Gaming Table
Posted by Kradlo - 2006/10/29 20:48

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After months (heck, years) of dreaming about it, I've finally done it! My gaming table is built.

The made the legs from 30" long 4x4 posts, and the frame from 2x4 pine. The top is a 8x4 section of 3/4 inch MDF. Believe me, there was plenty of colorful language uttered during the construction process! But despite a few setbacks, the project is complete.

The thing is sturdy as all get out, and won't budge a millimeter when bumped. It should be perfect for gaming, with plenty of space to set up my Master Maze.

I do think I will want to add another top layer to it for durability (something like Masonite or plexiglass), but in the meantime it is ready to go.
http://dwarvenforge.com/images/fbfiles/images/19905/Table 1.jpg

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Gaming Table
Posted by blairgb - 2006/10/29 20:56

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Jealous!!

My table is a 4'x8' sheet of mdf laying ontop of two 2x4's that are laid across two desks...not nearly sturdy enough!

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Gaming Table
Posted by RabidFox* - 2006/10/29 23:48

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You built a gamer-killer Kradlo!

A surface layer will be good to have; safer for gamers that way and more easy to move figures & vehicles on.
I recommend masonite over plexiglass.
Two reasons:
1) masonite is less slippery so there are fewer chances for an oops that will leave a person on the edge of tears and/or a complete meltdown.
2) both scratch up, but the scratches in the masonite will be less unseemly.

Best wishes on your table Kradlo.
Maybe your grandchildren will be playing on it in 75+ years.

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Gaming Table
Posted by Doug Martin - 2006/10/30 03:27

Looks nice. I've built a fair amount with 3/4" MDF too -- fun stuff to lift isn't it?

I'd recommend white "bathroom board" Masonite for the top -- one, you get a whiteboard like surface for $8 and two, uncovered that MDF will suck up accidental soda spills in a split second. Just get some cheap two sided foam tape -- should be enough to hold it on. You'll still have a 1/2" exposed edge all the way around since MDF usually comes in 49"x97" sheets but that shouldn't be a big deal.

btw, I'd also round all four corners -- gamers aren't the most coordinated lot.

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Gaming Table
Posted by WillOH - 2006/10/30 04:45

I am jealous of the size but even more amazed at the uncluttered room it is in. Have fun with it after you get that protective layer.

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Gaming Table
Posted by Kradlo - 2006/10/30 06:05

"Uncluttered?" Well, you're just seeing that one section. It's a 47' long, 13' wide rec room in our walk-in basement (I love this house!). One end has our home entertainment center (no big screen - yet!), and the other end has my wife's office for her work. There are a number of boxes we've still to unpack that I moved out of the way, so the picture does give the appearance of being without clutter.

Thanks for the tips on the masonite, folks. I'll pick some up today, and get it put on. And rounding the corners sounds like a good suggestion as well.

Now I can start putting up some dungeons and caverns of my own, without the trouble of dragging boxes in and out of my car. This is going to be heaven!

I will happily steal some of the ideas that you guys have given me from your setups. Especially you, L!

:D

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Gaming Table
Posted by Doug Martin - 2006/10/30 08:09

You know, to make it even more cool you could buy some heavy duty extension slides and build a couple of slide out trays under the table to hold your DF product. Have fun.

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Gaming Table
Posted by Kradlo - 2006/10/30 14:06

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With our storage room a short walk down the hall, my Master Maze collection is close at hand, safe inside the original boxes (THE best storage, in my opinion).

This is going to be sweeeet!

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Gaming Table
Posted by jkratzer - 2006/10/30 16:54

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Krad;

I dunno if you've seen any of the pics I've posted of my gaming table, but you might want to put some 1" x 4" bracing across the legs, mounted inside (the way you've mounted the upper framing outside them) about 15" from floor. That will both fully stabilize the table, AND give you the opportunity down the road for shelving underneath the table. Great for last-second storage space!

However, I APPLAUD your common sense in making the table 30" high; mine is 42 1/2", and I gotta tell you, it's okay for standing up, but after a while, it would be nice to be able to SIT DOWN - which IS possible at yours!

See ya!

Jim

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Gaming Table
Posted by Kradlo - 2006/10/30 20:54

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I made some 12" long 2x2 supports that I'll install tomorrow, to diagonally brace the legs. That should give extra stability while still leaving the bottom clear for feet.

My neighbor is going to go with me to Home Depot for the masonite. He's a nice guy, even if he did run over one of my mole traps with his lawnmower (silly doofus!).

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Gaming Table
Posted by Doug Martin - 2006/10/31 06:31

Another idea: if you don't want to attach the Masonite permanently pick up some of that rubber friction weave stuff (I have no idea what is actually called). I got a roll a few years ago and finally used it all up the other day (to hold my daughter's crib mattress onto the bed platform I made out of MDF)

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Gaming Table
Posted by admin - 2006/10/31 07:23

I think Doug is talking about that drawer liner stuff. And yes...it works like glue.

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Gaming Table
Posted by Dante - 2006/10/31 08:54

There's nothing like having a good, solid gaming table, and space to game in! It looks pretty solid but I'd agree with Jim--brace the bottom of those legs. You just never know how much they're going to get kicked around. If you're worried about players not being able to slide their chairs up close to the table, you don't want them so close that they'll bump things around, plus they'll still be able to rest their feet on the braces or on the floor on the other side.

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Gaming Table
Posted by Kradlo - 2006/11/01 11:37

I just put the top layer on the table - a white melamime surface. It should be very good for gaming, and easy to clean from any food or drink spills. I used Liquid Nails to attach it, which should set in the next 24 hours.

The top is 48" x 96", and the MDF was 49" x 97" in size. I can either take a circular saw to the edge, or I might put something like rubber around the edge.

Let the games begin!

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Gaming Table
Posted by Doug Martin - 2006/11/01 12:47

The top is 48" x 96", and the MDF was 49" x 97" in size. I can either take a circular saw to the edge, or I might put something like rubber around the edge.
Another idea from the peanut gallery: go buy some 3/4" pipe insulation at your home store. It should fit over the edge and hold via friction. We used it to baby proof the coffee table -- think of it as gamer proofing your table. :)

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Gaming Table
Posted by admin - 2006/11/01 14:10

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You could put a nice router-ed edge on it -- like a bullnose edge. Then paint it to make a nice "frame" for the table.

Be sure to post some pics with it in action!

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Gaming Table
Posted by Kradlo - 2006/11/01 20:25

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Oh, you can believe I'll take pictures. I've been positively green with envy looking at some of the gorgeous setups the other guys here have made, especially L.

Now it's going to be my turn. Whoo hoo!

:D

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Gaming Table
Posted by Kradlo - 2006/11/01 20:32

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The top is 48" x 96", and the MDF was 49" x 97" in size. I can either take a circular saw to the edge, or I might put something like rubber around the edge.
Another idea from the peanut gallery: go buy some 3/4" pipe insulation at your home store. It should fit over the edge and hold via friction. We used it to baby proof the coffee table -- think of it as gamer proofing your table. :)
That's kind of what I had in mind, though I didn't know it might hold by friction alone. I thought I'd have to use some small screws or something to hold it in place. Neat.

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Gaming Table
Posted by jkratzer - 2006/11/02 04:32

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That's kind of what I had in mind, though I didn't know it might hold by friction alone. I thought I'd have to use some small screws or something to hold it in place. Neat.
Krad -

Not screws; double-backed foam tape. Screws would just put a pit in the foam and afford the clumsy ones somewhere ELSE to hurt themselves - and it only takes ONE clumsy gamer to destroy a setup, a game - AND an insurance premium! And it probably WON'T be a regular; they'd know better, and they'd give a damn about your house.

Think CYA.

Waiting for pics; See ya!

Jim

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Gaming Table
Posted by cowgillbones - 2006/11/03 13:58

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At work they put up wallpaper that acts like a dry erase board. You could apply that to the top and have a dry erase table.

Personally I hope to do a projector setup and a dry erase wall at some point.

Jeff

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Gaming Table
Posted by Kradlo - 2006/11/04 17:56

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Pictures of the table with the white melanine top. I think I'll go with the foam rubber bumper idea for the edges, using 3/4-inch pipe insulation and attaching it via the foam tape.

Thanks for all the cool suggestions, guys!
http://dwarvenforge.com/images/fbfiles/images/20128/Table 2.jpg
http://dwarvenforge.com/images/fbfiles/images/20128/Table 1.jpg

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Gaming Table
Posted by maulhelm - 2006/11/26 02:56

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Dante's post reminded me of something...

"O' lord only these three things I ask,

A beautiful women,
A full bottle,
And a fine sword with room to swing."

prayer of an anonymous 16th century swordsman

Good luck Kradlo with your new table and 'Once more into the breach..." and all that.

Maulhelm

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Gaming Table

Posted by jkratzer - 2006/11/26 20:06

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Kradlo,

I forgot to mention this before, and have been offline out of town for Thanksgiving, but the table looks awesome. I thought for a minute that I was going to chide you for using white-ish melamine instead of green (for grass) or gray/brown/black (for rock), but having looked at it, this is MUCH BETTER! The off-white gives much more functionality AND versatility - and keeps She Who Must Be Kept Happy, HAPPY.

And That's A Good Thing.

Hope YOUR Thanksgiving was half as good as mine and Sandy's; that would make it absolutely GREAT!

See ya!

Jim

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Gaming Table

Posted by invincibleoverlord - 2006/11/27 13:00

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Nice table… it’s a good size for gaming. It seats six players comfortably, and there’s enough room for a DF setup in the center with a foot or so of space for books and character sheets around the edges.

We also made ours’ with a 4” shelf for storage. We bought an entire table just for the legs and base support from a place called Wood You Furniture for just under $100. http://www.woodyou.com/

The top was removed, and the new top was made of two sheets of 8’x 4’plywood and several 4” 2x4 spacers.

Here’s a link to our game room. The first few shots have photos of the table.

http://www.acaeum.com/forum/about2657.html

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Gaming Table

Posted by pfworks - 2006/11/27 15:49

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We also made ours' with a 4" shelf for storage. We bought an entire table just for the legs and base support from a place called Wood You Furniture for just under $100. http://www.woodyou.com/

This has to be one of the worst designed sites I've seen for awhile. None of the links work, and there isn't even a place for contact info to complain. Guess I won't be buying anything there. 8-)

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