

BASIC CABINET MAKING FOR BEGINNERS GUIDE

**A Step by Step Manual with Techniques, Tools, Hints
and Simple Furniture Construction Projects**



CLAYTON M. RINES

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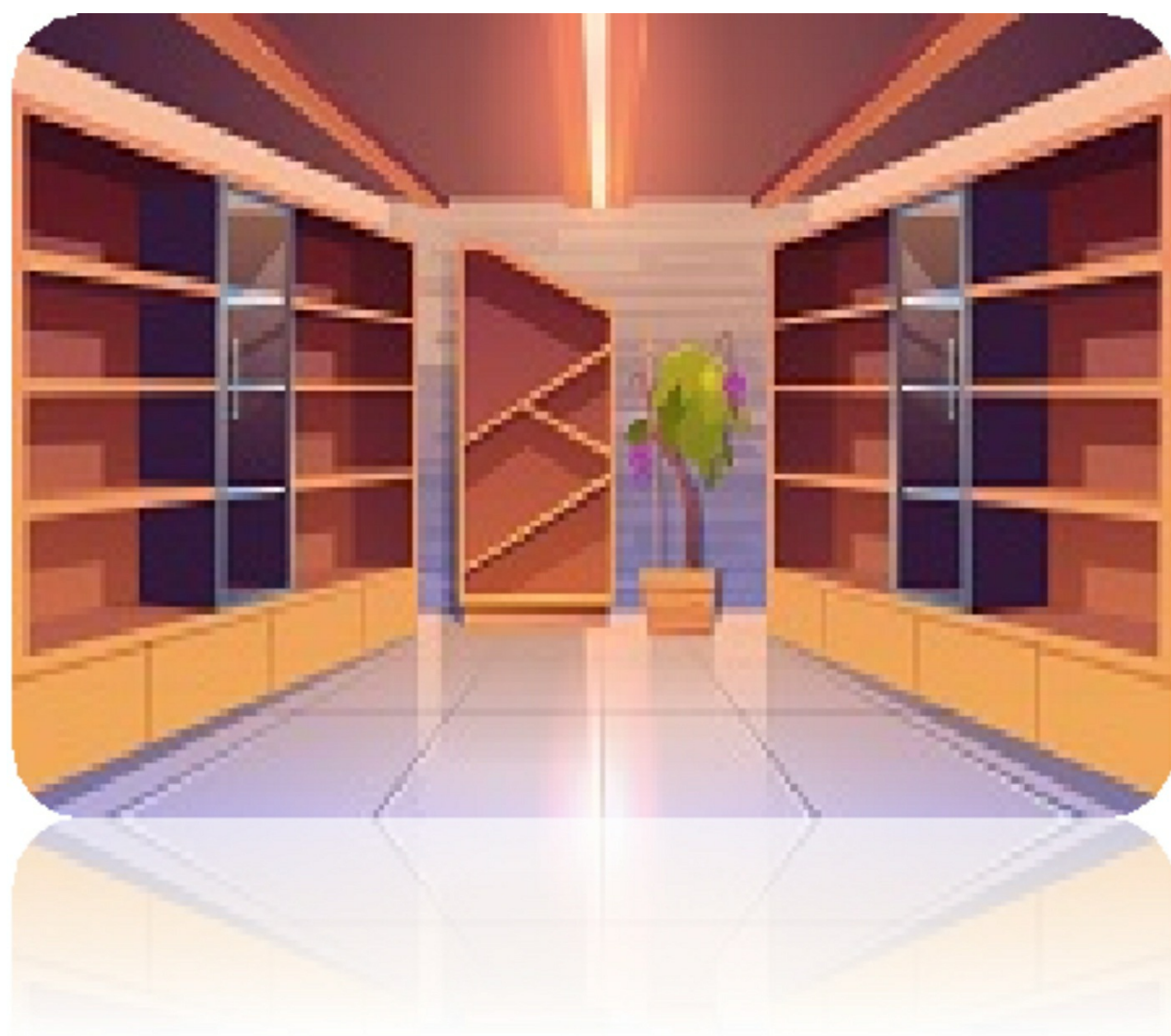
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Cheers,

Clayton M. Rines



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Introduction

Cabinet Making

Welcome to the world of cabinetry! This book draws you in and explains all the rudiments of cabinet and drawer making.

Furniture making appeals to many people for varying reasons; this can be for personal purposes, for functional purposes, as a hobby, or even as a job. Whatever your reasons are, this book focuses on ensuring that the cabinets and drawers you make after the knowledge you might have garnered from this read stand out in every possible way. A detailed yet, very doable approach to making cabinets and drawers is what I offer you here.

Hence, if you are DIY savvy like I am, it is time to put your skills to good use by learning how to make drawers and cabinets with the comprehensive guide that I shall be providing for you in this book as you read on.

Safety is non-negotiable in any form of woodworking. This is because, just like any other work or activity, there is always room for accidents. Therefore, the first chapter highlights all the safety mechanisms that you need to adopt to thwart the risks of work hazards related to cabinetry. Also, Cabinets come in different forms and styles, and we explore all, giving you fun plans in the last chapter to guide you through some for your practice(s). I highlight the necessary tools and materials that you need to get started officially. Tips, ideas, and techniques are in turn shared, as well as the solutions to the problems that you might likely encounter when you begin to make your cabinets.

Cabinetry is one of the key aspects of woodworking, so many woodworking terminologies will surface. You might want to brace up for this before you dive in, but till you do, kindly keep in mind the following terms:

1. Ripping: A cut made with the grain (Not against).
2. Crosscutting: A cut made across the grain.
3. Countersink: A word that describes the act of setting a screw head at the surface level or below the surface level.
4. AA lumber: This is lumber that has an excellent finish on both of its sides.
5. Butt Joint: A joint with the square-shaped end of a piece of wood butting against the flat end of another piece of wood.

6. Dowel: A wooden pin that provides strength and keeps the structure of the woodwork aligned.
7. Shim: A thin piece of wood that looks like a wedge. It is used to space or level in woodworking.

Chapter One

Safety Measures

There are different work hazards associated with every work or activity, and while some are directly related to cabinetry, some are generally associated with all things woodworking. Considering all of these, regardless of what category they come under, this chapter educates you on all the ways to keep yourself out of harm's way as you make your cabinets and drawers. Kindly take note and continually refer to this chapter as you go on in this book and as you finally progress to making your furniture.



All safety mechanisms in this chapter fall under protection against safety or health hazards. This might seem overboard as it is just making cabinets. How bad can things possibly get? Well, very bad, so, ensure that you pay attention. Safety hazards include but are not limited to things that can cause bodily harm to the woodworker. This can be electrical (shock, electrocution, burns, etc.), mechanical (cuts, mutilation, etc.). Health hazards are mostly long-term (cancer, immunogenic reactions, hearing problems, kidney damage, etc.). Some might have immediate effects (allergic reactions, nausea, headache, mucosal irritation of eyes and nose).

To simplify things for you, we have them grouped under the three main aspects that have us exposed to these hazards as they cut across all three.

Your Work Space

Just like any aspect of woodworking, your space is what you make of it, and as long as it suits your purpose, you can set up your workspace anywhere you deem fit. There are, however, few things you must ensure regardless of where your workshop is situated. They include:

1. Your workspace must meet all recommended safety standards. You can even go the extra mile by having a professional safety manager have a thorough check through your workspace to confirm that you indeed have everything set up adequately.
2. Do not compromise on inbuilt accessories that can make your workspace more fail proof against accidents and hazards.
3. Ventilation is often overlooked or undermined, particularly by people who use home spaces like their garages. Fix in windows to allow constant airflow in and out of your workshop as you work. Natural ventilation systems are more effective as they not only keep you and your machines cool, they ensure a constant exchange of air within and outside your workshop.
4. Ensure to get an electrician in from time to time (set a specific interval in your diary) so that things like wirings and electrical setups can be constantly checked for defaults and fixed. You should also call these specialists in as soon as you notice signs (sparks, naked wires, smokes, etc.)
5. Be steadfast about setting rules for visitors in your workspace. Smoking is not allowed. It is highly unacceptable, and this should be made clear to everyone that might set foot in there.
6. Ensure that your work partners (or assistants) know the set protocol for emergencies. What to do and how to go about it; who to call and what to put in place till help finally comes.

Furniture Assembly



7. No intoxicated person or persons (including you) should operate machines or work in your workspace.
8. Keep your workspace tidy and have an effective disposal system to ensure appropriate disposal of inflammable clothes and objects; to prevent cluttering up the work surroundings. This prevents slips, falls, the machines catching work clothes, tripping over wooden cut-outs, etc.
9. A cluttered workspace also makes it harder to notice things that are dangerously placed or out of place and quickly adjust these things before they cause any mishap.
10. Have a first aid box in your workspace to help in moments where inevitable accidents have occurred. At the very least, it can stand in for health care support till help comes.

Your Work Wear

This is perhaps the most important part of protecting yourself. This goes beyond clothes and deals also with protective equipment that you wear. They directly protect your body from harm, whether through direct contact (e.g.,

spills and splashes) or indirect contact (e.g., hearing and inhalation).

1. Get the best personal protective gear you can afford or gain access to. It definitely should not be one of the things that you DIY your way through. Get the appropriate gears as they are built to counter all forms of hazard, considering all the different ways you would be exposed to them as a woodworker. It is a brilliant investment.
2. Do not get nonchalant. It happens a lot that the more you do something, the safer you feel in this activity. With comfort comes laxity, and with laxity comes a lot of workspace mishaps, mostly unforeseen, mostly irreversibly damaging. So always be alert, and do not slack off in inappropriate gearing.
3. It is not a one-size-fits-all. Wearing gloves does not make your eyes immune to hazards. Doing one part of the safety wear procedures does not excuse you from wearing the other gears. Be meticulous.
4. Avoid wearing big or overly long clothes that can easily catch things around you, whether it is on the floor or on top of surfaces. Particularly avoid soft, flowing, or breezy clothes that can easily get drawn to heat or spinning blades. Most health hazards are associated with long-term exposure to certain substances or excessive noise levels or vibrations. Certain types of wood dust, for example, can cause allergic reactions, and sawdust had been determined to be a group of carcinogens by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).
5. Remove all forms of jewellery before handling machines or certain chemicals in the workspace. Jewellery is made of metals mostly. These can also include magnetic properties. This means that they cannot only react to chemicals and heat and cause burns and irritations, but they can also get drawn to machines while you work in very close proximity to them. Not to mention, your jewellery could also get ruined.
6. Long hair is magnificent, but it is simply a viable work hazard in your workspace that can cause more harm than you would ever imagine. Tie your hair up with a band, and to prevent it from slipping out of its hold, wear hair nets or caps to keep it in place

and out of the way.

What You Use

This encompasses the tools, materials, and equipment that you use when working. Hazards that do not come from inadequate dressing or gearing and inappropriate use of your space come from the things you use in your workspace. This is why it is imperative that you pay extra attention to these things and how you use them.

1. Pay attention to the safety tips attached to each tool or equipment you use. Most times, they come with directives as to how they should be used. Please ensure to follow the directives to the letter.
2. Learn how to use each tool before you plug them in for usage. Also, pay attention to their possible hazards and how you can use them in ways that prevent that occurrence.
3. Clean each tool after use and check them for damage after and before use. Wipe the surface from time to time and immediately after substances spill on them. If need be, detach the parts and spread them out to dry when liquids pour on them.
4. When it comes to things like sawdust and debris, sweep off immediately you are done working. For equipment that comes with vacuum ports, attach the vacuum cleaner and collect the dust and debris for appropriate disposal.
5. Do not attempt to 'manage' a piece of equipment or machine when it is obvious that there is a malfunction. Ensure to repair before use.
6. Use the appropriate tools for each procedure. Using the wrong tools predisposes you to harm, so do avoid that.
7. Do ensure that all your blades are sharpened frequently to prevent them from getting dull. In woodworking, dull blades cause way more harm than sharp blades do.
8. When tired, sleepy, emotionally overwhelmed, or intoxicated, stay away from your machines and tools. These are mostly the moments that accidents happen.
9. Always switch off and unplug the machines before fixing, replacing, or attaching anything onto them. This prevents bodily

harm.

10. Ensure that the material you are working on (wood, metal, etc.) is firmly secured, either to your work table or somewhere else that is stable. Whether cutting, shaping, or drilling, loosely held materials can easily slip, startling us into causing bodily harm.

11. Place all the tools and equipment back into their appropriate storage positions to prevent children from accessing them and hurting themselves.

Chapter Two

Designs

So, there are different designs in which your cabinets and drawers can come. Some designs are best suited for certain parts of our homes, like the kitchen, for example. Some are picked due to their exquisiteness and aesthetics. Some are picked because they best compliment and blend in with our homes' layout and the surrounding furniture. We explore the varying designs under colors, function, and material to give you basic information about them and to avail you with varieties to choose from.

Colors

Multi-colored Cabinets

The distinguishing factors of these cabinets lie in the number of colors used to paint them. Designers love this because it adds character to the living space, it is quite beautiful, especially when used for children's rooms, and it brings ingenuity to the entire design of a space.



Interior Painted Cabinets

These cabinets are painted on their insides. The colors are usually unique and represent the individualistic traits of the homeowner. Sometimes, they are for entirely functional purposes, such as when the cupboard's insides need to be dark to store certain items. Sometimes, they just match the inner décor of the

space that they are to be installed in. Regardless of the thought behind it, it is always a beautiful choice.

Pastel Painted Cabinets

Pastels are often considered light colors, in shades of pinks. This is, however, not true as they include a wide range of beautiful colors like green and brown. Think of any color literally, and imagine them in their lightest shade — subtle, in an elegant and classy way. They are also great for office spaces.

Whitewashed Cabinets

There are varying woods that naturally give off gray effects, but a whitewash can always do the trick quite effectively too. This is great for spaces aiming for a rustic, eccentric look. It blends in well with metals and pipes and is also very DIY friendly, so it is a great choice for everyone.



Lacquered Cabinets

This is gloss at its finest. With a color as rich and daring as red, almost anything is forgivable. It is almost all the spice you need to uplift your space. All the vibes you need to alert people of the vibration that you vibe with. It spells out 'high spirits' and automatically brings all visitors to the same wavelength. It is artistic. It is life. It is a beautiful cabinet.

Materials

Curtains and Cabinets

Some cabinets come in an open fashion, where you can see all of the things placed inside. While this might be appropriated for use in living spaces where

aesthetics are a top priority, it might often be disliked in spaces such as the bathroom, where you might want to keep some essentials hidden out of sight. For these situations, fancy curtains made of fabrics, plastic, and even threads or wools are incorporated into the design. They cover all that you seek to hide, and you can always part them to give add a beautiful look to the whole setup.

Metallic Grates

Instead of little doors, curtains, or see-through glass covers, a metal grate is used as the door here. This enables easy accessibility to the contents of the drawer without necessarily exposing the contents to view. You can always get away with a little bit of clutter, and you can appeal to aesthetics without necessarily giving up your privacy. The metallic part also gives an added elegance and eccentricity to the overall feel of the cabinet.

Metal Drawers

Now, this is interesting. The entirety or majority of the drawer is made of steel or metal. You can incorporate a dark or rustic appearance to give it a mysterious, eclectic look that will have all visitors in your space swooning in appreciation. It is unique, highly unanticipated, and extremely gratifying to the creative mind, not to mention its durability and resilience, which endears it to every functional homeowner.

Glossy Cabinets

Use materials like marble, ceramic, and tile materials in general to build the outer structure of the cabinet. They give a very luxurious look and feel and uplift the entire space's appearance, whether it is the bathroom or the kitchen.

Mixed Material

Just like the name implies, these cabinets are made of varying materials like glass, wood, metal, etc. Some use two, and some extend beyond. Instead of having to choose between your favorite looks, you simply look for a way to incorporate them all.

Glass Door Cabinets

Here, the cabinet door is made of glass. You can always experiment online and even in glass stores, looking at varying patterns, designs, and layouts of the available glasses. You can always choose designs that you incorporate into the feel and look of your home. You can choose colors that brighten up your space or tone it down; it all depends on you.

Weathered Wood Cabinets

These cabinets are made out of weathered wood. Weathered wood is wood that has been allowed to age over the years. It lends your cabinets this rustic and eclectic look that would otherwise cost a lot to achieve. It also gives off antique vibes and would be beautiful for storing collections of antiques or beautiful crockery.

Function

Inlands

You can have your cabinets built into your kitchen inlands, giving it an endless, luxurious look and saving up space for extra furniture in the kitchen. It also lends your kitchen a continuous pattern as almost every part of the furniture looks alike and is made of the same build.



Double-Duty

This is an extremely functional design that is well suited for rooms with little space to work in. It reduces clutter and makes your kitchen or bathroom look

put together. These cabinets have installed in them other storage spaces like shelves and equipment like the dishwasher or washing machine. You can also make them movable in apartments where drastic changes to space are not allowed. It also ensures that you can always use them even after you move out of your current space.

Display Cabinets

An exact opposite of what some designs are made for, this enables you to show off all that you would wish people to acknowledge and experience of your home. Whether it is your china plates and cutleries, artificial plants, and glassware, this is the go-to for someone whose main objective is aesthetics. There is no better way to appreciate the finer things of life than putting them in a show glass, and that is exactly what this design offers.

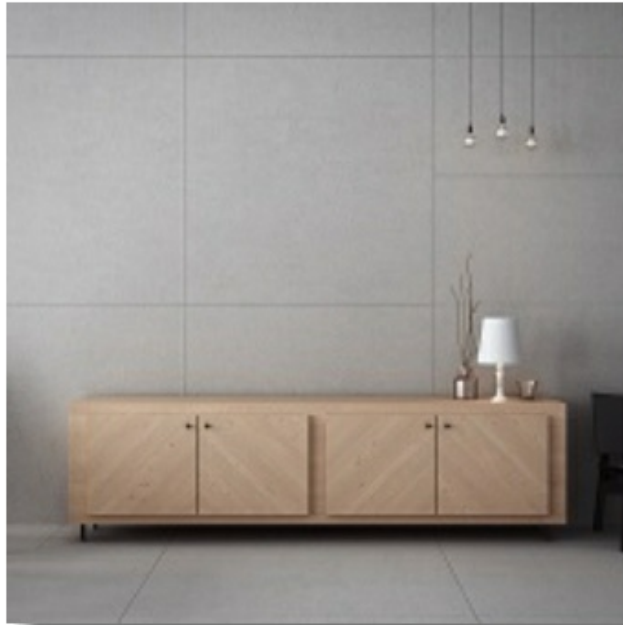


Detailed Cabinets

These cabinets owe their uniqueness to the little hardware that makes up their structure. Whether it is the knobs, rods, latches, etc., this lends your space an elegance that can be rarely missed. Your cabinets can be made of wood, and you choose to make your hardware in metal or glass. Those little details are the true definition of creativity, and for very minimalistic people, it encourages them to add a bit of spice to their space without moving out of the comfort zone. Here, a little goes a long way.

Down to earth

This is a humorous way to describe cabinets placed on the floor and against the walls' sides. They take up less wall space than high cabinets, and they provide a table top that can also be converted into a workspace for cooking, or other activities, depending on their positions in the home.



Chapter Three

Tools

As in every woodworking project, tools are very important in cabinetry. Your tools define the type of cabinet maker you are. They can make or mar you. This applies to your efficiency, output, overall finish, and even your safety. Not only do you have to have the right tools, but you also have to familiarize yourself with what each does, how and when it is used, what tools can stand in for the other, and the ones that are not to be compromised. Do look through the previous chapters for our guidelines on how to the safety measures to ensure before, during, and after the usage of tools and machines. They will come in handy.

A few highly important tools for making cabinets and drawers have been highlighted below, emphasizing their usage and overall functionality.

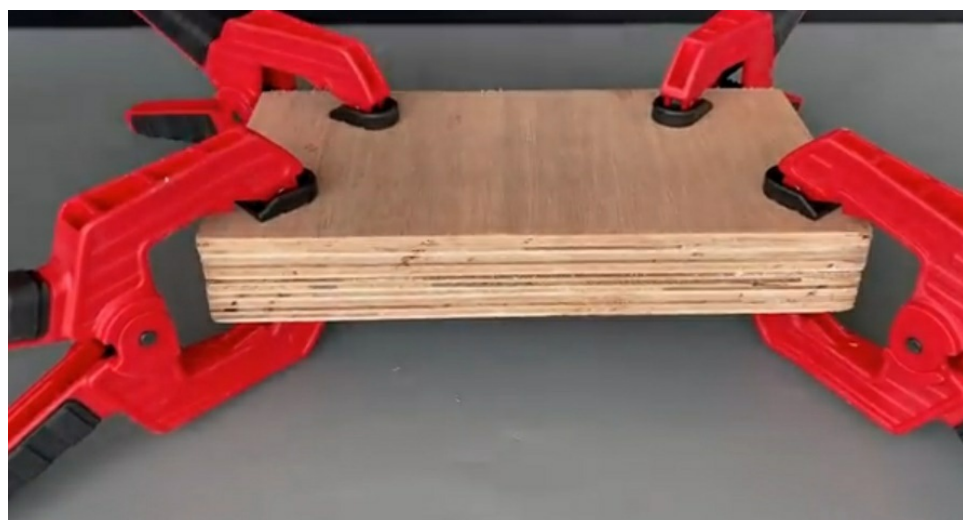
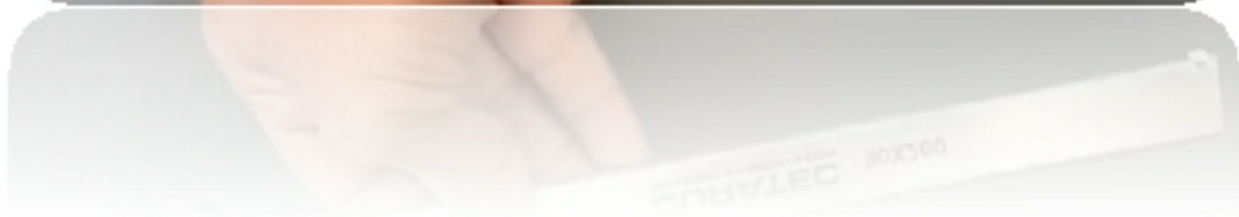


Biscuit Joiner

Biscuit joiners are used to join pieces of wood efficiently. It consists of a small circular saw which it uses to cut the ends of the pieces of woods to be joined. This cut is in the shape of a biscuit. A biscuit is made of beech wood and a highly dry and compact piece of wood on which glue is placed and then inserted into the saw's slot. The woods are then clamped tight.

Clamps

A clamp is a tool used to hold materials strongly in place to allow for woodworking processes to be done on them. These can include cutting, fastening, trimming, etc. There are so many types of clamps. You should get one that's mostly used for holding cabinet and drawer pieces together for easy application.





Claw Hammer

This is a widely used hammer in woodworking. It has a head that has two functions. One side is used to hammer nails into wood, and the other side is used to remove nails from the wood. It has more strength than regular hammers and will do cabinetry work just fine.



Coping Sled

This is actually what is called an accessory in woodworking. It is not the main machine or object, but it is essential in the effectiveness of the main machine, tool, or object to which it is attached. The coping sled is made to work with the router table. It helps to control routers' rotational movements, making it essential for cutting tenons, joints, etc.

Hinge Jig

A hinge jig is used to install hinges on cabinet doors in cabinetry. It's a time-saving tool that helps you to position your hinges accurately and without any stress whatsoever. You have to use a power drill to function, as it needs a power drill to drive it.



Jigsaw

Jigsaws are the most exciting of all the tools mentioned here, especially if you are a creative who likes to try their hands on new and unique designs. They can cut any shape you want into the wood and make a soft work of cutting bevel and compound cuts.

Power Drill

Where any form of woodworking is concerned, this is essential! A power drill allows you to use any tool and do anything, particularly when it comes to installing hinges. It has so many accessories that make woodworking feel as easy as anything.



Random Orbital Sander

While sanding blocks are used to sand in woodworking, it is no secret that using them is tiring and ineffective; plus, it hardly ever leaves a finish as flawless as when you use a random orbital sander. With the random orbital sander, sanding your drawers and cabinets will be much easier and faster. It also helps in smoothing out errors you might have made in cutting your wood. This can include rough, uneven edges, chipped surfaces, etc. It is like the eraser every beginner needs in writing.



Router

For all the straight edges you need to cut from your wood, the router is that friend you need. Routers also help in making joining and grooving easier and flawless. It makes cabinetry a fun project instead of the pure hard work it would be if you chose to improvise.

Rubber Mallet

A rubber mallet is used to strike chisels, as it is a lot safer with milder damaging effects than a claw hammer in cases where you miss your mark. This is especially good for beginners. You can also use it to pound nails into place in a bid to hide them, particularly when dealing with frail or succulent woods that can either break easily or allow nails to sink into them easily.

Scraper Plane

Planning is a prerequisite to making exquisite cabinets. It enables you to tweak your surfaces to your exact specifications. It also gives you a smoother and clean surface to paint and apply the finish. It helps you attain a luxurious look at the end of every project.

Screwdriver

This is a commonly used tool that cuts across board where all forms of woodworking are concerned. It helps you to place screws in exact spots that you need them to be. It is also a viable alternative to the power drill till you can get it on for yourself. It is not exactly the best tool to use for installing hinges, and it will not give the exact seamless finish that a power drill would give, not to mention it is very time-consuming and stressful for the user; but it will do till you can get a power drill.

Table Saw

A table saw is a staple for cutting wooden boards. It is a lot more efficient than a handsaw and gives the user a good vantage position to appropriate the cuts they intend to make. It is especially necessary if you intend to make more than one cabinet at a go. It is time-saving and is not tiring, so you can focus on making your cabinets as flawless as possible without exertional fatigue getting in the way of your result.



Tape Measure

A tape measure does exactly what it says. It is a tape that measures, but why are you stating the obvious? This is because, as obvious as it seems, a wrong measurement can be the reason why you have to discard a project that you have been working on for days— or the reason why you waste tons of wood, energy, and money. It could also mean the difference between a good cabinet and a bad cabinet. If you do not want your cabinet door hanging by its hinges

or looking lopsided and distasteful when you are done, you must invest in a really good tape measure, and you take your time to measure out each part efficiently.

Woodworking Chisel

Chisels! These tools will give you designs that will make you so proud of your decision to undertake any cabinetry project. They are delightful to the senses of the maker and to all who set eyes on it. They are used to carve shapes and patterns that take your cabinet from plain to exquisite. They are also more eye-catching and add a lot of elegance to every space. Plus, they help you to achieve a very expensive look without having to spend any extra.



Chapter Four

Woods

In woodworking, wood is classified into hardwood and softwood. Not necessarily because of their texture, as their name indicates, but because of their components and characteristics. Hardwood is a product of angiosperms, and softwood is gotten from gymnosperms. In simpler terms, hardwoods produce leaves, and softwoods produce prickly pines. That should help you identify them faster. If you are extra good with woods, their grains should be enough to identify them.

Generally, hardwoods are preferred to softwoods for making cabinets. This might seem highly unusual as softwoods are generally cheaper and more readily available than hardwood. The preference, however, comes in their properties.

Softwood is made up of natural resins that produce terpenes and volatile compounds. It is a highly dangerous choice for people with allergic or autoimmune health conditions. Even if you are not exactly allergic; you cannot say that about other people who might visit you or cohabitate with you. It is generally not advisable to use things that pose such risks around the home or work environments.

Asides from this, softwood also wears out more easily and is more prone to surface damage than hardwood that is quite resilient, and allowing for any activity or use. Softwoods also require a lot more finishing than hardwood. This is due to the resins mentioned earlier.

On the other hand, hardwood has almost no distinct smell and has no resin, which accounts for its durability and need for a minimal finish, and it has very minimal fluid content, so it lasts longer. It has a beautiful, distinct grain pattern that is just splendid for cabinets and drawers to cap it all.

This chapter will highlight only hardwoods commonly used in cabinetry as well as little distinguishing facts about them. We will also be highlighting things to put into consideration when choosing woods for your cabinets.

Types of Hardwood

Maple

This is the most readily available hardwood in most places, so it is also the

widely chosen wood for cabinetry. It has a creamy whitish look, and its grain is smooth and fine. It can be used for any style of cabinets, as it stains as easily as it allows paints. Its distinct look also means it can fit into any space regardless of whether it is a living space or not.

Walnut

Walnut is an exquisite wood that is not as readily available as its counterparts. This is why it is considered premium and is only used for high-end projects. Its grain varies widely in color from as light as white and creamy to as dark as chocolate or dark brown. It can also be used in any space due to its variations. It requires little finish to emphasize its beautiful undertones, but you can also go heavy-handed with the finish to appeal to its richer, darker side.

Rift Oak

Though a bit more expensive than the common oak wood, it is also widely available for use. It has a linear grain with colors ranging from beige to cream. It is mostly used for classic modern cabinets, which is accentuated by its linear grain. Most woodworkers tend to stain rather than paint, to achieve maximum results.

Clear Alder

This is also mostly classified as softwood, and in actuality, is softer than all the woods mentioned here. It is, however, used especially when the aim is to go for a traditional, weathered look. It is beautiful for farmhouses and traditional lounges and spas. It has colors that range from tan to a soft red hue. It also tends to get lighter as it is continually exposed to sunlight. It looks exquisite, whether painted, glazed, or stained.

Cherry

Though cherry is a hardwood, it is softer than the other hardwoods here. This is due to its rich grain that has splattered on its tiny knots and marks indicative of softwood. This makes it special as it combines the hardwood's durable qualities with the beautiful grain pattern of the softwood. Even though it is readily available, it is more expensive than the other hardwoods and is usually used only for high-end projects. It is better suited for use in luxurious spaces that aim for a timeless, lush look. It is mostly stained in red and brown, giving it a very formal demeanour.

Knotty Alder

This is another misfit in our category that is also often classified as softwood. Once again, this is due to its distinct marks and knots. It is readily available but is not a favorite of cabinet makers. It is, however, used to achieve antique looks and is used mostly for traditional styles and designs. It has a beautiful finish regardless of whatever method is used.

Oak

This is a very original hardwood with a rough, coarse grain. It has a light color shade to it and is very easily gotten at a lesser price than other hardwoods. Due to its modesty in price and availability, many homeowners find this more affordable and tend to lean towards using this wood for their cabinets and drawers.

Factor to Consider When Choosing Wood

Cost

1. You do not have to go overboard to get the best look for your cabinets. As opposed to expensive woods, you might want to consider working with the less expensive ones and then ensuring that they have an adequate finish to give a very flattering look.
2. If you want cabinets or drawers for your living room or personal space, and aesthetics are a top priority for you, you might want to invest in lush woods that are expensive but give your space the luxurious space you want.

Mono or Mixed?

1. You can choose to make the whole of your cabinets using the whole wood from start to finish. This works best when you have a very nitpicky client that wants things just so as they want. Some people would simply not compromise on quality, and there are those that a high price equals a lasting purchase.
2. However, when it comes to cost management, you might consider

luxurious wood types for the outer surfaces and then less expensive ones for the inner drawers and shelves. This especially works if your cabinet style is closed and not open or see-through.

3. Suppose you cannot afford to buy the expensive woods for the whole cabinet or drawer. In that case, you might invest in them for the cabinets' insides that have to hold items to ensure durability and longevity and compromise where the outer surfaces are concerned.
4. Besides from mixing wood, you can also decide to bring in non-woody materials, like steel, metal, glass, even fabrics, and plastics. Use ceramics for the tops of your kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities. They prevent water from damaging them and add a luxurious appeal. Your choice of wood would then depend on which type of wood best goes with your chosen material.

Availability

1. You can easily find some hardwoods depending on the region of the world you are in. It is better to opt for readily available hardwoods.
2. The wood cost increases with distance as shipping costs are also totalled in addition to the actual wood cost. You might want to consider this when sourcing for wood.

Weather

1. No matter how much you love a wood type, you must consider the kinds of weather under which these woods thrive. This can either reduce or decrease its longevity.
2. The kind of weather under which they thrive will also help you determine whether or not to choose them for certain usages, like in the bathroom and kitchen where moisture, humidity, and heat have to be considered.

Chapter Five

Process and Techniques

This part deals with the most basic approach to cabinet building. No matter how simple or technical the cabinet or drawer is, you definitely cannot miss these steps. So, we consider this the general process each woodworker must undergo to produce a cabinet or drawer. The tools and materials used are also listed below. They are also some of the basic tools everyone who wishes to build a cabinet or drawer should have before considering following this process.

Tools:

Nail Gun

Sponge

Paintbrush

Power Sander

Clamps

Safety Glasses

Circular Saw

Hammer

Rag

Electric Screwdriver

Sponge

Straight edge

Materials:

Trim

½ inches plywood

Wood glue

Wood stain

Paint

Cabinet Doors

Drawer slides

Screws

Plywood tongues

1 by 2 inches cabinet material

¼ inches plywood

Nails

Method:

1. Sketch, sketch, sketch. If you are well versed with woodworking, you can go a step further and even make a template. Either way, a diagrammatic expression of your intended cabinet will help put things better into perspective and keep you on track.
2. Measure your cabinet pieces and cut them out from the ½ inches plywood, ensuring that your cuts are straight and clean.
3. Using wood glue and nails, assemble the box of the cabinet. When you are done with this, glue the plywood for the shelves to the frame you have and fasten it with nails.
4. Attach the shelf dividers using your hammer and nails.
5. Attach the 1 by 2 inches cabinet material to the front of the cabinet using wood glue. Ensure that this is well attached by using finish nails. Afterward, use putty to fill in the nail holes.
6. Using the sander, sand the cabinet and all of its parts and stain it to match the place's entire furniture or aesthetics.
7. Ensure that the glue and the finish have dried, and then begin to install the cabinet.
8. Locate the position on which you want to place the wall studs and mark it.
9. Afterward, do the same for the insides of your cabinet, making sure the positions correspond. You can do this by having someone else hold up the cabinet for you while you check if they both align.
 10. Once you confirm that they do, attach the studs to the wall with your screws.
 11. After mounting the cabinet, attach the doors to the cabinet using the hinges and screws.

Chapter Six

Basic Building Methods

There are different reasons why we are exploring the various means and ways to make cabinets and drawers. This can range from the type of design you want to create with your drawers, the materials you have with you, the kind of tools at your disposal, the amount of time you can dedicate to making the cabinets and drawers. We have highlighted them all here so that you can pick a choice and have them all at your disposal to use at different times or even at the same time as you so wish.

Butt Joints and Wood Screws

Okay, for our beginners, this will most likely be your go-to method, at least till you hone your skills and attain the level of mastery that is definite after tons of practice. Even after you master the other methods, this will probably be one that you still refer to from time to time.

It is the most cost-effective and less demanding of all the methods, as it requires no special skills or tools, and it also requires little time. You can get by with the bare minimum here. The tools you need here include A drill, screws, fasteners, and wood glue.

It will not work if you aim to make a seamless cabinet, as the fasteners used in this method are visible. There are, however, several ways in which you can hide these fasteners. They include:

1. Use a ¼ inch beadboard to cover the sides of the cabinet after you are done.
2. Knock the screws in very well, allowing them to sink into the wood as far as they can go. This will allow you to fill them in, thereby hiding the screws using wood fillers or putty.
3. You can arrange your cabinet in such a way that the sides are not exactly exposed. You can place them side to side with another cabinet or in the middle of two things that already occupy the same field of vision as both sides of your cabinet.

Butt Joints and Pocket Hole Screws

This method is just splendid for building stable cabinets that are durable,

resilient, and can hold heavy things without giving way. If you intend to build a cabinet or drawer for your hardware or for storing heavy ceramics and glassware, with the hope that it stays for years, then this is the method to go for you.

It will, however, require you to go back to your basic woodworking skills and sharpen them well. This especially pertains to the making of jigs. Excellent ones at that because your cabinet's stability or drawer using this method does rely largely on how good or exceptional your jig is. When you are certain that you have perfected this skill, make a special jig for the cabinet you intend to make.

This jig is what you need to drill the holes with the pocket hole screws. You also need it to join the frame of the cabinet face together. While this method is time-intensive, it is important to note that it gives you a more seamless finish than the first one since the side fasteners are not visible. The back panel is, however, exposed to view, even from the sides.

Dados

Now, we are getting more serious and the steps more complicated. The tools here are also more specialized and require more time and effort to work. There are, however, better results in the thorough follow-through of this method. Your fasteners remain hidden here, and so does your back panel.

The major work lies in cutting the dado that will make it possible for the fixed shelves, back panel, and the cabinet bottom recess into the cabinet's sides. It requires a background in woodworking, and if you have none, you need a book or an article that gives you explicit guidelines on how to make one. Then you actively practice the art of making dados until you have the skills required to pull this method off.

Once you get the hang of it, the rest becomes simply easy. Do not be fooled, though, even for the most experienced of hands; this method takes time. This is because of the precision it requires to get your cabinet in the right shape even after you are done.

The tools needed include, most importantly, a table saw. If this is not available at your disposal, a table-mounted router will do the trick. The other things that you need dearly but you will not get at a store are time and patience—lots of them!

Dowel and Dovetail Joints

All customized, highly-priced cabinets and drawers are made using this

method—if not all, then most of them. This is their major selling point. This, of course, means that the best seamless, flawless, and most exquisite drawers can be made using this method. In other words, this is the good stuff—the premium quality stuff. This, of course, means that it requires premium quality money to use this method. It is an expensive one to pull off.

They make the most durable, efficient, and resilient of cabinets. They surprisingly do not use nails, staples, or screws. On the contrary, they interlock sections of wood pieces together tightly, giving flawless joinery. Dovetail joints are used to make this feat possible. They also use wood glue to make the joinery firmer and more effective. In cases where Dovetails are not used, dowels are used.

While dovetail joints are preferable, dowel joints also make for a good cabinet, so it is also a common choice among premium cabinet makers. They are also chosen by cabinet makers who want exceptional results but cannot afford the cost required to get cabinets made out of dovetails.

Chapter Seven

Cabinet Types, Doors, and Drawers

There are different types of cabinets, and this section explains them all, giving you an array of options to choose from.

Shaker Style Cabinets

It is the most common type of cabinet used today. It is made of five panels, with four forming the frame and one panel forming the centre. It has doors made of flat panels and frame rails. It is also very durable and strong, made of the best woods available. These woods include cherry, hickory, oak, and maple.



Louvered Cabinets

These cabinets are unique in their designs as they have a louver-like structure. Spaces are left in between each slat such that they have access to air, similar to normal window louvers.

This especially works great for airy rooms and places where wellness is emphasized, like spas and resorts. It also works great for traditional spaces or spaces in the home where heat is usually commonly generated, like the kitchen or laundry room.



Slab Cabinets

Just like their name already gives away, slab cabinets have no extraordinary finesse. Rather, they are slabs elegant in their simplicity. They are refreshing add-ons to minimalistic spaces and are great for designers working on a budget.



Inset Cabinets

These are cabinets that have an inset door on the inside of the frame instead of the outside. They require precision and detailed accuracy to turn out well. This is why they are not advisable for beginners and are also more expensive than the other cabinet types; hence, they are more suited for high-end projects with a really big budget.

These cabinets also add up in cost because concealed but visible hinges are required to create the best design.

Distressed Cabinets

No, it does not imply that the cabinets are sick; it, however, implies that distressed woods are used to make these cabinets. Distressed woods are beautiful and are great for making antique furniture and adding rustic features to a space.

Beadboard Cabinets

These cabinets have unique indentations called beads placed between the blanks, and this is where the name is coined from. It is an exquisite look that can fit in any space but is not recommended for kitchens because they can be

hard to clean and maintain.

Thermo-foil Cabinets

These cabinets are made of medium-density fiberboard and have their doors coated with plastic and thoroughly baked. While the process sounds intensive, it isn't and is one of the cheapest cabinet and readily accessible options available.

These cabinets are great with water and other liquids and are easy to clean and maintain but thrive poorly under heat and are strongly advised against being placed near heat-producing machines like ovens. So even if you intend to use them for your kitchens, ensure that their designated area is far away from heat to prevent damage to them.

Personalized Cabinets

These cabinets are for people who enjoy leaving their mark on all things that belong to them. Their very space tells a lot about their personality and style. All you need is a paper and pen or design software to draw up your version of what exactly you need your cabinets to look like. If you are not very artistic, you could always arrange a meeting with your design company and ask for a sit-in with their in-house designer. Explain your needs, wants, and expectations of your space and how your cabinet can fit into all of that. Usually, they can come up with something that makes you very happy.

Types of Cabinet Doors

There are two major types of cabinet doors;

Cope and Stick Shaker Door

They can have square edges or arched designs. Cope and stick shaker doors can also have arches at the top and the bottom of the doors. The frame here is joined at an angle of 90 degrees.

Mitered Doors

They comprise the five parts mentioned above that make up a frame, but they require a different machining and assembly process. They can only be square and cannot be arched. The frame here is joined at a 45-degree angle.

Types of Drawers

Dovetail ½ inches Baltic birch plywood

Dovetail drawers, in general, are considered the best types of drawers for reasons that range from durability to accessibility to affordability. They are the most sought drawers for most kitchen cabinets and storage cabinets in general.

When the material used is Baltic birch plywood, though, the durability skyrockets for various reasons. Baltic birch is a veneer of birch, and it also forms a void-free core. This makes it possible for all screws to have a 100 percent grip when hammered in. This is rare in woodworking materials. This material gives you that, though.

Also, Baltic birch plywood's veneer properties mean that all fingers, miters, dadoes, dovetails, and rabbets formed with this wood come out clean and very durable. Since the core is void-free, this wood's ultimate appearance, especially after being sanded and the finish is applied, gives a very beautiful look that would uplift the appearance of any space. If the natural look is not to your taste, Baltic Birchwood accepts any kind of veneer readily, and they sit well, giving a flawless finish.

Dovetail solid wood maple

All dovetail drawers are generally everyone's favorite, as already discussed above. The main factor to be explored here is solid wood maple and how it makes this drawer even more unique outside the dovetail properties.

Maple wood is very easily accessible by many, particularly those who live in cold regions. It is also well-loved by many furniture makers as its grain is usually straight and smooth, giving a very refreshing appearance at the end of the project. It also gives a very mature and exquisite appearance when it is dark stained, meaning you get a luxurious result without spending all that money on a very expensive alternate. It is not the strongest of all hardwoods, but it is considered one of the most durable and long-lasting.

It is perfect for use in kitchens and other cabinets made for heavy-duty usage.

Dowell white melamine (Dowel Drawer)

The major highlight of this drawer is the dowel used in construction. Dowels are used in joinery that seeks to hide the joints' marks, giving a seamless finish. No one can tell where it starts or end, where the joining is, and what was used in joining. Flawless, endless, and seamless. This is where the aesthetic lies, and this is where its beauty lies.

Melamine is highly desired because of its beautiful, smooth surface that

minimizes the need for finish or, at the very least, reduces the quantity of finish needed to finalize the look of the cabinet, hence minimizing the cost implications of making the drawer. It is perfect for use in kitchens, bathrooms, and even vanities in the rooms.

Push to open drawer (tip-on)

This is a beautiful drawer that is perfect for clients who want a seamless look. They do not like the handles of the drawer to show. Where others would go for ornately designed handles choosing to use the cabinets' handles to enhance the aesthetics, they would rather not have it featuring at all.

This drawer, therefore, uses a tip-on system where all you have to do is push the drawers at the uppermost edges to open and close the door.



Chapter Eight

Doors and Drawer Faces

These are the most visible parts of the cabinet and drawer. The parts that you first set your sight on as you look at them. They are also the parts that make the major difference between closed and open cabinets and drawers.

These two have a lot in common, even though they are found in different items—the doors for the cabinets and the drawers' faces. They have the same characteristics and differ only in style. While cabinet door style can be used for your drawer fronts, they have some specialized styles worthy of note. This is the only part that will be pointed out individually.

Cabinet Doors

These are the doors that are fixed to cabinets on hinges to close them up. Cabinet doors can also be a part of the aesthetics of your cabinets. Depending on the style you adapt, it can help boost your cabinet's overall appearance since it is the first part of the cabinet that people see when they first set their eyes on the cabinet. Certain things make up a cabinet door, and they are mainly five. They include:

Styles of Doors

There are different styles of doors that accompany cabinets. Some of them come hand in hand with the type of cabinet that is to be built, but there is no hard and fast rule to this. You can always use your artistic impression. Below are some of the door styles that every cabinet maker or enthusiast should be aware of:

1. **Arch Doors:** These doors are arched and it comes with a raised panel with an arch carved into its uppermost layer, hence its name.
2. **Cathedral Doors:** These doors have very simplistic and minimalistic designs with a recessed panel.
3. **Shaker Doors:** They also have simple designs with recessed

panels.

4. **Bead-Board Doors:** These doors have vertical grooves inscribed into their panelling which is usually well decorated and designed.
5. **Slab Doors:** They have very flat panels and are neither raised nor recessed.
6. **Glass Doors:** These doors use wood as their frame and glass as their centre panel.

Rail

These are the horizontal (top and bottom) sides of the frame. They are also called drawer slides, and the types available include:

1. **Ball Bearing Drawer Slides:** These come in a wide range of sizes. You can also adjust the configurations to fit in with your technical demands or specifications, regardless of whether that pertains to weight or length. It can allow for up to 45 kg weight.
2. **Easy Close Ball Bearing Drawer Slides:** The beauty of these slides lies in their ability to prevent your cabinet door from slamming shut. They are noiseless. They come in various sizes and so can be used with lots of drawers with different specifications. They allow load for up to 22.5 kg weight.
3. **Bottom Mount Drawer Slides:** They are similar to the soft-close ball-bearing drawer slides in variations regarding sizes and capacity.
4. **Side-Mounted Drawer Slides:** These are similar to the soft-close ball-bearing drawer slides in specifications and variations.
5. **Centre Mount Drawer Slides:** This usually comes in 22 inches with a tri-roller design on a monorail. It can effectively allow for a 16 kg weight.



Panel

This is what makes the centre of the cabinet door. The types of panels make the types of Doors derived above. Panels can be recessed, raised, or reversed raised, although some designs choose to leave them flat. We explore a bit about them below:

1. Recessed panels are panels that are depressed below the height of the frame of the door. The wood used for these panels is often thinner in feel and thickness than the other woods used to make the other parts of the frame.
2. Raised Panels are panels that are raised above the height of the frame of the door. They are more traditional in appearance and have been around for much longer than the other types. The

frame here is recessed as opposed to the panel like in the recessed panels. Examples include the cathedral cabinet doors. These panels are used in rustic or traditional settings to match the aesthetics.

3. Reversed Raised Panels are panels that combine the recessed and raised panels. The centremost part of the panel is reversed, such that if the remainder of the panel were raised, it would be recessed and vice versa.

Styles of Drawer Fronts

These mostly differ in looks and in the types of wood used in making them. Woods are already discussed in a preceding chapter, so you should read again to determine which style goes with which wood. You should also look into these woods' characteristics to ascertain the perks of the ones mentioned below. The looks are better appreciated when you already have a style in mind or a style you want your drawer to fit into. The technology used in creating these styles also makes up some of their names and are mostly specialized pieces by high-end cabinetry companies.

The varying styles are listed below.

- Solid Wood Slab

- Solid Wood Mortise and Tenon

- Veneered Flat Panel Mortise and Tenon

- Raised and Flat Panelled Mitered

- Raised and Flat Panelled French Mitered

- Solid Wood Slab with Drawer Front Face Routing

- Raised Panel Slab

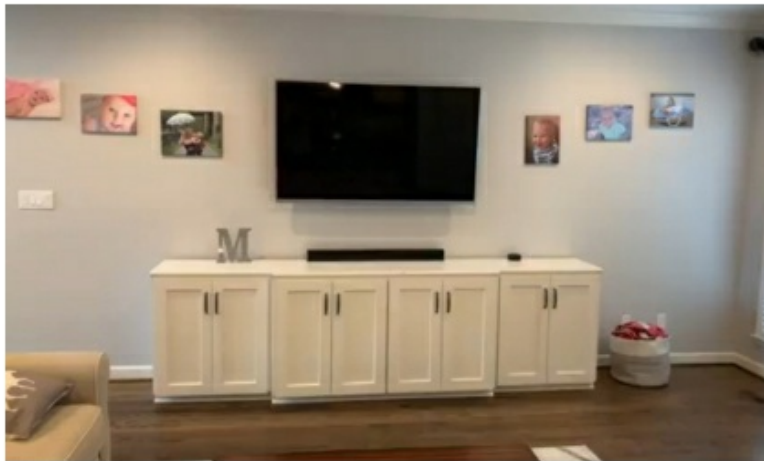
- Contemporary Veneer Edge banded

- Contemporary Solid Wood Edge banded

- Melamine and High-Pressure Laminate

- 5-Piece MDF

- 1-Piece MDF – 3Dlaminate / RTF



Chapter Nine

Wall Cabinets

The wall cabinet is a type of cabinet that is mounted on or fixed against the walls. They are good for small living spaces that need large storage areas. They also add beauty and character to the wall depending on the style that is chosen. Like the open wall cabinets, some designs of cabinets can be used to decorate and display items for aesthetic purposes. You can always go for traditional wall cabinets for large family homes or spaces with an intrinsic earthy, traditional feel. For contemporary lovers, there are also varying ranges of modern choices to pick from.

Materials

Here, we explore the varying materials that are used to build wall cabinets. The preferences for one over the other will vary depending on the intent behind the making of wall cabinets, the kind of space the wall cabinet is meant for, taking into perspective the aesthetic that is already there and what fits in, and of course, the price of said materials. They include the following:

1. **Wood:** This is especially beautiful for spaces with rustic or traditional aesthetics or a natural-looking environment. Of course, depending on the finishing or paint used, wooden materials can be made to give off contemporary vibes way more than any other material. This is where its allure lies. You can do as you wish with wood in terms of aesthetics, and the fact that depending on your budget, you can go as high or low as you want when purchasing wooden materials.
2. **Metal:** This is for the formal spaces, but it can work well with living spaces that already have that monochromatic, sleek aesthetic in place. Metals can also be painted and manipulated to take on any unique design you wish to incorporate into your wall cabinet design. It also goes hand in hand with almost any design as even though it stands out, it will not clash or contrast hugely to whatever material already makes up the space it is to be installed in.
3. **Glass:** Glass is beautiful, and it allows for an open and airy feel

to any cabinet, including the wall cabinet. It, however, does not have as much character or depth as its contemporaries do. It is also quite harder to purchase, especially if you have a particular design in mind.

Types of Wall Cabinets

Wall Cabinets can be horizontal or vertical. Depending on your interior décor skills, both choices are awesome and add character and uniqueness to any space. Asides from this, they enable the economy of space, particularly in small spaces or spaces that lack storage space. The two are slightly expounded on below:

Vertical Wall Cabinets: They are usually placed in a straight, vertical position against the wall. They are perfect for utilizing wall spaces and saving floor spaces. They are also perfect for improvising in spaces that simply lack adequate storage space. Imagine having a cabinet that fits right in between two doors! You will always find space for vertical wall cabinets in the most unusual of spaces.



Horizontal Wall Cabinets: Not usually a staple for functionality; they are mostly installed for their aesthetics. This, however, does not apply to homes that have everything but space in them. Some interior designers mount horizontal wall cabinets against staircases and bed spaces, all in a bid to utilize whatever space is available, so don't write it off yet!

How High Is Too High?

As long as you won't hit your head against the cabinet as you walk past, there is no absolute rule when it comes to how high you can mount a wall cabinet. As with the majority of specifications, different people mount wall cabinets with different intentions. Some people mount them purely for aesthetics, and for these people, they can go as high as they wish. However, for those for whom this choice is highly for functional intentions, it would be a good idea to make the top of the cabinet a place you can reach with minimal effort. If there are already other structures mounted on your wall, you might want to ensure that the wall cabinet aligns to make the wall as beautiful and put together as possible when you are done. The decision is solely yours to make.

Chapter Ten

Base Cabinets and Drawer Bodies

Base Cabinets are simply cabinets that are fitted to the floor. They sit on the ground. They are the simplest of all cabinets to make. They are most commonly found in kitchens and bathrooms. They usually go hand in hand with stoves, gas cookers, ovens, and dishwashers in the kitchen, and a sink, when in the bathroom. Base cabinets form the base of these things, while they form the countertops of the cabinets.

Below are some of the parts that make up the cabinets and drawers:

Cabinet Face Frame: These are the reasons why cabinets are stable. They keep the cabinet in shape and good condition regardless of where or how they are used.

Drawers and Drawer Fronts: These are probably the most important of all the bodies that make up cabinets and drawers. They are made of different wood types and can be painted in color of your choosing. The centre panel is perhaps what makes up a huge part of the technicality involved in making these parts. The kind of wood to be used for the panels also varies depending on the style you are going for.

Hinges: They are what attach your cabinet door or drawer front to the cabinets and drawers. They also play an important role in determining how flawless your cabinet or drawer looks. It is quite important to invest in high-quality hinges, as they are usually one of the first things to come off when a cabinet starts to fall apart. You do not want your doors falling off their hinges.



Drawer Glides: These determine the weight that drawers can hold. Depending on the quality of drawer slides you buy, your cabinet can be termed frail or resilient.

Drawer Box: This forms the inside of your cabinet. Many people play around with a lot of things where these boxes are concerned, and this is because they are not exposed to the outside like the drawer fronts or cabinet doors. They can make them with plastic or metal materials, they use varying types of joinery to set them up as they will not be seen, and even when using wood, some opt for cheaper options.

All of this is fine if your cabinet is not intended for heavy-duty storage but mainly for aesthetic purposes. However, if the former is the case, it would be more advisable to invest a little bit more in your drawer boxes, as they, too, can always fall apart.



Interior Finish: This is especially highlighted because the interior of the

cabinet is where the real usage is. Ensure to use materials that allow for easy wiping as finish. Most people use laminates and melamine. Try to steer away from using wood veneers as they will stain very easily and allow dirt to accumulate. Rendering your cabinet interior not only unhygienic but unattractive.

Cabinet Shelves: Cabinet shelves like drawer boxes bear the cabinet's functional duties and so should be prepared with the most durable materials available. They make up the interior of the cabinets.

Chapter Eleven

Finishing and Installing

Finishing

Finishing is a very important step to completing your cabinet or drawer. It makes the difference between a regular cabinet and a fancy one. Also, finishing gives you the base to add on any other enhancing material you could apply. There are, however, certain things to ensure before you start the process of applying finish to your cabinets and drawers.

1. Refer to the basic protective procedures highlighted at the beginning of this article. This is where you need the majority of those tips. Wear all the mentioned personal protective wear to protect yourself from all the dangers associated with inhaling fumes from finish, materials, or having them pour over your skin.
2. Invest in a wood conditioner to provide a suitable base before applying the finish. It will go a long way in enhancing the look of your project when you are done. At the very least, wipe down the cabinet or drawer with a moist rag before applying the finish. You should, however, ensure that it dries well before applying your finish.
3. Work in a well-ventilated space to prevent inhalation-related health concerns.

Materials

Pieces of old rag
Sponge
Paint
Paintbrushes
Sandpaper

The Process

Choose the finish color of your choice. This can depend on the aesthetics of your space or the wood in which you used to make your cabinet or drawer. Certain finish colors complement the grain of certain wood types. This is

something that is best to put into consideration even before building the cabinet. You should also read the paint's instructions to affirm that it can be used for the material that your cabinet or drawer is made of. Not all paint types go with wood, or metal, or even glass.

1. Another thing you should also consider is the overall look of the finish when it is done. Do you want a glossy finish, or a matte one, or a semi-glossy? These are questions that should guide your choice of finish for your cabinets.
2. Sand your finished project. There are varying tools to help with this. Sandpapers, power sanders, etc. For this part, though, you need to consider that you are merely finishing up and are not making drastic changes to the surface of your project, so you need to be careful in sanding. This is why sandpaper is preferred, as damages are less likely. You have control, and you can easily determine how gentle you want to be. Ensure to always sand in alignment with the grain, not against.
3. Fill in all parts that you want to fill in, and let them dry.
4. Wipe off the surface you are about to apply finish to, ensuring no dust or debris is left. A hand vacuum would be perfect for this, but do ensure to wipe it down with a damp cloth afterward.
5. Fill in all the spaces and pores. You can use wood-grain fillers for these. Apply a single coat of wood conditioner to enable the wood to fully absorb your finish. Allow the conditioner to sit on the wood for roughly ten minutes and wipe all the excess off.
6. Apply your stain or paint in layers. Take your time to do this to prevent bubbles from forming on the surface of your cabinet or drawer. Before applying a new coat, wait for the first one to dry and then sand it to make it smooth and error-free.
7. The more meticulous you are, the nicer the result will be. There is no maximum number of layers to apply to your furniture; just note that each layer's appearance gets darker.
8. Apply your finish, ensuring to use a brush. This prevents damage to your cabinets or drawer. Just like with the paint, be sure to wipe off the excess product when you are done. Dry off completely.



Installing

This part of the chapter gives a very basic outline of how to mount and install cabinets. Before we look at these outlines, though, ensure that all electrical fittings have been put in place, all the parts of the wall that needs to be patched have been patched; all painting that needs to be done on the wall has been done; and kindly ensure that your flooring, where cabinet or tiles have been done so that the cabinet can just be placed over them on installation. These things would prove a menace if not taken care of before installing your cabinets and drawers.

Tools

- Tape measure
- Stud Finder
- Jigsaw
- Drill bit set
- Drill
- Clamps
- Countersink drill bit
- Circular Saw
- Block Plane
- Belt Sander
- 4 in 1 Screwdriver
- 4 ft. Level
- Special Combination Drill Bit
- Shims
- 2 ½ inches screws

Method

1. Put the cabinets, tools, and materials needed in place.
2. Set the cabinet height, measure and label the highest position on the wall from the floor.
3. Level and set the cabinets on the ground where they are supposed to be.
4. Add filler strips where needed.
5. Using a drill or saw, cut out all electrical outlets and plumbing spaces as indicated on your template.
6. Install all the peninsula cabinets.
7. Get someone to help, then install the upper cabinets and ensure

that the cabinets are held well, and in the exact position you need them to be.

8. Install the cabinet doors. Cut, fit, and nail the toe-kick boards against the base. Check to ensure that the hinges align the doors properly.

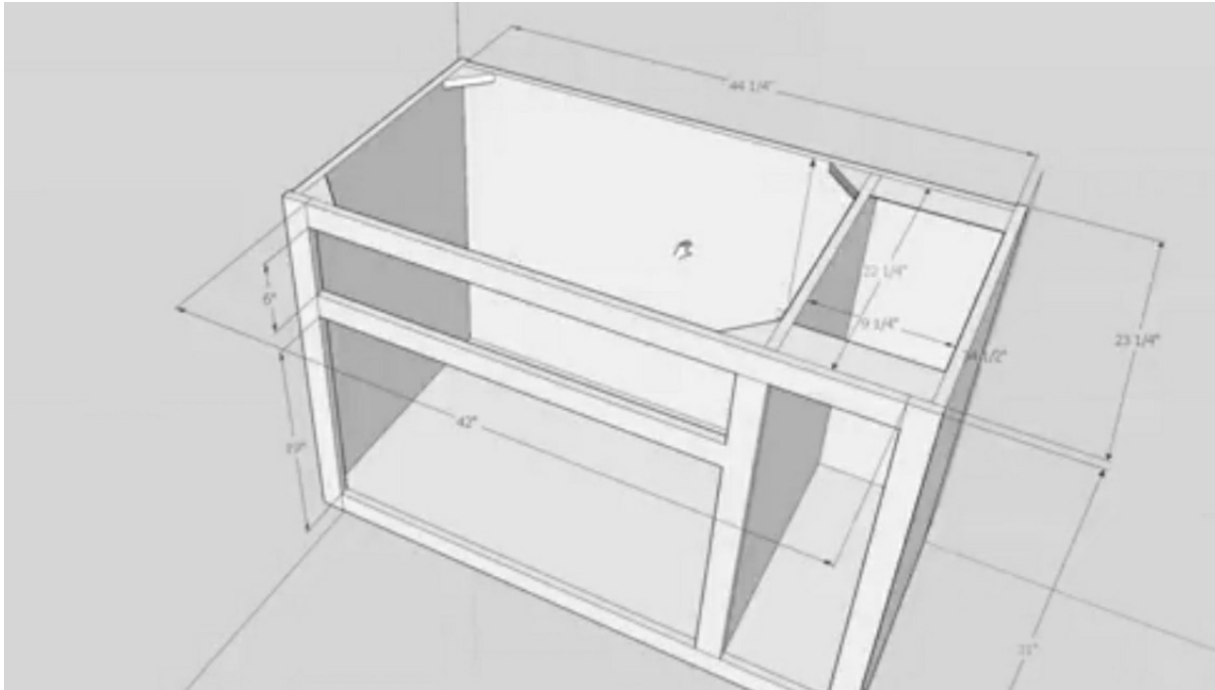






Chapter Twelve

Ten Beginner Projects



Wall Corner Cabinet

Materials

- One sheet 3 by 4 hardwood
- ½ sheet 1 by 4 hardwood
- 8 inches 1 by 2s veneer
- 6 inches 1 by 3s veneer
- Edge banding
- Shelf pins and pin jigs
- 1 ¼ inches pocket hole screws
- Wood glue
- 1-inch finish nails
- ½ inches concealed hinges
- 2 ¾ inches plywood at 12 ½ inches by 30 (45 degrees bevel)
- 2 ¾ inches plywood at 32 1/8 inches by ¾ inches
- 1 ¾ inches plywood at 12 ¼ inches by 30 inches (45 degrees bevel – both ends)

4 ½ at 14 ¾ inches (45 degrees bevel – one end)
2 ¼ inches plywood at 30 by 15 7/8 inches
2 1 by 3 at 30 inches (45 degrees angle)
2 1 by 2 at 12 7/8 inches

Tools

Brad Nailer
Ear Muffs
Pencil
Speed Square
Safety Glasses
Kreg Jig
Drill
Miter Saw
Table Saw
Tape Measure
Power Sander
Level

Steps

1. Set the bevel to 45 degrees and rip the plywood to a width of 12 by 12 inches. Also, cut another piece of wood at 11 ¾ inches. Cut the remaining strip of wood into 3 pieces at a width of 18 ¾ inches.
2. Cut the 18 ¾ inches strips into two 32 1/8 inches long pieces. Cut out the top and bottom part of the shelf from the two pieces, and drill ¾ inches pocket holes into both ends.
3. Join the sides to the tops and the bottoms. Drill ¾ inches pocket holes into them so that the frames of the cabinet faces can be attached later. Place the pocket holes for the top and bottom shelves on top and below for respectively.
4. Attach the back to the setup, ensuring that the top and bottom of the back align with the top of the carcass and its back as well.
5. Attach ¼ inches of plywood to the back using nails and glue.
6. Now that the back is done start to build the frame of the face. Rip the 1 by 3 board into two equal parts and bevel their edges at 45

degrees.

7. Use glue and pocket holes to join the frame's parts and attach it to the cabinet face, ensuring to leave overhangs.
8. Build the cabinet door with dimensions 29" x 13 7/8" x 3/4"
9. Install the door, starting at the corner. Screw the corner to a stud in the wall and hang it.
 10. With these dimensions, there is a 1/2 inches gap between your cabinets. Ensure that everything else aligns and proceed to screw the parts of the cabinet more firmly in place from the inside of the cabinet.
 11. Use wood filler to fill in the deficits and sand thoroughly afterward.
 12. Use a vacuum to remove all debris and use a damp cloth to thoroughly wipe the cabinet down.
 13. Use a primer or conditioner afterward.





Sink Base Cabinet

This cabinet is mostly used in kitchens and has a dimension of 24 inches with its doors. The inside is, however, 22 ¼ inches deep and 34 inches wide.

Materials

- ¾ inches finish nails
- 1 ¼ inches pocket hole screws
- ¼ inches plywood (for the backs)
- 1 by 3 (for the center stile)
- 1 by 2s (for the face frames)
- ¾ inches plywood (rip it into 5 inches long strips)
- ¾ inches plywood scrap
- ¾ inches plywood (rip it into 22 ¼ inches long strips)

1 ¼ inches plywood at 32 inches by 32 inches by 35 ½ inches
2 ¾ inches plywood at 3 ½ inches by 34 inches
2 ¾ inches plywood at 5 inches by 34 inches
1 ¾ inches plywood at 22 ¼ inches by 34 inches
2 ¾ inches plywood at 22 ¼ inches by 34 ½ inches
1 1 by 3 at 21 inches
1 1 by 2 at 33 inches
2 1 by 2 at 36 inches
2 1 by 2 at 27 inches
5 ½ inches by 35 ½ inches
2 pieces of 22 ½ inches by 17 ½ inches

Tools

Drill
Keg Jig
Hearing Protection
Safety Glasses
Pencil
Speed Square
Tape Measure
Brad Nailer
Table Saw
Miter Saw
Jigsaw

Steps

1. Create your two side panels, ensuring that they mirror each other.
2. Attach those side panels to the bottom supports.
3. Attach the bottom shelf to the side panels and bottom supports attached above.
4. Attach the remainder of the side panels to the base.
5. Attach the back to the setup using the ¾ inches finish nails and glue.
6. Put your face frame together and attach it to the front of the cabinet. Leave an extension of ¼ inches on the sides, ensuring that the top and bottom are flush on both sides.
7. Fill all existing holes with the wood filler and let it dry. Sand the

- cabinet and wipe all excess dust off with a damp cloth.
8. Use a primer to coat.







Drawer Base Cabinet

Materials

Drawer slides (3 sets)
¾ inches finish nails
1 ¼ inches pocket hole screws
¼ inches plywood
1 by 2s 9 (for the face frames)
¾ inches plywood (rip it into 5 strips)
¾ inches plywood
¾ inches plywood (rip it into 22 strips of ¼ inches)
1 ¼ inches plywood at 32 by 17 ½ inches
2 ¾ inches plywood at 3 ½ by 16 inches
2 ¾ inches plywood at 5 by 16 inches
1 ¾ inches plywood at 22 ¼ inches by 16 inches
2 ¾ inches at 22 ¼ by 34 ½ inches
1 by 2 at 27 inches (2 pieces)
1 by 2 at 18 inches (2 pieces)
1 by 2 at 15 inches (2 pieces)
5 ½ inches by 17 ½ inches (the drawer face)
11 by 17 ½ inches (2 - large drawer faces)

Tools

Pencil
Speed Square
Tape Measure
Safety Glasses
Brad Nailer
Table Saw
Miter Saw
Jigsaw
Drill
Kreg Jig
Hearing Protection

Steps

1. Rip the plywood down to the sizes indicated above. Using a jigsaw, cut toe kicks out and use it to cut out the sides. Also, drill pocket holes that are ¾ inches deep outside the side panels.
2. Attach the base supports to a side panel and the bottom shelf to the bottom supports and the side panel.

3. Attach the remaining side panel to the setup.
4. Attach the back to the setup using glue and finish nails, or you could opt for staples.
5. Build the face frame and attach it to the front of the cabinet using $\frac{3}{4}$ inches pocket holes.
6. Build the drawers to fit in the openings and the drawer slides, and then install the drawers.
7. Fill in any hole with wood filler and allow it to dry. Then sand it thoroughly and wipe the residue with a damp cloth.
8. Use whatever finish you desire.



Open Cabinet

Tools

Pencil
Speed Square
Tape Measure
Safety Glasses
Brad Nailer
Table Saw
Miter Saw
Jigsaw
Drill
Kreg Jig

Hearing Protection

Steps

1. Measure your space. Determine just how much space you want your cabinet to occupy.
2. Make a template or a simple drawing of the major components of your cabinets and drawers.
3. Choose the kind of wood you want to use to make your cabinets.
4. Cut out all the pieces you need to make the cabinet.
5. Sand all the wood, ensuring to be as gentle but firm as possible.
6. Put all the pieces together and join them. Assemble the frame of the cabinet door and attach it to this setup.
7. Secure your shelves, ensuring that they are firmly placed in a level position to the rest of the cabinet.
8. Use paint or stain and when dry, apply finish to your cabinet, ensuring to wipe off any excess.
9. Allow it to dry completely.

Louvered Cabinet

This cabinet is built like the others highlighted above. The area of interest here is the louvered cabinet door, and that is what shall be expounded on.

1. Measure the louver, considering the number of inches on all sides that will have to be inserted into the wooden frame.
2. Cut the louver as precise as possible
3. Round out the louver slats, removing all its edges until smooth.
4. Sand the slats, and when you are done, insert it into the frame of the door of the cabinet.







Distressed Cabinet

Kindly follow the steps for an open cabinet and end with this outline for creating a distressed door, making a distressed cabinet.

Tools

Water
Paint
Old rag
Sandpaper
Paintbrush

Steps

1. Mix water and paint in a ratio of 3: 1
2. Sand the door edges with sandpaper and wipe it clean with a damp cloth.

3. Use a paintbrush to apply the mixture made in step one on the door of the cabinet.
4. Dab over the paint to reduce excess.
5. Allow it to dry, and voila, your distressed door is ready.

Glass Front Cabinet

This is showing how to install glass into the wood cabinet as the front.

1. Purchase a cut-out piece of glass, ensuring that your specifications are accurate.
2. Use molding to hide the raw, cut edges of the glass.
3. Finish up with your wood pieces, ensure the application of stain, paint, and finish before installing the glass.
4. Once this is done, you can then fit the glass into the cabinet door.
5. Craftsman Project

Steps

1. Build the basic case.
2. Install the top and bottom of the drawer
3. Work on the door as it carries the most important details.
4. Cut the rails and then the stiles following your specifications.
5. Cut the tenons and mortises as well.
6. Cut out the grooves.
7. Trim all the cut parts and start to assemble the door.

Contemporary Cabinets

Tools

- (2) pair inset concealed hinges
- (2) pair overlay concealed hinges
- (4) door pulls
- Circular Saw and Saw Guide
- Miter Saw
- Pocket Hole Jig
- Drill

Wood Glue
Edge banding
1 1/4 " pocket hole screws
2 " wood screws
1 1/4 " wood screws
Wood finish of your choice

Materials

plywood 16 " x 72 " Cabinet Top
plywood @ 16 " x 22 1/4 " Cabinet Sides
plywood @ 15 1/4 " x 70 1/2 " Cabinet Bottom
plywood @ 15 1/4 " x 20 3/4 " Middle Divider
plywood @ 2 1/2 " x 70 1/2 " Top Cabinet Frame
plywood @ 2 1/2 " x 11 " Top Cabinet Middle Frame
plywood @ 2 1/2 " x 65 1/2 " Floating Top Frame
plywood @ 2 1/2 " x 14 1/2 " Floating Top Frame
plywood @ 22 1/4 " x 72 " cabinet Back
plywood @ 17 1/2 " x 21 1/4 " Cabinet Doors
2x2 @ 8 " Base Corners
1x3 @ 67 1/2 " Front and Back Base Pieces
1x3 @ 2 1/2 " Middle Base Supports
1x3 @ 12 1/4 " Base Sides
1 1/2 sheets 3/4 " oak plywood
1/2 sheet 1/4 " plywood for the back
2x2x8 board
1x3x8 board

Steps

1. Cut the plywood sheet into all your specifications.
2. Assemble the carcass of the modern cabinet using the methods shown in the preceding chapters.
3. Attach the top, back, and sides of the console.
4. Add the cabinet base and keep working to hone your skill.
5. Apply finish and add the shelves.

Garage Cabinet

Tools

(2) sheets 3/4 " plywood
Sheet pegboard
Circular Saw (cutting guides optional)
Drill
Pocket Hole Jig
Shelf Pin Jig
Concealed Hinge Jig
Pair concealed hinges
Shelf Pins
12 " Lazy Susan Hardware
1 1/4 " pocket hole screws
5/8 " and 1 1/4 " long wood screws

Steps

- Cut down the plywood sheets into pieces.
- Follow the process for building the base to build the garage cabinet.
- Add shelves to the cabinet.
- Apply paint, stain, and wood filler to the wood, and then apply finish when it is dry.







Other Books by the Author

The Pyrography Beginners Workbook with Exercises

Learn to Burn with Step-by-Step Instructions with Introduction to Basic Tools, Techniques, Modern Wood Burning Textures and Patterns, and Sample Project Ideas

The art of pyrography, also known as *pur graphos* (fire writing), is as old as mankind, and this form of art gives immeasurable satisfaction to artists by giving power to the imagination. This book opens up a brand new vista to you, laying bare all you require to begin your journey with this timeless art. In *The Pyrography Beginners Workbook with Exercises*, Clayton M. Rines shows you the basics of writing with fire, types of tips, pens, shading techniques, and other lesser-known methods that help you develop your craft. You would learn the in and outs of buying your first pyrography machine, types of woods to burn, safety tips, maintaining the workroom, and other essential tips for successful wood burning projects. This book offers you some easy to carry out projects as a way of getting you accustomed to the art of wood burning, from making of wall clocks, key holders to creating cup coasters and bangles with images.

You will learn;

- Easy projects for everyone
- Learn how to write, shade and apply outlines
- The importance of temperature settings
- Knowing what type of burning nibs to use
- Important safety tips
- Must know techniques for texturing and finishing
- Burn those great gifts for your loved ones
- And so much more!

With *The Pyrography Beginners Workbook with Exercises*, you are on your way to becoming a pro in wood burning carvings, wooden plates, household items, and so much more. Grab a copy today and begin your pyrography journey.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1674755775>

A Guide to Wood Finishing for Beginners: A Step-by-Step Manual on How to Finish, Refinish, Restore, Stain, Dye and Care for your Furniture
This is the ultimate wood finishing guide for an exquisite project.

Applying a well-thought-out and researched finish can bring out the beauty and shine in an otherwise bland work. On the flip side, a well-built and alluring piece of woodwork can be turned into an ugly duckling with a lousy finish.

Clayton M. Rines takes you on a journey through one of the aspects of woodworking that many crafters will rather avoid. He removes the cloud of mystery surrounding wood finishing. You will navigate the minefield of finish application, refinishing, and staining with ease like a pro. You will discover new and existing methods that work on how to select the best type of finish for your project, correct errors, prepare the wooden surface, and troubleshoot.

As a beginner or a pro, it is pertinent that you understand the basics of staining, coloring, and dyeing your wood. This will give you a wide array of options to play within any project, thus breaking down restrictions that might have been in place. When you fully understand the foundation of wood finishing, you will be able to bring out the hidden beauty of your wood, promote its longevity, and make the whole wood-crafting process a seamless experience.

“A Guide to Wood Finishing for Beginners” is packed with invaluable tips and hints that will enlighten you on the reasons why you should go through the process of finely finishing your wood, the methods to embrace, and what to avoid.

You will learn the following and much more ;

- Simple and safe method of applying spray finish
- The different types of solvents, oils, and varnish
- The types of wood and how to apply finish to them
- Stripping and Refinishing
- Stain and dye application
- Restoring furniture
- Water-based and oil-based finishes

- An easy to understand approach to the subject theme
- The beginners guide on polishing, spraying, sanding, etc
- Fixing mistakes
- Troubleshooting

Written with you in mind to help solve your wood finishing fears as a beginner or an experienced hand needing a bit of refresher, this is a must-get book.

CLICK on the BUY button to begin finishing your wood with style today.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08LPJ6C9Z>

The Simple Woodcarving Book for Beginners: Simple Techniques for Relief Carving, Easy Step-by-Step Beginner-Friendly Projects, and Patterns with Photographs

Getting started with woodcarving or any other form of art can be a bit daunting. You are at a loss on the type of equipment and tools to purchase the simple projects that your skill level can start with. Mr. Clayton M. Rines has got you all covered with everything to get you started as a novice woodcarver or an experienced hand looking to refresh your wealth of knowledge.

The Simple Woodcarving Book for Beginners, Simple Techniques for Relief Carving, Easy Step-by-Step Beginner-Friendly Projects and Patterns with photographs is a personal guide with a passionate teacher. You will learn how to make those clean cuts in different ways, sharpening your tools and putting the finishing touches on your work.

Your desire to master this age-long art of woodcarving has brought you this far, and this passion will be fueled and guided with everything you will be learning from the pages of this book. Clayton M. Rines will expose you to secrets of the trade, such as the basic cuts, smoothening techniques, how to carve contours, and the essentials or relief carving.

The directions to follow for each method are clearly explained and accompanied by photographs to further breakdown the process. What do you need to get that first project done? This book in your hands, a few well-honed

essential cutting tools and a piece of softwood, and you will be on your way to carving the most amazing and exquisite objects that will continuously recharge your bank account, serve as gift items to friends and loved ones and give you joy unlimited. With your desire to fully understand everything about carving in relief and producing masterpieces, this all-encompassing book on woodcarving will enlighten you and show you the best way to go about it.

From when the idea comes to you, the initial cut to the final finishing touches, these steps will guide you every step of the way; •Step-by-Step practice projects with visual guides to build your confidence levels• Types of woods, tools and your workspace, finishing •Basic and well-explained carving techniques• Detailed directions• Carving relief projects• Maintaining and keeping your tools well-honed and in perfect condition. It doesn't matter if you are a novice or a professional carver; this is the book you should get and expand your woodcarving horizon!

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B084P6T7Q3>

About the Author

Clayton M. Rines is a techie who lives in and around gadgets. Knowing what makes devices all around us tick is his life ambition, and he is always on the lookout for new ideas to everyday technological problems. Bringing solutions to your gadget issues, giving opinions and tips on how to get the best out of your devices, and bringing to you excellent news gives him so much pleasure. He is a DIY expert, naturalist and animal lover.

Clayton is from Sacramento, California and enjoys globetrotting, savoring new experiences, enjoying new cultures.