

Project 11419EZ:

Shaker Washstand

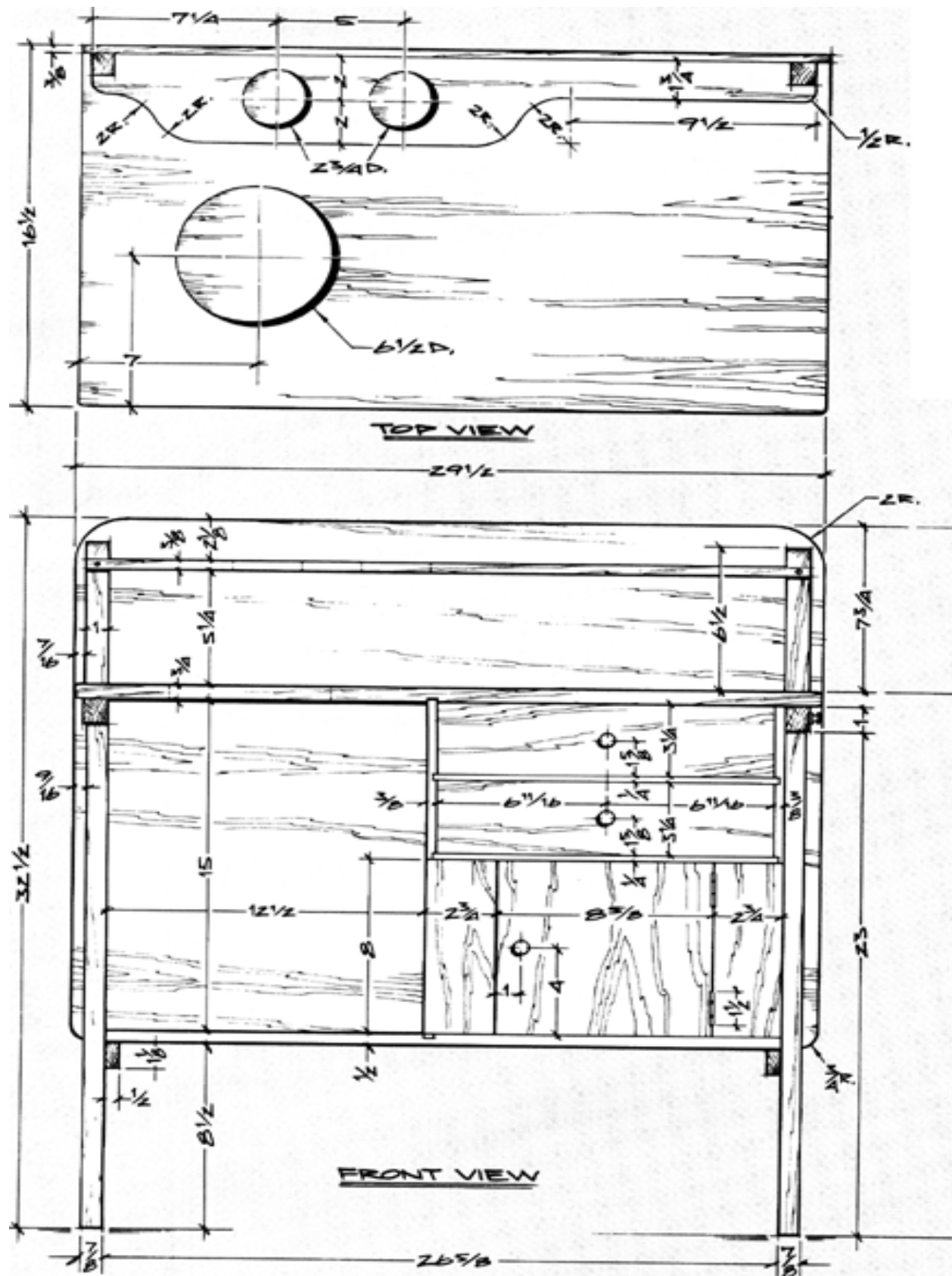


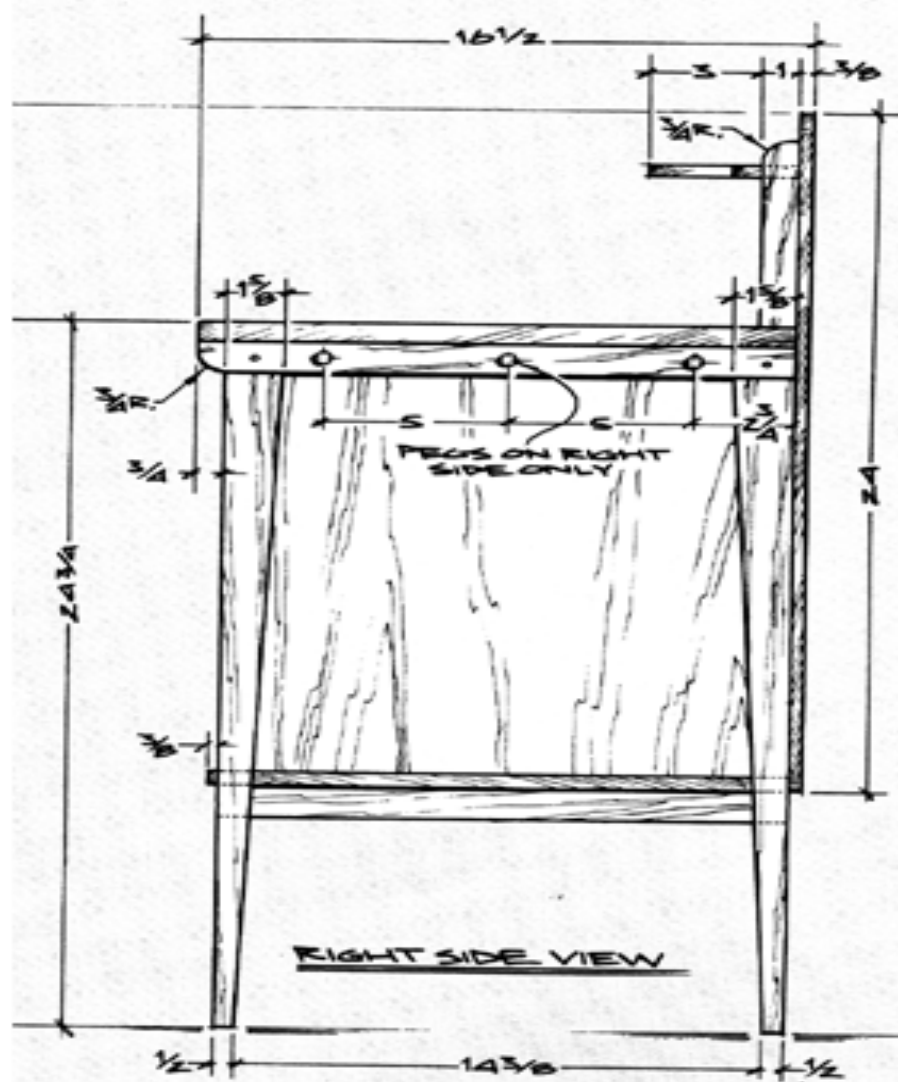
This Shaker washstand is in the collection of Hancock Shaker Village in Hancock, Massachusetts. Like some other museum pieces, we have found that the construction is not always designed with respect to wood movement. However, this is not to imply that Shaker craftsmen were not aware of or concerned with wood movement. Very simply, wood movement was less of a problem before the advent of insulation and central heating, and early cabinetmakers did not need to allow for it in their designs to the extent that we do today. In any case, the washstand has survived intact for well over 100 years; and seems none the worse for wear.

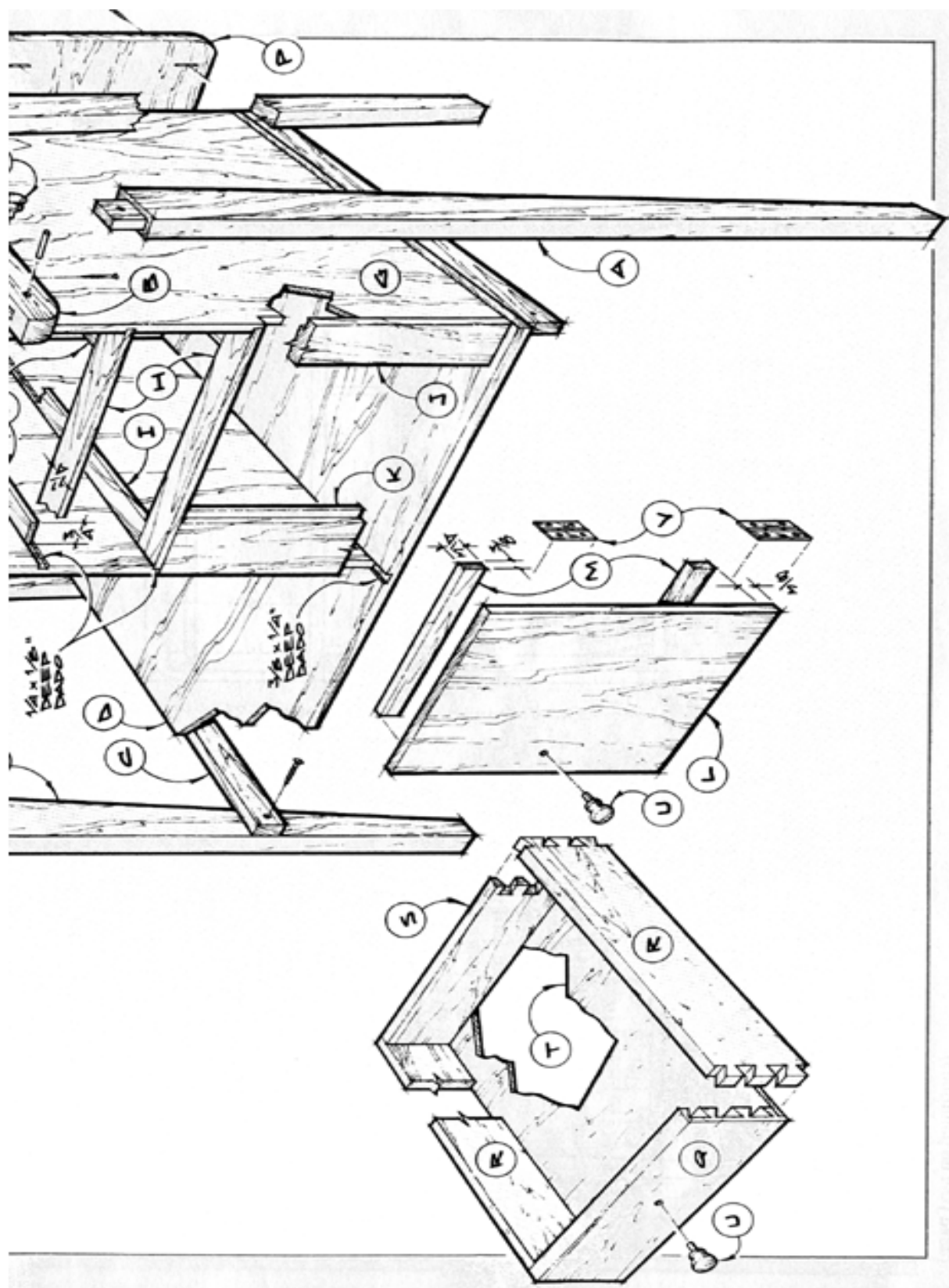
Before beginning, you should not that the Shakers made liberal use of small brads in the construction of this piece. In situations where a glue joint could either fail or cause a panel or board to crack, the use of brads does allow some wood movement.

Like much other Shaker work, this piece was crafted in cherry.

Shaker Washstand Complete Schematic







Shaker Washstand Materials List

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd
A	Leg	7/8" x 1-5/8" x 24"	4
B	Cleat	1" x 1" x 16-1/2"	2
C	Stretcher	1/2" x 1-1/8" x 15-3/8"	2
D	Bottom	1/2" x 15-3/4" x 26-5/8"	1
E	Top	3/4" x 16-1/8" x 29-1/2"	1
F	Divider	3/8" x 15-3/8" x 15-1/2"	1
G	End	3/8" x 15-3/8" x 15"	1
H	Drawer Support Front	1/4" x 1-1/4" x 13-5/8"	2
I	Drawer Support Side	1/4" x 3/4" x 14-1/8"	4
J	Right Side Door Stile	3/4" x 2-3/4" x 8"	1
K	Left Side Door Stile	3/4" x 3" x 8"	1
L	Door	3/8" x 8-5/8" x 8"	1
M	Door Cleat	3/8" x 3/4" x 8"	2
N	Supports	1" x 1" x 7-1/4"	2
O	Shelf	3/8" x 4" x 28-5/8"	1
P	Back	3/8" x 24" x 29-1/2"	1
Q	Drawer Front	1/2" x 3-1/4" x 13-5/8"	1/Drawer
R	Drawer Side	5/16" x 3-1/16" x 15-3/16"	2/Drawer
S	Drawer Back	5/16" x 3-1/16" x 13-3/8"	1/Drawer
T	Drawer Bottom	3/16" x 15-3/16" x 13-3/8"	1/Drawer
U	Knob	See detail.	3
V	Hinges	1-1/2"	2
W	Turned Peg	See detail.	3

*Includes Tenon

Shaker Washstand Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Edge-glue narrower stock to achieve the required widths for the various wide surfaces (parts D, E, F, G, L, P, and T).
2. Cut parts A through T to the dimensions shown in the Materials List.
3. Use a thickness plane to plane the all the parts to the correct thicknesses.
4. Use a tapering jig on the table saw to cut the leg (A) tapers.
5. Use the band saw to make the rounded ends on parts B and N.
6. Use the band saw to make the corners on part P.
7. Use the band saw to shape the shelf (O).
8. Mortise the cleats (B) to accept the leg tenons.
9. Notch out the top (E) and shelf (O) for the 1" square supports (N), as shown.

10. Use the dado head to cut the 3/8" x 1/4" dadoes in the top and bottom to accept the divider (F). **NOTE: These dadoes are cut straight through, even though the divider does not extend their full length.**
11. Use the dado head to cut the 1/4" x 1/8" deep grooves in parts F and G that will accept the drawer supports (I and H).
12. Rabbet the right side door stile (J) to accommodate the end (G).
13. Rabbet the left side door stile (K) to accept the divider and door panel.
14. Shorten the two door cleats to provide clearance when the door is opened.
15. Cut out the bowl and glass holder holes, if desired.
16. Make the two identical drawers as shown, referring to the drawer side view for the dovetail layout and spacing.
17. Rabbet the solid stock drawer bottom (T) into the front (Q).
18. Use brads to secure the bottom to the sides (R) and back (S).
19. Mount the legs to the cleats, locking the tenons with dowel pins to begin assembling the washstand.
20. Mount the top and back with screws through the slotted holes as shown.
21. Use brads and/or glue as needed to secure the divider, end, drawer supports, and door stiles.
22. Brad the bottom onto the stretchers (C).
23. Screw the stretchers to the four legs.
24. Screw the shelf to the supports.
25. Hang the cabinet door with 1-1/2" butt hinges.
26. Late-turn or purchase the knobs (U) and pegs (W).
27. Mount the knobs and pegs where indicated.
28. Sand the piece carefully.
29. Finish by rubbing in a good quality penetrating oil. **NOTE: If you use the washstand for any activity involving a great deal of water, you may want to apply a polyurethane finish instead of a penetrating oil to protect the wood and prevent water staining.**

These plans were originally published in Volume 9, Issue 6 of *The Woodworker's Journal* (Nov./Dec. 1985, pages 38-40).