# Chapter 24 – Picnic Table Construction

| Cutting Components | 1. Cut all components specified in the Picnic Table Cut sheet (Figure 24-1).  
|                    | 2. Be sure to use the Picnic Table Cut List (Table 24-2) to minimize waste when cutting the components.  
| Assembling Picnic Table | 3. Build two leg assemblies, making sure the carriage bolts are inserted so the bolt heads will be on the outside of the assembly.  
|                       | 4. Build two seat bench assemblies  
|                       | a. Make marks 10½” in from each end of a seat (Component A).  
|                       | b. Position both leg assemblies vertically, parallel to each other and about 50” apart.  
|                       | c. Place a seat on top of the two bench supports so the outside edges of the bench supports are aligned with the marks on the seat and with the long edge of the seat extending ½” beyond the ends of both bench supports.  
|                       | d. Drill pilot holes and attach the seat to the bench supports with 2½” exterior screws.  
|                       | e. Repeat Steps c and d for a seat on the other side of the table.  
|                       | f. Install a second seat on each bench support spaced ⅛” from the first seat and with ends aligned with those of the previously installed seat.  
|                       | 5. Build table top  
|                       | a. Position the five tabletop pieces (Component “A”) centered on top the bench leg assemblies so that each end of a tabletop piece is 9” from the outside face of its associated Component “D”.  
|                       | b. Position the outside two tabletop pieces so they each extend ½” beyond the ends of both Component B pieces.  
|                       | c. Space the interior three tabletop pieces so the gaps between the boards are equal.  
|                       | d. Starting with an outside tabletop piece, drill two pilot holes and attach the piece with 2½” exterior screws to the underlying leg assembly.  
|                       | e. Square the opposite leg assembly to the tabletop piece just installed, drill 2 pilot holes, and secure this end of the tabletop piece to the underlying leg assembly with 2½” exterior screws.  
|                       | f. Attach remaining tabletop pieces with 2½” exterior screws, maintaining equal spacing between the pieces.  
|                       | 6. Add supports  
|                       | a. Flip the table over so it’s top is resting on scrap 2x material on the ground.  
|                       | b. Use 2½” exterior screws to attach a bench support centered between leg assemblies on each bench.  
|                       | c. Use 2½” exterior screws to attach an angle support to the center of Component E on each leg assembly.  
|                       | d. Use 2½” exterior screws to attach a tabletop support flush to the notched end of Component F installed in Step c.  
|                       | e. Repeat Steps c and d for the opposite angle support.  
|                       | f. Turn the table over and secure each Component “F” to the table top.  
|                       | 7. Participants may sign the tabletop with permanent marker. |
Quality Points

Chapter 24 – Picnic Table Construction

- Carriage bolt heads on leg assemblies are on the outside of the assemblies.
- Leg assemblies are attached square to bench assemblies and tabletop.
- Leg assemblies are vertical, 90° to the tabletop
- Bench seats are properly spaced and their ends are flush
- Tabletop pieces are properly spaced and their ends are flush
- All supports have been installed and are secure.