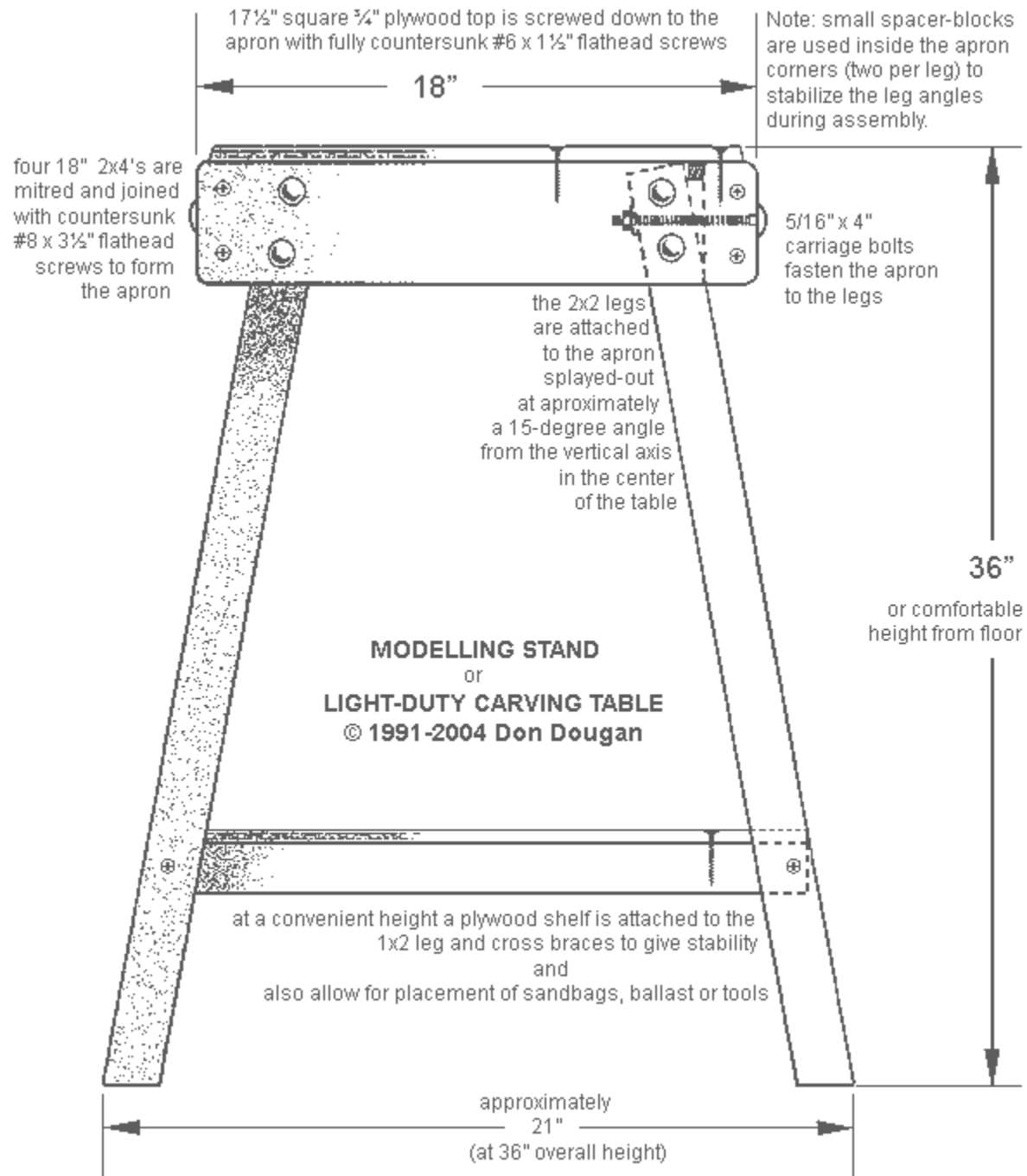


LIGHT-DUTY CARVING TABLE OR MODELLING STAND

This version of the carving stand was done for a local art center which had very limited studio space that was shared between sculpture and pottery classes, so the table needed to be both sturdy and lightweight — easy to stack out-of-the-way when not being used, but strong enough to support 150 lbs. of stone and sandbags when working .



The relatively high overall height gives easier access — and less back fatigue — when working pieces of an average-size less than 100 lbs. Because this design uses mitred corners, all the joints may be glued as well to increase rigidity.

BILL OF MATERIALS	QUANTITY
2x2 lumber - <i>for legs</i>	4 pieces, 36" long
2x4 lumber - <i>for apron</i>	4 pieces, 18" long
3/4" plywood – <i>for top</i>	1 piece, 17 1/2" square
1/2" plywood – <i>for shelf</i>	1 piece, approximately 18"x 18" to 20"x 20"
1x2 lumber – <i>for cross braces</i>	4 pieces, approximately 18" to 20" long
5/16"x 4" carriage bolts	12 each - <i>to join legs</i>
5/15" USS flat washers	12 each - <i>to join legs</i>
5/16" hex nuts	12 each - <i>to join legs</i>
#8 x 3 1/2" flathead wood screws	12 each - <i>to join apron</i>
#8 x 3 1/2" flathead wood screws	4 each - <i>to join cross braces on legs</i>
#6 x 1 1/2" flathead wood screws	14 each - <i>to join tabletop to apron</i>
#6 x 1" flathead wood screws	6 each - <i>to join shelf onto cross braces</i>
1/2"x1/2"x4" blocks of wood	8 each - <i>to set legs at angle during assembly</i>

Construction steps:

1. Join the mitred corners of the apron, pre-drilling staggered pilot holes for the three 3 1/2" woodscrews per corner.
2. Center the plywood top on the apron and use 1 1/2" screws in pre-drilled pilot holes, making sure the screw heads are fully countersunk so they will not cause damage to workpieces in future.
3. Turn the assembled apron/top upside down. Fit the 1/2"x1/2" spacer bars inside the corners of the apron against the underside of the plywood top.
4. Clamp each leg in place so it rests against the underside of the plywood, the bottom edges of the apron, and the sides of the 1/2" spacer bars. This will splay-out the legs. Pre-drill the holes for the three carriage bolts per leg through the apron and the legs, stagger-spacing the holes. Install the 5/16" carriage bolts with washers and nuts to the inside. Leave the bolts a bit loose in the hole — they will be tightened later.
5. Place table on a flat level floor, tapping the legs into positions in which all four legs are in contact and the table does not wobble. When this is done, determine the most convenient position for the shelf — lower on the legs can serve as a foot rest, while higher up leaves more leg-room while working. Take the measurement for the plywood shelf top — this will be the same as the 1x2 braces.
6. Build the brace assembly by mitering the four equal-length 1x2's, gluing them together on the plywood, pre-drilling and joining with the 1" screws.
7. Position the shelf/brace assembly between the legs, clamp in place, drill the pilot holes for the 3 1/2" screws, and then screw them loosely in place.
7. At this point make any adjustments to the table so it is flat on the floor and tighten all the carriage bolts and shelf/leg brace screws.

Round over or chamfer the leg bottoms to prevent them from splitting when moving the table around the studio. All the rough corners and sharp edges of the tabletop, apron, and braces should be relieved slightly and sanded to prevent splinters.

An optional addition of locking-casters would allow the table to do double duty as a movable stand for classes modelling the figure in clay. In this case the entire table should be painted or varnished with an exterior-grade coating to seal and waterproof it.