

# Vignette, Workbench & Shelves

By Cat Wingler, Southport, North Carolina



The vignette will fit an 8" x 12" dome, and has a workbench, bracketed shelves hang above the workbench and oval wall brackets to match the shelves.

You can fill it with bushels of fruit on the floor under the bench, gleaming copper pots and pans and colorful glass jars of canned fruits or vegetables to make a canning station to display on your kitchen counter or you can use terra cotta pots and plants and make it a potting bench and use it in your sun room. It will work just as well for a miniaturists work bench or a model ship builders work table. Personally, I think Gepetto would feel right at home here so I plan to move in a toymaker!

## Vignette

Parts list:

- 1 piece of foam core from which you will cut:
  - 8" foam core circle
  - Rectangle 5 x 10 1/2"
  - 2 rectangles 1 1/4" by 10:
- 1 piece of flooring to fit 8" circle
- 1 piece of wood 1" x 1/8"
- 1 piece wood 3/4" x 1/8"
- 1 piece 1/4" x 1/4"
- 1 piece 1/4" x 1/8"
- 1 piece 1/2" x 1/8"
- 3 ovals cut from bass wood. (One cut in half)
- 1 package of decorative brackets (4 per package)

Foam Core structure instructions.

1. Cut out the center back piece, the two side wings and the 7-3/4" circle out of foam core. Dome bases vary slightly so you might want to test the circle base in your dome before proceeding.
2. Cut the flooring in a circle just slightly larger than the foam core circle. Glue the flooring to the circle. Sand the edges to fit precisely. Use what ever finish you like on the flooring. I generally use a coat or two of Deft.
3. Use an Exacto knife with a new blade to miter the LONG sides of the two wings. (Cut away the FRONT corners) Don't worry; the miters don't have to be perfect. Test fit the center back and the wings on the base. (See diagram) Check to make sure the wings don't go over the edges. Glue the three pieces together. Use a straight pin to help hold the parts until the glue is dry. When the glue is dry, glue it to the base.
4. The assembled structure can be used for many different projects, it may be wall papered, bricked, sided, what ever you like. For this project, we're going to add "Stucco" and wainscotting.
5. The "stucco" is a mixture of light weight, shrink free spackle and acrylic paint. The spackle is available at any hardware store or the hardware department of any discount store, just make sure it is shrink free. Mix about 2 teaspoons acrylic paint to 1 cup of spackle. The paint keeps it from becoming brittle. Use a palette knife or putty knife to spread the mix over the foam core pieces. Don't forget to do the edges too. And the back too.
6. Add the wainscot. You can use scribed board or just paint the lower part of the wall blue. Add a chair rail. You can use the parts placement diagram to cut your miters. Just place the chair rail over the diagram and mark the correct angle. Sneaky tip #1, my favorite tip, fill any gaps with spackle and then paint it to match. (I learned that from a very bad carpenter, he said "that's what spackle is for!")

## Workbench

Parts List:

- A- Front & Back Apron (2 pieces)  
3" x 1/2" x 1/8"
- B- Side Apron (2 pieces)  
1-1/2" x 1/2" x 1/8"
- C- Legs (4 pieces)  
2-7/8" x 1/4" x 1/4"
- D- Front & Back Stretcher (2 pieces)  
3" x 1/4" x 1/8"
- E- Side Stretcher (2 pieces)  
1-1/2" x 1/4" x 1/8"
- F- Shelf Riser (1 piece)  
3" x 1/2" x 1/8"
- G- Shelf (1 piece)  
3-1/2 x 1/2" x 1/8"
- H- Table top (3 pieces)  
3/4" x 4" x 1/8"

Assembly Instructions

1. Line up the 3 table top planks, edge to edge and glue.
2. Use the table top diagram above to glue the front and back apron and the legs to the table top. Set aside to dry completely
3. When the legs are dry, insert and glue the Front and Back Stretchers and Side stretchers in place between the table legs.
4. When the glue is dry on the stretchers, set the table upright and glue on the shelf riser and shelf.

## Oval Shelf

Glue the decorative brackets to the ovals, centering the brackets to the bottom of the oval.

Glue on the shelf.

## Shelf

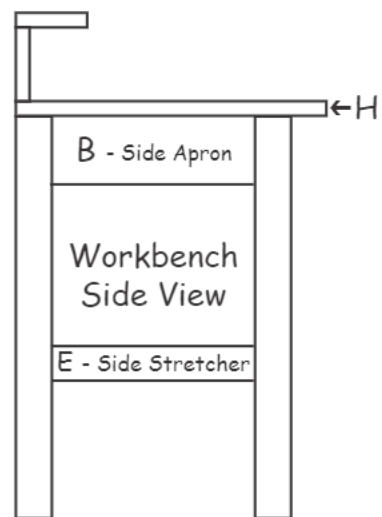
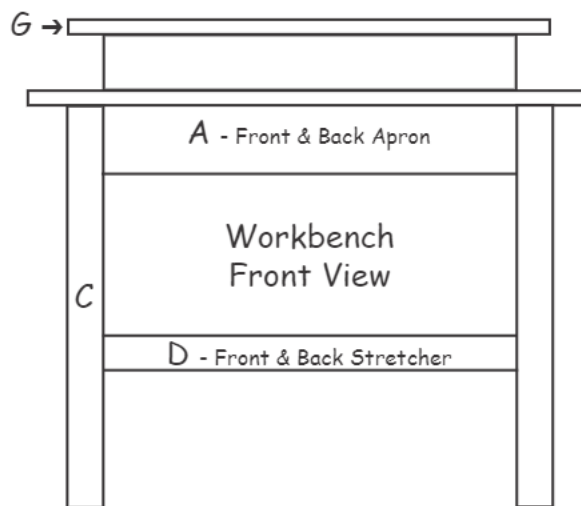
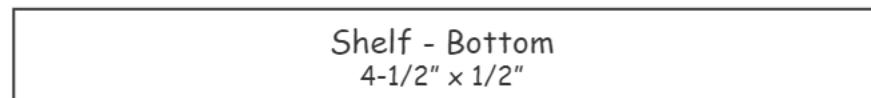
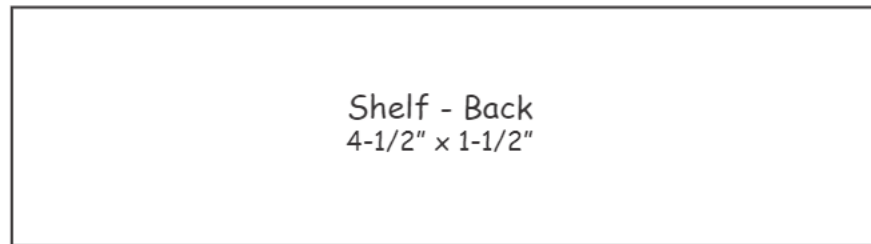
Glue the decorative brackets onto the ends of the shelf back flush to the top.

Glue on the top shelf.

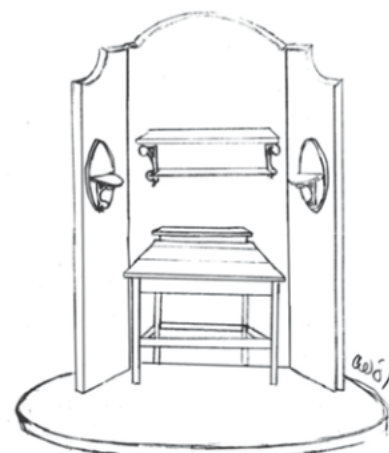
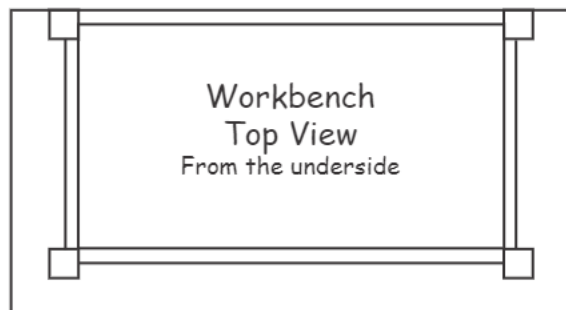
Glue the bottom shelf between the brackets at the bottom.

— Diagrams on page 33 & 34

## Vignette, Workbench & Shelves Diagrams

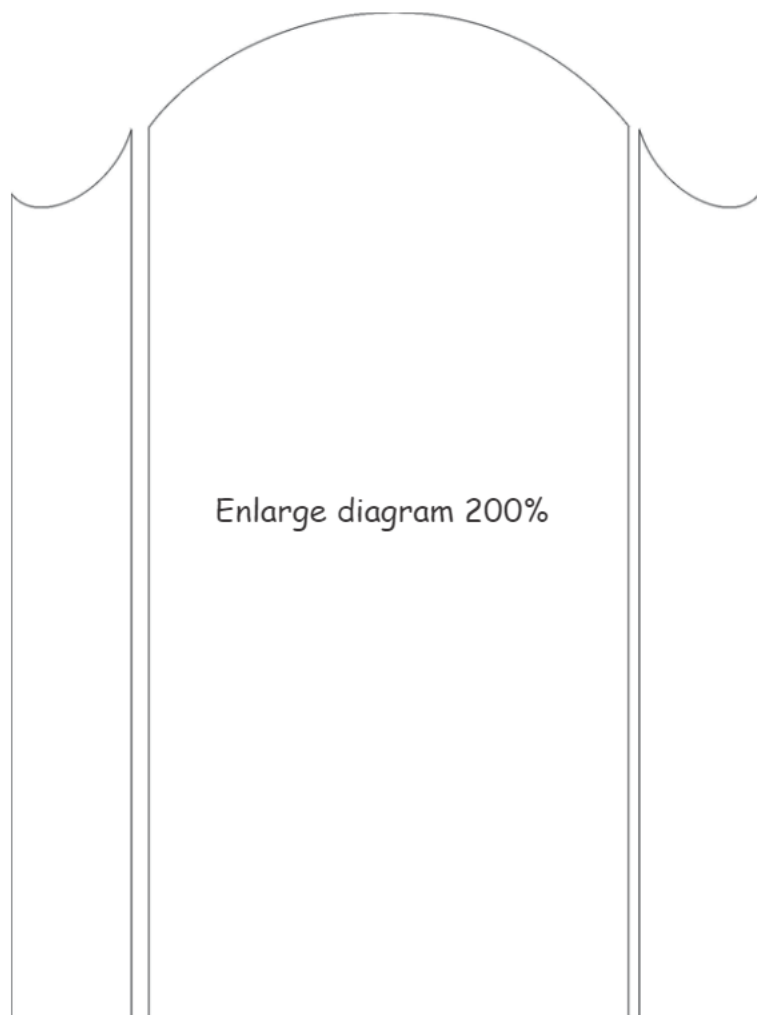
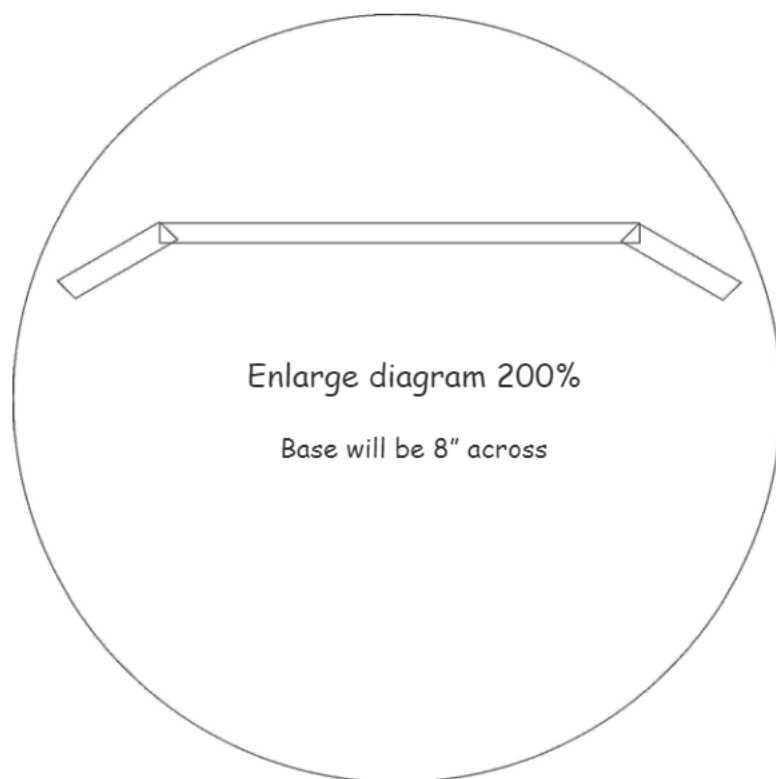


Workbench  
Diagrams not to scale



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## Vignette Diagrams



## Party Ideas

by Cat Wingler

A party is absolutely nothing but people having fun. Decorations and refreshments are optional and may be very simple if any at all. Just a few dollars will buy enough supplies for a small make and take for lots of people, and with a little imagination, you don't even need that. All you really need is a place to party. Here are some ideas:

### **A Mini Literary Society or Book Exchange**

Everyone brings his or her favorite miniature instruction book to show and inspire.

### **An Idea Exchange**

Everyone brings their favorite "Someday Project" inspiration and swaps ideas on how to get started.

### **An Unbirthday Party**

Everybody brings one gift of a pre-set value and has a birthday party and exchanges gifts at the end.

### **A Pet Show**

Bring your mini pets or make one. Pussy willow kittens come to mind.

### **A Garden Show**

Bring your mini plants or make some.

### **A Tea Party**

Come and make mini tea. I supply the "tea and cookies" you supply the cups and saucers. You can make dozens of cookies with \$5 worth of Fimo. Tint the Mod Podge and you have enough "tea" to fill dozens of cups for pennies.

### **Do you have a party idea?**

Share your ideas with other NAME members. Send photos of mini parties that you or your club have done.

E-mail: [gazette@miniatures.org](mailto:gazette@miniatures.org)

*Only through sharing can we really enjoy our treasures*