

# Shaker Lap Desk

DESIGNED AND HAND-DRAWN BY CHRISTIAN BECKSVOORT

## A traditional lap desk tailor-made for today's laptops

Designed to function as a miniature traveling office, the classic Shaker lap desk was indeed the laptop of its time. With room for paper, envelopes, pens, and a small inkwell drawer, similar designs—like the model used by Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration of Independence—continue to draw attention for their precise joinery on a miniature scale, and harken back to an earlier era when pen and ink were king.

This traditional lap desk can still be used for writing while sitting in an easy chair. Better yet, with the center divider removed, it can be used to store your laptop computer, cords, and even thumb and flash drives in the tiny inkwell drawer. For those in search of a weekend project to hone their joinery skills, this project offers a carcass of exposed dovetails, breadboard ends designed for the long haul, and plenty of small-scale details that come together to form a piece that's sure to spark many a conversation.

*For detailed assembly instructions, visit:*

<http://www.finewoodworking.com/woodworking-plans>



## Hardwood breadboard ends

Made of maple, the desk's breadboard ends are designed to accommodate for wood movement, with elongated peg holes and a minimal amount of glue. Due to its excellent cross-grain stability, quartersawn white pine is used for the bottom, which is simply glued to the bottom of the carcass.

## Delicate drawer with integrated stop block

With a front that's made from 3/8 in. stock and sides built from 1/4 in. stock, the lap desk's drawer has a delicate look but is anything but weak. A hard maple stop block rides within a groove routed into the elongated right-hand drawer side for firm action.



## Materials

Built of pine like the original, the desk requires about 7 to 8 bd. ft. of lumber milled to 3/8-in. thickness. The tiny inkwell drawer, perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of this project, is constructed from 1/4-in. stock, and the top features hardwood breadboard ends secured with cherry dowels.

The hinges used for this project should have leaves no bigger than 3/8 in. and should measure 1 in. to 1-1/2 in. in length.

