

Making a Longer Plank-top Workbench

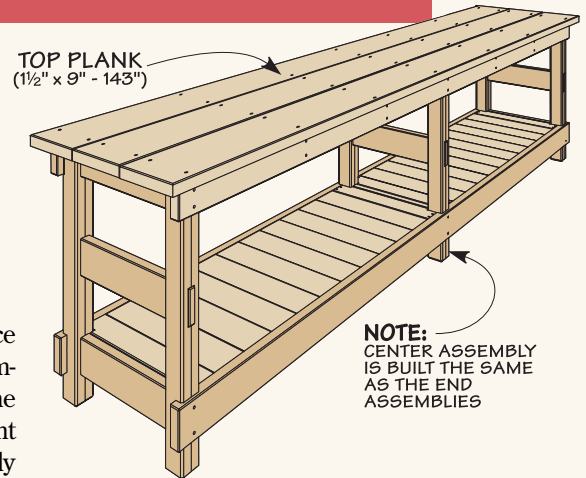
The Plank-Top Workbench in issue No. 75 will work fine in most workshops. If you need something smaller, all you have to do is shorten up the stretchers and cleats.

A Longer Workbench – But if you'd like a longer workbench, you'll want to consider adding some additional support for the top, like you see in the drawing below for a 12'-long plank-top workbench.

The additional support is provided by adding a center assembly. The nice thing is this center assembly is identical to the end assemblies. So you don't have to worry about any different parts or measurements.

Work on the Stretchers – Once you have the end and center assemblies complete, you can work on the longer stretchers. What's different here is that to fit the center assembly in place, you'll need to cut a centered half lap on the inside face of each of the stretchers (see drawing below). After completing the half laps, you can assemble the workbench.

Add the Cross Rails – The next step is to add the cross rails that support the top. How many you need to add depends on the overall length of the workbench. But it's best to add enough cross rails between the end and center assemblies so the rails



are spaced evenly and they're no more than 22" apart.

Cleats and Slats – All that's left to do is add the cleats and slats. After sizing the cleats to fit between the end and center assemblies, you can add the slats. For the even number of slats shown between the end and center assemblies, it's best to work out from the center of the opening and cut the end slats to fit.

