



Easy Home Bar Plan™ Builder's Tips Document

This is a common publication for all plans which should be read before starting your project. It will provide a few ideas for customizing your bar and for the novice wood worker, some helpful wood working tips and general instruction needed to complete the job properly.

Before you get started, print this document and the plan set for the project you wish to build. Next, you should watch the Flash based Assembly Movie for the associate plan. This should give you the "mile high" view of how the project goes together. If a picture tells a thousand words, then these assembly movies speak volumes.

Next, you should read through this document and the plans document. I try to keep things simple, so most of the info is presented in picture or 3D drawing format. If you have questions, you can log onto the www.barplans.info website and pull up the Builder's Forum for questions and answers or the Builder's Gallery for completed bar photo's and some great ideas for your project.

The plans provided on this site are intended to give you the majority of information to build your bar. Customization of the bar is up to the builder. As the Builder's Gallery clearly shows, no two bars are the same. There are too many applications to suggest them all, billiard rooms, living rooms, cottages, dorm rooms, poll-side and even military installations! The site is constantly evolving with new ideas and information. All for one low price!

Once you complete the bar, send us a photo or post your photo in the Builder's Gallery (it's self service) and if we see a great project, you could win a Black & Decker cordless drill.

Please read the notice / disclaimer at the bottom of this document.

Ok, let's get started!

These sections are an outline of what is required to build our projects. Some items may or may not apply to your project. It's a good idea to read these sections over before starting.

Here are some of the recommended tools you should have in your shop...

Safety First:

ALWAYS wear safety glasses when operating power tools, or even hand tools! Wear gloves when handling rough cut lumber to avoid a nasty sliver.

Basic Tools:

Hammer.
Hand Saw.
Pencil.
Tape Measure.
Combination Square.
Drill motor with Phillips Screwdriver bit.
Sand paper 80, 100 and 150 grit w/ hand block.
2 or more Bar Clamps.

Recommended Tools:

Circular saw with carbide rip and cross cut blades.
Jig Saw.
Cordless drill with Phillips Screwdriver bit.

Advanced Tools:

Table Saw.
Router with ¼" and ½" round-over bits.
Power Sander.

Power Tools:

Selecting the proper tool for the job is important. This project can be completed using a simple circular saw, however when making 90 or 45 degree cuts it is always recommended to use either a box miter or a compound miter saw.

If you do not have a miter saw be sure to use a hand square to mark each cut.

If you don't have power tools, you may want to consider investing in some inexpensive tools like a table saw and (especially) a compound miter saw and router.

Home Depot has a nice 10" Ryobi Table saw and Ryobi 10" Compound Miter Saw that goes on sale for only \$87 each! (regularly \$99 each)



Fasteners & Adhesives:

Wood Glue - Elmer's Professional Wood Glue.

PL-200 Construction adhesive (comes in a caulk gun tube)

Caulk gun.

2" and 2-1/2" drywall type screws.

6d - 2" finishing nails (see table below for size information)

Wood filler or putty (for finishing nail holes)

Size	Length	Gauge	Number per pound
2d	1 inch	16½	1,351
3d	1¼ inches	15½	807
4d	1½ inches	15	584
5d	1¾ inches	15	500
6d	2 inches	13	309
7d	2¼ inches	13	238
8d	2½ inches	12½	189
9d	2¾ inches	12½	172
10d	3 inches	11½	121
12d	3¼ inches	11½	113
16d	3½ inches	11	90
20d	4 inches	10	62

Stains, Varnish & Polyurethane:

I recommend sticking with basic tones. Red Oak, Cherry, Walnut and Maple tones for instance gets pretty "loud" looking. Keep your colors softer. Some good tone are natural, golden oak, ipswitch pine, etc. Mixing 2 different, similar or even contrasting tones for the bar top and bar trim could be interesting. Always experiment on scrap wood before making a final decision.

See samples below:



Sedona Red 222



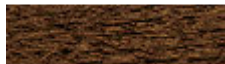
Cherry 235



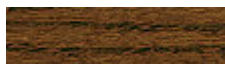
Natural 209



Golden Oak 210B



Jacobean 2750



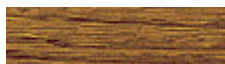
Dark Walnut 2716



Driftwood 2126



Ipswich Pine 221



Early American 230



Ebony 2718



English Chestnut 233



Special Walnut 224



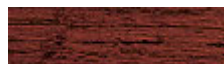
Pickled Oak 260



Fruitwood 241



Golden Pecan 245



Red Mahogany 225



Red Oak 215



Provincial 211



Puritan Pine 218



Colonial Maple 223

Materials:

It is completely acceptable to replace materials listed in the Materials list with higher quality woods or grades/types of lumber, such as Oak, birch, cherry, etc. You can also use laminate or marble bar tops and counters as you see fit. These materials will increase the overall price dramatically!

Materials Selection:

When purchasing materials be sure to inspect lumber and plywood for cracks, knots, color and warping. All was select straight boards with a desirable grain pattern which are free of putty fillers.

Saw blades:

There are two basic types of saw blades, Cross cut and ripping. Cross cut blades typically have more teeth which makes for finer cuts against the grain whereas ripping blades have fewer teeth and are used to with the grain.

There are also cheap blades and more expensive carbide blades. If you are on a budget and don't intend to get into woodworking and are only cutting pine, you can get by with the cheaper blades. If you intend to cut Oak boards, you **MUST** use a fine tooth carbide tipped blade. Otherwise you might as well use the oak for fire wood, since a cheap, dull blade will only create a lot of smoke and frustration.

Cutting:

Always Measure Twice, Cut Once.

When doing finish or cabinet trim cuts, it's better to cut a little long, then check the fit and finally trim to fit. A typical saw blade will eat about an eighth inch.

Be sure you leave the edge of the cut mark you made by just touching the line with the working edge of your saw blade.

Cutting Veneers and Paneling:

When using a circular saw to cut veneered plywood or paneling, always mark the back side of the work and cut with the good face DOWN. This will reduce splintering dramatically (see photo 1-1). If you are using a table saw, the opposite applies. This problem is usually associated with crosscutting.

Always test cut a scrap before you wind up ruining a good piece of material.



photo 1-1

Gluing and Finishing:

For strong 2x4 connections and for assembling paneling to OSB use a construction adhesive like PL-200 which comes in a caulk gun type tube. PL-200 may also be used to affix the bar base to a cement floor.

For Finishing adhesive, use Emler's type Wood Glue. Wipe excess away with a damp cloth, when dry, sand to remove any glue film which may show up when stain is applied.

Any holes from finishing nails should be covered with wood putty and all parts should be sanded prior to assembly. If using hardwoods, pre-drill (pilot) all screw or nail holes.

Cutting Straight:

For long straight cuts using a circular saw, use a homemade "fence" guide clamped on to your work. Always run the inside edge of your circular saw against the fence.

Measure the distance from the inside (left or short gap) edge of the saw base plate to the working edge of the saw blade. Add that distance to your

Lumber Sizes:

Note to Canadian, Australian or UK builders: US stock sizes are not the same as actual sizes. Please adjust as required.

2"x4" or two by four inch construction grade studs.

Actual size = 1.5"x 3.5"

2"x6" or two by six inch construction grade.

Actual size = 1.5"x 5.5"

1"x4" and 1"x6" standard pine board.

Actual sizes are .75" x 3.5" and .75" x 5.5" respectively

Getting started with your Project Plans:

You will notice the plans are broken down into three basic sections, the Materials List, the Cut List and the Assembly instructions.

Use this document and the Material list as your shopping guide. You can get everything in one trip, but it's a good bet you'll be making a few trips to the store. The first trip should include everything in the Material's List. Your next trip will probably include edge trim, stain, paint and polyurethane. You may also decide that a laminate top or tile top is your thing. Talk with your Home Depot or Lowe's Home Center people, they can offer loads of good information.

The Cut list items can be pre cut in advance, but it's better to stick with pre-cutting only the lumber (2x4) parts. Final trim should ALWAYS be measured twice & cut once. Trim measurements are provided by our CAD system and may not match any alterations or inaccuracies you may have made in the building process.

If you are installing your bar in a basement, bet sure you know the profile of the floor! Most basement floor are NOT level and may require small adjustments to the leg lengths to get a level bar top.

The Assembly instructions are very easy to follow. Item numbers within a circle relate to the CUT LIST item numbers. This way we don't have a mass of dimension lines cluttering the drawings. Detail dimensions are provided as needed.

Thanks again and Have Fun!

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