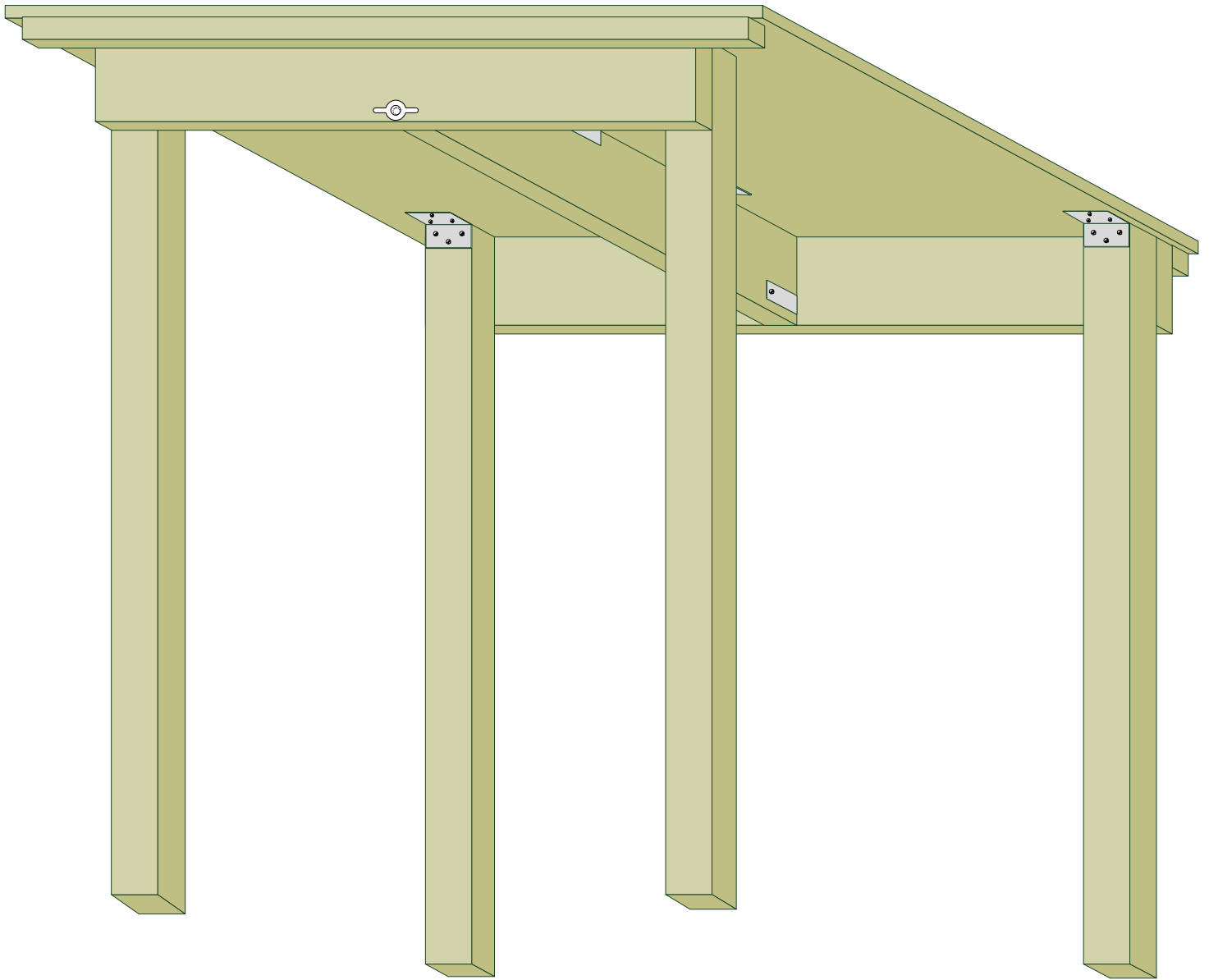


# U. S. ARMY WWII FIELD TABLE



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# Parts List

## WOOD:

- 1 – ½” ply 36” wide X 24” long (top)
- 2 – 1X2 X 23” long (attached to top ends)
- 1 – 1X3 X 30 ¼” long (center hinged board)
- 4 – 2X2 X 27” long (legs)
- 1 – 1X4 X 19” long (right leg cross member)
- 1 – 1X4 X 23” long (left leg cross member)

## HARDWARE:

- 2 – 1/8” X ¾” steel (you can substitute aluminum if you want) (for the wingnut assembly)
- 2 – ¼” X 1 ½” round head slotted bolt  
with washers and wingnuts (for the wingnut assembly)
- 2 – ¼” X 1 ½” hex bolts with washers and  
nuts (to bolt the wingnut assembly to the center board)
- 4 - long leg hinges
- 2 - 2” standard hinges
- 1 inch and 1 ¼ inch drywall screws
- 16 - #8-32 X 3/8” flat head bolts with washers and nuts (to attach hinges to the table top)

# Wood Shopping List

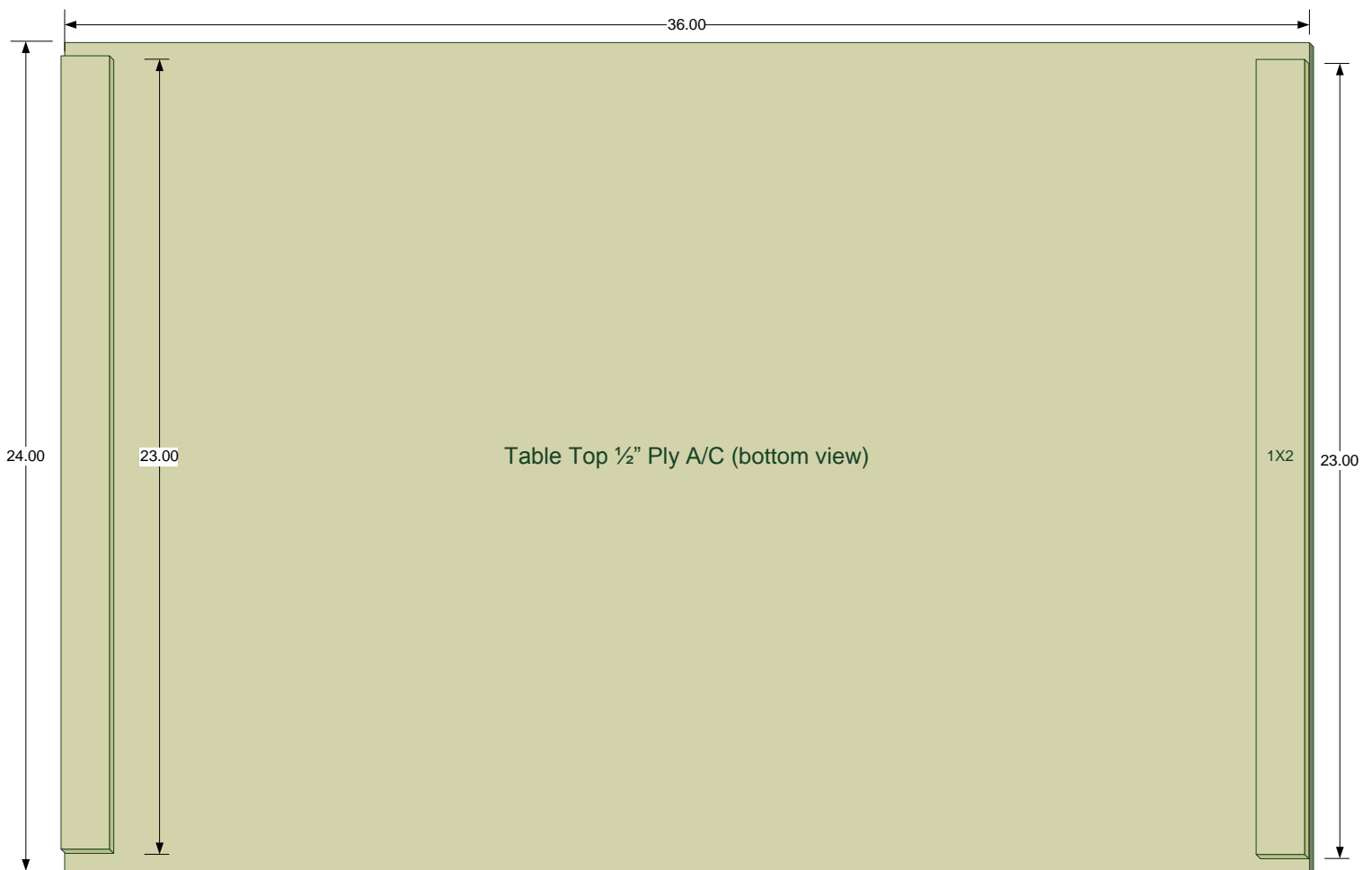
- 1 – piece of ½” ply 2 ft X 4 ft (Grade A/C gives you a nice smooth top but grade B/C will work fine too.)
- 1 – 1x2 6 ft long
- 1 – 1x3 6 ft long
- 2 – 2x2 6 ft long
- 1 – 1x4 6 ft long

## Step 1: Make the table top.

- Take the piece of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " ply and using a square draw lines and make it 3 ft long. (36 inches). The board should already be 2 ft (24 inches) wide.

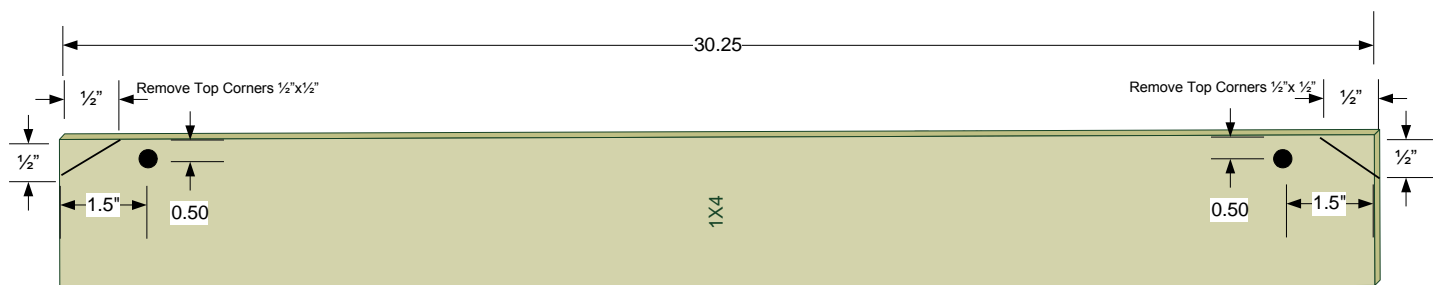
**Suggestion:** plywood cut at the factory may not be square. Using a square and lining it up with a long edge of the board draw a line on one side. Then use that line to measure the 3 ft line on the other side. That will make sure your board is square.

- Cut the 1x2 into two 23" pieces. Drill 3 holes in them with a countersink and center them on the boards and flush with the ends. Screw them in with 1" drywall screws. I also glued mine for added strength.

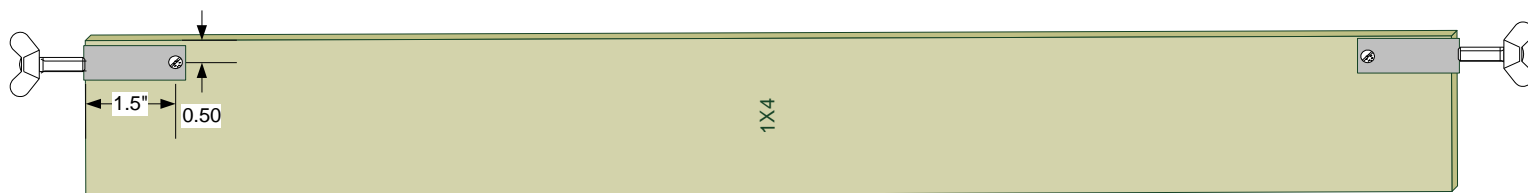


## Step 2: Cut the center hinged board.

- Take the 1x3 and cut it to a length of 30 ¼ inches. On the top ends of the board drill a hole wide enough to fit a ¼" bolt. This hole is for the bolt/wingnut assembly. The measurements for placement of the hole are in the drawing below. Then cut the top corners off ½" by ½". This will allow the wingnut bolt assembly to swing without binding.

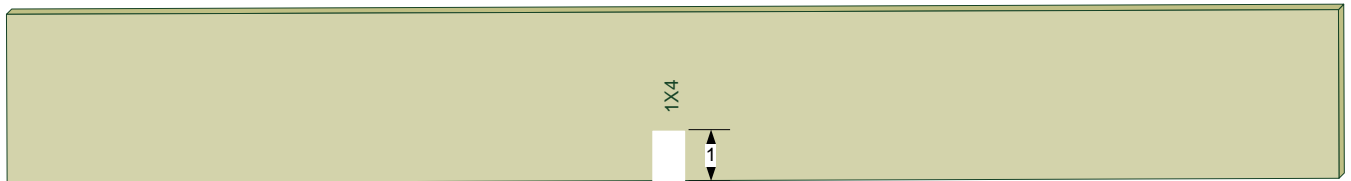


The board will look like this when you add the wingnut assembly to it (how to make them is discussed later).

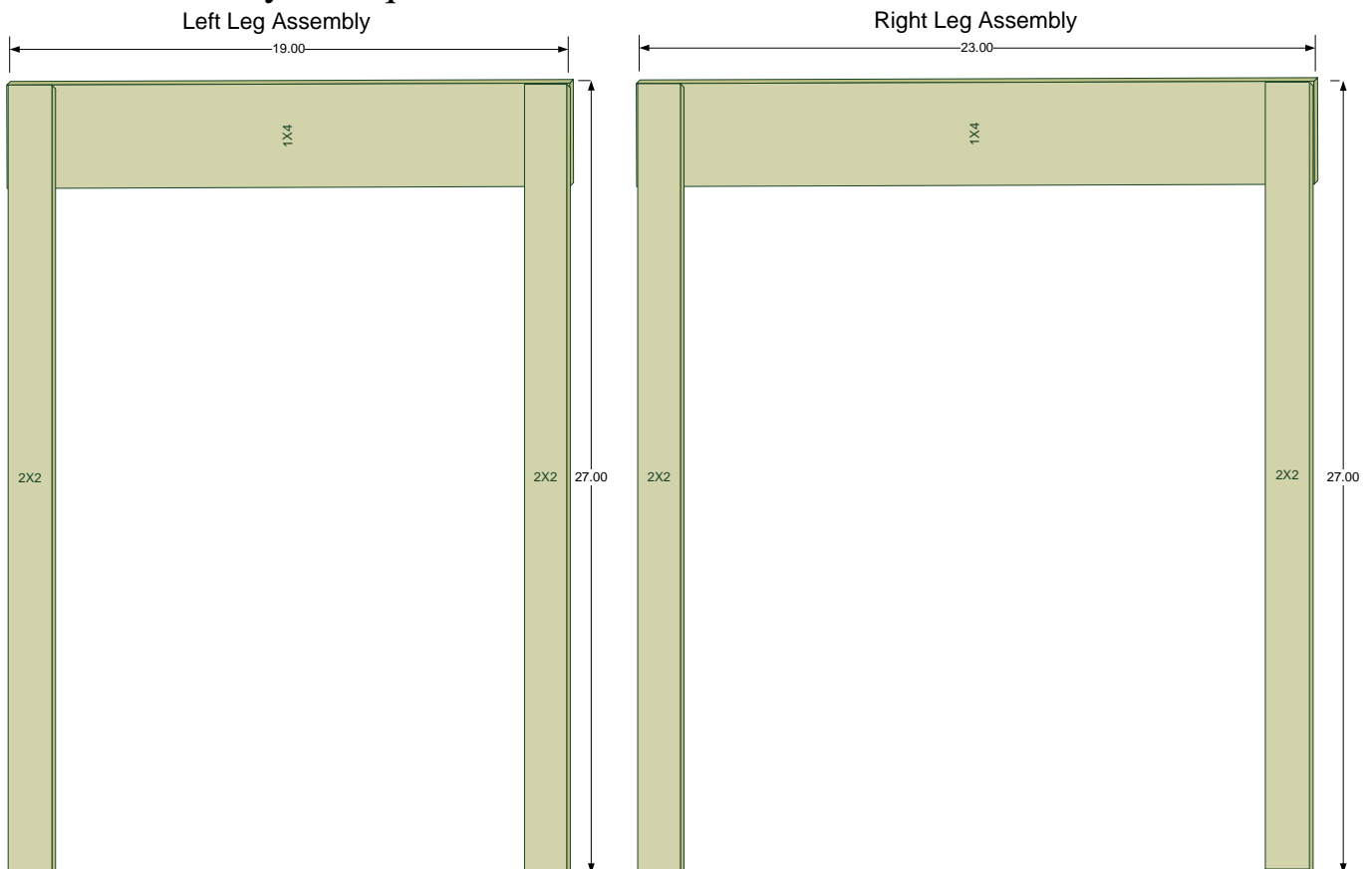


### Step 3: Make the leg assemblies.

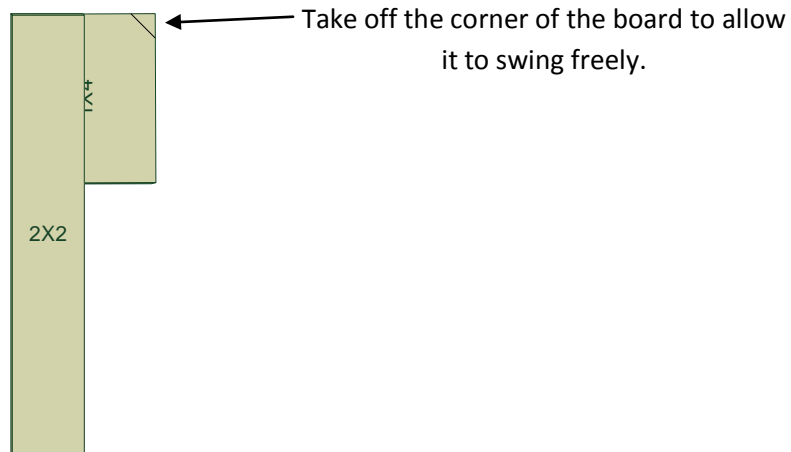
- Take the 1x4 and cut 2 pieces – one to a length of 23” (henceforth known as the right side) and one to the length of 19” (henceforth known as the left side). These are the cross members for the legs.
- Make a mark in the center of each board and then cut a slot  $\frac{3}{8}$ ” wide and 1” long. This is to accept the wingnut assembly to lock the legs in open position. The slot is in the **bottom** of the board.



- Take the two 2x2's and cut them into 4 pieces measuring 27” long each.
- Drill 2 holes into each end of the 1x4s to accept  $1 \frac{1}{2}$ ” drywall screws. Countersink the holes. Make sure they line up with the centers of the 2x2 legs. Use one of the legs to make a line on the end of the board so you know where to put the screws.
- Line up the board with legs on each end and screw them together. Pre-drill the holes into the legs first. Otherwise you may split the legs. I also glued mine for added strength. Measure the bottoms of the legs to make sure they are square.



- Bevel the top edge of the 1x4 (opposite the leg side). This is to allow it to swing open and closed. If you don't the wood will split off the top edge (believe me I know from experience). Use a hand plane or a belt sander to do this.



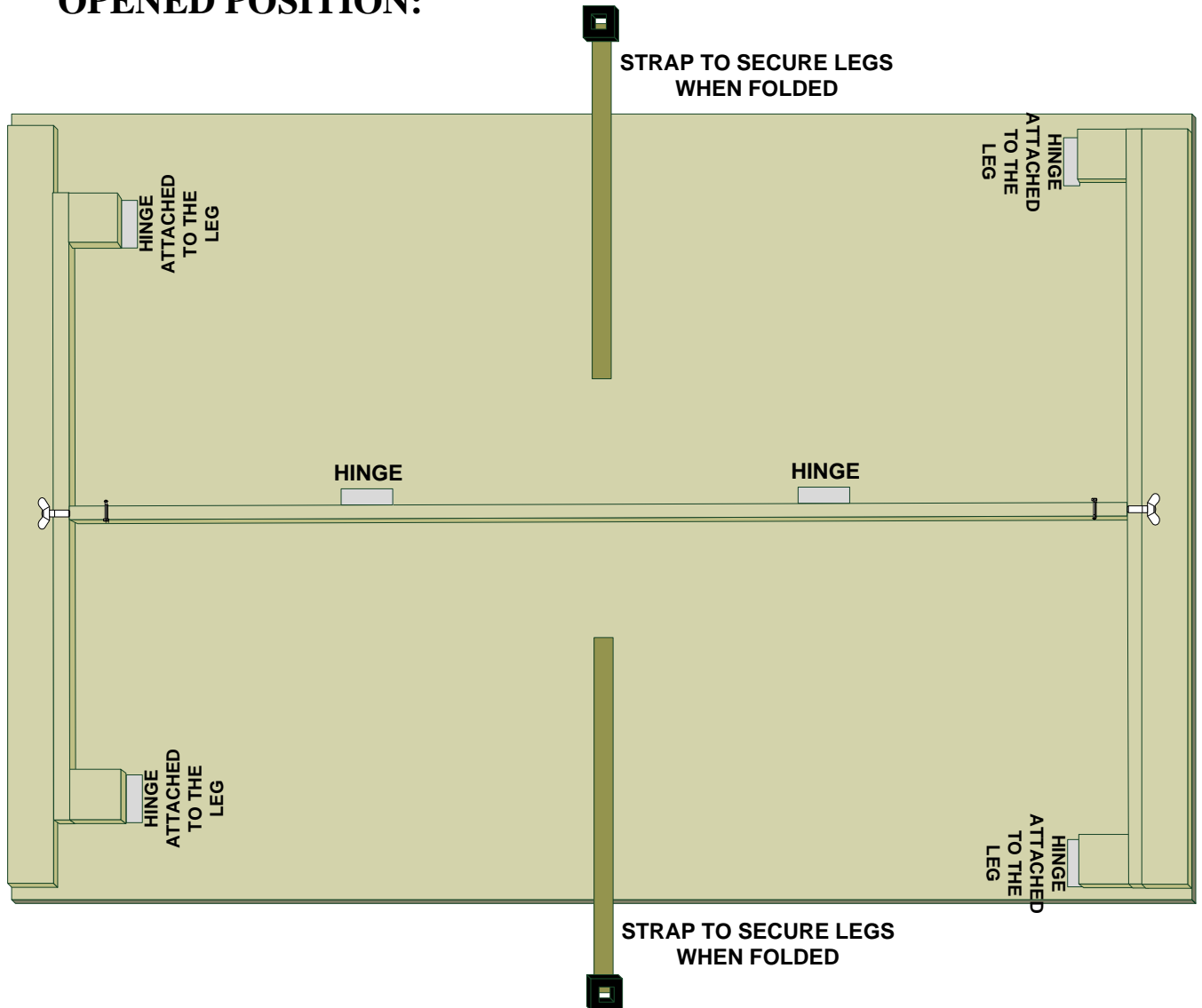
#### Step 4: Put it together!

- You want to do a test fitting before painting it. You may have to do some adjusting and if you already painted it you may have to do it again. If you paint it first and something need to be sanded then you are screwed and will have to paint it again.
- Screw the leg hinges on the top leg-side (not the cross member side) of the legs.
- Screw the 2 standard hinges on the bottom of the center hinged board. Evenly space them on the board (about 10" on center in from each end of the board).
- Lay the table top on a table with the bottom facing up.
- Draw a center line both lengthwise and widthwise on it.
- Make center marks on the leg assemblies and the center hinged board.
- Line up the right leg assembly on the right side of the table top and against the 1x2 screwed to it with the legs and hinges facing inside and the cross board facing outside.. Place a very thin piece of cardboard or 2 sheets of paper between them. This is for spacing, you will remove them later. Using very small screws, screw it to the table top. Be careful not to

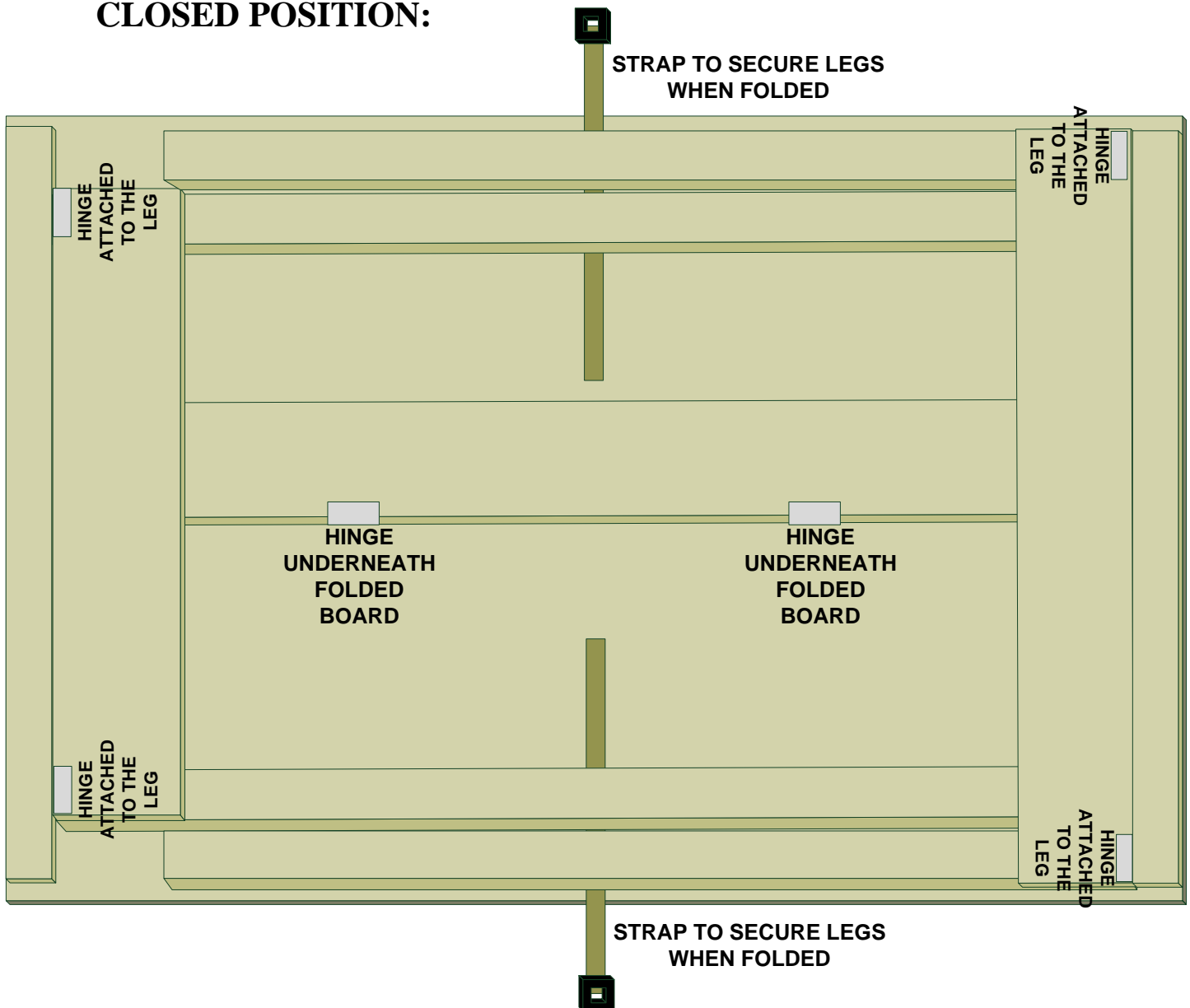
split out the top. On the right side leg assembly you do not use the outermost hole on the hinges. It is too close to the edge. Don't throw a screw into that.

- Do the same with the left side leg assembly (you can use all of the screw holes for that one since it is not close to the edge).
- Screw the center hinged board **CENTERED** on the lengthwise center line you drew on the table top. The following pictures illustrate the assembly in both an open and closed position:

### **OPENED POSITION:**



## CLOSED POSITION:



- Remove the paper between the legs and boards and check to see if everything closes correctly. The left leg assembly tucks under the right leg assembly. If all is correct then ok. If you need to do any adjusting then do it.
- Now disassemble everything including taking the hinges off the boards. You need to paint the wood.

## Step 5: OK, Now the hard part (or not)!

- The originals had the hinges bolted through the top of the board for strength. If you feel that you are done and don't want to spend more time on this then leave it just screwed to the top. Chances are sometime you or someone will lean on the table and they will rip out and the table will come crashing down and you will spend more time repairing and repainting the table. But that of course is up to you, you lazy friggin bastard. Skip to the painting and wingnut assembly chapter you cheap son of a bitch.
- Now for all of you diligent, hard working and industrious individuals I will show you how to do it right and your table will last forever.
- Where you screwed the hinges into the top drill holes to accept the #8 – 32 X 3/8” bolts and nuts. There will be 16 holes total (on the right side leg assembly you do not use the outermost hole on the hinge. It is too close to the edge. Don't drill a hole for that.).
- On the top of the table where the drilled holes came through use a forstner bit or just a large drill bit wide enough to accept the washer and nut for the bolt. Drill down about 1/2 way into the top. The washer and nut will sit inside of this hole. As an alternative to washer and nut you can use those wood nut thingys with the spikes on them. I forget what they are called. Maybe wood nuts. For demonstration purposes I am just going to refer to nut and washer.
- From underneath the table insert a bolt in the hole and from the top of the table put the washer and nut on from the top side. Screw them together tight. Do this for all of the holes.
- Fill the holes on the top with wood putty. Don't fill it completely the first time. Fill it half way. Otherwise it will shrink and crack when it dries. Let it sit until the next day. Then fill it the rest of the way and leave a nice raised blob on top. Leave it sit for another day.
- The next day sand it down smooth using a sander or by hand.
- From underneath unscrew the bolts. You are ready for painting.

## Step 6: Painting

- With the metal hardware off paint all of the wood with a good latex exterior grade primer. Put 2 coats on.
- Paint all of the wood OD green. Use a minimum of 3 coats although 4 or 5 would be more durable.
- After you have finished painting the parts let them sit for at least a week before assembling the table. This is because the paint is soft for at least a week and you will scrape or pull it right off, or when assembled it will stick to each other and when you move them the paint will tear off. Then you will have to paint again. Patience is a virtue and will save you time in the long run. Use the time to paint your hardware and make the wingnut assembly. Here are the OD green paint codes for the table:

PAINT TO USE: Behr Premium Plus Exterior Satin Enamel (tell them to use Deep Base # 9340)

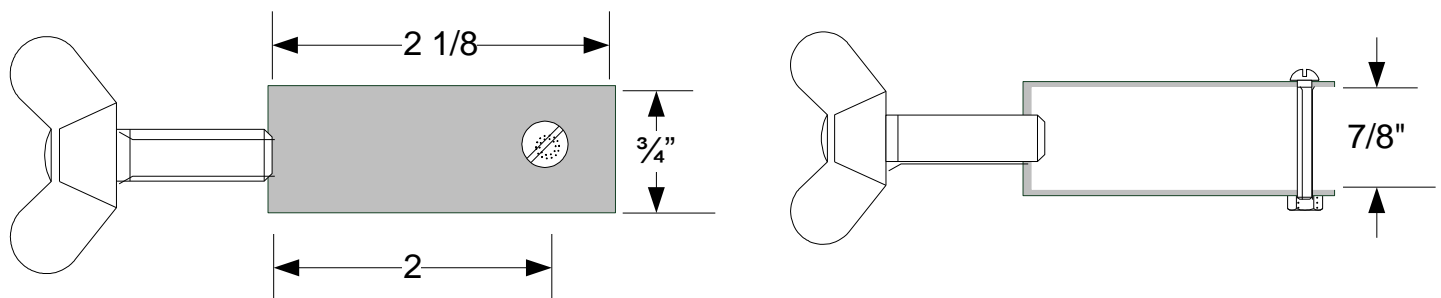
### PAINT CODES:

COLORANT	OZ	48OZ
C Yellow Oxide	1	20
D Thalo Green	0	16
KX White	0	4
L Raw Umber	10	4

- To make it look right you should paint the hinges. But paint wont stick to it if you don't do it right. Sand them down with sandpaper to make them rough and then spray them with primer. You can then paint them with the OD paint from the wood or use Tamiya TS-5 spray paint. You can get that at hobby shops.

## Step 7: Wingnut Assembly

- This part is not easy. I will tell you right now. Unless you have a resource to buy the wingnut assembly you will have to make it. This is the best way I could think of. If you are not good at working with metal you may have to ask someone to do it for you. You can get all of the materials at Home Depot or Lowes. You must make 2 of these so do these steps on each of them.
- Make a mark on the 1/8" X 3/4" bar steel 2.5 inches in from the end. Bend it there at a 90 degree angle. From the inside of the bend make a mark at 7/8 inch and bend another right angle there. Then cut the piece off at 2 1/8" from the front on EACH SIDE.
- Drill a hole 2" from the front on each side to accept a 1/4" bolt.
- In the center of the front, drill a hole using a bit around 5/32". This is for the 1/4" bolt to hold the wingnut. After you drill the hole you must tap it to accept a 1/4" bolt. Check the proper drill bit for the tap.
- Round the corners of the piece and smooth any burrs around the holes with a file. Using a sander, sand the whole piece smooth. This serves 2 purposes. It removes sharp edges that will gouge your paint and it will prep the piece for painting.
- Paint the piece with primer and then with the same paint as the table or Tamiya TS-5. You can do this for the wingnut and washer too.
- When dry screw the 1/4" bolt into the end from the INSIDE so that it protrudes out the front. To prevent it from unscrewing during use I used some 2 part epoxy (J-B Weld) around the last few threads so that when it hardens the bolt will not move.
- The wingnut assembly is complete.



## **Step 8: Assembly**

- Assemble the table as you did before. Add the strap to secure the legs.
- You can put a US stencil on top or not if you want.
- The table is completed.