

MODERN DREAMER

Get your ZZZs on this mod platform bed that features clean lines plus plenty of options for customizing.

PROJECT **CATHY KRAMER & DAVE DECARLO**
PHOTOGRAPHS **ADAM ALBRIGHT** WORDS **ROBERT WILSON**
ILLUSTRATOR **CHRISTOPHER MILLS**



CUSTOM FIT This bed was designed for a queen-size mattress; a standard king-size mattress will fit but reveal less platform around the edges. Before you begin, decide what type of lumber and finish you prefer. This version uses stained maple veneer on all the exposed poplar surfaces, but you can save time and money by omitting the veneer and painting the poplar.



BEFORE SHOPPING FOR MATERIALS, DETERMINE IF THE WEIGHT OF THE BED IS IMPORTANT. WE BUILT THIS VERSION USING TRUPAN ULTRALIGHT PANELS, A LIGHTER ALTERNATIVE TO MEDIUM-DENSITY FIBERBOARD (MDF). CHECK WITH LOCAL LUMBERYARDS FOR AVAILABILITY.

NO-FEAR VENEER

WANT TO TACKLE THE FINISH WE APPLIED ON THIS PLATFORM BED? GET THE HOW-TO, [PAGE 105](#).

MAKE IT

PLATFORM BED

MATERIALS

- 1x8x96 poplar, 7 boards
- 1x4x96 poplar, 9 boards
- ¾x49x97 Trupan Ultralight or MDF, 8 sheets
- 48x96 maple veneer, 3 sheets
- #8 x 2-inch flathead wood screws
- ¼x2½-inch hex bolts, 9
- ¼-inch hex nuts, 9
- ¼-inch washers, 18
- #10 x 3-inch flathead wood screws, 4
- Yellow wood glue
- Permanent spray adhesive, 2 cans
- Wood putty
- Miter saw or circular saw with fine-tooth blade and straightedge
- Drill/driver
- Drill bit set, countersink, screw-driving bits
- Random-orbit sander with 120-grit and 180-grit sandpaper
- Router with flush-cut bit
- Electronic stud finder
- Tape measure
- Carpenter square
- Straightedge
- Level
- Wrench set
- Putty knife
- 1 quart wood stain (We used Minwax Classic Gray.)
- 1 quart polyurethane (We used Minwax in satin finish.)

PEDESTAL

Step 1 From 1x8 poplar boards, cut two pedestal ends (A) and five pedestal sides/supports (B) to lengths shown in the

cutting list, below. Mark the support locations on the pedestal ends and drill countersunk ⅛-inch pilot holes. On a flat work surface, stand one end and one side on edge. Apply glue and drive #8 x 2-inch wood screws to connect the parts. Continue adding supports to the end until all five are in position. Screw the opposite end in place and check that the assembly is square.

Step 2 Measure the dimensions of the pedestal and cut an MDF or Trupan Ultralight panel to size for the pedestal top (C). Mark the screw locations on the top of the panel and drill ⅛-inch countersunk pilot holes. Add glue to the top side and support edges and drive #8 x 2-inch screws to fasten the top in place.

Step 3 Fill the countersinks with wood putty. After it dries, sand the sides and ends smooth with 120-grit and then 180-grit sandpaper.

TWO-PIECE PLATFORM

Step 1 Cut the platform inside ends (D) and platform inside supports (E) to length for both halves and rip the boards to 2½ inches wide. Clamp or tape two inside supports together with the ends flush, and drill ⅝-inch holes through both boards for the bolts that will connect the halves. Mark the boards so you can identify the top edge and one end to orient the board later.

Step 2 Mark the inside support screw

locations on the inside ends and drill ⅛-inch countersunk pilot holes. As you did with the pedestal, place the end of an inside support against the face of an inside end, add glue, and screw together. Repeat for the remaining inside supports, add the opposite end, and check that the assembly is square. Repeat to make a mirror version for the other platform half and check that the bolt holes align.

Step 3 Cut the platform sides (F) and platform ends (G) to length and rip each part to 3¼ inches wide. Screw a side to the inside support for each half of the platform. Then screw two ends to each platform.

Step 4 Cut the platform top (H) to fit the framework. Mark the screw locations and drill countersunk pilot holes through the top. Glue and screw the top to the framework.

Step 5 Turn the assembly over and cut the platform bottom (I) to fit between the platform sides and ends. Mark the screw locations to attach the bottom to the inside ends and supports; then drill ⅛-inch countersunk pilot holes.

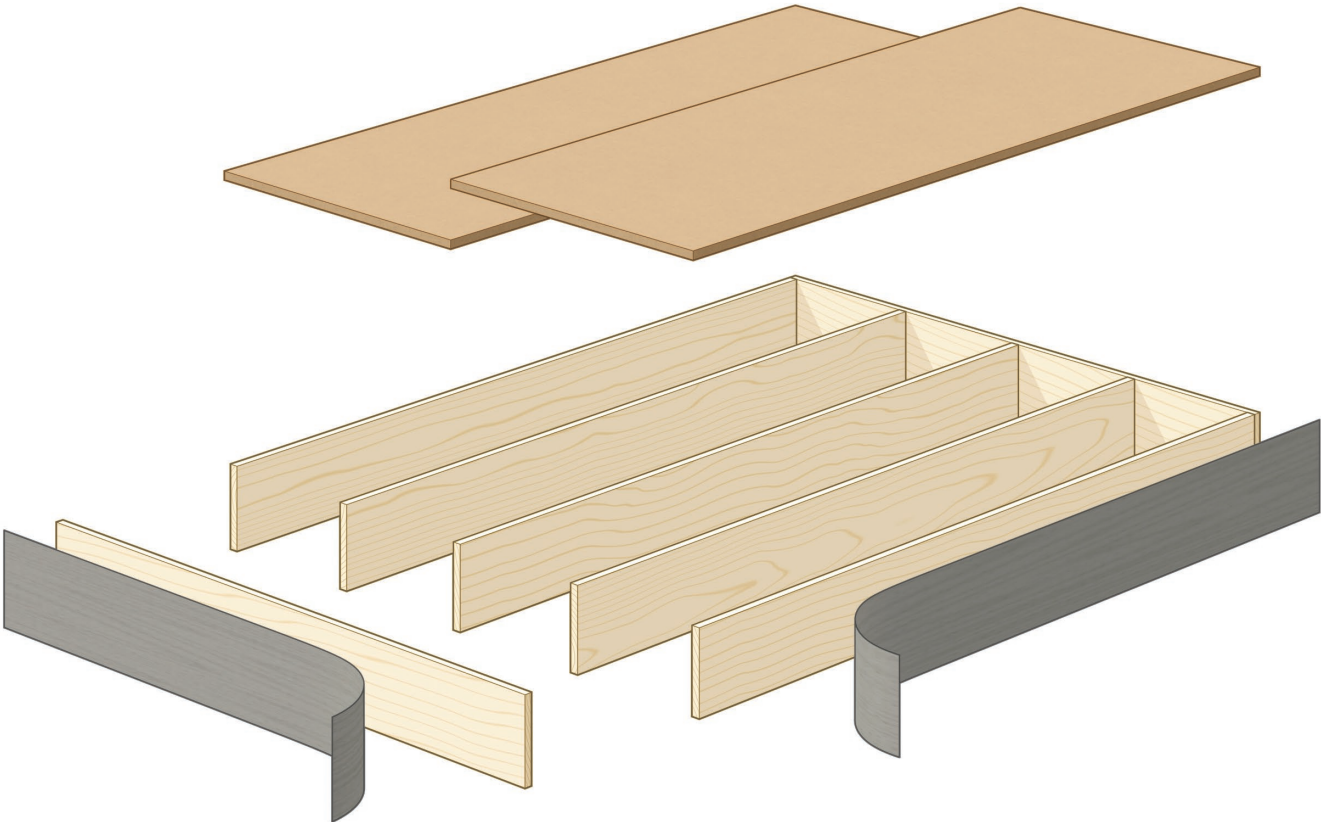
HEADBOARD

Step 1 Cut the headboard supports (J), headboard ends (K), and headboard top and bottom (L) to length. Rip the supports to 2½ inches wide. Rip the ends, top, and bottom to 3¼ inches wide. On a flat surface, glue and screw from what will be the inside of the

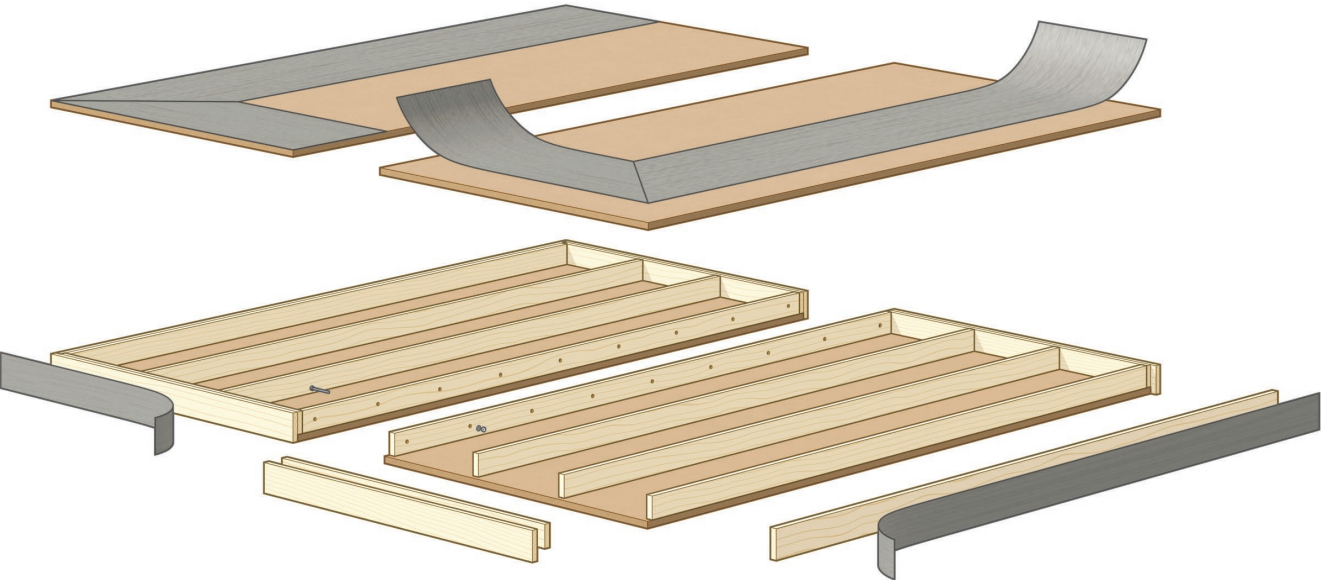
CUTTING LIST

KEY	#	PART	MATERIAL	LONG (inches)	WIDE (inches)	THICK (inches)
A	2	Pedestal Ends	Poplar	52	7¼	¾
B	5	Pedestal Sides/Supports	Poplar	74½	7¼	¾
C	2	Pedestal Tops	MDF/Trupan Ult.	76	26	¾
D	4	Platform Inside Ends	Poplar	37¼	2½	¾
E	8	Platform Inside Supports	Poplar	85	2½	¾
F	2	Platform Sides	Poplar	86½	3¼	¾
G	4	Platform Ends	Poplar	38	3¼	¾
H	2	Platform Tops	MDF/Trupan Ult.	88	38	¾
I	2	Platform Bottoms	MDF/Trupan Ult.	86½	37¼	¾
J	6	Headboard Supports	Poplar	34½	2½	¾
K	2	Headboard Ends	Poplar	34½	3¼	¾
L	2	Headboard Top/Bottom	Poplar	76	3¼	¾
M	2	Mounting Cleats	Poplar	74½	3¼	¾
N	1	Headboard Front	MDF/Trupan Ult.	76	36	¾

PLATFORM ASSEMBLY



PEDESTAL ASSEMBLY



framework to fasten a support to an edge and repeat for the opposite headboard edge. Glue and screw the supports and support/ends to the headboard top. Then attach the headboard bottom and check that the assembly is square.

Step 2 Cut the headboard front (N) to fit the framework. Mark the mounting screw locations and drill countersunk pilot holes. Glue and screw the front to the supports, ends, and top and bottom. Then fill any gaps with putty, let dry, and sand the framework faces flush with the headboard front.

Step 3 Cut the headboard mounting cleats (M) to length and rip one edge of each board with a 45-degree bevel. Screw one of the cleats to the recessed edges of the supports at the top back of the headboard with the bevel facing down and the narrow face of the board against the supports. Set the other board aside until you're ready to install the headboard.

NOTE: You can use the recess at the bottom of the headboard to accommodate the baseboard in a bedroom. Use a circular saw to cut away

the headboard ends and headboard bottom as needed to fit the wall molding.

FINAL CONSTRUCTION

Step 1 Sand the wood/veneered surfaces lightly with 180-grit sandpaper and wipe clean. Apply the stain of your choice to all of the wood/veneer and let dry overnight. Then apply three coats of clear finish, sanding lightly between coats.

Step 2 To hang the headboard, begin by measuring from the bottom of the headboard to the bottom beveled edge of the mounting cleat (M). At the center of where the headboard will go, measure that distance up from the floor along the wall and place a pencil mark. Using a level and straightedge, make a horizontal pencil line 74½ inches long with the height mark at its center.

Step 3 Use a stud finder to locate the wall studs along the line and mark. Place the loose headboard mounting cleat (M) against the wall with the bevel facing up and the narrow face against the wall. Mark the stud locations on the cleat and drill centered ⅜-inch pilot holes through

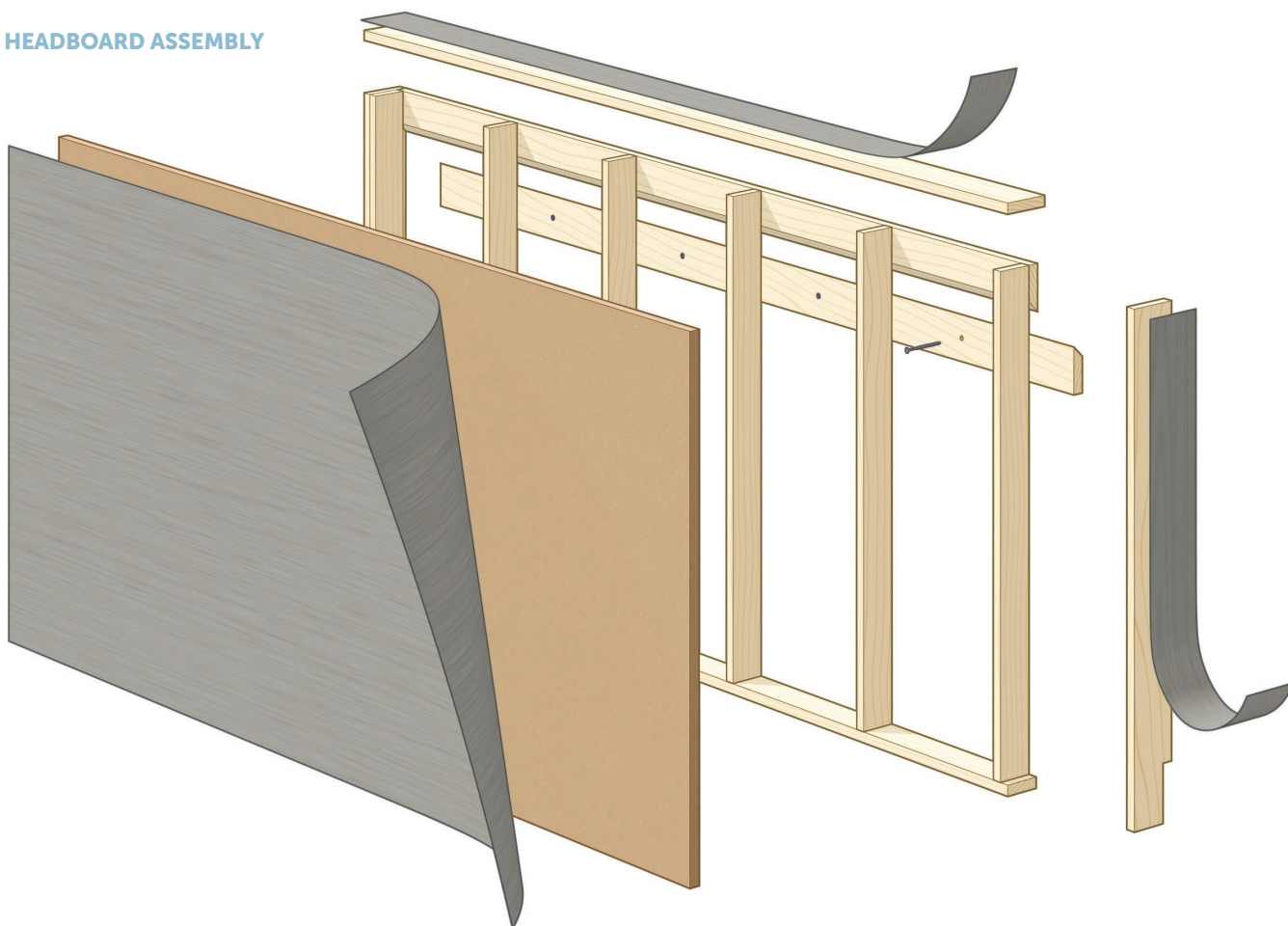
the cleat. Place the cleat against the wall with the narrow-face bevel edge against the pencil line and screw it in position. Then drop the headboard over the cleat so the two bevels connect with each other, holding the headboard firmly against the wall.

Step 4 Center the pedestal against the headboard.

Step 5 Working on a flat surface, lay the two platform halves upside down with the inside edges touching and bolt holes aligned. Place a ¼-inch washer on a ¼×2½-inch hex bolt and thread it through a pair of holes in the platform inside supports (E). Add a second washer and hex nut. Hand-tighten the bolt and repeat for the remaining bolts. Check that the edges are even and the platform tops (H) are flush, then use a wrench to tighten each bolt.

Step 6 Place the platform bottoms (I) in position and screw them in place. Turn the assembled platform right side up and center it on the pedestal with one end against the headboard. Add a mattress and linens, and you're ready for a good night's sleep.

HEADBOARD ASSEMBLY



HOW TO VENEER

Installing wood veneer follows much the same technique used for attaching plastic laminate sheets to countertops. The instructions shown for veneering the edges and ends of the pedestal can be repeated for the platform and headboard.

Step 1 Measure the edges and ends of the pedestal and use a router with a flush-trim bit to cut pieces of maple veneer 1 inch bigger in both directions. Cut a 4-inch-wide strip of MDF or Trupan scrap, and tape or clamp it to the pedestal edge to be veneered to catch adhesive overspray.

Step 2 Coat the inside face of an edge piece of veneer and the pedestal edge to be veneered following the instructions on the spray adhesive (1). Wait until the adhesive achieves the correct tack. With a helper, center the veneer over the pedestal edge and gently lower it into place starting at the center and working toward the ends. Use a roller and firm pressure to bond the veneer (2).

Step 3 Install a flush-trim bit on a router with the bearing at least 1/4-inch from the router collet. Cutting from left to right, trim away the excess veneer from all four sides (3). Press the cut edges firmly against the surface with the roller. Repeat steps 1 through 3 for the opposite edge and again for both ends.

Step 4 To veneer the face of the headboard, cut a veneer section about 1 inch longer and wider than the headboard front (N). Mask off the veneered edges and top of the headboard. Spray adhesive on the headboard front and on the back face of the veneer. Once the adhesive reaches the correct tack, lower the veneer onto the headboard front from the center to the outside edges. Use a roller to bond the veneer to the headboard and trim off the excess.

Step 5 The platform halves differ from the pedestal and headboard because you'll apply mitered veneer strips to the platform tops (H). Begin by cutting veneer strips 16 inches wide and at least 2 inches longer than needed for the length and width of the platform halves.

Step 6 To cut miters on the ends of the strips, cut a 2-foot-wide strip of 3/4-inch plywood or MDF scrap long enough to support the veneer. Then cut a 45-degree miter on one end of the strip to create a cutting guide. To miter the veneer, align one veneer edge with the short edge of the guide and clamp it in place. Using a router with a flush-trimming bit, trim the end of the veneer along the mitered end of the guide (4).

Step 7 Mark a platform top (H) with a line 15 inches from the outside edge and on the end that will be opposite the headboard on the finished bed. Draw a miter line from the outside corner of the platform to where the edge line intersects the end line. Miter-cut two veneer strips to form an L shape and repeat for the other platform top.

Step 8 Adhere the long-edge veneer strip to the platform top with the inside edge even with the line on the platform top. Then glue the end veneer strip in place with the mitered edges touching (5). After the adhesive cures, trim the veneer flush with the edges of the platform top. Repeat for the veneer on the other platform top.

