

# Sustainable style

This versatile set of nesting tables proves that sustainable furniture design can also be sexy

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Bamboo has been used in the East for centuries. It is a practical and attractive material and is an extremely durable alternative to more common hardwoods; it is entirely sustainable and grows incredibly quickly. Some species grow up to two feet per day, making bamboo a quickly replenishable natural resource with a positive carbon footprint.

Mao bamboo is the type used for commercial production as it grows very tall. A mature bamboo plant is extremely rigid, meaning that bamboo furniture will last a long time.

## BUILDER'S WAREHOUSE SHOPPING LIST

### MATERIALS

240cmx60cmx3cm Bamboo sheet cut to the following sizes by Builders Warehouse:  
1 x 50cmx50cm; 2 x 50cmx47cm (large table)  
1 x 40cmx40cm; 2 x 40cmx42cm (medium table)  
1 x 30cmx30cm; 2 x 30cmx37cm (small table)

Alcolin cold glue  
Size 20 joinery biscuits  
Woodworks wood varnish  
Alcolin woodfiller, colour 'oak'

### TOOLS

Makita biscuit groove cutter  
Electric sander  
Rubber mallet  
4 x adjustable bar clamps  
Paintbrush and tray



### AIDAN'S TIP

• This project requires precision for a good result so don't rush.

### DIFFICULTY RATING

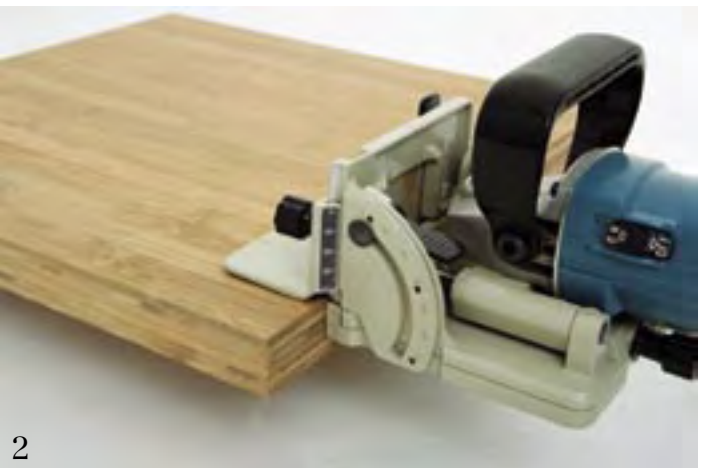
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1

### Step 1

Builders Warehouse will cut the bamboo sheeting to size; ask them to be as precise as possible to ensure that each piece is perfectly square.



2

### Step 2

Secure the bamboo board to a workbench, and using a biscuit-groove cutter carefully cut grooves for these along both edges of two adjacent pieces; take care to line the grooves up with each other. Repeat the process for the other joint.



3

### Step 3

Apply sufficient cold glue to the surfaces to be joined, placing a small amount of glue in the biscuit grooves as well. We alternated the positions of the biscuit groove to improve the strength of the joint along the 30mm width of the bamboo sheet. This will ensure that there is even weight distribution at the joint.



**Step 4**  
 Insert the biscuits and tap gently into place using a rubber mallet. Ensure that you do not damage the biscuit or else it will not fit properly into the adjacent board's groove. Gently tap the pieces into position.

**Step 5**  
 Apply 4 bar clamps to the table and gently tighten to ensure a proper joint. Make sure that the legs and table surface are entirely square, using a set square. Using a damp cloth, wipe off any excess glue that might have spilled onto the exposed bamboo surfaces. Allow to dry for 24 hours, before removing the clamps.



**Step 6**  
 Once dry, remove the bar clamps and sand the table using an electric sander with fine sandpaper. It is very important to vary the grade of the sandpaper from a medium coarseness to a much finer grade. This will ensure a smooth and durable finish.

**Step 7**  
 Dust off properly and apply the first coat of varnish; allow to dry, then repeat the process of sanding and varnishing the tables twice more for best results using the finest grade sandpaper available.



“Bamboo as a furniture resource has wide appeal due to the beauty and durability of the surface and the diverse applications of the material”