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Project: Kids Work Table

Overview: This simple file creates a neat table for small children to use for multiple purposes. Weather drawing with crayons, putting puzzles together or having an afternoon snack this work table is strong and solid. If desired this project can be modified to a longer or deeper size.

Materials: 3/4" furniture grade plywood

Minimum Cutting Area: 4' x 8'

Bit Size: 1/4"

Finishing: Remember children will be working on this table so check with your local paint supplier to find one safe for children. A latex based paint was used for this example.



Always read the entire project details before starting to cut the file yourself

Account for the thickness of the physical material on hand and the material thickness in the file

This file is zeroed to the tables surface, Zero your bit to the tables surface



As the file starts cutting the profile of the parts make sure the cut is going all the way through the work piece and into the table surface. If you need to adjust any part of the file make sure you do not remove the hold down or you will loose position.

Included with the cut file is a hold down toolpath that shows where it is safe to put screws. Run this file separately from the cut file so you can screw down the work piece, or if you have a different size board or different type of hold down disregard the file.



Tabs are use to hold all the pieces to the scrap wood attached to them. Use a utility knife to score these edges. A carpet knife works well to score the tabs before lifting the pieces up. Never try to push a piece out without cutting the tab, it will tear the grain on your project. Sand remaining tab flat.



All of the edges for this project should be rounded over to ensure children do not bump into a sharp edge.



There is an extra toolpath in this file that cuts out a 30" square. This does not have to be done, it is simply put in the file to cut this piece out so it can be used for another project.



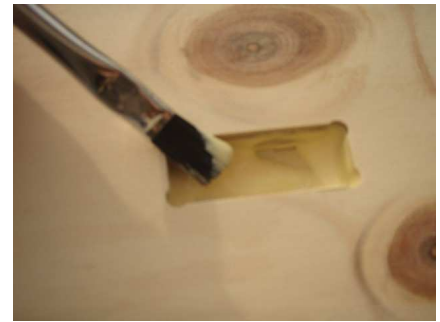
Again, to avoid a 30" x 30" piece from going to scrap, an extra toolpath was added to cut this square out.



Sand, sand and sand. Make sure there are no loose pieces of wood or sharp corners that could get stuck in children's fingers.



The first assembly step is to assemble the supports to the undersides of the seats and table top.



Apply a good amount of glue inside each mortise and rub around with a brush. This gets glue on all of the sides and strengthens the joint.



Keep this upside down and clamped until the glue has set. Glue has a tendency to drip out of the dog bones, doing this will prevent this from happening



Fill the large mortises on one of the end pieces. Assemble each seat piece and the top piece.



Once the three pieces are attached to the first end piece, let the glue setup before flipping over to the other side or the glue will drip like noted before.



Attach the other end piece in the same fashion as before. Let the glue dry overnight before testing the durability of this table.



Whether painting or staining it is easier to do all of the under-sides before moving to the outer part of the project. This will help keep your hands from getting covered and messy.



Spend some time putting a few coats on and really make this project come to life.



Kids of all sorts will find many different uses for this table. One modification that has become popular is adding handles in each end so the table is easier to be moved around the house.