

# WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

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## Classic Project

### In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

## Plant Stand



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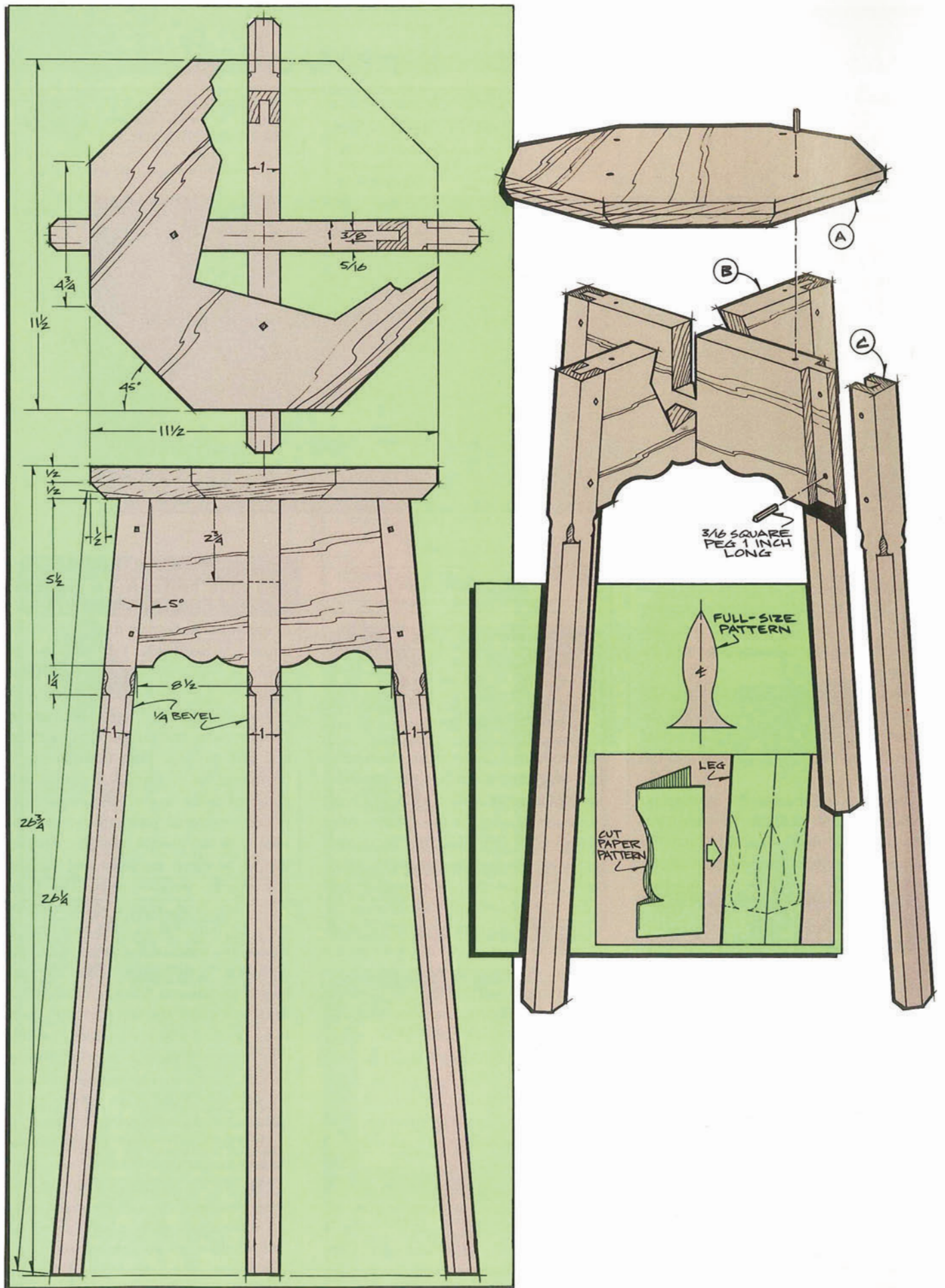
# Plant Stand



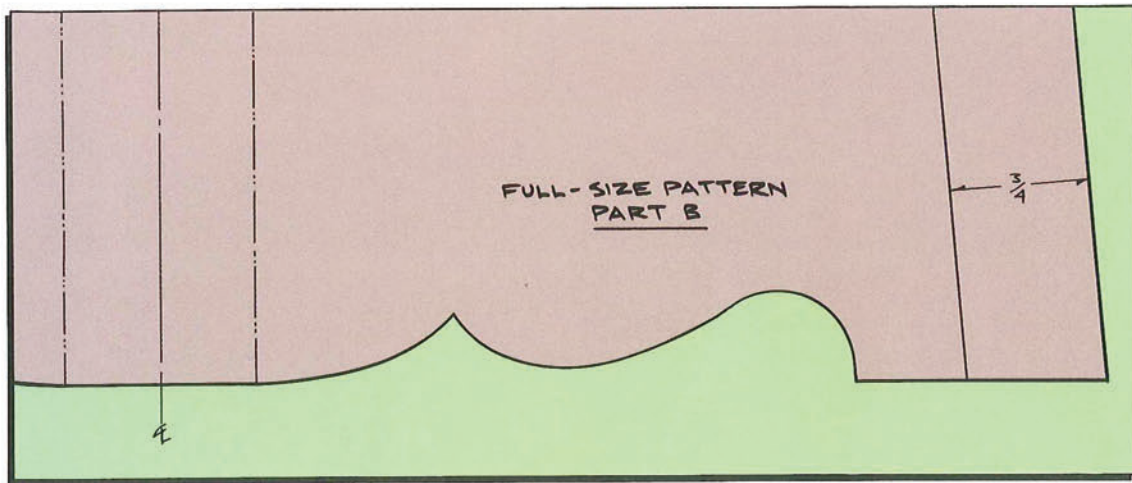
**A**lthough not an exact copy of an original, this plant stand was inspired by a similar stand in walnut built about 200 years ago. We used bird's-eye maple instead of the walnut, and added chamfers and lamb's tongues to the legs.

By careful layout of the various parts you can make this plant stand from a single 1 in. thick by 6 in. wide by 6 ft. long board. You'll have almost no waste left over.

Edge-glue two pieces to get the width needed for the top (A). When dry, cut to 11½ in. square. Then set the miter gauge at 45 degrees, and nip off the four corners to create an octagon. Next, tilt the table saw blade to 45



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degrees, adjust the fence as needed to cut the  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide 45-degree chamfer on the bottom edges of the top, and make the chamfer cut on each side of the octagon.

Next, cut the aprons (B) and legs (C) to exact width but rough length. Set the miter gauge for a 5-degree cut and final trim the aprons to 10 in. long and the legs to  $26\frac{1}{4}$  in. long.

Now lay out and cut the mortises in the legs. Use the drill press to rough out the mortises, then pare the remaining waste with a chisel. You can also use the table saw to rough-in the mortise, though you'll need to use a stopblock to control the mortise length. Undercut the bottom end of each mortise to match the 5-degree angle of the aprons, or leave it square and cut a 5-degree wedge off the end of the tenon instead.

Next, cut the tenons on the apron ends. The tenon shoulders are cut with the miter gauge set to 5 degrees. Note that you'll need to reverse the miter gauge to cut both shoulders. Your blade height should be  $\frac{5}{16}$  in., but cut a test piece first to check for a good fit in the mortise before committing your project stock. Cut the tenon cheeks by running the aprons across the blade on end, using a tenon jig for support.

The half-notches in the aprons are cut on the band saw. Stay inside the layout

Bill of Materials (all dimensions actual)			
Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Top	1 x $11\frac{1}{2}$ x $11\frac{1}{2}$	1
B	Apron	1 x $5\frac{1}{2}$ x 10*	2
C	Leg	1 x 1 x $26\frac{1}{4}$	4
* Length includes tenons			

lines and use a file to adjust the notches for a snug fit. Use our full-size pattern to lay out the curve (called a Cupid's bow) on the lower edge of the aprons. After cutting the curve with the band saw, pare away the fuzz with a sharp chisel. Don't sand out the chisel marks; they add to the old look of this piece.

The legs are not a true octagon. Instead, four  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. wide chamfers are cut, one on each corner of the square leg. Lay out the chamfers, rough them in with a drawknife, then final plane to the line with a block plane. Don't worry if some of the bird's eyes pop out, or if the legs look a little rough. This hand-worked look contributes to the antique appearance of this piece. The upper end of the chamfers will need to be pared by hand, using a chisel.

The lamb's tongue detail may look difficult, but here's an easy way to do it. Using our full-size pattern, make a template out of a scrap of paper. Then just fold the pattern down the middle, cut it out, position the template on the

leg corner, and mark for the lamb's tongue as shown. To cut the lamb's tongues, carefully pare to the line with a chisel. A half-round file can also be used, if you run into some difficult grain.

Assemble a pair of legs to each apron, slip the two apron half-notches together, and add the top. Note that the top is positioned so its grain direction is on a diagonal to the aprons. This minimizes wood movement problems of the top relative to the aprons. Use glue only on the leg-to-apron mortises and tenons, and on the wooden pegs. The pegs, which are  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. square at the exposed end, fit into  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. diameter holes. Round off most of the peg length, but leave the ends square. Size the peg length so that you'll have a little left to trim, but don't cut the pegs off flush. Use a dovetail saw to cut them off a little long, then pare the peg end with a chisel to simulate wear. This technique leaves the peg ends proud of the surface and a little rounded, as they would appear on an antique where wood movement had pushed the pegs out a bit.

The finish is a Minwax Colonial Pine stain, followed by a thinned-out barn red paint that's then mostly wiped off (while still wet) to simulate wear. An application of beeswax completes this piece.



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Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

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