

## Dual Top Oak Cherry Table

Featured Piece of the Month – January 2022

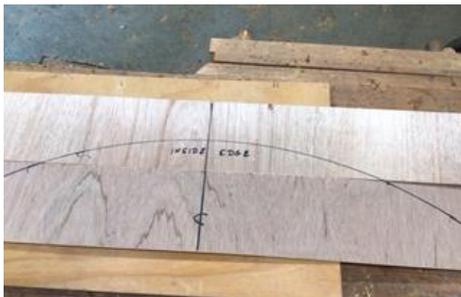
Dick Belanger

My customer (daughter) wanted a hall entry table that would be unique. After the design was established, I secured some cherry lumber and some figured red oak for a size of 32" high by 31" wide by 12" deep. Fast forward to the completion, you will see the table to the left.



Table is cherry with figured oak inserts. The cherry was excavated so the oak would drop into surface and remain a little proud of the surface. The under top is there just for design purposes. Six legs, four for standing legs and two for design supports, were laminated using my handy bending / gluing form. The top is attached to the under top by way of the two extra legs and attached left to right, think suspension bridge. The oak was treated with two applications of loose hide glue as grain filler / seal coat and several coats of shellac.

I began by making a leg template using  $\frac{1}{4}$ " MDF, then drew the inside curve on a piece of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood that is wider than the leg is long. I made 15" L-shaped bending forms and placed the vertical edge on the inside curve and screwed the jigs to the plywood.



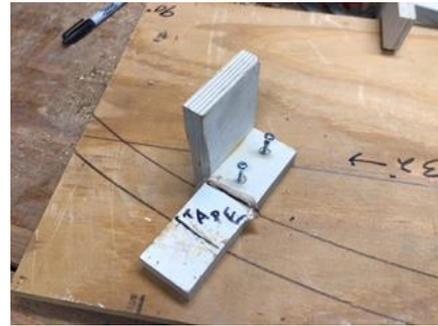
I ripped thin strips of cherry, longer than needed, keeping them in the correct orientation and placed 5 strips on the bending jig, added glue, tighten the clamps, and left overnight. I made two extra legs to be used between the lower and upper top.

I re-clamped each leg to the panel, and cross cut the legs and the panel on the table saw to the needed length resulting in both table leg ends being parallel.



Much thought was given to the attachment of the legs to the base and the underside of the lower top. I determined the best method was to use dowels. I drilled a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole in each of the leg ends and inserted dowel pins. Next, the legs were placed in position to drill the needed holes in the base and lower top. Finally, dowels were added and glued in place.

I then determined the space needed between the lower and upper top to be 3". I placed the leg template on a plywood form and traced the leg template leaving the 3" required space and "ripped" two of the extra legs leaving the ends parallel. I then "flattened" a small portion of the center of the arch of both support legs so the underside of the upper top could be attached. The ends were attached to the top of the lower table top.



I evacuated a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " deep portion of the surfaces of the upper top and the base so I could drop in the oak. I used the drill press and a Forstner bit staying close to the rectangular outline and after drilling I made a "picture frame" that allowed a router with collar to clean up and square the evacuated sections. The oak was cut a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " longer and wider than the space, I rabbited ( $\frac{3}{8}$ " deep) the underside, chamfered the top edges and dropped them into the base and top.



I finished using two applications of watered down Hide glue on the oak due to its porous nature, an application of Seal Coat and several coats of satin General Finish Arm-R-Seal.

One takeaway was to place packing tape on the bending jig, prohibiting the leg to attach to the jig. The L-shaped bending jig parts will be re-used on next bending/ laminating project.

It was a fun project to design, including the angles and spatial issues involved, and build. Furthermore, my daughter was especially pleased with the outcome.

