

# Building a Gaming Table

There are as many ways to build a gaming table as there are needs. Some people want a permanent table that matches the existing décor of a room, others want something with drawers to store their models and supplies in, still others what something that can easily be taken apart and stored.

The table described here can be fitted with skirting to match any décor and hide storage containers underneath, can be disassembled with relative ease, and was designed to be built quickly, cheaply, and support a changeable playing surface. Form more information on removable playing surfaces; see the second article in this series – The Table Top.

## **Materials**

- 2 – 2"x4"x6' pieces of lumber
- 1 – 2"x4"x8' pieces of lumber
- 2- sawhorse bracket hardware kits
- 1 – 4'x8'x $\frac{3}{4}$ " Sheet of Plywood
- 4 –  $\frac{1}{4}$ "x4" Bolts with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " washers
- 4 –  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wing nuts
- 3 – 1" x  $\frac{1}{2}$ " 8' pieces of interior grade pine or base molding

## **Tools**

- Saw with miter box
- Pencil
- Drill – preferably a 12volt or higher
- $\frac{1}{4}$ " drill bit
- $\frac{1}{2}$ " drill bit
- Finishing Nails  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1"
- Hammer

## Steps:

1. Cut the 2 x 4s to create the component sawhorse pieces. The 6' pieces can be sawn in half to create 4 – 3' legs. (Optionally, 8' 2 x 4s will yield 4' pieces if you want a higher table.) The 8' section needs to be cut in half to make two 4' cross supports.
2. Assemble the sawhorse with bracket hardware.
3. Lay the sheet of plywood on top of the saw horses and position it so that it is centered on the saw horses and the weight is evenly distributed.
4. Mark a centerline on the top of the plywood that runs the along the saw horse cross support.
5. Measure in from each side roughly 2' and mark the point.
6. Drill a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " countersink into the plywood at each mark. The countersink should be deep enough to accommodate the washer and bolt head.
7. Using the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " drill bit, drill a hole through each point into the saw horse cross support.

8. Remove the plywood from the top of the saw horses and complete the four holes through the cross support beam.

9. Place the plywood back onto the saw horses and insert your washer, bolt and wing nuts to attach the table top.

[Optional Skirting]

Before step 10, use a staple gun to tack the skirting material around the side of plywood.

10. Nail two of the 8' trim sections to the outside of each long side. Align the bottom of the plywood with the bottom of the trim, this should leave you with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " rise on the top side of the table.

11. Cut the remaining 8' trim section in half and attach it in the same manner as in step 10.

12. Finish to taste.

You should now have a 4' x 8' table standing roughly 38" high with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " raised border to hold a removable table top in place. If you wanted, you could cover the interior plywood with felt, carpet or a similar product to create another usable playing surface.

