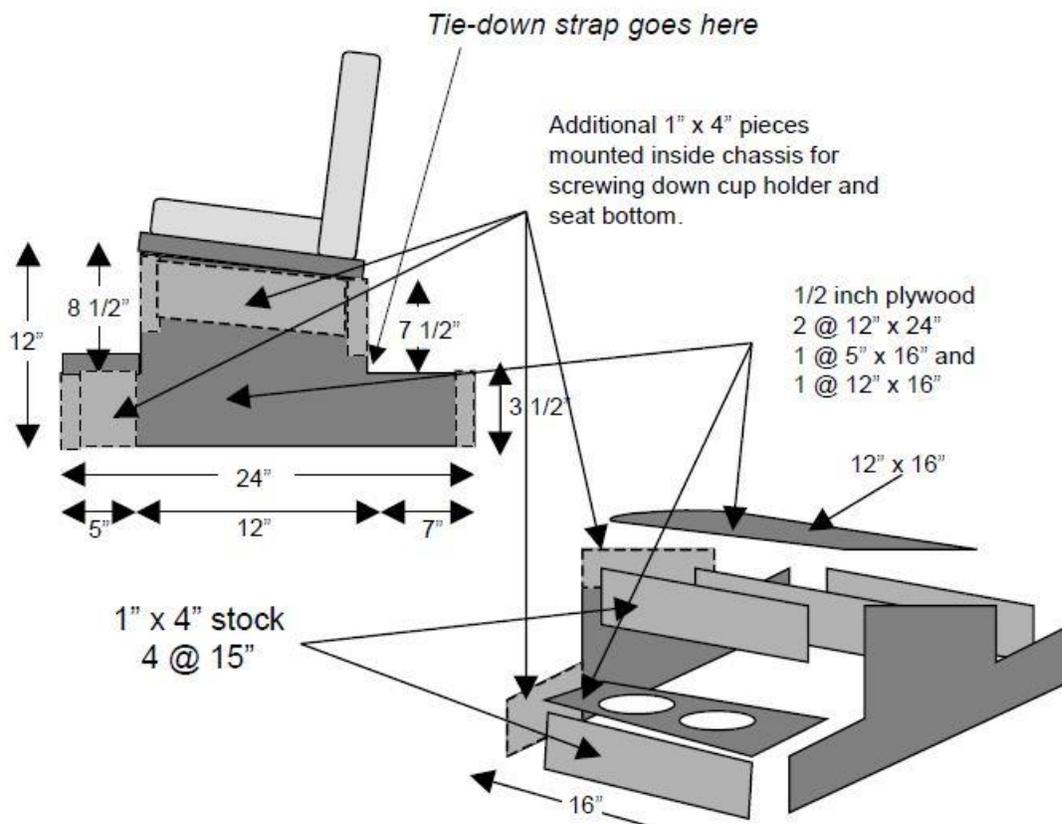


## Riding Cars At Train Mountain

What will work for the Train Mountain Triennial is having plenty of riding cars for all those great engines that show up. The Problem is, there just aren't enough. The problem is compounded by the fact that if we make them 'permanent' riding cars where do we store them. Additionally the problem for those of you that are hauling in trains from long distances, bringing lots of riding cars is out of the question. So how about making some portable seats that fit the Train Mountain rail flat cars? You know all those great rail cars that we have for hauling around the track panels? We can all build some portable seats that fit within the dimensions of those cars. You see, those cars have a small lip of about 1/4" that sticks up on the edge of the flat car to hold the track panels from sliding. If we build some portable seats that fit within the maximum width of 16 inches they will be held in place by that lip. Here is my suggested plan and a photo or two of my prototypes. To 'fasten' them to the flat car for safety reasons you simply use one of your strap tie-downs and 'wrap' it around the flat car and over the back lip of the portable seats. It works great, they are very stable and comfortable even after a long two or three hour ride!



Upper left shows the screwed together model. The unpainted version is the portable take apart version. The photo on the bottom far right shows all the pieces. The pieces are all the same regardless of which version you build. Total cost is under \$120 for a three seat per flat car riding car. The economy boat seats are from Walmart at around \$30 each and the ½ inch plywood was \$20 per sheet. I get four frames per 4 x 8 sheet.



Here are some additional notes as the direct result of using these portable seats: The height can be anything from the lowest, like Train Mountain's riding cars, which are 5 inches high at the front edge of the seat, to my height of 12 inches to the front edge of the seat. Both the Train Mountain version and my versions have a 1/4 inch differential between the front edge and the back edge. Note: We have tried various angles, too much angle and the riders lean back and break the seat backs. Train Mountain switched from a 12 " seat to a 5" seat to lower the center of gravity to make for a safer ride. You might want to do the same. I think my next two will be eight inches high at the front edge. Remember safety - safety - safety!



A different kind of seat belt! It does work well though, very stable, and easy to get up and down!