

Built a pair of black walnut butcher block countertops to replace the awful laminate in the house we just bought

The raw lumber



The raw black walnut boards. Having the lumber yard plane them down, and cut them into 3" slices.

The pile gets bigger



Starting to wonder if this will fit in my car...

Loaded up



Two full size countertops, stuffed in a Mini Cooper

Now what?



Okay, the lumber is home. Now what?

First stove side glueup



Testing out the clamp procedure before starting



Stove side glueup



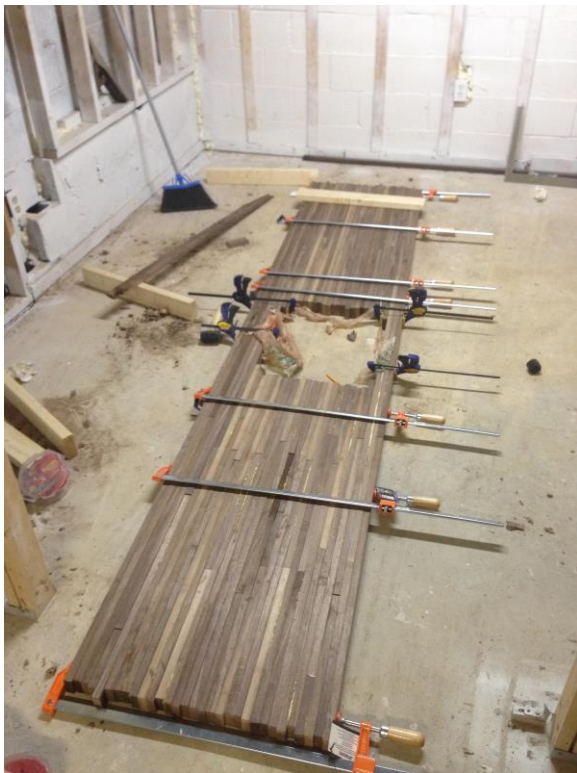
In order to get everything to glue up squarely, I had to glue the stove side up in three separate sections. Here it is all coming together in one unit.

Stove side, planing in progress



Knocking the glue off and flattening the stove side.

Final glueup



Final glueup of the sink side. I don't have enough clamps. You can never have enough clamps

Best purchase



Bought this 22" smoothing plane off Amazon before I started. Having never planed anything in my life, I was unsure about the effectivity of a hand tool like this. I'll never go back to sandpaper. Sharpened correctly, this thing is a beast.

Duh



Had to include a shot of this. It makes me an artist, right?

Helping



Olive is helping with the cleanup effort.

Dead flat!



Love that planework.

Hey, that's cool. Get a picture of that.



This was pretty neat

Marking, and fencing



Clamping up a temporary fence to ensure the counter edge was cut square

Edge cut square



Installing the stovetop



Got this thing on Craigslist for \$140.

Gratuitous shot of the oven



PLANING



This seriously never got old.

Wife, 6 months pregnant and helping out



Rounding over the edges. Splinters are not fun.

Looking pretty, under mounting the sink



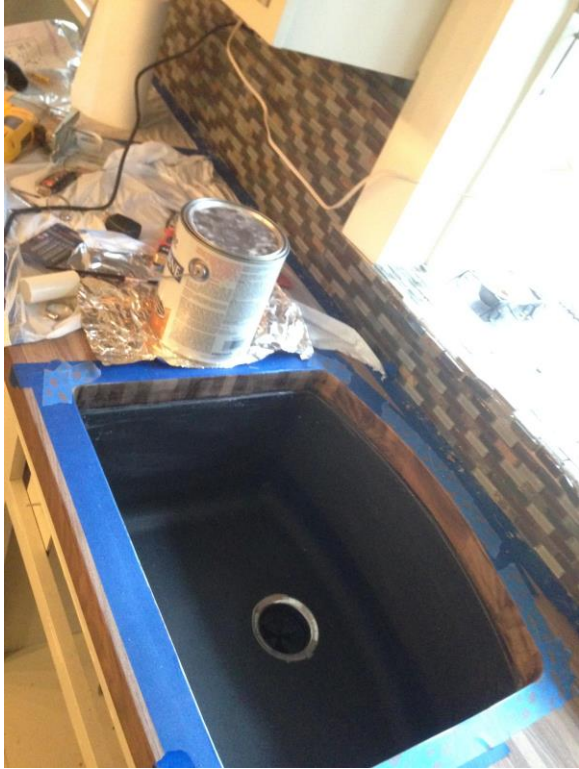
Can't see in this photo, but there's a floor jack underneath the sink, pressing it firm into the sealant. I applied a ring of construction adhesive to the outside edge of the sink, and silicone sealant on the inside where it would get water exposure.

Drilling the faucet mount



Drilling the hole to mount the fixture. With the 3" thick countertop, I ended up with the need to go underneath and sort of countersink the hole in order fit the nut onto the threaded fitting at the bottom of the fixture.

Prepping for poly



I went with a polyurethane sealer for the end grain around the sink. Don't want any rot here. Better safe than sorry.

All Finished!



Several coats of a mix of bees wax and mineral oil. The first few were sucked right into the wood without a trace. Now, it keeps a sort of dull shine that really shows off the wood grain. I put a new coat on every 3 or 4 months. That little silver button to the right of the faucet is a counter-mounted garbage disposal switch. My eternally awesome wife had previously tiled the backsplash, and we didn't think to run a new switch through the wall first.