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Stylish Wooden Side Table



STEP 1

Grab a bunch of dried branches about 30mm – 50mm in diameter, enough to make up the perimeter of your table when layed side by side. Cut them to desired length (at the height of the table) plus approximately 10 mm to allow for planing the surface level. You can use any type of saw to cut these to length including a handsaw, bench or radial arm saw.



STEP 2

Now cut 2 plywood sheets to size 300mm x 300mm and cut approximately 6cm off the corners so that you can place the largest branches on the corners. Mark out a large circle on the bottom piece and cut out. Leave the top piece intact with corners cut as small rounds will be glued directly on top of this piece.



STEP 3

Make a small jig to hold branches for cutting slots by using a small piece of milled wood and screw or nail small pieces of V shaped board at each end. This will then give a stable base to cradle each branch and cut a slot.



STEP 4

Place each branch onto the jig and mark where you want to make the slot cut on top. Then turn the branch over and set your saw to the required depth by running your branch in the jig against the blade of the saw before turning it on. Make sure your first cut is 20mm from the end of the branch and use an offcut to determine the width of cut.



STEP 5

It is best to cut the largest branches for each corner first and then glue to the top and bottom pieces of plywood. Clamp diagonally to hold square shape while glue dries.



STEP 6

Now select and place the rest of the branches around the edges so that they nestle into each other. Then cut a slot for the top fit and place again to see if any excess wood needs to be shaved to make a close fit. With the top slot fitted to the top plywood, mark and cut the bottom slot. Use the turbo plane to shave and trim any excess wood from each piece before gluing. It is best at this stage to number each piece on the top.



STEP 7

Once you have cut and shaved each piece to shape and are happy with the final shape you can glue each piece into place at both slots to the plywood. While the sides are drying you can cut some small pieces of approximately 20mm thick and start gluing them onto the top of the table including some very small rounds as well as large ones trying to fill in all of the gaps.



STEP 8

When your glue is dry you can start to plane the sides using the TURBOPlane so that you get a nice flat finish. Start by marking out a line in pencil on the top of your table showing where the plywood panel below as this will give you a guide where to plane. You can plane the sides up to 20mm from that line. Mix up either epoxy with woodchips or wood glue with woodchips and spread over the top of the table forcing the mixture down between the gaps to overflowing if necessary.



STEP 9

Once this is dry you can use the TURBOPlane to finish the top before sanding. Sand any sharp edges of the sides with the Contour Random Sander and finish off sanding the sides and the top of your table either by hand or using the Contour Random Sander.



END RESULT

Now you can finish with either oil or varnish whichever finish you prefer and enjoy using your table.