

HART™



Chalkboard Sign

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PROJECT PLAN

Finished Dimensions: 25-1/4" W x 6' H x 1.5" D

Skill Level: Intermediate

Materials

Item	Qty
1/4" x 2' x 4' Plywood Sheet*	1
1" x 2" x 6' Board*	3
1" x 3" x 6' Board*	1
3/4" x 6' Dowel	1
1-1/4" Pocket Hole Screws	16
Wood Pocket Hole Plugs -OR- Wood Putty	4
1-1/2" Flat Head Wood Screws	4
Wood Glue	
Sandpaper**: 150-Grit, 220-Grit, 320-Grit	
Chalkboard Paint (color of your choice)	1 qt.
Wood Stain (color of your choice)	1 qt.
7" x 1.5" Leather Strips	4
Metal Brads	4
Chalk	1

* Board Dimensions are "nominal". Actual dimensions are smaller due to lumber industry standards. Cuts are actual length.

** Starting grit will depend on board surface condition, a rough surface will require starting with a coarse grit first.

Grit is measured in the coarseness of the particles on the sandpaper. The lower the grit number, the coarser the paper. Heavy sanding would require 60 to 80 grit, medium sanding would require 120 to 220 grit, and finish sanding would require 320 to 400 grit. Super fine sanding would be 600 grit and higher.

A select/premium board or plywood comes with a smoother surface finish. It is clear or has very few tight knots, and it will have straight and sharp edges. This grade of wood pairs well with other boards or panels better and requires less time to sand and finish.

Tools Used



10" Miter Saw



1/2" Drill/Driver



Jigsaw



Orbital Sander



Tape Measure



Drill Bits



Spade Bits



Safety Glasses



Scissors

Also Need:
Pocket Hole Jig
Clamps

Battery Tip: A 4.0 Ah battery is recommended to be paired with high amp draw tools for maximum efficiency.

Lumber Cut List

Board*	Description	Cut To	Qty
1" x 2" x 6' Board	Inner Frame Supports	24-1/4"	1
1" x 3" x 6' Board	Outer Frame Supports	24-1/4"	2
3/4" x 6' Dowel	Frame	24-1/4"	2

* Board dimensions are "nominal." Actual dimensions are smaller due to lumber industry standards. Cuts are actual length.

Assembly Instructions

Step 1

Use your miter saw to cut out all material using the Lumber & Sheet Cut Layout Guide.

Step 2

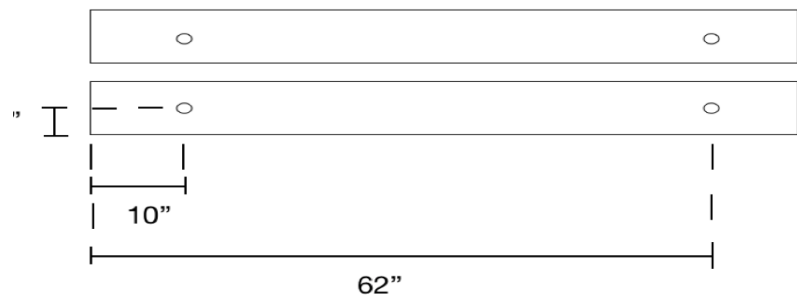
Measure and make the following marks along both (of the 2) 1" x 2" x 6' boards with a pencil.

10", 12", 28", 44", 60", 62". Each of these marks will correspond with either an inner or outer frame support piece later in the assembly.

Step 3

Lay the (2) 1" x 2" x 6' boards flat on their widest sides, side by side, and measure to center at the 10" and 62" marks (these are the marks closest to the ends of the boards). Mark the middle of the board in the 4 locations. The measurement should be 3/4" from each edge.

Once marked, use a drill to create holes at each of the four locations. We will attach (2) dowels to the rest of the chalkboard frame later.



Step 4

Laying each of the inner and outer frames supports flat on their widest face, measure and mark the center point along each end. These marks will match up to the longer outer frame pieces during the assembly process.

Step 5

Place 1" x 2" x 24.25" inner frame supports and 1" x 3" x 24.25" outer frame supports flat on their widest side. Use the pocket hole jig, pocket hole drill bit, and clamp to drill two pocket holes at each end of the boards. There should be 16 holes in total. Be sure to follow all safety and operating instructions included with your pocket hole jig to determine the drill and jig's depth settings.

Step 6

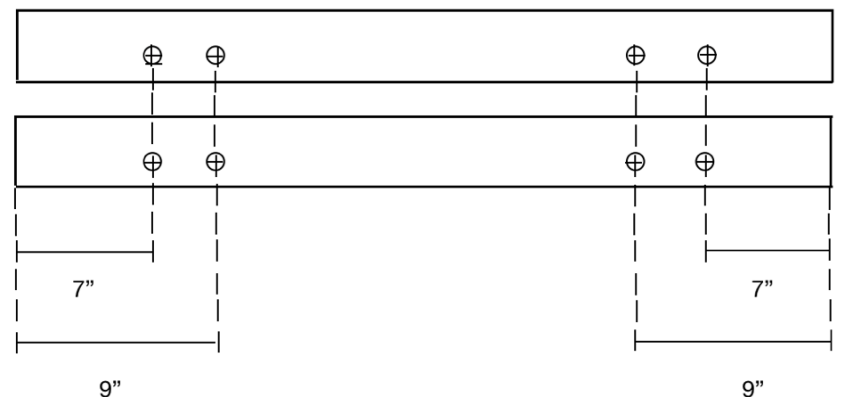
Next, measure and mark the holes for the leather straps on each of the (2) 1" x 3" x 24.25" outer frame supports.

Lay piece flat on its widest surface—measure and mark the board at 7" and 9" from the narrowest edge and 1/2" from the longest side.

Step 7

Use a 3/8" spade bit and drill to create holes at the spots marked in Step 6. These will be the outer edges of the leather strap holes.

Use a straight edge to draw two parallel lines along the outside edges of each set of (2) circles.



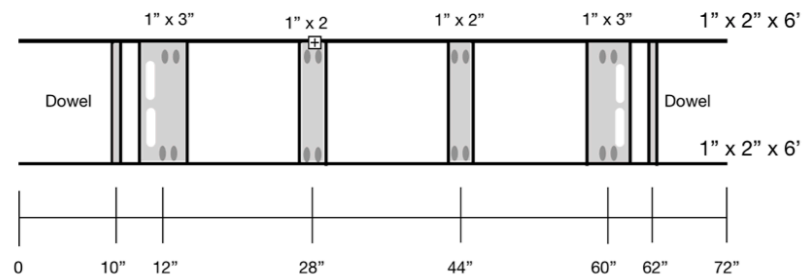
Step 8

Start inside one of the holes and cut along each of these lines using your jigsaw. You will completely cut out the area between the circles and discard any remnants.

Step 9

Layout the chalkboard frame, making sure that all the pieces sit flush and square with one another. Use the centerline markings on each piece to determine where to attach the rest of the frame.

It's important to note that the long 1" x 2" x 6' boards are to be laid on their 1" side so that their widest side faces toward the frame support pieces, and the 1" side rests on the work area. Below is the piece and location guide along the (2) 1" x 2" x 6' boards.



Pieces:

- (2) dowels - Position: 10" and 62"
- (2) 1" x 3" - Position: 12" and 60" - be sure to position the holes for the leather straps nearest the dowels.
- (2) 1" x 2" - Position: 28" and 44"



Tip - All pocket holes should be face up.

Step 10

Once you've determined that all the pieces fit correctly, it's time to connect them. Begin with one of the 1" x 3" outer frame supports. Again make sure to position the leather strap holes nearest the ends of the 1" x 6" x 6' boards.

Use pocket hole screws to secure the pieces together at 12" and 62". Ensure that the frame support pieces sit flush on the work surface as you drill them into place. We will need the space on top to attach the plywood sheet chalkboard.

Once both ends of the board are attached to the long sides, continue adding the remaining 1" x 3" and 1" x 2", using 16 pocket hole screws in total.




Tip - You can use corner clamps or a partner to help hold the pieces in place while drilling.

Step 11

With 1 1/2" screws, attach the dowels to each end of the chalkboard frame. Align the dowels between each of the two holes. Drill the screws in from outside of the frame. These are the only exposed screws in this project.

Step 12

Once you've assembled the pieces, fill the uppermost and lowermost pocket holes. These holes will be visible once you've installed the chalkboard sheet, so make sure you fill them using either pocket hole plugs and wood glue or wood putty. Be sure to cut or sand off any extra material for a smooth, flush finish.

 Tip - If desired, you can also use wood putty to cover the dowel screws' visible holes.

Step 13

While the wood glue or wood putty is drying on the frame, use chalkboard paint to paint the plywood sheet. Use a smooth foam roller to apply 2-3 coats of chalkboard paint. Let dry completely.

 Tip - Chalkboard paint, not to be confused with chalk paint, is available in many different colors like the green tone used in this project.

Step 14

Using the orbital sander, sand the entire assembled chalkboard frame to remove splinters and sharp edges. Begin with rougher/lower grit sandpaper, and make a second pass over the whole project using smoother/higher grit sandpaper for a soft, clean finish.

Step 15

To prepare the project for stain or paint, wipe the frame with a damp cloth. Ensure that all surfaces are free of dust and debris before moving on.

Step 16

Once the frame is clean and dry, it's time to apply the paint or stain product of your choosing. Consider using a polyurethane topcoat to protect your new chalkboard from weathering.


Step 17

While the stain is drying, cut out the leather strips using scissors or shears to make the decorative straps for the next step.

Cut the strips 1.5" wide by at least 7" tall. You will need four strips in total.


Step 18

Once your stained or painted chalkboard frame is dry, insert the first leather strip into one of the strap holes. Pull it through until both ends pass over the dowel and touch. Holding both ends taut together with the edges flush to one another, puncture a small hole directly through both ends, centered between the dowel and the end of the material. You can use a punch tool or make a hole using your drill.

 **Tip** - If using a drill to make the hole, be sure to hold the material tightly so that it doesn't twist with the drill bit.

Step 19

Once the holes are punched or drilled, connect the two ends of the leather straps by pinching them flush together around the dowel. Use a brad to hold the leather pieces together. Repeat for all four decorative straps.

 **Tip** - You can also use metal brads designed for purse making as an inexpensive way to pin your leather strips together.

Step 20

With the rest of the frame assembled, it's time to attach the chalkboard. Apply wood glue to the faces of the 1" x 2" inner frame support pieces first. Next, apply the glue to only the inner half of each of the (2) 1" x 3" outer support boards. The upper half of these boards will be visible once the project is complete.

Center the plywood sheet, painted side up, on the frame. Use the leather straps at each end as a guide for where to place the chalkboard, and once it's in position, press down firmly to slide it down into the frame. It should sit flush against the frame supports below. Use clamps or place a few heavy items on the chalkboard and let the glue dry overnight.

 **Tip - Be sure to wipe up any excess or exposed glue before drying.**

Step 21

Once your chalkboard is assembled and all glue is completely dry, it's time to season your new chalkboard. Lay a piece of chalk on its side and rub it over the entire chalkboard surface. When done, wipe all the chalk back off using a rag or chalkboard eraser. This step closes the pores in your new chalkboard so that drawings will adhere better in the future, and any markings will wipe away easier.

Step 22

DECORATE YOUR NEW CHALKBOARD FOR FALL!

Place the chalkboard inside or outside (as long as it's under a covered surface). Re-use and re-decorate it for any season or special occasion!