

Essential Picnic Table

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Difficulty: **Beginner Projects**  [\(/print/pdf/node/250\)](/print/pdf/node/250)

Build your own picnic table in a standard size for easy outdoor dining, for much less and buying.

This is the easiest plan to build your own picnic table. This free plan includes step by step diagrams, well thought out steps, and video tutorial.

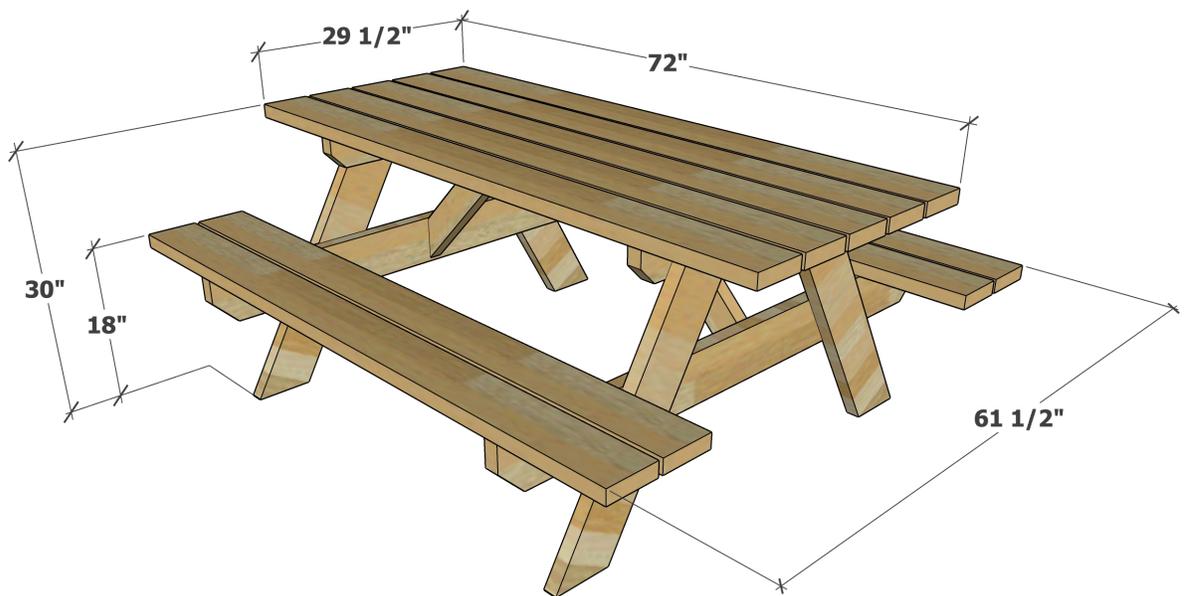
You'll love your new picnic table!

Collections:

[Ana's Adirondack Collection \(/woodworking-projects/collections/anas-adirondack-collection\)](/woodworking-projects/collections/anas-adirondack-collection)

[Essential \(/woodworking-projects/collections/essential\)](/woodworking-projects/collections/essential)

Dimensions



Standard 6 foot long picnic table with standard seat and tabletop heights. Seats about 8

Preparation

SHOPPING LIST

- 100 - 2-1/2" long self tapping wood screws, star bit, exterior appropriate
- 2 - 2x4 @ 8 feet long (can also be 92-5/8" stud length)
- 6 - 2x6 @ 12 feet long
- 1 - 2x6 @ 8 feet long (can also be 92-5/8" stud length)

TIP: Apply finish to the boards now, then after assembly, you will just need to touch up a few spots and cut ends.

CUT LIST

- 9 – 2×6 @ 72" (Tabletop boards and Seat Boards)
- 2 – 2×4 @ 29 1/2" (Tabletop Supports)
- 1 - 2x4 @ 45" (Center Tabletop Support)
- 4 – 2×6 @ 33", both ends cut at 30 degrees off square, ends are parallel, long point to short point measurement
- 2 – 2×6 @ 61-1/2" (Seat Supports)
- 2 – 2×4 @ 24 1/4", both ends cut at 45 degrees off square, ends NOT parallel, long point to long point measurement (Cross Supports)

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

Some of the boards have corner edge cut on the ends to soften sharp corners. Review the plans in detail and make these cuts before assembly.

TOOLS



Tape Measure



Speed Square



Pencil



Safety Glasses



Drill



Circular Saw



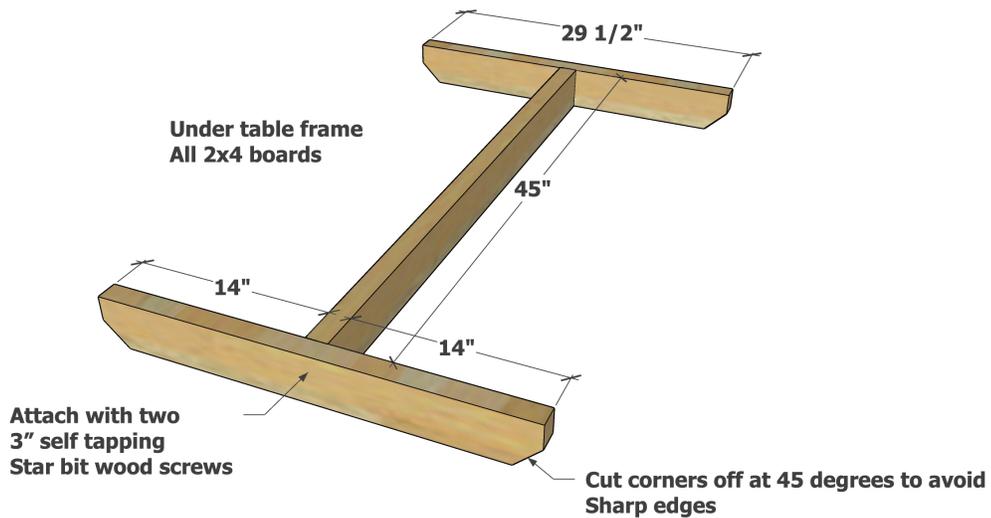
Sander

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Work on a clean level surface. Check for square after each step. Get some help on this project, it will be difficult to work alone. Recommended to paint and stain your boards before building to ensure all edges are sealed, then touch up paint after finishing. Use necessary safety precautions and equipment. Pre-drill and countersink your screws or drill holes for bolts and tighten with a washer and nut. Remember, you can click photos for a larger view.

Instructions

STEP 1



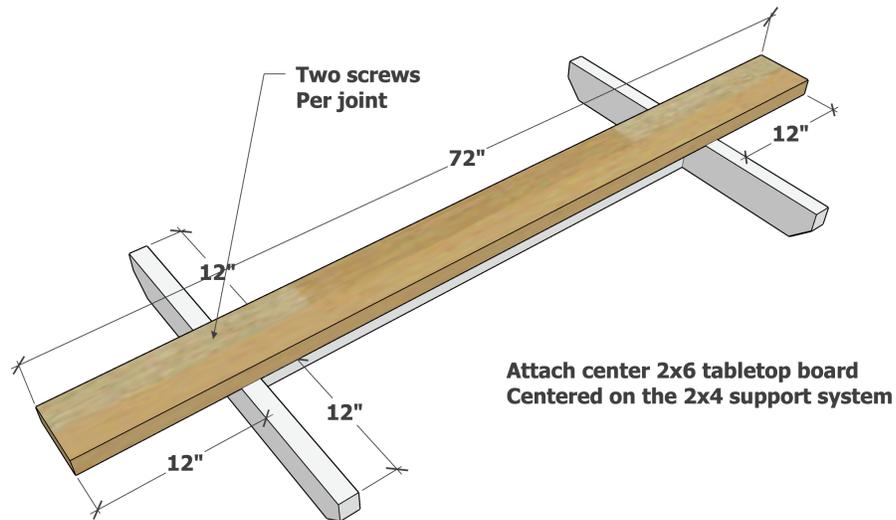
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Tabletop Support System

Build the tabletop support system first by attaching the 29-1/2" 2x4s to the center 2x4 as shown.

Adjust the support system for square by taking opposite diagonals and adjusting until square.

STEP 2



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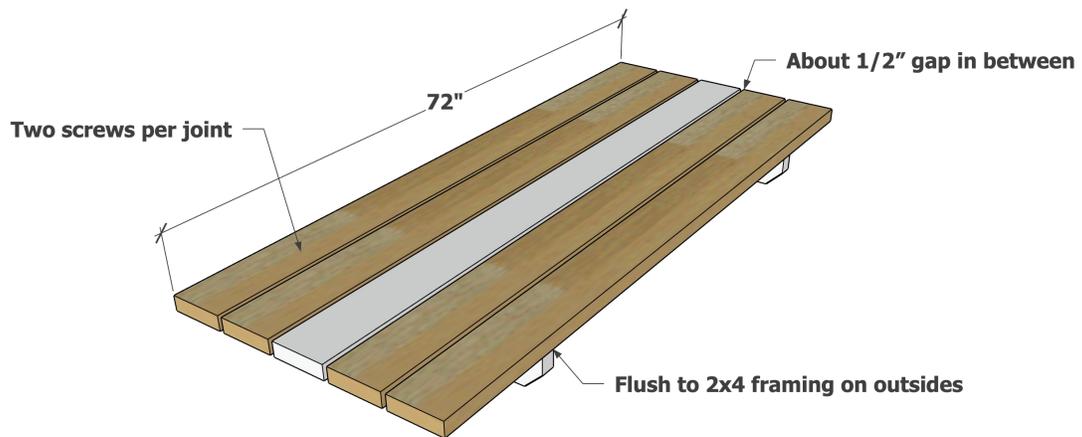
Center Tabletop Board

With the tabletop support square, place the center tabletop board on top and center with even overhangs on ends and sides.

Attach with screws.

TIP: It helped me to mark the 12" marks on the table support frame and the tabletop board, so I could line it all up visually.

STEP 3



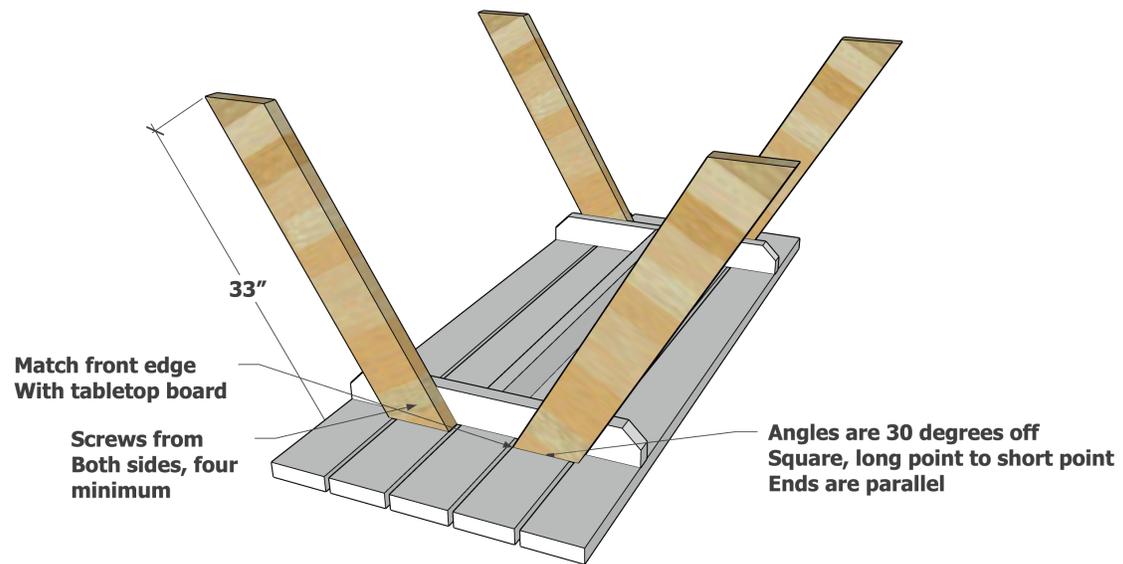
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Remaining Tabletop Boards

Layout remaining tabletop boards, keeping end edges square and flush. Take opposite diagonals to make sure the tabletop is not out of square (meaning the tabletop is a rectangle and not a parallelogram).

Attach with screws to the tabletop support boards.

STEP 4



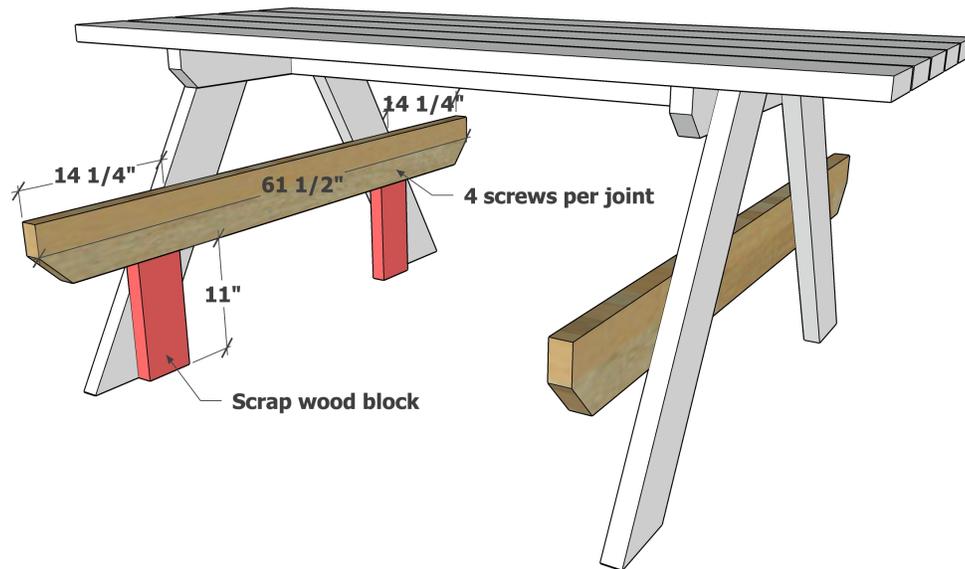
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Legs

Flip the tabletop over.

Attach legs as shown with screws.

STEP 5



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Seat Supports

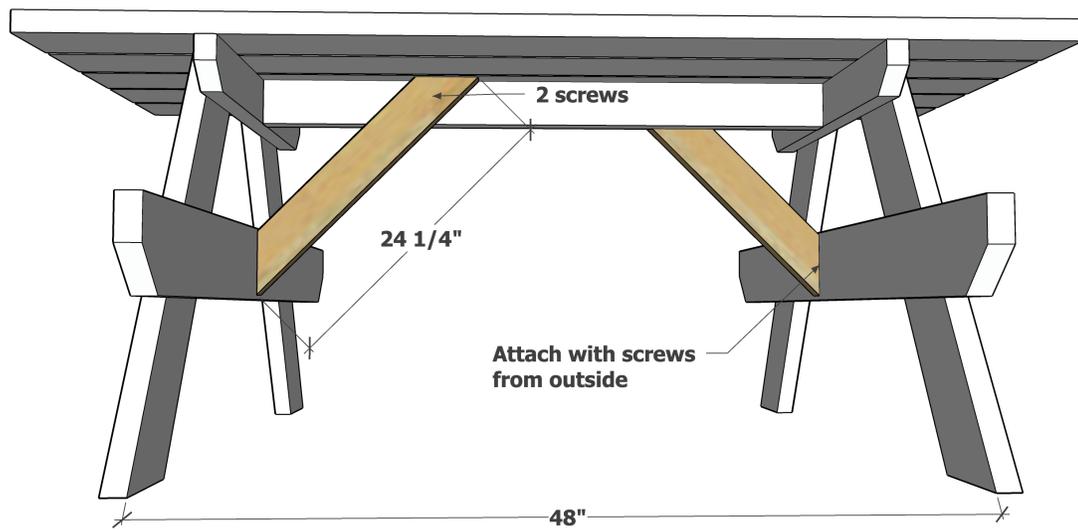
Flip the tabletop over. On a level surface, make sure the table is sitting flat and level.

With scrap wood, cut two blocks 11" long.

Position the seat support board on the scrap wood blocks, with even overhangs on both ends. Attach to the legs with screws.

Wobbles? At this point, make sure the table is sitting flat on a level surface and does not rock. If you have any issues, fix now by unscrewing a leg to short, and pivoting inward to increase the length of the leg.

STEP 6



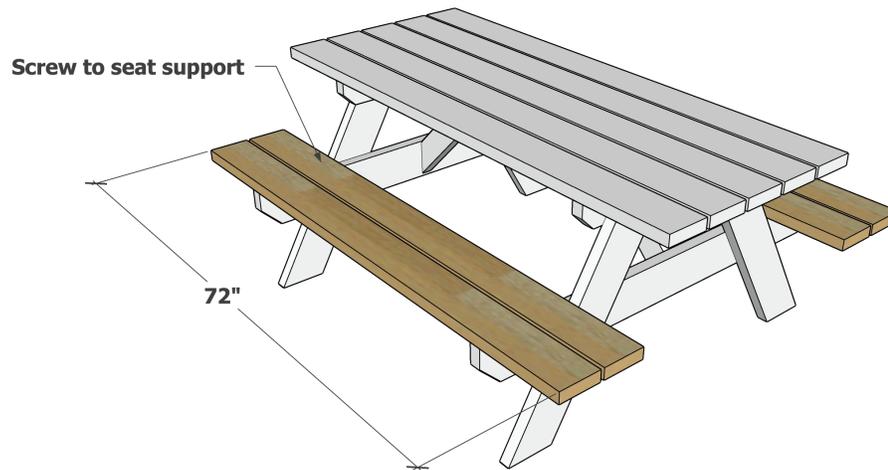
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Cross Supports

Adjust the legs so they are even distance apart.

Add the 2x4 cross supports to the inside of the table.

STEP 7



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Seat Boards

Place the seat boards on the seats and attach with screws.