

Farmhouse Style Desk

Created by The Borrowed Abode

*Cost: \$150
Time: 3-5 half days*



Materials & Cut List

- Table Top Boards
 - 1" x 8", cut to 45" long (2)
 - 1" x 10", cut to 45" long (1)
- Aprons
 - Back: 1" x 4", cut to 46 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long (1)
 - Front: 1" x 4", cut to 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long (1)
 - Sides: 1" x 4", cut to 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long (2)
- Legs
 - Table Legs of your choice (4)
- Drawers
 - Short sides: 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " trim board, cut to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long (4)
 - Long sides: 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " trim board, cut to 18" long (4)
 - Bottom: $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick MDF board cut to 18" x 12" (2)
 - Glides: 1" x $\frac{1}{4}$ " trim board cut to 18" long (4)
 - Drawer fronts: 1" x 4", cut to 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (2)
 - Drawer knobs (2)
- Drawer Glide Rails
 - Glides: 1" x $\frac{1}{4}$ " trim board cut to 18" long (4)
 - Support rails: $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " trim board cut to 18" long (4)

1. Assembling the Desk Top:

Choose a combination of boards that are as long as you want your desk to be, and whose combined width will be as deep as you want the desk to be.



Line the boards up in the order they will go as your desk top, ensuring the ends are lined up just right.

*It helps to clamp them onto a work table so they don't move.

Using a straightedge or square, mark lines across each seam where you want to join the boards with dowels.



Using the Dowel Hole Jig, drill the holes on the sides of the board.

Once all the dowel holes are drilled, insert the dowels and check to see if the boards fit together with tight seams.

If the boards don't join together in a tight fit, drill some of the dowel holes deeper.



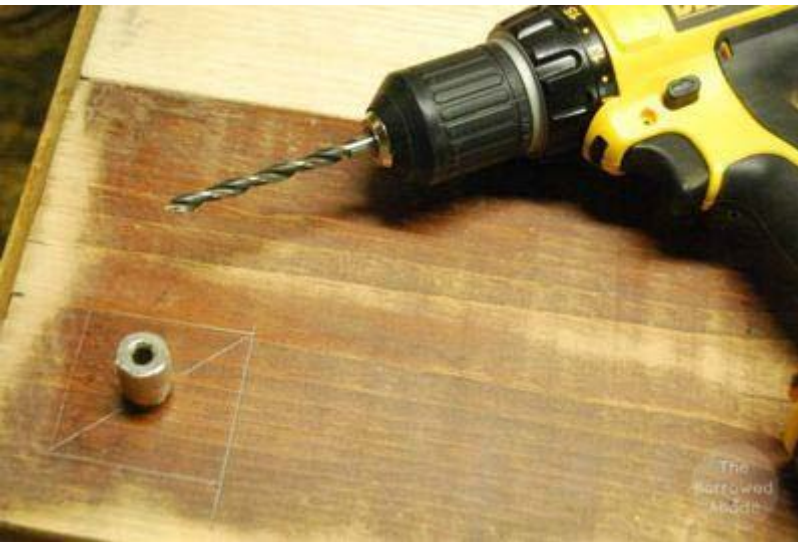
Once the boards come together tightly, take them apart, apply glue to the sides of the boards and the dowels, then put them back together.

Clamp together and let the glue dry for 24 hrs.

I didn't have two super wide clamps, so I clamped the one end to the table as a way of holding it in place.

2. Adding the desk legs

Home Depot sells metal plates that you attach to the bottom of a table top, then screw the legs into the plates – but that metal plate would have gotten in the way of my desk design. Instead, I did the following:



Mark where the legs go.

Drill a hole for the leg to screw into.
(The legs have metal screws at the top.)

Put some glue in the hole, and on the surrounding area.

Screw the leg in.

3. Adding the Aprons

Aprons are the boards that run from one leg to the next right underneath a table top. Because my legs were only screwed in, the aprons needed to be a snug fit in order to add more stability.



Wedge the side apron temporarily into place between two of the legs.

The apron will be joined to the table top with dowels, so mark lines on the side of the apron and the desk top so you know where to drill the holes.

Remove the apron, drill the holes in the sides of the apron and the bottom of the table top, add dowels and glue.

Also put glue on the sides of the apron where it will meet the table legs.

Wedge the apron back into place.

Clamp and let dry for 24 hours.



Repeat the apron process on three sides of the desk - both short ends, (the sides) and one long end (the back).

Save the short front apron for later. You will install it once you've added the drawers.

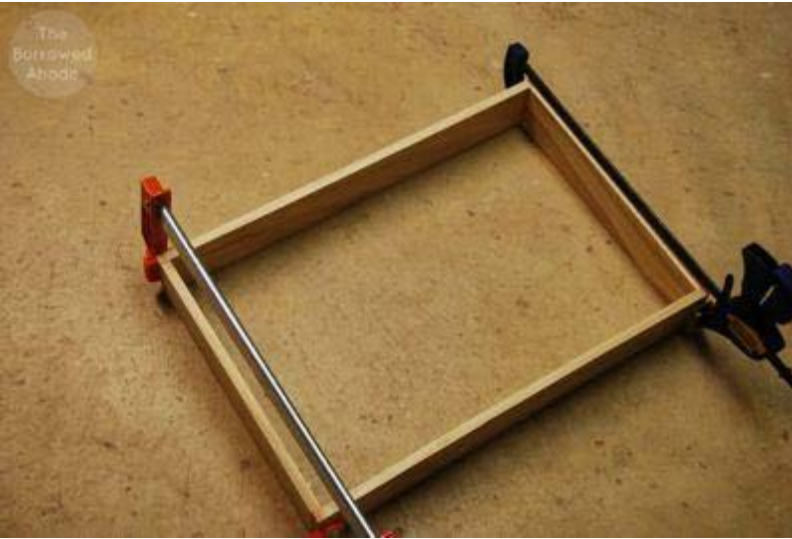
If you have a pocket hole jig, it would be very useful in attaching the aprons to the sides of the legs.

Optional: Install small L brackets to more securely attach the legs to the desktop or aprons.

Congrats! At this point you've built a farmhouse table! If you don't want drawers, just add a second long apron to finish it off!

4. Building the Drawers

You're on the home stretch now! The drawers are basically rectangles with a bottom and a fancy extra front added on. You can do this!



Assemble the drawer sides into a rectangle, using wood glue and small nails.

Clamp and let dry.

Repeat for 2nd drawer.



Once the drawer frames are dry, attach the MDF bottom using more wood glue and small nails.



The drawer needs a glide, or lip, on either side of the top so it can slide in and out.

Use wood glue and tiny nails to attach the glides to the top long sides of the drawers.

They should be flush with the inside of the drawer, and stick out beyond the sides of the drawer. (See photo)



Finally, the drawer needs a solid and pretty front.

Apply wood glue to the drawer and the front board, then stand the drawer up on the front.

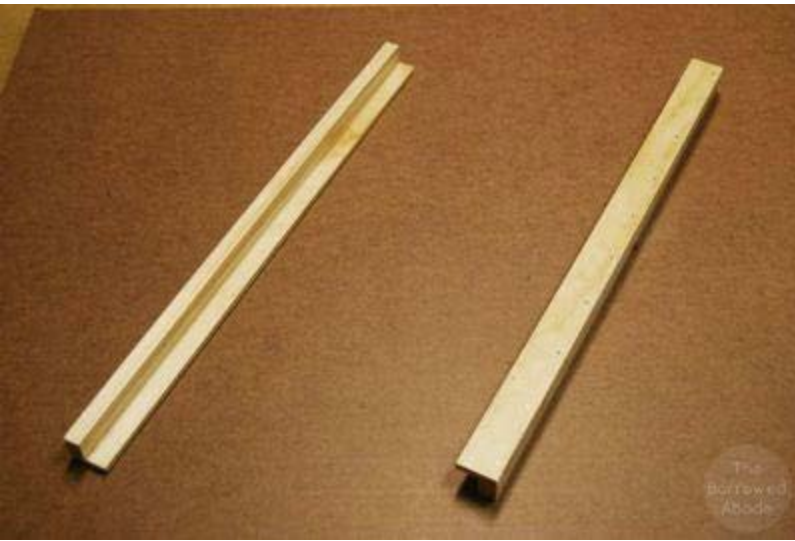
(See photo)

Using short screws, screw through the inside of the drawer and into the decorative front panel.

Let dry for 24 hours, then install your choice of decorative knobs.

5. Building & Installing the Desk Drawer Glides

The glides hang from the underside of the desk, giving the "lips" of the drawer glides something to glide on.



To assemble the glide rails, attach the thin glide strips to the chunkier support rails, to create an L-shaped rail.

Use small nails and wood glue.

See photos for a better idea of how it looks assembled.

To install the glide rails underneath the desk top, flip the desk upside down.

**I figured this part out just by playing around until I got the right placement.*



Place the drawers on the desk so that the drawer fronts are flush with the front drawer legs.

Place your drawer glide rails so they are a tight fit with the drawers.

Mark where the glide rails should go, then remove the drawers.

Attach the drawer glides using wood glue and nails.



Finally, use the dowel hole jig to attach the final apron to the front of the desk.

Place the apron so that it lines up flush with the drawer fronts. You may need to sand it a little to get a clean fit.

See final photo for an idea of how the apron should line up.