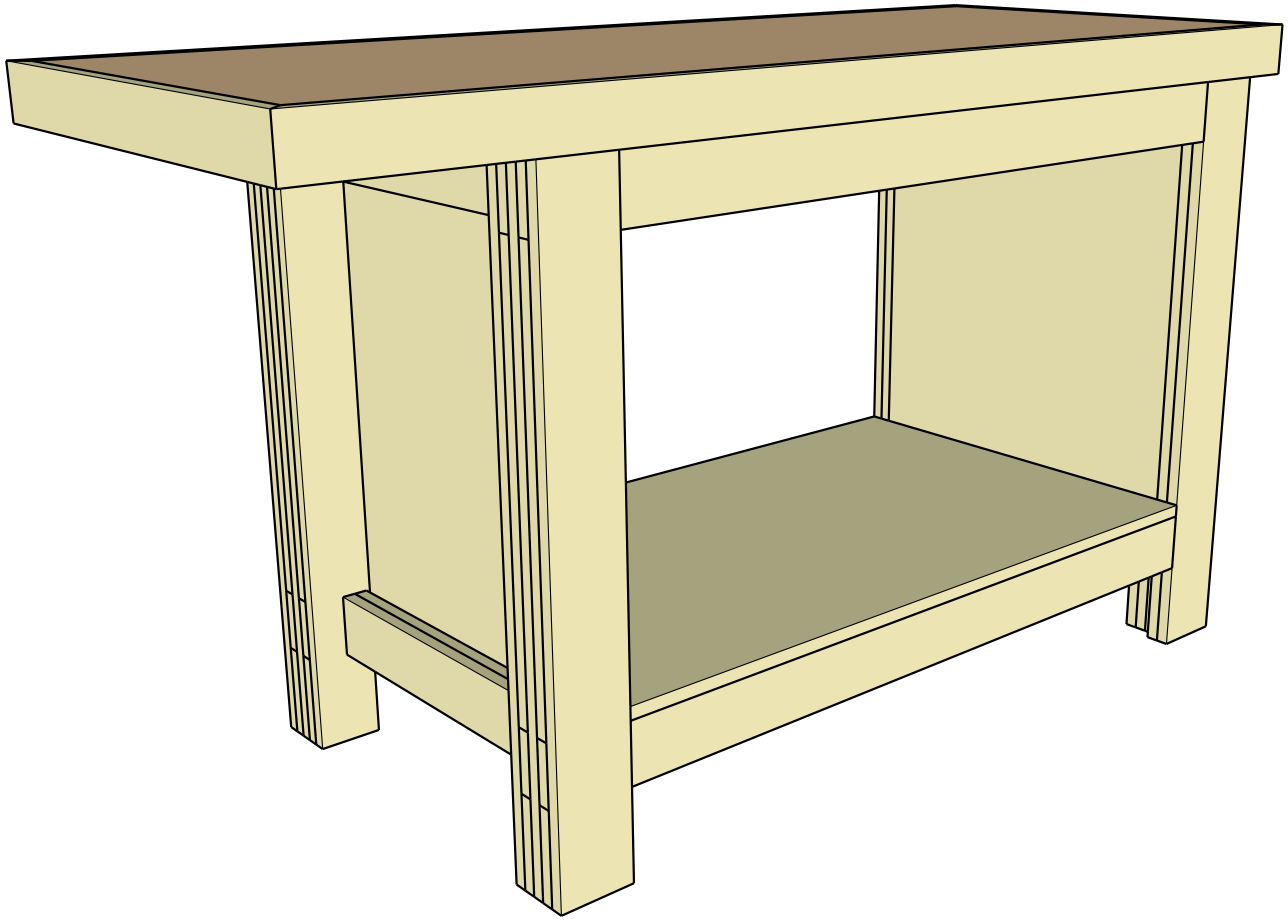
Cheap, Solid, Easy to Build Workbench



PASK MAKES

A woodworking workbench is something I've needed for a long time. I've managed without one and I could continue that way but I've become tired of creative clamping to do the most simple clamping tasks. Also I need a bench that is solid, the bench I'm using now is on castors so I have to kick a wedge under them if I need the bench to remain still. The reason it has taken until now to build the workbench is I've always wanted to build my dream workbench which done properly would take a significant amount of time, which I never seem to find. That's why I've decided to build this one out of plywood, it's cheap and with the layered method of construction for the base it is very strong and was quick to assemble. There would be far more robust workbenches out there but this one shouldn't be discounted, if you need a solid workbench that is cheap and easy to build this would be more than adequate for most peoples needs. Saying that, I will build my dream workbench, one day when the time is right. I am also thinking by building this bench I can figure out, over time what I like about it and what I may have done differently for when I do build my dream bench.

These plans are quite basic and not a step by step guide. However there is enough information here to guide you to a finished workbench. If I've made any mistakes or if there is something I should have included please let me know.
My youtube video of this workbench would also be of help along with these plans. It can be found on my Youtube channel 'Paskmakes'.

The plywood I used for this project was 17mm thick. This was because I have plenty of it in stock. The structure of the base is built around this dimension, I've made a few notes in the plans that need to be observed if you use a different thickness of plywood.

The base pieces are glued and brad nailed together - the top glued and screwed. Something to think about, is where you place any nails or screws if you are going to drill any dog holes or fit vices etc.

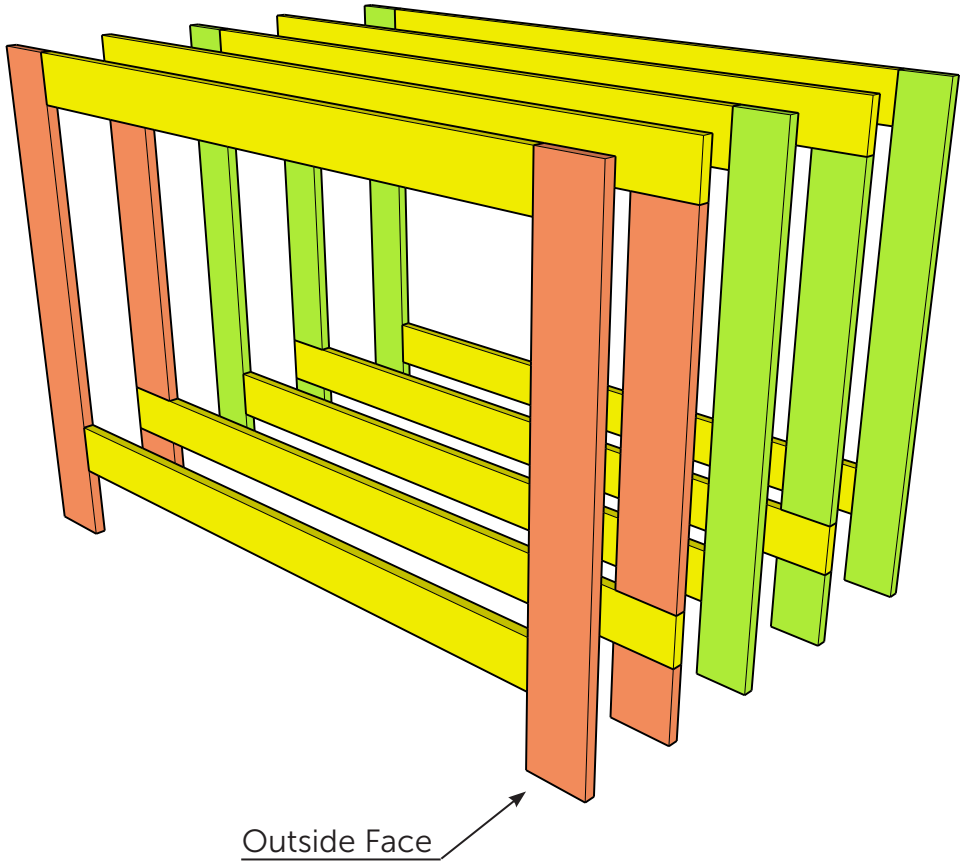
After the base pieces have been cut I recommend laying them out and doing a dry run before any glue up, to fully understand where each piece goes.

If you do build one I would love to see it!

Leg Pieces 100mm wide

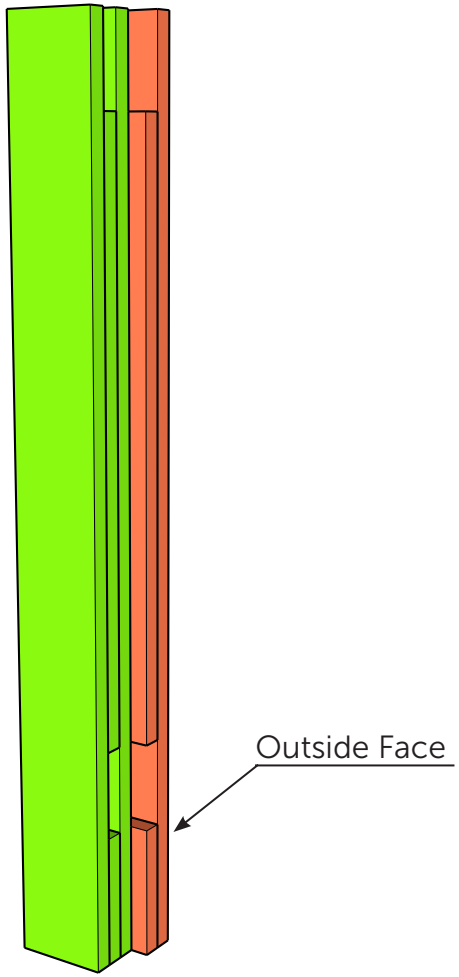
Leg Pieces 83mm wide

Rail Pieces 80mm wide



Assembled Leg

The green 83mm pieces are that dimension to leave a rebate for the side panel to fit into. My plywood is 17mm thick that is why these pieces are 83mm (100mm - 17mm). If you use a different thickness of plywood you will need to adjust the width of these leg pieces.



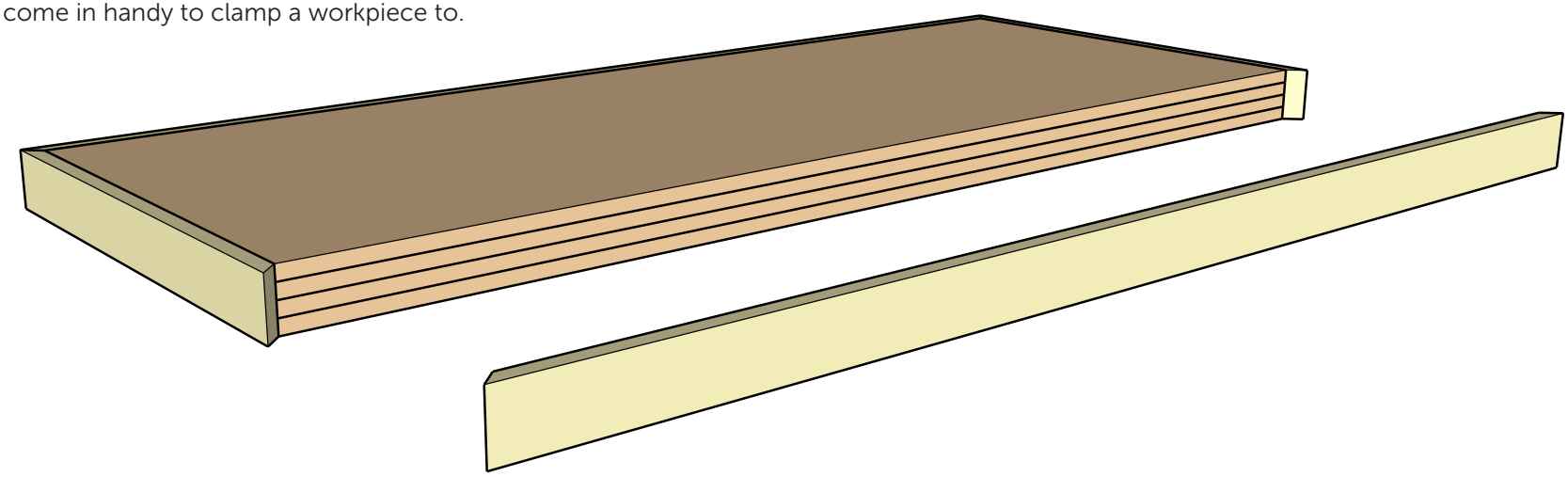
Top

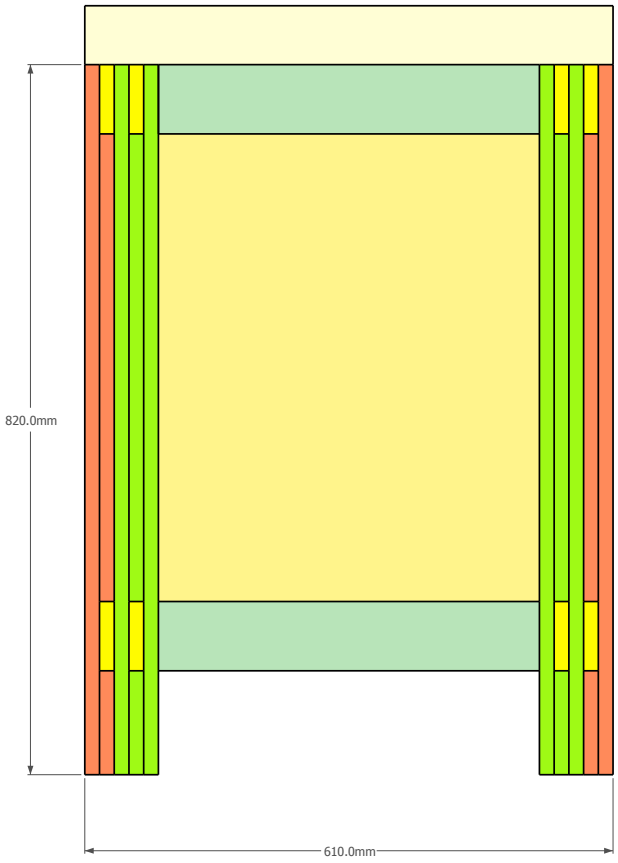
The top is made from 4 pieces of plywood, you could use as few or as many as you think suitable. I found 4 to be sufficiently solid.
The plywood I used for this build has a very thin face veneer so I used a different type of plywood for the very top piece. That had a much thicker face ply and will stand much more abuse. Mdf could also be used instead of the plywood.

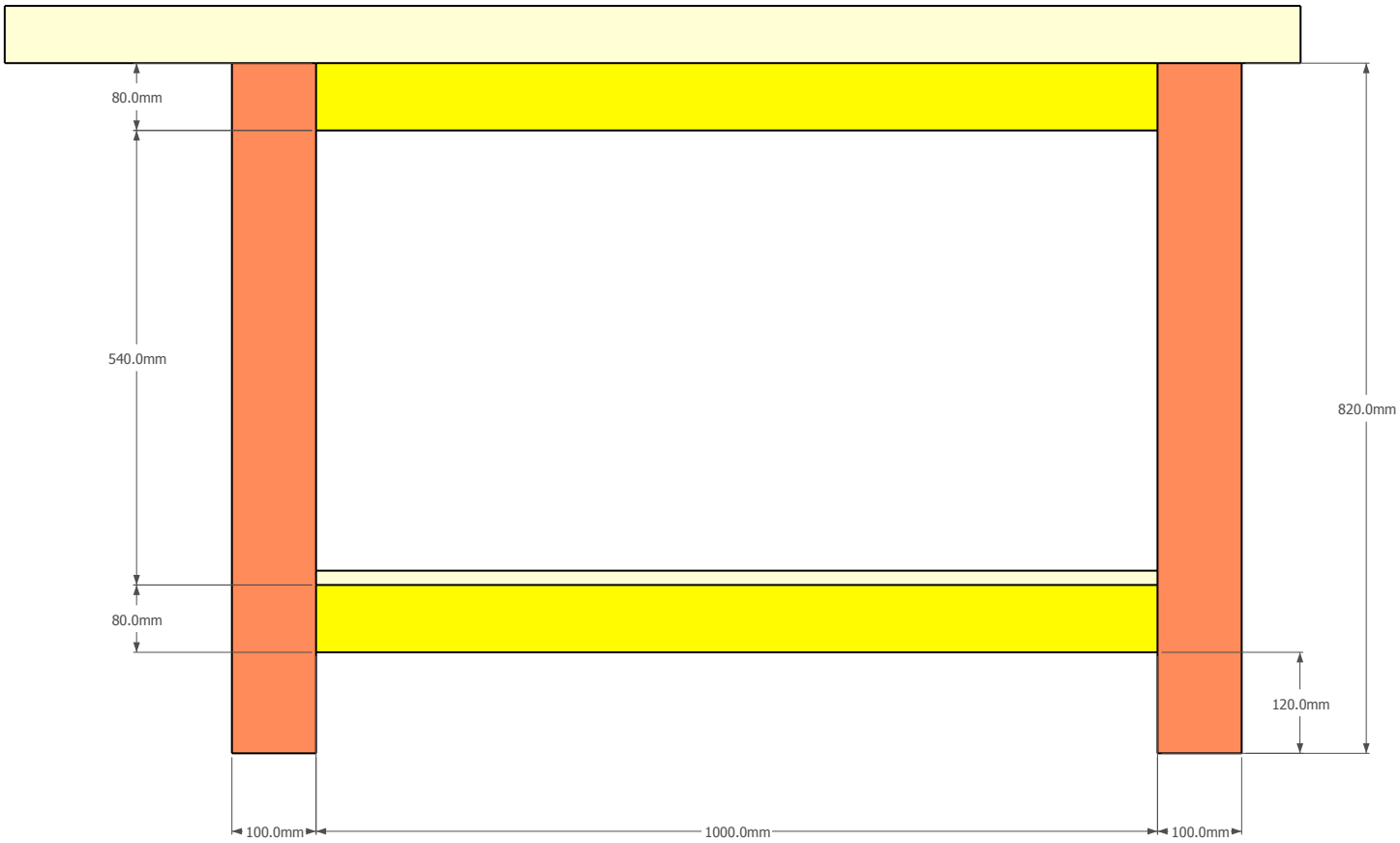
I planed the edge trim down to size (20mm thick), the thickness affects the width of the plywood top pieces (570mm +20mm +20mm = 610mm). 610mm is the overall width of the completed top which matches the width of the workbench. I wanted the top to be the same width as the base so large panels could easily be clamped to the side of the bench. You will have to adjust the width of the plywood pieces if your edge stock is a different thickness to get the overall 610mm width.

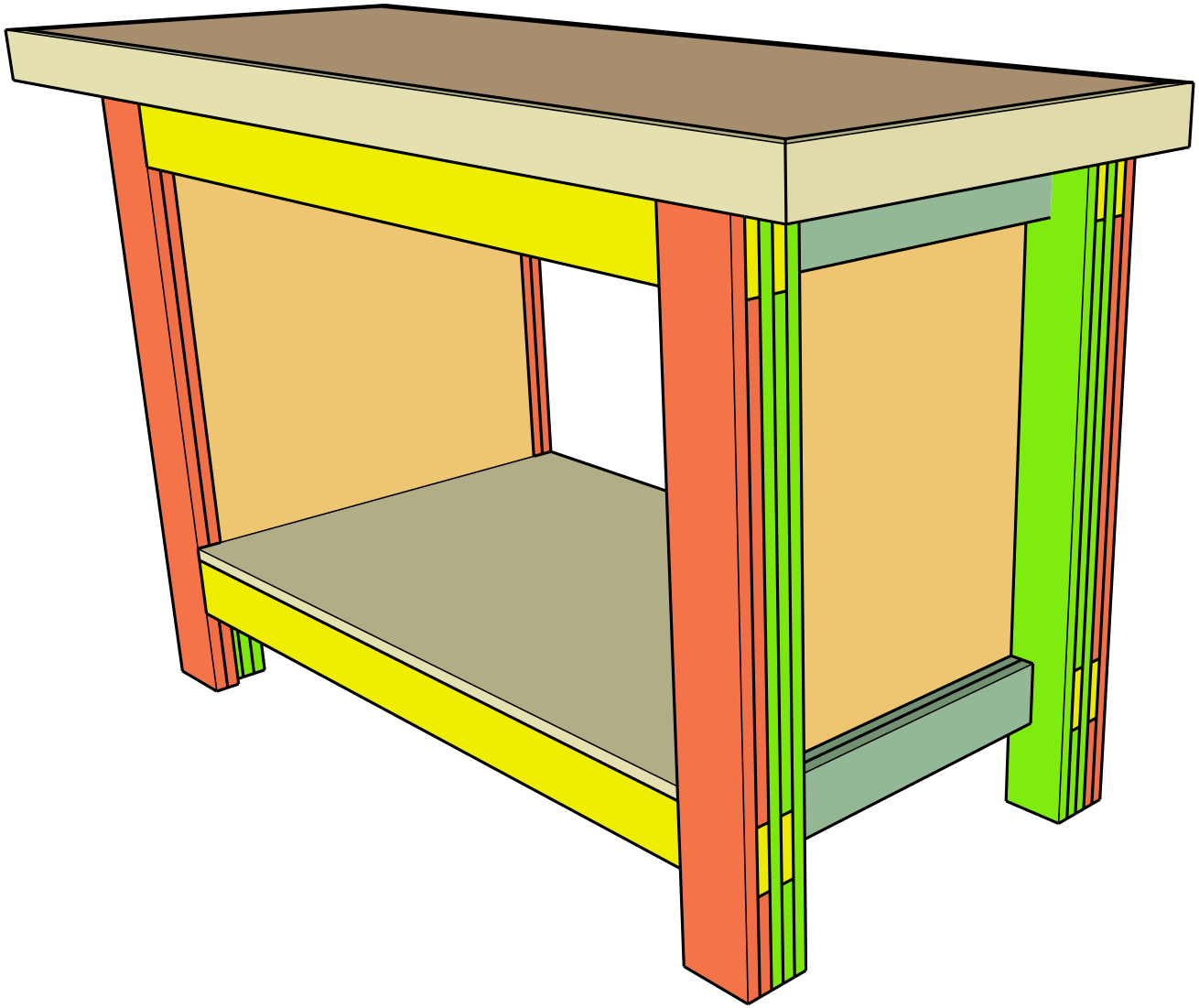
Almost any timber could be used for the edge trim, softwood or hardwood (I havent given any dimensions as it depends on how thick you make your top and the thickness of your timber). It could also be omitted and the plywood top pieces could be cut to the full 610mm width. The exposed edges would be fine if the edge was rounded over and a few good coats of varnish applied to give it some protection.

The top overhangs 270mm on the one end, there was no exact reason for this other than I thought it may come in handy to clamp a workpiece to.




820.0mm
610.0mm

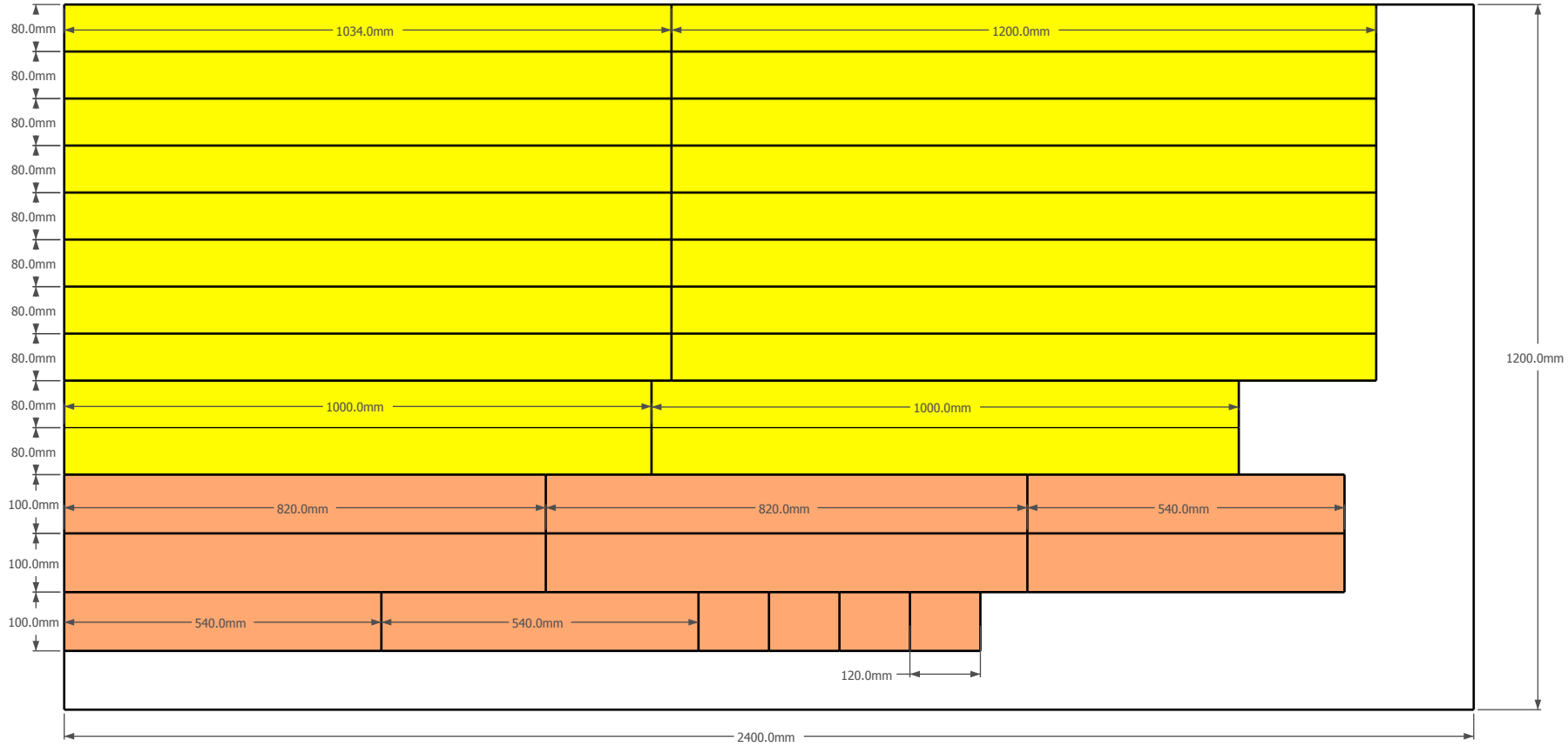

80.0mm
540.0mm
80.0mm
820.0mm
120.0mm
100.0mm
1000.0mm
100.0mm

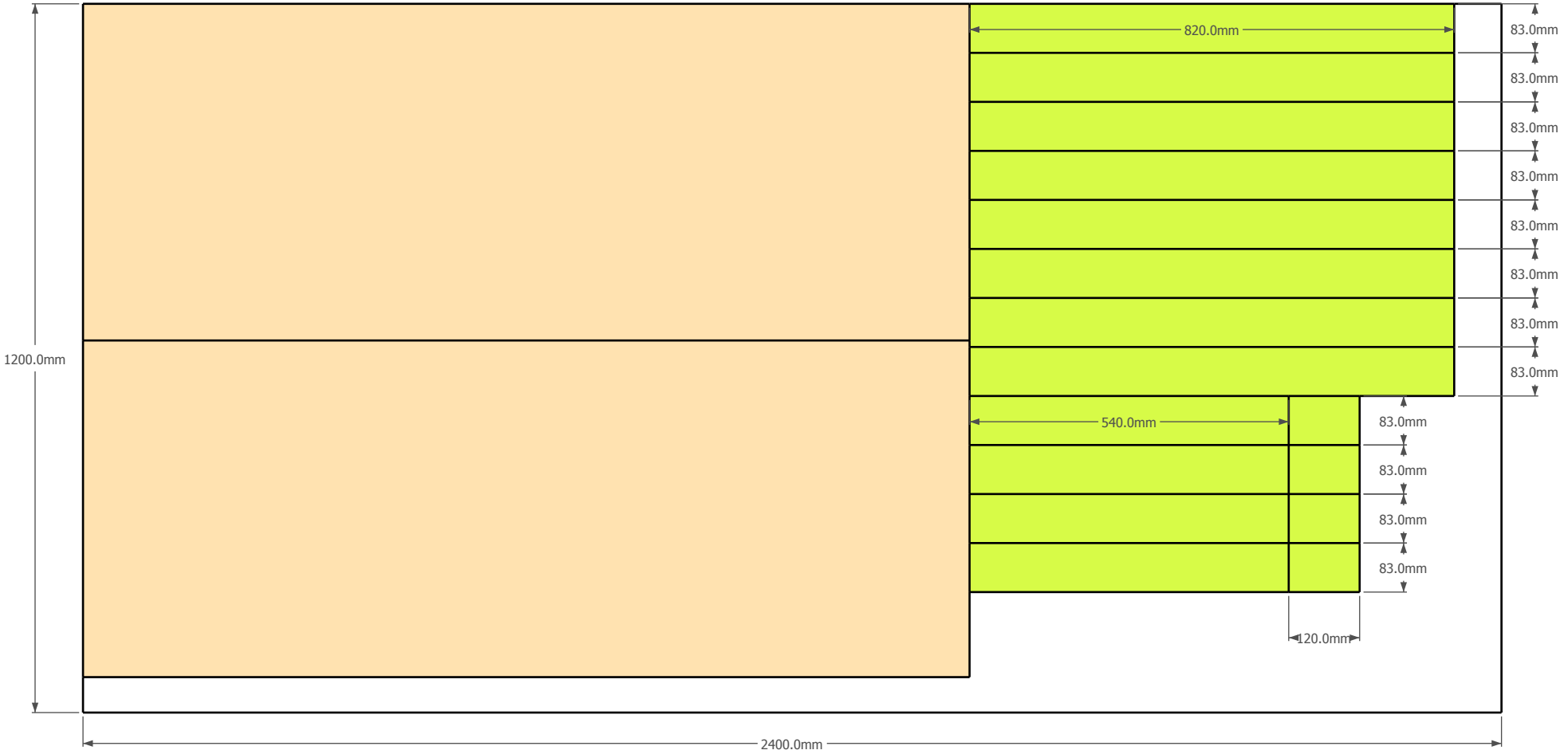


Cutlist - 2400mm x 1200mm Plywood (3 1/2 Sheets)

The 1034mm rail pieces are that length to fit into the leg rebates. My plywood is 17mm thick that is why these pieces are 1034mm (1000mm + 17mm +17mm for both ends to fit into the side rebates).

If you use a different thickness plywood you will need to adjust the length of these rail pieces (1000mm +ply thickness +ply thickness).

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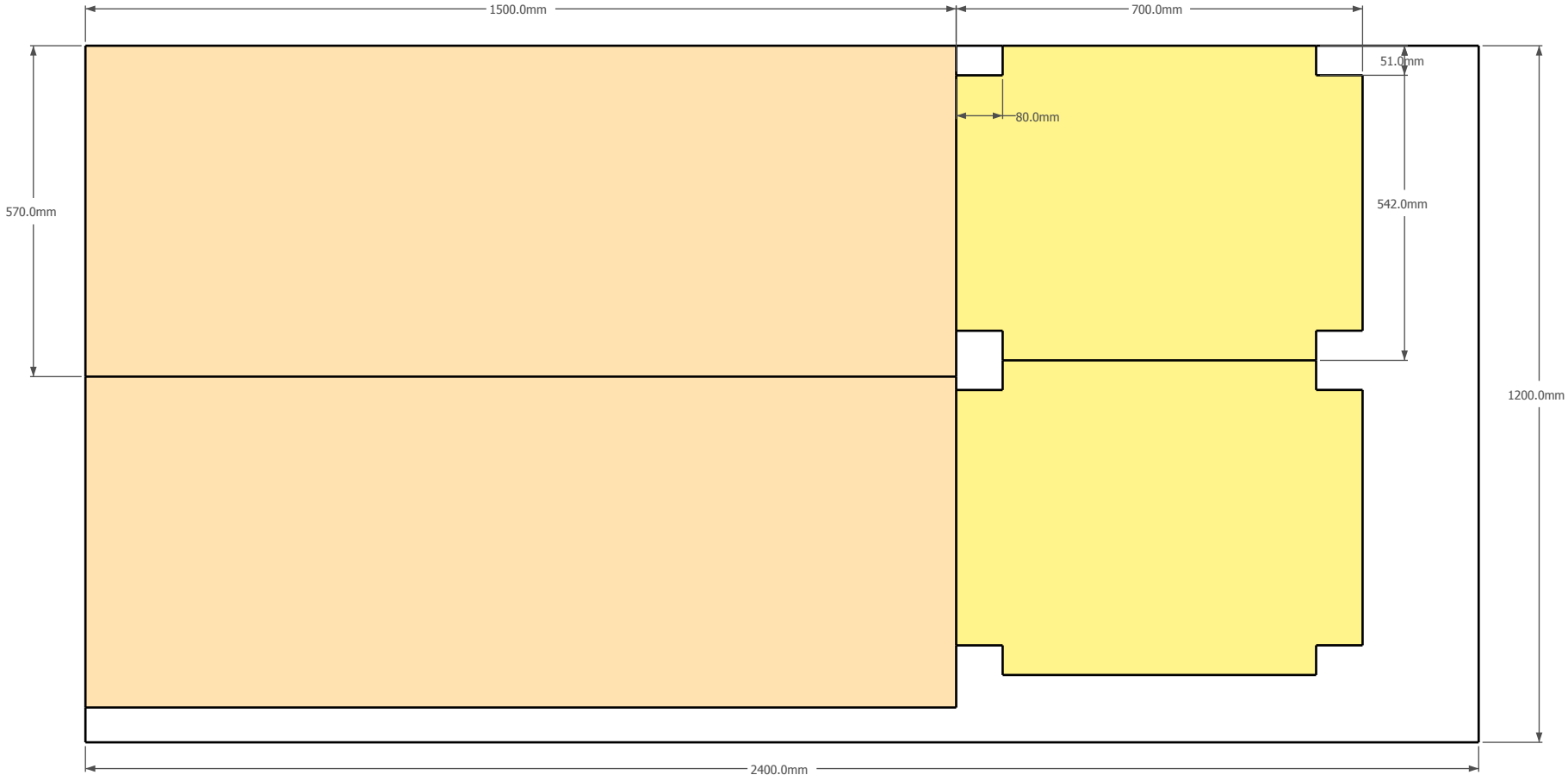
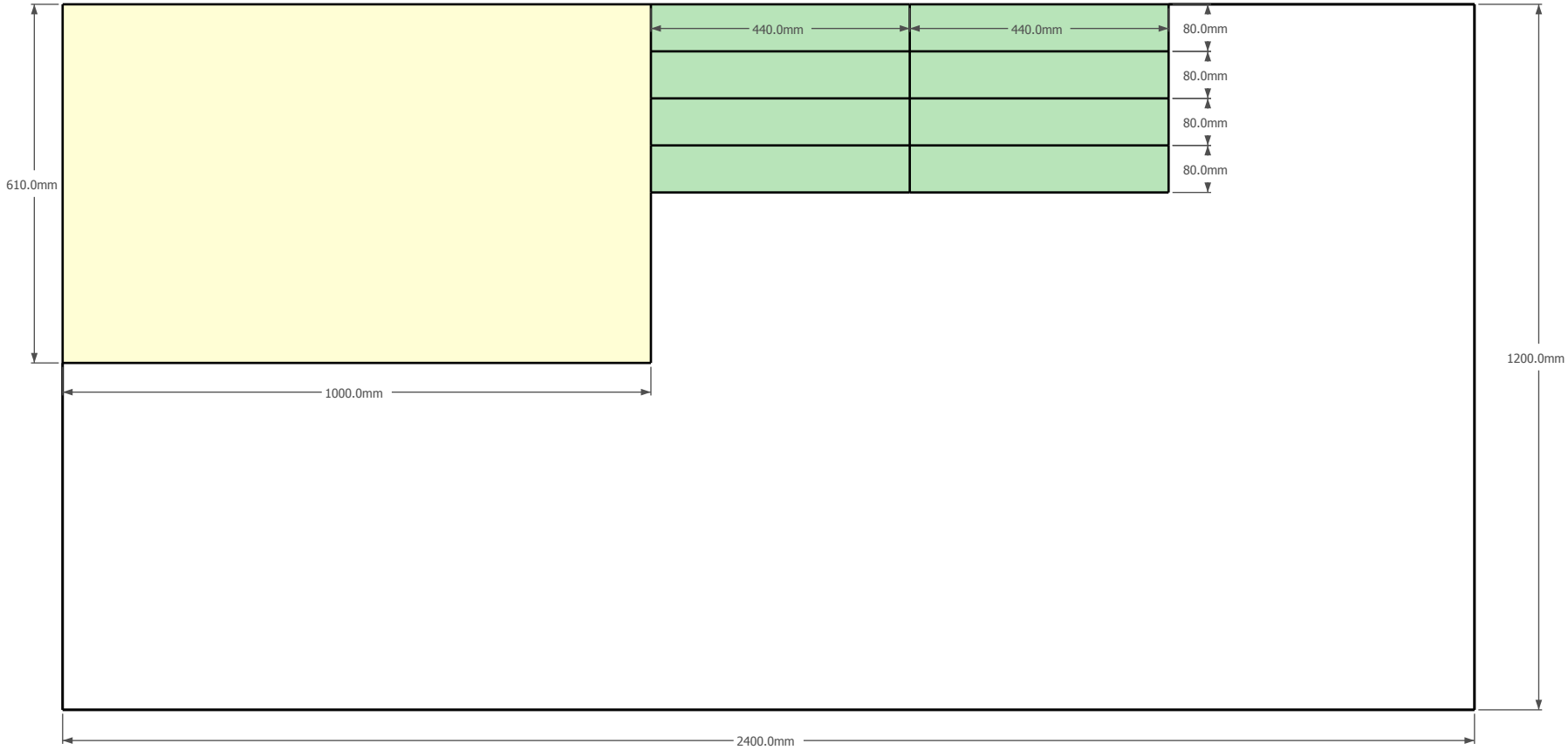
83.0mm
83.0mm
540.0mm
83.0mm
83.0mm
83.0mm
83.0mm
120.0mm
1200.0mm
2400.0mm

The cutouts in the corners of the 2 side panels are 80mm by 3 times the thickness of your plywood used to make the legs, in my case 51mm (3x17mm).




610.0mm
440.0mm
440.0mm
80.0mm
80.0mm
80.0mm
80.0mm
1200.0mm
1000.0mm
2400.0mm