

Bench Project Guidelines

Here is a link to a student made video of the bench project.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZDj8AYOxMqNY2VCWTib8AEGKQ_bzcmq/view?usp=sharing

The actual project plans are online and can be found here:

<https://www.buildeazy.com/folding-picnic-table-out-of-2x4-lumber/>

Buying in bulk, I can get the cost of each bench down to \$65. We sell them to the general public for \$75 plus whatever donation they want to make to our shop.

I put the students into groups of five or six and have them pick "roles". Each student must participate in all steps, but they become the expert (or sub-contractor) for which ever role they pick.

Foreman – this is the only person in the group I will interact with or accept questions from for the duration of the project.

Miter Saw (responsible for measurements, angles, and cuts)

Band Saw (curves)

Drill (bolt and predrilled screw holes)

Painter

Assembly (impact driver)

and Recorder (must keep accurate records of all work done by each student. Students get a group grade and an individual grade which are combined. Group can get an A but if you don't participate, you get a zero and your combined grade will still be failing.)

They get a copy of the plans, which becomes the "Job Copy" and as they work through each step, I sign off as though I were a building inspector.

This project reinforces the safety lessons they've received for each of the four major tools in our shop (table saw, band saw, miter saw, and drill press.) It also introduces construction lumber as the whole project uses standard stick frame 2 by 4's and they have to learn to deal with the defects and warps found in Number 2 grade lumber.