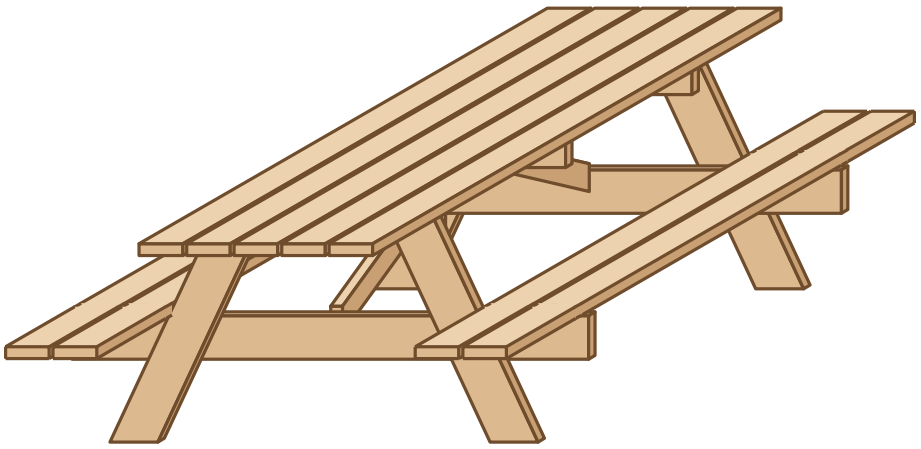
Picnic Table Plans

An eight-foot table · Table length: 8 ft

Picnic table: **8 ft long, top 29.5 in wide**
Top height: **30 in**
Seat height: **17 in**



This is one size of a free plan from FigureYard. For your own size, open https://figureyard.com/plans/picnic-table-plans/ and enter your measurements; the shopping list, cuts and drawings change with them. Check local building codes before you build.

Shopping list

Item	Qty
2×6, pressure-treated or cedar, 14 ft long	4 boards
2×6, pressure-treated or cedar, 8 ft long	5 boards
2×4, pressure-treated or cedar, 14 ft long	1 board
Galvanized carriage bolts, 3/8 in by 3 1/2 in, each with a nut and washer (2 at each place a leg crosses a cleat or a seat support)	16 bolts
Exterior deck screws, 3 in (54 needed plus 6 spares)	60 screws
Exterior stain or water-repellent sealer	1 quart

Tools

- Tape measure, pencil and a speed square
- Miter saw or circular saw for the angled cuts
- Drill/driver, a 3/8 in bit long enough to pass through two boards, and a wrench
- Two or more clamps
- Sandpaper or a router with a round-over bit
- Safety glasses and hearing protection

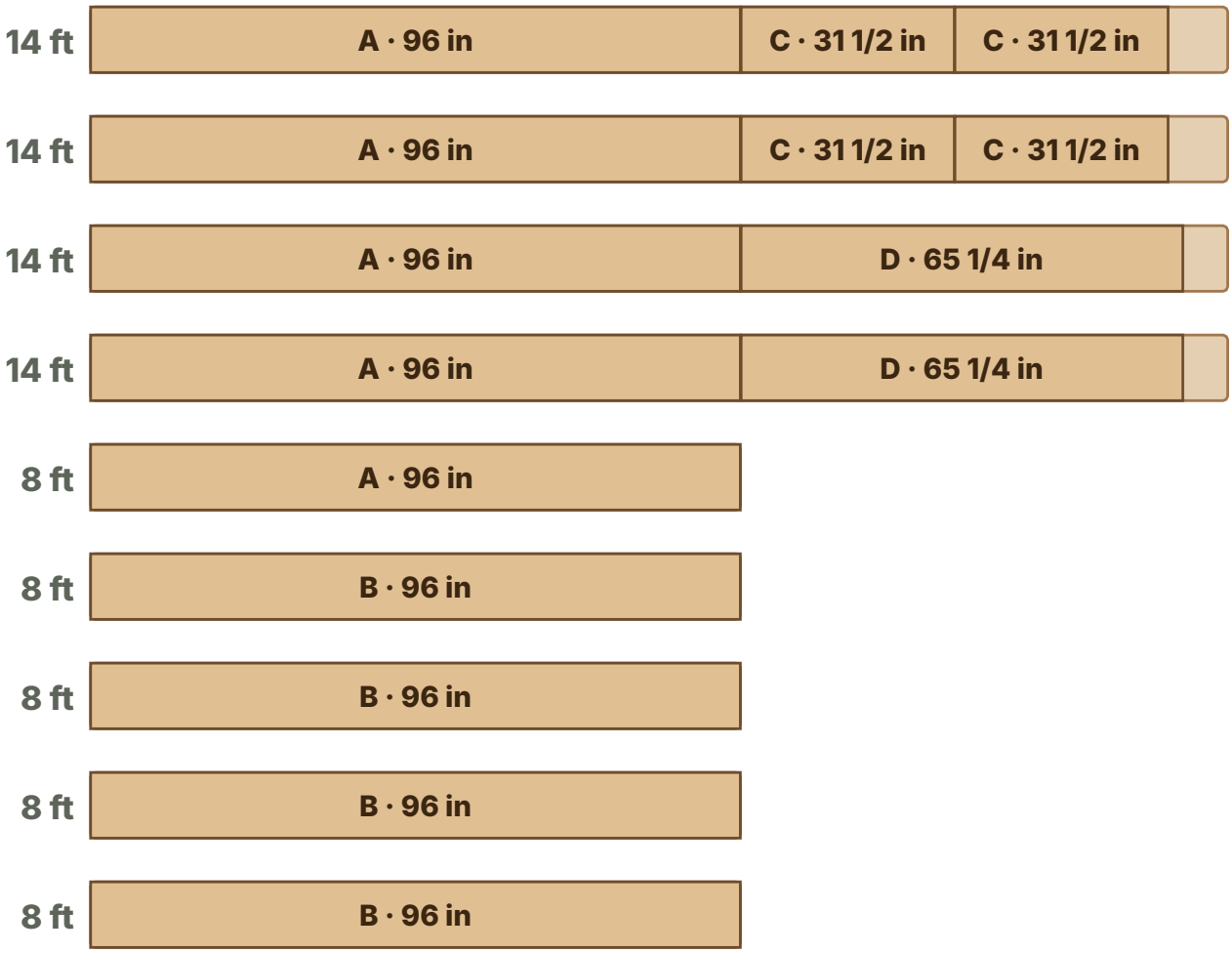
Cut list

Part	What it is	Lumber	Size	Cut
A	Top boards	2×6, pressure-treated or cedar	96 in	5
B	Bench boards	2×6, pressure-treated or cedar	96 in	4
C	Legs (both ends cut at 25°, parallel)	2×6, pressure-treated or cedar	31 1/2 in	4
D	Seat supports	2×6, pressure-treated or cedar	65 1/4 in	2
E	Top cleats (two at the legs, one in the middle)	2×4, pressure-treated or cedar	27 1/2 in	3
F	Braces (ends cut at about 23°; trim the second to fit)	2×4, pressure-treated or cedar	30 3/4 in	2

Where to cut each board

Each bar is one board you buy, drawn to scale. Measure from the left end, cut, then measure the next piece from the fresh cut; the saw blade takes about 3/32 in each time. Hatched ends are offcuts.

2×6, pressure-treated or cedar



2×4, pressure-treated or cedar



Step by step

1. Cut the parts

Cut the top boards (A) and the bench boards (B) to 96 in. Cut the four legs (C) to 31 1/2 in, with both ends at 25° and parallel, so each leg stands flat on the ground and fits flat under the top.

Cut the seat supports (D) to 65 1/4 in, the three top cleats (E) to 27 1/2 in, and the two braces (F) to 30 3/4 in with ends cut at about 23°. Round over or sand every sharp edge.

A leg: both ends cut at 25°, parallel to each other

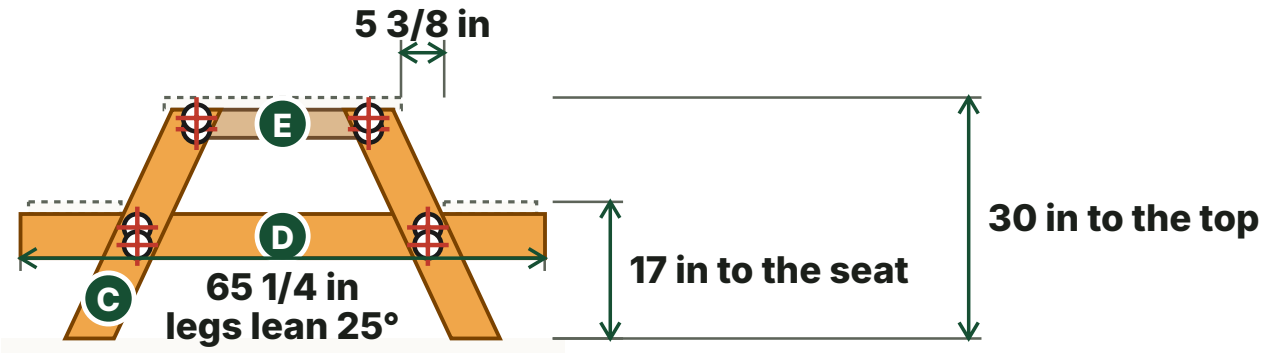


2. Build the two end assemblies

On a flat floor, lay a top cleat (E) and a seat support (D) on two legs (C): the legs' top ends flush with the cleat's ends and its top edge, the seat support's top edge 15 1/2 in up from the legs' feet, centered.

Square it up, clamp it, and drill 2 holes of 3/8 in through each crossing. Fit the carriage bolts from the leg side, with washers and nuts on the other, and tighten. Build the second end the same way.

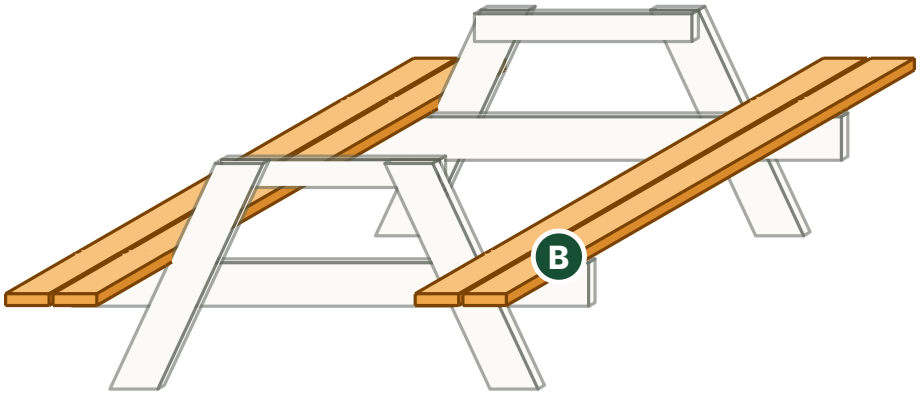
One end assembly, seen from the end of the table



Carriage bolt through the leg and the cleat or seat support

3. Join the ends with the benches

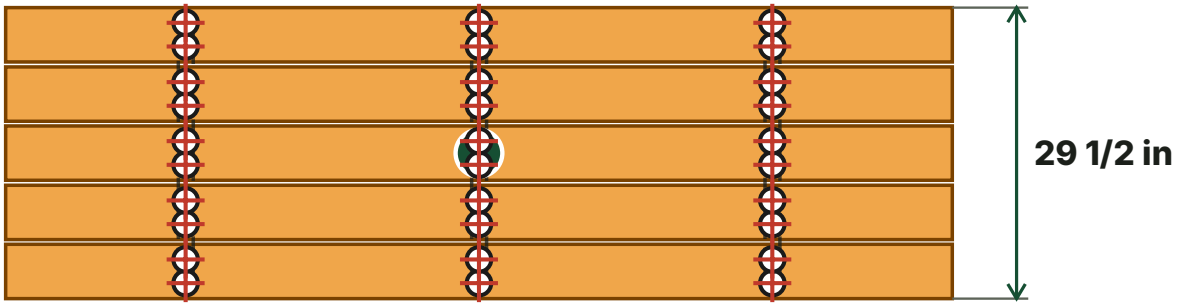
Stand the end assemblies up with the cleats and seat supports facing each other, 64 in apart outside to outside. Each stands 16 in from its end of the table. Screw the bench boards (B) to the seat supports, 1/2 in apart, their front edges 5 3/8 in out from where the top's edge will be, just clear of the legs.



4. Fasten the top

Lay the top boards (A) across the cleats with 1/2 in spacers between them, the ends flush, and screw each board to each cleat with two screws. Screw the third cleat (E) under the middle of the top.

The top from above: 5 boards with 1/2 in gaps, screwed to the three cleats

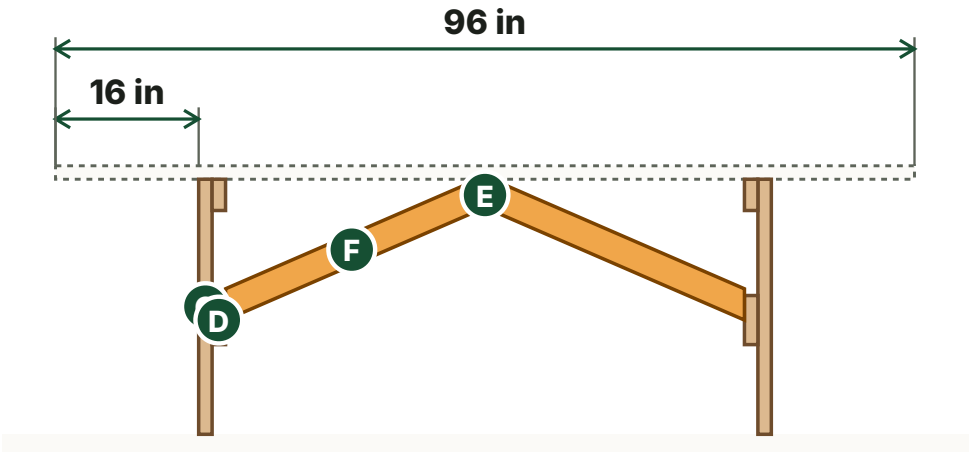


5. Add the braces

Fit each brace (F) between a seat support and the middle cleat, and screw it at both ends. The braces stop the table from racking.

Seal or stain the wood, and let pressure-treated lumber dry first if it is still wet.

From the side, top and benches off: the braces run from the seat supports to the middle cleat



Good to know

- Use pressure-treated lumber rated for outdoor use, or a rot-resistant wood such as cedar. Wear a dust mask when cutting treated wood and do not burn the offcuts.
- For a wheelchair space at one end, choose the accessible version above: the top runs further past the legs there.