

Plan to build a cutting table for quilters and seamstresses 33" wide x 72"long x 36" high

Includes the plans for a pull out tray, an open box to collect bolts and scraps of fabric and an awesome coffee cup holder or thread collector.

Designed and built by Édith Choinière November 2015





Plan to build a cutting table for quilters and seamstresses

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Edith's Cutting Table - "Collection Inédith"

"Inédith" is a play on word with my name and the French word "Inédite" meaning unique.

I offer this document to the great people of the **Sewing and Quilting Enthousiasts** community that have been so generous with your comments, likes and shares in Facebook.

OK enough dilly dalling, time to start!

Tools needed:

Drill, screw driver, table saw, mitter saw, jig saw, sander, 120 Grit sand paper and vices (36" long and smaller ones). Nice to have: nail gun and Kreg pocket jig (one day I will have my own super duper Kreg Pocket Jig)

Material required:

- 15 boards of 2" x 4" x 8ft long (keep in mind that their real size is $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$)
- 2 sheets of plywood Select ½" thick, Select means good on one side. You can have it cut at the store.
 - You will need the leftover for the box (you know, the coffee cup holder and fabric collector) later in the project.
- 1 sheet of plywood Select 3/4" thick.
- 4 locking casters that can support 100 pounds each
- 2 regular casters that can support 100 pounds each
- 1 full extension Soft Close Drawer Slide 24" (I got the one from "Onward")
- 1 small tub of Wood Filler and small spatula
- 1 box of $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and 1 box of $3\frac{1}{2}$ " wood screws
- 1 gallon of paint semi-gloss if you choose to do one color. I chose pure white and light gray so I needed to gallons of paint. But if you only want 1 color, one gallon is enough.
- I used a nail gun with 16 gage nails to nail the box together and the casing that covers the pull out board.

I didn't have a Kreg pocket jig but it would've been easier to screw the skeleton in a diagonals angle.

- **Note 1.** The following instructions are written for a 33" wide x 36" high x 72" long table + one 33" long x 8" wide x 8" deep box (you know, to hold my coffee).
- **Note 2.** You can make this table any size you want. You can even add a side extension using hinges and somekind of support to hold the extension. But I'm telling you 33" is wide enough you won't need the extension.

IMPORTANT

You must make sure that the size of your table fits in any doorway in case you might be moving or God forbid your husband wants to move it and use it for his own nafarious purpose, like the garage.

- **Note 3.** Ask the store to cut the sheets of plywood for you. If you're doing this alone, you will need this option as using the table saw for an 8ft x 4ft piece of wood requires a large garage and a good set up.
- Note 4. I always paint everything before assembling my pieces except for the skeleton of the table, which I did only once assembled. Don't you just hate to paint something and having to bend over backwards or paint sitting on the floor? I am a firm believer in working in an ergonomic position, that means standing up with my back straight.
- Note 5. Finally, always measure "Trice" 3 times and cut only once. A wise woman said that once and I'm positive that she was a quilter.

Phase I - Building the squeleton DO NOT take my measurements for granted.

Tools needed for this part:

Screw driver, mitter saw, sander and 120 Grit sand paper, a good measuring tape, wood screws, wood filler, paint and vices (36" long and smaller ones). Nice to have: Kreg pocket jig.

Material required:

13 boards of $2^{"} \times 4^{"} \times 8$ ft long (keep in mind that their real size is $1\frac{1}{2}^{"} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$) + 2 boards as a fudge factor!

Step 1 - Making the end frame of the table first: Cut 4 pieces of 32" long Cut 6 pieces of 26" long Assemble the end frames as shown in this illustration.



Step 2 - Assembling the sides

Cut 6 pieces of 69" long and screw them to the end frame. See picture below

Step 3 - Bracing the frame

Cut 9 or 10 pieces of 30" long bracing. Screw 3 or 4 on each shelf. The number of braces depends on your comfort zone. The insecure ones will do more while the very confident ones will do less. I am somewhere in the middle. My husband said that I might have overkilled it with 4 braces at the bottom. But he said it in a very loving way!

Notice that the 2" x 4" on the middle shelf are laying flat as opposed to the top and bottom shelves that are sideways. It gives me more height for the storage

Step 4 - Using Wood filler, sanding and painting the frame

After the frame as been assembled:

- 1. Fill in the scew holes and any gap in the wood applying Wood Filler. You only need to do it to the wood that will be exposed. Wait a few hours for the Wood filler to dry.
- 2. Use an electric sander if you can with a 120 grit paper and sand until very soft and even to the touch.
- 3. Apply 2 coats of paint only on the wood that will be showing once it's put together



Phase 2 - Casters and shelves

DO NOT take my measurements for granted.

Tools needed for this part:

Screw driver, jig saw, sander and 120 Grit sand paper, measuring tape, nail gun, wood filler, paint, vices (36" long and smaller ones).

Material required:

4 locking casters and 2 regular casters

4 pieces of plywood $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick, $15\frac{1}{2}$ " wide x 72" long for the bottom and middle shelves. (The bottom and middle shelves are made of 2 parts because I wasn't able to fit one full piece in the space.) 1 piece of plywood ³/₄" thick, 33" wide x 72" long for the top shelf.

Step 1 - Installing the casters

Once the skeleton has been painted, turn it over and install all 6 casters. Locking casters at each corner and 2 regular casters in the middle of the table. Turn the table right side up. Note: you might have to screw a small piece of 2" x 4" in the braces or the sides of the skeleton to widen the surface to screw the casters This part won't show because it's under the bottom shelf.

Step 2 - Cutting the corners for bottom and middle shelves - Diagram 1

- 1. Start with one half of the bottom shelf. Take one piece of 151/2" wide x 72" long, using a small leftover piece of 2" x 4", place it standing up on one corner. Trace it with a pencil to mark where you're going to cut out the corner piece with a jigsaw.
- 2. On the same side of the cut you just made, cut the other corner.
- 3. With the other half of the bottom shelf $(15\frac{1}{2})^{2}$ wide x 72" long), cut out 2 corners but on the opposite side.
- 4. Repeat 1, 2 and 3 for the middle shelf. See diagram 2 for the finished look.
- 5. Place both pieces of plywood on the bottom and middle shelves to see if its a perfect fit.

Step 3 - Sanding - Wood filler - Sanding - Painting

- 1. Sand all 4 pieces of 15¹/₂" wide x 72" and the top shelf 33" x 72"
- 2. Apply Wood Filler where you see gaps. Wait a few hours for it to dry.
- 3. Sand again until smooth to the touch.
- 4. Apply 2 coats of paint for the bottom and middle shelves.
- 5. Apply 3 coats of paint for the top shelf.



Bottom shelf

Step 4 - Nailing the plywood.

corners

Diagram 1

- 1. Use a nail gun with 16 gage nails to hold the boards in place.
- 2. Paint over the nail holes and the middle lines on both the bottom and middle shelves so they become almost invisible.



Phase 3 - Pull out board and casing

DO NOT take my measurements for granted.

Material required: **NOTE 1:** The space between the top and middle shelves should be Leftover plywood $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick 6 1/4" high. I made the casing for the pull out board 6" high to let myself a Leftover 2 x 4 fudge factor. The finished casing is not screw in place because I want Full Extension Soft Close Drawer Slide 24" long to be able to move it if I don't like where it is. NOTE 2: The measurements for the casing of the pull out board are based on the size of your pull out board chosen. I had a piece of pallet wood, 12¹/₂" wide x 1" thick. I chose the length at 32" instead of 33" (width of my table) because you will need that extra inch at the end. I will explain later. Diagram 1 Step 1 - Cutting the pieces 1. Cut the $12^{1/2}$ wide board at 32° long 2. From the leftover plywood, cut 2 pieces of 32" long x 13" wide (I added 1/4" space on each side of the pull out board so that it can slide with ease) Edge - Front 3. You will have 2 other pieces approximately 32" x 6" of plywood to cut, sand and paint, but before cutting those pieces, you have to wait because Diagram 2 the height might vary a little. 3. Cut 2 pieces of 2" x 4" x 32" long 4. Sand and paint all of them before hand because you won't be able to do it once its all screwed in. Step 2 - Installing the Slides & board Diagram 3 1. Take one 32" x 13" plywood piece and place the Full Extension Soft Close Drawer Slide 24" long right at the edge of what's going to be the front and 2" from each side. See diagram 1. Note: To install the slides, follow the instructions that comes with the device. There are also some Youtube videos that shows how to install them but in reality its very self explanatory. 2. Extend the slide outwards and place the 32" long x 121/2" wide board on top. Screw the board and slide from underneath. The board has to be flush with the edge. Diagram 4 See diagram 2. Step 3 - Finishing 1. Place the 2 pieces of 2" x 4" under the 32" x 13" board as shown in diagram 3 and nail in place. 2. Place the other 32" x 13" plywood piece and leave a ¹/₄" space above the pull out board. To hold it in that position, I had some plastic coroplast that was a 1/4" thick. I placed it on top of the pull out board in a way that I could retrieve it once the board was nailed in place,

then I placed the plywood on top. See diagram 4.

Step 3 - Finishing (cont'd)

- 4. Nail the sides to the top and the bottom of the casing. See diagram 5
- 5. Take out the plastic coroplast.
- 6. Thinking of ergonomy, place the pull out board on the middle shelf where it would be best for your need. I'm thinking of left handed quilters. They might want it on the left side of the table. **Do not nail it to the shelf, It's not necessary.**

NOTE: Remember I told you at the beginning that the pull out board must be 32" long instead of 33", well here is why:

 The handle : I used a nice old pallet wood board to cover the front where I will place the handle. Cut 1 piece that would be wide and long enough to cover the top part of the casing.. I wanted to leave the bottom part uncovered for more space to put my quilting tolls in and maybe put a small Decorative basket. See Picture A.

NOTE: you can't install a kitchen handle that screws from the inside of the cover. Find an hold style handle that screws from the front.

8. When placing the pull out board casing on the middle shelf, you want to make sure that the cover will screw on the pull out board and it also has to come flush with the top of the table. The handle will stick out and it's ok.

Picture A





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Diagram 5

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Phase 4 - Coffee holder and fabric collector

DO NOT take my measurements for granted.

Tools needed:

Drill, screw driver or preferably a nail gun, mitter saw, sander and 120 Grit sand paper, wood filler, paint and vices.

Material required:

Leftover plywood ½" thick 2 small hinges

Step 1 - Cutting the pieces

- 1. Using leftover plywood 1/2" thick, cut 3 pieces of 33" long x 8" wide.
- 2. Cut 4 pieces 71/2" high x 8" wide
- 3. Cut 1 piece 8" x 9"
- 4. Sand and paint before hand.



Diagram 1



- 1. Start with the 3 pieces of 33" long x 8" wide. Lay the bottom flat and place the sides and both ends. Use vices to hold tightly in place and nail it together as shown on diagram 1.
- Place the 2 inserts of 7¹/₂" high x 8" wide inside the box. The empty space between the left side and the first insert should be 7" wide so that if you add the ¹/₂" thickness of both, the left side and the first insert, it will total 8". See diagram 2
- 3. The second insert is also 7" apart from to the right of the first insert.





Step 3 - Coffee cup holder or thread collector

- 1. Take the piece previously cut of 8" x 9". Get your favorite coffee cup, measure the diameter of your cup at a height that won't easily topple over.
- 2. Find the center and cut a hole with a drill bit that makes holes + or 3" in diameter. depending of the size of your cup. Sand and paint.
- 3. Screw the hinges so it can lift the cover toward the back for an ergonomic access. See Picture A below.





5. Screw the box to the side of the table using wood screws.

IMPORTANT:

The cover for the coffee holder has to be flush with the top of the table.

Picture A



Picture B

