

Knotty Plans

Sink Shelf

Plan#03-402



*F*inally, an easy but useful project that can be completed in a few hours. This over-the-sink shelf can be constructed from softwood or hardwood. It can be used for a multitude of applications, but my favourite is simply holding small houseplants. The measurements in this plan are for a standard double 32" sink. For other sinks, you can adjust the length measurement accordingly.

You don't need fancy tools to complete this project: wood glue, a drill, a wood saw, a compass saw and a sanding block. Of course using 1/2" round over bit with a router makes a nice edge but a sanding block or radius hand plane will work just as well. The whole project can be constructed from one piece of solid pine measuring 7" wide by 72" long by 3/4" thickness.

Finish used for this project: water-based Flecto Varathane Diamond Wood Finish, in a satin sheen.

Overall dimensions: 36" long x 6" wide x 9" high

Note: Please make sure to read all instructions before starting the project.

BEFORE YOU START

Make sure to read all the instructions, observe all the illustrations and go over the material list. It is a good habit to verify that all measurements indicated on each illustration corresponds to the text instructions and material list. Once you are comfortable with the project plan instructions, select the tools and equipment that you desire to make your cuts with. Go over the material/hardware you need and make sure to add extra material for the project. If you are having difficulty in finding the hardware for the project, go to our web site at knottyplans.com and look up the **Hardware** section.

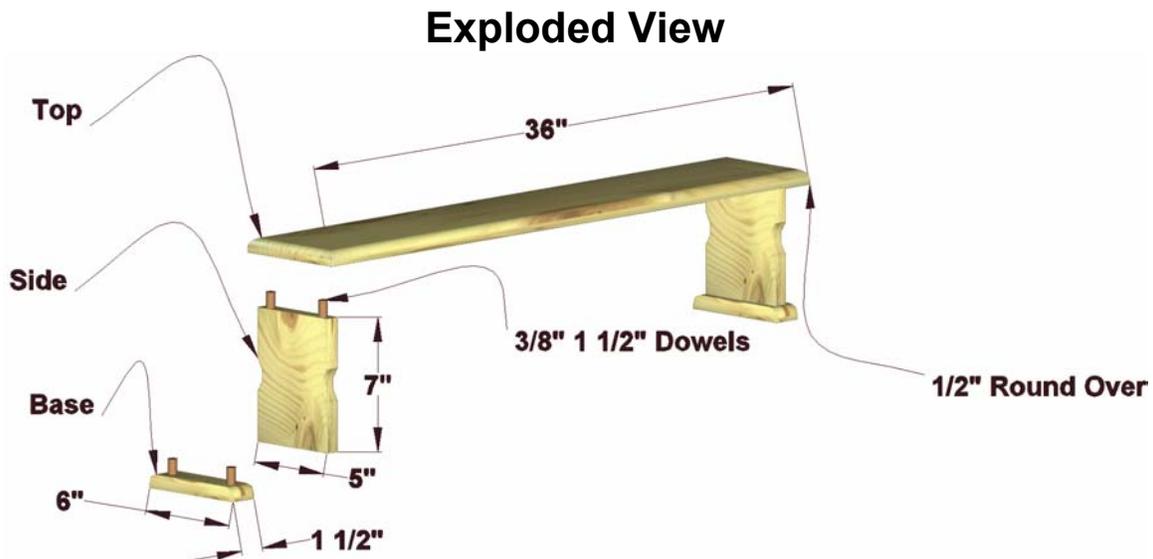
Tools Required

Will Do: wood saw, compass saw, drill and sanding block

Optimal: router, table saw, drill, orbital sander and a jig saw.

THE SINK SHELF

This sink shelf was design for a standard double 32" sink. For other sinks, you will need to change the length of the top accordingly. All of the fastening for this project is done with 1 1/2" dowels and glue. If you wish, you can easily use other types of fastening such as biscuit or screws. The material used to build this sink shelf was solid pine but you may decide to use other wood products. Refer to the sink shelf ***Exploded View*** illustration for more details on the presentation of the project.



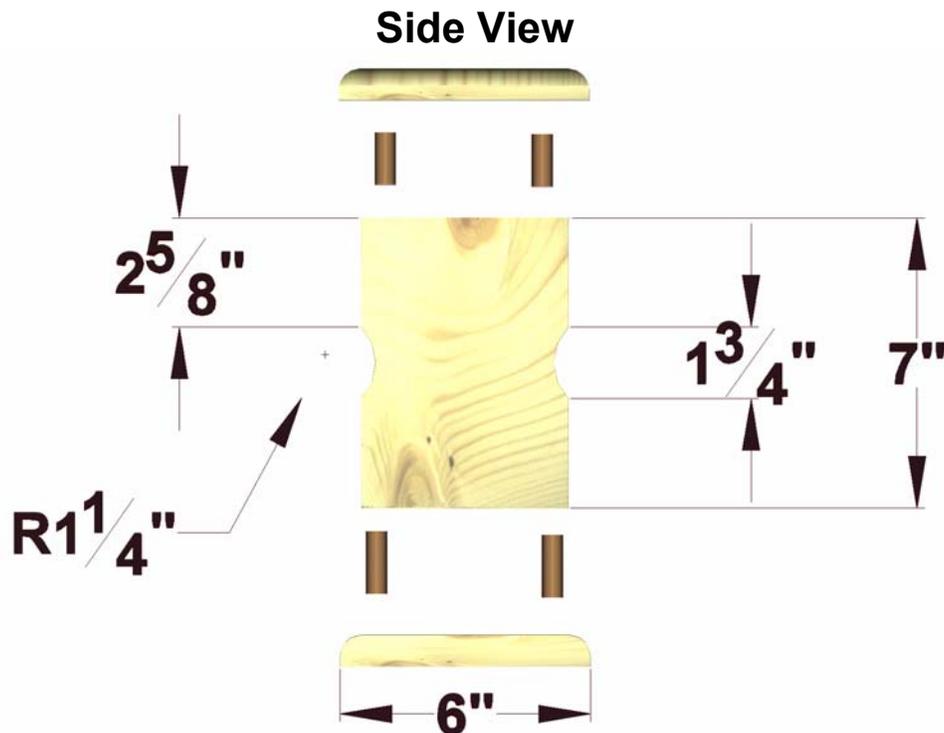
THE BASE

Each base is attached on center to the side with 3/8" dia. by 1 1/2" dowels. The front edge of each base was routed with a 1/2" round over bit. If you don't have a round over bit or a router, use a radius hand plane or a sanding block to smooth the edges. To make the base for each side, you need to cut two pieces from a 3/4" stock measuring 6" by 1 1/2". Refer to the *Exploded View* and *Side View* illustrations for more details.

***Note:** Since the edges that need to be routed on the base pieces are very small, it is recommended to rout a larger piece and then rip the base piece. This is easiest to achieve by cutting the top piece 3" longer, then routing the long edge of the top with a 1/2" round over and then rip the base pieces from it. Refer to *Making the Base* illustration for more details.

THE SIDES

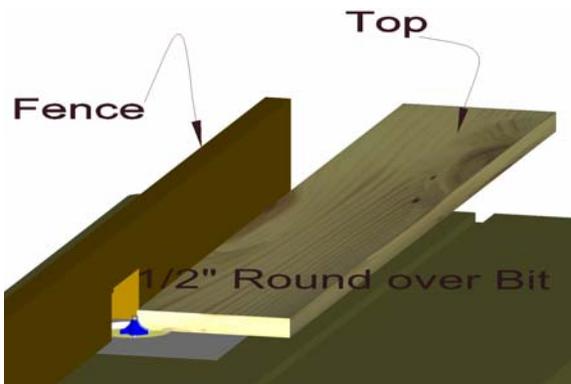
The side pieces are attached to the base and the top piece with 3/8" by 1 1/2" dowels and glue. The side pieces have a 1 1/4" radius notch on each the front and back edges. To make the notch, use a jig saw and smooth the edge with sand paper. If you don't have a jig saw to make the notch, use a compass saw. To make the side pieces you need to cut two pieces from a 3/4" stock measuring 5" by 7". Refer to the *Side View* illustration for more details.



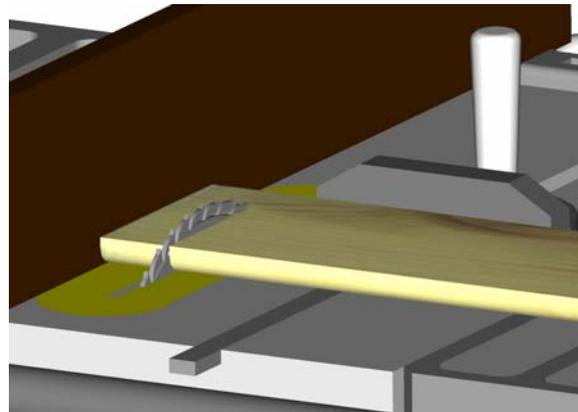
THE TOP

The top piece is secured to the sides with 3/8" by 1 1/2" dowels and glue. The edges of the top are shaped using a router equipped with a 1/2" round over bit. Refer to ***Routing the Top*** illustration for more details. If you don't have a round over bit or a router you may use a radius hand plane or a sanding block to smooth the edges. To make the top, you need to cut one piece from a 3/4" stock measuring 6" by 36". If you need to make adjustments to the sink shelf so that it fits your particular sink, adjust the length of the top accordingly. Refer to the ***Exploded View*** and ***Front View*** illustrations for more details.

Making the Base

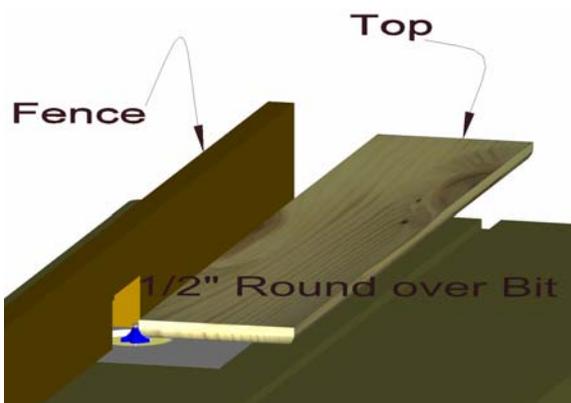


Step 1: Set the router fence in line with the round over bit bearing. Raise the bit to the edge of the sink shelf top. Rout the long sides of the top only.

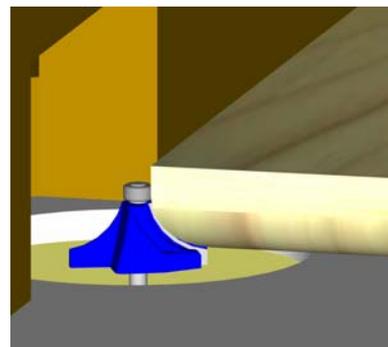


Step 2: Make a mark on the top piece at 1 1/2" from the edge. Cut two pieces measuring 1 1/2"; this will make the 2 pieces that make up the base on each side.

Routing the Top

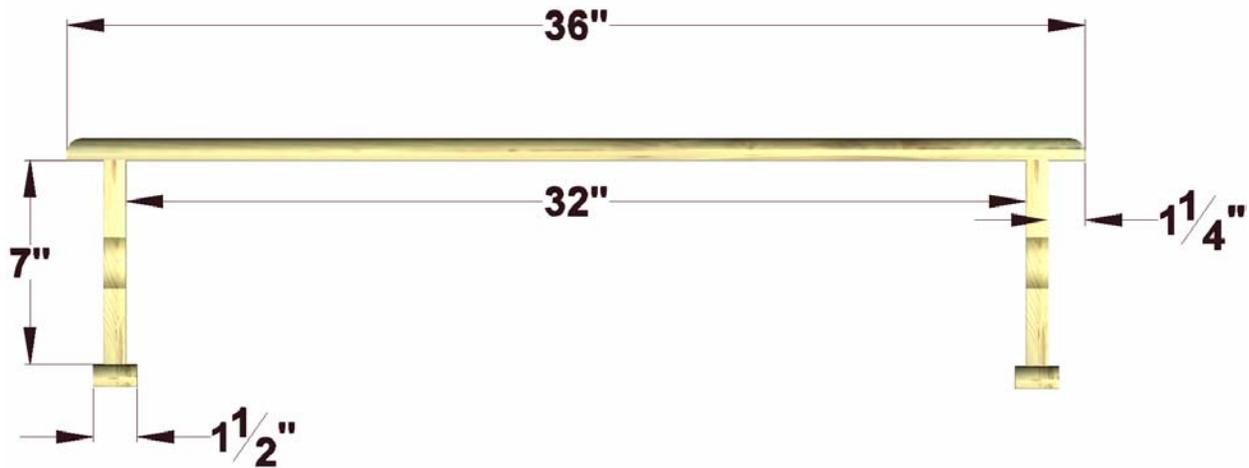


Step 1: Once the base has been cut from the top piece, rout the ends of the top.



Step 2: Once the profile has been made, the top piece should look like the illustration above.

Front View



ASSEMBLING THE SINK SHELF

Start by assembling each base to one side with 3/8" by 1 1/2" dowels and glue. If you decide to use screws instead of dowels, apply the screws from under the base. The last step consists of assembling the top to the sides with 3/8" by 1 1/2" dowels and glue. If you decide to use screws instead of dowels, apply the screws from inside under the top (using pocket hole). An alternative option could be to insert the screws from the top and then cover the holes with plugs. Position the sides at about 1 1/4" from the top edge or make sure that the distance between the sides is enough to go over the sink and sit on the counter top.

FINISHING

Carefully inspect for traces of glue and remove excess with a damp cloth. The glue may not absorb stain or varnish well. Lightly sand the shelf with fine grit sand paper. If you use an orbital sander, do not apply too much pressure while sanding. The same applies for any kind of sanding tool. If you used wood filler, be careful since the stain or varnish may not be absorbed. Stain, varnish or paint with a product of your choice. For this project, we used Flecto Varathane Diamond Wood Finish, Satin Finish. Enjoy your new over-the-sink shelf.

TIPS

We prefer to use a water-based acrylic finish (not a varnish) called Flecto Varathane Diamond Wood Finish. It comes in glossy, semi-gloss and satin finishes. We find the satin finish most appealing for this type of project. This water-based finish has low odour, dries fast, is non-yellowing and has UV protectants. It is also less messy to clean: just rinse the brushes in warm water. If you want to stain the wood prior to finishing, you can still use this water-based product on top of oil-based stains. We have used it successfully over many types of oil-based stains and prefer Flecto Varathane water finish to oil-based varnishes.

Steps to using the finish:

Stir the finish gently and thoroughly. Do not shake!

Pour a small amount into a separate dish or container so no dust or particles will be transferred back into the can.

Use a good quality nylon brush for water-based finishes.

Flow the finish on, in the grain direction, avoiding over-brushing.

Let dry a few hours before applying additional coats, sanding lightly with fine grit sand paper between coats.

For more tips and information on various topics, refer to our web site www.knottyplans.com under the Articles/Tips section.

MATERIAL LIST

List of cuts overall size

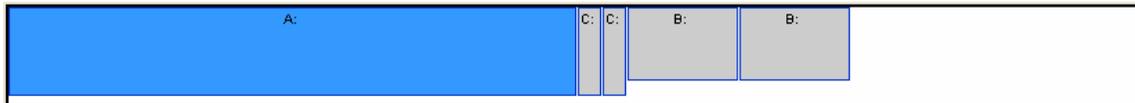
Description	Part ID	Material	Size	Qty
Stock				
Top	A	Solid Pine	3/4" by 36" by 6"	1
Side	B	Solid Pine	3/4" by 5" by 7"	2
Base	C	Solid Pine	3/4" by 1 1/2" by 6"	2
Hardware				
Dowels	*	Solid Birch	3/8" by 1 1/2"	8

You can make this entire project with one piece of solid pine measuring 7" by 72".

***Note:** Most of the hardware required to complete this project should be available at your local hardware store. If you have difficulty finding any of the hardware in your local community, check the www.KnottyPlans.com web site under the **Hardware** section.

Cuts Layout

Material: Solid Pine, 3/4" by 7" by 72"



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