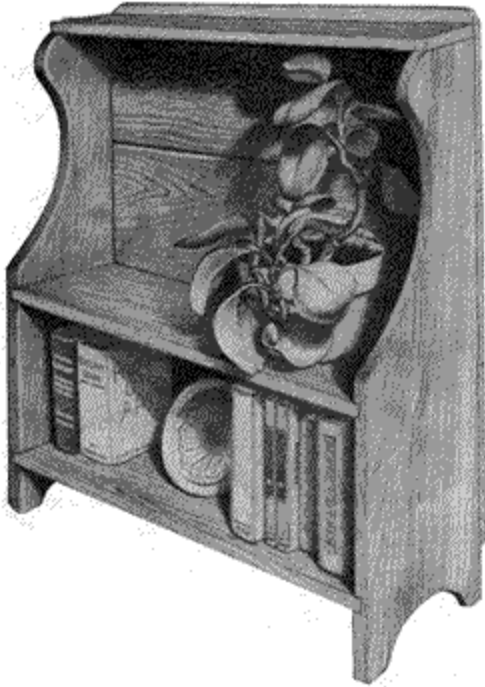


# Project 10415EZ: Colonial Water Bench



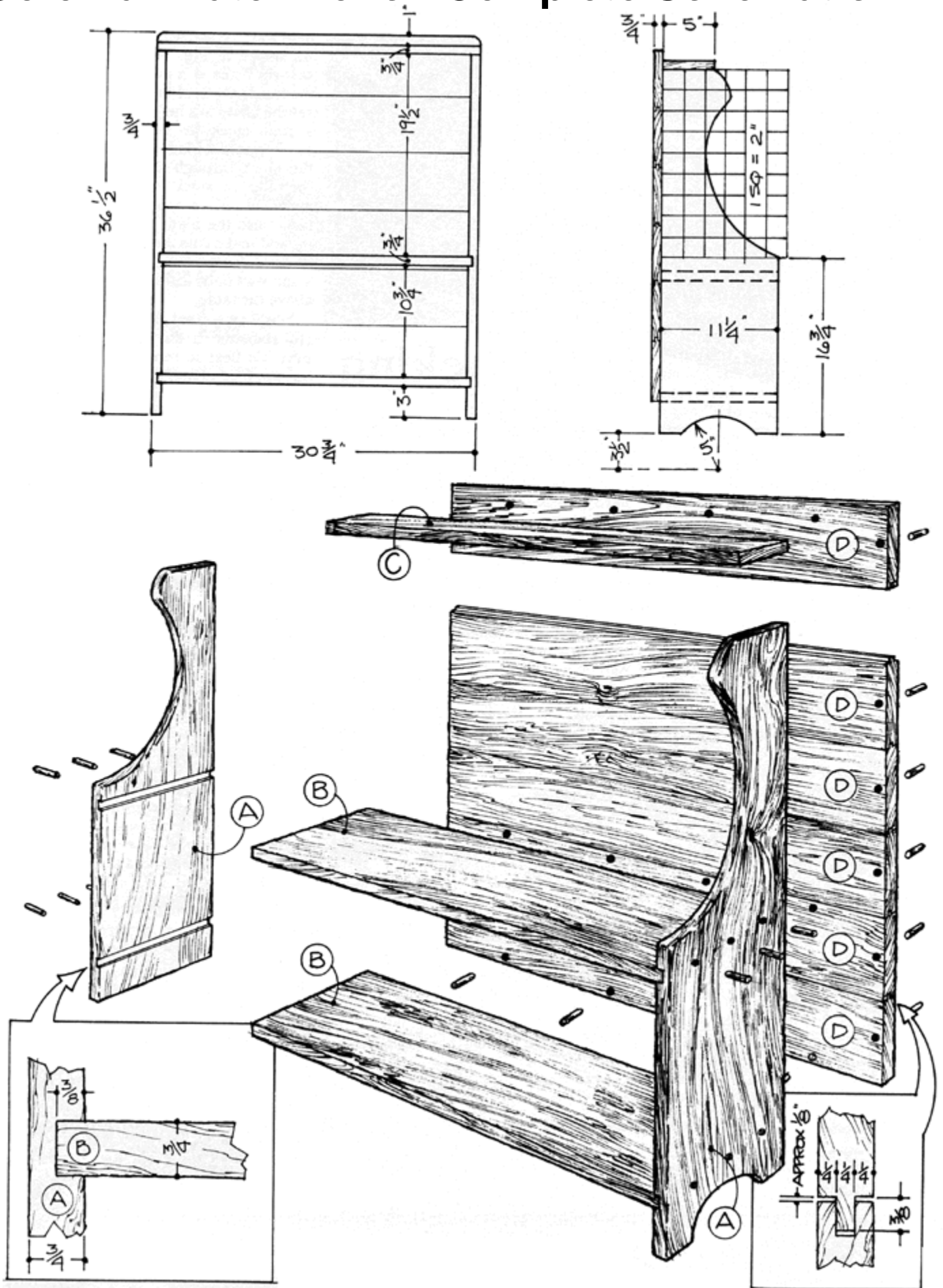
*Colonial Americans didn't have the luxury of turning on a tap to get fresh water. Back then, the family's water supply was usually in the form of several large buckets of water, all conveniently stored on a piece of furniture appropriately called a water bench. Filling the buckets was a regular chore, usually assigned to one of the children, and it meant a trek to the well or nearby stream.*

*We've seen the benches in many sizes and shapes, but this design has to be one of our favorites. We found it in the book *The Pine Furniture of Early New England* by Russell Hawes Kettell, Dover Publications. We made only minor dimensional changes, the most important one being a change in stock thickness from 1" to 3/4". We felt this change was worthwhile since many of our readers prefer to work with 3/4" thick stock.*

## Colonial Water Bench Materials List

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd
A	End	3/4" x 11-1/4" x 34-3/4"	2
B	Shelf	3/4" x 11-3/4" x 30"	2
C	Top	3/4" x 5" x 30-3/4"	1
D	Back	3/4" x 5-1/2" x 30-3/4"	6

# Colonial Water Bench Complete Schematic



# Colonial Water Bench Step-by-Step Instructions

## Step 1: Make the Sides (A)

1. Select standard 1" x 12" lumberyard stock (which measures 3/4" thick by 11-1/4" wide) to make the sides (A).
2. Cut the sides (A) to the specified dimensions.
3. Equip the table saw with a dado-head set for a 3/8" deep cut to cut the dados in the sides that will hold the shelves (B).
4. Use the miter gauge to push the stock through the cutter and make the dados.
5. Transfer the curved profile for the sides (A) from the grid pattern to the stock.
6. Cut out the profile with a band or saber saw.

## Step 2: Make the Back (D)

1. Select standard 1" x 6" stock (which measures 3/4" thick by 5-1/2" wide) to make the back (parts D).
2. Use the table saw equipped with the dado-head set to a 3/8" deep cut to cut the tongue and groove joints.

## Step 3: Make the Shelves (B) and Top (C)

1. Select standard 1" x 12" stock to make the two shelves (parts B).
2. Cut the shelves to the specified dimensions
3. Cut the top (part C) to the specified dimensions.

## Step 4: Sand, Assemble, and Finish

1. Start with 80-grit sandpaper to remove the planer marks, then progress to 100-, 150-, and 220-grit to thoroughly sand all parts.
2. Assemble parts A to B with glue and clamps.
3. Check for squareness and adjust as necessary.
4. Allow the glue to dry overnight.
5. Remove all clamps.
6. Drill holes for dowel pins as shown.
7. Cut each dowel pin slightly over length.
8. Add glue and drive the dowel pins into place.
9. Trim the excess with a dovetail saw before sanding smooth.
10. Add the top (part C) and back (parts D) in the same manner.

11. Final sand the bench with 220-grit paper.
12. Round the corners generously to simulate years of wear.
13. Apply two coats of Minwax's Early American Wood Finish to produce a good color.
14. Complete the project with an application of Minwax's Antique Oil Finish.

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