



Block and Roll

A primo cutting surface atop a rolling cart - this portable unit increases kitchen productivity and jazzes up our humble cutting board!

Materials:

- Cutting board (Note: If you don't feel like making the cutting board top, but you really fancy the cart, buy a length of IKEA's laminated birch counter top. Cut it to size (roughly 19" x 31") and proceed with the cart instructions.)
- Legs: 4 - 2" x 2" x 33 1/2" maple
- Apron: 7' of 1" x 4" maple
- Shelves: 8 - 1" x 3" x 29"
- Shelf supports: 4 - 1" x 2" x 33 1/2" 1" x 1" maple strips: two 10" pieces, two 24" pieces
- Screws - About 40 - #8 - 1 1/4" zinc coated pan-head
- Screws - 16 - #6 - 3/4" zinc coated pan-head
- Screws - about 20 - #8 - 2" zinc countersink screw

Special hardware (available from Lee Valley Tools: 1-800-267-8767)

- [Heavy-duty leg braces](#) - Four 2 1/2" x 4 3/4"
- 4 - [Hanger bolts and nuts](#)
- 4 - 2" [Locking plate casters](#)

Tools

- Eye/ear protection
- Circular saw
- Belt sander/orbital sander
- Drill and bits
- Tri-square
- Chisel

- Pencil



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Steps:



Locate the legs on the bottom of the cutting surface



Be sure they are in exactly the right place



Mark their location

Legging for It

Cut and sand the 2" x 2" legs. To determine the desired height for the finished cart, measure the distance from the floor to your navel. Don't forget to account for the height of the casters and the thickness of the cutting board top. Or use my shortcut: Just cut the legs 2" longer than your inseam.

Next, turn the cutting board upside down. Place the legs in the corners. They should be set in from the edges about 1 1/4". Trace the outline of each leg position. Now measure the dimensions between the marks to determine how long to cut the apron pieces, then cut 'em.



Put the apron lumber in place and mark it for cutting



Put all the apron pieces in place and number them according to their location



Inset the apron about a quarter of an inch

Put the apron pieces in place between the legs. For eye appeal, inset the apron pieces about 1/4". Mark a pencil line along the inside edge each apron piece. Then set aside the apron pieces and legs.

Tip: Number the parts as you remove them! Each leg should have a number, and the ends of each apron board should be marked with the number corresponding to the leg they abut.





Make one-inch strips to support the apron



Drill holes every three inches for the screws



Use a counter sink bit or larger bit to cut a space for the screw head

In the 1" x 1" strips, pre-drill holes every 3". Screw the strips to the cutting board, attaching them along the inside of the apron line.



Put the blocks in place and attach with screws



Cut the slots for the leg braces



Set the brace on top of the apron to locate the slots

Slotty Outfit

Put the legs and apron pieces in position. Set the heavy-duty leg braces on top of the apron at each corner. The brace must be well-centered in relation to the leg! Mark the location of the slots required by the brace.



Set the depth of the blade to fit the brace



Attach the bracket in place with four screws

Now cut the slots in the apron using a circular saw with the blade set to a depth of about 3/8" (check the depth required by the flanges on your braces).

After cutting slots for the braces, place the apron pieces back in position. Glue and clamp them to the 1"x 1" strips.



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Make a flat spot on the inside corner of the legs

While the glue is drying, mark the approximate height of the apron on the inside corner of each leg. Remove each leg and chisel a flat spot on the inside corner of each leg mid-way between the apron line and the top of the leg.



Use the hanger bolt to mark the location to drill



Drill for the hanger bolt



Drive it in with tongue-in-groove pliers

Leg Cetera

Put the legs back in place and slide the leg braces into their slots. Pass a hanger bolt through the hole in each brace and push against the wood to mark its position on the flat spot you've just chiseled. Pre-drill each leg to accept the bolt and install it using tongue-in-groove pliers (for a faster method, insert the machine threaded end into a drill and drive it in).

Install hanger bolts and secure them with washers and nuts.



Clamp the shelf supports in place and screw them to the leg



Space the shelf boards evenly and screw them down



Shelf boards in place

Install 1" x 2" shelf supports and attach the shelf boards, pre-drilling so you don't split the wood.





Attach the casters to the bottom of the legs

Attach casters to the bottom of each leg with screws provided.

Apply mineral oil to entire cart regularly to prevent drying, cracking and splitting. Some people use a urethane finish everywhere except on the actual cutting surface, which they oil. I eschew urethane and use oil all over everything. That's just the kind of girl I am.

Now, just think of the possibilities! You've got a portable unit for barbecuing, a homework station for kids, storage for extra pots, bowls, or wine bottles. And, for a real icebreaker at parties, install a golf-cart motor on that baby and you've got a Rider Cart for serving hors d'oeuvres in style.



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