

Kitchen Steps

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Text in **bold** indicates that illustrated descriptions can be found on my web pages at www.smallfurniture.co.uk.

Here are a couple of items that are very easy to make. The simple step can be constructed without too much difficulty by an absolute beginner with just a **craft knife** and **steel rule** although a **razor saw** will make a better cut edge. For those with a little experience, the stool with a box container will also prove easy to build although the process of adding hinges adds an interesting element into the construction of the stool. The two stools can be produced from a single 12" x 3/4" x 3/32" (305 x 19 x 2.5 mm) strip of wood, **Jelutong** being the ideal timber as it can readily be cut using a craft knife.

Step 1 - The end pieces

Before cutting any timber, decide on the shape at the ends. The simplest is to leave them rectangular. For a semicircle, draw a **pencil** line across the timber strip 1" (25 mm) from one end. Mark the centre of this line and then carefully drill a hole 1/4" (6.25 mm) diameter. Saw along the line (preferably using a **mitre block**) and cut the two sides 3/4" (19 mm) long. For a triangular shape, cut the sides to length and at one end of each mark 1/8" (3 mm) either side of the centre. Place a dot 1/4" (6 mm) above the centre. Join the marks and, holding the strip in one hand, use the razor saw to remove the waste.

Step 2 - The top

Cut the top 1-1/2" (38 mm) long. For the top support, cut a 1-1/16" (27 mm) length of timber and from this cut a strip 3/16" (5 mm) wide.

Step 3 - The optional storage facility

For the step with storage, prepare the box sides by sawing a 1-1/16" (27 mm) length from the strip and from this cut two pieces 5/16" (8 mm) wide. For the box base, saw a 1-1/4" (32 mm) length from the strip and from this cut a piece 9/16" (14 mm) wide.

Step 4 - Final preparation of the parts

Sand all parts after which they can be **stained** if required to the colour of your choice.

Step 5 - Assembling the simple step

The first stage is to **glue** the support strip to one of the ends. Place the end against a stop on the **gluing table**, spread a thin layer of glue on one end of the support strip and press it into place. Position it by eye, looking down over the end to press the support immediately below the centre of the triangular or semicircular cut out and allow the glue to set. Next, spread glue over the remaining end of the support strip, place the second end in the corner of the **gluing table** and press the assembly into this end. Finally, place the top against the gluing table stop and spread glue along the top edges of the base assembly. Using the **rule** to ensure an equal overhang at each end, drop the base onto the top.

Step 6 - Assembling the step with storage

If the top is to be hinged, small cutouts must be made in one box side to accommodate the

thickness of the hinges. The storage box is assembled first. Place one box side (the hinge cutout upright) into the **gluing table** corner, spread a thin layer of glue over one edge of the box base and press it into the side checking that all edges are against the gluing table. When the glue has set, fit the second box side in the same way. Spread glue over one end of the box and press this into a side checking that the box base and end-s cut out are upper most. Allow the glue to set before adding the second end. If hinges are being fitted, glue these to the box side with epoxy resin. When this adhesive has set, the top is fitted. Spread a thin layer of glue over the top edges of the base assembly for a fixed top otherwise spread small amounts of epoxy resin on the hinge tops. Using the rule to ensure equal overhang at both ends, drop the base onto the top, pressing this against the gluing table stop to ensure all edges are flush to complete the assembly of this step.

Step 7 - Completing the step

Apply a coat of clear satin polyurethane **varnish**. Allow this to dry and then lightly sand all visible surfaces. This is best done with a well-used piece of abrasive. This sanding must not scratch through the thin layer of varnish but will give the required base for the next coat. Wipe away the dust and apply the second coat of varnish.

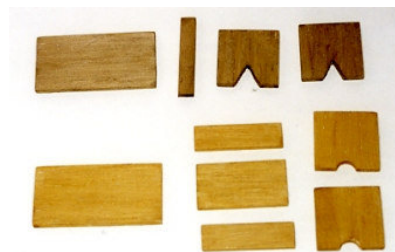
This completes these stools. Introducing either of those small items into the miniature kitchen will add a touch of realism to the room.

If you have downloaded these plans, and especially if you have made this piece of dolls house furniture, please send me an email at neil@smallfurniture.co.uk.

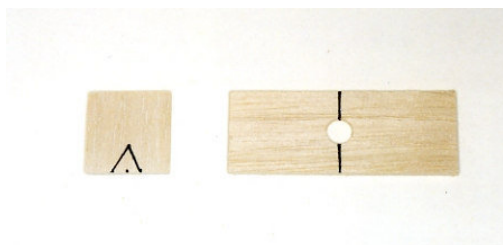
- (1) Completed Steps:
l to r: simple steps
with storage box



- (3) All parts stained
upper: simple steps
lower: with storage box



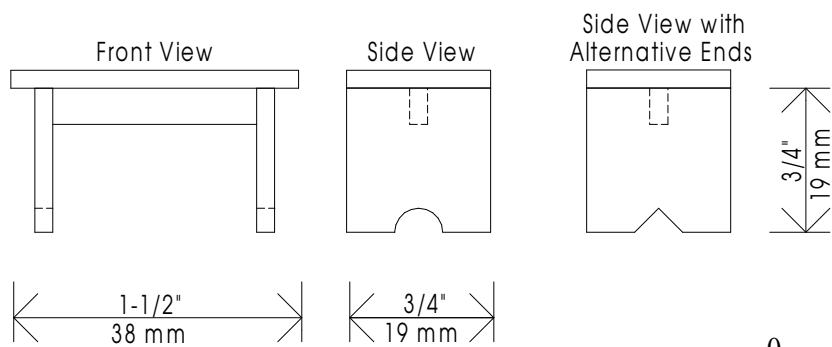
- (2) Marking the ends for shaping



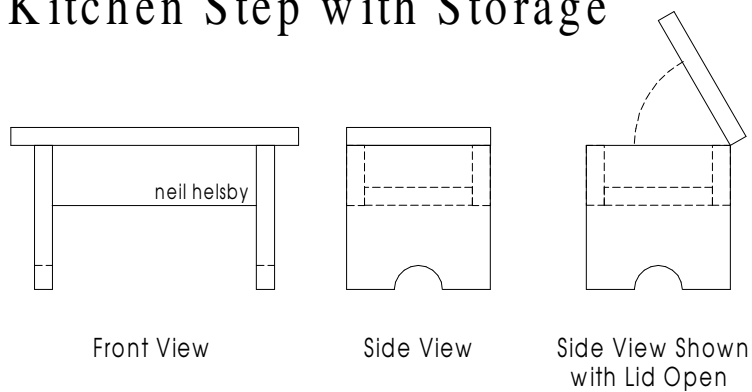
- (4) Under construction:
l to r: with storage box
simple steps



Simple Kitchen Step



Kitchen Step with Storage



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