

Online Extra

Craft Centre Dividers & Stand

The craft centre from *Australian Woodsmith* No. 137 is an attractive and useful project all on its own. But these two simple additions can make it even more valuable. One is a set of dividers to organise the centre's upper trays. And the other is a solid-wood stand to elevate the centre to a comfortable height for setting beside a chair.

DIVIDER STRIPS. The divider strips are the easiest addition. As you can see in the drawings below, they're just thin strips with interlocking notches. I made the strips by resawing and planing a thicker board at the band saw. Then you can stack and notch the strips all at once, as illustrated in the How-To box below.

The divider strips are sized to fit perfectly in the upper trays of the centre. Just make as many as you desire to accommodate how you'd like to divide up the space in your craft centre.



Materials & Cutting Diagram

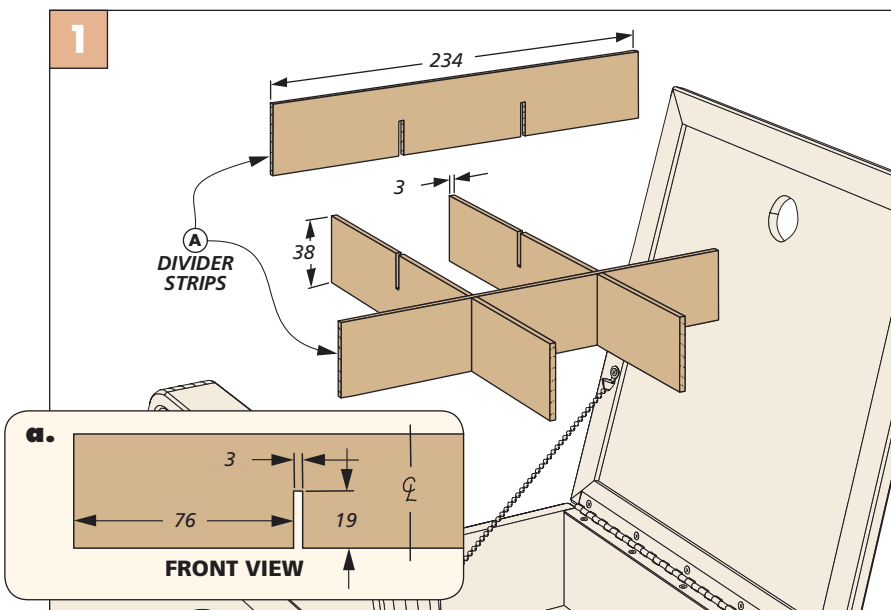
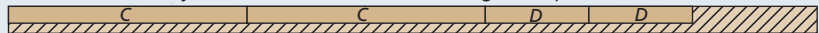
A Divider Strips (4 per tray)	234 x 38 x 3
B Legs (4)	215 x 60 x 60
C Long Stretchers (2)	450 x 32 x 19
D Short Stretchers (2)	195 x 32 x 19

NOTE: Parts 'B' start 900 x 60 x 60 turning blank (or you could laminate stock)

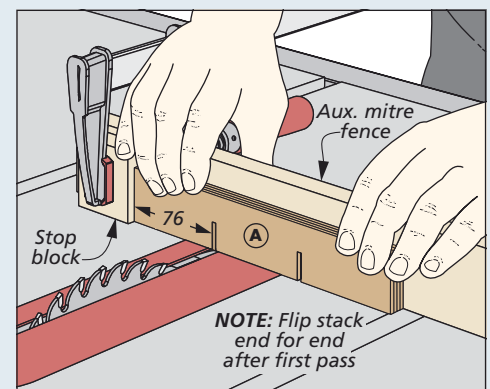
1200 x 50 x 12 Cherry, New Guinea rosewood or close-grained pine



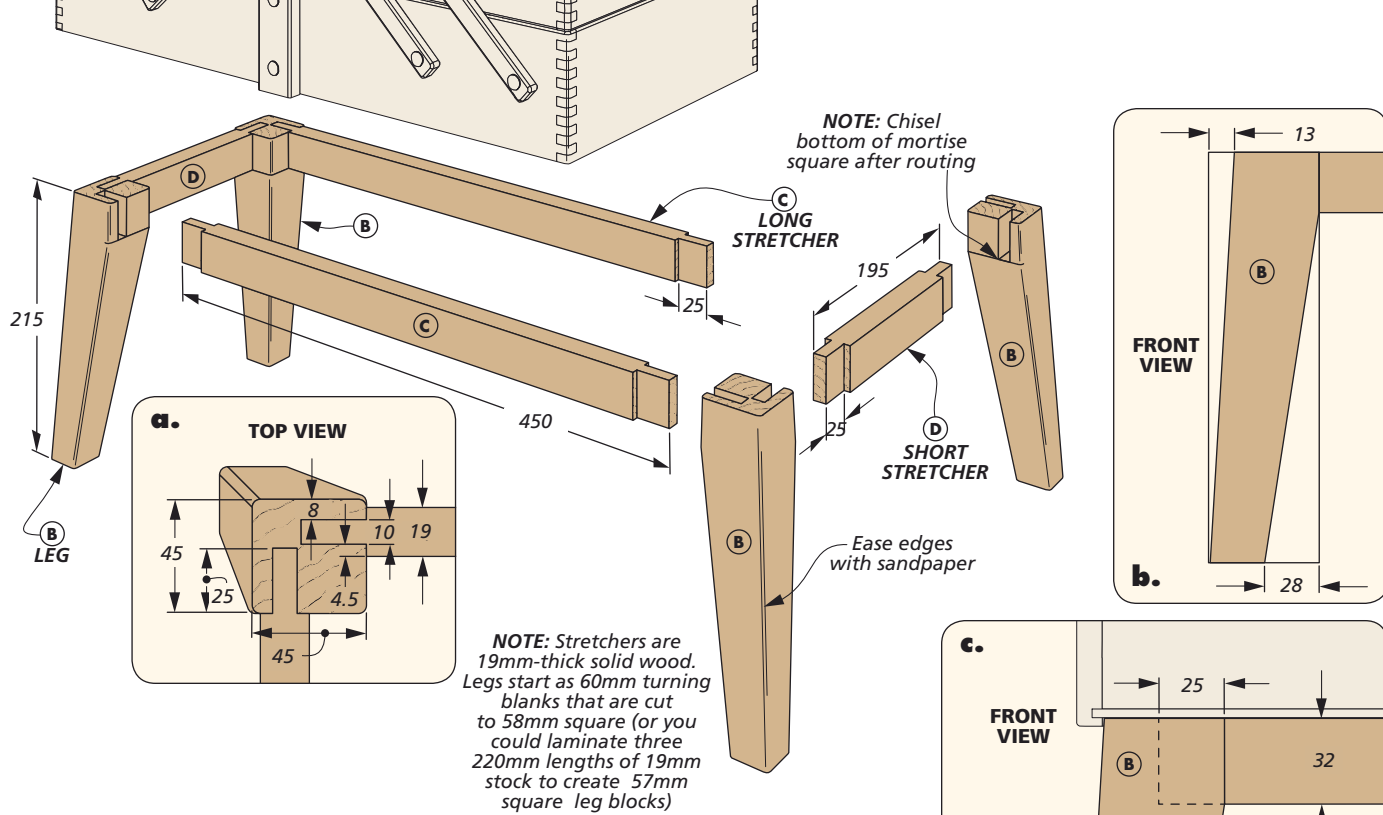
1500 x 50 x 19 Cherry, New Guinea rosewood or close-grained pine **NOTE:** Parts 'A' resawn to 3mm thick



How-To: CUT NOTCHES



Stack & Cut. Clamp a stop block to an auxiliary miter fence, and then stack the strips face to face in order to cut all the notches at once.



SOLID-WOOD STAND

The stand consists of thick, flared legs joined to stretchers with open mortise and tenon joints (drawing above). It's designed to nestle in the cavity beneath the craft centre's lower tray.

LEGS. The legs start as thick turning blanks that are trimmed to size. Between the open mortises and the four-sided tapers on these legs, there's a lot to keep track of. So after cutting the blanks to their final overall dimensions, I'd take some time to carefully lay out all the mortises and tapers on each one.

Once that's done, you can cut the open

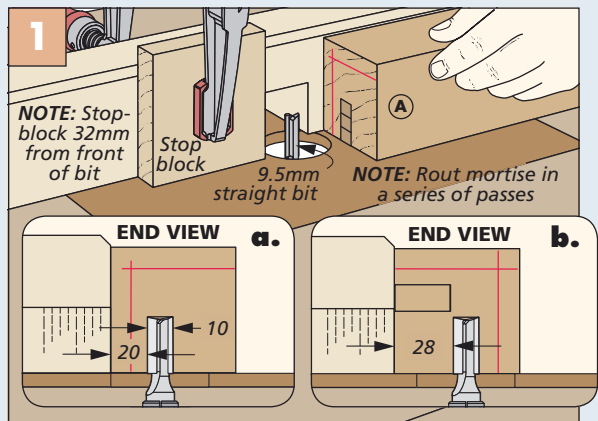
mortises at the top of the legs as shown in Figure 1 below. As you can see in details 'a' and 'b', you'll need to use two different fence settings to rout all these mortises. In addition, you need to account for the tapers added later when routing some of these mortises. Finally, you'll want to rout each one with a series of progressively deeper passes. Just proceed carefully and follow your layout lines to ensure good results.

I cut the tapers on the legs at the band saw, as shown in Figures 2 and 3. It's really just a matter of cutting carefully along your layout lines at this point, and then rotating

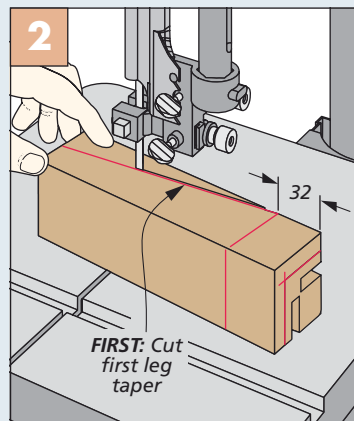
the blank to make another cut. I like to reattach my cutoffs with double-sided tape so that I don't have to redraw my layout lines. After making all the tapers, I sanded the cuts smooth and rounded the edges.

STRETCHERS. With the legs complete, all that's left is cutting out the stretchers and cutting tenons on the ends. I used a dado blade at the table saw for these. Finally, check the fit of the stand under your craft centre before getting out the glue and clamps to complete the assembly. **W**

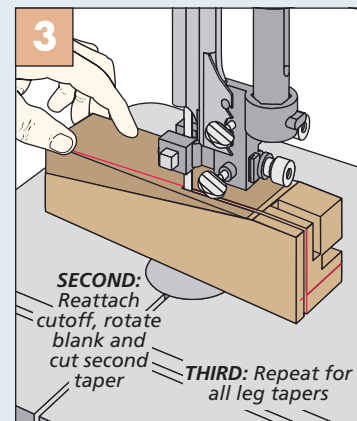
How-To: MORTISES & TAPERS



Open Mortises. I made the mortises in the tops of the legs with a straight bit, a stop block, and a series of progressively deeper passes in each workpiece.



Taper One. Cut carefully along the layout line at the band saw to form the leg tapers.



Taper Two. Reattach the cutoff with double-sided tape, rotate the blank, and repeat for all tapers.