

forty-two roads presents:



The Little Cardboard Furniture How-To Guide

Part 1: Getting Ready



Materials

- Large corrugated cardboard sheets
- 1-2 rolls of contact paper, depending on pattern combinations and cutting errors
- Coordinating t-shirt fabric squares - enough to create approximately an 18" x 14" rectangle (so 63 2" squares, or 30 3" squares, etc.)
- 16"x13" piece of fabric
- 2 15"x9" pieces of fabric
- 2 6"x4.5" pieces of fabric
- 14"x8" piece of batting or 2-3 such pieces of thick t-shirt fabric
- 5"x3.5" piece of batting or 2-3 such pieces of thick t-shirt fabric
- Embroidery floss or other thick thread

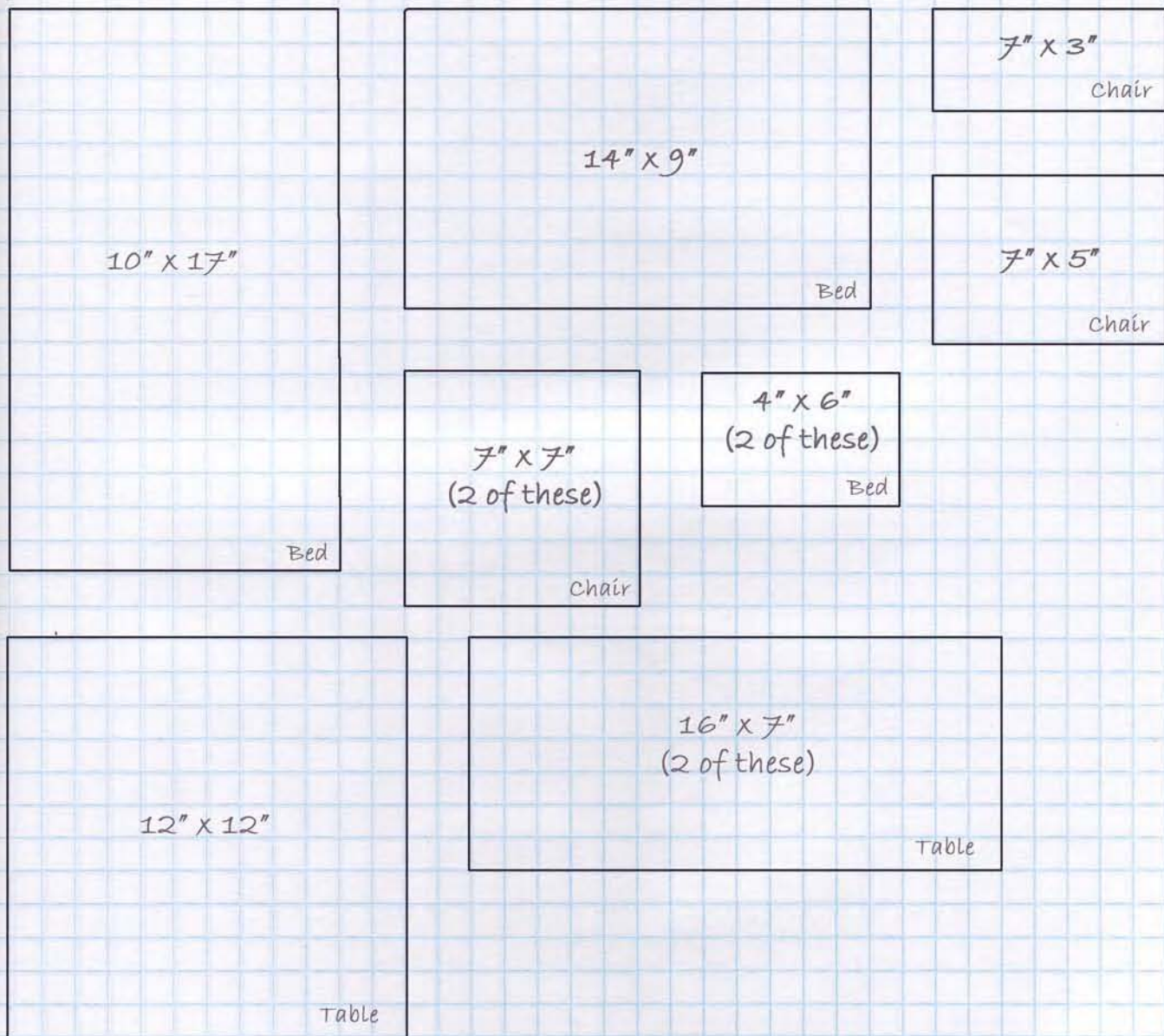
Tools

- Box cutter with several sharp blades
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun & glue sticks
- Ruler
- Needle and thread
- Large T-Square (optional)
- Sewing machine (optional)

Part II: Cardboard Cutouts

Step 1. Enough Cardboard

Collect all your cardboard. Each shape needs 2 layers of corrugated cardboard. You will need 1 of each shape, unless indicated otherwise. The scale here is 1 square = 1 inch.



Step 2. Double-Layering

Check out your cardboard. If you were lucky enough to find cardboard that already has two layers (I recommend searching the dumpsters behind electronics stores), you won't need to do most of this. Can't tell whether yours has two layers or one? Look at the corrugation on the edge.



one ply

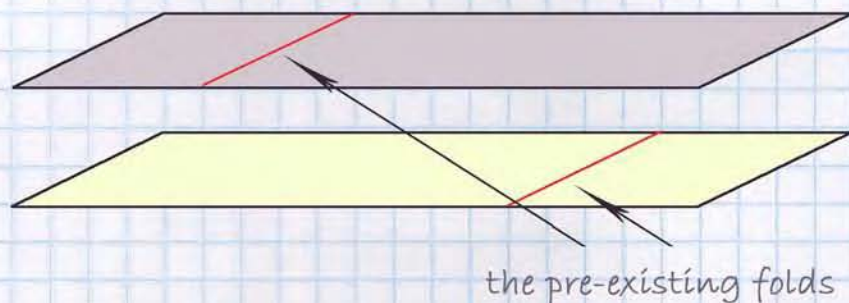


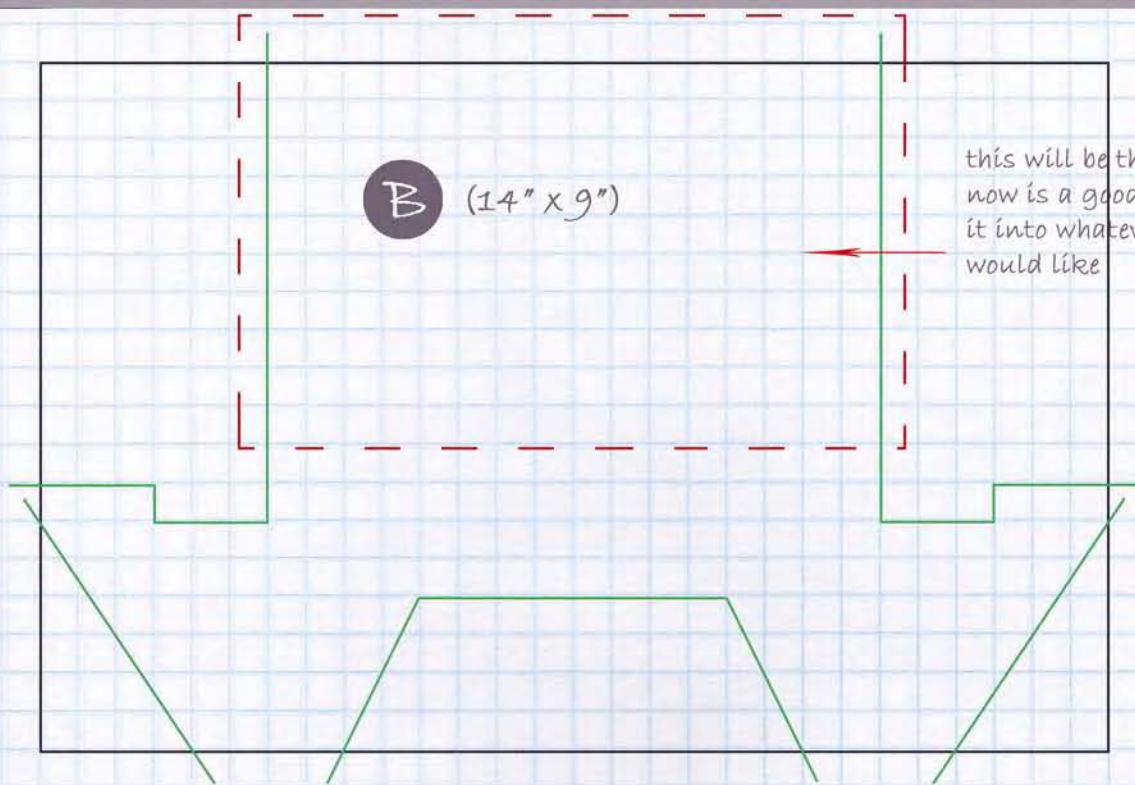
three ply

Otherwise, heat up your glue gun, and for each shape in Step 1:

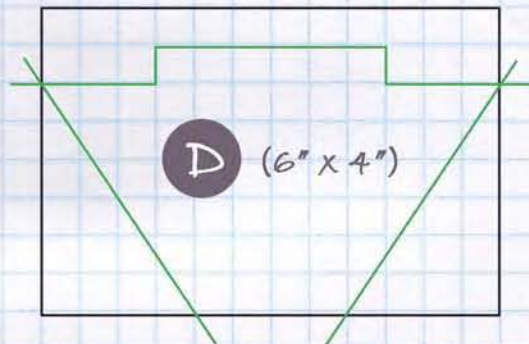
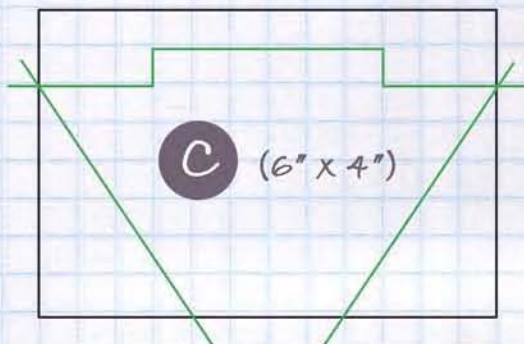
1. Cut out the two cardboard layers
2. Carefully glue one to the other (if one side has graphics, face that side inward), putting the glue near but not directly on the edges so that you keep the slightly rough-hewn look of exposed corrugation
3. Remember that one of the pieces (30" x 22") needs 3 layers, not 2

If your cardboard has a fold in the middle of it (if you cut it from the side and top of a box, say), make sure to align the pieces so that the fold of one layer rests on an unfolded part of the other layer:

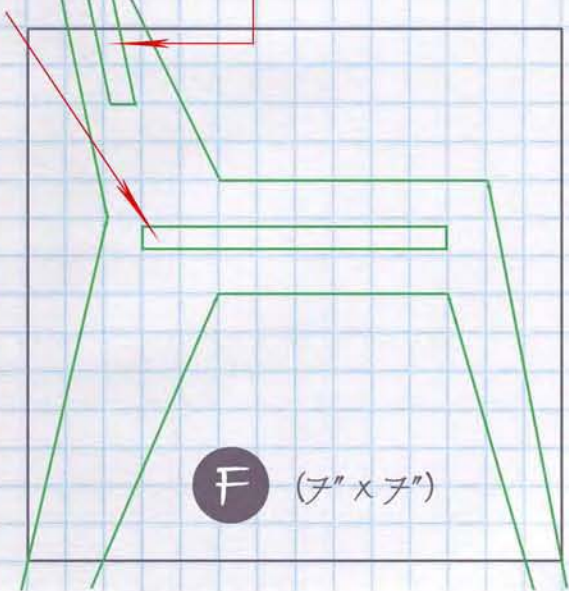
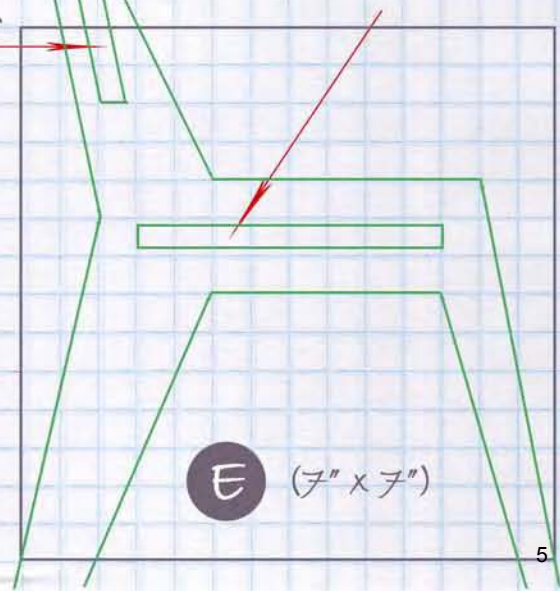


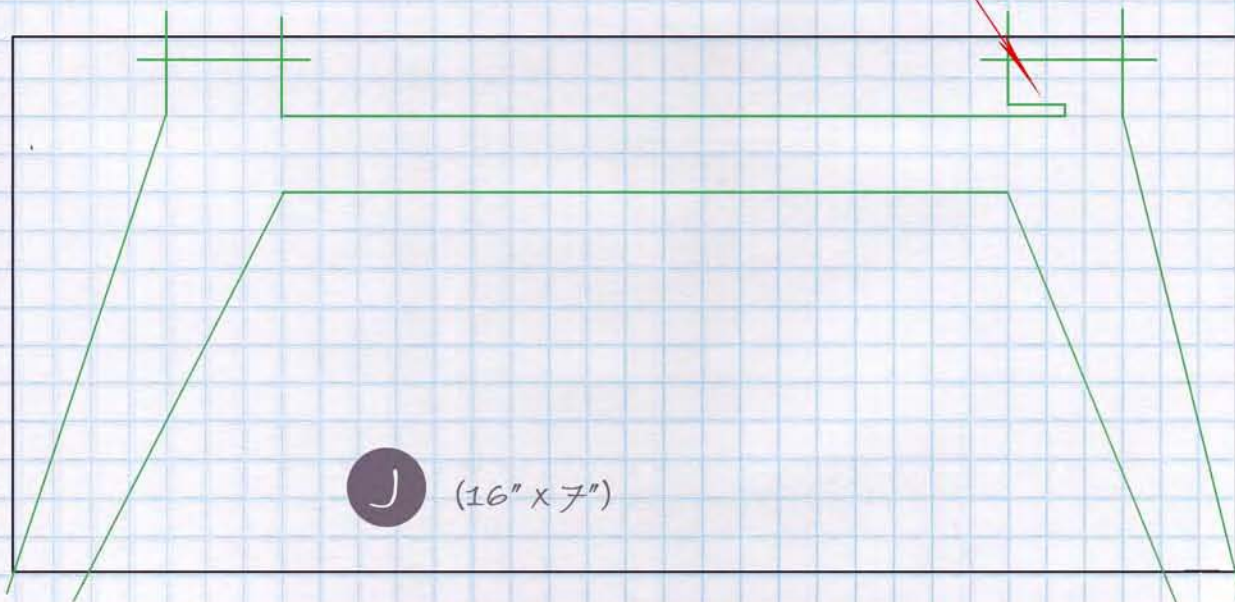
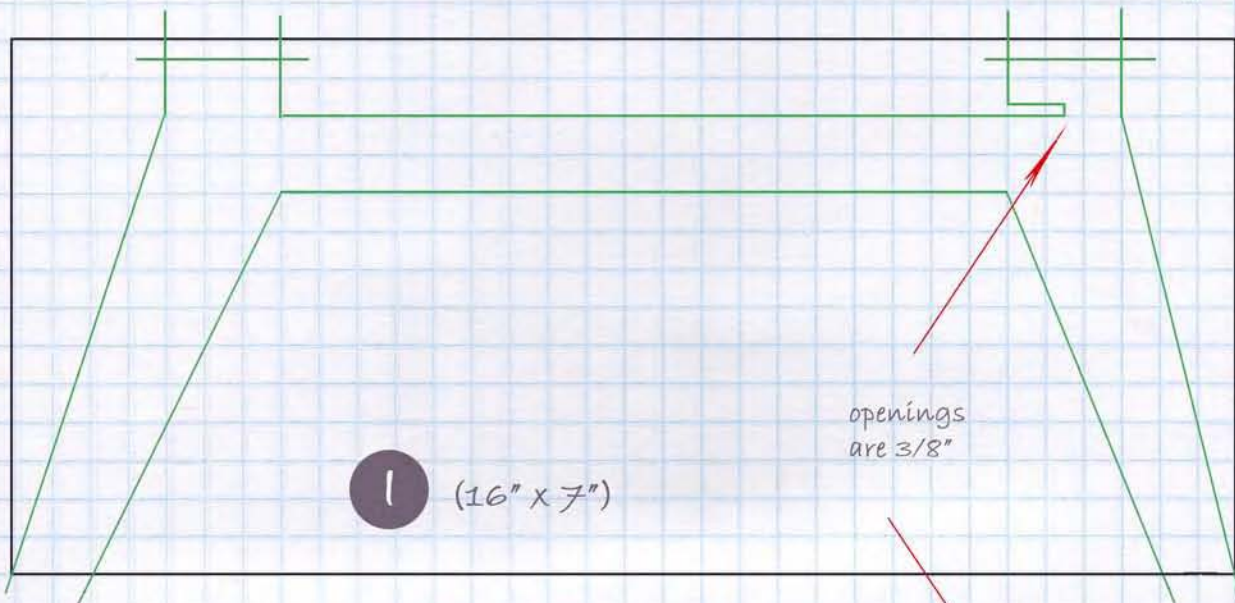
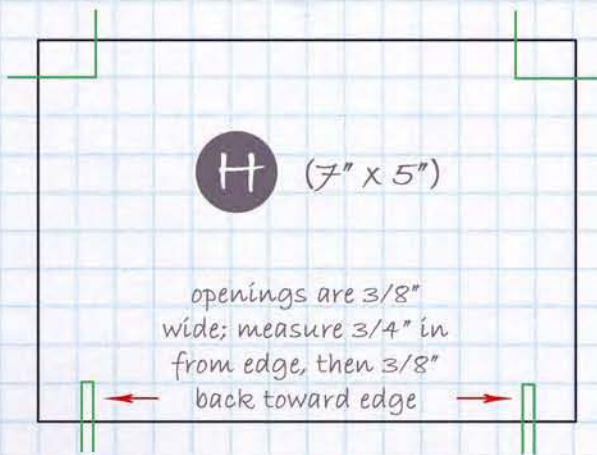
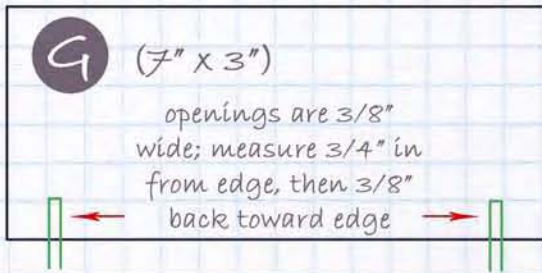


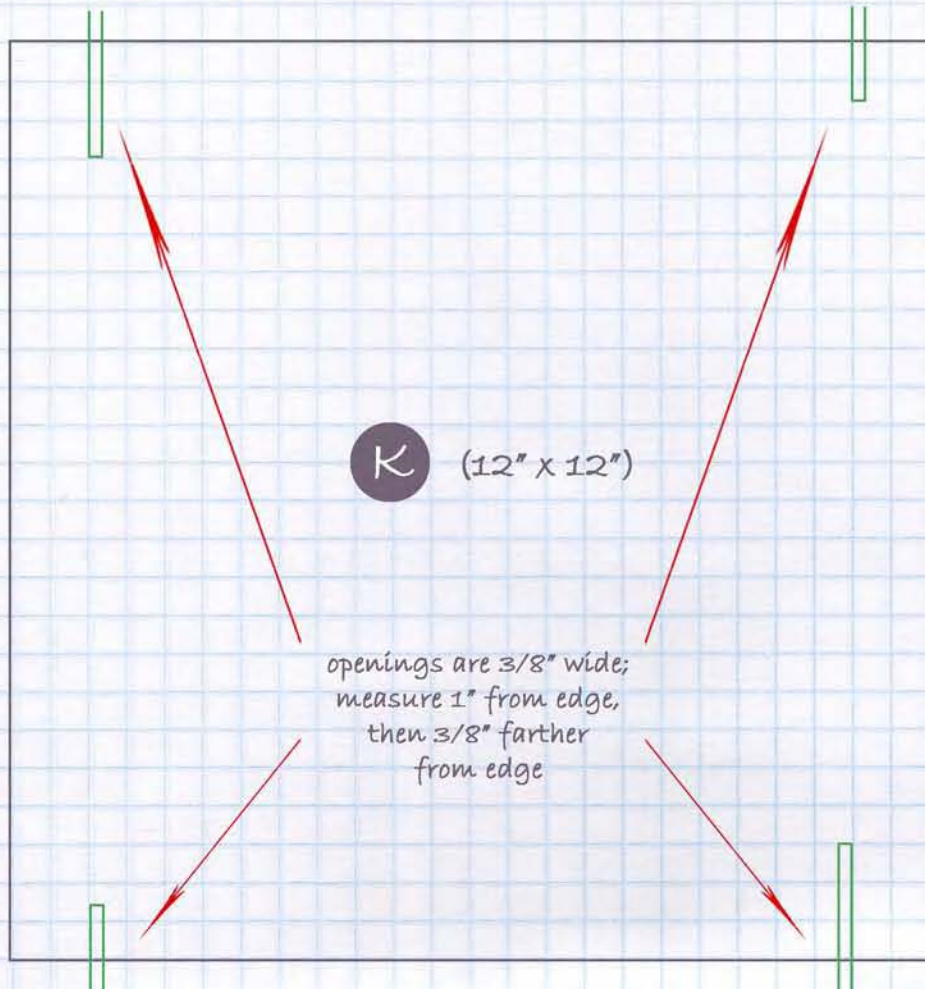
this will be the headboard -
now is a good time to cut
it into whatever shape you
would like



each of these four openings is 3/8" wide;
work outward from the middle to center the openings

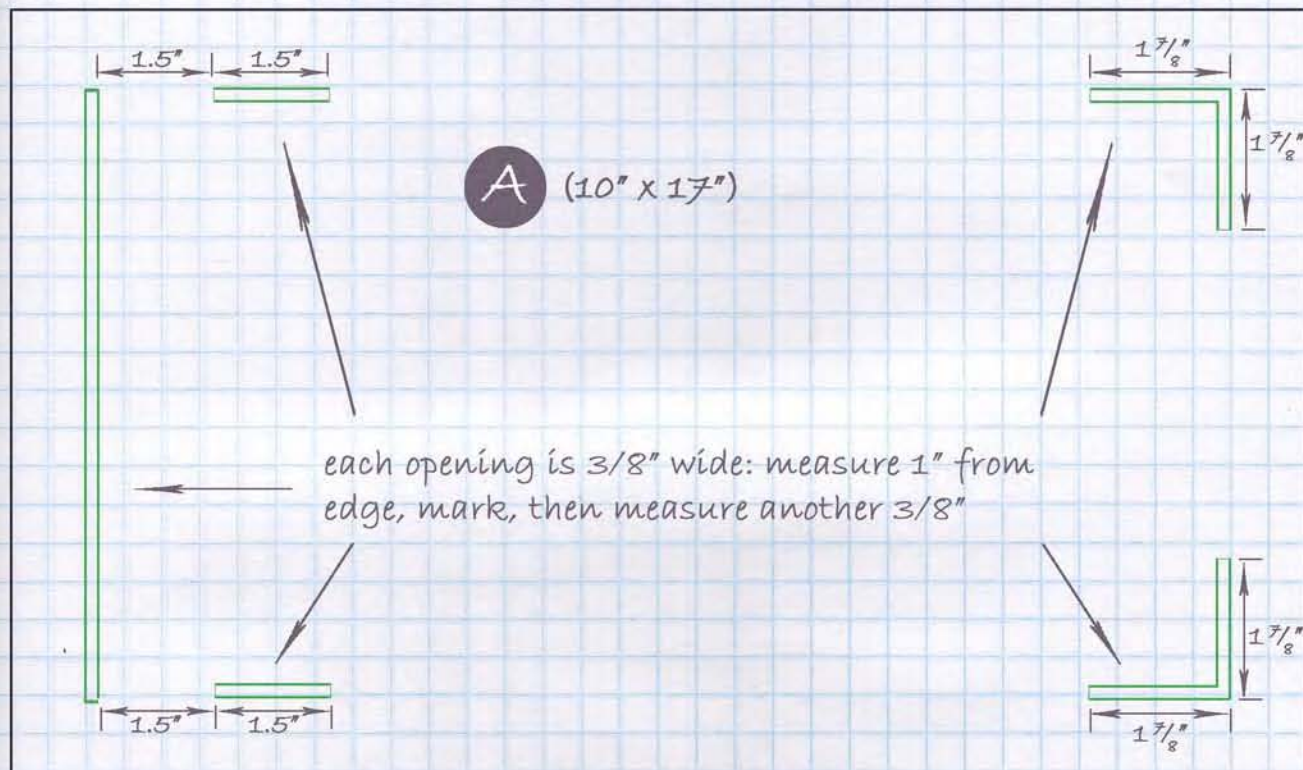






Step 3. Cutting Out the Shapes

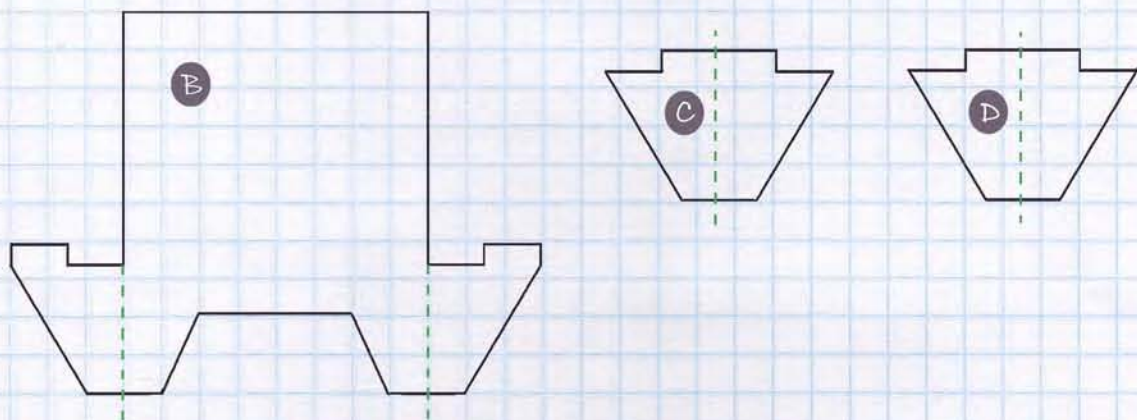
Now to cut out the shapes of the furniture from the rectangles. The cut lines are in green. For each line, place a metal ruler on the cardboard and hold it firmly while running the box cutter blade alongside. Don't press down too hard - several passes are better than a mangled edge. Please note: in these diagrams, 1 square = 1/2 inch.



Part III: Scoring the Bed Legs

The legs of the bed need to be scored and bent.

Take pieces B, C, and D, and very carefully run your box cutter along the green dotted lines in this diagram.



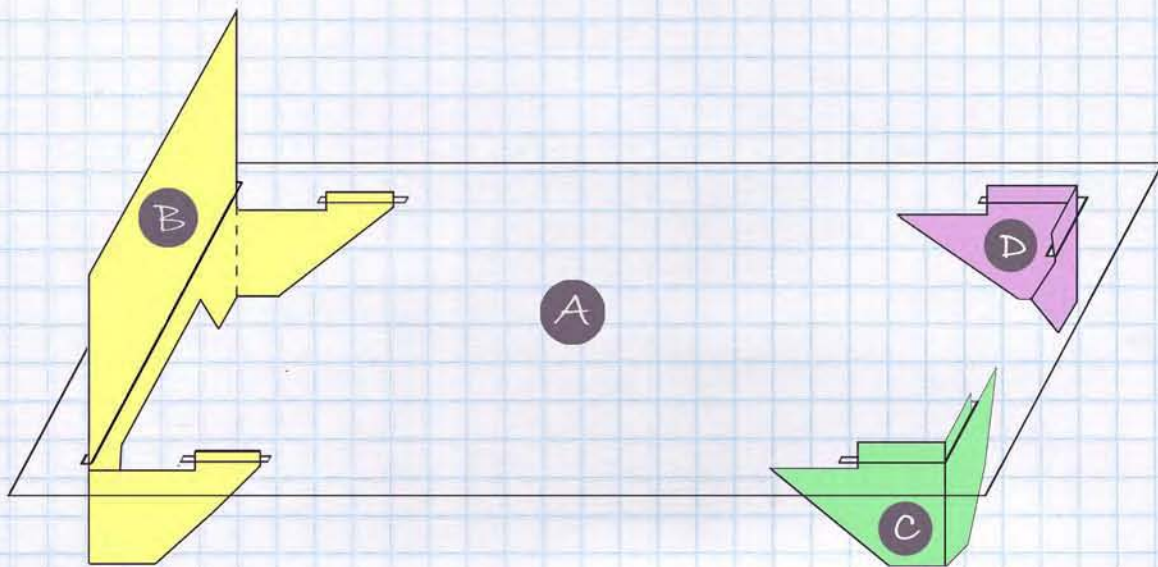
Take care not to cut through the entire width of the cardboard. Instead, cut through one corrugated layer and slowly fold the cardboard along that scored line. The resulting top view will be like the picture on the left. Run a line of hot glue down the fold, like the picture on the right.



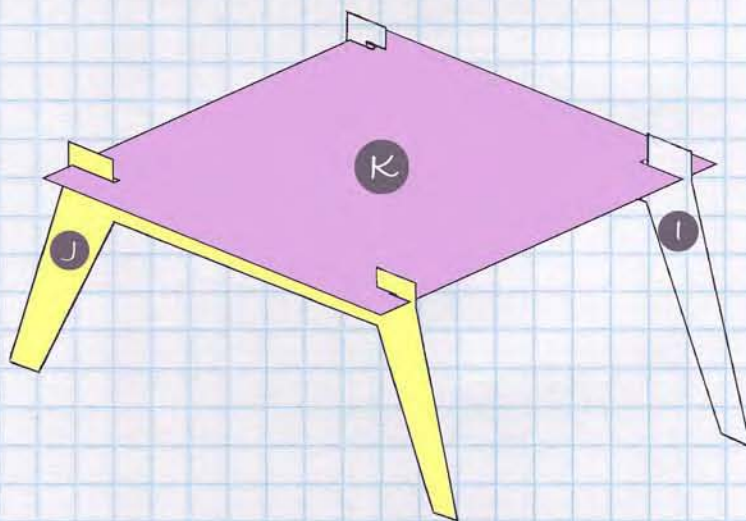
Part IV: Putting it Together

Cover the cardboard in contact paper according to your design.
Then assemble the furniture as shown.

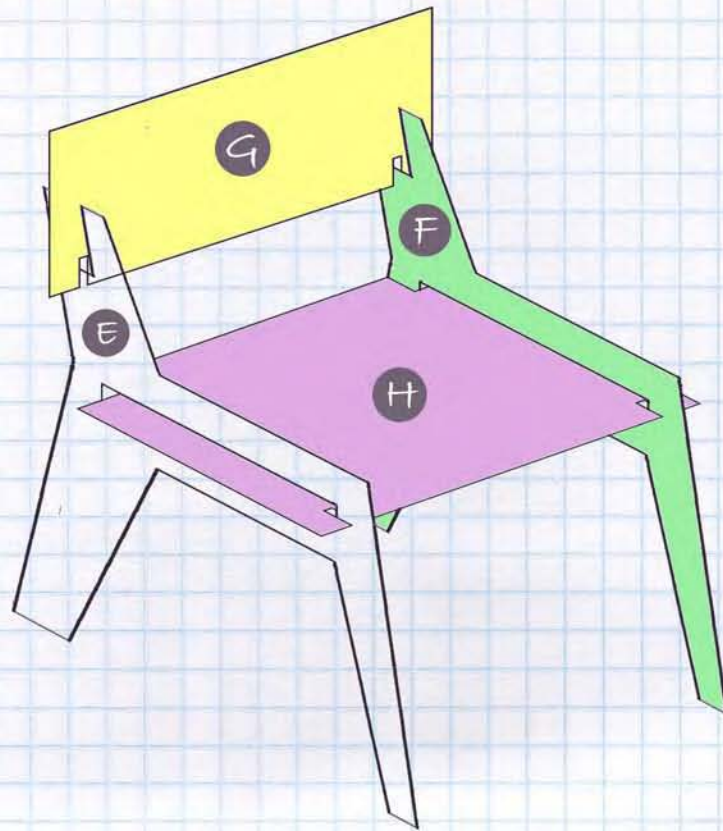
The Bed



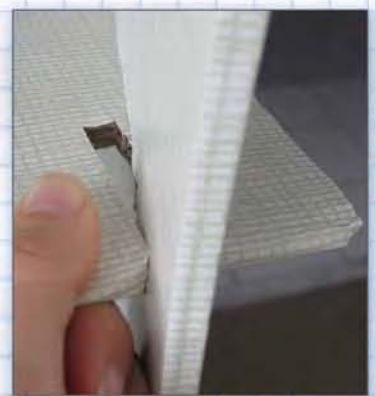
The Table



The Chair

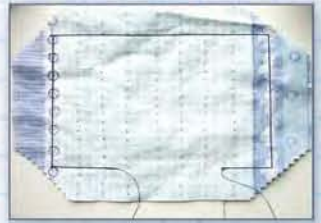


Hook parts E and F through part A by sliding the notched edges through the opening first, then pulling them forward while bringing the rest of the edge through the opening.



Part V: Linens

1. Assemble your mattress and pillow. Put rectangles of pillow fabric right sides together, and sew together at least 1/2" from the edge. Leave a gap to turn pillow inside out, and cut off the corners, like this:



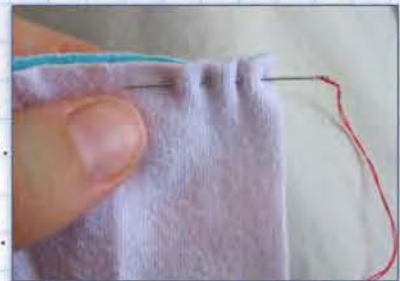
2. Turn pillowcase right side out, stuff batting (or batting replacement) inside, and sew up the gap. Repeat these steps with mattress fabric and batting.



3. Use embroidery floss to tie knots in the mattress. Space knots every two inches by running needle down and up in a small stitch, then tying two knots with thread edges.



4. Arrange small fabric squares into quilt pattern and take a photo for reference. Put two squares wrong sides together and sew a running stitch seam 1/4" from edge. Take the next two squares, wrong sides together, and continue sewing the seam without tying off the thread.



5. Continue sewing together rows of squares. Then, sew the rows of squares to one another. Finally, sew seams running across the rows to create squares of seams.



6. Finally, sew the last piece of fabric to the quilt, using the technique described in steps 1 and 2 (minus the batting).

