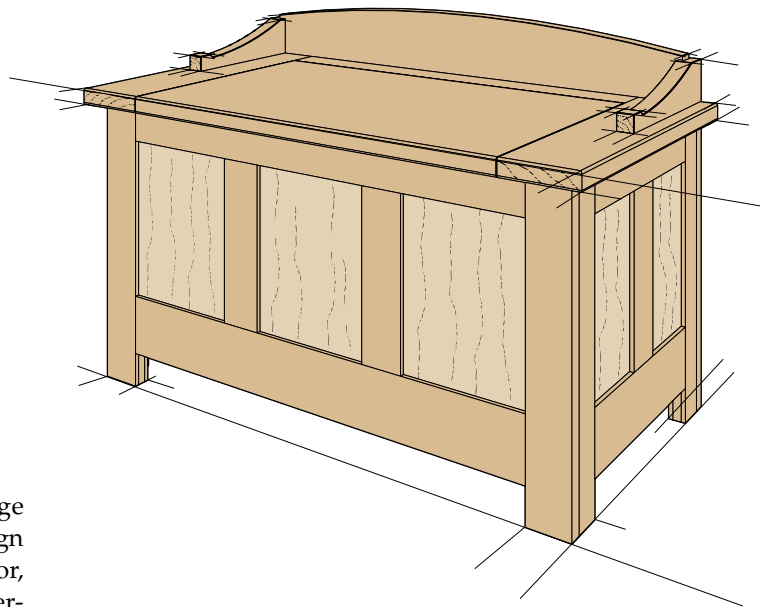


Stand-alone Bench



If you like the idea of a storage bench, but the high-backed design doesn't suit your home or decor, you can build the modified version shown at right. The basic case is the same as shown in the original plan. But when it comes to adding the top there are a few changes.

TOP FRAME. To get started, the first step is to build the U-shaped frame. I made it narrower than the original design by shortening the back frame rail. That means the lid also needs to be cut shorter to fit inside the frame properly.

UPPER ASSEMBLY. In place of the large upper assembly on the original design, this version features a curved back rail attached to modified brackets. The brackets are not only a little longer, but they're rabbeted and joined to the back rail with dowel joints (see details 'a' and 'c'). I found it easiest to make this joint by cutting the rabbets first, then drilling the holes for the

dowels. Then I cut the brackets to shape at the band saw.

THE CURVED BACK RAIL. Now you can lay out the curve on the back rail. I used a thin ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") strip of hardwood that easily bent to the shape of the curve and traced the line. Then I cut out the shape at the band saw. All that remains is to fair the curve by sanding it smooth.

ASSEMBLY. With the brackets and rail complete, you can move on to assembly. I used dowel centers in the holes in the brackets to mark the position of the holes in the rail. Now just drill the matching holes and assemble the parts with a little glue in the holes and on the dowels.

To complete the assembly, I glued the brackets and back to the frame. Because of the scaled-down size, no mechanical fasteners are needed. **W**

