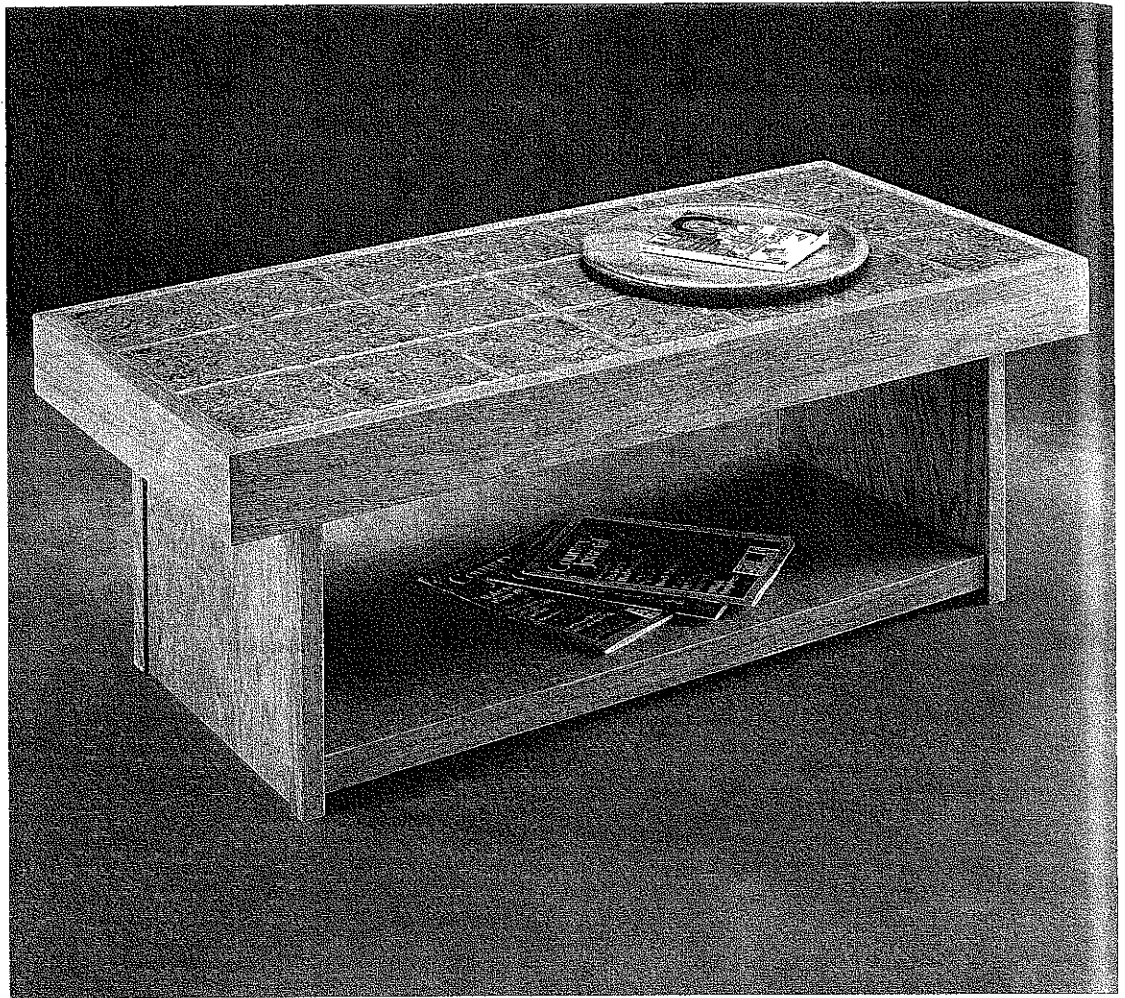


PROJECT
POWER TOOLS



Tile-top Coffee Table

The dramatic, contrasting textures of floor tiles and warm red oak will make you forget that this table is designed to create storage.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Quantity	Lumber
1	$\frac{3}{4}$ " \times 4 \times 8' oak plywood
2	1 \times 2" \times 8' oak
2	1 \times 4" \times 8' oak
1	$\frac{3}{8}$ " \times $\frac{3}{8}$ " \times 8' oak corner molding

Functionally, the trim size and the ample proportions of the storage shelf are the two most important features of this tile-top coffee table. But most people won't notice that. They'll be too busy admiring the striking tile table-top and the clean oak lines of the table base.

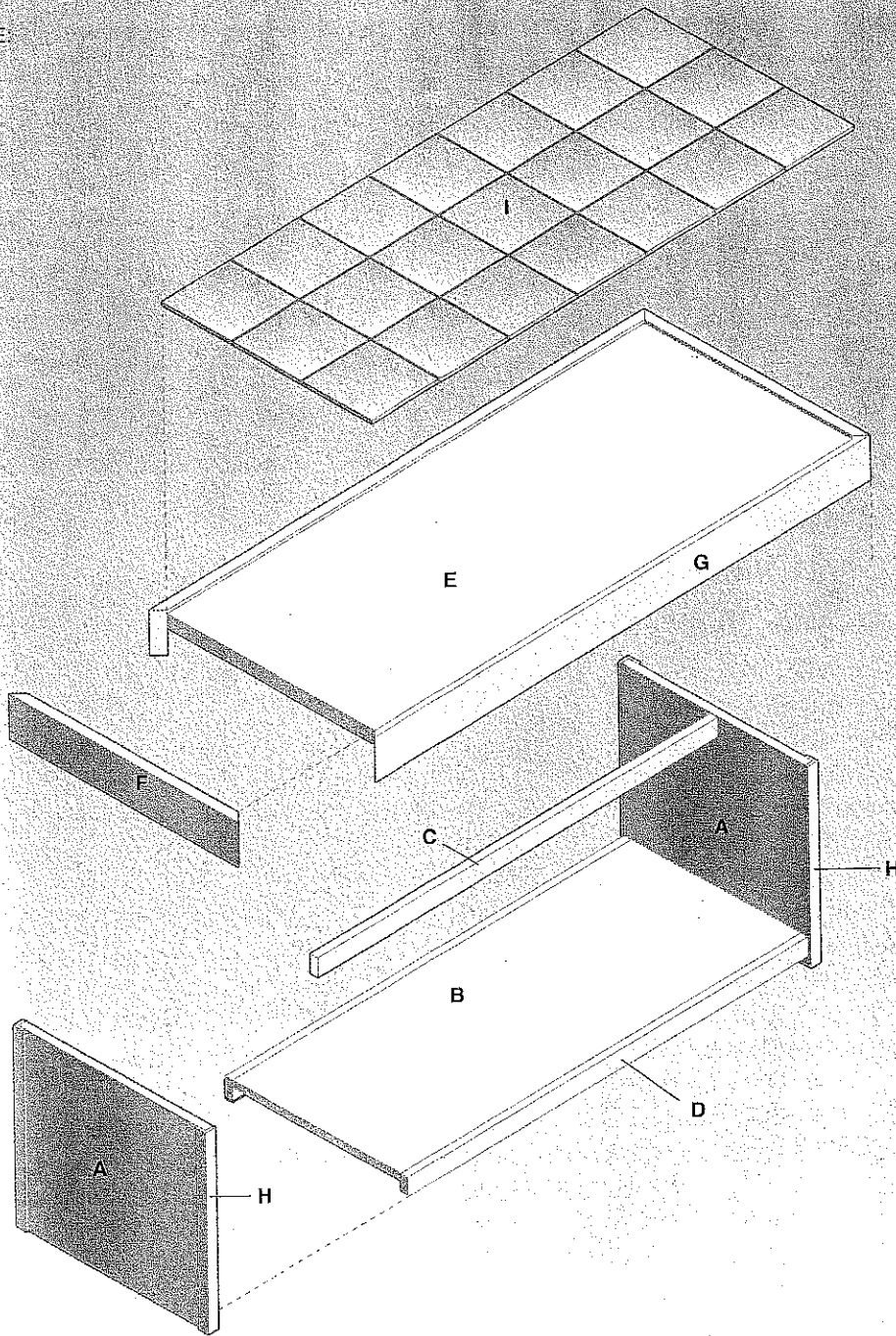
Measuring a convenient 45" long \times 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, this coffee table will fit nicely even in smaller rooms. The shelf below is ideal for storing books,

magazines, newspapers, photo albums or anything else you want to keep within arm's reach when sitting on your sofa.

We used 6 \times 6" ceramic floor tiles for our coffee table, but you can use just about any type or size of floor tile you want—just be sure to use floor tile, not wall tile, which is thinner and fractures more easily.

After you've built this tile-top coffee table, you may like it so much that you'll want to build a tile-top end table to match.

OVERALL SIZE:
16" HIGH
20 1/4" WIDE
45" LONG



Cutting List

Key	Part	Dimension	Pcs.	Material
A	Side panel	3/4" x 16" x 15"	2	Plywood
B	Shelf panel	3/4" x 14 1/2" x 35"	1	Plywood
C	Stringer	3/4" x 1 1/2" x 35"	1	Oak
D	Shelf edge	3/4" x 1 1/2" x 35"	2	Oak
E	Top panel	3/4" x 18 3/4" x 43 1/2"	1	Plywood

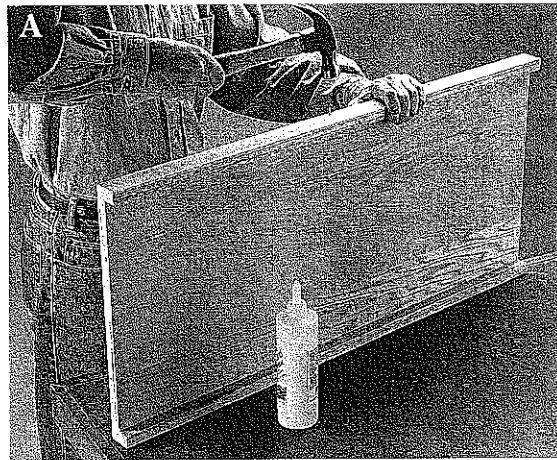
Cutting List

Key	Part	Dimension	Pcs.	Material
F	End skirt	3/4" x 3 1/2" x 20 1/4"	2	Oak
G	Side skirt	3/4" x 3 1/2" x 45"	2	Oak
H	Corner trim	7/8" x 7/8" x 15"	4	Corner molding
I	Table tiles	1/4" x 6" x 6"	21	Ceramic

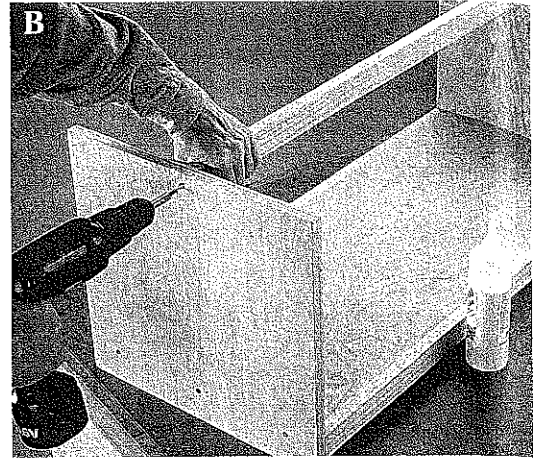
Materials: #6 x 1 1/2" wood screws, 3d and 6d finish nails, 3/8"-dia. oak plugs, wood glue, finishing materials, ceramic tile adhesive, tinted grout, 3/16" plastic tile spacers, silicone grout sealer.

Specialty tools: V-notch adhesive trowel, rubber mallet, grout float.

Note: Measurements reflect the actual size of dimension lumber.



Fasten the shelf edges to the shelf panel with glue and 6d finish nails.

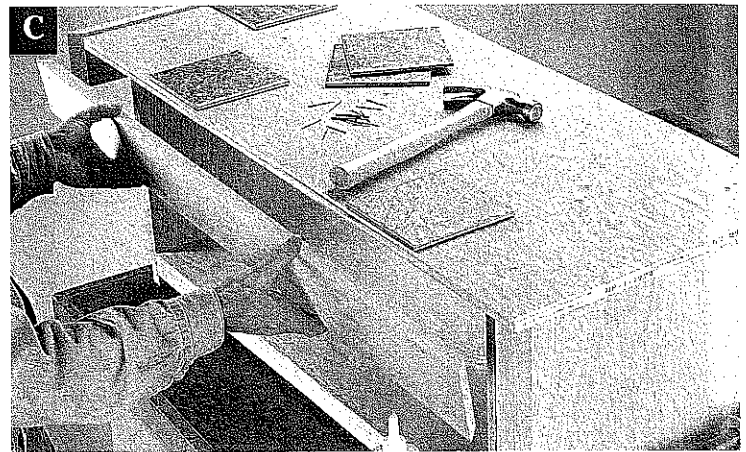


Secure the stringer in place with glue and screws.

Directions: Tile-top Coffee Table

ASSEMBLE THE TABLE BASE.

1. Cut the side panels (A) and shelf panel (B) to size using a circular saw and a straightedge as a cutting guide. Sand the faces of the plywood smooth with medium-grit sandpaper.
2. Cut the shelf edges (D) to length.
3. Fasten the shelf edges to the shelf panel with glue and 6d finish nails (**photo A**). Be sure to drill $\frac{3}{32}$ " pilot holes through the edge pieces so you don't split them. Keep the top surfaces of the shelf edges and shelf panel flush when fastening.
4. Position the shelf upright, and set the shelf edging on $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick spacers. Stand a side panel upright on its bottom edge, against the end of the shelf panel. Keep



Miter-cut and attach one skirt board at a time to ensure a proper fit.

- the edges of the side panel flush with the outside surfaces of the shelf edging. Drill $\frac{5}{64}$ " pilot holes through the side panels and into the edges of the shelf panel. Counterbore the holes $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep, using a $\frac{3}{8}$ " counterbore bit. Fasten the side panel to the shelf panel with glue and $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wood screws. Fasten the other side panel to the shelf panel.
5. Cut the stringer (C) to length.
 6. Position the stringer between the side panels, flush with the top edges and centered midway across the side panels. Clamp it in place with a bar or pipe clamp. Drill pilot holes through the side panels and into the stringer. Counterbore the holes.

Remove the clamps and secure the stringer with glue and $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wood screws (**photo B**).

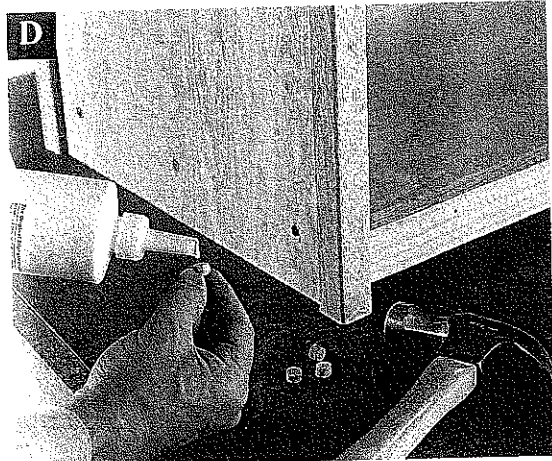
MAKE THE TABLETOP FRAME.

The tabletop frame is a plywood panel framed with 1×4 oak. The joints in the 1×4 frame are mitered—you can use most manual miter boxes to cut a 1×4 placed on edge, but a power miter box is ideal for the job.

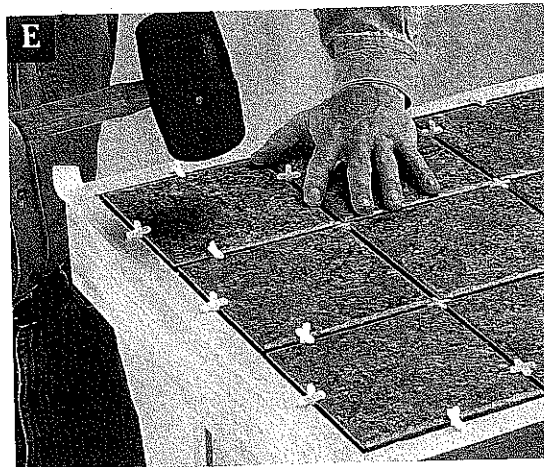
1. Cut the top panel (E) to size, using a circular saw and a straightedge as a cutting guide.
2. Position the top panel on the side panels. Be sure to leave an equal overhang on the ends.

TIP

Ceramic tile varies greatly in size and style. This tabletop design is based on using 6×6 " tiles with $\frac{3}{16}$ " gaps between tiles. If you use tiles of a different size, you may need to resize the plywood table panel to fit your layout. Or, you can have the tiles cut to fit at the tile store.



Fill all visible screw holes with oak plugs.



Tap the tiles lightly with a rubber mallet to set them firmly in the adhesive.

and sides. Drill pilot holes through the top panel and into the side panels and stringer. Counterbore the holes. Fasten with glue and 1½" wood screws.

3. Cut the end skirts (F) and side skirts (G) to length. Although the *Cutting List* on page 79 gives exact dimensions for these parts, it's best to cut the first part slightly longer than specified. Then, custom-cut it to fit. Cut all the other skirt boards to length, using the first board as a guide (photo C).

4. Using a tile as a gauge, position the skirt pieces to create a lip slightly higher than the top of the tile. Drill pilot holes through the skirt boards, and fasten the boards to the edges of the top panel with glue and 6d finish nails.

FASTEN THE CORNER TRIM.

1. Cut the corner trim (H) pieces to length.
2. Fasten the corner trim to the side panel edges with glue and 3d finish nails—be sure to drill ¼" pilot holes through the trim pieces to prevent splitting.

FINISH THE WOOD.

For clean results, perform the finishing steps on the table

before installing the tile.

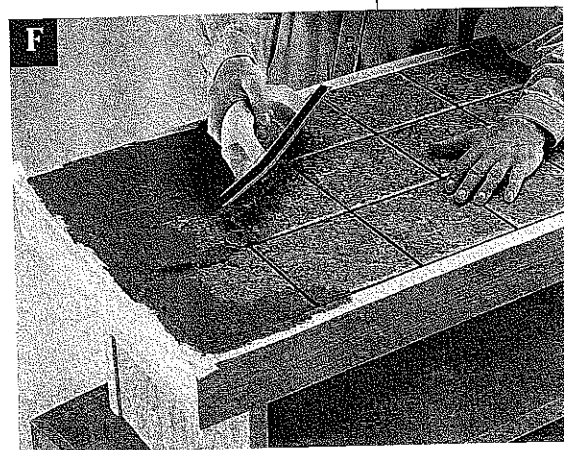
1. Fill all visible screw holes with oak plugs, and sand them flush with the surface (photo D). Finish-sand the entire coffee table, and apply sanding sealer to all exposed surfaces except the top panel. Let the sealer dry thoroughly. Then, lightly sand the sealed surfaces with 180- or 220-grit sandpaper.
2. Apply stain to the sealed oak surfaces, if desired. Then, apply two or three light coats of polyurethane.

INSTALL THE CERAMIC TOP.

1. Once the finish has dried, mask off the top edges of the skirts to protect the finished surfaces.
2. Test-fit the table tiles (I). Apply a layer of tile adhesive over the entire table surface, using a V-notch adhesive trowel. Line the borders of the table surface with plastic spacers. (We used ⅜" spacers with 6" ceramic floor tile to make a surface that fits inside the tabletop frame.)
3. Begin setting tiles into the adhesive, working in straight lines. Insert plastic spacers between tiles to maintain an even gap. Tap each tile lightly with a rubber mallet to set it into the

adhesive (photo E). Once the tiles have been set in place, remove the spacers, and let the adhesive set overnight.

4. Use a grout float to apply a layer of grout to the tile surface so it fills the gaps between tiles (photo F). Wipe excess grout from the tile faces with a damp sponge. Let the grout dry for about 30 minutes (check manufacturer's directions). Wipe off the grout film from the tiles with a dry cloth, wiping diagonally across the grout joints. Let the grout set for at least a week. Then, apply silicone grout sealer to the grout joints, following manufacturer's directions.



Use a grout float to apply tile grout in the gaps between tiles in the tabletop.