



Smartly designed in mahogany and walnut, this family desk is a convenient size for a small home. It has a natural grain finish.

# How to Build a Modern Desk

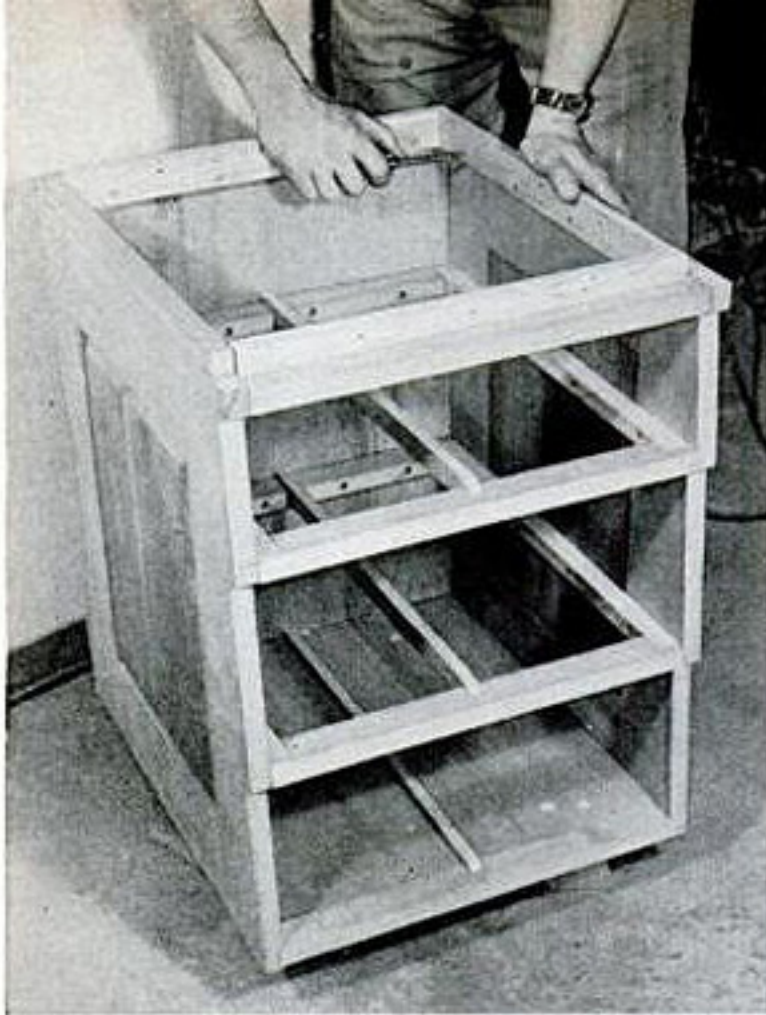
**By Roland Cueva**



**H**ERE'S a modern desk with ample drawer space and an extension leaf to add to the working space. I built this one of walnut and mahogany, but less expensive woods can be used and the desk enameled to match your interior decoration.

**Top.** It's not large as desks go, measuring 22" by 42", but the extension increases the work area to over 56" in length. Random-width pieces of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " walnut, doweled or splined and glued together, make up the top. The edges are beaded or molded to suit. A walnut frame,  $\frac{3}{8}$ " by 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", is fastened beneath the top with screws and glue. This gives the appearance of a top 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick. The frame is left open at the left end, the end of the sliding extension board forming the fourth side when it's closed.

**Pedestal.** Right and left side of this part are  $\frac{3}{8}$ " by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " mahogany frames. Walnut panels, glued up from various widths, fit into the rabbeted frames. The front edges of the frame are cut in slanting steps for



Basic assembly of pedestal is shown here. Panels are rabbeted into frame. Front stretchers are planed to same angle as drawer notches.

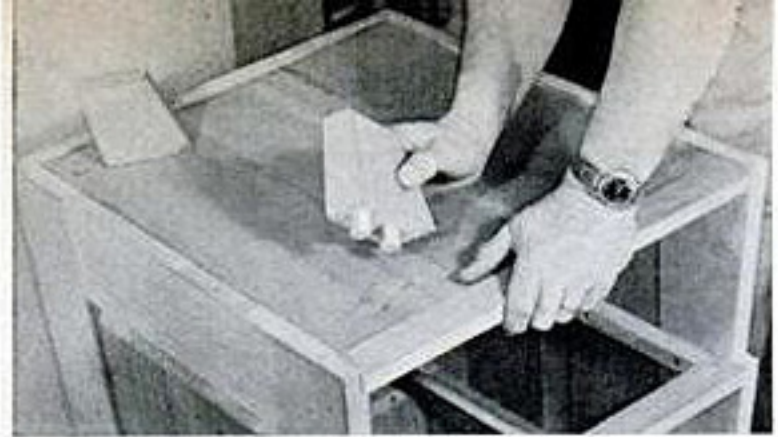
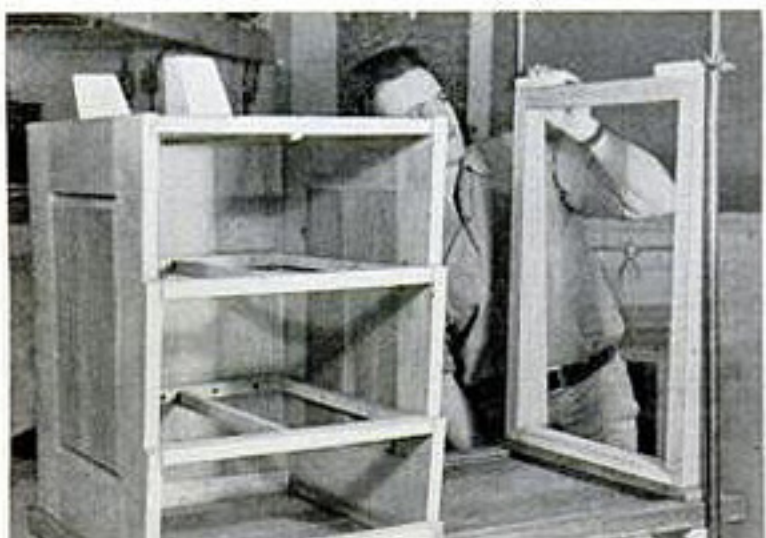
the overlapping drawer fronts. These recesses are  $\frac{3}{8}$ " deep at the top so each  $\frac{3}{8}$ " drawer front laps the one beneath by  $\frac{3}{8}$ ".

The back may be solid stock or  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood, splined into the sides and rabbeted for the bottom. A  $\frac{3}{4}$ " by 1" length of mahogany is doweled between the sides at the top front. Sides, back, bottom, and stretcher

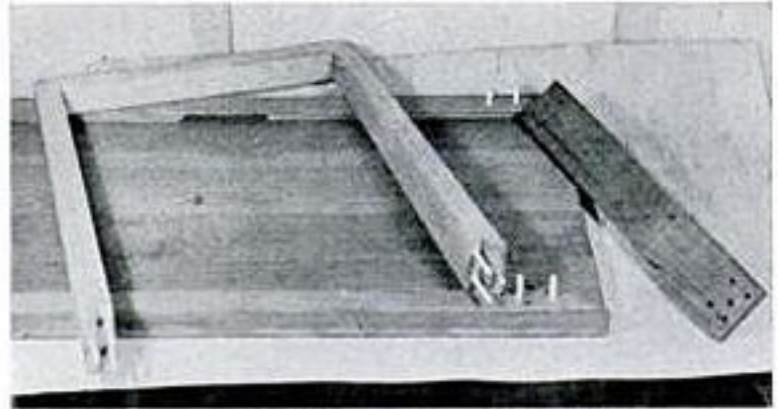


Method of fastening end leg, shown at left, insures it against wobble since it virtually becomes a single structure with the top.

Pedestal is in place. End leg is held tightly with pipe clamps until glue in doweled joints with bridge and top has thoroughly set.



Two stubby legs under pedestal are cut from stock  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square. They are fitted with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " dowels and glued into holes in pedestal floor.



End leg is a glued-up rectangle. It's doweled to the top through the bridge shown at right. Mahogany bridge spans rabbets for sliding leaf.

are assembled with glue, carefully squared, and clamped.

The frames on which the drawers ride are hardwood with the front side of mahogany. After the frames are screwed to the pedestal, the center slides are glued in place. Front sides of the stretchers are planed off to the same angle as the drawer notches.

**End Leg.** This unit is laminated from two thicknesses of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " mahogany with glue and dowels. It's attached to the top by a hardwood bridge that's doweled into the underside of the top.

**Drawers.** They are similar in construction and the two lower ones are the same size. The sloping fronts come 1" below the bottom line to cover the separators and provide an unbroken appearance. Sides, back, and bottom are assembled with glue. This assembly is glued into rabbets in the front. Small brads may be used in the half-lap joints of the sides and back. Ends of the drawer fronts are rounded. Center guides are glued to the bottom and a finger recess mortised in the bottom edge of the front. No knobs are needed.

**Extension leaf.** This is made the same as a breadboard, splined and glued together from widths of hardwood. The front cross-piece is walnut mitered at the ends to fit the top frame. Edges of the extension are rabbeted to slide along the rabbets in the frame.

END

