



No Sew Lap Desk

Free step-by-step plans to build a DIY lap desk.



MATERIALS & TOOLS

SHOPPING LIST:

- 1/4" foam core board
- Poly Foam 3" x 15" x 17"
- Burlap fabric, 1 yard
- PureBond plywood
- Edge tape
- Stencil (or make your own)
- Epoxy glue

TOOLS:

- Measuring tape
- Pencil
- Box cutter
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Iron
- Circular saw
(if you are cutting your own plywood)

CUT LIST:

- Foam board 14" x 16"
- Burlap 24" x 26"
- PureBond Plywood 14.5" x 17.5"



FEATURING

 PureBond.®

FORMALDEHYDE-FREE TECHNOLOGY



STEP 1

Please read through the entire plan and all comments before beginning this project. Take all necessary precautions to build safely and smartly. Work on a clean level surface, free of imperfections or debris. Be safe, have fun, and ask for help if you need it. Good luck!

Purchase Foam board from Hobby Lobby. This is about 18" x 30" and will make 2 lap desks. I purchased at 30% off for under \$1.50. Check HobbyLobbyStores.Com for a 40% off coupon!

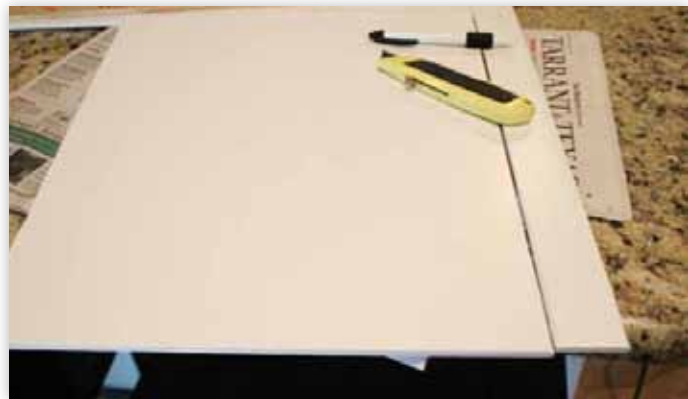
Also purchase Poly Foam - 3" x 15" x 17" from Hobby Lobby (30% off also at about \$5). You will need one of these per lap desk



STEP 2

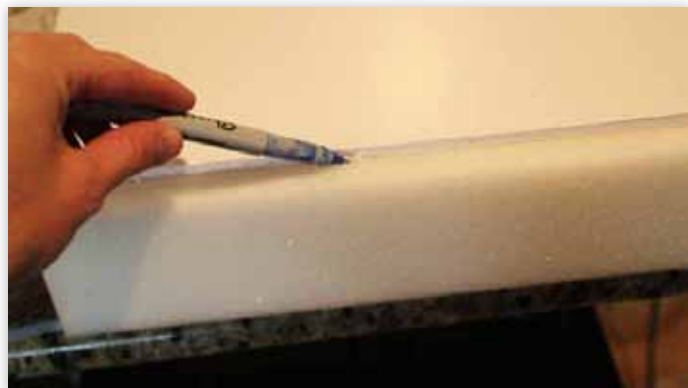
Mark a line on the foam board measuring a 14" x 16" piece and cut using box cutters. You will need to use quite a bit of force when cutting and cut slow.

You will probably need to repeat until you are all the way through the back of the foam board. This will ensure a smooth clean cut.



STEP 3

Now, lay the foam board on the foam cushion and trace around the foam board (you want these to be the same size) and cut with a large kitchen knife. Use the same technique as you did with the foam board for a nice clean cut!





STEP 4

Spread hot glue on one side of the foam board and attach the foam cushion. Then spread hot glue on one side of the foam board and attach the foam cushion.

I chose to wrap the cushion with burlap and purchased 1 yard (1 yard will make two lap desks). I cut the burlap at 24" x 26" and placed the foam/foam board on top of it with the foam board side facing UP.



STEP 5

Using a hot glue gun, start wrapping the burlap around the foam like a present, securing with glue as you go. I chose the shorter sized to have the folds.

Done! Wrapped and flipped over.





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STEP 5

Now for the beautiful top!
I wanted a beautiful stained top for the lap desks so of course, I turned to Purebond plywood.

You can purchase the Purebond two ways, depending on how many lap desks you are making:

1. I purchased a 3/4" 4' x 8' sheet of birch at Home Depot. One sheet will make 15 lap desks... or give you a lot of scraps for later projects (cost for the sheet is \$42 making the cost for the "top" \$3 each)
2. You can special order a 2' x 4' panel from www.HomeDepot.com. (<http://bit.ly/Wvg34h>) One sheet will make 3 lap desks. (cost for the sheet is \$15.75 making the cost for the "top" about \$5 each)

Either way you choose to purchase, you can have the nice guys at Home Depot rip the panels into 14.5" boards. I take it home at that point and cut to size but if you do not have a saw, you can have the guys actually cut the tops completely. **Tell them to make the cuts 14.5" x 17.5"**

We love PureBond for so many reasons and here are just a few:

- It uses Formaldehyde-free glue (scary to think we have been breathing in harmful chemicals until now)
- It's made in America... Whoop!!!
- It's made with wood from sustainable forests
- It's extremely easy to work with
- It is available at any Home Depot
- Birch and oak are in stock and you can also order hickory, maple, you name it and have it delivered to your store.
- Biggest selling point for us... it's beautiful! You get the look of real hard wood for a fraction of the cost!





STEP 6

If you are cutting at home, it helps to put a piece of painters tape over your cut line to prevent the wood from splintering on the end. It makes for a really nice clean edge. Cut at 17.5" making your tops 14.5" x 17.5".

Now because we want the top to look like a beautiful piece of solid wood, we have to use edge banding to cover up the plywood edges.

You can purchase a roll at Home Depot. You will find it near the Purebond panels. It is SOOOO easy to apply. Just iron on all 4 edges and cut to size by scoring with box cutters.



STEP 7

Now for the finish!

I am so in love with the Early American stain by Rust-Oleum so I chose this color to stain the PureBond tops! I used a foam brush to apply 1 coat on the top and sides.

You will definitely need to seal this and I chose Ultimate Polyurethane by Rust-Oleum to protect the finish. I applied 1 coat with a bristle brush.





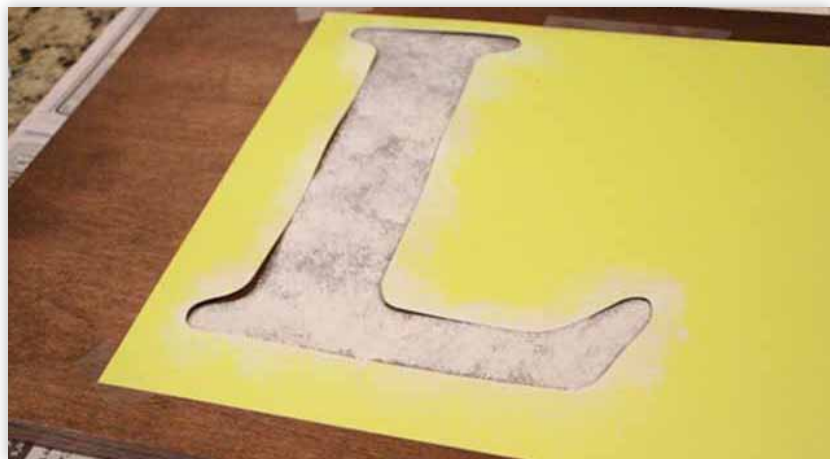
STEP 8

Now to personalize.

I used my silhouette to cut an "L" stencil (initial of name). You can find so many great stencils at your local craft store if you do not have a silhouette.

I chose a cream colored latex paint that I already had on hand to dry brush the monogram. To dry brush, blot your paint brush until it is almost dry and blot all over the stencil.

I like the roughed-up look it gives the paint.



STEP 9

To attach the top to our lap desk, I applied a generous amount of Gorilla Glue Epoxy along the outer edges and the center of the foam board side of the lap desk.





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STEP 10

That's it! I love that you can personalize this any way you choose! It would make a great gift for kids, teachers, in-laws, you name it. It's so versatile, inexpensive and thoughtful! I think I need one for myself.



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Available at most Home Depot stores.