handsaw.  
(Cut the end braces from the 10-foot 1-by-3.)
2. With a saber saw or handsaw, cut a triangular notch in each top piece.
3. Sand all pieces, slightly rounding the cut edges. Start with medium sandpaper and finish with fine.





This side table is made from just four basic shapes. It should take less than a day to complete, and materials should cost about \$40.