

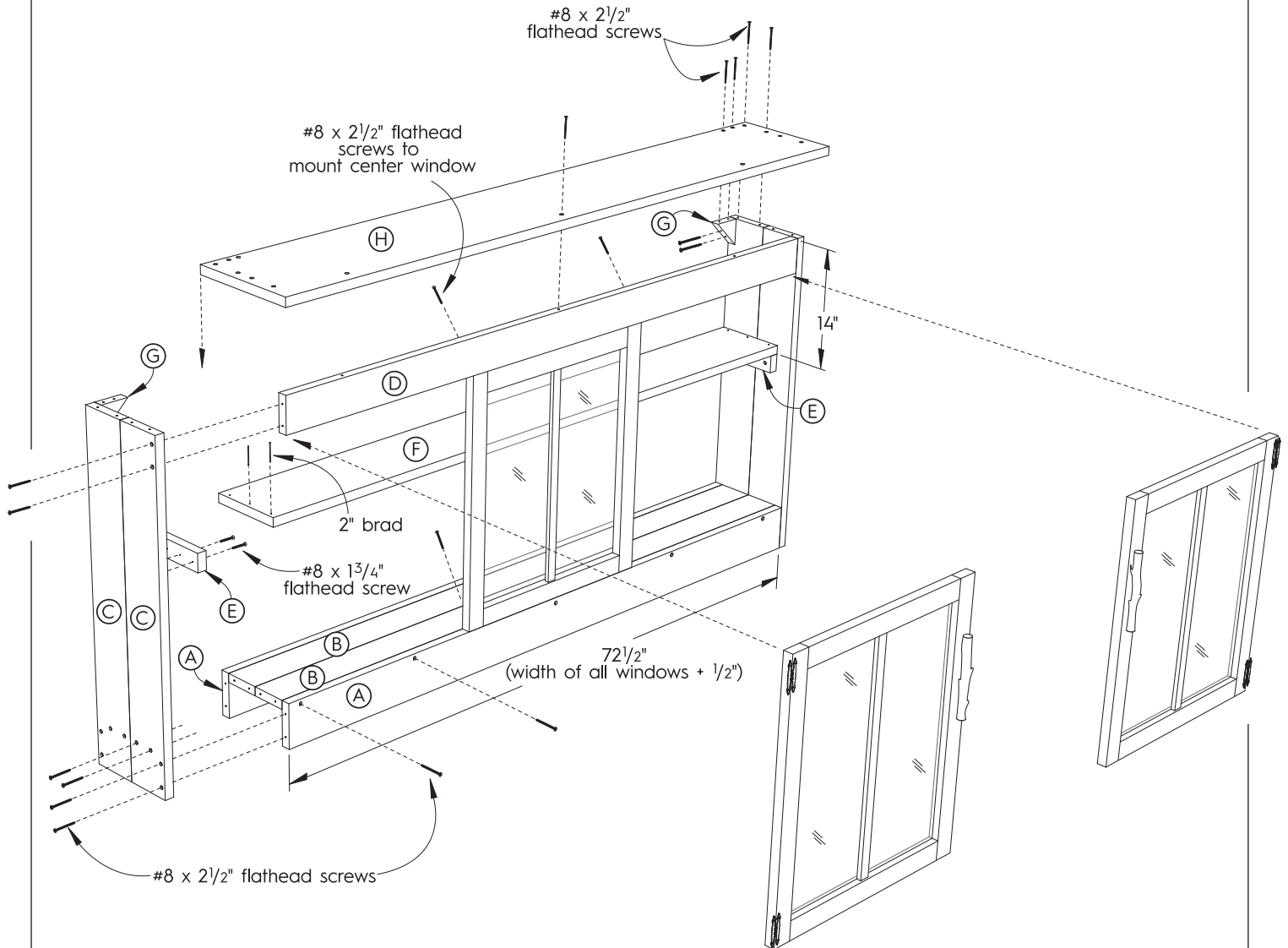
salvaged-wood coffee station

Get your mornings off to a good start at this stylish server made from upcycled windows and barn boards and a discarded dresser mirror. No advanced tools (or skills) required.

FEATURED IN
the May 2016
issue of Better Homes
and Gardens®
magazine



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barn board list

		thickness	width	length	no.
A	base rails	1"	5"	72½"	2
B	base shelves	1"	4"	72½"	2
C	sides	1"	5"	37"	4
D	top rail	1"	4"	72½"	1
E	shelf cleats	1"	2"	8"	2
F	shelf	1"	8"	72½"	1
G	back brace	1"	3"	3"	1
H	top	1"	11"	76"	1

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tools

Power miter saw or other tool for cutting the boards

Cordless drill for boring pilot holes and driving screws

Brad nailer capable of sinking 2-inch brads (to temporarily hold the boards together until you join them with screws; you could substitute clamps or a helper)

1 This project was built using three old windows measuring 24 inches wide and 28 inches tall. The drawing and materials list show boards sized to fit around those windows. Build the cabinet around windows you are using, adjusting the sizes of the boards as you go, following our steps. The coffee station shown here requires the following barn board pieces as raw materials (listed sizes are actual thickness by width by length in inches, followed by quantity): 1×11×76 (1), 1×8×96 (1), 1×5×96 (4), 1×4×96 (3). From these pieces, cut the specific pieces listed on "Barn Board List," *page 2*.

2 Lay the three windows side by side and measure their combined width. To that add ½ inch (to give the outside windows space to freely swing in the assembled cabinet) to determine the length of parts A, B, D, and F. Cut parts A and B, then screw each A to a B at a right angle to make two L-shape assemblies.

Use coarse-threaded drywall screws; their black-oxide coating blends better with barnwood than shiny galvanized or zinc coatings. Rough-surface wood such as barn boards somewhat disguises exposed screw heads, but if you want them covered, do this: At each pilot hole, drill a centered ⅜-inch hole that is ⅜-inch deep (known as a counterbore). That allows the screw head to sit below the surface. After driving each screw, fill the counterbore with a ⅜-inch plug cut from a scrap of barnwood using a tapered plug cutter.

3 Cut the sides (C) to a length equaling the height of your windows plus the width of parts A and D (in this example, $28 + 5 + 4 = 37$ inches). Screw the side boards to the A/B assemblies as shown. Then screw on the top rail (D).

4 To the inside surfaces of the sides, screw on shelf cleats (E) positioned flush with the back edges of the sides and 14 inches down from the top ends of the sides. Place the shelf (F) on top of the cleats and check that it doesn't wobble—if it does, tweak the position of one of the cleats. Nail the shelf to the cleats.

5 Cut the 3×3 back brace (G) into two equal triangular pieces and screw to the sides where shown. Center the top (H) on the cabinet and screw it to the braces, sides, and top rail.

6 Trim ¼ inch off the height of the two outside windows and place them in the cabinet's front opening, wedged in place with scraps of cardboard to evenly space them ⅛ inch from the A and D rails. Attach them to the sides with hinges. Center the remaining window between the two outside hinged ones and attach it to the rails with angled screws.

7 Find a pair of slightly bowed twigs, about 10 inches long, from a hardwood tree (such as oak, maple, or sweetgum). Drill two holes on one side of each twig. Attach twigs to the swinging doors with screws driven from the backs of the doors.

8 The doors might stay shut due to friction. If they don't, add magnetic catches to hold them closed.

9 Depending on the color and condition of your barn boards, you might want to lightly sand (just enough to remove splinters) and stain them prior to adding a clear protective topcoat. Or simply leave them natural as shown here.

10 If desired, mount a mirror above the cabinet. Rest the bottom of the mirror on the cabinet top to help support its weight, and screw it to wall studs.