

BUILD IT WITH
REDWOOD

Sonoma Picnic Table



REDWOOD

Naturally beautiful
Easy to use
Practical and economical
Durable and stable
Resistant to decay and insects

Sonoma Picnic Table

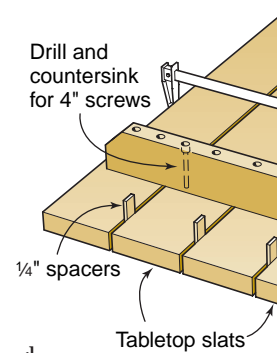
TABLE CONSTRUCTION

An excellent weekend project, this easy-to-build picnic table will soon become the focal point of your backyard. Redwood's beauty and durability will ensure countless summers filled with barbecues, picnics and outdoor parties.

The economical, knotty redwood garden grades, such as Construction Common or Deck Common, are great choices for building your table. For maximum durability, choose Construction Heart or Deck Heart.

1. Table top Measure and cut the 2x6 slats. Lay the slats on a clean and stable work surface with their most attractive sides down. Separate the slats with 1/4-inch spacers and square. Clamp the slats together with a bar clamp.

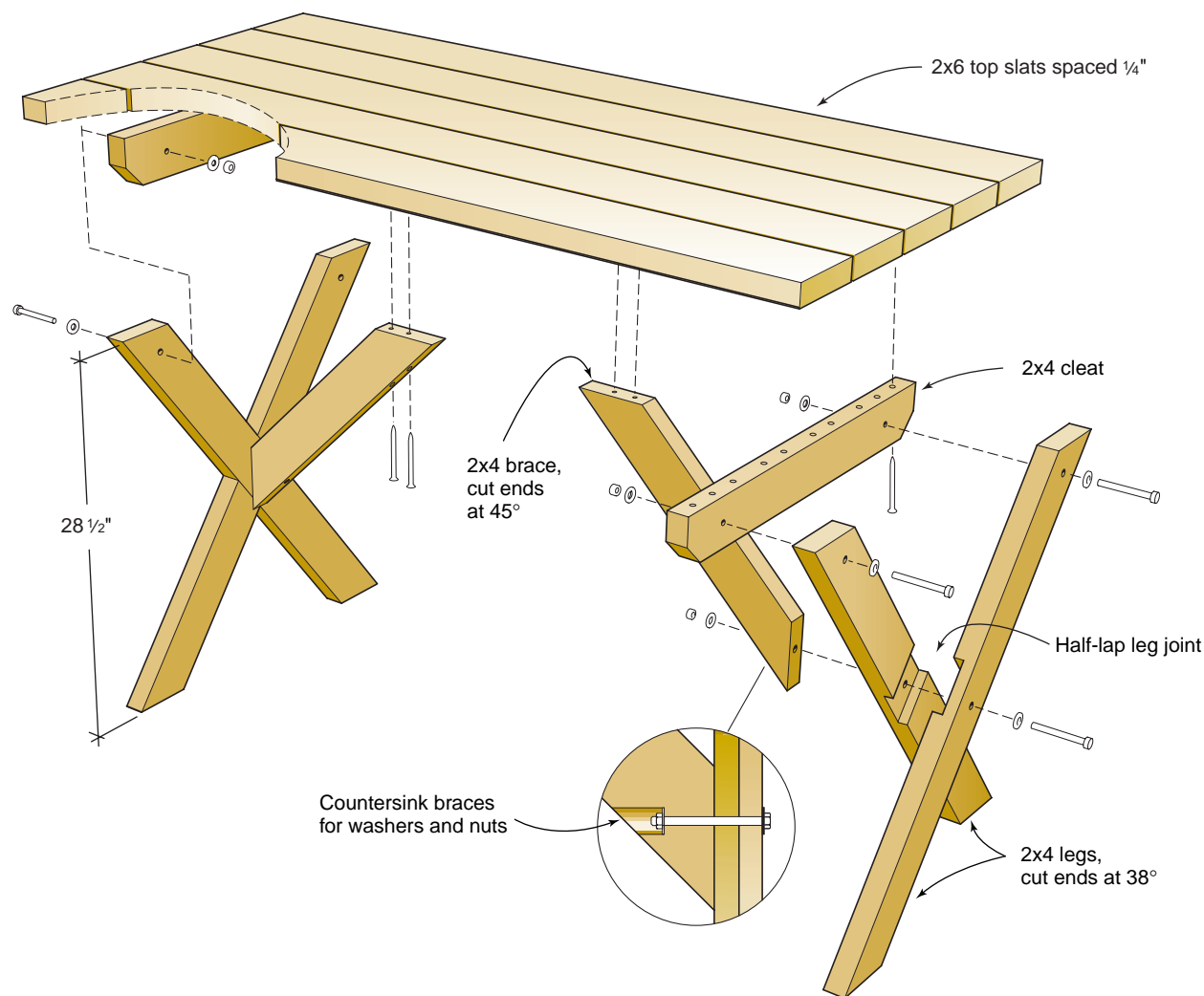
2. Cleats Cut the 2x4 cleats to 27 inches and trim the ends at 45° angles starting 2 inches down from top edge. Place a cleat on edge 7 inches from each end of the table top. Allow a 3/4-inch margin from the table's edges. With the combination countersink bit, drill two screw holes into the cleat above each slat, deep enough to set the screw heads below the surface. Fasten to slats with 4-inch screws.



3. Legs Cut the legs to 39 inches with 38° parallel angles top and bottom. Loosely clamp legs together at their centers with C clamps. Adjust the tension in the clamp until you can open the legs to make a cross with a 28 1/2-inch span at each side, with tops and bottoms aligned. Mark along the sides of each leg where they cross. Remove the clamp and cut the half laps from each 2x4 leg. Reclamp the legs in position.

Attach leg assemblies to table top cleat with two 3 1/2-inch x 1/4-inch machine bolts at each connection.

4. Braces Mark and cut table braces to fit between the table leg assembly and the table top with 45° angles at both ends. Attach braces to table top with 4-inch screws from below. Drill bolt holes through the "X" of the legs and completely through the angled ends of each 2x4 brace. Countersink the bolt holes to accommodate washers and nuts. Install the bolts and remove the clamps.



Materials For Table

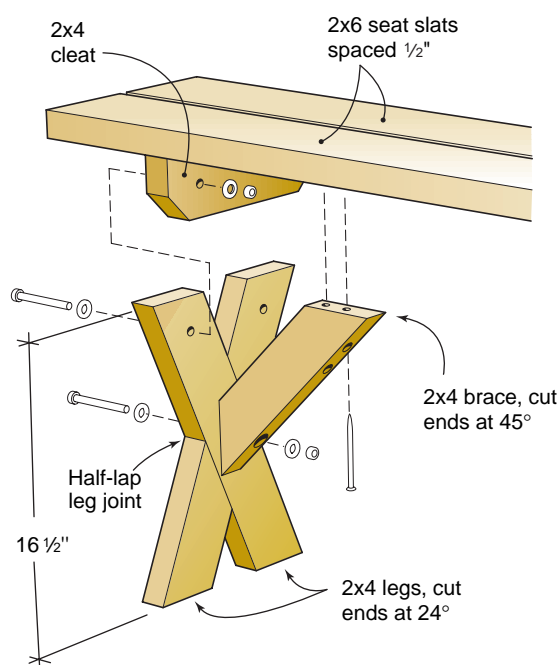
	Quantity	Size	Length
Top slats	5	2x6	60 inches
Cleats	2	2x4	27 inches
Legs	4	2x4	40 inches
Braces	2	2x4	30 inches
Machine bolts, washers and nuts	6 sets	3 1/2 inch x 1/4 inch	
Deck screws	1 pound	4 inches	

Materials For Benches

	Quantity	Size	Length
Top slats	4	2x6	60 inches
Cleats	4	2x4	11 1/2 inches
Legs	8	2x4	22 inches
Braces	4	2x4	15 inches
Machine bolts, washers and nuts	12 sets	3 1/2 inch x 1/4 inch	
Deck screws	1 pound	4 inches	

BENCH CONSTRUCTION

Follow the same basic construction methods described for the table, using the dimensions given in the illustration below. Notable differences from the table design include the lengths of the legs, cleats and braces and the angles of the crossed legs.



Sanding and Finishing

Sand table and bench tops with medium grit sandpaper. Apply water repellent finish.

Contact the California Redwood Association for more great publications containing redwood technical and building information. Call us at 415 382-0662 for a complete literature list or to ask for any of the titles listed here:

Other Construction Tipsheets

Deck Over Concrete
8x10 Deck
Deck Around Tub
Shade Shelter
Butcherblock Bench
4x4 Planter
Mendocino Bench
Lake Tahoe Gazebo

Also Available

Deck Construction
Deck Grades, Nails and Finishes
Design-A-Deck™ Plans Kit
Fences for All Reasons

Redwood

For beauty and performance, redwood is naturally superior to other woods. That's why it's the first choice for decks, fences and most outdoor projects. Redwood retains its beauty outdoors, shrinks and swells less than other woods and is less likely to warp, split, check or cup. With little or no pitch, redwood is easy to drill, saw and shape. Redwood heartwood has natural durability and resistance to insects and will last longer outdoors than most woods.

Grades

The knotty garden grades of redwood are ideal for outdoor projects. These grades are beautiful, durable and economical.

Construction Heart/Deck Heart is all heartwood and contains knots; used for load-bearing applications near the ground. Deck Heart is graded for strength and is available in 2x4 and 2x6.

Construction Common/Deck Common contains sapwood and knots; used for decking and above-ground uses. Deck Common is graded for strength and is available in 2x4 and 2x6.

Merchantable Heart is all heartwood and contains larger knots than Construction grades; used near the soil.

Merchantable contains sapwood and larger knots; used for fence boards, rails and above-ground uses.

Finishes

Redwood accepts finishes better than most woods. Some heighten redwood's natural beauty, bringing out the color and the grain. Others help the wood harmonize or contrast with surrounding structures. Keep in mind that unfinished redwood will gradually turn soft driftwood gray. Read the labels on all finish products before using.

Clear water repellent finish is recommended to stabilize the color at tan.

Semitransparent stains in "redwood" shades tint the wood without hiding the grain.

Solid-color stains or paints should be applied over compatible oil-based primers.

Fasteners

Use only non-corrosive hardware such as aluminum, stainless steel or top quality hot-dipped galvanized screws or nails. Ordinary nails and screws will cause stains.



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