

Small Japanese Style Bookcase

Standing just 31 1/2 inches tall, this small bookcase is big on design features. And the construction methods will help advance your woodworking skills.



When I designed this bookcase, I needed something that wasn't overbearing. After looking at different heights, I settled on 31-1/2 inches which gives 2 shelves that will hold even tall books. The width being just under 24 inches gives the bookshelf nice proportions and reasonable space for books and display objects. To provide even more space I built two of these bookcases.

Check out these videos for construction steps

<https://youtu.be/893l3aegcrg> - Video 1

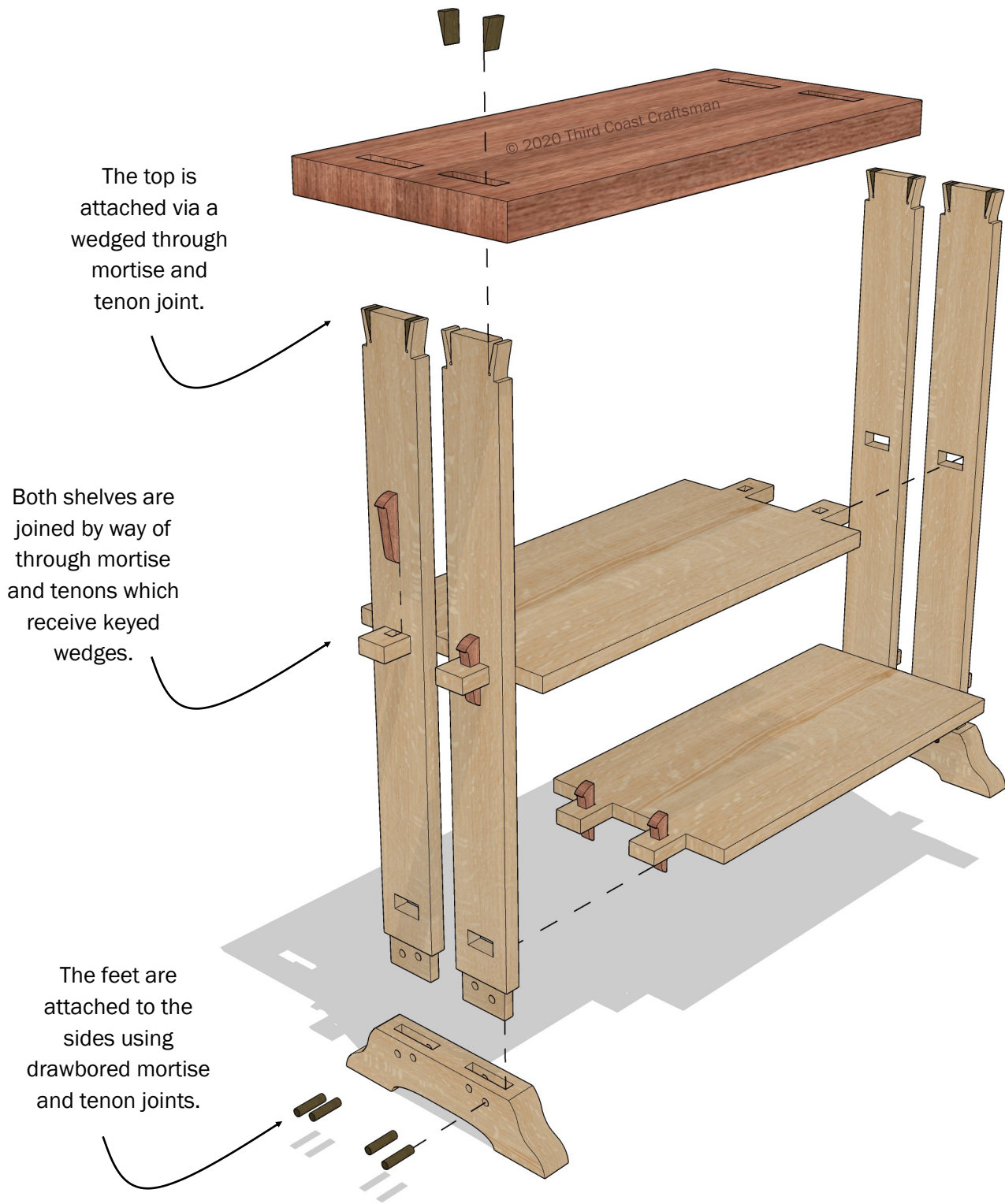
<https://youtu.be/XlG2ophUYpk> - Video 2

<https://youtu.be/TnYzY93seg8> - Draw-bored mortise and tenon

<https://youtu.be/5qa2wvn1pGY> - Wedged mortise and tenon

<https://youtu.be/Y4ycnyTvD4A> - Keyed wedged mortise and tenon

Construction Methods



Cut List & Diagram

Description	Length x Width x Thickness	Quantity
Side	30 x 3 x 3/4"	4
Foot	12-1/2 x 3 x 1-1/2"	2
Shelf	26 x 10-1/2 x 3/4"	2
Keyed Wedge	3 x 1 x 1/2"	8
Top	26 x 11-1/2 x 1-1/2"	1

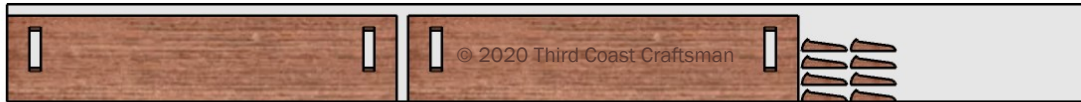
Board feet: Jatoba = 3.19, white oak = 5.5

Miscellaneous

You will need a stick of 3/8" dowel stock for the pegs at the foot of the bookcase.

The top and keyed wedges are made from jatoba. This material is typically available in non-standard sizes at a specialty lumber supplier. The example below shows the top as a two piece glue-up. Get the wedges for the top from the jatoba board as well.

▼ 6" x 6' and is 1-1/2" thick.

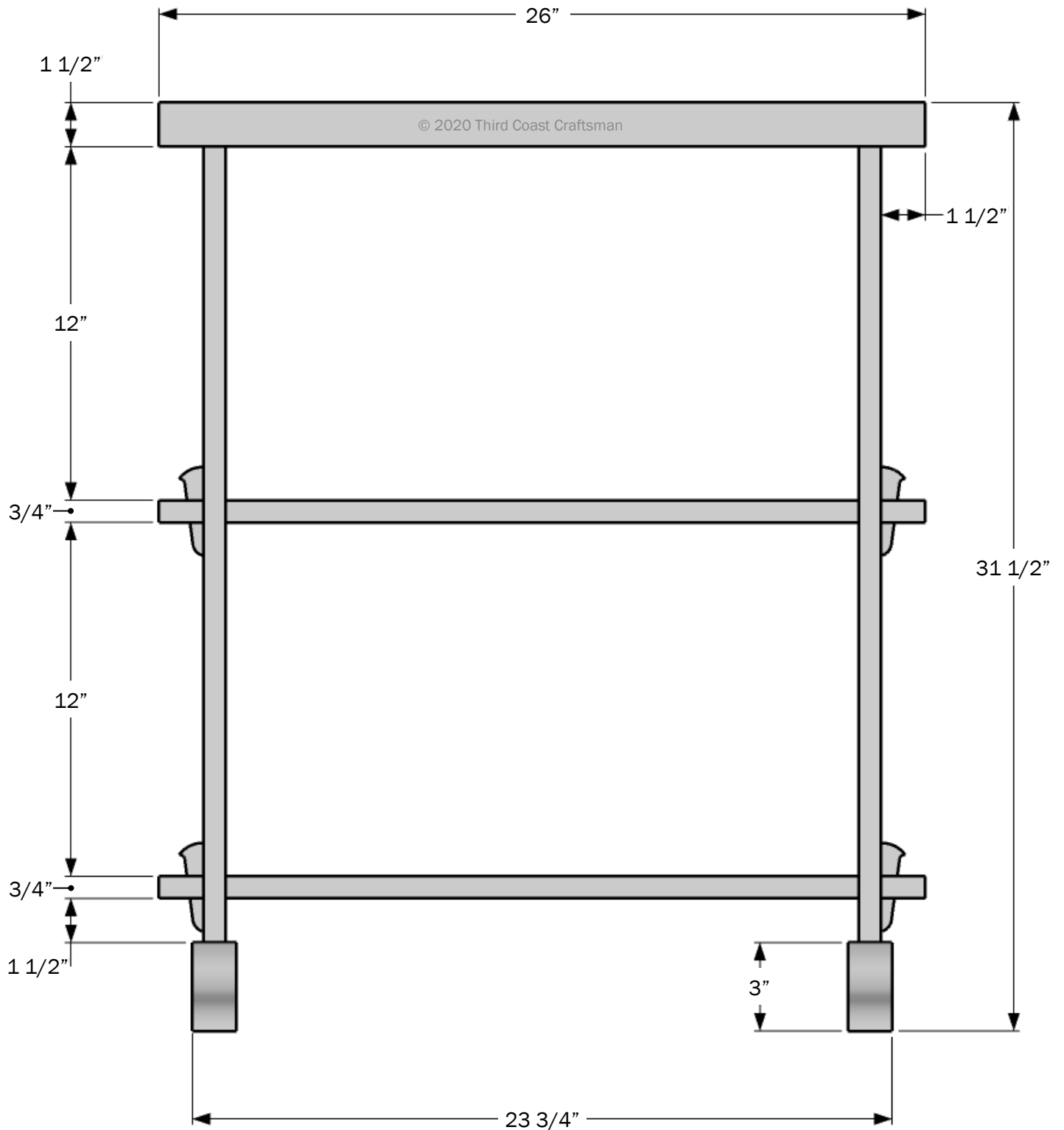


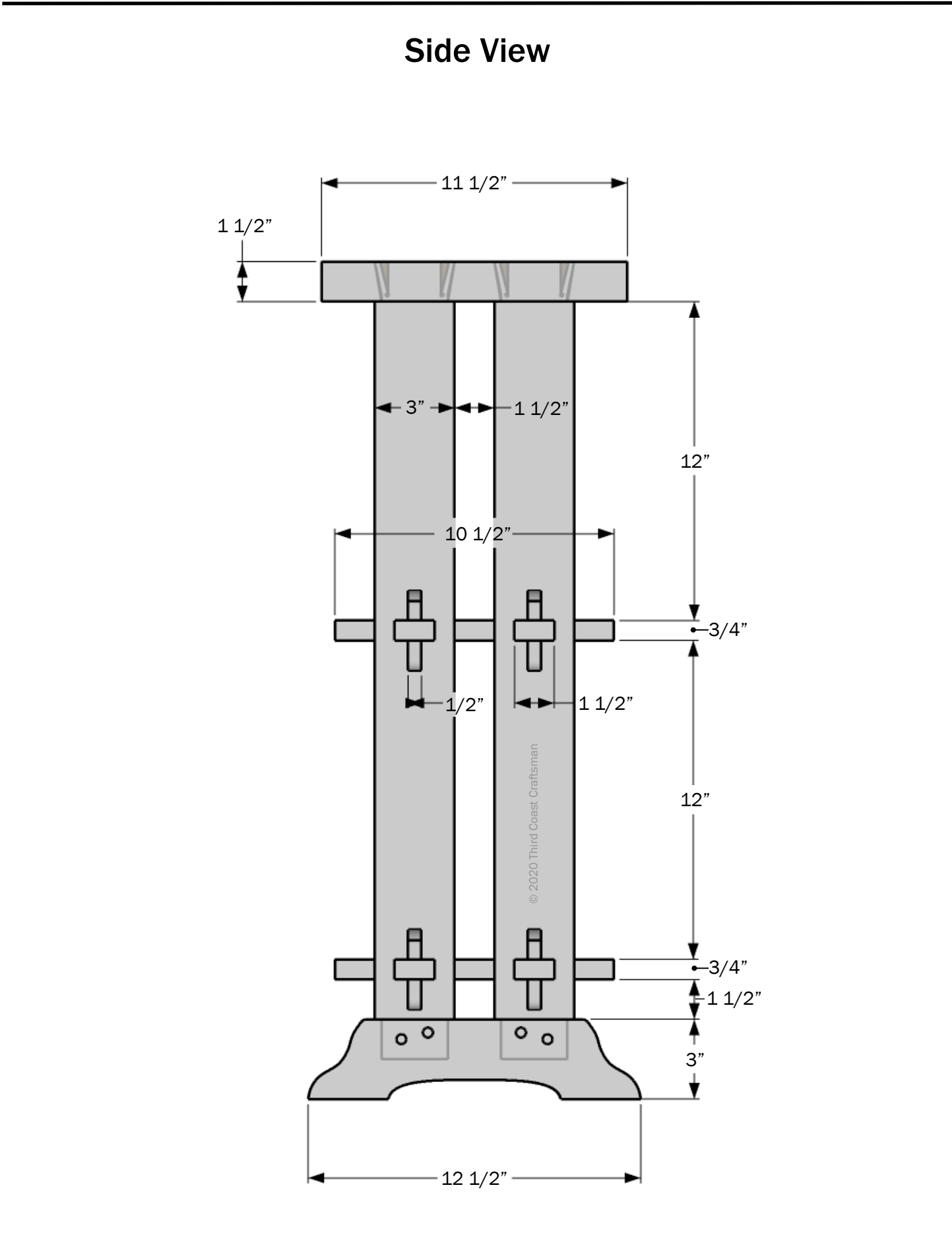
For the parts below, I used white oak from my specialty lumber supplier, but I have arranged the components below based on home center lumber. The shelves are a two piece glue-up and to get the needed thickness for the feet, they are a glue-up of two pieces.

▼ 6' x 8' x 1" boards of oak.



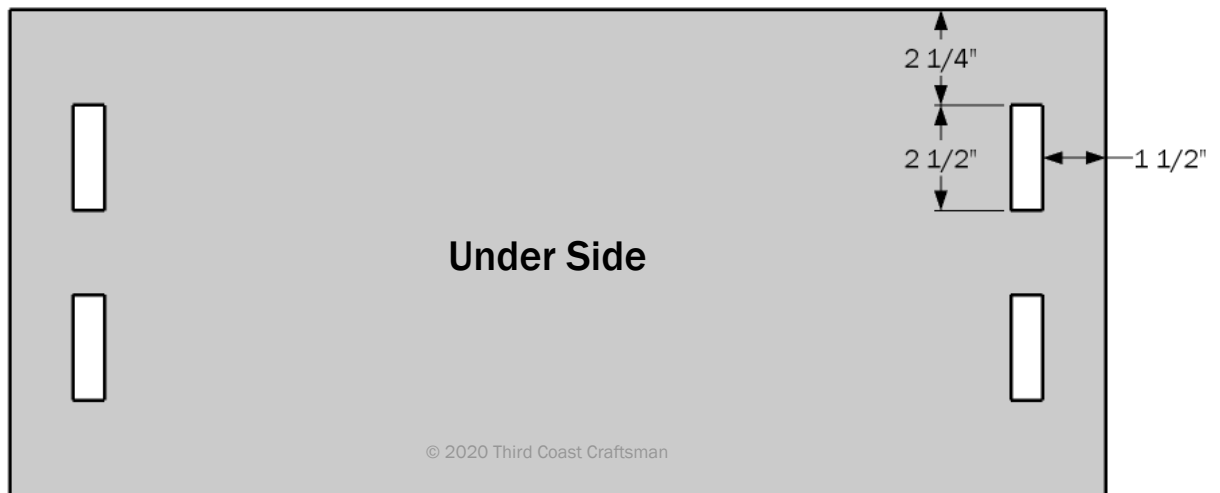
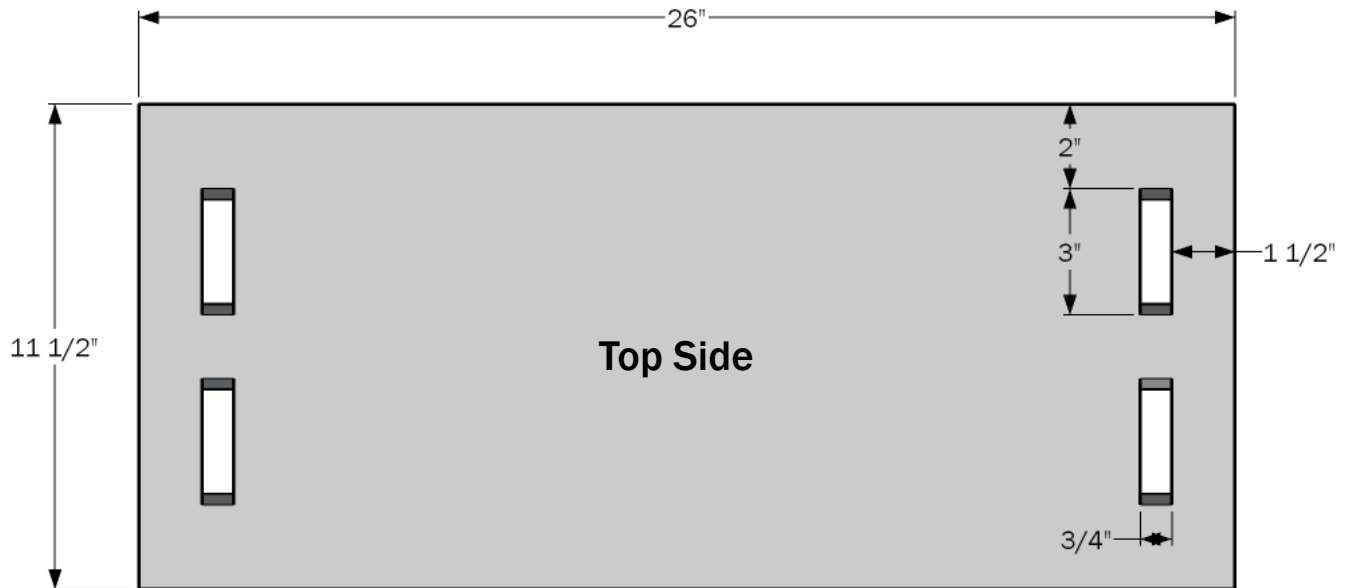
Front View



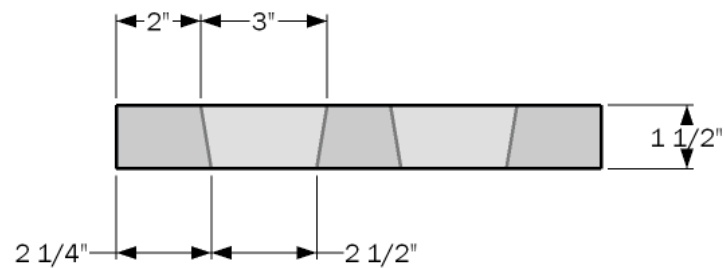


Top

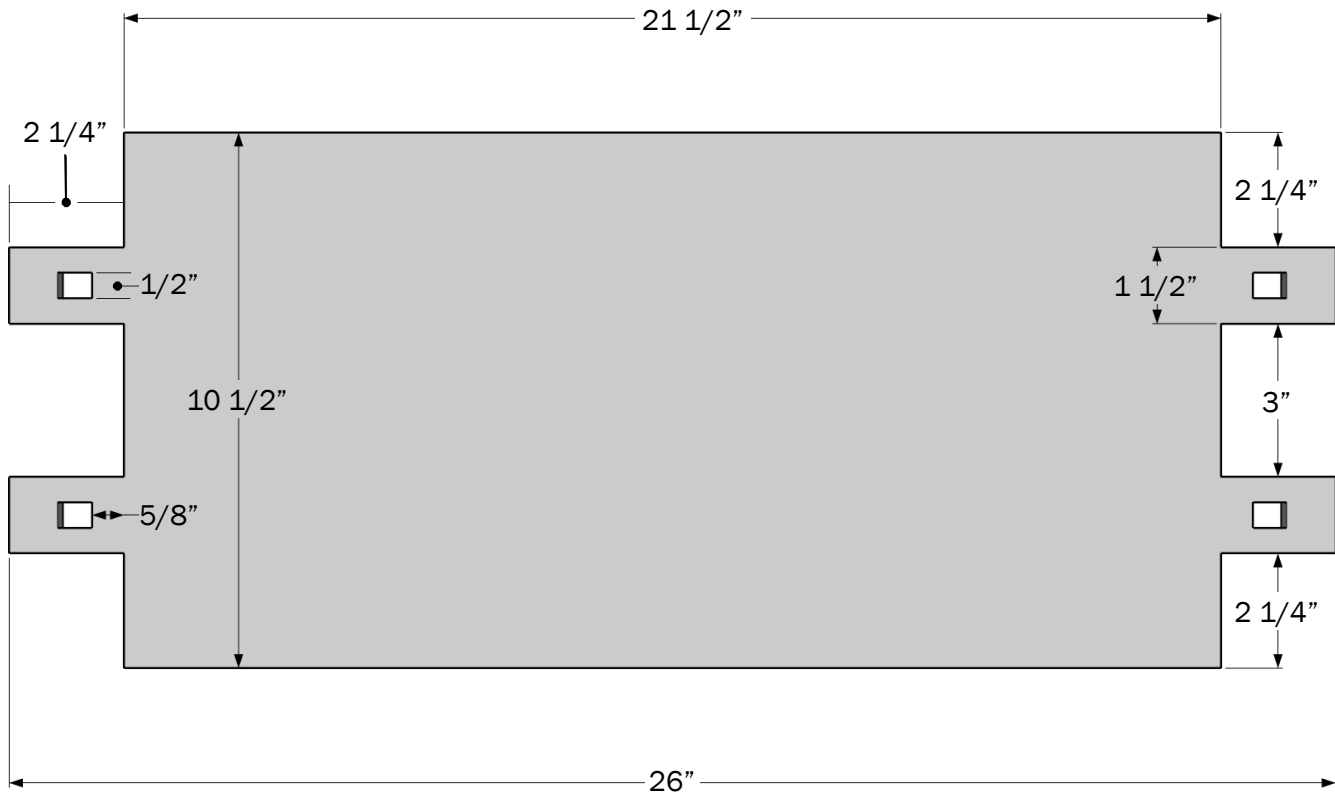
Note: Mortise openings on the top side are wider than on the under side to allow for wedges.



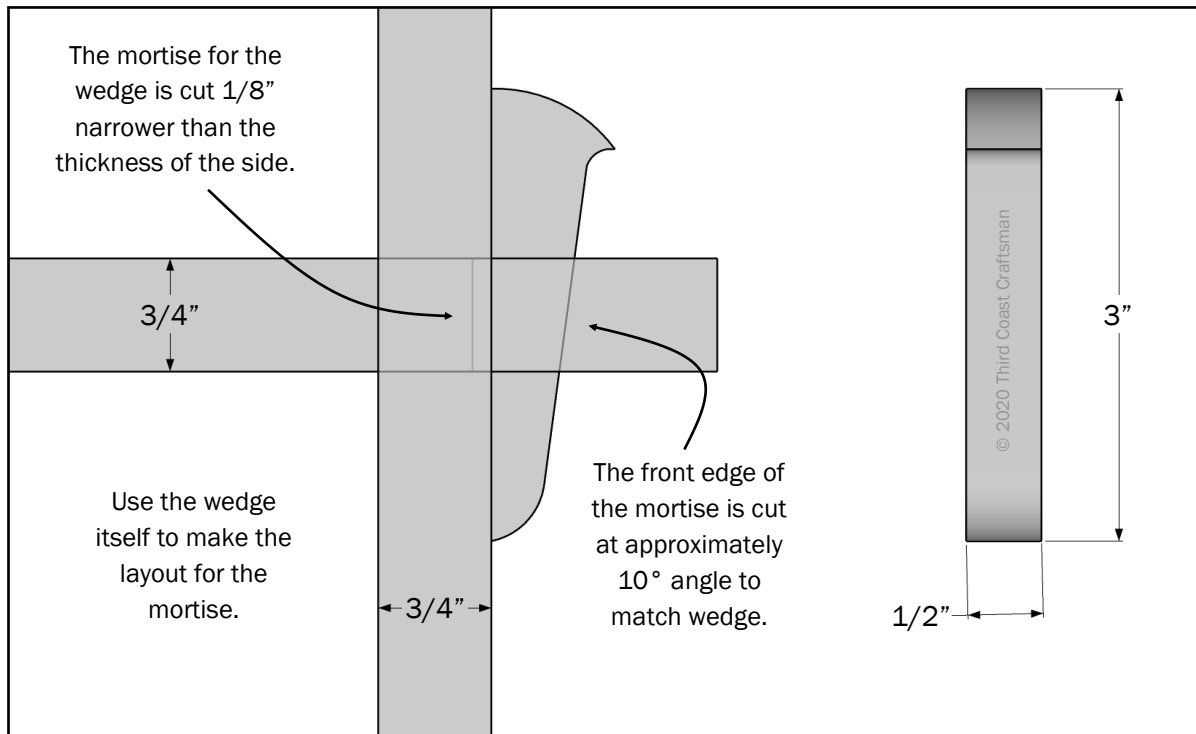
Side View



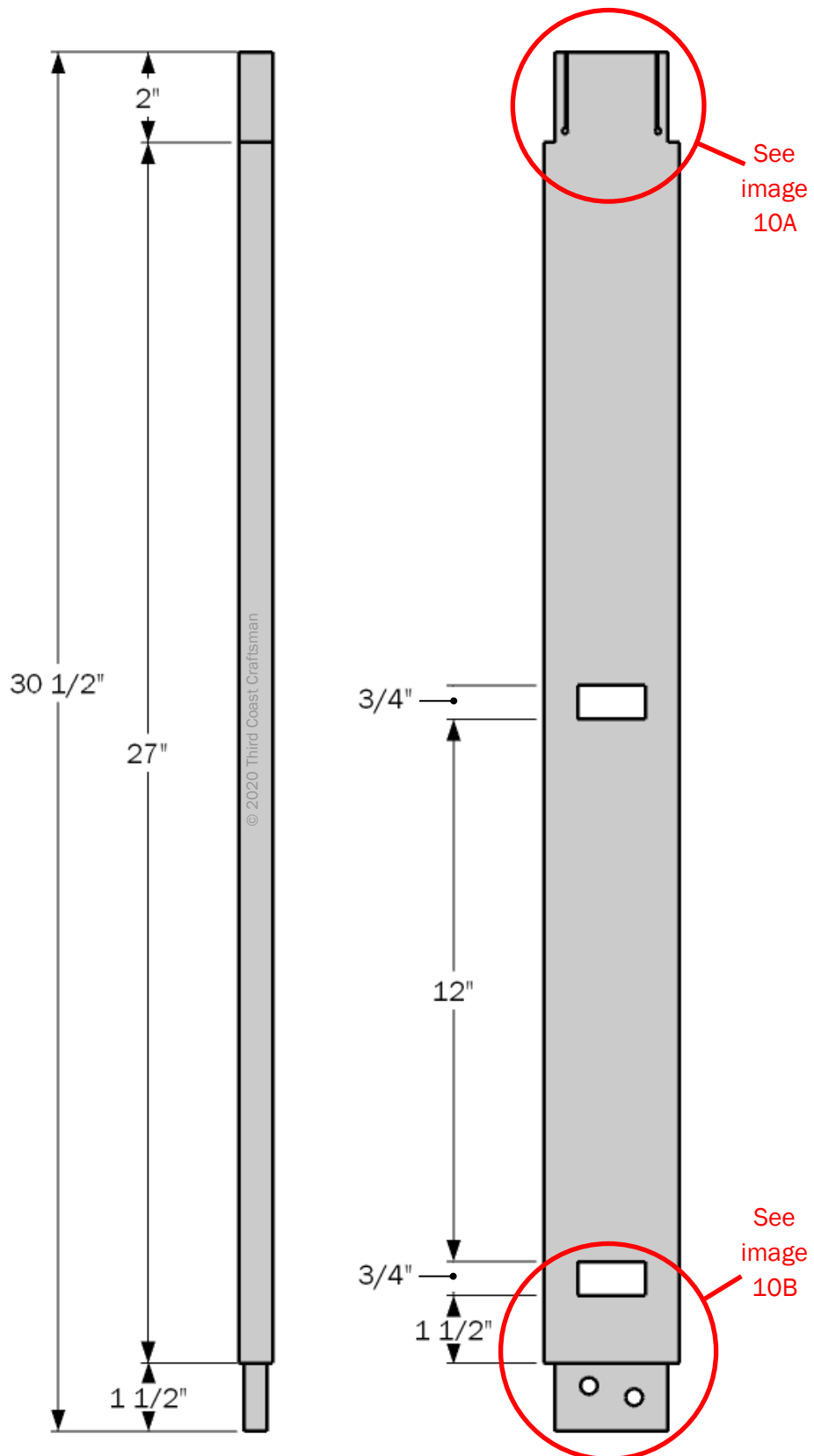
Shelf



Keyed Through Mortise and Tenon Detail



Side Detail



Side Detail

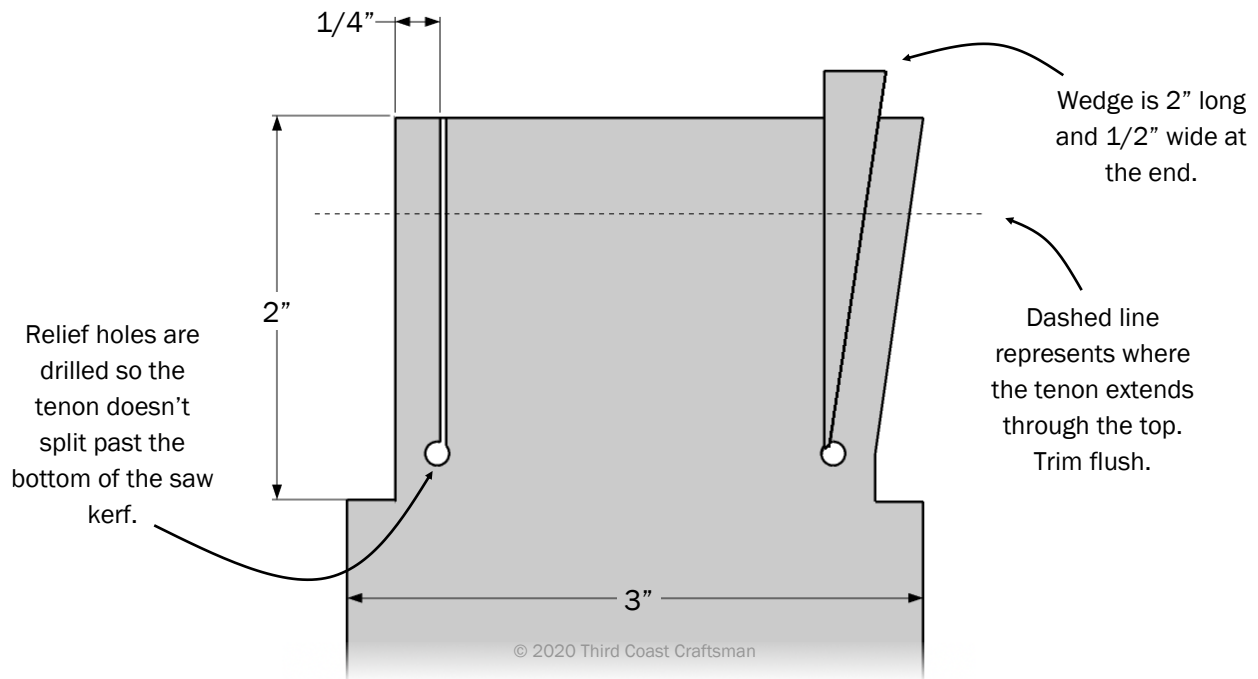


Image 10A

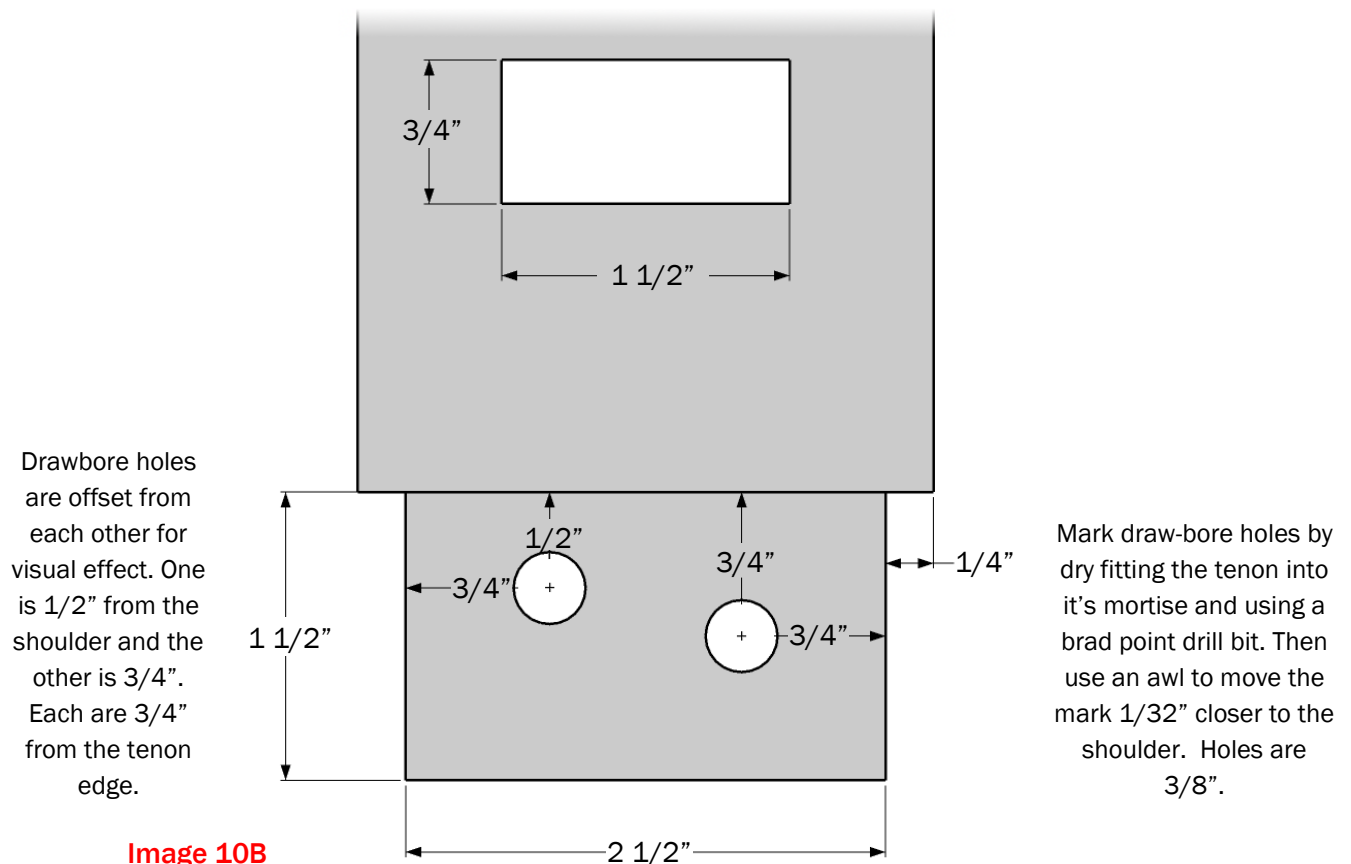
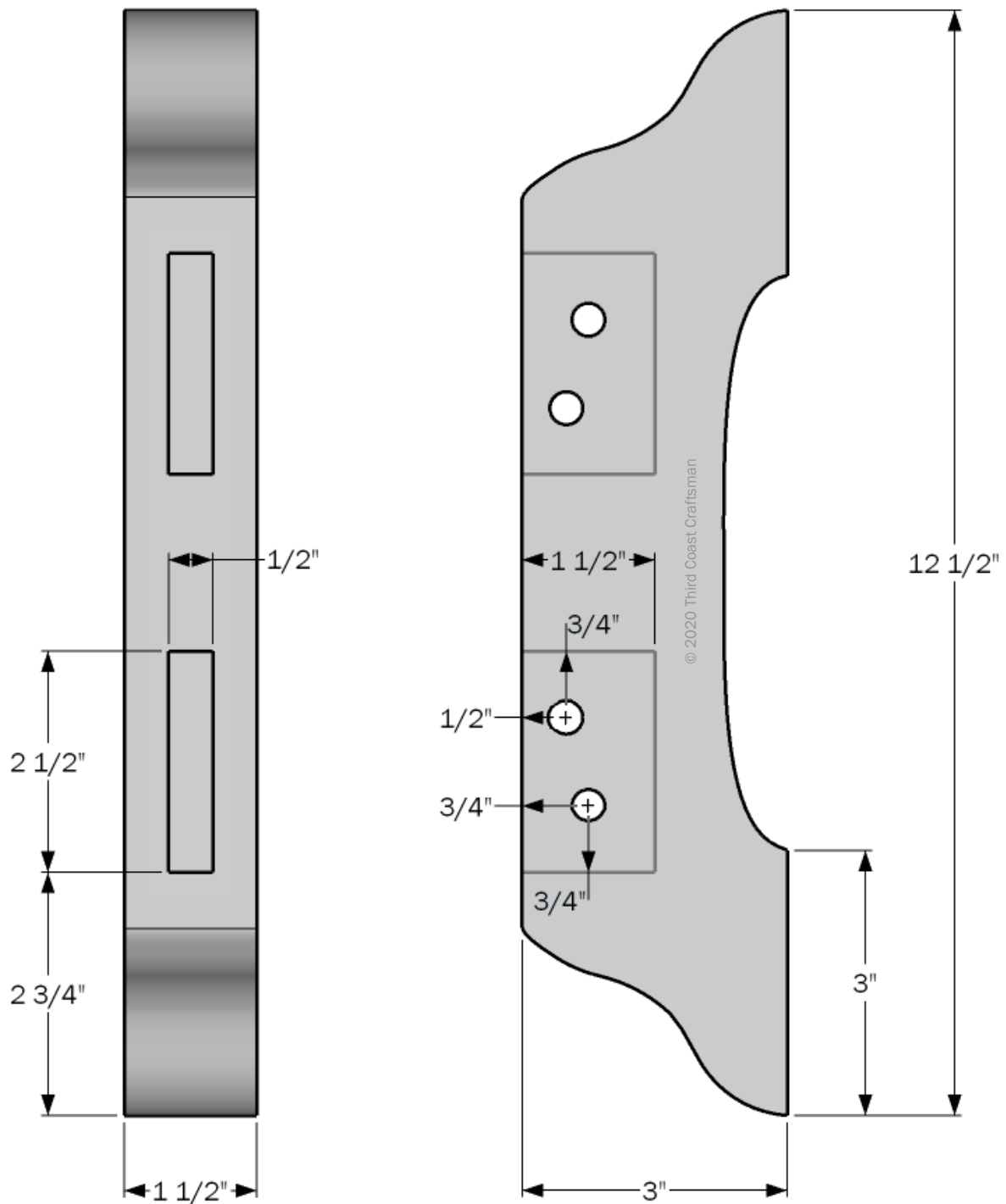


Image 10B

Foot Detail

The foot was made by laminating (2) $\frac{3}{4}$ " boards together, but can be a solid board.
Shape foot any way you like. Dowel stock for the draw bored pegs should be $\frac{3}{8}$ ".



Applying Finish



I really like the natural color of these two species of wood and the color contrast works really well together. I decided to go with a natural color finish choosing Watco Danish Oil. This finish is super easy to apply. Following the directions on the can, I used a cloth to wipe it on and got amazing color from

the jatoba and the oak looked great as well. Because the horizontal surfaces of this bookcase will endure a little wear and tear, I applied extra coats to the shelves and top. Of course, you should finish your bookcase any way you like and I hope you get years and years of enjoyment with it.



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