

DIY River Table Kit

Instructions

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In Your River Table Kit



This kit contains almost everything you will need to build an approximately 40" x 22" epoxy resin river table. You will receive the following items:

- 2 - 40" long live edge Pine slabs, flattened & sanded to 36 grit
- 1 high quality plywood table mold (form w/ bottom & four unassembled sides and screws),
- 6 L EcoPoxy Flowcast 2:1 Epoxy kit (includes resin and hardener)
- 5g bag of EcoPoxy Metallic color pigment
- 2 gallon mixing bucket
- 5 quart Mix N' Measure plastic container
- .125 L OSMO Polyx Oil
- 2 white applicator pads
- 1 roll of flash tape
- syringe applicator
- stirring stick & gloves
- any add-ons you ordered

(note: your supplies will arrive in separate boxes).



Access our Step-by-step Video Instructions

Go to the following link to access complete video instructions. (Or scan the QR Code below with a mobile device, if you prefer) There will also be individual codes and time marks on each page of this booklet that correspond with that section of the video



<https://youtu.be/YTHwHVhX1JQ>

(You can also find the video by going to YouTube and searching "Woodworker Network")

*You will need a few basic woodworking supplies to complete this kit.

You provide:

- Woodworking Clamps
- Drill / Driver
- Safety Goggles
- tube of silicone or acrylic caulk
- basic level
- heat gun or torch
- Sanding supplies (sander and sandpaper)
- table legs
- tack cloth & lacquer thinner or denatured alcohol

Optional Supplies:

- Table saw (if you choose to change the size of your table kit)
- Router & Bit (if you would like to add edge detail)
- Wood hardener (we use Osmo Extra Thin) + applicator
- Putty and/or quick setting epoxy to fill surface imperfections on slab

Step 1: Prepare the Form



Scan code or see video instructions, chapter 2 (:39)

You will receive pre-cut pieces of plywood that will create the bottom and sides of your table mold. A proper form is essential to keeping the epoxy from leaking while curing. Your form is made of high quality plywood and is completely reusable if you would like to make another table.

Note: You can resize wood if desired

As is, your form will create a 40" x 22" table. If desired, you can resize wood and/or frame to make your table smaller by simply cutting the pieces with a table saw and redrilling screw holes.

1. Apply the Tape

Using the flash tape you received in your kit, completely cover the entire inside bottom and sides of the form ensuring there are no areas of bare wood. Press tape firmly against wood to ensure a good bond. This tape provides a barrier to keep the epoxy off the form. The epoxy will not bond with the tape, allowing the hardened resin to easily release from the mold.



2. Assemble the Form

There are pre-drilled holes in both the sides and bottom of the form. By using the differing pattern marks on the ends of the side pieces as a guide, and by lining up the holes, find the correct placement of each side piece. Once you have it lined up correctly, use a phillips screwdriver and the provided screws to easily attach the sides to each other and to the bottom. note: do not over tighten screws as they may strip out.



3. Caulk the Seams

Using a latex or silicone caulk, apply a very light line of caulk to the seams on both the bottom and sides inside your form. Go back over the caulk with your finger and press the caulk into the seams to ensure the form will be water tight. Once this dries, your form is now ready.



Step 2: Prepare the Slabs



Scan code or see video instructions, chapter 3 (3:13)

Your supplied slabs will come already dried, flattened and ready to work with. They will need additional sanding at a later step. Make sure they are clean and free of debris before adding them to your mold.

*optional: if your slabs have any large voids on the top (cracks, knots, etc) that you are planning to fill with epoxy, you can choose at this point to use a putty or other filler to seal the underneath side of the hole or crack to prevent the epoxy from flowing underneath.

1. Insert the Slabs

Your included pine slabs should fit near perfectly into your now assembled form. If they are slightly too tight, you can always cut a very small bit off the end to make them fit. Inset them with the live edge side inward and the flat edges against the sides of the form. The middle void will become the "river".



2. Create Block:

Using any scraps of wood that you might have around, you can create 4 blocks to be placed underneath your clamps to keep them off the epoxy. Whatever you choose to use, just wrap them completely in tape so any epoxy that might get on it will easily release.



3. Clamp

With the taped blocks on top of the four ends of the slabs, clamp the wood down on the blocks, pressing the slabs against the form. You can use a longer piece of wood as a cross beam on top of the blocks to make this easier. If you don't have clamps, you can use any heavy objects to hold the boards down. This will keep the slabs from floating and the epoxy from running underneath the slabs.



4. Final Caulk

Once the slabs are in their final position and clamped down, you can apply a very thin layer of caulk once more along the bottom and side cracks of the slab or anywhere there is open space against the form. Smear excess caulk off with your finger or rag. You are trying to prevent the epoxy from running underneath or around the edges of the slabs. Keep the caulk off the inner sides of the slab where it might show through the epoxy. Caulk will sand out later.



5. Level

Place the form on a stable surface where you will be able to keep it level throughout the whole pouring and curing period. Using a level, adjust the height and position of the table/form with shims or other means until the surfaces is completely level. Epoxy is self leveling, so an uneven position can cause the cast to end up uneven.



Step 3: Pour the Epoxy



Scan code or see video instructions, chapter 4 (5:51)

Your kit comes with the proper amount of deep pour epoxy for this size of table, so you can simply mix the entire container of part A (Resin) with the entire container of part B (Hardener) in your mixing bucket without measuring. However, if you would like to use a different amount or divide the epoxy into separate batches (for example, different colors), measure 2 parts resin (part A) with 1 part hardener (part B) to equal the amount you need.

1. Mix the Resin

Start by pouring part A into a clean mixing bucket. Then add part B. Both parts individually should be clear, but once you add them together and start mixing they will become cloudy. Mix with provided stirring stick for about 5 minutes, making sure to scrape the sides and bottom thoroughly but not rigorously. Any unmixed portion will not set properly and could ruin the cast. You will know when mixing is near complete when the mixture starts to become clear again. Now add as much colorant as you want. The more you add, the less transparent the final result will be. You can also mix colors and metallics however you wish. Again, stir well.



2. Pour Epoxy

Carefully pour the epoxy mixture to fill the entire void of your table form. Carefully fill it all the way to the top of the slab edge without overflowing. After about 30 minutes, check the fill level and add more epoxy if it has gone down.



3. Fill Cracks

If desired, you can use an epoxy filled syringe to fill large cracks or knots on top of the slabs. If you are using dark colors in your resin, it may stain the surrounding wood. If you fill the bottom of the holes with putty, leaking will be less likely. Another option is to separate some of the epoxy before coloring and fill with clear epoxy. Or you can leave these open or fill after sanding.



4. Remove Bubbles

After you are finished pouring, air bubbles will begin to release. Wave a heat gun or torch careful about 8-10 inches over the surface of the epoxy until you see the bubbles dissipate. You may need to do this a few times. Don't leave the heat over one area, instead go back and forth.



5. Add Designs (optional)

If desired, after 12-18 Hours, you can swirl a mixing stick through the partially cured epoxy to create a swirl pattern of your choice. Any movement will introduce more bubbles, so you will need to use the heat gun or torch across the surface again. Your epoxy pour begins hardening at about the 24 hour mark at 70-75 degrees F. Hotter or cooler temps will speed up or slow down curing process.



Step 4: Prep for Finish (Sanding)



Scan code or see video instructions, chapter 5 (8:50)

Important: Before disassembling form and sanding table, let the epoxy fully cure for 7 days.

1. Remove Form

After the epoxy has cured for at least 7 days, you can remove the form and start sanding. Undo the clamps, take out the screws, and gently pull the form pieces away from the table. You may need to use something to carefully pry the bottom away. Inspect the table and determine if any cutting is required before moving on to sanding.



2. Rough Sanding

We highly recommend you bring the table to a wood shop to have it planed and sanded. If this simply is not an option for you, you can build a router sled or sand with a belt sander to level and rough sand to 100 grit, but it will not produce as even of a surface as an overhead sander.



3. Fill Remaining Cracks

Once planed and sanded, you will be able to see all the imperfections in the table. At this point, we like to fill the cracks with a quick setting epoxy like 5 or 15 minute epoxy. Thoroughly mix a small amount of equal parts A and B in a cup, then use a stick to carefully apply it into any small void you would like to fill. You will need to work quickly as it hardens very fast.



4. Finish Sanding

Using an orbital sander, sand the entire surface of the table with even back and forth strokes, working your way down to at least 220 grit. Assuming you rough sanded to 100 grit, continue with 120, then 150, 180, 200, 220. You can possibly skip a grit but never skip more than one consecutive grit in the sequence.



5. Router Edges (optional)

If you would like a rounded or decorative edge to your table, you can now use a router to go around the entire edge of the table. We used a 1/2" Round Over bit, but you could use a Chamfer or get more decorative with an Ogee bit or whatever you choose.



Step 5: Finish Table



Scan code or see video instructions, chapter 6 (12:42)

Your kit includes Osmo Polyx Oil for finishing your table top, but you can always substitute that for another finish if you prefer. If you would like to add a stain to the wood, we suggest using your color choice of Osmo Wood Wax Finish before finishing with the Polyx Oil.

1. Harden Wood (optional)

Since pine is a soft wood, we recommend adding a pre-hardener before the final finish. First, tack the sanded table with a clean cloth and laquer thinner or denatured alcohol. Starting with bottom of table, apply a coat of Osmo Clear Extra Thin (or wood hardener of your choice) with a foam brush. Rub it into the wood then wipe it off. Flip over and repeat with top side. Let it dry, then add another coat.



2. Apply Finish

Tack the surface well with a clean cloth and laquer thinner or denatured alcohol. Open your included can of Osmo Polyx Oil and stir well. Pour a very small amount on the surface of the table and rub or buff it into the full surface of the top and sides of table with your white pad (included in kit) and then wipe off any excess oil from the surface, removing as much as you can. Let dry then repeat. Polyx oil is meant to be applied very thin.



Step 6: Add Legs (Follow these steps if you purchased our leg assembly kit)

Flip table over on clean protective towel. Place the legs where they will attach to the table and measure to get them centered. Use a pencil to trace the holes and mark the center of each hole. Remove the legs and drill holes with a 3/8" forstner bit (mark your bit with tape at 3/4" to allow room for insert and bolt length). The inserts can most easily be installed by first threading the included extra insert onto the provided bolt to create a bushing, (see picture) then screw a second insert onto the bolt (with screw driver slot facing up). The bolt can now be used to place the insert into the hole with an allen wrench or drill, making sure they go in straight. Screw down until the first insert is flush with the board. Repeat for each. Line up the legs and screw in bolts - first loosely by hand then tighten alternatively. Remove paper from the 4 supplied felt pads and attach to bottom of clean metal legs.



Pat yourself on the back and enjoy your creation!

We're here to help

If you have any questions or run into problems, send us a message. We'll do our best to help.

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