

Simple, Sturdy Workbench

From Getting Started in Woodworking, Season 2

BY ASA CHRISTIANA

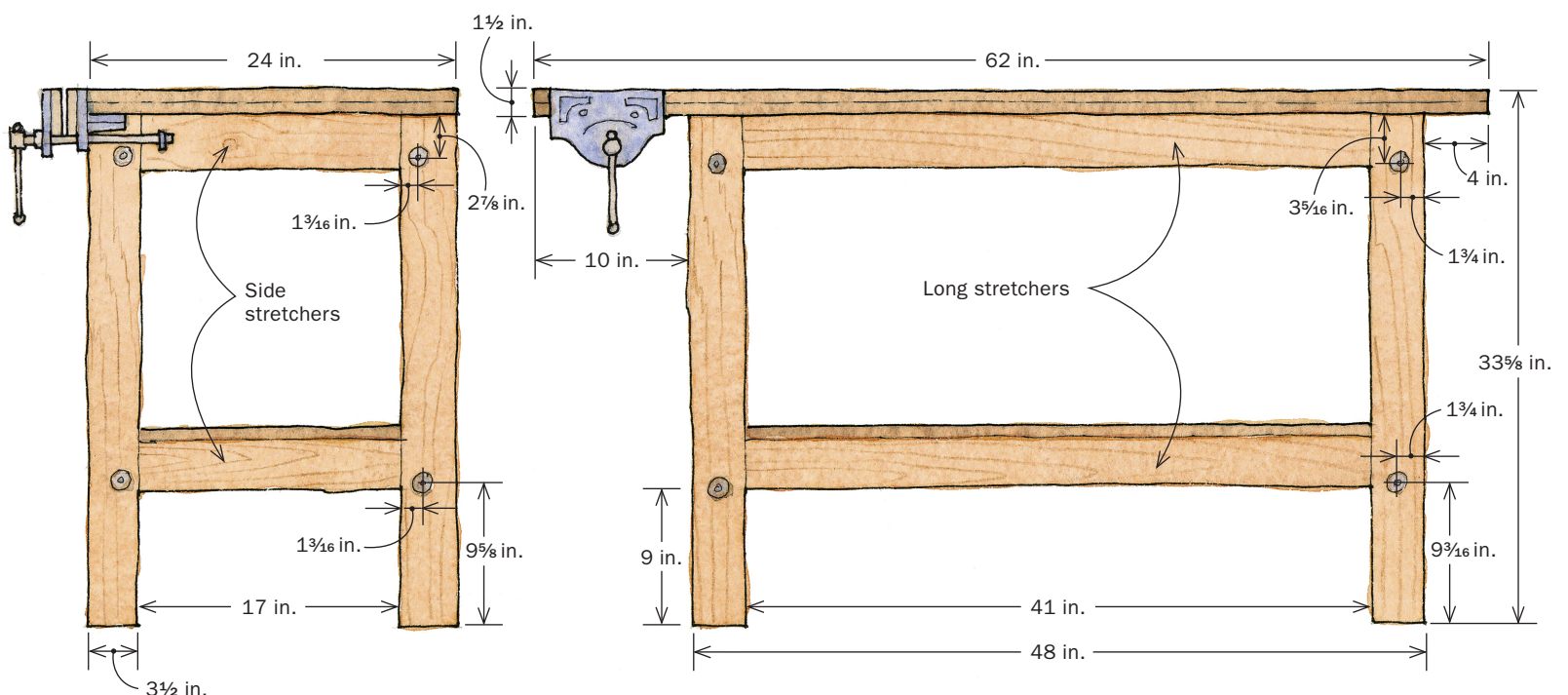
This workbench is easy and inexpensive to build, yet is sturdy and versatile enough for any woodworker. The base is construction lumber (4x4s and 2x4s), joined simply with long bolts and short dowels. The top is two layers of MDF (medium-density fiberboard), cut from a single sheet, with enough left over to make a handy shelf.

The only tools needed to make this bench are a drill/driver, a circular saw, and a hand-held router or a router table.

There is room at one end for a small cast-iron woodworking vise, which is an essential tool in any woodworking shop. The vise is fitted with non-marring wooden jaws, and the jaws and benchtop receive dog holes, sized to fit a variety of handy bench accessories.

LUMBER, HARDWARE AND SUPPLIES LIST

4	8-ft.-long 2x4s, kiln-dried
2	8-ft.-long 4x4s, kiln-dried
1	4x8 sheet of MDF
2	Hardwood pieces for vise jaws, 7½ in. long by 3 in. wide. Front jaw can be between 1 in. and 1½ in. thick and the rear jaw is ¾ in. thick.
1	Filler block for mounting vise, ¾-in.-thick plywood, 4 in. wide by 6 in. long
1	bottle of yellow glue
1	7-in. Groz Rapid-Action Woodworking Vise (www.woodcraft.com)
4	6-ft. lengths of ⅜-in.-dia. threaded rod
16	⅜-in. washers
16	⅜-in. nuts
2	2-in.-long ¼-20 bolts, nuts, washers for attaching front jaw of vise
2	1½-in.-long, ¼-20 flathead screws for attaching rear jaw
1	Box of 1¼-in.-long drywall screws for laminating benchtop
4	⅜-in.-dia., 2½-in.-long lag screws and washers, for attaching vise
16	S-clip-type tabletop fasteners
16	⅜-in.-dia. dowels, roughly 3 in. long



Top is made from two layers of MDF, glued and screwed together.

Cast-iron woodworking vise, lag-bolted to benchtop.

Shelf is cut from same 4x8 sheet of MDF.

All stretchers are made from 2x4 lumber.

S-clip tabletop fasteners go into top slots.

3/8-in.-dia. dowels

Holes for threaded rod

Legs are made from 4x4 lumber.

1 1/4 in. drywall screws driven from the bottom up

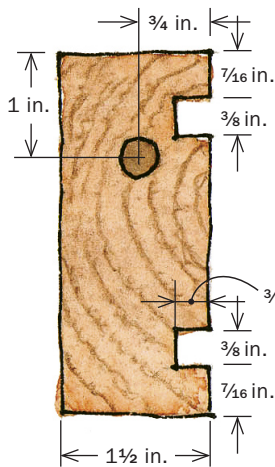
1 in.

Screws driven from underside are laid out on a 6-in.-square grid to avoid interference with dog holes.

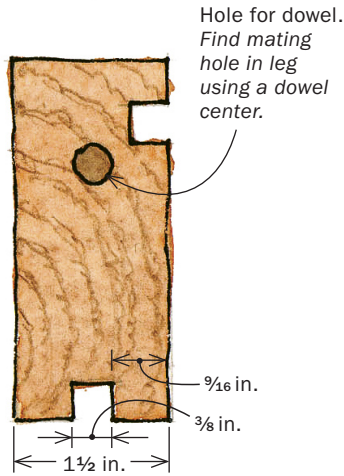
3/8-in.-dia. threaded rod

3/8-in. washers and nuts

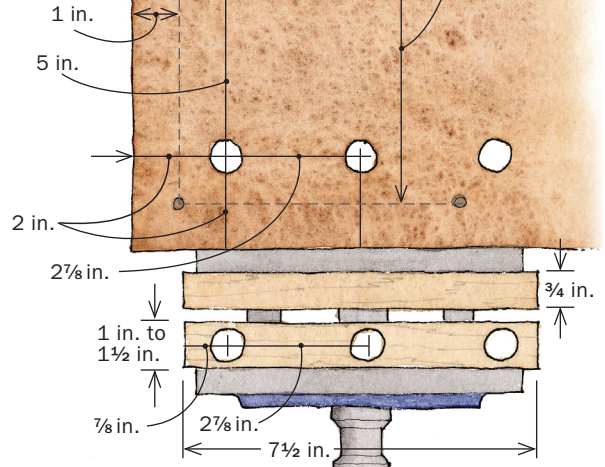
Dog holes, 3/4 in. dia.



LONG STRETCHERS



SIDE STRETCHERS



VISE AND BENCHDOG HOLES