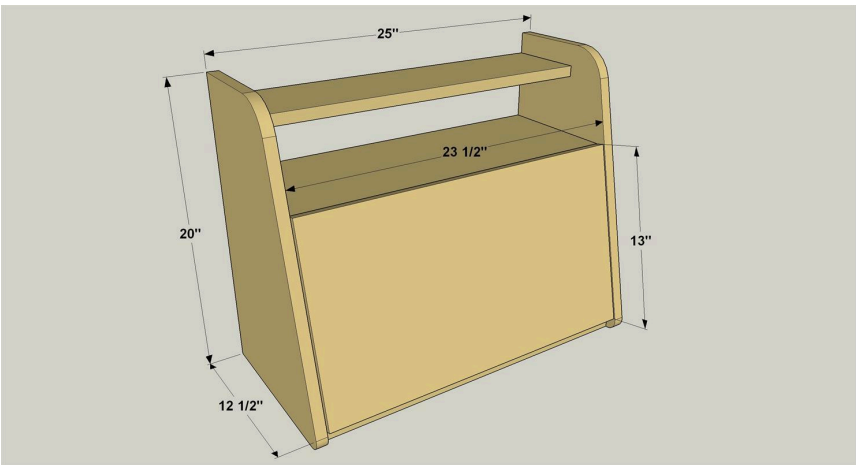
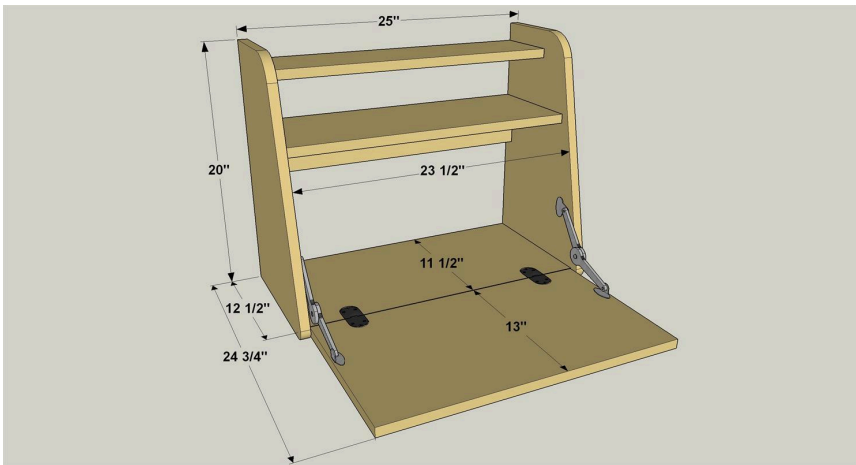


Drop-Front Desk

By **Kreg Tool**

Difficulty
Moderate

Create a work space almost anywhere with this drop-front desk. Mounted to a wall, it doesn't take up floor space, and it can be installed at a height that's convenient to work standing or sitting. The desk is made from a half-sheet of plywood, and uses unique hinges and supports for the desktop.



Tools

Kreg Tools



Other Tools

- Circular Saw (corded)
- Jigsaw
- Square
- Tape Measure
- Veneer Edge Banding Trimmer
- Drill (cordless)
- Iron
- Sander
- Utility Knife

Materials

Wood Products

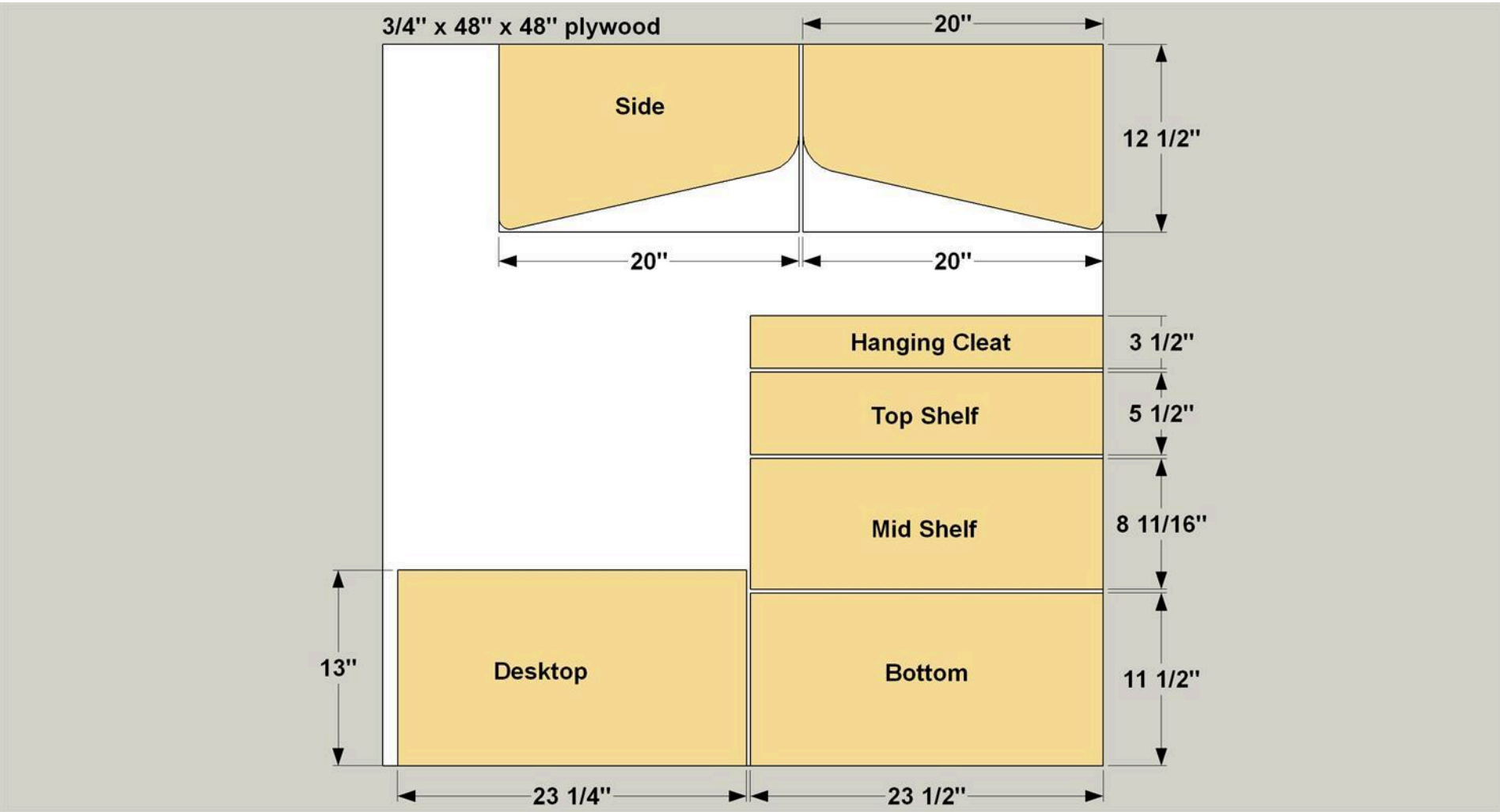
- 1 Plywood , 3/4" Thick , Half Sheet

Hardware & Supplies

- 24 1 1/4" Coarse-thread Pocket-hole Screws
- 1 3/4" X 25' Veneer Edge Banding
- 2 Adjustable Lid Supports
- 1 18" (200-lb. Capacity) Hangman Heavy-duty Picture Hanger
- 1 Pair "Sewing Machine" Hinges
- 1 1 1/4" Forstner Drill Bit
- 1 Self-centering Drill Bit For #6 Screws

Cut List & Parts

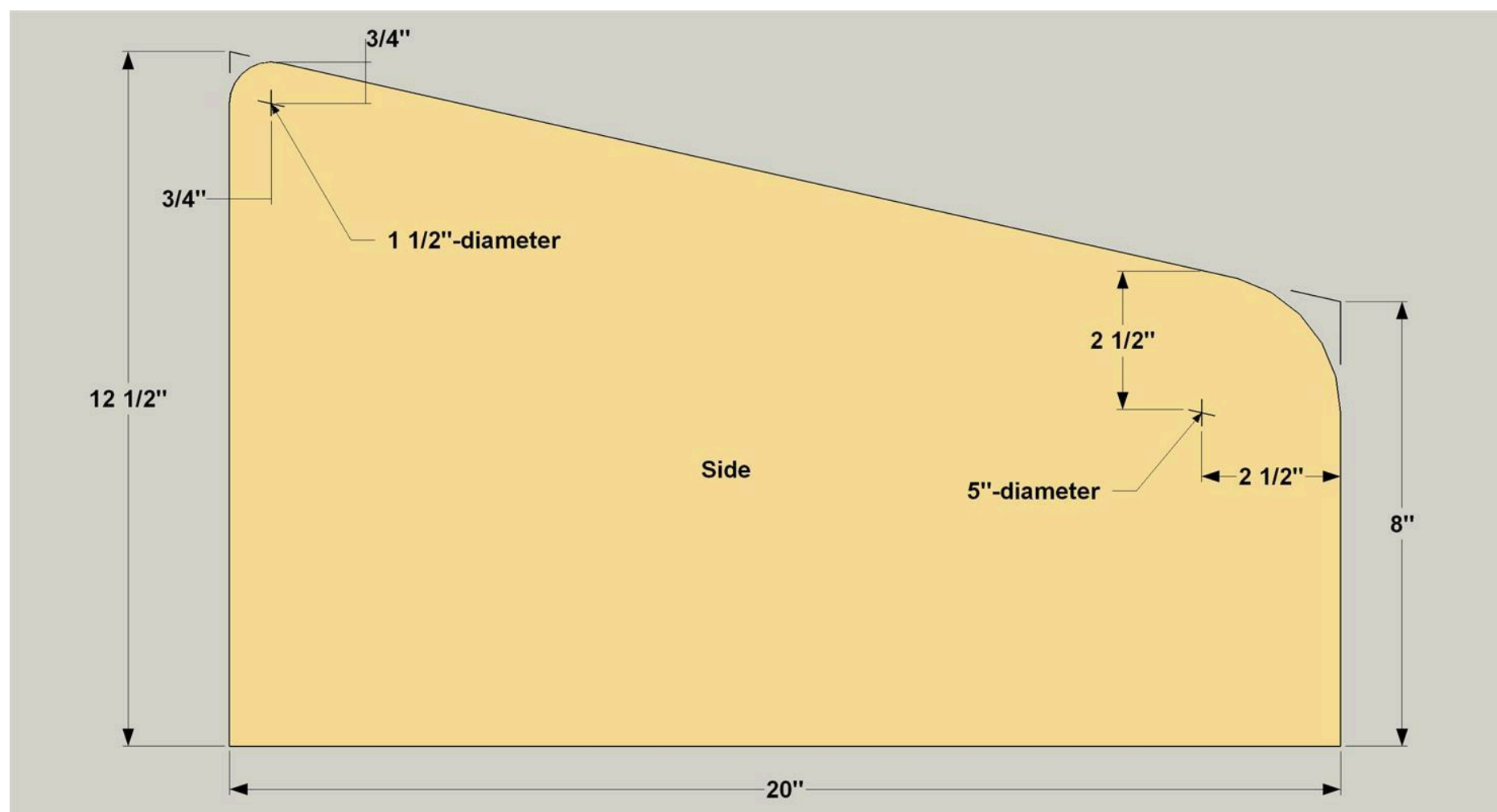
- 2 Side , 3/4" Ply X 12 1/2" X 20"
- 1 Desktop , 3/4" Ply X 23 1/4" X 13"
- 1 Bottom , 3/4" Ply X 23 1/2" X 11 1/2"
- 1 Mid Shelf , 3/4" Ply X 23 1/2" X 8 11/16"
- 1 Top Shelf , 3/4" Ply X 23 1/2" X 5 1/2"
- 1 Hanging Cleat , 3/4" Ply X 23 1/2" X 23 1/2"



Directions

1**Cut the Sides**

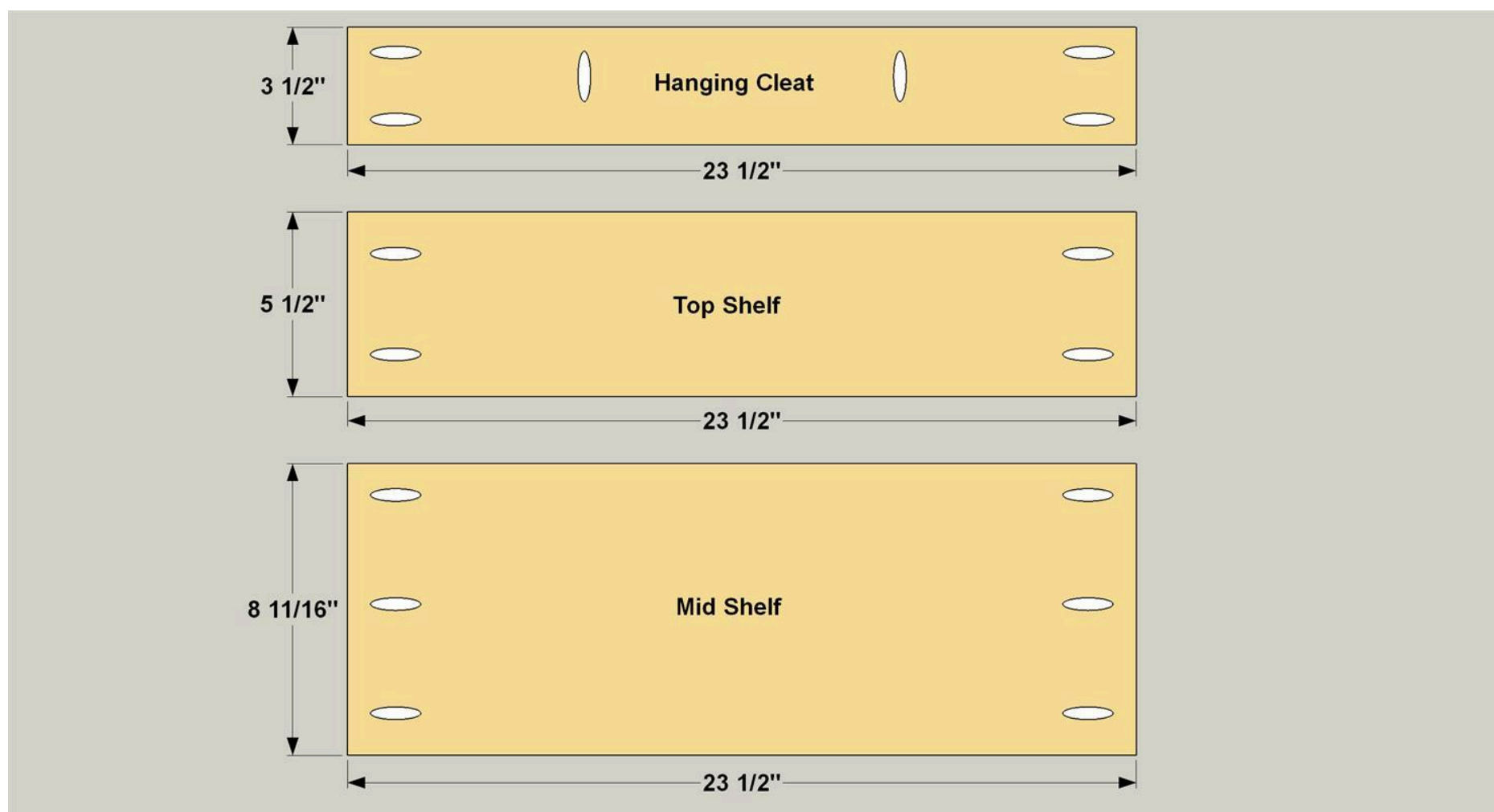
Cut two Sides to size from 3/4" plywood, as shown in the cut diagram. Cut the Sides to shape with a jigsaw and sand the edges and the curves sooth. Make sure that both sides are as identical in shape as possible. Next, cut an oversized length of veneer edge banding for each Side, apply it using an iron to adhere it in place. Then trim the edging flush using a veneer trimmer and sand the edges smooth.



2

Cut the Shelves and Cleat

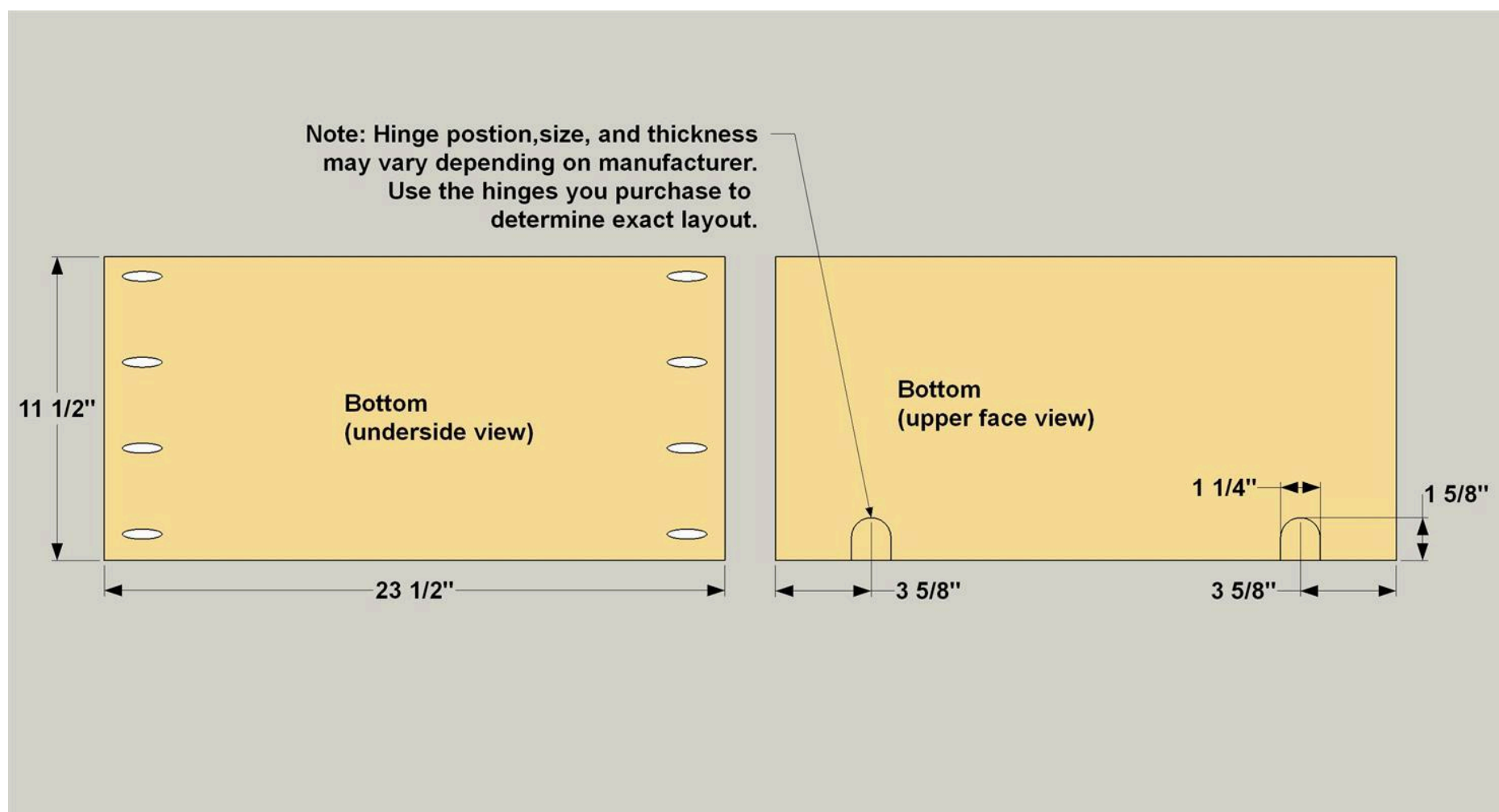
Cut the Top Shelf, Mid Shelf, and the Hanging Cleat to size from $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood, as shown in the cut diagram. Set your pocket-hole jig for $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick material, and then drill pocket holes at the locations shown. Cut an oversize length of veneer edge banding for the front edge of Top Shelf and Mid Shelf, apply it, and then trim the edging flush and sand it smooth.



3

Cut the Bottom

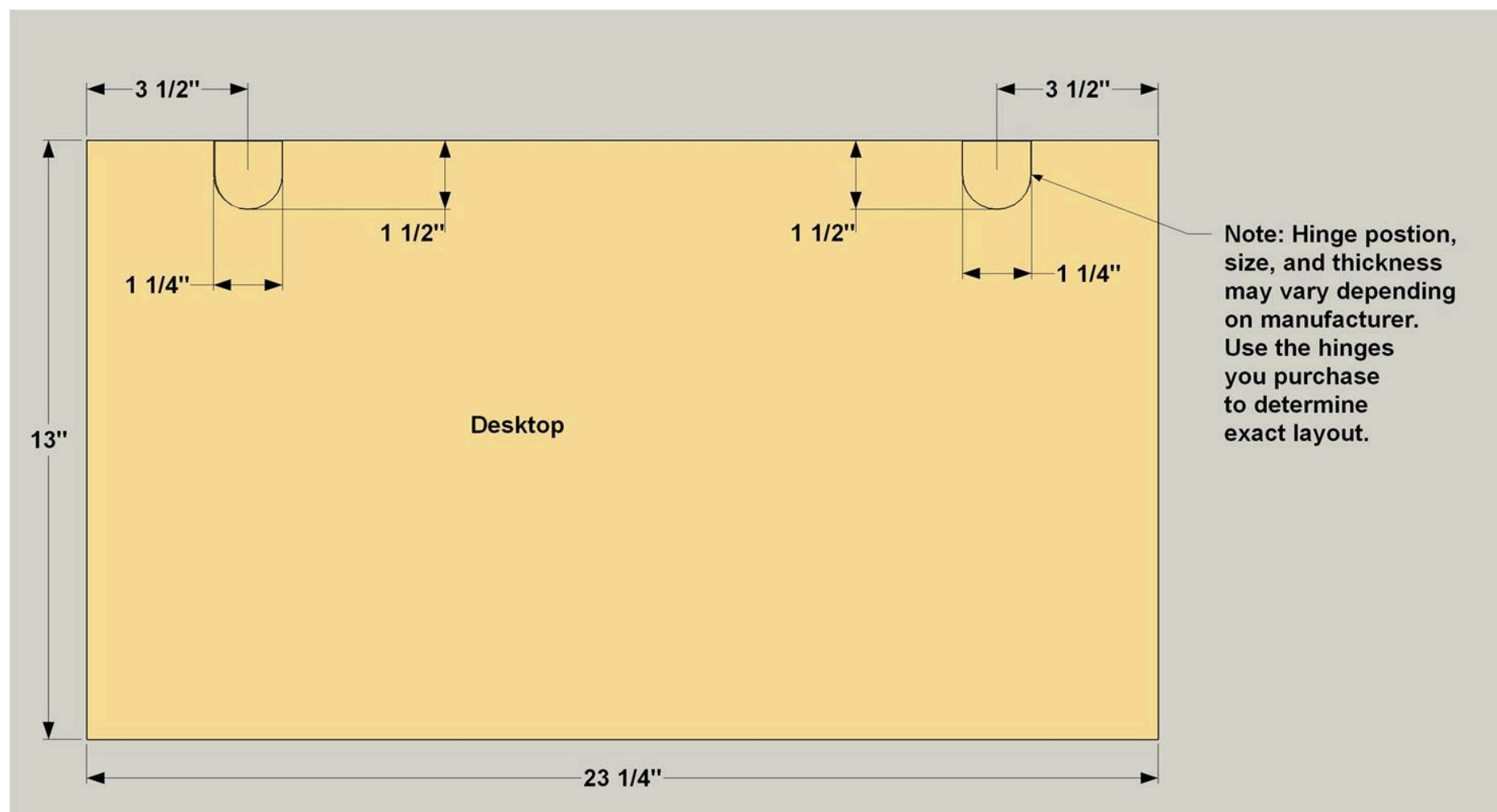
Cut the Bottom to size from $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood, as shown in the cut diagram. Drill pocket holes at the locations shown. Cut an oversized length of veneer edge banding for the front edges. Apply the edging, and then set the Bottom aside for now. You'll lay out the hinge locations later.



4

Make the Desktop

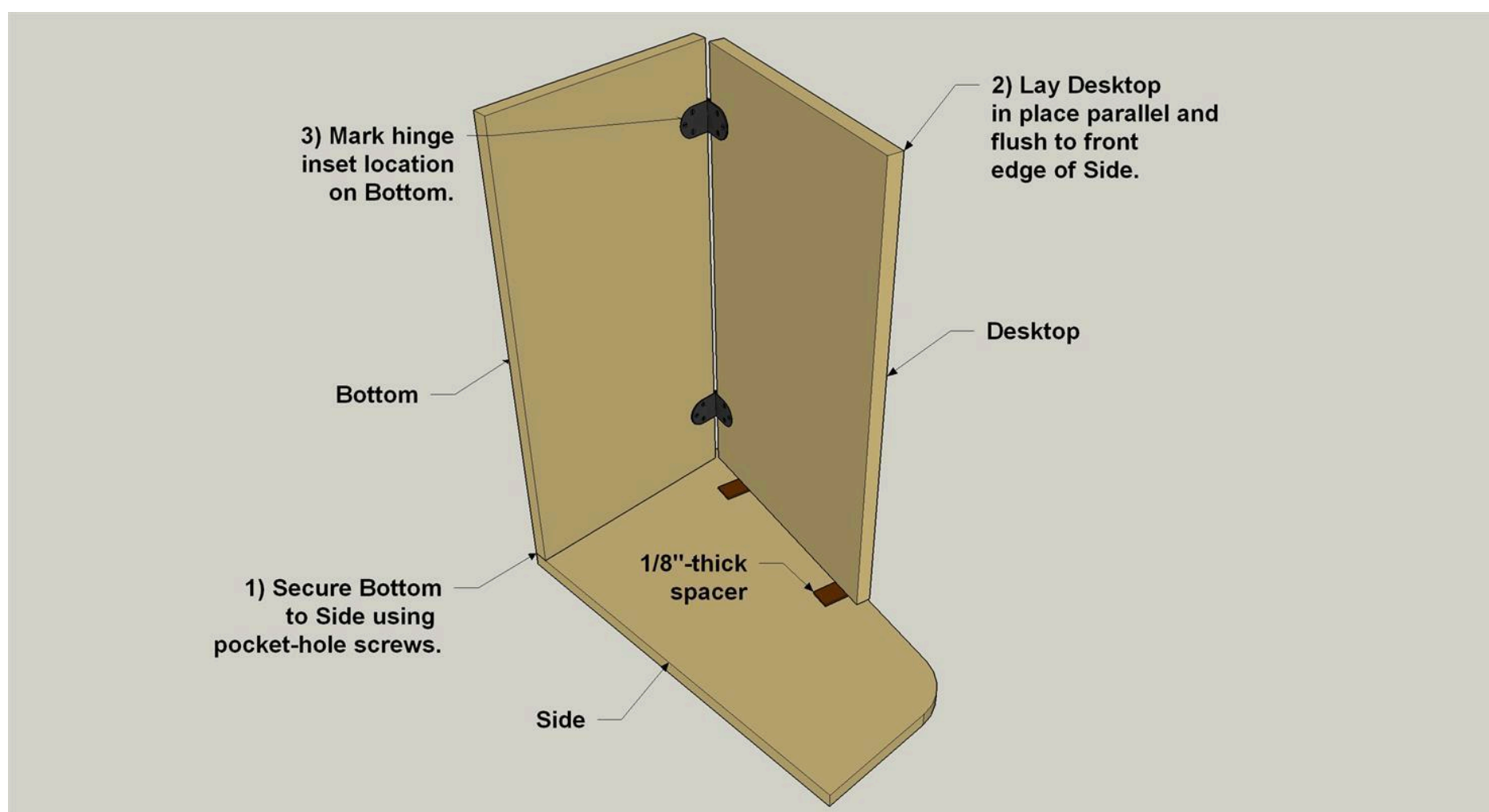
Cut the Desktop to size from 3/4" plywood, as shown. Apply edging to all four edges, starting with the two short edges first. Using a pencil and an adjustable square, lay out the hinge locations. The hinge knuckle should just hang over the edge. Drill a hole that matches the radius and thickness of the hinge (in our case we used a 1 1/4" Forstner bit and drilled about 1/16" deep). Next, mark two lines on the outside of each hole with a square. Using a utility knife, carefully trim the excess material to the same depth as the hole. Check the fit of the hinges and then, with each hinge in place, drill the hinge screw holes using a #6 self-centering drill bit. Install the screws to temporarily secure the hinges to the Desktop.



5

Lay Out the Hinge on the Bottom

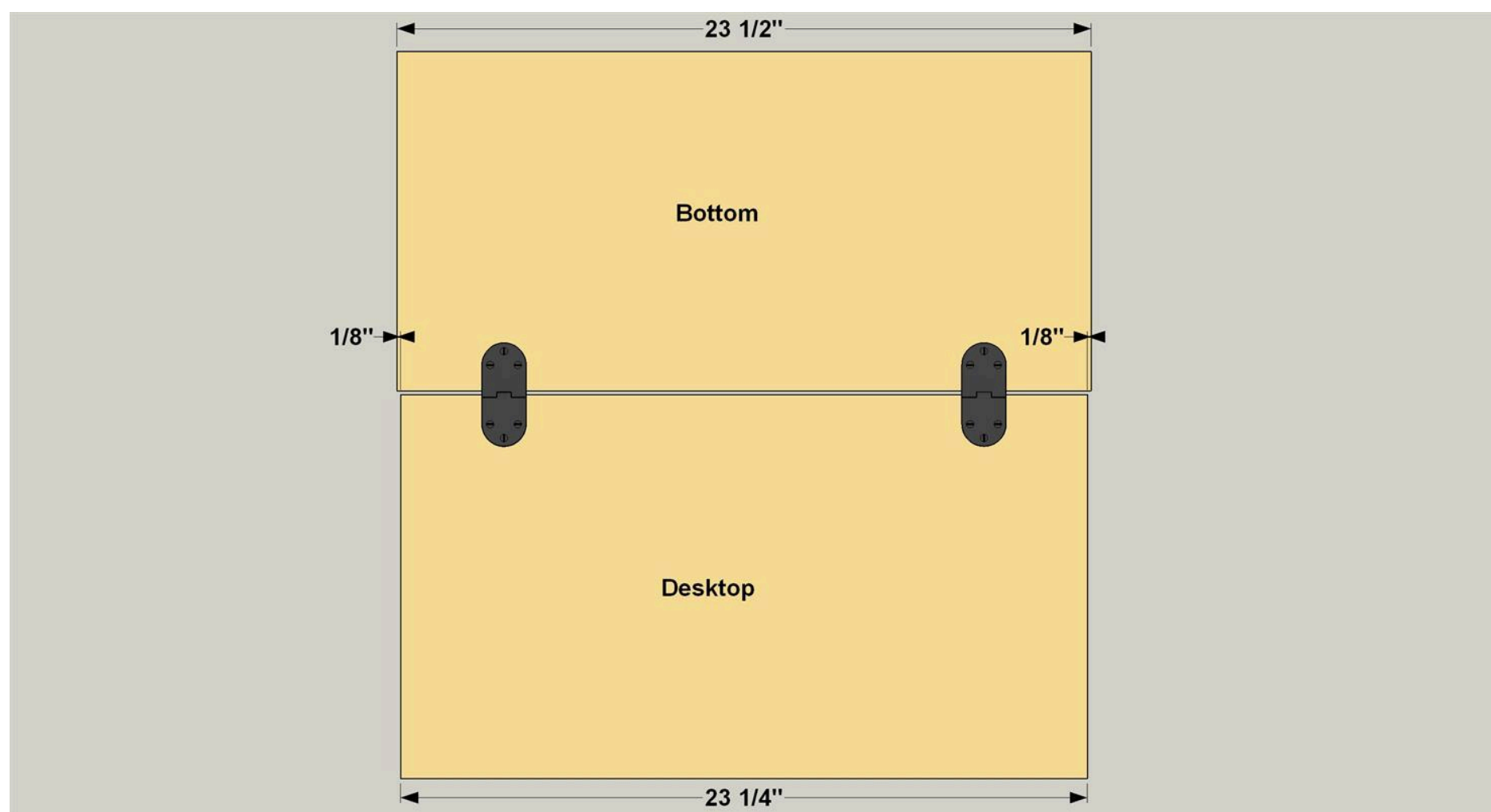
The hinge location on the Bottom is critical so that when the Desktop is closed it rests parallel to and flush with the front edge of the Side. To accomplish this first temporarily attach the Bottom to one Side using 1 1/4" pocket-hole screws. Next, lay the Desktop, with the hinges installed, in place so it is parallel and flush with the front angled edge of the Side. Rest the Desktop on 1/8"-thick shims. Clamp the Desktop in position or have someone help hold it. Then carefully trace around the hinge leaves to mark the hinge location on the desk Bottom.



6

Install the Hinges

Once you have the hinge location marked on the Bottom, detach it from the Side. Lay the Desktop and the Bottom on a flat work surface so the hinge locations face one another, and center them to one another so there is an equal gap on each side of the Desktop. Flip the loose hinge leaf onto the Bottom and double check your layout lines. Then drill and trim the hinge recess in the Bottom, just as you did in the Desktop. Drill the mounting holes, and then install hinges the hinges. Now you can remove the hinges from the Bottom and the Desktop. You'll reinstall them later when the desk is complete.



7

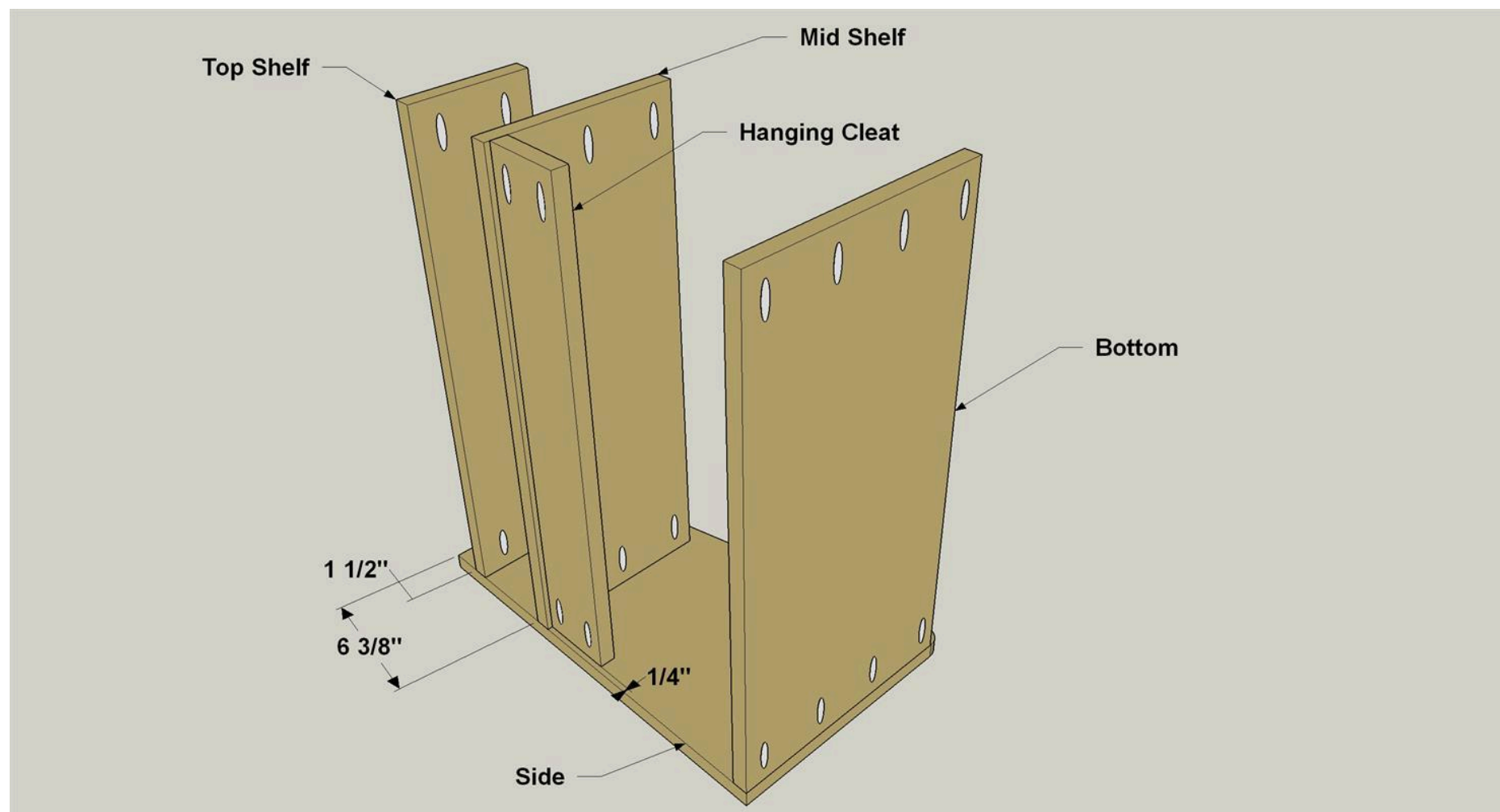
Sand and Stain before Assembly

Sometimes it's easier to finish individual parts than an assembled project. This is one of those times. So, before you start final assembly, sand all of the parts, and then apply the stain or finish of your choice. We used a black stain that creates a dramatic color while still allowing the grain to show. When it dried, we added a couple of coats of water-based polyurethane.

8

Start Final Assembly

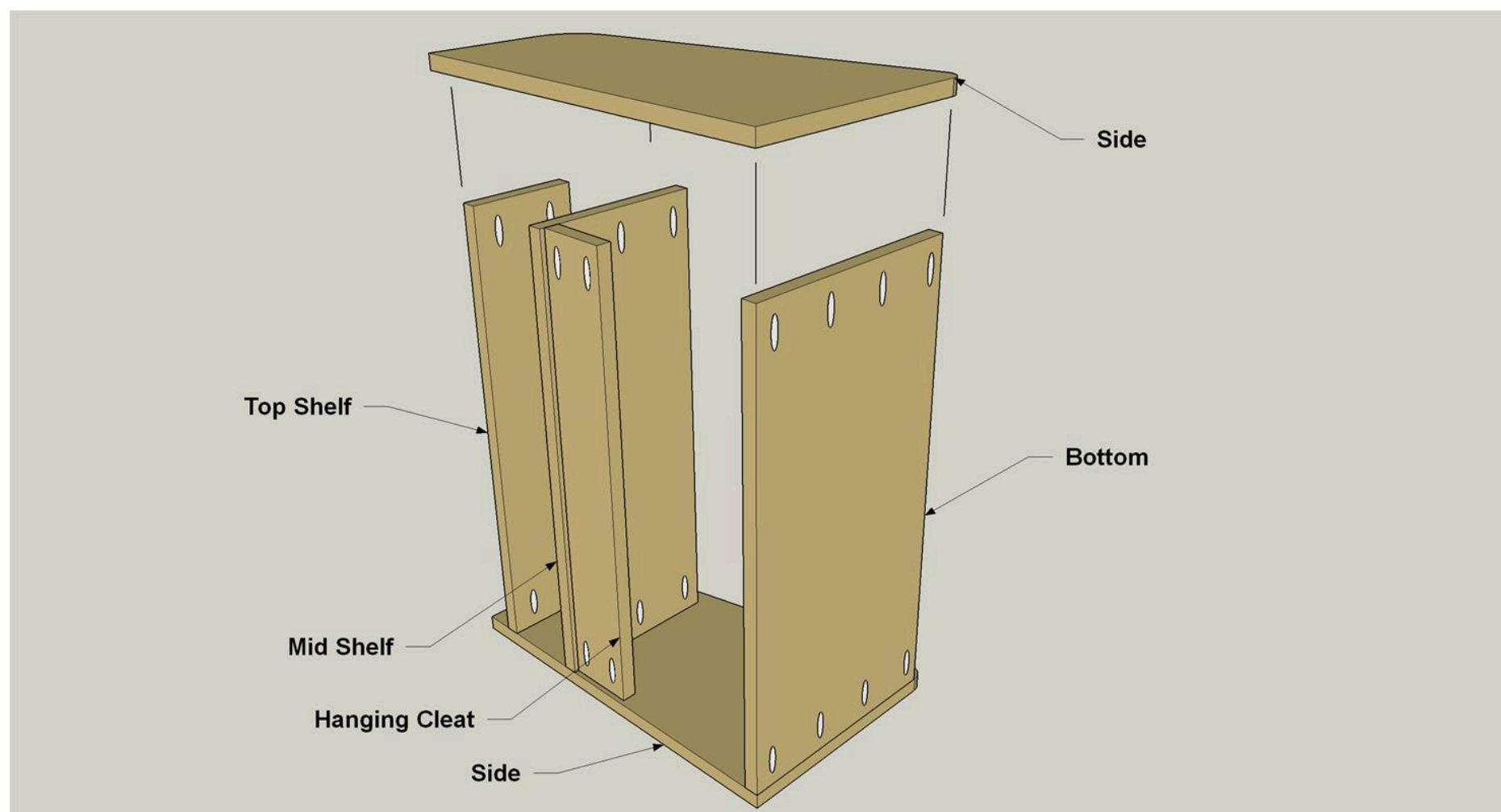
Once the finish is dry, attach the Bottom, Mid Shelf, Top Shelf, and the Cleat to one Side as shown using 1 1/4" coarse-thread pocket-hole screws.



9

Attach the Second Side

Flip the assembly over onto the second Side and attach this side, as well using 1 1/4" coarse-thread pocket-hole screws.



10**Install the Supports and Hanger**

Now your desk is almost complete. The next step is to install the lid supports. These are important to hold the desktop in position, and to prevent it from falling open too quickly. The supports we used cost a bit more than some versions, but they accomplish both tasks extremely well. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to install and adjust the supports. Then you can install the hardware to hang your desk. We used an 18" "Hangman" hanger. Just follow the manufacturer's instructions for mounting the hanger to the Cleat and to the wall.
