

## A table stand for very large scores

I've seen many a table stand but few that cope with larger music books or tablature that exceeds three sheets. Here's my solution to the problem of playing from a particularly large score, the Glasgow University Press facsimile and score of the Balcarres lute book, which you may build as is or adapt as you see fit. I've chosen a sliding clasp to close the stand but, if you don't have the materials or skills to build it, you might wish to substitute a couple of 'C' catches and screws or simple turnbuckles attached to the side panels. Maybe you'd prefer to drill some holes through centre and side panels when assembled and use a bootlace to tie it securely.

You will need standard woodworking tools and a bit of common sense. Study the plans and photographs before you start.

You will need:

A needle drill about 0.3mm thick and a suitable pin chuck or miniature hand brace to predrill holes for the panel pins.

If you copy the clasp you will need a small pen sized gas torch for soldering plus some solder, either plumbing or electrical grade. Clean the surfaces with steel wool before soldering.

4 or 5 mm plywood, 1 metre x 50 cm sheet plus 50 cm x 50 cm sheet or similar

A short length of 1 cm diameter dowel

Eight small brass hinges with brass panel pins. (Heavier grade is unnecessary and likely to involve you in cutting rebates into the ply to fit snugly).

Thin sheet brass – 1mm thick, 5 cm x 20 cm or thereabouts

Brass rod or tube – 3-4mm diameter about 20cm long

Small woodscrews

A sheet of self-adhesive felt.

Mark and cut out the ply components. Butt together the main and side panels and mark the hinge and pin positions, but don't assemble yet.

Cut the triangular 'legs' and mark their position on the centre panel, then mark the hinge and pin positions. Make sure they are both facing the same way and that they will hinge closed with the points on the outside edge of the centre panel.

Drill all the holes for the panel pins. Should you have made them too wide, put a drop of quick setting epoxy adhesive in the hole when assembling.

Install the legs first and put a strip of the self-adhesive felt along the edge that will contact your host's precious table surface.

From scrap ply, cut the turnbuckles and drill the holes for the woodscrews to go through them.

Drill the pieces of dowel that will form their supports. The hole should be wide enough to permit the woodscrew to turn freely.

In turn, lift the legs into position. Butt the turnbuckle against the top edge of the underside of the main panel and the upright leg. Mark a line through the hole at right angles to the top of the centre

panel using a try square. Fold the leg flat and place the hole of the drilled dowel over the pencil line, against the short edge of the leg. Mark through the dowel on to the underside of the centre panel on to this line. Do this separately for each turnbuckle to allow for any difference between the two. Drill a pilot hole through each pencil mark and assemble the turnbuckle and its supporting dowel. Check that you can fold the leg up and down and lock it in place in both positions with the turnbuckle. If you've boobed, fill the misplaced hole with a matchstick coated with quick setting epoxy adhesive, let it set, trim and start again.

Fit the side panels and hinges.

File any protruding ends of panel pins or woodscrews.

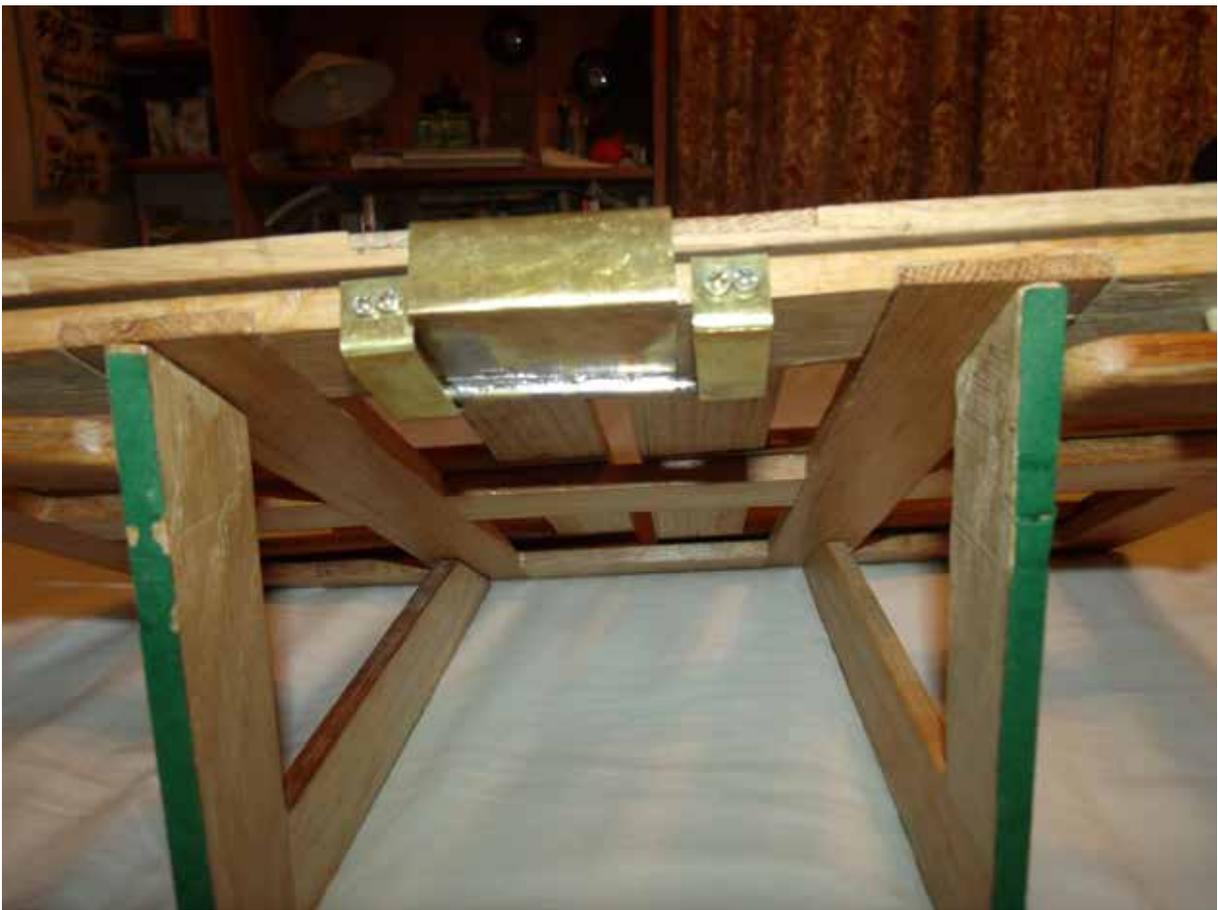
The clamp is easier to assess and make from study of the photographs and plan than it is to describe. You will need to bend the brass over a suitable former such as a steel rod or tool shank of 1cm diameter and bending and soldering will be much easier if the brass is thin. However, too thin and, in use, the clasp will bend. The slides for the rod, fashioned from the same sheet brass, must be long enough for the clasp to lift and swing free from the folded stand. The ends will need to be drilled for the screws that anchor them to the underside and top edge of the centre panel. I've used countersunk screws but dome headed will work equally well in these positions.

Finally, I built the prototype from wood strips but you would find ply much easier and neater. If you want gaps or patterns in the boards, drill through and use a fine-toothed jigsaw to cut before assembling. Leave plenty of room around the hinges for strength and practice cutting on some spare ply, first. Happy craftiness!





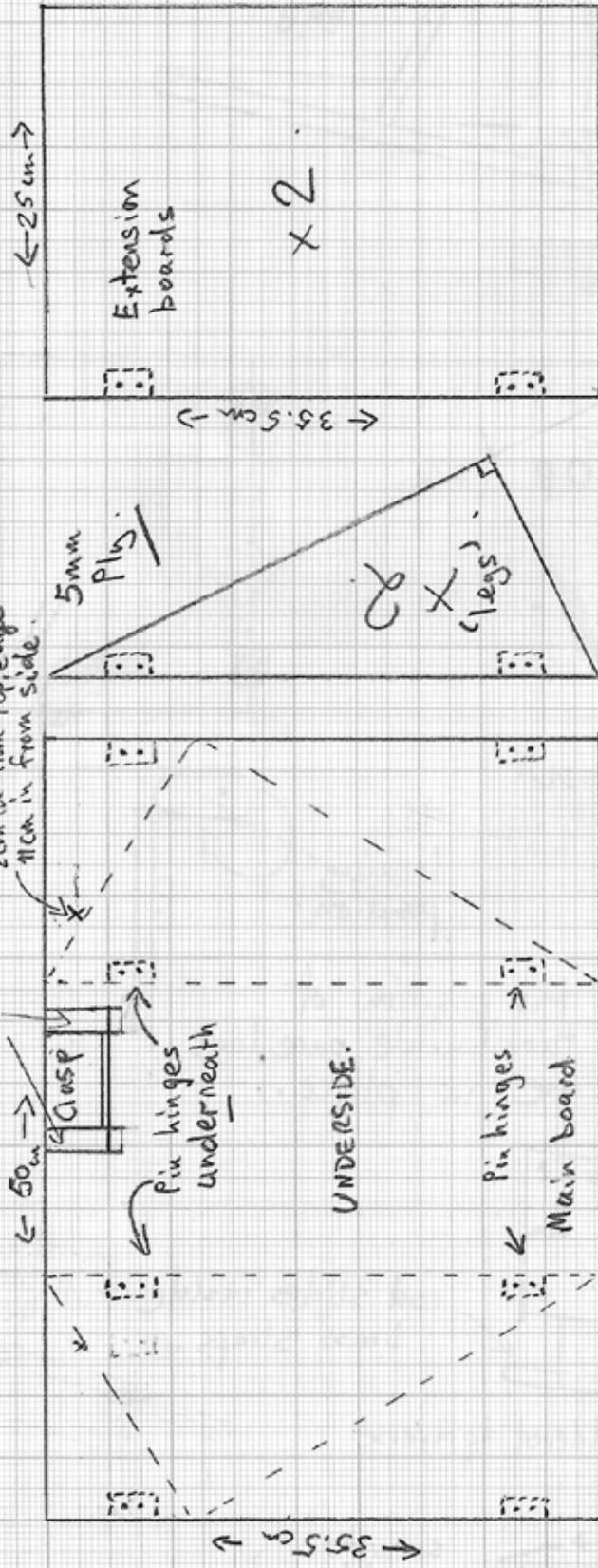




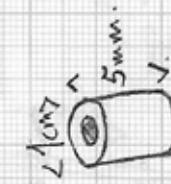
1/4 scale except where indicated.

Drill top hole for wood screw:  
2cm in from top edge  
11cm in from side.

Straps

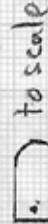


Distance pieces x 2  
from 1cm. dowel  
drilled down centre  
slightly wider than  
wood screw.  
Length 5mm

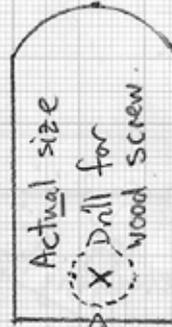


fits under  
here.

Turn buckles x 2.



to scale

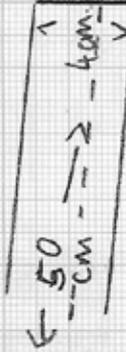


Eight small brass hinges  
with panel pins - required  
Position and pre-drill with  
thin drill and pin chuck.  
Tappins in position with  
tack hammer.

P.T.O for clasp.

'Balcarres' pattern  
table stand.

Book support pinned to bottom &  
main board facing upper side.



27/12/16

Elly

