

Building a potting bench

The overall directions for the potting bench are simple, and you can modify the design according to your needs or style. For example, I added boards to the back of the top shelves to keep things from falling off, but that's optional. I also cut the lower supports and ends of the top shelf on an angle to break up all

the straight lines. When assembling the top shelf unit, it's best if the four dividers do not line up with the two supports below. That way, screwing the dividers to the shelf will be easier.

Top shelf unit

69-in. 1x4 with mitered corners

72-in. 1x6 top shelf
16-in. 1x6 end

64 $\frac{5}{8}$ -in. 1x6 bottom shelf

6-in. 1x6

Offset for easier assembly.

9 $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. 1x6 support

After top shelf unit is assembled, slide it into position.

One 66-in. and six 72-in. 2x4s on work surface.

66-in. 2x4

Hatch with hardware cloth.
(See detail at right.)

Work surface

Cut notches for front legs.

20 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. 2x4

66-in. 2x4

69-in. 2x4

Lower shelf

19-in. 2x4

66-in. 2x4

48-in. 2x4

30 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. 2x4

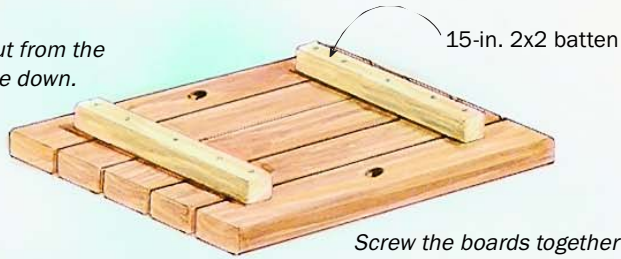
The lower shelf surface consists of one 66-in. 2x4, four 69-in. 2x4s, and two 69-in. 2x3s. The 66-in. 2x4 is fitted first between the back legs, then two 69-in. 2x4s are notched around the front legs. The remaining boards form the center of the shelf.

Steps to follow:

1. Assemble upper work surface frame
2. Assemble lower shelf frame
3. Connect upper & lower frames to legs
4. Install boards on lower frame
5. Install boards on upper frame
6. Cut out hatch
7. Assemble hatch with 2x2 battens
8. Install hardware cloth using 2x2 cleats
9. Assemble top shelf unit and fit between back legs
10. Insert teak pegs and trim

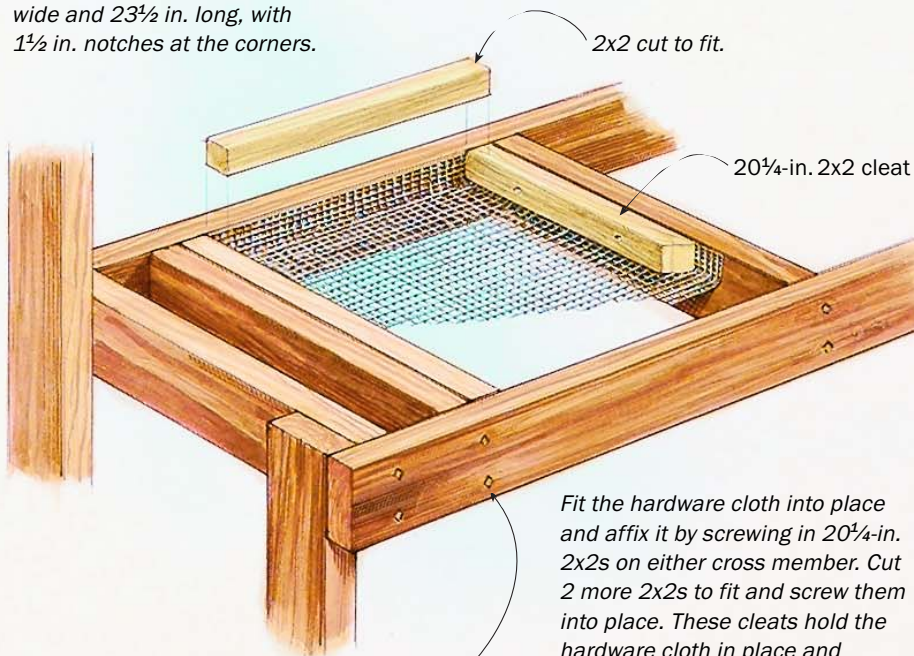
Detail of hatch assembly

Lay the 5 boards cut from the work surface upside down.



Screw the boards together using 15-in. 2x2s placed 2 in. from either end. Drill 1-in. holes to serve as handles.

The hardware cloth is cut 21 in. wide and 23½ in. long, with 1½ in. notches at the corners.



Fit the hardware cloth into place and affix it by screwing in 20¼-in. 2x2s on either cross member. Cut 2 more 2x2s to fit and screw them into place. These cleats hold the hardware cloth in place and support the lid.

Inserting teak pegs into screw holes lends a finished look to the bench.

Cut List		Tools:	Materials
Base	<u>2x2s for Hatch:</u>	Handsaw	Redwood or cedar
<u>2x4s:</u>	2 15 in.	Jigsaw	11 12-ft. 2x4s
<u>Legs:</u>	2 20¼ in.	Drill	1 12-ft. 2x3
2 48 in.	2 to fit	¾-in. Forstner bit	1 8-ft. 1x6
2 30½ in.	<u>Top shelf unit</u>	Tin snips	2 6-ft. 1x6s
<u>Work surface and frame:</u>	<u>1x6s:</u>	Hammer	2 8-ft. 2x2s
6 72 in.	1 72 in.	Utility knife	3 6-ft. 1x4s
1 69 in.	1 64⅞ in.	Flush-cutting peg saw	2 ft. x 2 ft. x ½ in. hardware cloth
2 66 in.	2 16 in.		1 box (100) 1⅝-in. galvanized deck screws
4 20½ in.	2 9¼ in.		2 boxes (200) 2½-in. galvanized deck screws
<u>Lower shelf and frame:</u>	<u>1x4s:</u>		1 bottle exterior-grade glue
3 66 in.	2 66 in.		⅜ in. x ⅜ in. x 2 ft. piece of teak
4 69 in.	1 69 in. (with mitered corners)		
3 19 in.			
<u>2x3s:</u>	<u>Teak Pegs:</u>		
2 69 in.	⅜ in. x ⅜ in. x 2 ft.		