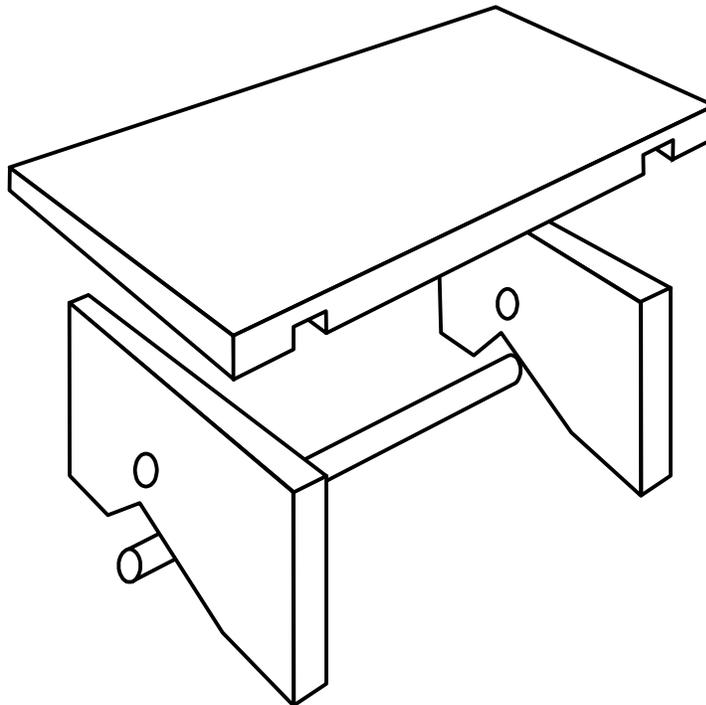


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## GIVE YOUR 2-YEAR OLD SOME HEIGHT



Can your child reach the sink? Probably not, but with this easily portable stepping stool he or she can. Only a few wood shop tools are required and the project takes about one hour to complete.

### Materials:

1 piece -- 12 " of 1x8 oak (12" long by 7.75" wide by 0.75" thick)

2 pieces -- 8" of 1x8 oak (8" long by 7.75" wide by 0.75" thick)

1 piece -- 10" of 1" diameter oak dowel

Carpenters glue

Roll of paper towels

Sandpaper

Diamond Verathane

Foam paintbrush (disposable)

A wide tip, indelible felt pen

Tools:

Router mounted on a router table having a cutting fence

3/4" cylindrical router bit

3/8" corner-rounding router bit

Drill press

1" drill bit (Forstener bit preferred)

Handsaw

Vice with wooden jaws

Hammer

Construction:

- 1) Route two 0.75" deep, 0.75" wide slots across the width of the 12' board, one at each end, as shown. The slot edges should be 1" for each end.
- 2) Bore a 1" diameter hole 3" from one end of each 8" piece such that the hole is centered in the width direction.
- 3) Cut legs on the 8" pieces by cutting out an equilateral triangle that is 2" high and 4" wide at the base and 1" under the hole as shown. The peak of the triangle should be centered in the width direction. Clamp the wood in the vice and use the handsaw to do the cutting.

Assembly:

- 1) Place the 12" piece with the slots up on a work bench
- 2) Smear glue in the grooves and the end of the 8" board opposite of the legs.
- 3) Carefully center each leg in the groove and tap the 8" board into the groove with a hammer. Wipe up any excess glue with a paper towel.
- 4) Smear glue in one of the holes in the 8" pieces. Then wipe the glue away with a paper towel. This process will wet the wood for the next step.
- 5) Slide the dowel into the wetted hole of the 8" piece until it just starts to touch the other 8" piece.
- 6) Smear glue in the hole that is still open and on both ends of the dowels, about 0.75" on each end.
- 7) Continue pushing the dowel into the holes until the dowel is flush with the outside edge of each end. Use the hammer if necessary to position the dowel correctly
- 8) Wipe off all excess glue with a paper towel and let the assembly dry overnight.

Finishing:

- 1) Mount the 3/8" radius rounding bit in the router and round the top edge of the stool.
- 2) Sand the stool to your satisfaction.

- 3) Apply one coat of Diamond Verathane and let it dry for two hours.
- 4) Sand the stool a second time.
- 5) Using the felt pen, write the following poem on the top of the stool.

*THIS LITTLE STOOL IS MINE  
I USE IT ALL THE TIME  
TO REACH THE THINGS I COULDN'T  
AND LOTS OF THINGS I SHOULDN'T*

*NAME OF CHILD*

- 6) Optionally sign and date the underside of the stool, e.g. Grandpa Karl 12/25/02
- 7) Apply two more coats of Diamond Verathane, sanding after each layer.

My grandkids each love their little stool. They use it when they brush their teeth in the bathroom and when they want to reach a favorite toy on a high shelf. This little stool is a must for any small child. Make it: it's easy.

THE END