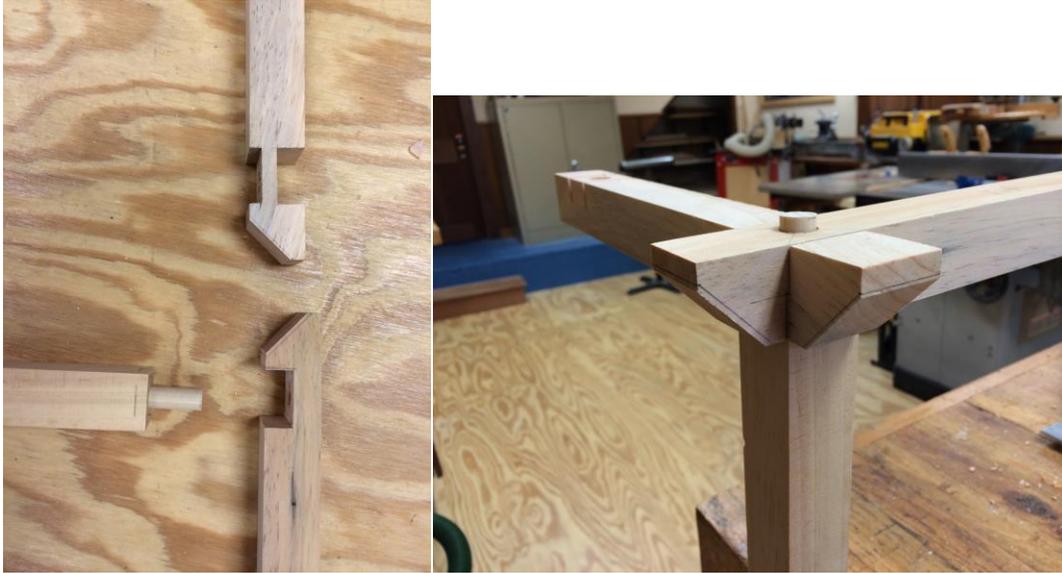


Asian Influence Table by Jim Tartaglia
February, 2019



The design for this table was inspired by Thomas Moser's so called "Asian influence" pieces. Moser cleverly uses an inverted taper leg design and a unique leg attachment joint to give an Asian feel to several of his designs and I borrowed heavily. Western furniture tapered legs are smaller at the bottom; turn that upside down and the piece instantly takes on an Eastern look. Western legs are attached to front, back, and side rails with mortise and tenon. In this piece the top of the leg fits into a socket formed where the front and side rails cross (see photos) and is held in place by a dowel that passes through the crossing and into the top of the leg. To stabilize the leg a straight cross piece is mortised in about 4 inches down.



The bowed cross pieces between the legs and the carved curls are largely decorative. The long bows in front and back are made from $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick strips laminated and glued around a curved form and attached to the legs with dowels. The short curves on the side pieces are cut from a solid piece. The decorative carvings between the straight and curved elements have short cross grain so they were laminated for strength.

The trim pieces on either end of the top are a common feature on Asian tables. I'm not sure how they are traditionally attached so I used a sliding dovetail as they are cross-grain to the top. The dovetail key was screwed to the top with three screws then the trim piece with a dovetail slot underneath was fitted. Once this was done the trim piece was removed and the key cut into three pieces with space between them each held by one of the screws. Finally, the trim piece was reattached and the top could move seasonally without problems.

The lumber came from my Cherry stash which I logged and milled years ago on the farm. I used an aniline dye cherry stain because Linda likes dark uniform colored wood and finished with Waterlox.