Complex Window Seat Plan

Build this window seat bench into any niche, or set back window. Cover the front of the bench with beadboard, cedar or raised panel finish paneling to get a custom, finished look.

Tools and Materials

- Measuring tape
- Saw
- 2 x 4’s
- Drill
- Wood screws
- 3/4-inch birch plywood
- Finish panels
- Finishing nails
- Hammer
- Wood molding

Instructions

1. Measure the length, width and depth of the area you want to build the bench in. Determine the final size of the bench. Ideally, it should end just below the window molding, including any seat cushions you may want on top, and should run the length of the window, while being deep enough to be comfortable to sit.

2. Cut four boards to the final length you want the bench to be.

3. Cut four boards to the height you want the bench to be, minus 3/4-inches for a top, and four inches to account for the other boards.

4. Set two boards down parallel to one another on a work bench. They should be as far apart from one another as you want the final depth of the bench to be, minus approximately 2-inches for plywood and finishing materials.

5. Set short boards vertically on each end of the two parallel boards. Set a second long board on top of each set of short boards to create two rectangular frames. Screw the two frames together and return them to their original spaces on the work bench. They will become the front and back of your bench.
6. Cut two pieces of plywood to cover the two short ends of the benches. Screw them to the ends. This will hold the two separate frames together.

7. Cut a piece of plywood to cover the back of the bench and screw it into place. Repeat for the top of the bench.

8. Cut a piece of plywood to cover the front of the bench, but do not install it yet.
9. Fill any nail holes on the tops and sides of the bench with wood putty. Let it dry, then sand it smooth.
10. Set the bench into place, and screw the frame inside the bench to the wall behind it, or to the floor below, or both.
11. Set the plywood on the front of the bench and screw it into place.

12. Paint the top and sides of the bench if not covering them with finishing panels.
13. Measure and cut the finishing panels to fit the front of the bench, as well as any other areas you want it applied.
14. Squeeze a layer of adhesive in a serpentine pattern onto the front of the bench, as well as any other area finishing panels will be installed.
15. Press the panels securely into place.
16. Cut a piece of wood molding to the length of the bench and paint it.
17. Nail it to the top front of the bench where the finish panel meets the top of the seat.

18. Top the bench with cushions of your choice.