



PROJECTS

Put your feet up in style

*Build this solid hardwood frame ottoman
and put your feet up in style and comfort.*



by Tom Hurley

For most of us, putting our feet up at the end of a hard day is a soothing part of the ritual of relaxing. And next to a comfortable chair, a footstool may be the most important accessory in the fine art of getting comfortable.

Feet, however, can be just as fussy as our seats and backs when it comes to giving our bodies a sitting holiday. This month, to complement your relaxing chair, **Canadian Workshop** offers plans for a solid hardwood frame ottoman that you can custom-dimension to be a treat both for your eyes and your feet.

Tom Hurley is a Toronto, Ont. freelance writer and cabinetmaker.

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PROJECTS...

Build an ottoman

MATERIALS

- About 12' BM (Board Measure) of 2"-thick hardwood, planed down to 1³/₄" thickness. Black walnut was used for the piece shown.
- ³/₈" diameter dowel stock.
- plastic resin glue
- teak oil
- 3"-thick medium-soft foam plus a fabric or leather cushion cover.

STOCK PREPARATION

Slats: enough 1³/₄"-thick stock 16¹/₂" long for seven curved ³/₄"-thick slats.

Sides: 2 pcs. 20"x2¹/₂"x1³/₄".

Legs: 4 pcs. 14"x2¹/₂"x1³/₄".

CONSTRUCTION

Note: Dimensions shown in the drawing were chosen for maximum comfort with a specific chair. To pamper your own feet, consider making a rough plywood mock-up (Photo 1) with adjustable clamp-on legs to ascertain the best heights and angle for you and your favourite chair. A footstool which slopes downwards away from the chair seat allows the lower leg to be supported equally by both calf and ankle. Turning such a sloped ottoman around also gives the user the option of a banked support for the bottom of the feet.

The top of the footstool cushion shown is a little more than an inch lower than the chair's seat cushion to prevent the underside of the lower thigh from being lifted uncomfortably off the leading edge of the seat.

1. As Photo 2 shows, a flexible stick held to a curve with cable and turn-

buckle will help you make a pattern for the curve of the slats, which dip about ⁵/₁₆" at the centre. Band saw the seven slats, sand or plane faces smooth, then round over all four long edges (but not ends) with router and ³/₈"-radius rounding-over bit.

2. Lay out the side members as

shown in the drawing. A full-scale paper pattern will help you establish the angle of the curved sides in relation to the horizon so that the notches for the leg joints will be precisely vertical in the assembled piece. Photo 3 shows how a small wedge-shaped piece (black in photo) temporarily glued to the left end



Photo 1

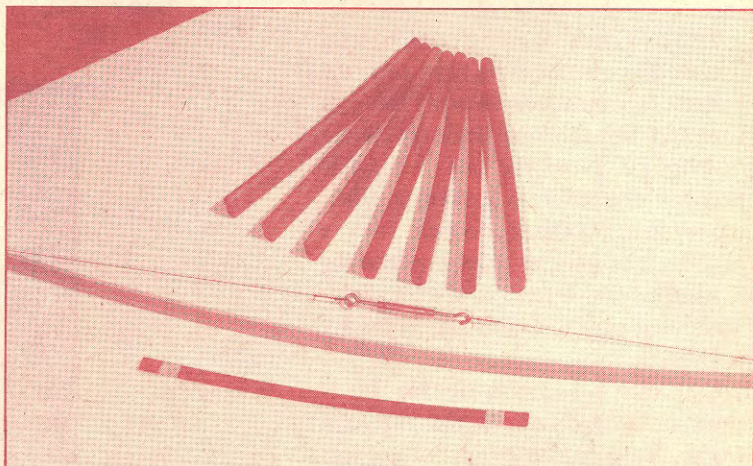


Photo 2