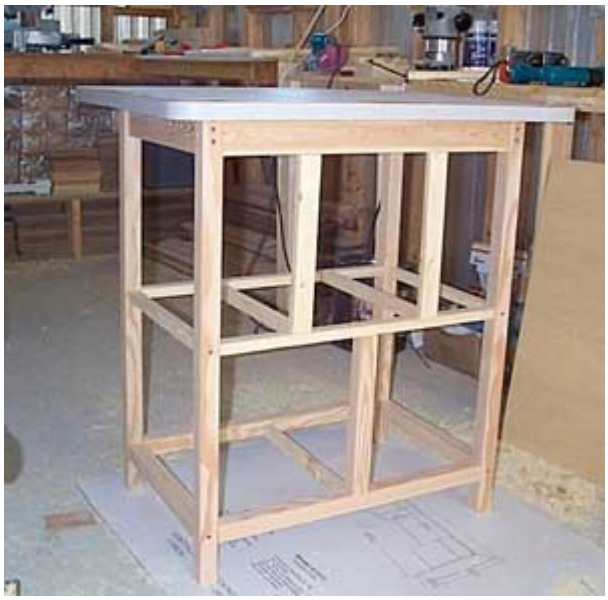
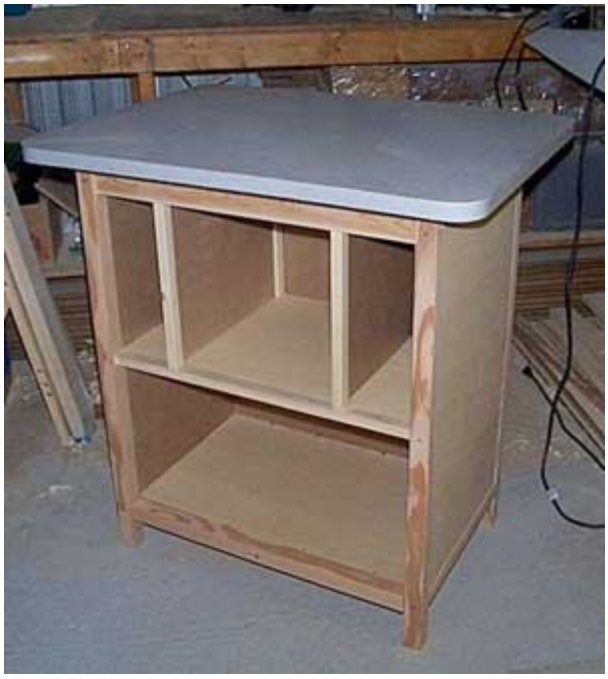
Jane's Router Table Project



Step 1.

The first step was deciding how high I wanted the table and what size table top I needed. I went with 33" high and a top of 32" x 23", with a 3" overhang. I used this size as it would enable me to use 1/3 of the Formica to cover both sides of the 1" MDF and still leave 1/2" all round for trimming. If I had made it any bigger it would have been wasteful on the Formica. I also cut two bands for the edging of the 1" MDF. Tip: don't make your corners too sharp, as Formica doesn't take bends easily. I found a 2" radius was the sharpest I could go without it snapping.

Once I had the four 2 x 2" legs held together with the top skirt and bottom supports I divided the distance between them and that became the space for my mid shelf.

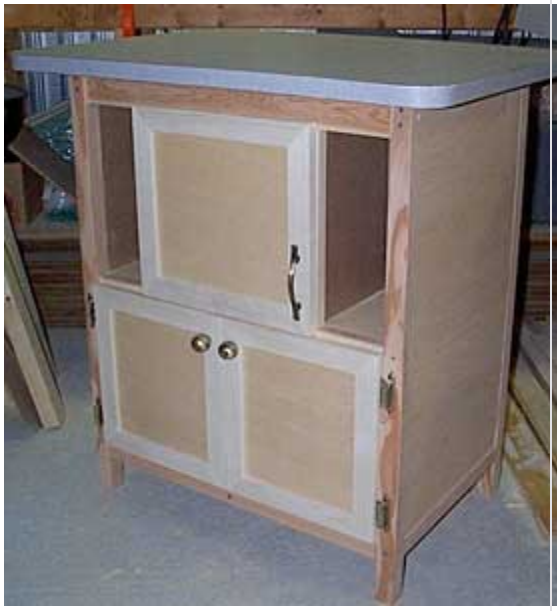


Step 2.

I wanted an area in the top shelf to accommodate the router but found I could put two side compartments in as well, to not waste all that space. To determine the width of the router compartment I took the width of the base plate and added an inch.

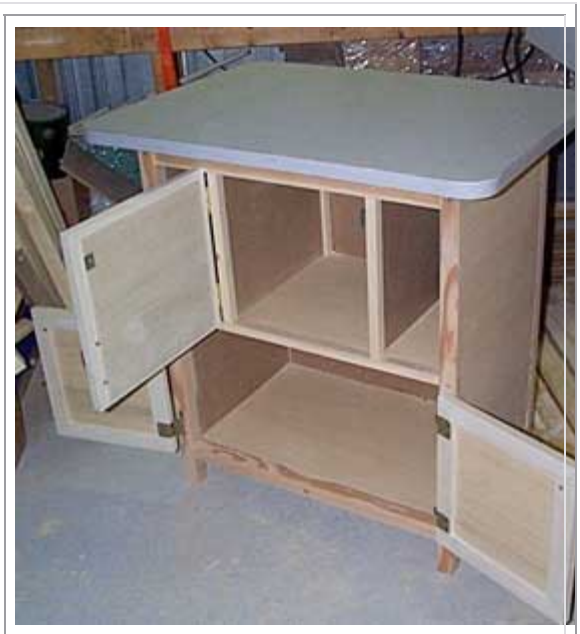
As I wanted the bottom shelf to be totally unobstructed I decided not to go with a mid bar but to have the doors meet in the middle, edge to edge.

All the sides are covered with 1/4" ply on the outside and 1/4" hardboard on the inside, with an air space in between. I did this to help with acoustic dampening, as a router is a very noisy thing. The door for the router compartment is also double lined as can be seen in the picture below.



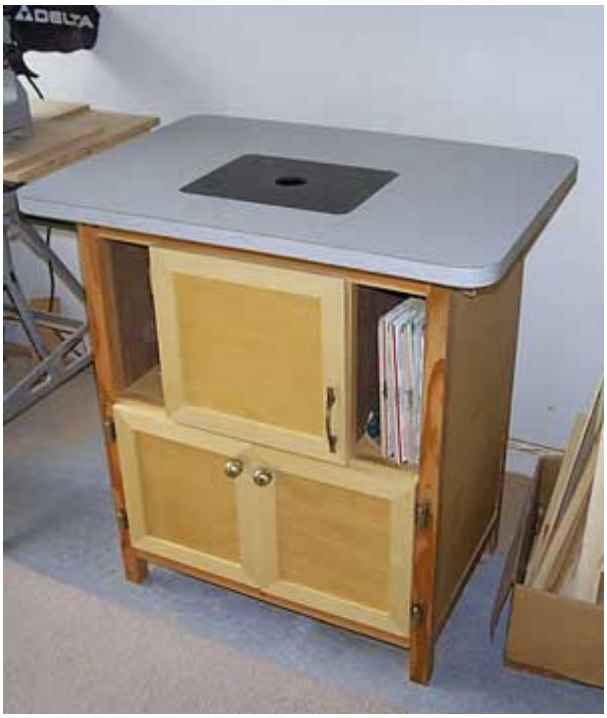
Step 3.

I metered the corners of the doorframes and reinforced them with biscuits before inserting the 1/4" plywood into the grooves. The hinges allow the doors to open completely enabling easy access. I decided to use nice brass fixtures as a finishing touch.



Step 4.

I had several ideas for attaching the top to the base but as the table is not all that large I had to just go with corner brackets and screws into the top. I would have liked using a piano hinge at the back to be able to flip the top up but with the router in place my table was too small to make this work.



Final Step:

Routing the hole for the base plate took ages, mainly because I was too scared to do it. I made a template, which took a whole lot longer to make than routing the actual hole. As I don't have a plunge router it was quite a challenge just getting started. I first drilled a hole larger than my router bit and dropped it into the hole to get going.

The depth of the lip is very important. Use a calliper or some other very accurate form of measuring. You could shim it if you go a bit deep, but it's always nice getting it exactly right.

After routing I used a jigsaw to cut through to the other side. If you have a router bit that's long enough you might consider doing this with a router.

A few coats of polyurethane and it was done.