



Gate leg Table

Fancy making a fold-down table that can fit five people? We show you how.

We're making an economical fold-down table using MDF, solid timber and veneer. It's a traditional gate-leg table, for two people but opening out to sit up to five. It's ideal for small spaces and can be transported easily.

1

Cut the legs, top and bottom rails to length as instructed in the materials list. Ensure that all the ends are square. (See Diagrams 1 and 2).

Mark out the six legs together for the positions of the top and bottom rails. All joints are to have two dowels (as set out in Diagram 4). Use the doweling jig to ensure correct hole alignments.

2

Using your hand plane, lightly chamfer all the edges of your posts and rails as well as the bottom of each post before you assemble it.

3

Glue the dowels into the ends of the rails. Doing this first helps make assembly easier. Next, assemble the leg frames. Put together the opposite long sides and check that they are square.

4

Next, join in the short end rails. Make sure the frame is square and stands level. G-clamp together while the glue dries.

5

Join the top and bottom rails to the two swinging legs. Fit the hinges at the other ends of the rails but don't attach them to the table rails until later.

6

Cut three pieces 760mm x 380mm out of the sheet of 18mm MDF. Mark two of these pieces with a semi-circle (i.e. A 380mm radius). An easy method is to make a pattern from cardboard and mark on sheets (see Diagram 3).

If you haven't got a compass big enough use a length of scrap wood with a nail through one end. This is simply swung through the radius and an arc is drawn using a pencil, while holding the other end of the wood. Cut out the semi-circles carefully with a jig saw, then plane and sand the edges.

7

Cut the pre-glued timber veneer sheets to size, including 20mm wide strips for the edges. Glue all edges and trim them (with a sharp scraper) so that they are flush with your surface before you cover the top.

8

The sheets of veneer will have to be joined, as they are only 305mm wide. Simply iron on the veneer using a hot electric iron. An overlap of about 1mm is allowed for slight shrinkage of the veneer due to moisture loss. When the overlap is ironed, it will drop down and the surface will then be flush at the join. All details are in the application instructions supplied with each sheet of veneer.

9

Place the top and two ends (veneer face down) on your workbench or floor. Fix three hinges on each leaf to the centre panel keeping the edges tight. Make sure the screws are a maximum of 16mm in length so they won't come through the top surface of the table.

10

Glue and screw small pieces of timber along the inside of the top and end rails to secure the tabletop. (Approximately 20 x 20 x 75mm long).

Apply glue along the top and end rails, then invert the leg framework and position in the centre of the middle panel. Screw through the blocks into the top.

11

While the table is still inverted, fix the hinges of the swing legs in position (see Diagram 3). A 'stop' is made and attached under the flap, in order to secure the swing leg in the 'out' position. (See Diagram 4, leg stop). Cut a section out of the top edges of the leg and rail to allow for the stop and hinge area so that the swinging leg closes onto the stop. Glue and nail the stops under the flaps.

12

Turn the table the right way up and test the opening and closing action. Then lightly sand all surfaces and finish and stain as desired.

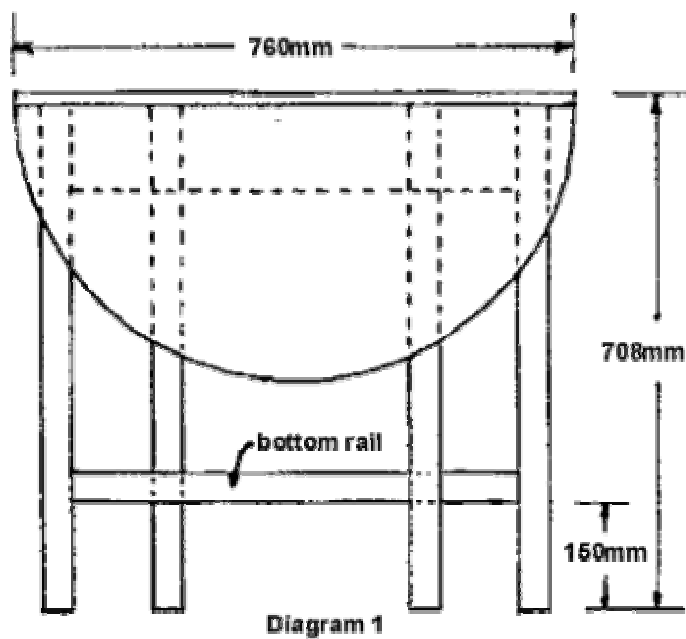


Diagram 1

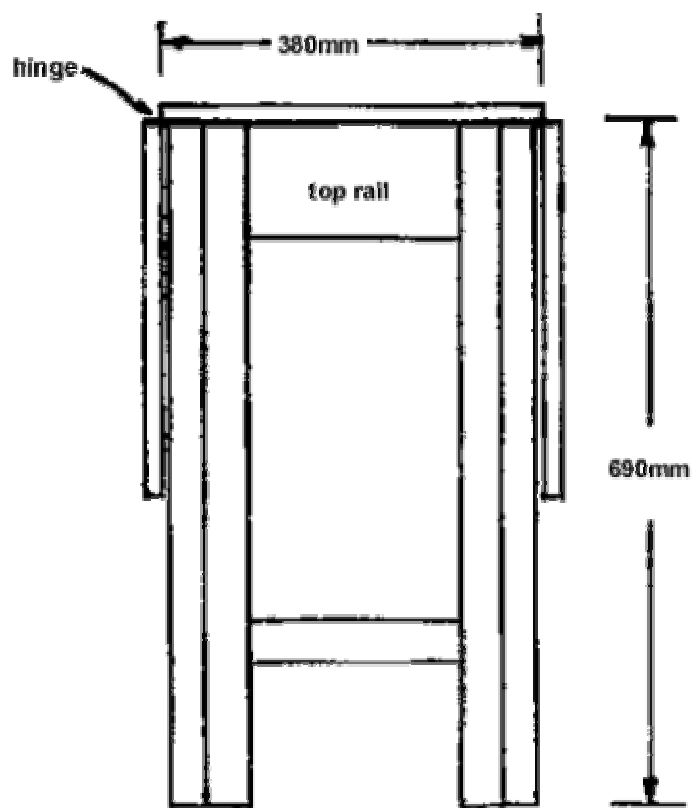


Diagram 2

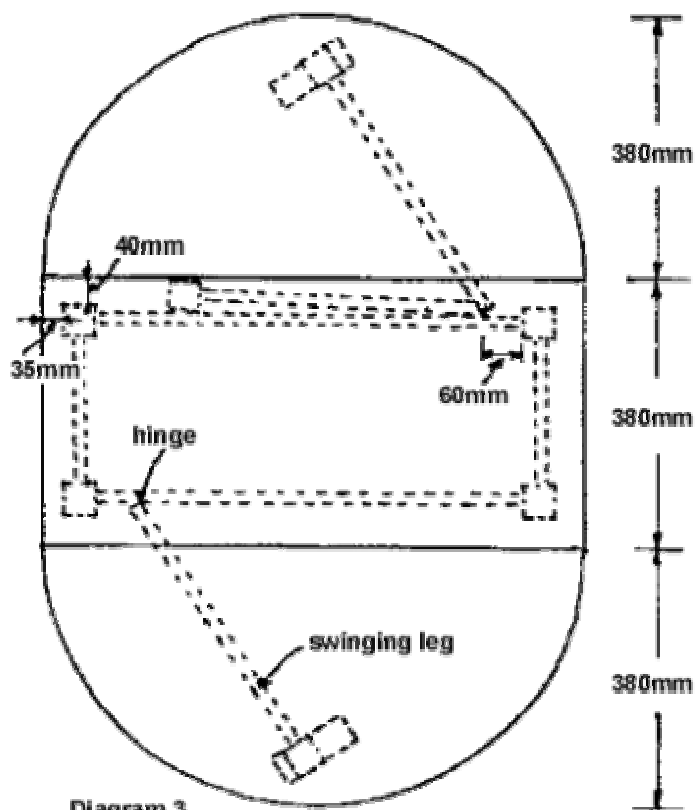


Diagram 3

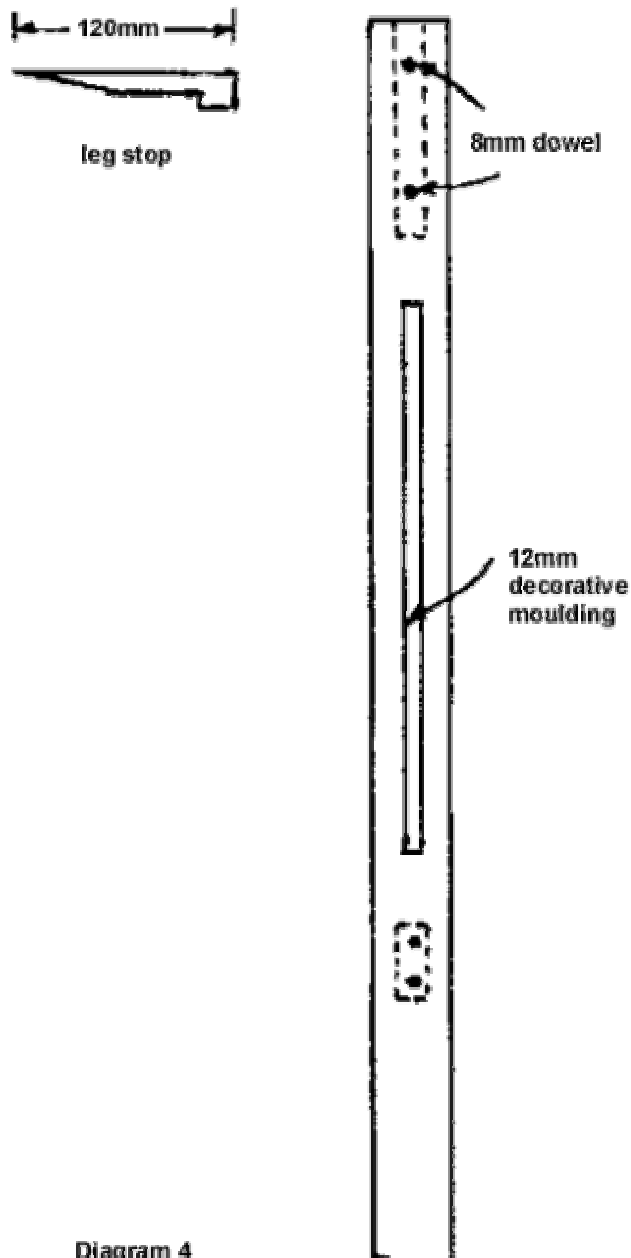


Diagram 4

MATERIALS

Scrap wood block (for use in ironing on veneer).

18mm MDF Master wood

1 x sheet 1200 x 900 (top and two ends)

Timber veneer (Pacific Maple pre-glued) - 2 x sheets 2440mm x 305mm

Timber (Dressed all round or DAR) Ã¢â¬â Maple / Meranti

Note: Dressed sizes finish approximately 5mm less than shown.

Legs Ã¢â¬â 50mm x 50mm DAR Ã¢â¬â 3 pieces @ 1.5m (cut 6 @ 690mm)

Top rails Ã¢â¬â 125mm x 25mm DAR Ã¢â¬â 1 piece @ 2.7m

(cut 2 @ 602, 2 @ 212mm, 2 @ 408mm) for the swinging legs

Bottom Rails 50mm x 25mm DAR 1 piece @ 2.7m
(cut 2 @ 602mm, 2 @ 212mm, 2 @ 408mm) for the swinging legs

Decorative moulding 12mm x 6mm 2 pieces @ 2.4m

Hinges 6 @ 75mm brass hinges (3 per table leaf) plus two hinges for swinging legs

Screws, PVA glue, 8mm dowels, sandpaper (fine), small nails

Tools:

Electric hand saw and jigsaw

Square

Dowelling rig

Drill and bits

Hammer

Nail punch

Plane

Stanley (craft) knife

Electric iron

G-clamp

Metal scraper (sharp- to trim veneer edges)

COST

Timber: \$ 72.00 Veneer: \$ 28.00 Hardware: \$ 40.00 Total: \$ 140.00