

# The Mobile Potting Table

**Make this move-around Potting Table in a single weekend and get set for a “blooming” Summer season !**

If you have an active *Green Thumb*, you probably spend a fair amount of time potting and re-potting your treasured plants – and more likely than not, get your share of backaches from doing it ! Now, you can put an end to those annoying backaches with this handy, 36” high Mobile Potting Table that we guarantee will make your chores lighter and put more “fun” back into your horticultural activities.

**NOTE:** Although we’re calling it a Potting Table, by eliminating the cutout in the top, it also makes an excellent Barbecue Table, Poolside *Porta-Bar* or Move-Around Workbench.

With screwed and doweled construction, a beefy 1-1/2” thick top and solid, 4” x 4” legs, this Table is sturdy enough to handle your toughest tasks. Plus, the convenient Handle and Wheels bring added portability to this heavyweight *workhorse*.

We made our table from (mostly) ordinary 2”x4” fir construction lumber...being careful to pick out straight, knot-free pieces for the best appearance. Another option would be to make it from 3/4” thick Western Red Cedar, Redwood or Cypress stock, glued-up to the appropriate thicknesses. These alternative lumbers are much more durable when exposed to the weather.

We made our wheels from three pieces of 3/4” stock, glued-up to a 2-1/4” thickness, but you could just as easily purchase a couple of 8” diameter wheels and steel axle from your local Home Center. If you do decide to make your own, for the sake of durability, it will pay you to use a rugged, closed-grain, hard wood such as maple...alternate the grain directions of the glued-up pieces for added strength...and round the edges over to help prevent splintering. For added protection, you could also cut out a couple of rings of motorcycle inner-tube and stretch them over your wooden wheels.

**NOTE:** Due to outdoor exposure, use only waterproof resorcinol or epoxy glue when assembling the Table.

## **CUTTING :**

Begin by cutting the two Top Side Rails, two Top End Rails and two Top Support Rails to length, as per the Bill of Materials. Round over one end of each Top Side Rail using your Shopsmith Bandsaw or Scroll Saw. Smooth the rounded ends with your MARK V Disc Sander.

Next, cut the two Shelf Side Rails, two Shelf End Rails, two Top Shelf Support Rails and four Legs to length, as per the Bill of Materials.

Cut Shelf to size and notch for the legs, as indicated. Now, cut a series of 48” long 2” x 4” strips for making the Top work surface. To be safe, cut nine pieces, 3-1/2” wide by 48” long...joint both opposing edges of each piece...then join them together using glue and dowels or biscuits. When dry, cut the Top to its finished size of 27-1/2” x 48” and use a saber saw or hand-held router to create the top cutout to fit a standard plastic tub of your choosing.

Cut out (6) 8-1/2” square x 3/4” thick pieces of stock for the wooden wheels. Glue them together and allow to dry. Using your Scroll Saw...or your Bandsaw with a Circle-Cutter, cut your Wheels to an 8” diameter.

Cut (16) 2” long pieces of 3/4” diameter dowel rod and (22) 5/8” long pieces of 5/8” diameter dowel rod (for lag screw plugs). Use an auxiliary, shop-made wooden Miter Gauge face and

Shopsmith's Miter Gauge Stop Rod to make quick work of cutting identical-length dowels. Round-over both ends of each 3/4" dowel and one end of each 5/8" dowel with your Disc Sander for easier insertion.

### **DRILLING:**

Using your MARK V Drill Press set-up, drill blind, 1-1/4" diameter x 1-1/8" deep holes in the inside edges of the Top Side Rails to accept the 1/4" diameter Dowel Handle.

Drill (16) 3/4" diameter x 1-1/8" deep holes in the ends of the two bottom Shelf End Rails and Shelf Side Rails...and (16) matching 3/4" diameter x 1-1/8" deep holes in the inside surfaces of the four legs for attaching the four Shelf Rails to the Legs, as shown in the drawing.

Drill (22) 5/8" diameter x 3/4" deep counterbores in the three Top Support Rails (**not** the center rail), Top Side Rails and Bottom Shelf Side Rails to accept the heads of the 1/4" Lag Screws (and the socket wrench required to tighten them).

Using the same Drill Press set-up, drill 1/4" diameter through-holes in these same locations for the Lag Screw shanks.

Drill 9/16" diameter through-holes in two of the legs to accept the 1/2" diameter wheel Axle (**NOTE:** If using store-bought wheels, this axle diameter may be different.)...then drill a 1/2" diameter hole in the center of each wheel.

### **PREPARING FOR ASSEMBLY**

Next, temporarily dry-assemble (without glue) the Rails and Legs (not the top, shelf or axle/wheel assembly), using clamps. When you're comfortable that all components are properly positioned, insert an ordinary pencil into the 1/4" diameter lag screw holes to mark the positions of all pilot holes in the mating pieces. Before disassembling number all mating components to be sure everything goes back together as you have it. Disassemble and drill 1/8" diameter x 2" deep lag screw pilot holes in all mating components.

### **FINAL ASSEMBLY**

Assemble and glue all frame components as shown in the drawing. Drop the Bottom Shelf into position and allow it to rest on the Bottom Rails without glue, nails or screws. This makes replacement easy, in the event of weather damage.

Attach the Top into position using three countersunk (**NOT** counterbored) #8 x 3" brass or stainless steel screws through the Top and into the top edge of each Side Rail and another into the center of each of the four Top Support Rails. **Do not glue the top to the frame.**

Thread each end of the Axle (1/2"-12 pitch) into Legs as shown and add wheels.

### **FINISHING**

Stain and apply the weatherproof top coat of your choice. If you're using redwood or Western red cedar, a finish may not be necessary at all.

### **ADDED FUNCTIONALITY**

If you like, you can add simple plumbing fixtures at the "tub" end of the Potting Table that hook up to your garden hose. That way, it could double as a vegetable clean-up table.

## Bill of Materials

(finished dimensions in inches)

Top (1)	1-1/2 x 27-1/2 x 48
Top End & Support Rails (4)	1-1/2 x 3-1/2 x 22-3/4
Top Side Rails (2)	1-1/2 x 3-1/2 x 52
Dowel Handle (1)	1-1/4 dia. x 25 long
Front Legs (2)	3-1/2 x 3-1/2 x 34-1/2
Rear Legs (2)	3-1/2 x 3-1/2 x 33-1/2
Bottom Shelf (1)	3/4 x 22-1/2 x 42-3/4 (exterior plywood)
Shelf End Rails (2)	1-1/2 x 3-1/2 x 15-3/4
Shelf Side Rails (2)	1-1/2 x 3-1/2 x 36
Shelf Support Rail (1)	1-1/2 x 3-1/2 x 19
Wheels (2)	8 dia. x 2 wide
Dowels (16)	3/4 dia. x 2 long
Dowel Plugs (22)	5/8 dia x 5/8 long

## Hardware

Steel Axle (1)	1/2 dia. x 28-3/4 long
Hex-Head Lag Screws (22)	1/4 dia. x 3 long
Brass or Stainless Wood Screws (10)	#8 x 3
Washers (8)	1/2 I.D. (for Axle)
Cap Nuts (2)	1/2 - 12 pitch