

Korean Grill Bench



This idea turns a picnic table into a convenient grill, for everybody to enjoy.

What you will need

- A picnic table, old or new
- A piece of sheet steel
- Steel weldmesh
- Thermal insulating fabric and fire bricks
- Lengths of timber
- 4 x M8 bolts, long enough to go through two thicknesses of timber
- Hand saw and jigsaw
- Quick release clamps
- Powered drill come screwdriver
- Angle grinder with steel cutting blade
- Marking tools, such as a straight edge, measure and square
- Hammer
- Self-tapping wood screws

Personal Protective Equipment

- Safety glasses
- Protective gloves (EN388) to guard against cuts and burns
- Wear ear defenders when using angle grinder

Safety notes Always take care when using power tools and, as a precaution, have a first aid kit to hand. Work on a stable surface, in good light. Wear all personal protective equipment and suitable clothing. Construction can take place indoors, especially if the weather is inclement. However, all fires should only be lit outside, in a ventilated area that is a distance from structures, or other things, that may catch light. The grill and mesh will get hot when in use and should not be allowed to contact bare skin. Keep water and/or fire extinguishers to hand, in case of uncontained fire. Those under the influence of intoxicants should not engage with this project. You will need to carry out appropriate risk assessments, should you intend to undertake this project in public areas, such as parks, or camping grounds. Also ensure that it is legal for you to do so. If any injuries, or burns occur seek medical advice.

We've all seen picnic tables in gardens, pubs, parks etc and with their integral seating, they are convenient. Unless you use a wheelchair. Jimmy wanted to convert such a table to make it a bit more accessible. Using simple carpentry techniques, you can give yourself the choice of removing the benches and creating more table space. The addition of extra timbers to the bench seats and table legs, using the saw, screws and screwdriver, allows this to be done.





Once the seat supports have been extended and a brace bar installed to hold them at table height, drill holes for inserting the M8 bolts, at both levels. These will secure the extensions you have made, when being used as seats, or table extensions.



Cutting the grill into the table top, needs to be a compromise between creating space for a decent amount of coals and keeping enough of the table for the comfort of your guests. We used the jigsaw to remove the two central slats, as close to the support bar at each end as we could. Use your marking tools to ensure that the hole is square to the table top. Keep the bits you cut out for use, later.



Mark out your sheet steel, in preparation for forming it into a box for the coals. Mark the base of this box a centimetre, or so smaller than the hole that you cut in the table. This allows for the addition of the thermal barrier, which will keep the table and your guests from being burnt by the grill. The box sides need to be the depth of the slats that were cut out. Mark a few centimetres extra on the sides, to form a lip at the top of the box. This will make a neater fit to the table.



Wearing your protective equipment, use the angle grinder to cut the lines you have marked.



Use the clamps and the wood you cut out of the table top, to hold the steel against the table edge. This will give you enough resistance to bend the steel into a box shape. The hammer allows you to form a crisp edge.





Now, utilise the table cut outs, plus some of the extra timber, to build a support for the grill box. This will also protect peoples' legs from heat. Clamp the wood in place and secure with screws.



Cut the thermal insulation material, so that you have just enough to line the containment that you have just created. Gloves will be essential.



Cut the mesh to size, to support the food.



Light the charcoal, as you would for any barbecue, then assemble the delicious food that you will be cooking. One person can be chef, or everyone can cook their own. You'll certainly be close enough to achieve this with comfortable ease.



Job done.

