

Build a Braille Writer Paper Support Table

Imagine how important it was for you to learn to “read and write”. The Braille Writer is how blind children learn to “write”. Many elementary schools use a Braille Writer to teach blind children how to write Braille.



It is difficult to read and correct the braille “dots” as the paper comes out of the Braille Writer. This table provides support for the paper while reading and erasing. It is particularly useful when performing math calculations on the writer.

- This table is designed for the Perkins Brand Brailier.



CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

- Refer to [Braille Table Drawing.pdf](#) in addition to the step by step instructions in the following pages

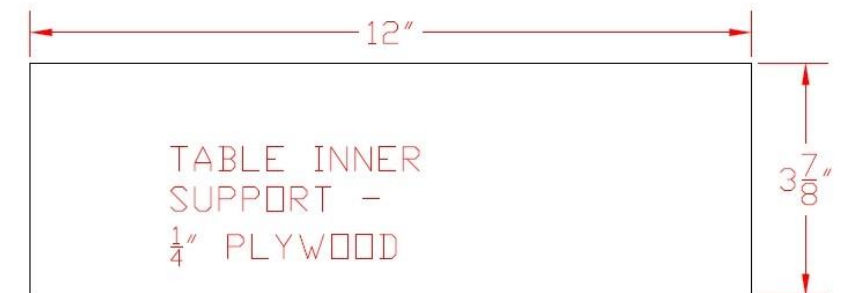
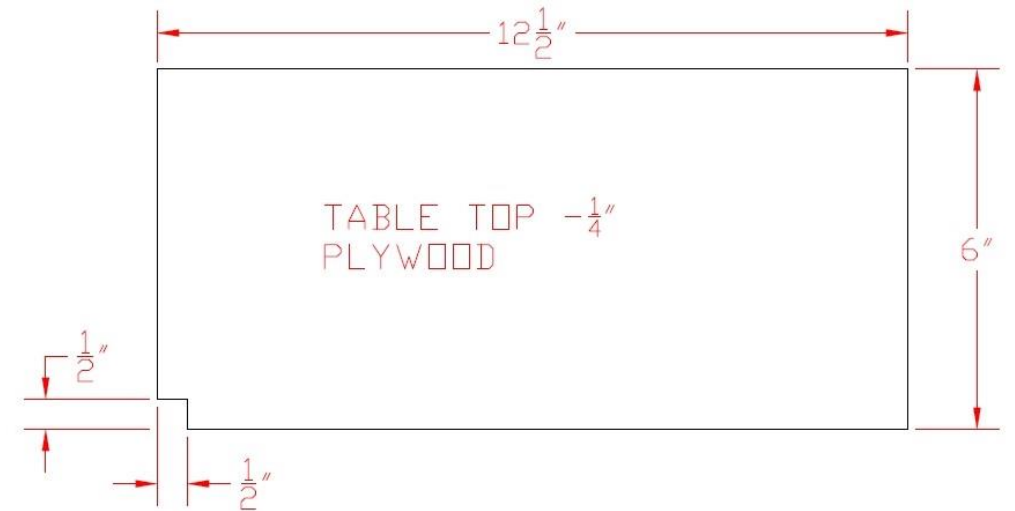
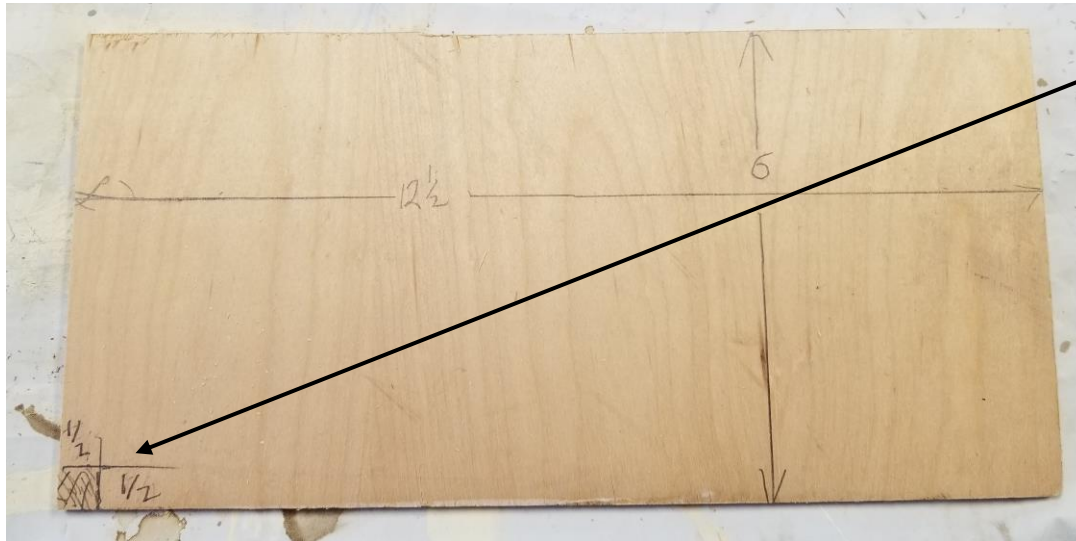
Tools and Materials

- Plywood 1/4" - 12" X 20" per table
- 3/4" square stock: 15" long
- Drill with 1/6" drill bit; countersink bit; T15 Torx bit
- Saber saw with wood blade
- Sander
- Tape measure, pencil, safety glasses
- #6-3/4" Torx screws (or similar)
- Hammer, screwdriver, speed square (or similar square)
- Paint and brush, drop cloth, wood glue
- 3d finish nails
- Bar clamp, 13" opening or larger



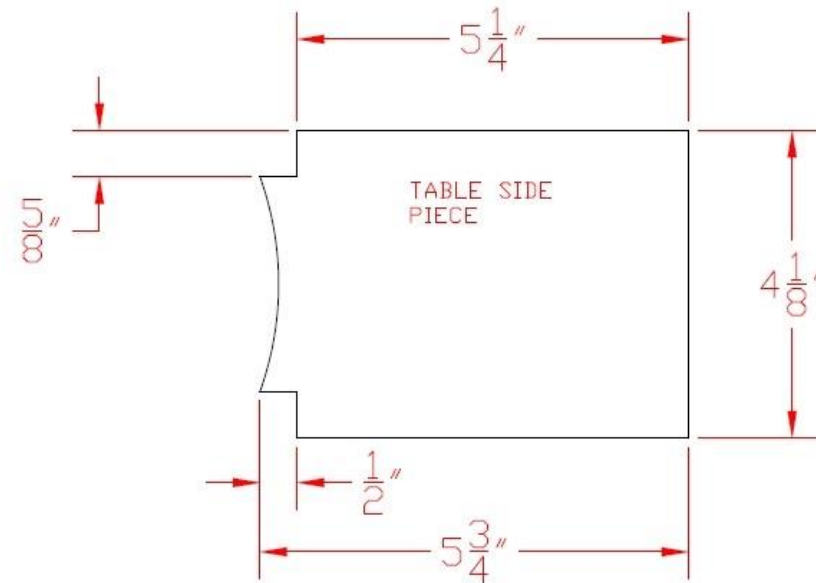
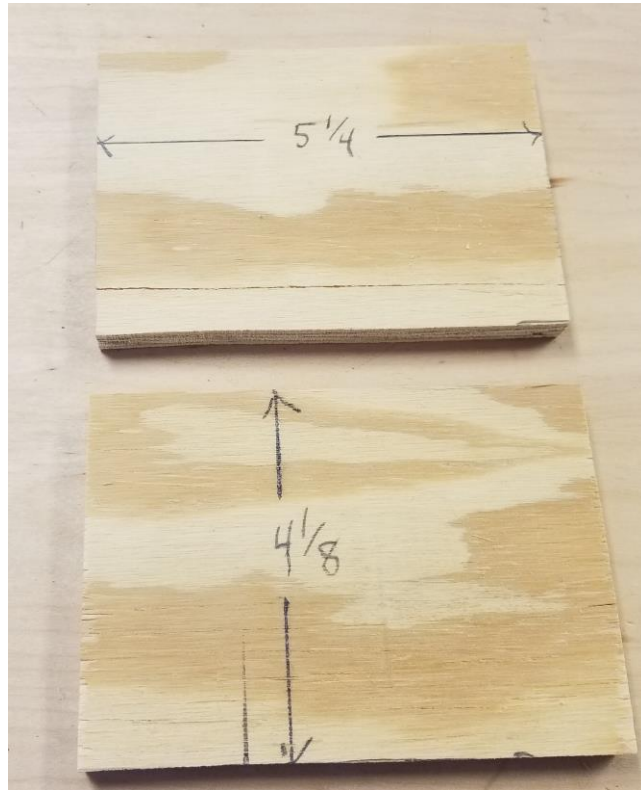
TABLE TOP & INNER SUPPORT

- Cut the 12-1/2" x 6" table top and the 12" x 4" inner support from the plywood – mark the table top 1/2" x 1/2" notch as shown



SIDES – 2 required

- Cut the two 5-1/4" x 4-1/8" sides from plywood as shown. If the table top is thicker than 1/4", subtract the extra thickness from the 4-1/8" dimension



1/4" PLYWOOD
2 PER TABLE

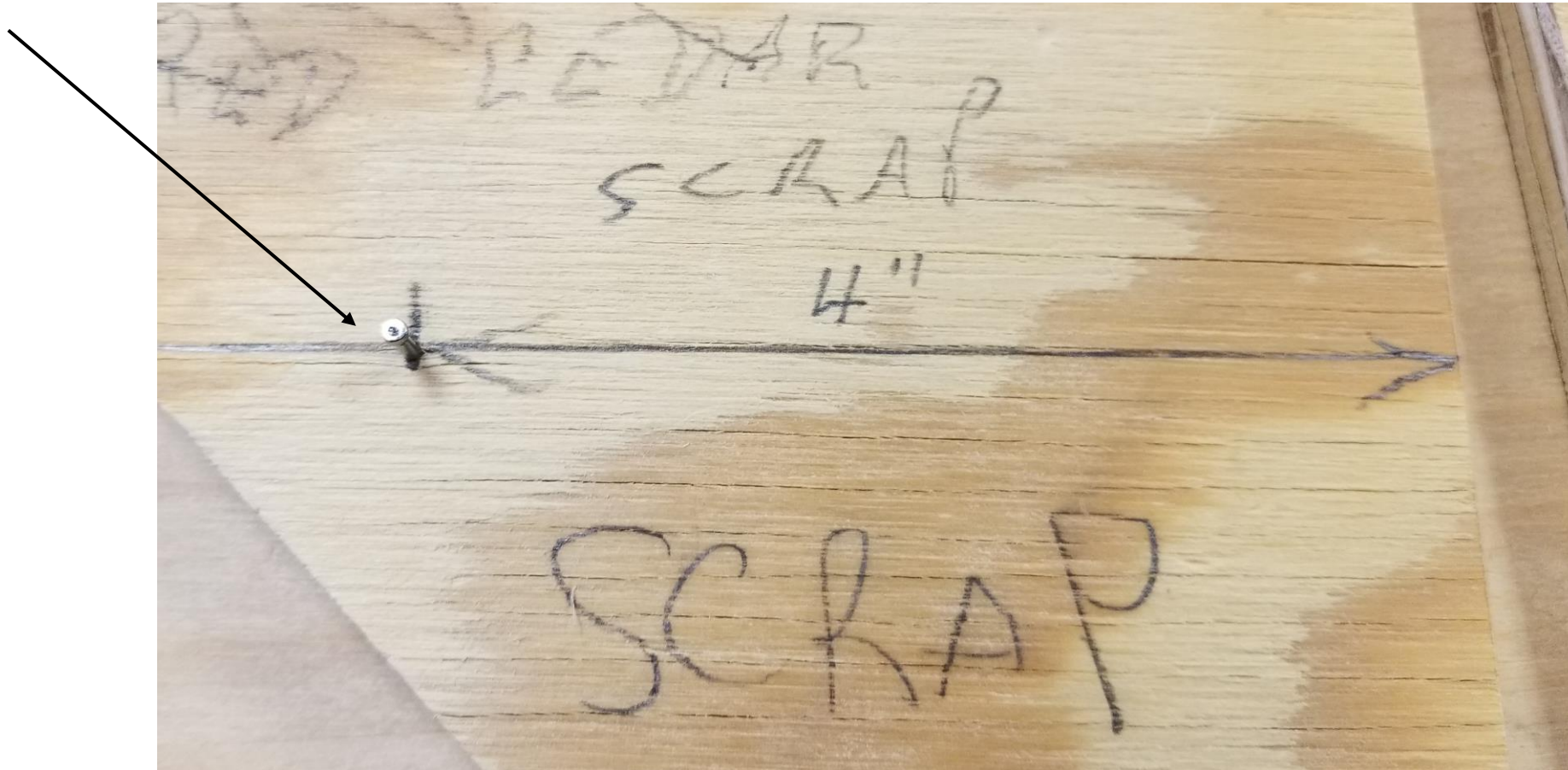
Adjust this height if a thicker plywood is used for the top

A tape measure can be used as a protractor to mark the radius on the side piece.

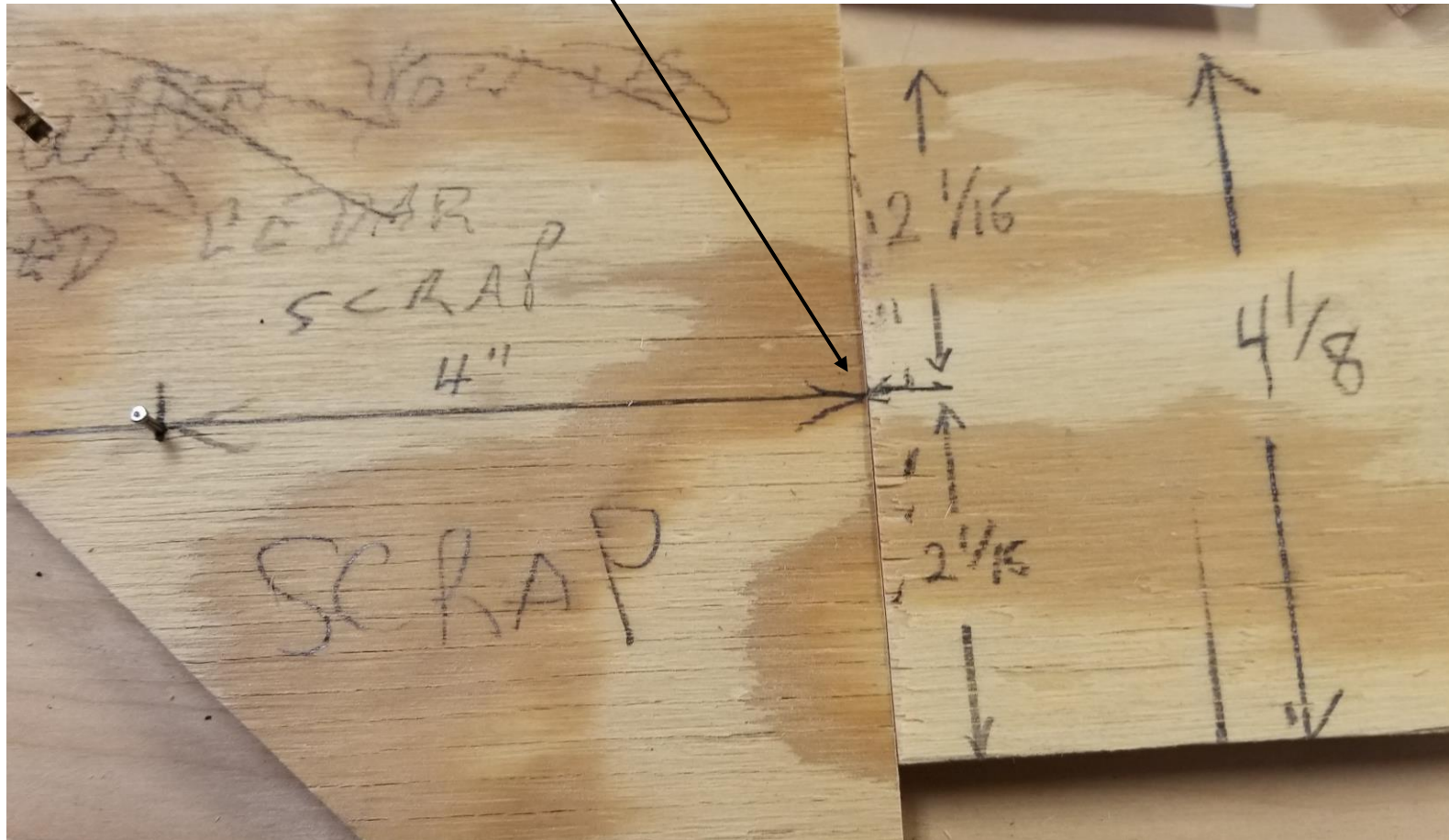
- The notch in the “hook” end fits over a nail for drawing circles.



Use a piece of scrap to hold a 3d nail 4" from the edge as shown.



Align the scrap piece with the nail to the center of the 4-1/8" edge of one side piece.



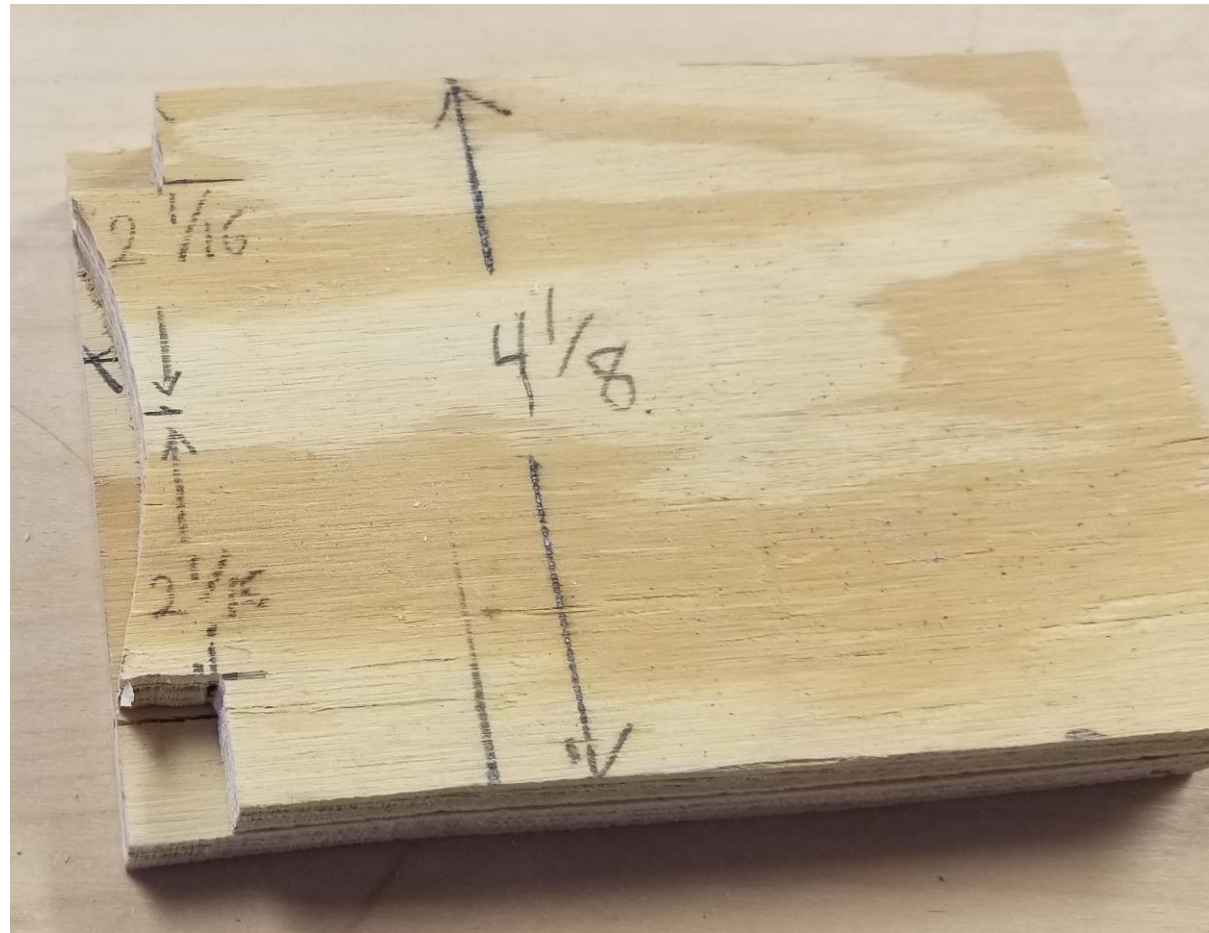
Hook the tape over the nail and rotate it. Mark the side piece at the 4-1/4" dimension of the tape. Short dashes are the easiest to mark.

Tape hook is shown over the nail.

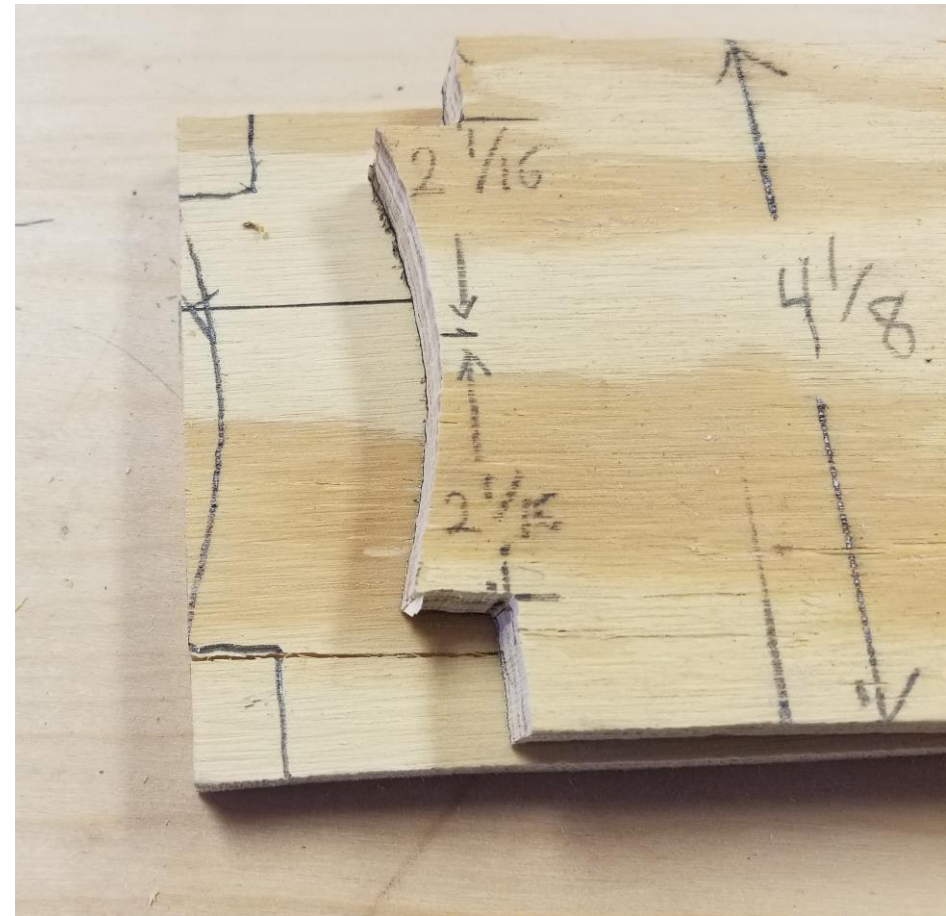
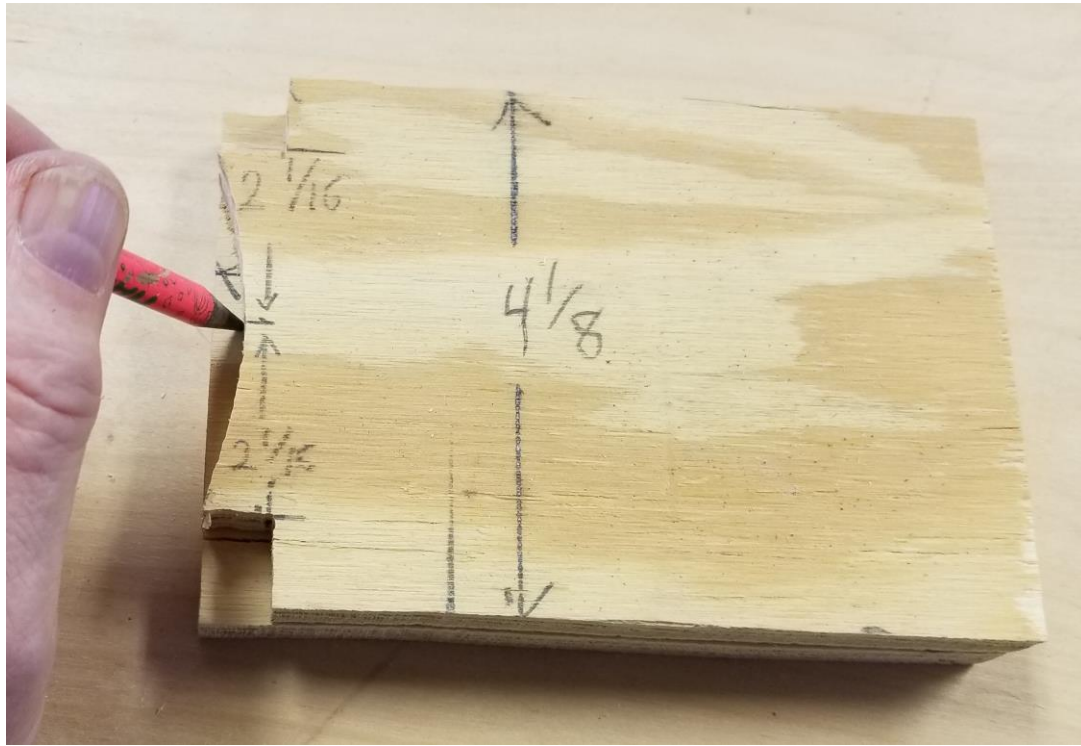


Mark at the 4-1/4" dimension

Cut out the radius and notches as shown on the drawing for one side piece.



Use this side piece as a “template” for marking the other side piece. Save this template if making several tables.

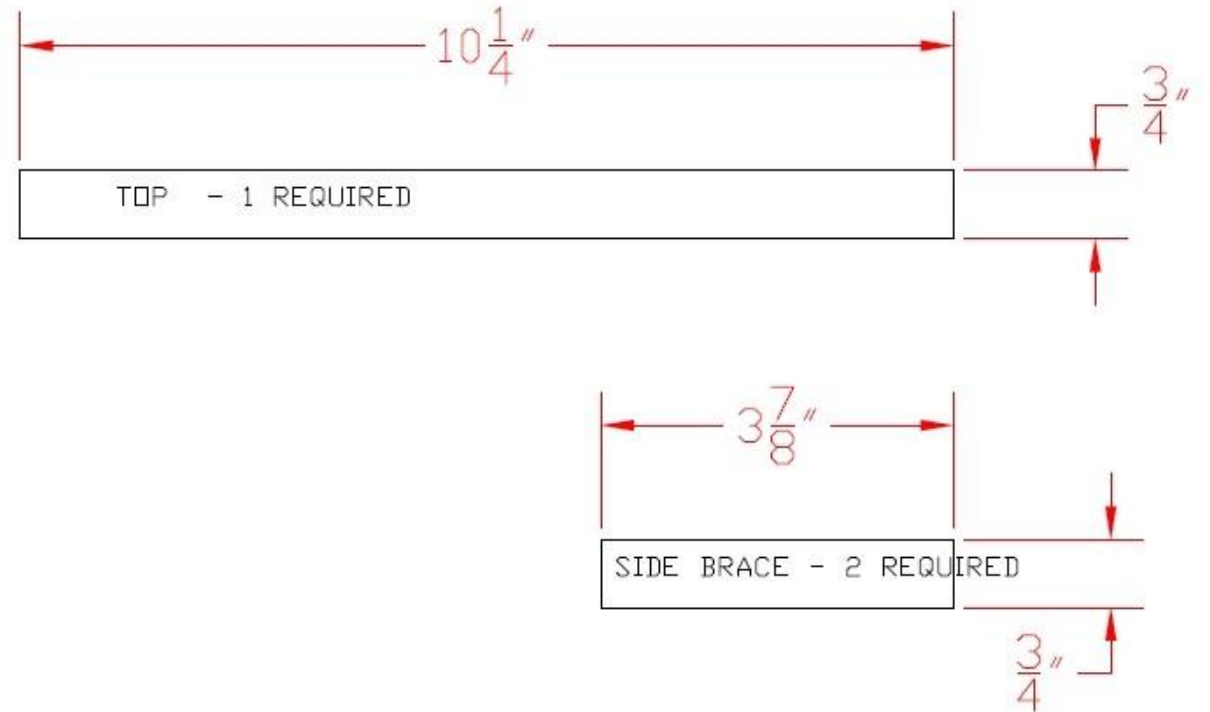
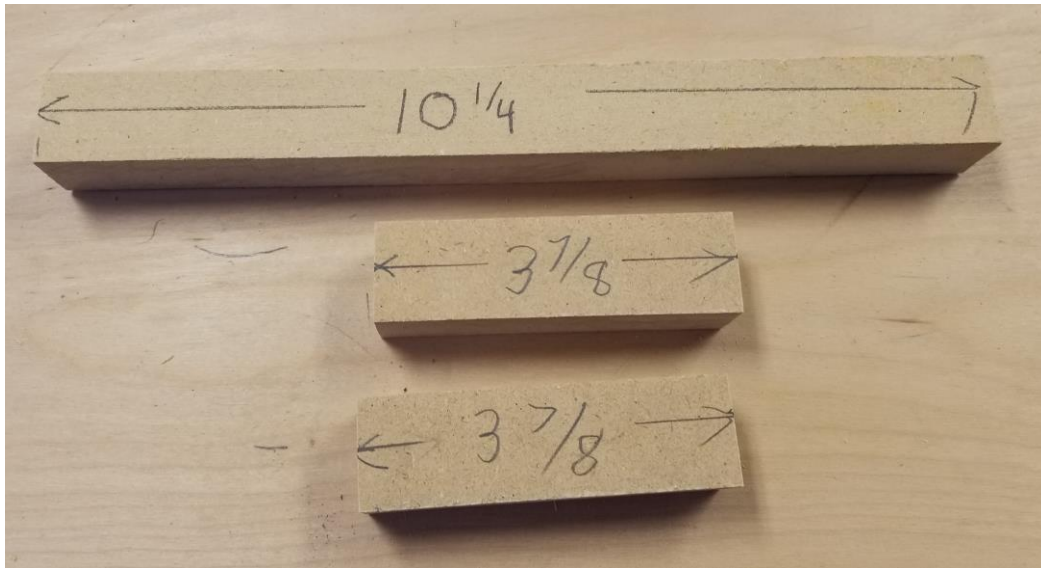


Check that the two side pieces match.

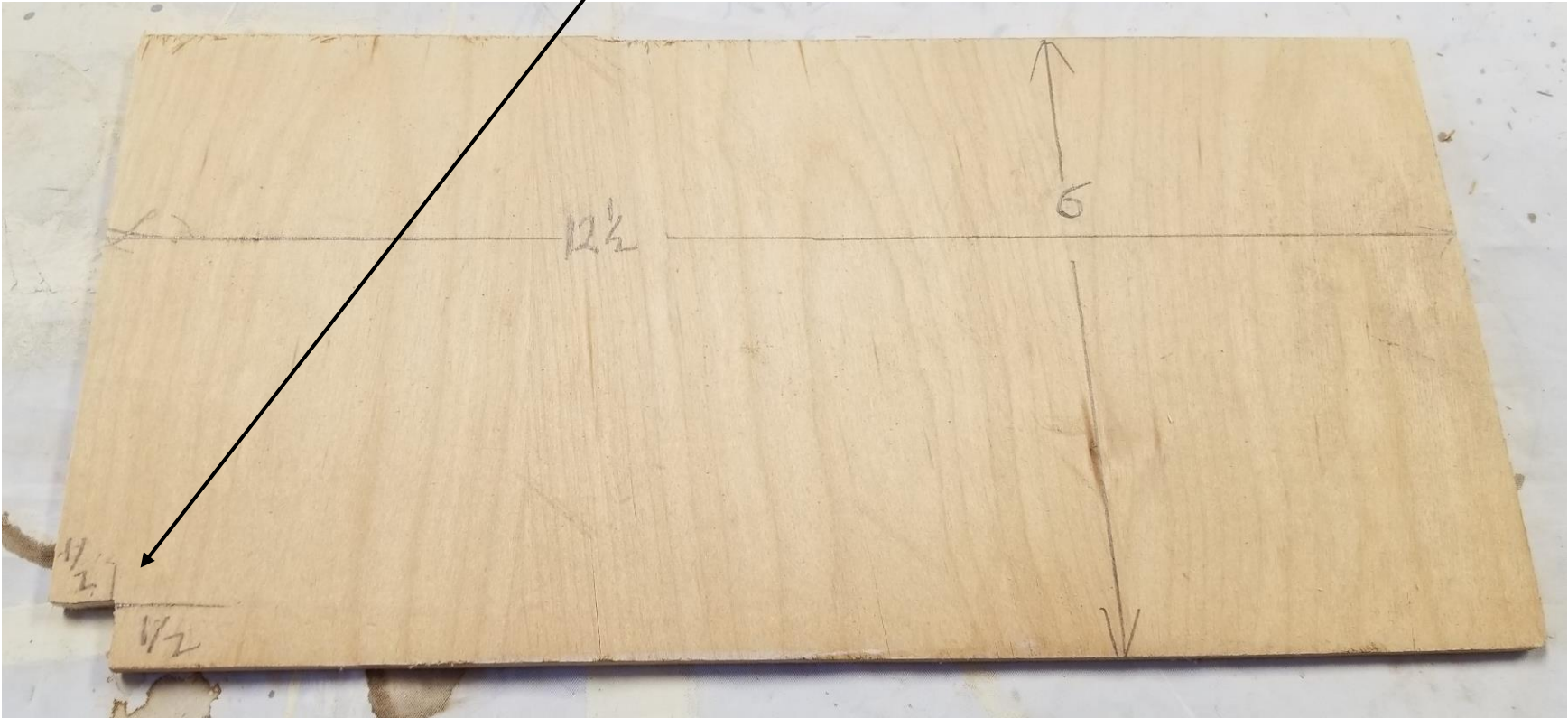


BRACES – 3 required

- Cut one brace 10-1/4" long and two braces 3-7/8" long from 3/4" square stock or similar wood. The longer brace may have to be cut shorter if a thicker plywood is used for the sides.



Cut the $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " Notch from the corner of the table top. Note that this is the front edge left side



All Pieces Cut to Drawing



Test fit inner support. Trim as needed if thicker wood is used for the sides.



This inner support is too long. Lay it out as shown and mark the cut line.



Now it fits between the sides.

Test fit all parts. Trim as needed



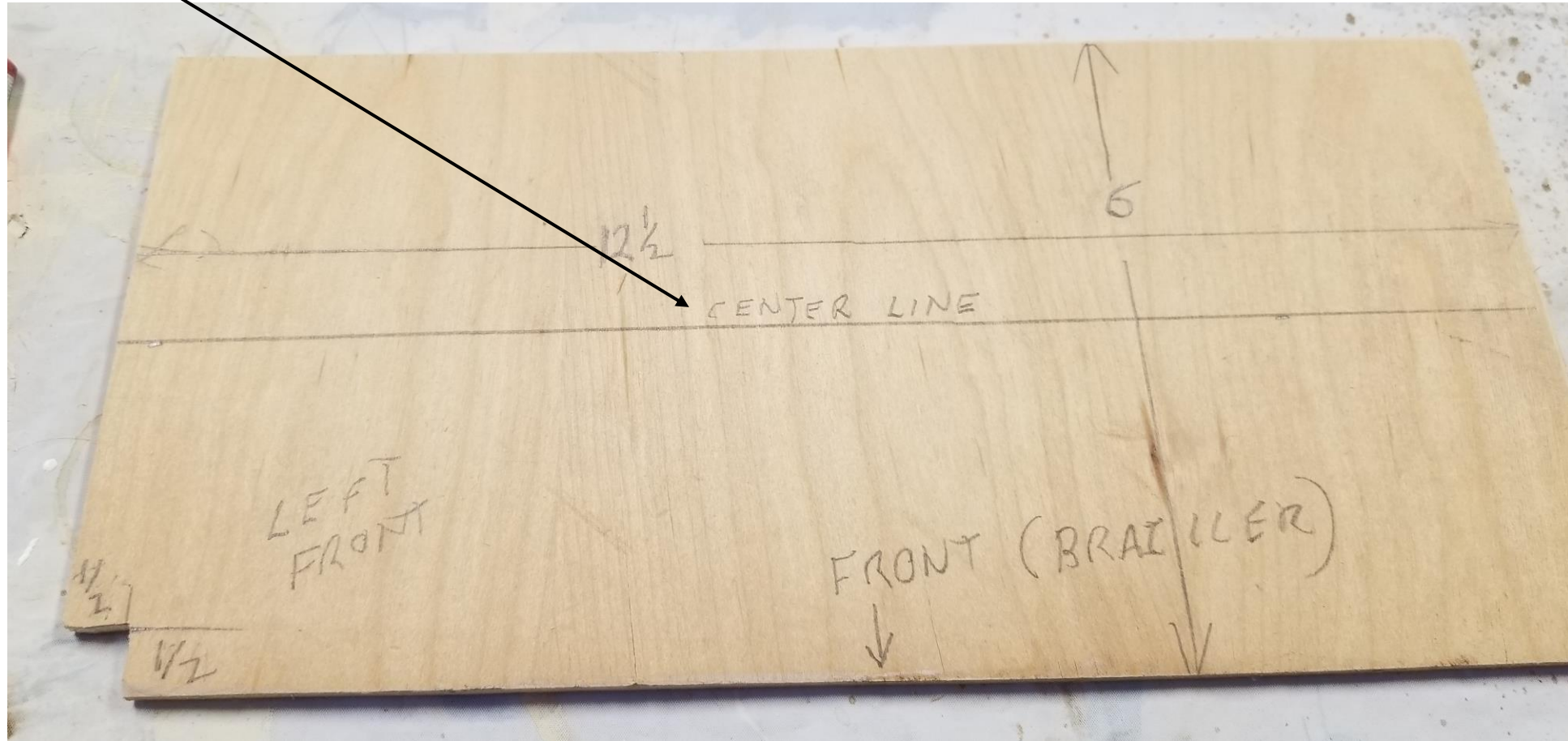
Glue the long brace to the center support.
Nail with 4 - 3d nails



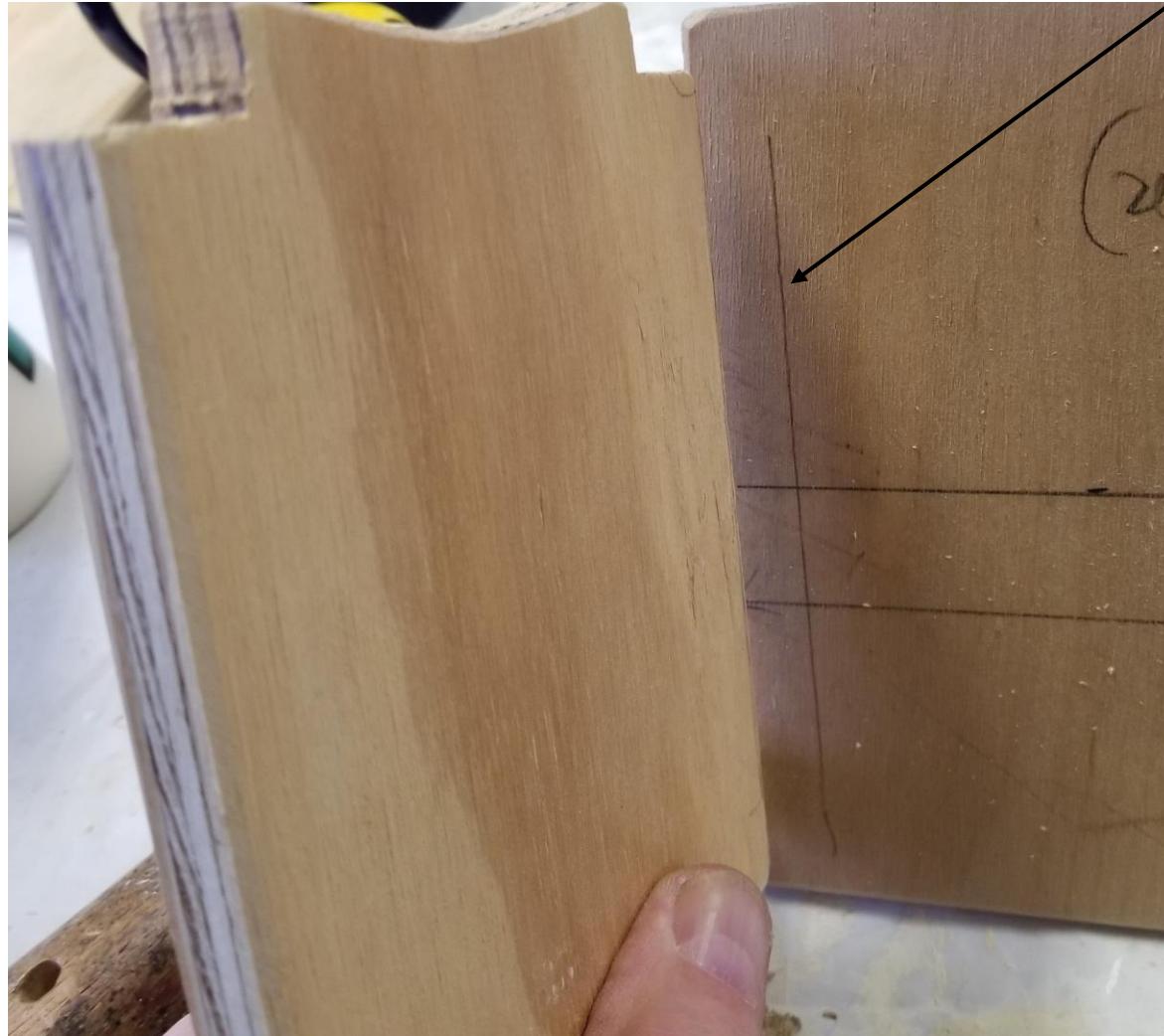
Glue the 2 short braces to center support.
Nail with 2 – 3d nails each.



Mark center line on top – both sides



Use side piece to mark the top for nails



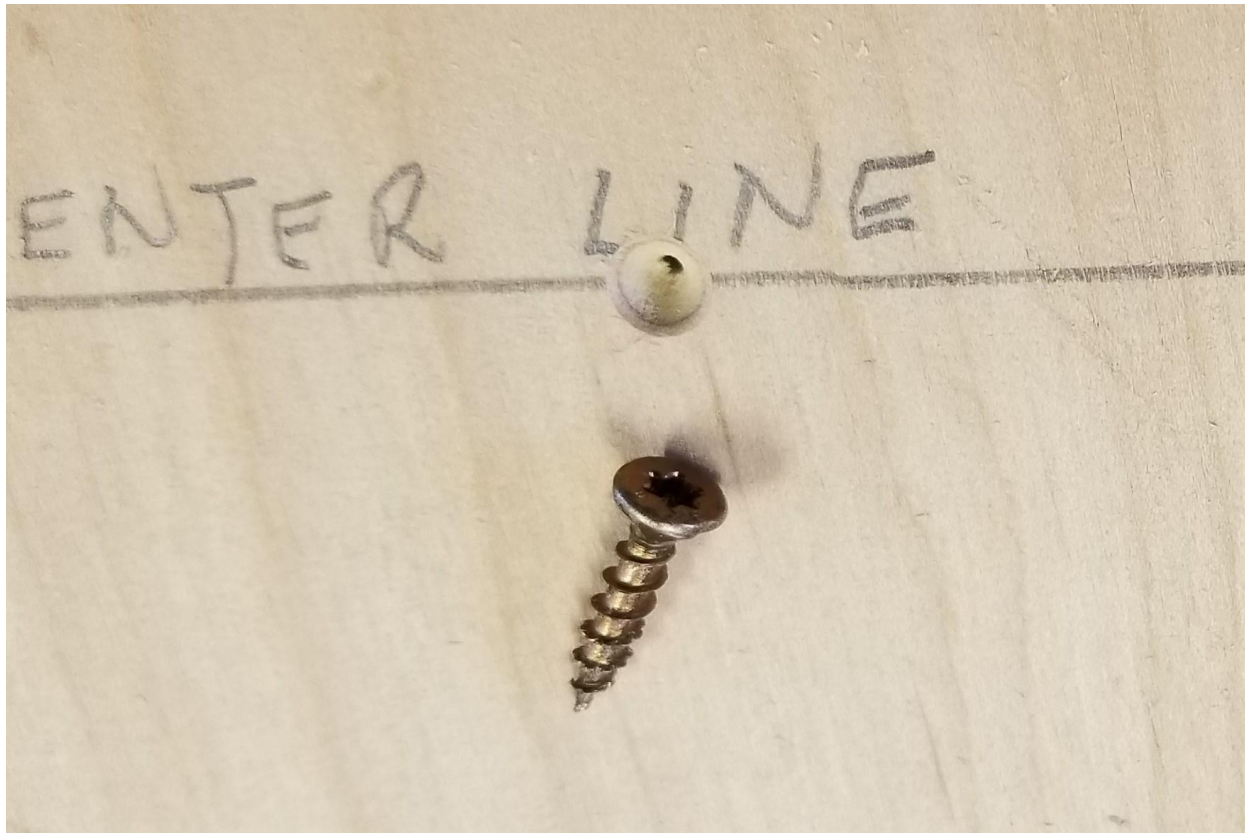
Mark inner support location on bottom of table top – check notch location



Drill $1/16''\varnothing$ holes in top at center support and sides. Drill 4 holes for each piece.



Counter sink the 4 screw holes in the top at the center only. Nails will be used for the sides.



Clamp & glue the inner support assembly to the bottom of the table top – braces go towards the notch – notch is to the right when the table top is upside down



Screw the top to the inner support
4 screws - #6 x 3/4" Torx drive



Glue the sides to the center support
and top – check that the 1/16"Ø holes are drilled
into the top above the sides



Clamp the sides to the center support and
nail them in place.
Need a bar clamp that opens to 13" or more.



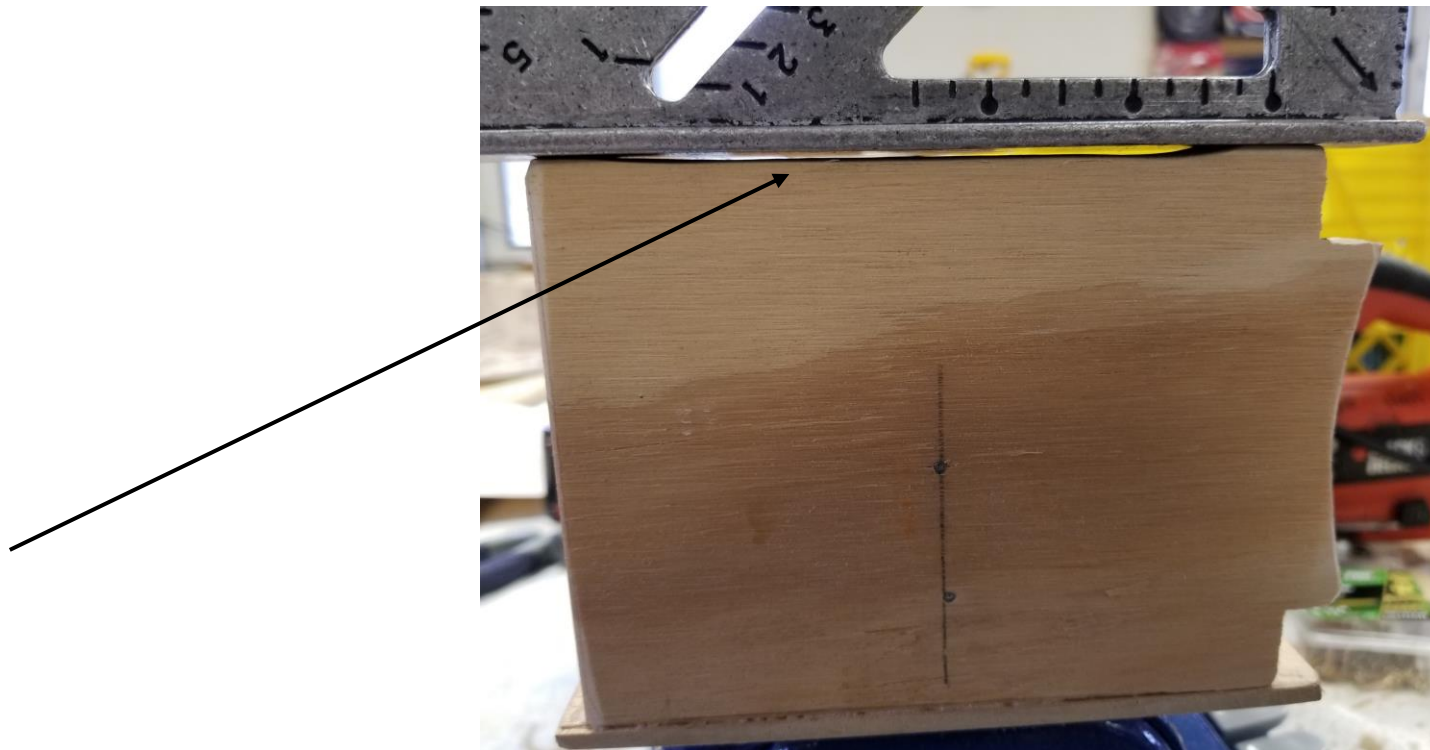
Nail the sides to the top with 4 nails each.
Nail the sides to the inner support with 2 nails each.
Use the 3d finish nails.



Test fit the table to a Braille. The table top should be level or slightly below the Braille discharge shelf



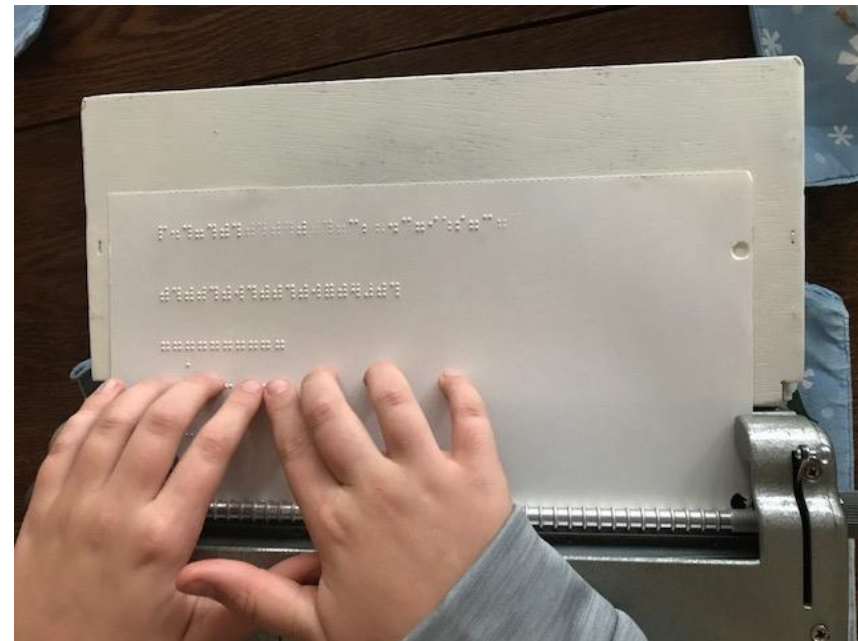
Sand off the bottom of the sides if needed to adjust the table height. Sand the center area of the sides to form “feet”. The prevents rocking of the table.



Check height of table and that it does not “rock”.



Sand all edges. Feel all of the surfaces carefully and sand any splinters or rough spots. Small fingers will be in contact with all of the table surfaces



Paint the table all over – at least 2 coats
Recheck for any rough or sharp areas.
Use a good quality primer paint.



Congratulations!

- The file “Braille table drawing.pdf” shows all of the materials and dimensions.
- I typically provide 2 tables for each child, one for home and one for school