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- Motor: 1 HP, 110V/220V, single-phase, TEFC. 11A/5.5A
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- Max. cutting height: 6"
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STAND

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- Amps: 15A at 120V, 7.5A at 240V
- · Precision-ground cast-iron table with wings measures: 401/2" W x 27" D
- Table height: 353/8"
- Arbor: 5/8" Arbor speed: 3450 RPM
- Max. depth of cut: @ 90° 3½", 45° 2½"
- Rip capacity: 30" R, 15" L
- Overall size: 57½" W x 37½" D x 35¾" H
- Footprint: 21" L x 191/2" W
- · Approx. shipping weight: 330 lbs.

G0771Z \$89500 SALE \$77500







#### **15" HEAVY-DUTY PLANER**

- Motor: 3 HP, 240V, single-phase, 14A
- Max. cutting width: 15", depth: 3/16"
- Max. stock thickness: 63/8", Min: 1/4"
- Min. stock length: 63/8" Feed rate: 16 and 30 FPM
- Cutterhead diameter: 3"
- Number of knives: 3 HSS
- Knife size: 15" x 1" x 1/8"
- Cutterhead speed: 5000 RPM
- Table size: 201/8" x 15" x 31/2"
- Overall size: 32" W x 28" D x 231/2" H
- Approx. shipping weight: 382 lbs.



#### **PLANER MOULDER** with STAND

- Motor: 2 HP, 240V, single-phase, 10.8A, 3450 RPM
- Precision-ground cast-iron table measures 141/8" x 10" x 7/16"
- Max planing width: 7"
- Max planing height: 71/2"
- Cuts per minute: 14,000
- 2 HSS knives
- Approx. shipping weight: 324 lbs.





#### 17" HEAVY-DUTY BANDSAW **30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION**

- Motor: 2 HP, 110V/220V, single-phase, TEFC, prewired 220V • RPM: 1725
- Amps: 20A at 110V, 10A at 220V
- Precision-ground cast iron table size: 17" x 17" x 1½" thick
- Table tilt: 45° R, 10° L
- Floor-to-table height: 37½"
- Cutting capacity/throat: 16½"
- Blade length: 131½" (½" to 1" wide)
- · Approx. shipping weight: 342 lbs.

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- Max. depth of cut: 3" @ 90°, 21/8" @ 45°
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#### 15" PLANERS

- Motor: 3 HP, 220V, single-phase, 15A
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- Max. stock thickness: 8", Min: 3/16"
- Min. stock length: 8" Feed rate: 16 & 30 FPM
- Cutterhead diameter: 3", Speed: 4800 RPM
- Power feed rollers: solid serrated steel
- Precision-ground table size: 15" x 20"
- Overall size: 321/2" W x 42" D x 457/8" H

Approx. shipping weight: 675 lbs. (G0453 672lbs. (G0453Z)

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- Approximate shipping weight: 232 lbs.

MADE IN AN ISO

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#### TAKING MEASURE

# Respect. Urned.

very year, thousands of American servicemen and women pass away forgotten, after their service to our country. No friends. No family. No money. With no one to claim them, their cremains languish on shelves from sea to shining sea. Tragic, to be sure, but what does it have to do with woodworking?

Just moments ago, I left the Charity Build of our fifth annual *Weekend With WOOD* conference for woodworkers. And I gotta admit, this one got kind of emotional, as we built 100 cremation urns like the ones shown *below*, for the Iowa Veterans Cemetery to provide a respectful burial for those indigent veterans.

The project was inspired by an email I received from Phil Noto of the Woodcrafters Club of Tampa (Florida), telling me about the club's Veterans Urn Project. It started when a member saw a news report about the cremains of an indigent veteran disgracefully buried in a cardboard box. Thanks to the generosity of a club member with a laser engraver, each urn bears the emblem of the service branch of the veteran.

If you, or your club or guild, would like to try this as a service project, you can download drawings for the urns we built at woodmagazine.com/veturns. Before you build, check with your local VA to work out a plan for distributing the urns, and make sure the dimensions will work for their columbaria. You'll also need permission to use the emblems.

As woodworkers, we often downplay our skills (to the point of calling attention to our goofs). Just as often, we step up to fill a need in our communities and shy away from the recognition we deserve. Projects like these reinforce my belief that woodworkers are the best people I know.

See you in the shop!



dave.campbell@meredith.com
Facebook and Twitter: @WOODeditor



Veterans participating in the build were recognized.



Volunteers built 100 urns, asembly-line style, in about an hour.



Jodi Tymeson, Executive Director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, helped with the build.





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# **REPAIR**

So, you accidentally let slip that you're a woodworker and now all your friends and relatives think you should fix their broken furniture? Here are some articles that you can use (or distribute) as needed.

Match and patch veneer: woodmagazine.com/matchandpatch De-wobble a chair: woodmagazine.com/dewobble Repair furniture cracks: woodmagazine.com/fixacrack "Aging" replacement parts: woodmagazine.com/agingparts



# **RECLAIM**

So, your woodworking habit has gotten so bad that you can't throw out a scrap or pass by a discarded pallet? Here are some ways to employ or reduce your stash before your family calls the white coats.

Be a better board hoarder: woodmagazine.com/boardhoarder Save money by salvaging: woodmagazine.com/salvagelumber Finishing reclaimed lumber: woodmagazine.com/reclaimrefinish Don't discard defective wood: woodmagazine.com/nodiscards Even sawdust can be used: woodmagazine.com/sawdust

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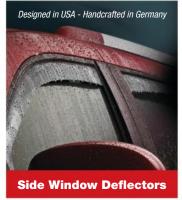
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## **SOUNDING BOARD**

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#### Tree for two

The old maple tree that grew right through the middle of our deck created many childhood memories for my girls, so when it began to die, I promised to make them something beautiful from it. My youngest needed a shelving unit for her first post-college apartment, and loved your plans for the Floating Shelves from issue 215 (November 2012), so that seemed like a good use for the old maple.

As I milled the log, I discovered remarkable spalting and an infestation of powderpost beetles, both of which added a ton of character to the wood. (I exterminated the little buggers with a Googled chemical concoction reminiscent of Breaking Bad and some quality time on the gas grill.) I left the front edge of the boards natural and used a black Java gel stain to show the grain.

After seeing this one, my older daughter now wants one as well. Both of my girls are pleased to see their childhood tree live on in such a unique and beautiful heirloom.

—**Daniel Thompson** Olmsted Falls, Ohio



#### **Two-door convertible**

Like your Backyard Shed project in issue 246, most two-door sheds use doors of equal size that can be clumsy to close and do not meet well. Yet most times, you really only need to open one door to grab or throw in a small item. My shed, shown above, also has two doors, but one is about one-third the width of the other. The T-111 sheeting makes the smaller door almost invisible until it's opened.

—Marvin Rosenfeld Latham, N.Y.

#### A hold to hand into

A few years ago I built the beautiful pencil-post bedroom set that began in WOOD issue 187 (November 2008). While building the chest of drawers, I flashed back to all the household moves I made in my 38 years as a United

Methodist pastor. Each time, I thought there must be a better way to move a dresser, which is always awkward to carry because there's nothing to grip on the back.

Suddenly, it occurred to me that the solution was was quite simple: I cut two slots in the back panel just below the dust panel at a convenient height for lifting. This makes it a breeze for two people to carry.

—Ernest Metheny Terra Alta, W.Va.



#### The truth couldn't be planer

I've owned the DeWalt DW735 planer for 11 years, and your thoughtful review in issue 246 (May 2017) aligns with my experience. After replacing several sets of high-speed-steel knives (at \$50 a set), I decided to invest in the Byrd Shelix cutterhead for the DW735. Although it costs almost as much as the planer itself, the helical cutter transformed an already very good planer into one of my favorite tools, and the four-sided carbide cutters will probably last the rest of my life.

—Chris Bennett via email

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#### **Totally waxed**

I heartily agree with Douglas Ward's article, "Wax On, Wax Off" in issue 246. I'm often asked how I get such a nice finish on my projects. My secret: Johnson's Paste Wax and 0000 steel wool. Like Douglas, I recently discovered Black Bison wax from Liberon. I encourage any woodworker who has not tried this finishing technique to try it. You won't be disappointed!

—Bill Kuespert Fond du Lac, Wis.

# Big thumbs up for an awesome Weekend With WOO



# A special thanks to our sponsors!





























Fourteen years after milling a felled yellow birch, **Robert LaVeyra**, of Duanesburg, N.Y., used it—and cherry milled from another downed tree—to build this changing table. The drawer fronts are tulip poplar.



Instead of the maple plywood called for in the original plans, **Terry Fick**, of Hoover, Ala., made solid-cherry panels for the 3-in-1 Transition Bed in issue 173 (November 2006).



Inspired by the look and feel of the Pint-size Rocking Chair in issue 236 (November 2015), **Keith Kroma**, of Menomonie, Wis., made a table and two matching chairs.

8

# **Engineered Precision**



## **Tough Starts and Fine Finishes**

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Each issue, the finishing experts at Varathane answer your staining and finishing questions.

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What is the best way to achieve high end finish on soft woods like pine ceder or redwood?

—Joseph L. - Platte City, MO



#### **Answer:**

Soft woods are inexpensive to obtain through reclaimed lumber or even at big box stores. They can be a great alternative to expensive hardwoods to create beautiful pieces.

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**Tom Krueger**, of Burlington, Wis., built this solid-oak child's rocking chair. It was his first attempt at mortise-andtenon joinery, and each joint was cut by hand.

## Send us a photo of your work

Want to see your work showcased in WOOD® magazine? Send a high-resolution digital photo of your completed project to woodmail@woodmagazine.com.

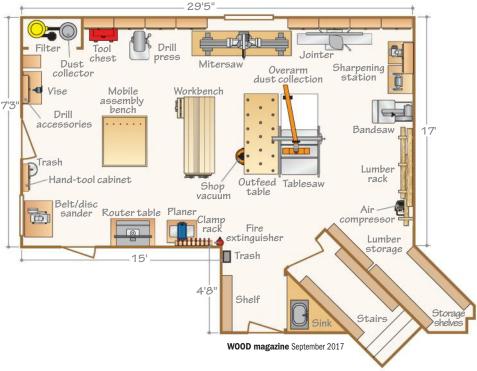




with just 550 square feet to work with in a walk-out basement, John and Shelley Glover planned well to make their shared shop neat and organized. That meant six months of fine-tuning the floor plan by moving around sticky-note cutouts of the tools and cabinets on graph paper. As a result, they shrank the basement exercise room to make the shop a little bigger. And they put to use a narrow nook next to the stairs for lumber storage, adding long shelves to hold finish and supplies.

Although compact, the shop has no shortage of power, with six 110-volt circuits and five 220-volt lines. "When our contractor saw the plan for wiring," John said, "he asked if we planned to light a shop or power a tanning parlor. We have 19 double-bulb 4'-long fluorescent ceiling fixtures. And we get natural light from two windows and a door.

"I do have two planning regrets. First, I didn't plan an outlet in the floor for the





**Prized hand tools rest on custom holders** or are held in place by rare-earth magnets in this maple cabinet with clamshell doors.



No sharpening system is perfect for every tool, so John has five, including a horizontal abrasive wheel, vertical sanding belt, bench grinder, and a water-cooled slow-speed grinder on a roll-out cart. Waterstones and a lapping plate rest on a locking slide-out shelf.



A window recessed in a knee wall provides 14" of clearance behind the sliding compound mitersaw, reducing the depth of the workstation's footprint. As the owner of a hardware store, John knows how to keep fasteners organized, using a 10' run of bins and cabinets above the jointer.

tablesaw. Too late now—we have radiant-heat pipes buried in the floor. And, I wish I had placed the 3-hp cyclone dust collector outside of the shop—it's noisy."

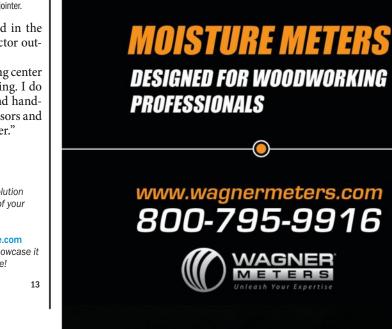
To keep tools honed, John built and equipped a sharpening center [above, center]. "I have an 8" grinder for freehand sharpening. I do quick touch-ups of kitchen knives on the 1" belt; chisels and handplane blades on the Veritas Mk.II Power Sharpener; and scissors and finishing work on kitchen knives with the Tormek sharpener."

A wall-mounted cabinet [top] houses many of those keenly honed tools. "Except for my grandfather's square," John says, "I bought everything in this cabinet from Lee Valley. I appreciate quality and I don't mind paying for it." Look to Shelley to head to the hand-tool cabinet, the proud husband says. "She really likes to hand-cut dovetails."

# Show us vour shop

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**MEASURE MOISTURE** 

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## Ask Wood

YOUR QUESTIONS

#### A sticky dilemma

I'm having trouble removing the adhesive from the metal platen of my benchtop discsander. Mineral spirits just turn it slimy. Any suggestions for cleaning the leftover gunk from the platen?

—Hal Souers, Friendswood, Ind.

A

A number of solvents and chemical automotive cleaners will cut through any remaining adhesive residue, Hal, but we prefer using a citrus-based cleaner. Use a rag and the cleaner to remove the old adhesive, then wipe the platen down with a window/glass cleaner, such as Windex, and let it dry. That ensures a clean surface to which the new sanding disc will bond.

Next time, use a hair dryer or a heat gun set on low to warm the abrasive disc and platen and soften the adhesive. Work on one section at a time, and the disc should peel cleanly off. (Tip: If the old disc isn't worn out, use the backing paper from the new disc to preserve the old one for reuse.)



Have a question? Drop us an e-mail. askwood@woodmagazine.com



#### SHOP TIPS

WORK FASTER, SMARTER, SAFER

**Shop-made wedges make compound miters easy** 

Boxes and trays look more interesting when their sides angle out toward the top because of corners cut at compound miters. Fortunately, you can turn your tablesaw's plain-Jane 90° cutoff sled into an easy-to-control and spoton accurate jig for cutting compound miters by just adding wedges of any desired angle. (I keep on hand wedges cut at various angles, with 8° being one of my favorites. Experiment with wedges a few degrees different from that to discover what you like best.)

You'll need a mirrored pair of wedges—one with the key at the narrow end of the wedge and the other with the key at the wide end-for cutting opposite ends of each box or tray side. To anchor each wedge, notch one side of the sled's fence to accept a 1/8"thick key. For four-sided boxes, set the blade at a 45° bevel. Cut one end of the workpiece, as shown in Step 1, then substitute the mirrored wedge and cut the opposite end, as shown in Step 2.

—Joe Godfrey, Forest City, N.C.



# Tips earn up to \$150.

If your tip is the best of the issue, it wins **Top Shop Tip** honors, and you receive a **tool prize** worth at least **\$300**.

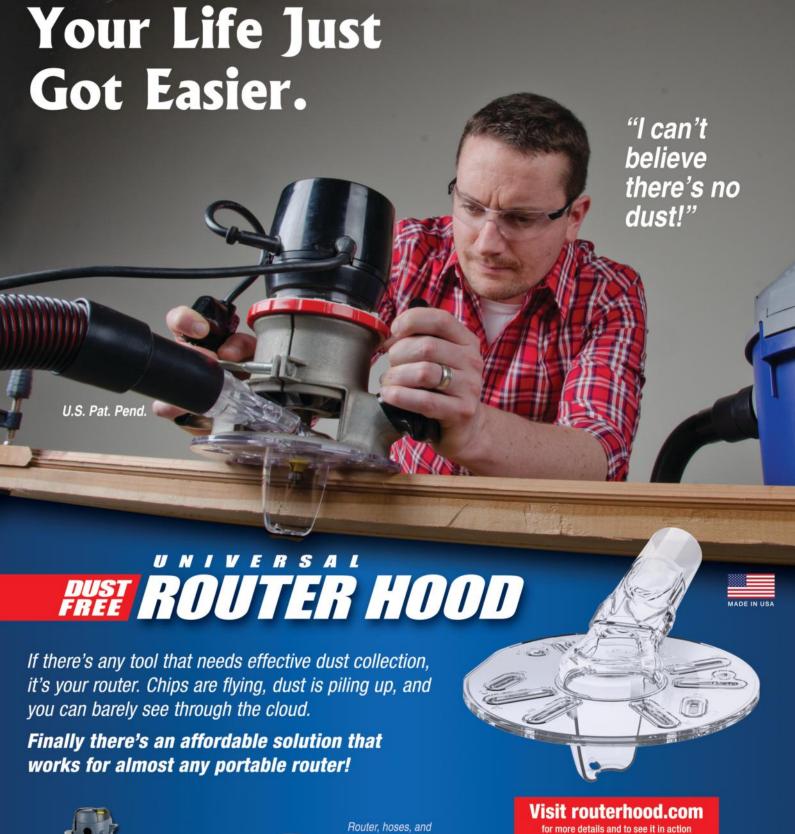
Send your tip, photos or drawings, and contact info to shoptips@woodmagazine.com

Because we try to publish original tips, please send yours only to WOOD magazine.





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Router, hoses, and vacuum not included. May be too large for some trim routers.





The Leader In Dust Collection

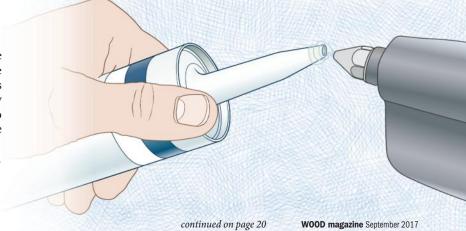
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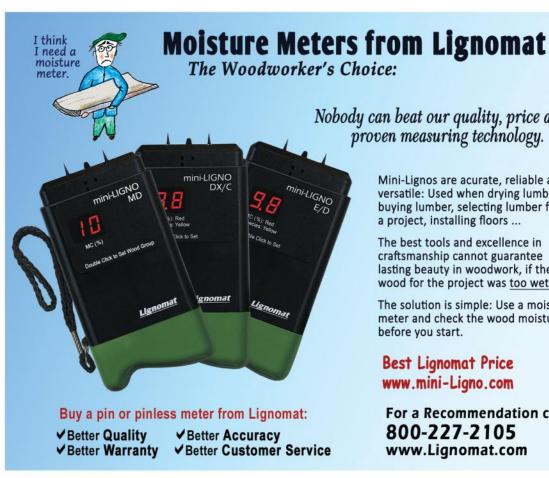
SHOP TIPS See and quickly retrieve shop liquids For years I scrounged deep into the back recesses of cabinet shelves to locate the right container of finish, stain, paint, or glue. Then it dawned on me how much easier that task would be if I stored those items in a slide-out vertical drawer, like the ones found in kitchens. (Be sure to use drawer glides rated to support at least 100 lbs.) Now I have four such shop drawers, in varying widths for pint, quart, and gallon containers. Finding my fluids couldn't be easier. —Dennis Cope, Knoxville, Tenn.

#### Hotmelt helps cork caulk tubes

Over the years I've tried nails, screws, plastic wrap, wire nuts—you name it—to seal opened nozzles. None of those items proved effective; after a few weeks a hardened mass of caulk, silicone, or adhesive formed in the nozzle. Finally I tried placing a dab of hotmelt glue on the opened end. To my pleasant surprise, the resulting airtight seal kept the nozzle's contents workable for months.

—Dick Powell, Corvallis, Ore.





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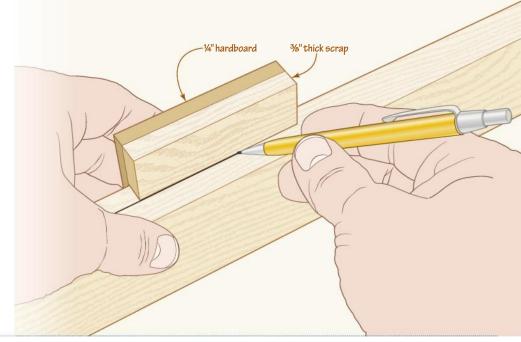


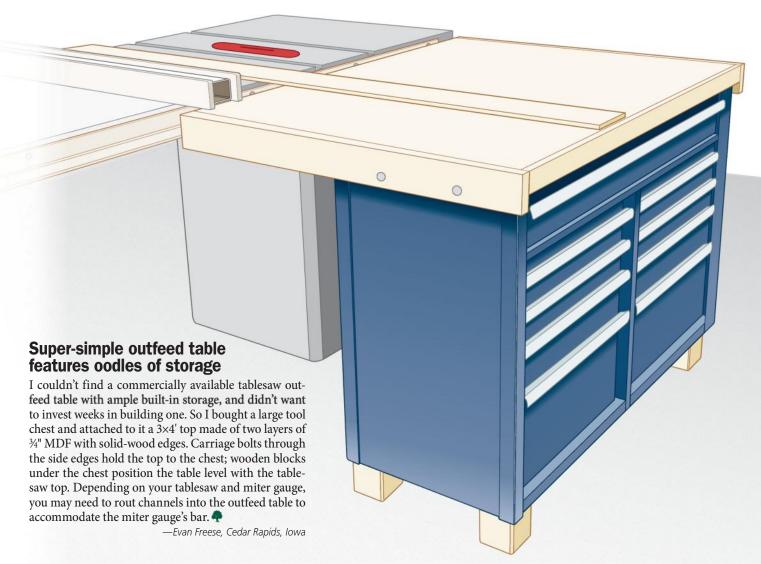
#### SHOP TIPS

# Shop-made guides make easy work of spacing holes

A recent project required drilling a large number of holes ¾" from the edge of a workpiece. It wasn't possible to use a drill press and fence to drill the holes, so I pondered a quick and accurate way to mark a line that distance from the edge for locating hand-drilled holes. Then I built the guide shown from scraps of ¾"-thick wood and ¼" hardboard. It worked so well, I made a set for other common dimensions.

—Len Urban, Rancho Mirage, Calif.





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Self-Drilling screws for light, medium, or heavy gauge metal studs.

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Double Type 17 Point allows you to drive your screws without a pilot hole and prevents splitting.

Funnel Head Screws let you work with melamine without worrying about chipping.



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ear of failing sometime steers us towards taking unnecessary precautions to better the odds of success. It makes perfect sense, but it's a shame because when things are overdesigned and overbuilt, we often don't have the opportunity to observe the true strengths of the components involved.



# Understand the materials, techniques, and tools you use

Forget cosmetic appearance—the real beauty comes from the strength within. Take the wood species ash as an example. The true beauty of ash, despite its strong grain lines, is its strength and flexibility. These physical properties allow components to be shaped more aggressively. Likewise, fine-grained hardwoods allow us to cut finer details, including joinery and carvings. For those reasons, it is important that the maker have a good understanding of the materials when matching them to the design.

As with most things, you can learn from books about the physical properties of materials, and the strengths of different joints. That's an excellent place to start, but a terrible place to finish. Books and pictures don't adequately convey the strength of a certain material or joint. Descriptions such as "good load strength and medium hardness" or "an excellent joint for a drawer" don't tell you how the material or joint will fare in the real world. Videos are slightly better, but are still poor replacements for hands-on experience. The best way to learn is to experiment. Seek failure.

Experiment. Seek failure.

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#### **Gather real-world experience**

Here's a simple exercise I use to learn the strength of materials: A project always yields some offcuts. Instead of cutting down overlength offcuts to fit in the firewood box, I first try to break them.

For small pieces, I may try to fold them with just my upper-body strength. Larger ones I may try to break over my knee. But for most offcuts, I set one end on the ground and the other on a block of wood, then stomp on it. It is impressive how strong wood is. Quite often, the wood will kink or bend before it fails.

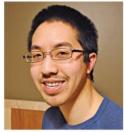
# Apply your knowledge to your designs

We can apply our knowledge of materials and joints to the things we build. Remember that in most projects, the piece of wood taking a load—whether it be a tabletop, chair stretcher, or drawer bottom—is wider if not thicker than our sacrificed scrap and hopefully not the subject of somebody stomping on it.

I think that this exercise will build your confidence in material strength, and possibly get you thinking about using materials in more daring ways.

woodmagazine.com





▶ Chris Wong makes sculptural furniture and is passionate about finding ways to elevate a design by adding unexpected twists. Ever seen a twisted mortise-and-tenon joint? Find one along with more of his work at flairwoodworks.com





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# Everybody Will Want Their Hands on One

Discover the joy of making these completely original and irresistibly fun Bolt Action and New Revolver Pen Kits. A great gift for every hunting, target shooting and gun aficionado. Both pen styles are completely authentic with precision engineered components that were carefully designed to ensure uniqueness and reliability. They feature a Parker™ style refill for smooth writing performance. And they're so easy, fun and fulfilling to make on a lathe, no one will believe you made something of this quality in 15 minutes.

#### **Bolt Action Pen Kits**

Our best-selling pen kits enjoys a huge following in the pen making community. It's beloved for its realistic bolt-action handle that smoothly advances and retracts to securely lock the refill in place. Includes a bolt-action rifle clip and replica 30 caliber cartridge and rose gold tip for added authenticity. You can even reverse the bolt for left handed operation! Requires a pen making mandrel, bushings (Item # PKCP3000BU \$5.95) and 3/8" drill bit (Item #PKEXEC-3/8 \$3.95). Patent No.: US D682.352 \$

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Our FREE 45-minute instructional DVD is packed with all the info you need to start making pens. Order Item # DVD. You'll join thousands of other pen makers who love creating beautiful gifts!

#### Revolver Pen Kits NEW!

These nostalgically stylish pens look and work just like a real revolver. When you press the click mechanism the pen tip extends, the trigger clip moves up and the 6-barrel cylinder rotates to replicate you loading the gun. Then, when you pull the hairpin trigger pen clip the tip retracts while the 6-barrel cylinder quickly spins

to replicate you firing the gun. Right above the cylinder you'll find a black metal grip that mimics a revolver handle. And the bullet cartridge pen tip represents your favorite revolver bullet. Requires a pen making mandrel, bushings (Item # PKREVBU \$5.95) and 3/8" drill bit (Item # PK10-10 \$3.95). Patent pending.

# Fig. 1 6 Barrel Revolving cylinder Fig. 2 Trigger Mechanism Fig. 5 Gun Barrel Fig. 4 Bullet Cartridge

WORKS LIKE A REAL REVOLVER

Préss Pull
Refill extends and cylinder spins Pull
Refill retracts and cylinder spins

Cylinder spins when pen extends and retracts



Bolt action handle smoothly advances and retracts the refill



#### Revolver Pen Kits NEW!

	ltem #	1-4	5-9	10-24	25+
Chrome	#PKREVCH	\$22.95	\$21.95	\$20.95	\$19.95
Gun Metal	#PKREVGM	\$22.95	\$21.95	\$20.95	\$19.95
Antique Brass (shown above)	#PKREVAB	\$24.95	\$23.95	\$22.95	\$21.95
Antique Pewter	#PKREVAP	\$24.95	\$23.95	\$22.95	\$21.95

#### **4 Revolver Pen Kit Starter Set**

You get 1 Pen Kit in Chrome, 1 in Gun Metal, 1 in Antique Brass and 1 in Antique Pewter. Plus, you get the bushings and drill bit.

#PKREVSS **SAVE \$25 Only \$79.95** 

\*Kits in packs may vary subject to availability SAVE 24%



Antique Pewter

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	ltem#	1-4	5-24	25-49	50+
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Gun Metal	#PKCP8020	\$12.95	\$12.05	\$11.15	\$10.25
24kt Gold	#PKCP8000	\$14.95	\$13.95	\$12.95	\$11.95
Antique Brass	#PKCP8040	\$14.95	\$13.95	\$12.95	\$11.95

#### **3 Bolt Action Pen Kit Starter Set**

You get one of each pen in Chrome, Gun Metal and 24kt Gold plus the 3/8" drill bit and 2pc Bushing Set

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\* Kits in packs may vary subject to availability

**SAVE 16%** 

#### **Deer Hunter Bolt Action Pen Kits**

	ltem#	1-4	5-24	25-49	50+
Antique Brass	#PKCP8DHAB	\$16.95	\$15.95	\$14.95	\$13.95
Antique Pewter	#PKCP8DHAP	\$16.95	\$15.95	\$14.95	\$13.95







# Backyard barbecue Smoke Shack

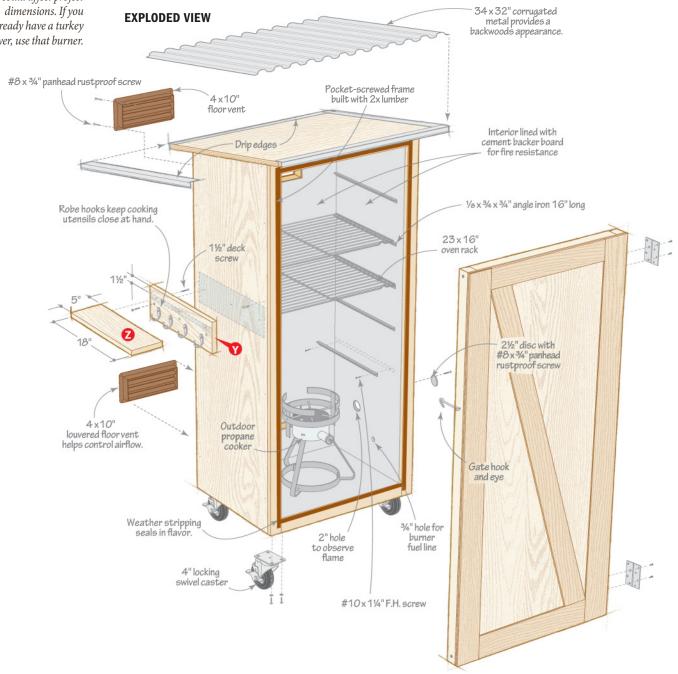
Smoke your own meat and more in this easy-to-build propane-fueled smoker cabinet.

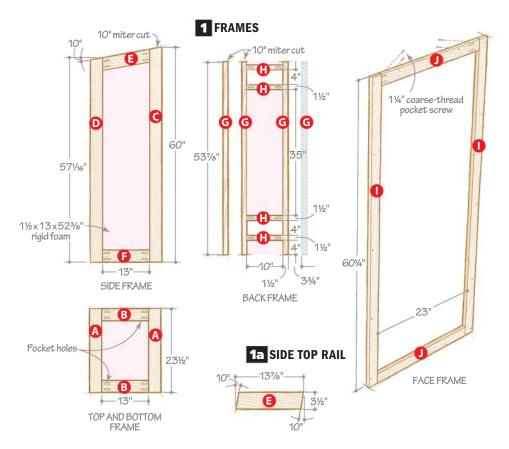
Note: Buy an outdoor propane cooker and oven racks [Sources, page 31] before building the smoker. Their sizes could affect project dimensions. If you already have a turkey fryer, use that burner.

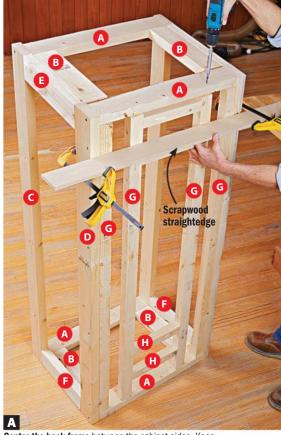
#### **Build the frame**

Cut frame parts A–J to size [Materials List], mitering the ends of parts C, D, E, and G [Drawings 1 and 1a].

**2** Assemble the frames with pockethole screws. Note that you will have two unattached parts G.







**Center the back frame** between the cabinet sides. Keep the frame flush with the back edges as you drive screws into the stiles.

3" deck screw

B

G

G

G

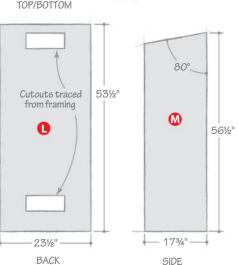
The strength of the

Clamp the top and bottom frames (A/B) between the side frames (C-F), flush at front and back, and screw them together [Drawing 2].

Screw the loose back stiles (G) to the assembly, flush with the back of the side rails (D). Then, install the back frame (G/H) [Photo A].



**Tip!** Use your circular saw with a masonry blade to cut the backer board. Work outside; the job creates a lot of abrasive dust.



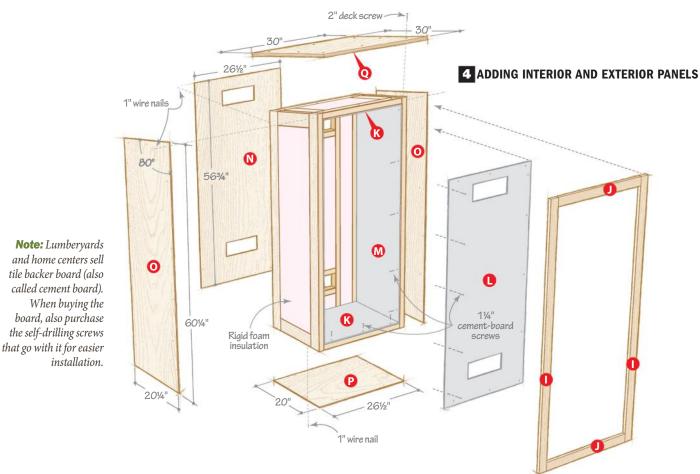
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Hold the back panel against the framing and mark the vent openings. Drill  $\frac{1}{4}$ " start holes and make the cutouts using a jigsaw with a metal-cutting or carbide-edge blade.



**Cut foam insulation board to fit snugly** between the framing members and secure it with construction adhesive.



## Add the panels and insulation

1 Verify the interior dimensions, and cut interior panels K and L to size from ½" cement backer board [Drawing 3].

**2**Run a bead of construction adhesive along the framing and screw on the top and bottom panels (K) [Drawing 4].

3 Temporarily slide the back panel (L) into place, and trace the vent openings on it

[Photo B]. Jigsaw the slots, and install the panel. Cut the side panels (M) to fit, making tight corners, and attach them.

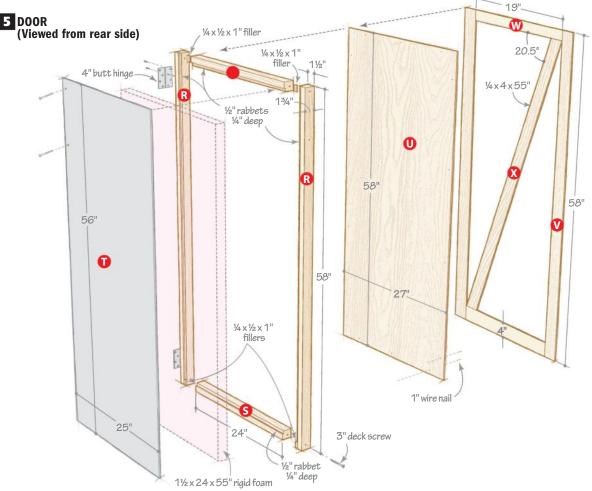
4 Cut 1½"-thick rigid foam insulation to fit inside all framing cavities [Photo C].

**5** Cut exterior panels N-P to size [**Drawing** 4]. Make sure panels N and O meet neatly at the corners and fit flush along the cabinet top. Glue and nail the panels in place.

6Glue and nail the face frame (I/J) to the front of the cabinet. Position the frame flush at the top of the cabinet, with equal overhangs at the sides and ½" overhang at the bottom [Drawing 4].

7 Cut the roof (Q) to size. Glue and screw it to the top of the cabinet, centering it. Caulk the gap between the face frame and the underside of the roof panel, if necessary.

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#### Make the door and shelf next

- Cut the door stiles and rails (R, S) to size. Rabbet the inside faces [Drawing 5].
- 2 Assemble the door frame with screws and glue. Cut four blocks to fill the rabbets at the corners, and glue them in place with weatherproof glue.
- **3**Cut the interior and exterior panels (T, U) to size. Check the frame (R/S) for square; then nail and glue the exterior panel (U) in place, flush on all edges. Cut the door trim (V, W, X) to fit and attach it using weatherproof glue and a brad nailer.
- 4 Glue rigid foam insulation into the frame cavity. Then, glue the interior panel in place [Photo D].
- **5** Cut shelf parts Y and Z to size. Screw and glue them together [Exploded View]. Drill holes for mounting screws, and pilot holes for screws to attach four robe hooks to hang oven mitts, tongs, and such.

#### Take care of the last details

1 Cut 10 pieces of 1/8×3/4×3/4" angle iron 16" long for the oven-rack slides. Drill and countersink holes for #10×11/4" panhead screws 1" from each end of each piece.

- 2Stand your outdoor propane cooker inside the cabinet on the bottom. Mark the level for the lowest pair of slides about 2" above the top of the burner. Drill pilot holes in the smoker sides and attach the first pair of slides. Space the remaining slides evenly [Exploded View].
- **3**Finish the cabinet and door exterior surfaces and the shelf (Y/Z) with semitransparent exterior stain. (We applied Olympic Maximum stain and sealant in redwood natural tone.)
- From outside the smoker, install floor vents in the cabinet openings. Attach them with 3/4" rustproof screws.



Glue the cement board into the frame rabbets and secure it with screws around the edge.



## **Cooking in the smoker**

Smoking cooks meat at a low temperature (usually 200–250°) in a smoky atmosphere for a long time. (Smoking burgers, steaks, or salmon fillets can take an hour or so; a turkey breast or whole chicken, 4 hours; ribs, 4–8 hours; and a roast, 12 hours or longer.) Smoldering wood chips produce the smoke, which adds distinctive flavor to the meat.

Wood species determines flavor. Mesquite, hickory, oak, and cherry give strong flavor, while alder, apple, peach, and pecan are less intense. You can buy hardwood chips for smoking at many hardware, outdoor sports, or food stores. Soak the wood chips in water for several hours before use.

Light the burner and adjust the valve to establish a low flame. Then, place a 10–14" cast-iron skillet on the oven rack just above the burner [Opening photo]. Close the smoker door and allow the interior temperature to reach 200-225°.

With the smoker heated up, spread your wet wood chips in the skillet, and place the meat on the racks. Close the door and continue to monitor interior temperature with a remote digital thermometer. Hang the probe on the top rack and route the cable to the readout outside the cabinet. (You could use another remote thermometer for the meat, as shown in the Opening photo.)

Some grillmasters like to remove the chips after the meat reaches about 140° and bring the meat to final temperature (see **Smokin' hot**, *below*) without smoke.

#### Smokin' hot

The USDA recommends smoking to these internal temperatures (check with a probe meat thermometer) to ensure food safety:

- ▶Beef, pork, veal, and lamb (steaks, chops, and roasts): 145°
- ▶Ground meats: 160°
- ▶ Ham, fresh or smoked, uncooked: 145°



▶ Ham, fully cooked: reheat to 140° if USDA inspected; otherwise, 165°

▶Poultry: 165°

▶ Fish and shellfish: 145°

Most authorities suggest at least 150° for wild game; check with hunting officials in the area where

you harvested the animal.

#### Important Note!

Never allow the temperature inside the smoker to exceed 250°. Higher temperatures could set fire to the smoker. In use, position the unit well away from combustible surfaces.

Tip! Follow the manufacturer's instructions for lighting and adjusting your burner. Check fuel consumption specs to ensure you'll have enough gas to finish the cooking.

Attach 4" casters to the bottom of the smoker [Exploded View]. Screw the shelf (Y/Z) to the side and install the robe hooks.

6 Apply drip edge around the roof and install finish roofing. (We used galvanized corrugated metal.)

Stick self-adhesive foam weather stripping on the face frame around the door opening. Lay the smoker on its back, and

install the door, making it flush at the sides and 1" up from the bottom. Attach the gate hook and eye and stand the unit up.

On one side, drill a ¾" hole for the burner Ofuel line and a 2" hole at flame level so you can check the flame without opening the door. Attach a 21/2" disc cut from galvanized flashing metal that you can flip down to cover the larger hole between observations.

#### **Materials List**

17	<u>iatoriais</u>		<u> </u>				
Pai	Part		FINISHED SIZE TWL			Qty.	
	binet frame	·		_	Matl.	4.7.	
Α	top/bottom stiles	1½"	3½"	23½"	Р	4	
В	top/bottom rails	1½"	3½"	13"	Р	4	
С	side front stiles	1½"	3½"	60"	Р	2	
D	side back stiles	1½"	3½"	571/16"	Р	2	
Ε	side top rails	1½"	3½"	13%"	Р	2	
F	side bottom rails	1½"	3½"	13"	Р	2	
G	back stiles	1½"	1½"	53%"	Р	4	
Н	back rails	1½"	1½"	10"	Р	4	
I	face frame stiles	3/4"	2"	601/4"	Р	2	
J	face frame rails	3/4"	2"	23"	Р	2	
Pa	nels						
K	top/bottom interior	1/4"	18"	23½"	СВ	2	
L	back interior	1/4"	23½"	53½"	СВ	1	
М	side interior	1/4"	17¾"	56½"	СВ	2	
N	back exterior	1/4"	26½"	56¾"	Ply	1	
0	side exterior	1/4"	201/4"	60¼"	Ply	2	
Р	bottom exterior	1/4"	20"	26½"	Ply	1	
Q	roof	3/4"	30"	30"	Ply	1	
Do	or						
R	stiles	1½"	1¾"	58"	Р	2	
S	rails	1½"	1¾"	24"	Р	2	
T	interior panel	1/4"	25"	56"	СВ	1	
U	exterior panel	1/4"	27"	58"	Ply	1	
٧	trim stiles	1/4"	4"	58"	Ply	2	
W	trim rails	1/4"	4"	19"	Ply	2	
Χ	diagonal trim	1/4"	4"	55"	Ply	1	
Sh	elf						
Υ	back	3/4"	5"	18"	Р	1	
Z	shelf	3/4"	5"	18"	Р	1	

Materials key: P-pine, CB-cement backer board, Ply-BC sanded plywood

Supplies: 4×10" floor vents (2), robe hooks (4), 22%×16" oven racks (5), 1/8×3/4×3/4" steel angle (14'), 4" zinc-plated butt hinges (2), 4" gate hook and eye (1), self-adhesive foam weather stripping (16'), 10' metal drip edge (2), finish roofing (8 sq. ft.), 4" locking swivel casters (4), 1½×48×96" rigid foam insulation board (2), #8×¾4" panhead rustproof screws (9), 11/4" coarse-thread pocket screws (48), 11/4" cement-board screws (200-pack), #10×11/4" panhead screws (20), 1½" deck screws (6), 2" deck screws (8), 3" deck screws (44),  $\#8\times1\frac{1}{4}$ " flathead screws (24), 1" wire nails (108), galvanized flashing metal, semitransparent exterior stain.

**Blades:** Circular-saw masonry blade, jigsaw metal-cutting or carbide-edge blade, 2" holesaw.

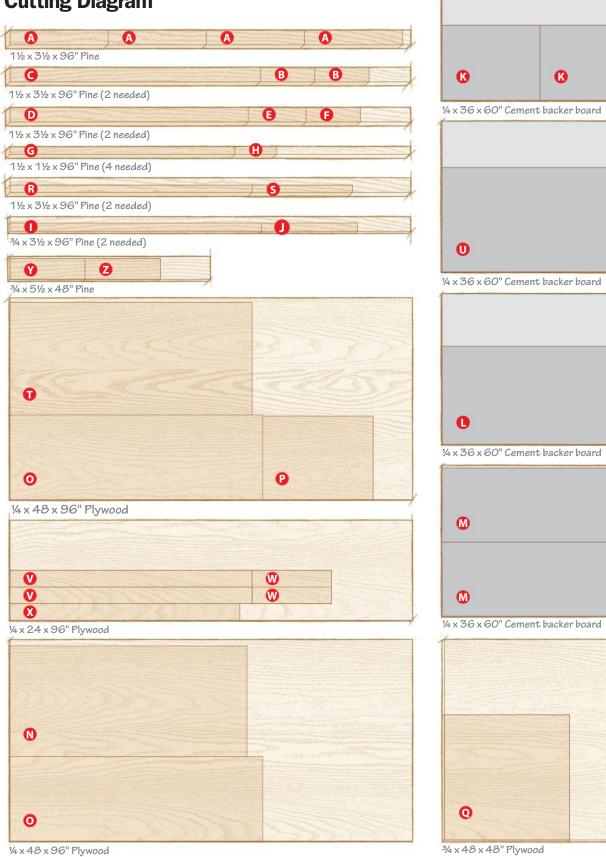
Sources: Replacement oven rack WB48X5099 for GE Range (5), \$26, Chard BSR-13 burner, fryer stand, and regulator set, \$41.25, Walmart stores or walmart.com.

Bayou Classic 14" cast-iron skillet, \$35, Bed, Bath, and Beyond stores or bedbathandbeyond.com.

Produced by Larry Johnston with Kevin Boyle Project design: Kevin Boyle Illustrations: Roxanne LeMoine, Lorna Johnson

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# A Murphy Bed that's easy to build and a dream to use



With a sturdy steel mattress frame, arched wood slats and fold-out legs, this Murphy Bed hardware sets a new standard for ease of construction and sleeping comfort. The smooth piston lift mechanism makes the bed easy to open and close, and the included instructions show you how to build a basic enclosure. It's easier than ever to create with confidence.

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# Bookshelf Speakers

You'll hear waves of compliments when friends learn you built these beauties.

hy shouldn't speakers look as good as they sound? With the right components [Source] and a weekend in the shop, you can crank out a pair with looks that match their rich tones. Sound good? Let's get started.

#### First, crank up the tablesaw

1 Cut the sides (A) and top and bottom (B) to width and ½" longer than listed [Materials List]. (Edge-glue narrower stock if needed.) Bevel the front edges, then mitercut these pieces to final length [Exploded View].

2Rabbet the back edge of each piece [Exploded View]. Then cut the groove near the front edge.

3 Cut the front and back (C, D) to size. Cut four pieces of ash veneer ½" wider and longer than a front (C). Glue veneer to one face of each front, using a back as a clamping caul to spread pressure. Place waxed paper between the back and the veneer to prevent gluing the back down.

After the glue dries, use a razor knife or veneer saw to trim the veneer flush with the panels. Repeat to veneer the other face of

\*Measured during Led Zeppelin's "Rock and Roll" cranked to just unde the point where a group of middleaged woodworkers determined distortion was occurring.



▶ Buy a veneer saw to make clean cuts. woodmagazine.com/ buyveneersaw

**Tip!** Use a rip blade to cut flat-bottomed slots.

both fronts. Then, cut the speaker holes as described in the **Skill Builder** *below*. Notch the tweeter holes to accommodate the wire terminals [**Exploded View**].

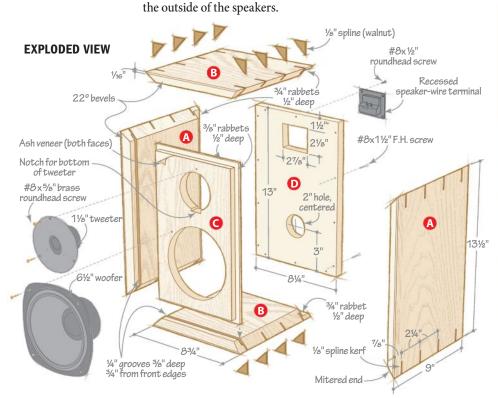
5 Rabbet the front face of each front (C), then finish-sand both faces of the fronts and the inside of the other parts to 220 grit. Glue up each speaker (A, B, C) [Exploded View].

6 Build a sled to hold the speakers at a 45° angle [Photo A]. Cut the spline slots [Exploded View], glue in the splines, and trim them flush after the glue dries. Finish-sand

7In each back (D), cut a round bass port and a rectangular hole to accept the speaker-wire terminal [Exploded View]. Apply a finish to the carcase, then mount the crossovers, woofers, tweeters, and speaker-wire terminals [Skill Builder, next page]. Drill pilot holes and screw the back in place, and you're ready to rock.

Produced by **Craig Ruegsegger** with **Kent Welsh**Project design: **John Olson** with **Carson Downing**Illustrations: **Roxanne LeMoine, Lorna Johnson** 

► Learn to solder in a free video. woodmagazine.com/ solder





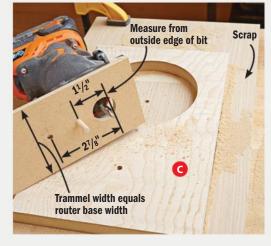
**Cut the spline slots in pairs.** After cutting one, flip the speaker to place the opposite edge against the sled fence and cut the opposite slot. Cut eight slots in each speaker, then reset the rip fence to cut the remaining slots.

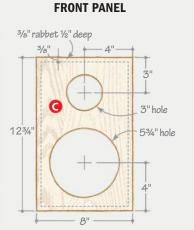
# SKILL BUILDER

# **Cut perfect circles using a trim router**

Begin by cutting a 12" length of hardboard the same width as your router base. Chuck a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " straight or spiral upcut bit in the router, and align the router base with an end and the edges of the hardboard. Lower the motor and press the bit into the hardboard. Drill a 1" hole centered on this mark, and the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes where shown in the photo. Mount the router to the base with double-faced tape.

Secure a front (C) to a scrap of sheet-goods using double-faced tape, and drill ¼" holes centered in each speaker hole [Front Panel Drawing] and into the scrap. Place a 2" length of dowel through the trammel and into each hole in turn, then rout the holes in succesively deeper passes.





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# SKILL BUILDER

# Get connected with solid solder skills

The components we used [Sources] have lug terminals, so making connections can be as easy as crimping a spade connector to the end of a wire, then sliding the spade onto the lug [Photo B]. Spade connections allow for easy disassembly if you need to replace a component. For permanent connections, solder the wires to the lugs.

First, screw the crossover assembly to a side (A), placing the terminals closest to the back of the box. Then wire things up as shown in **Photos C-E**.







Connect leads to the crossover first. Solder the wire to a pair of terminals, then cut the wire to length so that you can easily solder to the woofer, tweeter, and speaker-wire terminal [Photos D and E].



Solder the wires to the woofer and tweeter, then mount the speakers in the box [Exploded View]. Solder the last lead to the speaker-wire terminals, and test the speakers before screwing the back in place.

# **Materials List**

		INISHE	SIZE			
Pai	rt	T	W	L	Mati.	Qty.
A*	sides	3/4"	9"	13½"	W	4
B*	top/bottom	3/4"	9"	8¾"	W	4
С	front	3/4"	8"	12¾"	MDF	2
D	back	3/4"	81/4"	13"	MDF	2

<sup>\*</sup>Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

**Materials key:** W-walnut, MDF-medium-density fiberboard. **Supplies:**  $\#8\times1\frac{1}{2}$ " flathead screws (28),  $\#8\times\frac{5}{2}$  roundhead brass screws (14),  $\#8\times\frac{1}{2}$ " roundhead screws (8), speaker wire.

**Blade and bits:** ¼" straight or upcut spiral router bit. **Sources:** Ash veneer, 2×8', \$35, woodworkerssource.com, 800-423-2450. Dayton Audio 6½" classic woofer (RMS: 50 watts) (2), no. 295-305, \$21.78 each; Dayton Audio 1½6' silk-dome tweeter (RMS: 50 watts) (2), no. 275-070, \$19.75 each; Dayton Audio 2-way speaker crossover (2), no. 260-140, \$29.50 each; recessed speaker-wire terminal (2), no. 260-303, \$3.49 each, Parts Express, 800-338-0531, parts-express.com.

This project requires  $6\frac{1}{2}$  board feet of 4/4 walnut and a 24x48" piece of  $3\frac{3}{4}$ " MDF.







Note: All six tested machines have 110-volt induction motors.

# Start with power

We tested each machine for its ability to hog

### Then add finesse

► A belt sander's platen, typically metal, backs and reinforces the sanding area.

away wood aggressively. The Powermatic BD31A and Laguna DB12/6 resisted our attempts to bog them down, earning top marks. With the others, we could bog down the belts easily enough, but the discs fared better. Bottom line: In normal use, you'll be fine with any of the tested models.

For precision sanding, a sturdy table and flat platen make all the difference. Cast-iron tables, anchored well, provide the best workpiece support. We like those on the Grizzly G1276, Laguna, and Powermatic. The belt platens all supported the 6×48" belts well, but the longer platens on the Laguna, Powermatic, and Rikon 50-122 provide the most sanding area.

Three of the machines have 12" discs (Grizzly G1276, Laguna, and Powermatic), while the others have 9" or 10" discs. That smaller surface area means less contact for your workpieces, and potentially quicker abrasive wear. All but the Rikon had disc platens that showed no wobble; with that machine, workpieces tended to vibrate more.

Sanders create choking dust that must be sucked up by a vacuum or dust collector. A single 4" port on the Jet JSG-96OS and Powermatic serves both belt and disc; the Jet fared best. The other machines have oddsize ports that require adapters for a typical shop-vacuum hose. (Connecting a dust collector to a 21/2" or smaller port greatly reduces the collector's effectiveness.)

▶To maintain a level playing field, we used Klingspor's aluminumoxide sanding belts and discs in all tests.

Tip! Use different abrasive grits on your sander's belt and disc. For example, use an 80- or 120-grit belt for shaping, and a 150 or 220 disc for detailing.

▶ Need help replacing a worn adhesivebacked sanding disc? See page 14.





The cast-iron table of the Jet (and the Grizzly G1014Z) mounts on a single rod, resulting in a not-so-steady worksurface. But the Jet table's crisscrossed miter slots and circle jig provide lots of sanding options.

You can mount Powermatic's belt-sanding table in-line with the belt, ensuring precise-angle sanding along the platen. Or, mount it perpendicular to the belt, but that renders nearly 40 percent of the platen area unusable





# Drawing lines in the sand(paper) among these combo sanders



# **Grizzly G1014Z, \$410**

Also available on an enclosed stand (G1014ZX, \$495) 800-523-4777, grizzly.com

### **High Points**

▲The table removes easily for faster discabrasive changes.

▲A layer of graphite on the belt platen should help reduce platen wear over time.

### **Low Points**

▼The cast-iron table—which swaps between the belt and disc—mounts to the base on a single ¾"-diameter rod. Even when tightened securely, the table still wiggled a bit.

▼We could easily stall the belt with moderate workpiece pressure.

▼The two dust-collection ports require different-size hoses—a big nuisance.

▼The stamped-steel stop for the belt lacks the surface area of most other machines' tables (for sanding in the vertical position).

▼The belt-tension lever protrudes 8" from the housing—a snag waiting to happen.

### **More Points**

The power switch, located on the back side of the base, was not easy to reach when using the belt vertically.



## Grizzly G1276, \$755 High Points

▲Spot-on 45° and 90° tilt stops on the disc table ensure quick and accurate settings.

### **Low Points**

▼You get the shortest belt-sanding area in this test group with the table removed and the stop in place (10") or removed (14½").

▼The two dust-collection ports require different-size hoses—a big nuisance.

### **More Points**

You cannot remove the housing on the belt sander's idle roller, preventing use of that end for sanding an inside radius. (All other machines allow this.)

At 145 pounds, this unit will not be easy to move or lift. Plan to dedicate it to a benchtop space or shop-made stand.



# Jet JSG-960S, \$790 ~

Also available without stand (JSG-96, \$715) or on an enclosed stand (JSG-96CS, \$865) 800-274-6848, jettools.com

## High Points

▲The small aluminum belt table holds solidly with ratcheting locks on each side, and tilts down 55°, 10° more than the cast-iron table—which swaps between the belt and disc—in the same position.

▲A layer of graphite on the belt platen should help reduce platen wear over time.

▲The cast-iron disc table's 90° tilt stop, shown on page 39, ensures quick and accurate right-angle sanding. We like the X-Y miter slots and circle-sanding pivot for sanding circles 5–19" in diameter.

▲The table removes easily for faster abrasivedisc changes.

▲Dust collection was best on this model because of its single 4" port and blast gates that let you close off the side not in use.

▲This model comes with a 5-year warranty.

### **Low Points**

▼The cast-iron table mounts to the base on a single ¾"-diameter rod. Even when tightened securely, the table still wiggled a bit.

We could easily stall the belt with moderate workpiece pressure.

### **More Points**

The plastic housing on the base belies the overall quality of this machine.

The disc spins clockwise, and you have to work on the right side of the disc. (Most discs spin counterclockwise.)



# Laguna DB12/6, \$1,000

800-234-1976, lagunatools.com

### **High Points**

- ▲ Despite belt and disc speeds slower than the others, we could not bog it down.
- $\triangle$ It has the longest belt-sanding area in the test with the stop in place (15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") or removed (18").
- ▲When powered on, this machine jumps almost immediately to full speed. Others take 1–4 seconds to ramp up.

### **Low Points**

- ▼The disc table's miter slot, 45%" from the platen, allowed more wiggle room for the workpiece to move when sanding miters with a miter gauge.
- ▼The two dust-collection ports require different-size hoses—a big nuisance.
- ▼Belt changes require patience because you have to remove the table and guards.
- ▼The owner's manual can be difficult to follow; its photos and illustrations lack clarity. **More Points**
- ►The 33"-high disc table requires taller users to stoop
- ▶The disc spins clockwise, and you have to work on the right side of the disc. (Most discs spin counterclockwise.)
- We wish the enclosed base had an access door. It's a shame to waste that potential storage space.
- No miter gauge provided.

# **Powermatic BD31A, \$1,490**

800-274-6848, powermatic.com

### **High Points**

- ▲This machine sanded fastest in our trials, both on the belt and disc.
- ▲Its cast-iron belt table can be used either perpendicular to the belt or in-line next to it, as shown on page 39. (You can add the included stop when sanding in-line, but it must be removed to position the table perpendicular.)
- ▲No tools needed to change the belt orientation from vertical to horizontal or back.
- ▲The table's 90° tilt stop ensures quick and accurate right-angle sanding.
- ▲This model comes with a 5-year warranty. **Low Points**

# ▼When using the table perpendicular to the belt, you reduce the sanding area to 85/8" in length, nearly 6" less than when using the stop alone.

### **More Points**

▶The enclosed base houses the motor, but there's no storage for accessories.

# Rikon 50-122, \$475

Also available without stand (50-120, \$450) 877-884-5167, rikontools.com

### **High Points**

I(1)1

- ▲Its belt was among the easiest to adjust for tension and tracking.
- ▲This model comes with a 5-year warranty.

### **Low Points**

- ▼The aluminum disc platen measured .032" out of flat, producing a notable wobble. All the other discs measured within .009" of flat, more than acceptable.
- ▼We could easily stall the belt with moderate workpiece pressure.
- ▼The disc's aluminum table wiggled slightly, its miter gauge fit sloppily in the miter slot, and the ¼x5%" miter slot won't accept standard %x34" miter gauges and accessories.
- ▼The stamped-steel stop for the belt lacks the surface area of the other machines' tables (for sanding in the vertical position).

### **More Points**

- ▶The dust-collection housing around the belt's drive roller cannot be removed, limiting work-piece length when sanding in-line with the belt.
- The disc table has the only rack-and-pinion adjuster in the group, but excessive play and a lack of positive stops made it difficult to reliably set table-tilt angles.
- ▶The power switch, located on the back side of the base, was not easy to reach when using the belt vertically.

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			(	łе	t d	lou	ιb	le	dι	ıty	fr	om a	be	lt.	/dis	sc sand	der					
			PER	FORM	ANCE R	ATINGS	(1)			BELT		DISC										
			BE	LT			DI	SC			(2)			(2)		TABLE	TICAL					
BRAND	POWER	EASE OF CHANGING	EASE OF TENSIONING AND TRACKING	EASE OF SETTING TABLE ANGLE	DUST COLLECTION	EASE OF CHANGING	PLATEN FLATNESS/LACK OF RUNOUT	EASE OF SETTING TABLE ANGLE	DUST COLLECTION	LENGTH OF PLATEN TO STOP WHEN HORIZONTAL SANDING (INCHES)	DUST-COLLECTION PORT DIAMETER (OD) (2)	TABLE-TILT RANGE, DEGREES	DIAMETER, INCHES	DUST-COLLECTION PORT DIAMETER (OD) (2)	FLOOR-TO-TABLE HEIGHT (INCHES)	TILT RANGE, DEGREES	OVERALL DIMENSIONS WITH BELT IN VERTICAL POSITION (W x D x H)	MITER GAUGE INCLUDED? (YES, NO)	WEIGHT, LBS	WARRANTY, YEARS	COUNTRY OF ASSEMBLY (3)	SELLING PRICE (4)
GRIZZLY G1014Z	В	A	A-	A	В	Α	В	A	В	12	2	45 down	9	2½	35⅓	45 down	22 × 24 × 56	Υ	117	1	T	\$410
GRIZZLY G1276	B+	A-	Α	A	В-	A-	A	A	B+	10	3	20 up, 45 down	12	2½	N/A	45 up, 45 down	32 × 18 × 29½	Υ	145	1	T	\$755
JET JSG-960S	B+	В	A	В	А	A	A	A	A	11%	4*	55 down	9	4*	371/4	45 down	31 × 18 × 57½	Υ	100	5	T	\$790
LAGUNA DB12/6	A	С	A	В	A-	A-	A	A	С	15½	2%	7 up, 45 down	12	2	33	7 up, 45 down	35 × 18 × 55	N	165	1	T	\$1,000
POWERMATIC BD31A	A	A-	A-	A	В-	A-	A	A	B+	14%	4*	45 down	12	4*	34¼	15 up, 45 down	25 × 21 × 55	Υ	247	5	T	\$1,490
RIKON 50-122	В	В	Α	N/A	C-	A-	С	В-	B+	13½	2*	None	10	2*	36½	45 down	21 × 24 × 58¼	Υ	85	5	С	\$475

1. A ExcellentB GoodC FairN/A Not applicable

2. (\*) One port serves belt and disc.

3. (C) China (T) Taiwan  ${\it 4.} \ \ {\it Prices current at time of article production and do not include shipping, where applicable.}$ 

# Care to make that a combo?

As you might expect from a sander that costs nearly \$1,500, the Powermatic BD31A emerged as our Top Tool. It scored high marks for power, easy abrasive changes, and ease of making adjustments. It also has reasonably effective dust collection and a 5-year warranty.

But for about half that amount, you could get the Jet JSG-96OS (or the benchtop version for \$715), which performed nearly as well as the Powermatic, but with even better dust collection, and the same 5-year warranty.

Produced by Bob Hunter with Bob Saunders

Turn the belt sander into a spindle sander, such as on this Laguna, by removing the top guard, exposing the idle roller. You don't get the benefit of a table, so use care to keep workpieces oriented as needed.







### ENERGY SAVING

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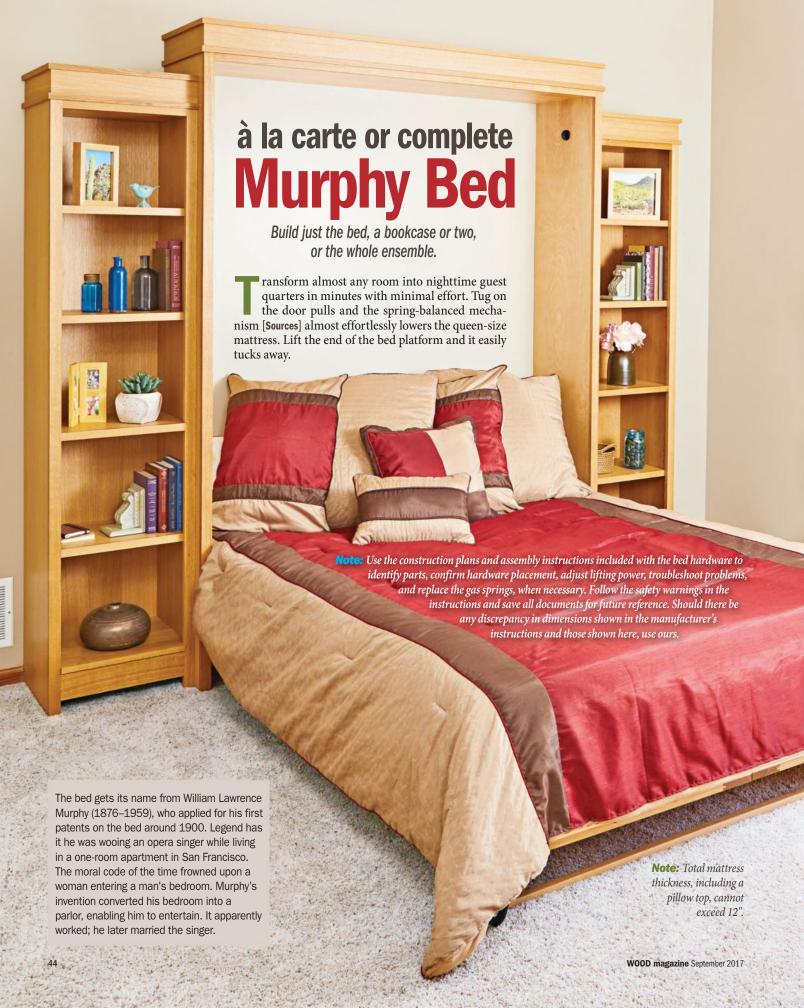
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- · Laser tube wattages up to 120 watts
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- Our highest CO2 engraving and cutting speeds
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- Dual source (fiber and CO<sub>2</sub>)
- eView<sup>™</sup> camera options
- Maximum substrate compatibility



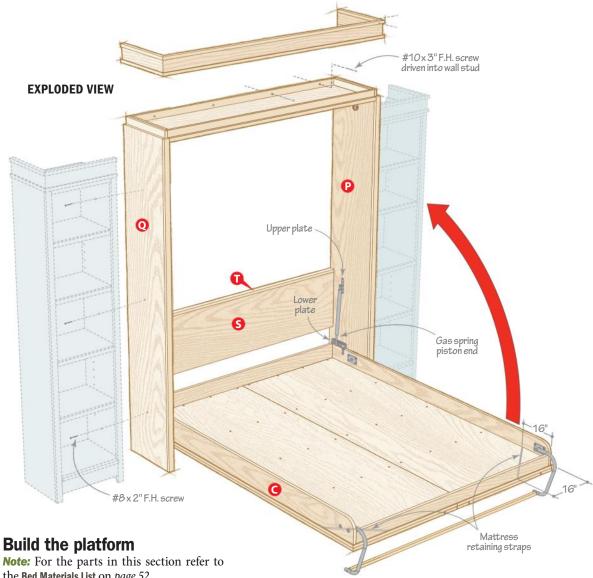
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the Bed Materials List on page 52.

Cut the frame sides and struts (A, B) [Materials List, Drawing 1]. Glue and screw five strut assemblies [Drawing 1a]. With the glue dry, assemble the frame [Photo A].

2 Cut the side rails (C). Making a mirror-image pair, drill holes for the plates of the

pivoting legs and female pivots [Drawing 2]. Radius the foot end of each rail. Finish-sand the rails and set them aside.

3 Cut the head rail (D) and foot rail (E) [Drawing 1]. Finish-sand these parts and attach them to the frame [Photo B].

Tip! For a self-squaring frame, cut the ends of the struts perfectly square and carefully align their ends when gluing up the strut assemblies.



Glue and screw the frame sides (A) to the strut assemblies (B/B). Ensure the assembly is square, then allow the glue to dry.



Glue and screw the foot rail (E) to the frame, flush at the bottom and ends. Repeat with the head rail (D).

queen-size bed, deployed

4 Glue and screw the side rails (C) to the frame and install the female pivots. Drill mounting holes for the lower plates [Drawing 2, Photo C]. Mount the lower plates and pivoting legs.

**5** Cut the mattress supports (F) and set them aside. Cut the bottom panels (G) and apply iron-on banding [Sources] to the outside edges and ends (no banding where the panels meet). Dry-clamp the panels to ensure a tight center joint. Position the frame assembly on the panels with the head rail flush and the panels protruding ½" along the sides and foot-rail end [Drawing 1]. Drill pilot holes and screw the frame to the panels [Drawing 1a].

Note: Plywood for

hidden parts can be

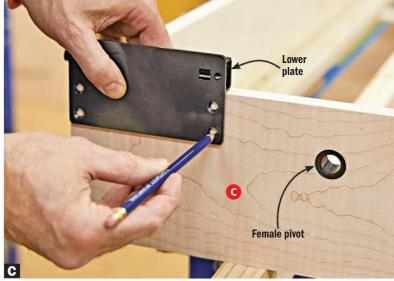
plywood. We chose birch plywood but you

may substitute another type if it is cheaper in

any high-quality

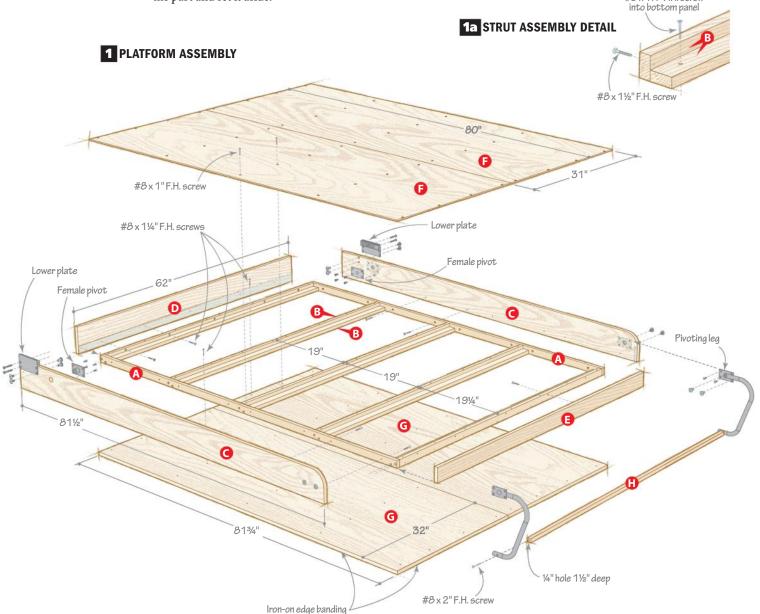
your area.

6Cut the leg rail (H) and drill a centered hole in each end [Drawing 1]. Finish-sand the part and set it aside.

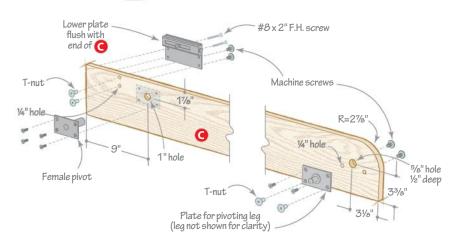


Mark the through-hole and pilot hole locations, using the holes in the lower plate as guides.

#8 x 11/4" F.H. screw



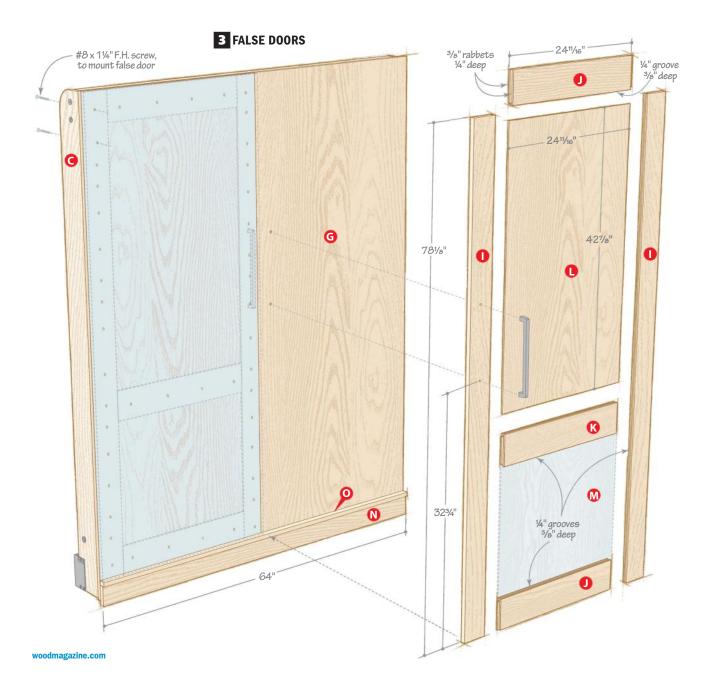
### 2 RAIL HARDWARE DETAIL



## Add a pair of false doors

- 1 Cut the stiles (I), rails (J, K), and panels (L, M). **Note:** To ensure the door-panel grain flows continuously from the upper panels to the lower panels, cut them as shown on the **Cutting Diagram**, page 53, and mark their orientation. Finish-sand the panels. Groove the stiles and rails to fit the panel thickness [**Drawing 3**]. Then form tenons on the rail ends to fit the stile grooves.
- **2**Glue and clamp the doors, check for square, and set them aside to dry. Drill holes for the door pulls [Sources]. Finish-sand the stiles and rails.
- **3**Cut the base (N) and cap (O). Glue and clamp the cap to the base, flush at the back and ends. Finish-sand the assembly and set it aside.

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Insert the upper plate in the routed recess and drill  $^{1}4$ " holes, using the plate holes as guides. Drill  $^{1}$ /s" into the outer side (Q), clamped below.

48

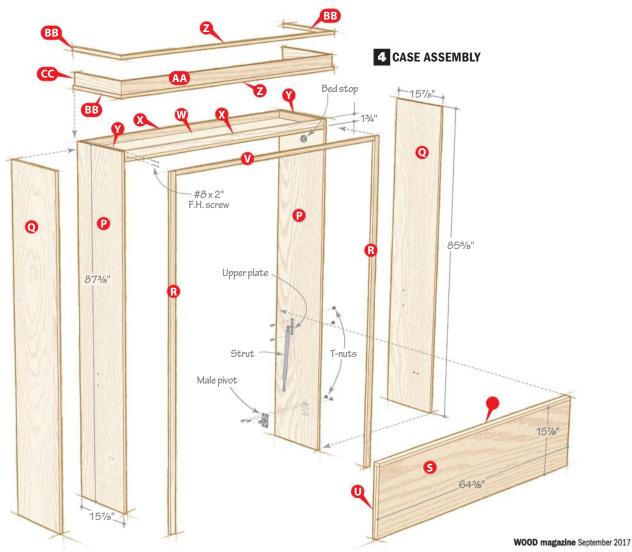


Glue and clamp the inner side (P) and outer side (Q). Align the bottoms and edges and use cauls to distribute clamp pressure.

### Make the bed case

1 Cut the inner and outer sides (P, Q) [Drawing 4]. Making a mirror-image pair, drill in each inner side holes for the bed stop and male pivot and rout a recess for the upper

plate [Drawing 5]. Clamp each inner side to an outer side, flush at the bottom and edges, and drill mounting holes for the upper plates [Photo D]. Likewise, insert the male



pivots in the holes. Drill  $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes through the upper holes in the male pivots and  $\frac{1}{8}$ " into the outer sides.

**2** Enlarge the holes in the outer sides to ¾" [**Drawing 5**]. These holes accept T-nuts when laminating the parts.

3 Attach the upper plates and male pivots to the inner sides (P) with T-nuts, machine screws, and wood screws [Drawing 4]. Laminate the sides [Photo E].

4 Cut the case stiles (R) [Drawing 4]. Glue and clamp them to the laminated sides, flush at the outside edges. Trim the stiles [Photo F] and finish-sand the sides.

**5** Cut the headboard (S), trim (T), and cleats (U) [Drawing 4]. Glue and clamp the trim to the headboard, flush at the front and ends. Glue and clamp the cleats to the back of the headboard, flush at the ends. Finish-sand the assembly.

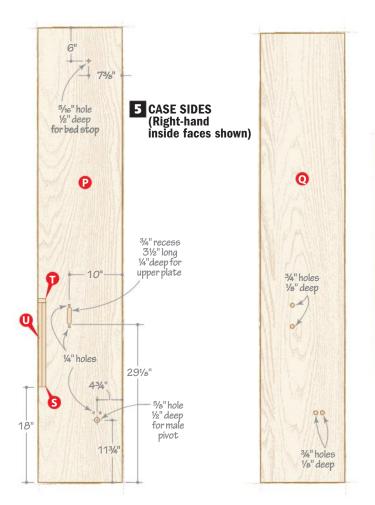
6 Cut the case rail (V), top panel (W), and cleats (X, Y) [Drawing 4]. Glue and clamp the cleats to the top panel, flush at the edges. Screw the front and back cleats to the side cleats at the corners. Glue and clamp the case rail to the top panel/cleats assembly, flush at the ends and overhanging ½" at the bottom [Drawing 6].



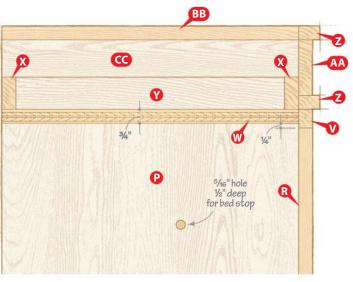
Trim the stile (R) flush with the face of the inner side (P) using a bottom-bearing flush-trim bit.

**7**Cut blanks for the front bands (Z) and front fascia (AA) to the widths listed but 72" long. Cut blanks for the side bands (BB) and side fascias (CC) to the widths listed but 20" long. Finish-sand the fascias and glue and clamp the front bands to the front fascia and the side bands to the side fascias, flush at the backs and ends [**Drawing 6**]. Finish-sand the bands and set the parts aside.

Remove all hardware from the bed platform and case sides. Finish-sand where necessary, then apply a finish.



### 6 CASE ASSEMBLY SIDE SECTION VIEW



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### **Build a pair of bookcases**

For the parts in this section, refer to the **Book-cases Materials List** on *page 54*. When making one bookcase, reduce the quantity shown for each part by one-half.

1 Cut the sides (A), tops/bottoms/fixed shelves (B), and backs (C) [Drawing 7]. Making mirror-image pairs, dado and rabbet the sides, and drill shelf-pin holes [Drawing 8]. To form the fixed-shelf dadoes, see the Skill Builder, next page. Finish-sand the parts.

► Learn a variety of

methods for accurately

drilling shelf-pin holes.

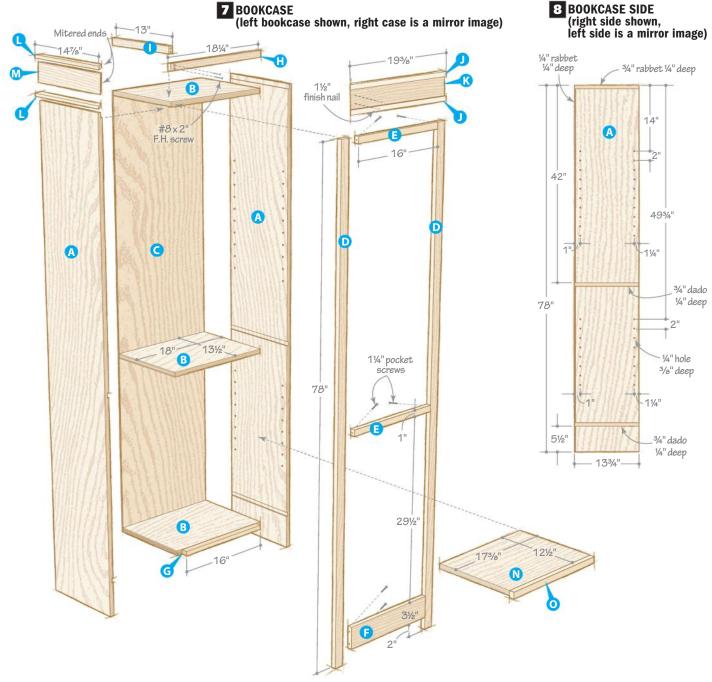
woodmagazine.com/ shelfpinjigs 2 Glue and clamp the tops, bottoms, and fixed shelves between the sides. Check the cases for square and set them aside.

3Cut the stiles (D), and rails (E, F) [Drawing 7]. Drill pocket holes and assemble the face frames with pocket screws. Glue and clamp the face frames to the cases, aligning the top edges of the middle rails and the top faces of the fixed shelves. Finish-sand the face frames.

4 Cut the bottom shelf trim (G). Adjust the thickness as necessary to make the top faces of the trim and shelves flush. Glue and clamp the trim to the bottom rails and shelves.

**5** Cut the front cleats (H) and side cleats (I). Making right-hand and left-hand cases, glue and clamp the cleats to the tops (B), 3/4"

**Tip!** For face frames that fit perfectly flush with the outside faces of the bookcases, cut the stiles (D) ½16" wider than listed. Then after assembly, trim them with a bottombearing flush-trim bit.



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**Note:** When building a free-standing bookcase, cut two side cleats (I), four side bands (L), and two side fascias (M).

back from the case front and outside edges [Drawing 7]. Screw the front cleats to the side cleats at the corners.

6Cut blanks for the front bands (J) and front fascias (K) to the widths listed but 22" long. Cut blanks for the side bands (L) and side fascias (M) to the widths listed but make them 17" long. Finish-sand the fascias and glue and clamp the front bands to the front fascias and the side bands to the side fascias, flush at the backs and ends so the bands protrude 3%" forward of the fascia

fronts [Drawing 7]. With the glue dry, finish-sand the bands.

Miter-cut the front and side fascia assemblies to length and glue and clamp them to the cleats (H, I).

Out the adjustable shelves (N) and shelf trim (O). Glue and clamp the trim to the shelves. Finish-sand the shelves.

9 Inspect all parts and finish-sand where necessary. Apply a clear finish. After the finish dries, nail the backs (C) to the cases.

# SKILL BUILDER

# Rout perfect-fitting dadoes, first time, every time

As you have likely discovered, 3/4" plywood measures less than 3/4" thick. So how do you rout a tight-fitting shelf dado without a lot of trial and error? First, make this quick-and-easy jig.

From 34" plywood scrap, cut two 6"-wide guides 6" longer than the width of the bookcase side (the 6" width keeps clamps from interfering with the router when forming the dadoes) and two 3"-wide cleats at least 14" long. Then follow **Photos G-J**.



Square one 6"-wide guide to the edge of the workpiece with 3" overhanging each edge. Clamp the guide in place.



**Position a 3"-wide cleat** against one edge of the workpiece and clamp and screw it to the guide. Repeat at the other edge.



Place a scrap of shelf stock against the first guide, position the second guide, and clamp it in place. The scrap should fit without play but be easy to remove. Screw on the second guide.



Align the edge of one guide with the dado-layout mark and clamp the jig in place. Rout the dado in two passes with a top-bearing pattern bit.

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### Install the bed

1 Move all the bed-case parts and bookcase parts to the installation location. Place the false doors facedown on the floor, ½" apart and aligned at top and bottom. With a helper, position the bed-platform assembly on the doors and align the top and side edges of the doors and the bottom panels (G). Drive screws through the bottom panels and into the door stiles and rails (I, J, K) [Drawing 3].

2 Tuck the base/cap (N/O) assembly under the lower end of the bed-platform assembly. Align the ends of the base/cap with the side edges of the bottom panels (G), leave a 1/8" space between the base/cap and the false doors, and clamp it in place. Drive 2" screws through the strut (B) and bottom panels and into the base (N).

Install the lower plates, female pivots, and pivoting legs on the side rails (C) with T-nuts, machine screws, and wood screws [Drawings 1, 2]. Adjust the ball-stud location on both lower plates to the "4" posi-

tion by turning the hexhead adjuster with a socket wrench. Install the leg rail (H).

Install the male pivots and upper plates on the inner sides (P) [Drawing 4]. Position the upper plate holes marked "3" toward the bottom of each side. Slip spacers onto the ball studs and thread the studs into the "3" holes in the upper plates. Attach the case sides to the

**Bed Materials List** 

Boa matorialo Elot									
Da			INISHED S		Maki	Ohii			
Pa	T.	T	W	L	Matl.	Qty.			
	Platform								
Α	frame sides	3/4"	1½"	80"	Р	2			
В	frame struts	3/4"	1½"	60½"	Р	10			
С	side rails	3/4"	5%"	81½"	M	2			
D	head rail	3/4"	5%"	62"	M	1			
Ε	foot rail	3/4"	3"	62"	M	1			
F	mattress supports	⅓"	31"	80"	BP	2			
G	bottom panels	3/4"	32"	81¾"	BP	2			
Н	leg rail	3/4"	3/4"	60¼"	0	1			
	False Doors								

	10B Idii	, ,	74	0074	•	-				
	False Doors									
ı	stiles	3/4"	4"	78%"	0	4				
J	upper and lower rails	3/4"	5"	2411/16"	0	4				
K	middle rails	3/4"	5"	2411/16"	0	2				
L	upper panels	1/4"	2411/16"	42%"	OP	2				
М	lower panels	1/4"	2411/16"	21¾"	OP	2				
N	base	3/4"	3½"	64"	0	1				
0	cap	3/4"	1"	64"	0	1				
	Case									
Р	inner sides	3/4"	15%"	87%"	BP	2				
Q	outer sides	3/4"	15%"	85%"	OP	2				
R	case stiles	3/4"	1½"	86%"	0	2				
S	headboard	3/4"	15%"	64%"	OP	1				
T	headboard trim	3/4"	1½"	64%"	0	1				
U	headboard cleats	3/4"	3/4"	15%"	0	2				
٧	case rail	3/4"	1"	64%"	0	1				
W	top panel	3/4"	15%"	64%"	BP	1				
X	front and back cleats	3/4"	1¾"	64%"	0	2				
Υ	side cleats	3/4"	1¾"	14%"	0	2				
Z*	front bands	3/4"	1%"	68%"	0	2				
AA*	front fascia	3/4"	3"	67%"	0	1				
BB*	side bands	3/4"	1%"	17"	0	4				
CC*	side fascias	3/4"	3"	16%"	0	2				
*Douto	*Darta initially out avaraiza. Coa the instructions									

\*Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

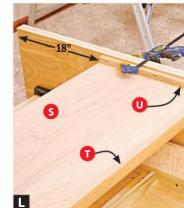
Materials key: P-poplar, M-maple, BP-birch plywood, O-oak, OP-oak plywood.

**Supplies:**  $\#8\times1"$ ,  $\#8\times1'4"$ ,  $\#8\times1'2"$ ,  $\#8\times2"$  flathead screws;  $\#10\times3"$  flathead screws; 1'2" finish nails.

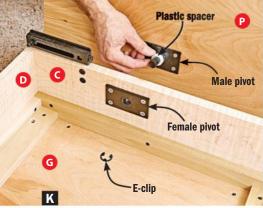
**Blade and bits:** Dado set; %", ¾", and 1" Forstner bits, bottom-bearing flush-trim router bit.

**Sources:** Vertical wall-bed mechanism, deluxe kit, queen, \$299, C.A.B., Inc., 877-966-3852, wallbed.com.

Door pulls, 320mm, black nickel no. BE2323-1098-P, \$23.37 ea. (2);  $\frac{1}{6}$ "  $\times$  25' birch iron-on edging, no. ET078 PB25, \$5.23, Woodworker's Hardware, 800-383-0130, wwhardware.com.



Clamp the headboard assembly (S–U) between the side assemblies. Drive  $\#8 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ " flathead wood screws through the headboard cleats (U) and into the sides.



**Slip a plastic spacer onto the male pivot stud**, insert the stud into the female pivot, and snap the E-clip onto the stud to secure the pivot.



Clamp the top assembly (W–Y) between the side assemblies, flush with the top edges of the inner sides (P). Drive screws through the side cleats (Y) and into the sides.



**Tilt the bed frame assembly forward** to expose the bedstop mounting hole. Insert the bed-stop stud and screw the stop in place.

platform assembly by mating the male and female pivots [Photo K]. Proceed with the case assembly [Photos L and M].

**5** With your helper, tip the case upright about one foot from the wall. Let the bed platform rest on the floor. Snap the piston ends of the gas springs onto the side-rail lower-plate ball studs [Exploded View]. Tilt the bed frame up into the case, push it far enough back to expose the upper-plate ball studs, and snap the gas springs onto the studs. Install the bed stops [Photo N].

6 Position the assembly against the wall and mark, cut, and remove the baseboard trim to accommodate the bed-case sides. Mark all wall-stud locations just above the top assembly back cleat (X). True up the case to leave equal gaps between the doors and bed-case stiles. Drill pilot holes through the cleat and drive screws into the wall studs [Exploded View].

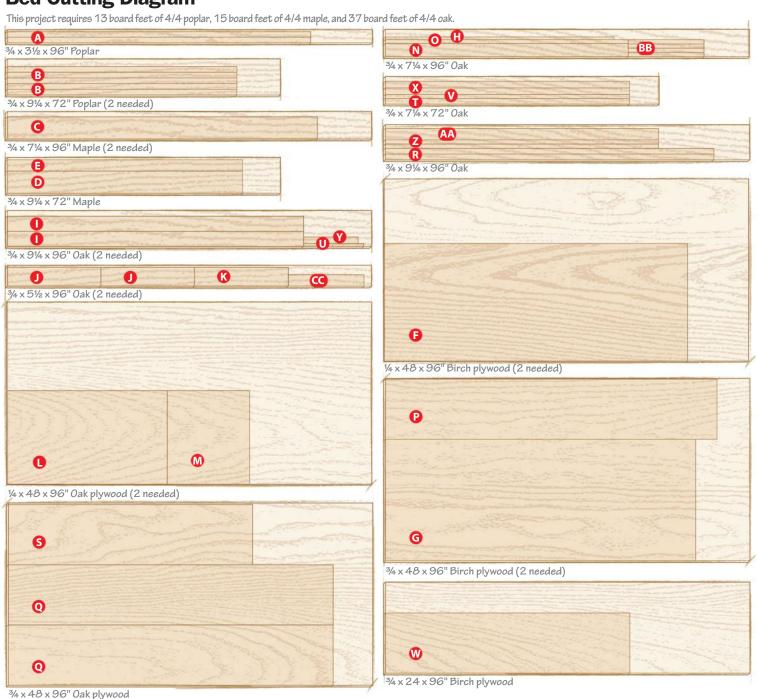
Miter-cut the band/fascia assemblies (Z/AA, BB/CC) to length and glue and screw them to the bed case. Secure the mitered

corners with finish nails and fill the holes with a matching-color putty stick.

Using the door-pull holes as guides, drill through the bottom panels (G) and attach the pulls [Drawing 3]. (You may have to purchase longer machine screws.)

Screw the mattress supports (F) to the frame sides and struts (A, B) [Drawing 1]. Fasten the mattress-retaining straps with screws driven through the mattress supports and into the frame sides and struts [Exploded View]. Slip the bottom corners of the mattress under the straps.

# **Bed Cutting Diagram**



### Add the bookcases and adjust

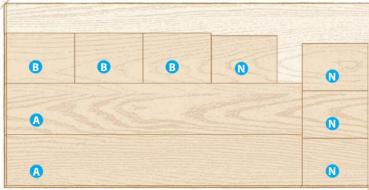
1 Position the bookcases against the bed case and wall. Cut and remove the baseboard trim behind the bookcases. Drill pilot holes and screw the bookcases to the bed case [Exploded View].

With the mattress in place, test the bed Loperation. To adjust the lifting power, refer to Step 17 in the assembly instructions included with the bed hardware. Now, before you fold up the bed and put away your tools, you may want to take a little snooze—you've earned it!

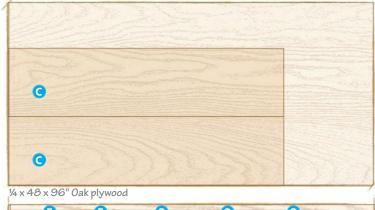


# **Bookcases Cutting Diagram**

Two bookcases require 15 board feet of 4/4 oak.



 $3/4 \times 48 \times 96$ " Oak plywood (2 needed)



			-
	The state of the s	Property 73	0
3/4 x 51/2 x 96" (2 needed)			

F K	M
34 x 31/2 x 72" Oak (2 needed)	
H O	

3/4 x 51/2 x 72" Oak

**Bookcases Materials List** 

			FINISHED S			
Par	t	T	W	L	Matl.	Qty.
Α	sides	3/4"	13¾"	78"	OP	4
В	tops, bottoms, fixed shelves	3/4"	13½"	18"	OP	6
С	backs	⅓"	18"	72½"	OP	2
D	stiles	3/4"	1½"	78"	0	4
Е	top and middle rails	3/4"	1"	16"	0	4
F	bottom rails	3/4"	3½"	16"	0	2
G	bottom shelf trim	3/4"	11/8"	16"	0	2
Н	front cleats	3/4"	11/8"	18¼"	0	2
1	side cleats	3/4"	11/8"	13"	0	2
J*	front bands	3/4"	11/8"	19%"	0	4
K*	front fascias	3/4"	3"	19"	0	2
L*	side bands	3/4"	11/8"	14%"	0	4
M*	side fascias	3/4"	3"	14½"	0	2
N	adjustable shelves	3/4"	12½"	17%"	OP	8
0	shelf trim	3/4"	1"	17%"	0	8

<sup>\*</sup>Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

Materials key: OP-oak plywood, O-oak.

**Supplies:** #8×2" flathead screws, 11/4" pocket screws, 11/2" finish

Blade and bit: Dado set, top-bearing pattern router bit. Source: 1/4" shelf pins, nickel, no. THB0144, \$3.60 pack of 20 (2 packs), Woodworker's Hardware, 800-383-0130, wwhardware.com.

Produced by

Craig Ruegsegger with Kevin Boyle and Jan Svec

Project design: Kevin Boyle

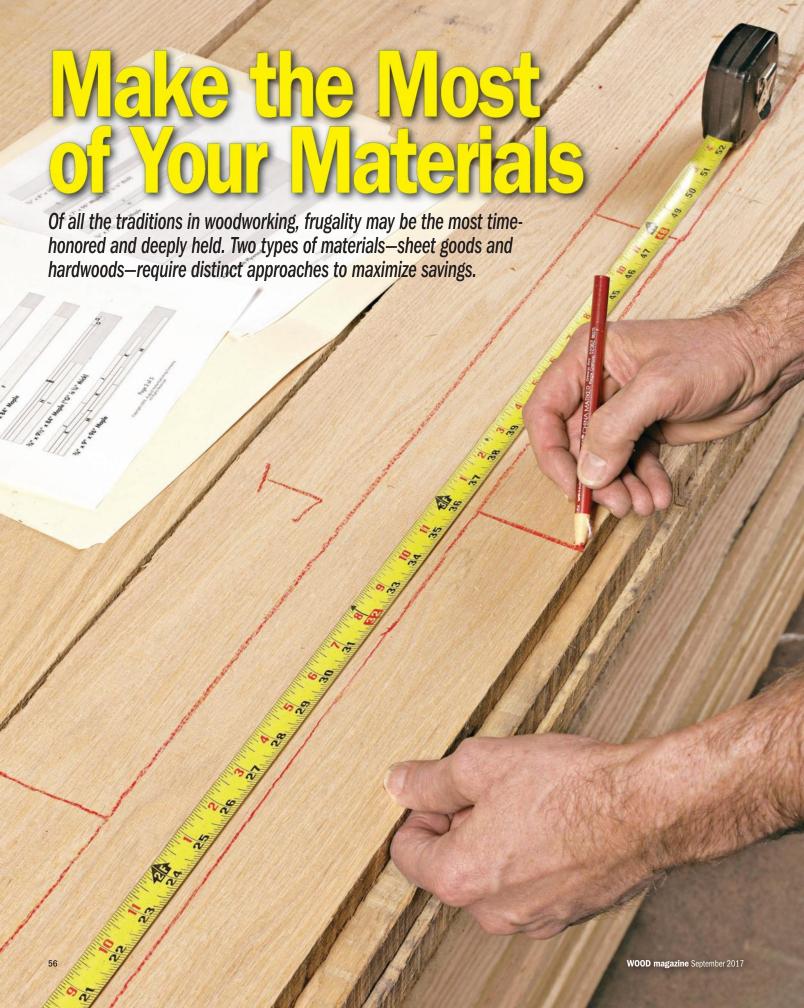
Illustrations: Roxanne LeMoine, Lorna Johnson







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For the cost of a piece of graph paper, a scale mock-up can save you expensive miscuts by arranging cuts on sheet goods to the best advantage.

## **Sheet goods: Size defines design**

 $48\times96$ ". Those are the magic numbers when working with most sheet goods. The exceptions: medium-density fiberboard (MDF), usually 1" longer in each dimension to allow for saw kerfs; and Baltic birch plywood, which often comes in  $60\times60$ " sheets. Plywood's consistent size and absence of surface blemishes make it easy to plan your exact materials needs at the design stage. Here's how you can save money by reducing the number of sheets in your project:

**1.** Cost-cutting starts with a cutting diagram. Whether you sketch it on a pad, model it on the computer, or cut out scale mock-ups, as shown *above*, a cutting diagram helps you optimize the use of any sheet goods as you design your project.

Start by laying out the largest pieces and filling in with smaller pieces, making sure to add ½" to account for saw kerfs. Where possible, group pieces of like length and width. This minimizes the number of cuts needed to break down the sheet. It may take several arrangements to find the fit that maximizes yield.

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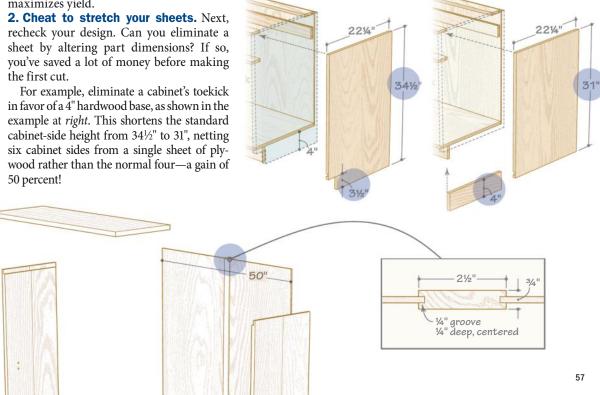


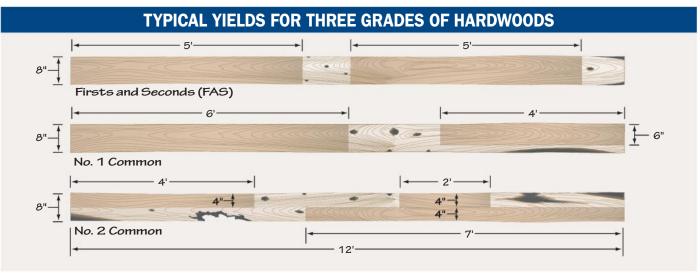
And expanding television sizes don't have to expand your materials bill. Adding a divider to the back of a 50"-wide entertainment cabinet, as shown *bottom* stretches the plywood to get the full width of the cabinet from a single sheet.

**3.** Thriftiness and sneakiness go hand in hand. Don't use up expensive hardwood plywood on furniture parts that will rarely be seen. In the barrister's bookcase *above*, using inexpensive birch plywood on the case bottom and top kept the amount of walnutveneered plywood to less than a half sheet.

Even if you have to orient the grain the wrong direction to make a scrap piece of plywood fit in a hidden area, don't sweat it. Because plywood consists of multiple plies with alternating grain directions, it won't compromise the structural integrity of the piece. And no one will be the wiser.

► Find plans for the bookcase in WOOD issue 195 (Dec/Jan 2009/10), or at woodmagazine.com/barrister.





Each grade requires a certain minimum clear yield from a board. FAS should have at least 84 percent clear-face cuttings; No. 1 Common, 66 percent; and No. 2 Common, 50 percent. For projects that you plan to paint or stain, a lesser grade could save you 30–50 percent in wood cost.

### Solid woods: No two boards alike

Unlike sheet goods, solid woods don't come in predictable sizes; irregularity is the norm. Therefore, using the material efficiently becomes an exercise in working around size variations, blemishes (such as knots and sapwood), and warped wood.

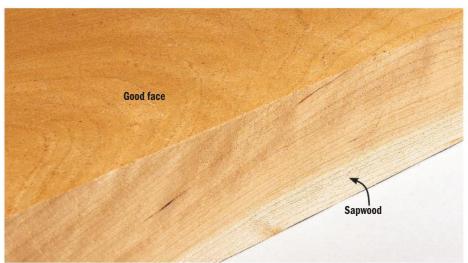
**1.** Shop for parts, not board feet. A materials list, like the ones at the ends of project articles in this magazine, helps you focus your search for boards that are good matches for your project parts—just don't get too hung up on finding a magic board that fits all of your project parts like a completed jigsaw puzzle. Instead look for consistent coloring and grain pattern for each individual part.

At first it seems counterintuitive in the name of efficiency to buy more wood than your plans call for. But you'll end up using much of it in short order, averting the need to buy fresh poplar for secondary project parts or maple for shop jigs. In effect you'll reap the savings from your scrap bin. And your project benefits from using the bestlooking parts of each board.

Once you get used to shopping selectively, start looking in your lumber dealer's lower-grade bins. You won't get as much wide, clear yield as found in the Firsts and Seconds (FAS) grade, but you'll usually save enough money buying No. 1 or No. 2 Common boards to more than make up for the lower yields, *above*.

**2. Don't reject the defects.** Take a closer look at that sapwood-streaked board in your reject pile, *below*. Does the sapwood go all the way through the piece? A simple board flip might hide it for a spectacular save. The same holds true for knots.

In both cases look for opportunities to minimize their appearances when machin-



Flatten the good face, and then plane away the sapwood on the opposite face of this board when thicknessing. Hide any remaining blemishes.

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ing the wood. You may be able to surface away the defective side during thicknessing, even if that means using wood slightly thinner than your plans call for. No one will notice if your face frame measures a hair shy of ¾" or the jewelry-box sides are slightly under ½". Just be sure to account for the size difference when machining the joinery.

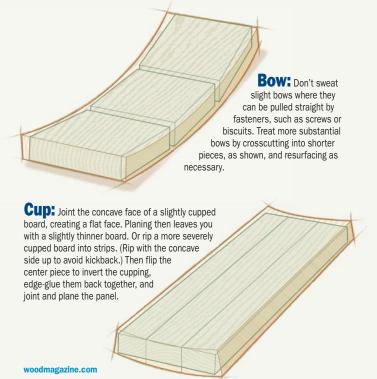
Also keep in mind that a project built with defect-free lumber can lack character. Strategically placing voids, sapwood, live edges, and knots, as shown *below*, can enhance a project's aesthetics and take it from being everyday furniture to a stunning work of art.



Rustic furniture often incorporates knots as features. Rather than dotting the project willy-nilly, be deliberate about their placements as you would with other figured wood.

**3. Turn bad boards into good wood.** Even when you shop carefully, lumber that started out straight and true at your local hardwood retailer doesn't always stay that way in your

shop. All is not lost, however; salvageable wood hides in those boards. Follow the steps *below* to rescue wood from the most commonly encountered warps.



Crook: For minor crooks, first joint the concave edge flat, and then rip the opposite edge parallel. For boards too long to handle on the jointer, first snap a chalk line along one edge, cut along the line with a circular saw, and then joint and rip to width. Whenever possible, crosscut boards with severe crooks into shorter pieces, as shown, before jointing and ripping.

Twist: For short twisted boards, joint, applying pressure on the low corners until you've established a flat reference surface. Then flatten with the planer. Severe twists require you to machine the board into shorter and narrower pieces for secondary parts, as shown.



hy buy a canvas bag or plastic toolbox when you can make one that shows off your skills as well as your tools? With this tote, you'll learn to create through-dovetail joints with hand tools. But if you prefer to skip the dovetails, we provide an alternative joinery method. Let's get started.

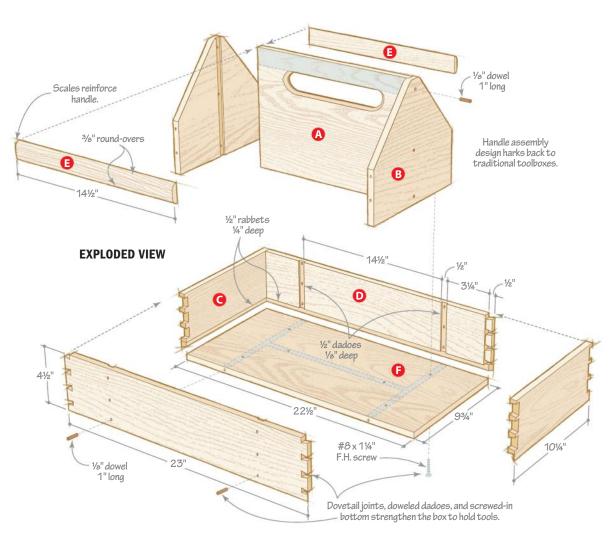
### **Build from the inside out**

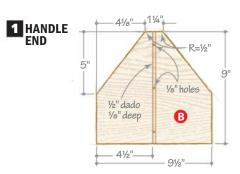
1 Cut the handle (A), handle ends (B), box ends (C), and box sides (D) to size [Materials List], but don't cut the angles on the handle ends.
2 Dado, groove, and rabbet the handle ends, box ends, and sides [Exploded View, Drawing 1]. Cut rabbets on the inside ends of the box sides (D).





Tip! We used contrasting walnut dowels throughout, but you can use dowels made of any "blond" wood. Simply soak one end in a dark walnut or ebony stain before gluing in place.



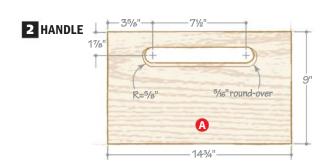


3 Cut the handhold slot in the handle [Drawing 2, Photo A]. Rout round-overs along the bottom and ends of the slot on both faces, but not the top. (The scales [E], added later, will match up better this way.)

Cut the angles on the handle ends [Draw-4 ing 1], and sand or plane them smooth. Finish-sand the handle ends and handle.

**5**Glue the handle into the dado in the handle ends [Exploded View]. When that dries, drill 1/8" holes and glue in dowels.

Cut the dovetails for the box ends and Osides as shown on the *next page*.





Create the handhold slot by drilling 11/4" holes at each end of the marked slot, then connecting them with jigsaw cuts. Sand the edges smooth when finished.

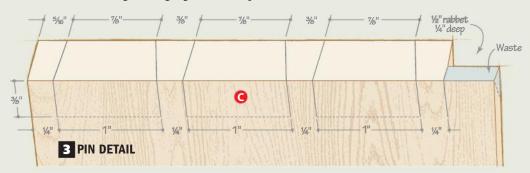
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# **SKILL BUILDER**

# Earn your degree in dovetails

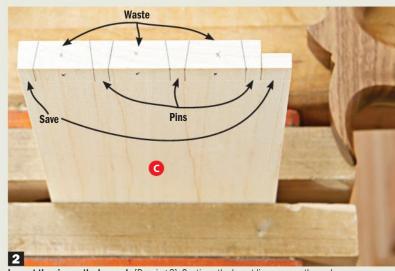
▶ Don't want to cut dovetails? Then simply trim the box ends (C) to 9½" long and join the box sides and ends with glue and dowels to match the other joints. To hand-cut the dovetail joints, you'll need a few tools: marking gauge, handsaw (with a spined back for making straight cuts), ½" and ¾" chisels, sliding bevel gauge, and a

mallet. For this box, we mitered the bottom tail and pin at each corner—a nod to traditional dovetail joinery—to prevent having a partial tail.

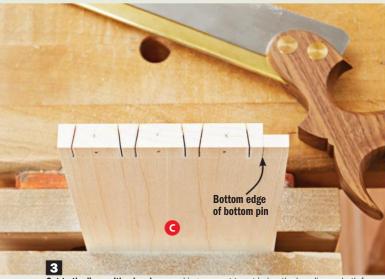




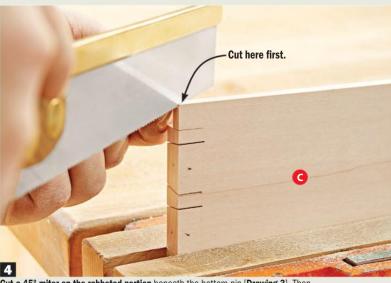
Using a marking gauge, mark the baseline (the length of the pins and tails) on both faces of the box sides and ends. Mark the lines on the box ends (C) 3%" from the end (to account for the rabbets on the box sides), and 1%" from the ends of the box sides.



Lay out the pins on the box ends [Drawing 3]. Continue the layout lines across the ends and to the baseline on both faces.



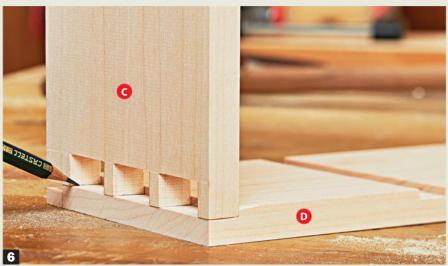
**Cut to the lines with a handsaw**, making sure not to cut below the baseline on both faces. Do not cut the bottom edge of the bottom pin yet.



**Cut a 45° miter on the rabbeted portion** beneath the bottom pin [**Drawing 3**]. Then, guiding the saw along the wall of the rabbet, cut between the interior baseline and the tip of the miter to remove the wedge of waste.



**Chop out the waste between the pins**, starting 1/32" or so inside the baseline. When finished, pare away material up to the baseline.



Place the pins of an end (C) in the mating rabbet of a box side (D), and scribe along the pins to mark the tail positions. Transfer the tail markings across the ends at 90° with a square and to the baseline on the other face (with a sliding bevel gauge).



Saw the tails to shape—cutting on the waste side of the lines, to allow for trimming—and miter-cut the bottom as before. Chop out the waste, and pare as needed to fit with the pin board.



1 Finish-sand the inside faces of the box ends and sides, and glue and clamp together with the handle assembly. Wipe away any glue squeeze-out. When dry, sand the outside faces smooth.

2Cut the scales (E) to size, round over the edges [Exploded View], and glue them to the handle with their top edges flush. When dry, sand to blend the scales with the handle and handle ends.

**3** Cut the bottom (F) to size and drill countersunk pilot holes through the *bottom* face. Sand the bottom smooth.

4 Apply finish to the bottom and the inside surfaces of the box assembly. (We sprayed on two coats of Varathane water-based polyurethane.) After that dries, install the bottom.

5 Drill holes through the box sides into the handle ends, and plug with dowels. Sand smooth, and apply finish to the outside surfaces. Enjoy your new tool tote!

Produced by **Bob Hunter** with **John Olson** Project design: **John Olson** Illustrations: **Roxanne LeMoine, Lorna Johnson** 

# **Materials List**

		F				
Pai	rt	T	W	L	Matl.	Qty.
Α	handle	1/2"	9"	14¾"	М	1
В	handle ends	1/2"	9"	9½"	М	2
С	box ends	1/2"	4½"	10¾"	М	2
D	box sides	1/2"	4½"	23"	М	2
Е	scales	3/8"	1¼"	14½"	М	2
F	bottom	1/2"	9¾"	22½"	W	1

Materials key: M-maple, W-walnut plywood.

Supplies: '%"'x3' walnut dowel, #8x1'4" flathead screws (6).

Blade and bits: Dado set: 546" and 36" round-over router bits.

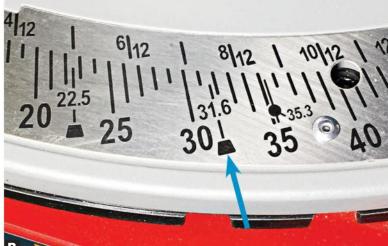
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**Many saws have a detent or stop at 33.9°.** If your saw tilts both left and right, as this one does, use only the left tilt for cutting crown molding. This saw has a stationary pointer—the dial pivots under it as the blade tilts.



Find the miter stop at 31.6°. You'll see one for both left and right. Some saws also have a stop at 30°. Make sure you're locked into the correct one.

fixture to support it during the cut. Although this technique works, it can be confusing and lead to mistakes. Plus, cutting long or wide trim this way can be difficult.

## Flat is where it's at

Cutting crown molding while it lies flat on the mitersaw table allows easy cutting of both long and short pieces; an unwieldy piece can be firmly clamped to the mitersaw because it doesn't rest at an angle. Cutting the trim flat calls for some rather complex math to determine the proper settings for the bevel and miter cuts. But don't worry—mitersaw manufacturers have done the math for you and placed markings on the tools for the proper angles: 33.9° on the bevel scale and 31.6° on the miter scale [Photos A, B]. You'll see these numbers or some other obvious markings that indicate the "crown" settings. You may have wondered what those markings or stops were for. Now you know.

See the "upside down and backwards" technique. woodmagazine.com/ moldingvideo

▶ Refer to this chart for mitering non-square corners, such as around a bay window or range hood. woodmagazine.com/crownangles

### Templates make it easy

The first step in cutting molding flat is making a simple set of templates, then using

masters in cutting crown molding.

them to set up your saw for cutting the correct angles. Just follow the steps in Photos C-F. Placing and cutting crown molding on the saw is now a snap! Simply place a template on the saw (for example, template R-IC for the right side of an inside corner). Knowing that the bevel is always set left at 33.9° and the black edge of the template always goes against the fence, you only need to pivot the table left or right to align with the cut end of the template. Place your stock on the mitersaw to match the template orientation and, ta-da! You've just earned your



Begin by cutting two 18" lengths of crown molding. Mark the bottom edge of one piece with a black marker (#1). Mark the top edge of the other piece (#2).



Tilt the saw head left to the the 33.9° bevel and pivot the miter to the left 31.6° detent. Place piece #1 face up on the saw table with the black edge against the fence, and cut it in half to produce two templates. Set the pieces aside.



Now, slide the miter to the right 31.6° setting. The bevel remains tilted to the left. Place piece #2 face up with the black edge against the fence. Cut it in half.

# SHOP TIP

▶ Purchase a video

that demonstrates

these techniques.

installcrown

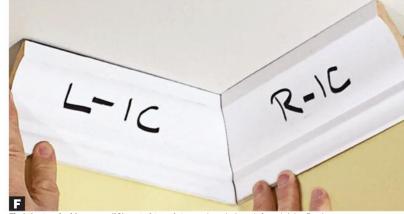
woodmagazine.com/

# **Managing short pieces**

With the saw tilted left, clamping on that side to cut short pieces can be difficult. For safety and accuracy, miter one end of a longer piece. Then, move and reclamp the stock to cut the opposite end to length.

► Watch Jim miter short returns. woodmagazine.com/ shortcrownmiters





Find the two inside corner (IC) mated templates and mark them left and right. Do the same with the two mated outside corner (OC) templates. Placing the templates in their intended position provides a visual cue of how to place your workpieces on the saw.





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# Mailbox

Approximate materials cost: D I M E N S I O N S 16½" W × 79/16" D × 1115/16"

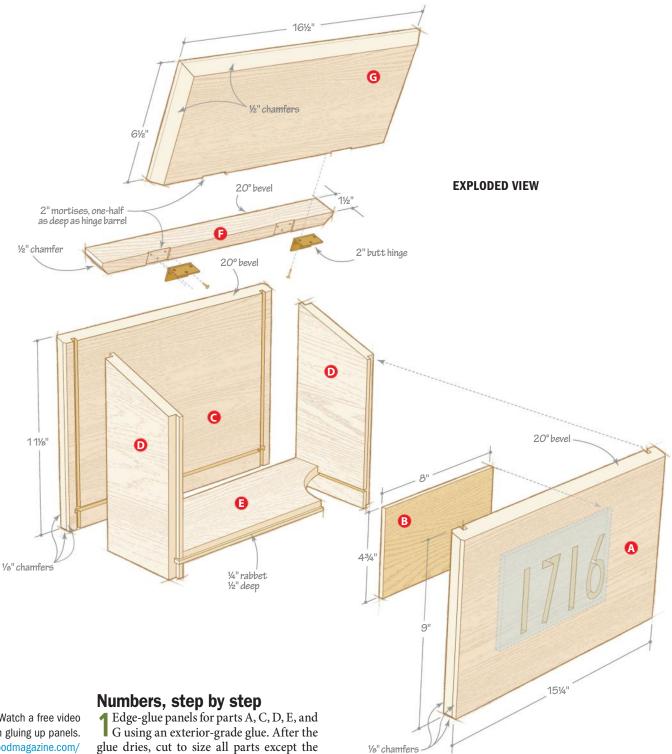
year Ben Franklin was named first U.S. Postmaster General

Tip! If using the box as a countertop caddy, eliminate parts F and G.

Post up an eye-catching project that improves your home's curb appeal.

ounted outside to accept the daily mail, or sitting inside to collect papers, keys, and more, this handsome box makes a statement while it holds your bills. A weather-resistant wood such as white oak (our choice), mahogany, cedar, or redwood looks great indoors or out.

Learn about other woods suited for outdoor projects. woodmagazine.com/



► Watch a free video on gluing up panels. woodmagazine.com/ panelvideo

Download other numeral patterns. woodmagazine.com/ mailbox glue dries, cut to size all parts except the number backer (B) [Materials List].

Print numbers with your choice of font. (We used Gill Sans MT Condensed at 350 pt.) Cut out the numbers and center them on the front (A), keeping at least <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" between the closest points of any two numbers. Use small pieces of painter's tape to hold the numbers in position, then trace around thewm. Cut the number backer (B) 1" wider and longer than the area occupied by the numbers.

**3**Center the number backer on the inside face of the front (A) and trace around it. Using a router with an edge guide and a straight bit, rout a recess within this area [Drawing 2]. Square up the corners with a chisel.

Cut out the numbers following the steps tin Photos A-E [next page].

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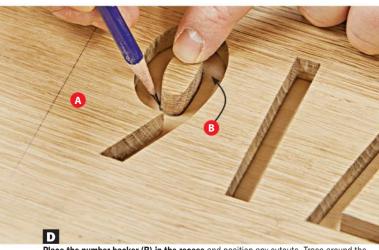
**Drill blade starter holes** wherever the curve of a number is too tight to pivot the saw blade [see **Photo B**]. Cut carefully, staying inside the lines. For clean edges, use a 20 tooth-per-inch (TPI) blade, and work slowly.



File the edges up to the lines, and square the ends with a chisel. If needed, clamp a scrap along the layout line to help get a true vertical edge.



On numerals 4, 6, 8, 9, or 0, cut away the interior piece(s) first, staying *outside* the line. File and sand the edges of the cutout piece(s) smooth.

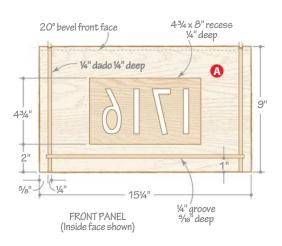


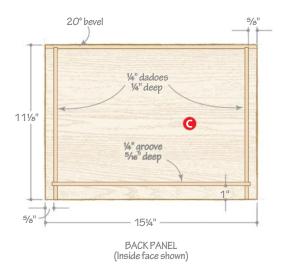
Place the number backer (B) in the recess and position any cutouts. Trace around the cutout with a sharp pencil.

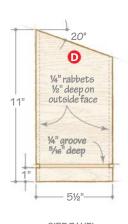


Glue the cutouts to the number backer, aligned with the pencil lines.

# 2 PARTS VIEWS







SIDE PANEL (Inside face shown)

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Cut '4" dadoes with a dado blade, or by making a pass across each end with a standard blade, and then moving the rip fence to widen the dadoes with another pass.



**Equip your router with an edge guide** and a ½" straight bit. Rout a groove from one dado to the other. Find the edge guide plan at woodmagazine.com/edgeguide.



Attach an auxiliary fence to the tablesaw rip fence. Lower the blade below the table, then raise the spinning blade to cut a shallow recess in the auxiliary fence.

#### Form the joints

Dado the ends of the front and back (A, C) [Photo F, Drawing 2].

2 To accept the bottom (E), rout grooves between the dadoes [Photo G, Drawing 2]. With the same setup, rout grooves in the sides (D).

Rabbet the sides (D) to create tongues that fit the dadoes in the front (A) and back (C) [Photo H, Exploded View]. Cut rabbets around the bottom (E) using the same setup.

Rip the bevel on the front (A) and back (C) [Exploded View]. Dry-fit the box and trace a line on each side (D) connecting the bevels. Cut along the lines and sand them smooth.

**5** Cut the mortises in the hinge rail (F) and top (G) to match the length and width of a hinge leaf.

6 Rout chamfers on the front (A), back (C), hinge rail (F), and top (G) where shown [Exploded View].

#### **Assemble and finish**

1 Finish-sand all parts to 220 grit. Glue and clamp the sides to the front and back, trapping the bottom. Do not apply glue to the bottom so it can expand and contract with changes in humidity. Glue the hinge rail (F) to the box, flush at the rear.

2Mask off any glued-on number cutouts and ¾" around the edges of the number backer, then spray-paint the number backer (B). (We used Rustoleum Metallic Vintage Copper no. 248637.) We also scuff-sanded the hinges and the hinge screwheads to accept the same paint.

Mask off the glue surface of the recess in the front (A). Then apply finish to all unpainted surfaces of the box and lid. After the last coat of finish dries, remove the tape, glue the number backer in its recess, and screw the hinges to the lid and hinge rail. If it receives a stamp of approval, your postal receptacle is ready for delivery.

Produced by **Craig Ruegsegger** with **Josh Steele** Project design: **John Olson** Illustrations: **Roxanne LeMoine, Lorna Johnson** 

Check with your post office for mailbox-mounting regulations.

#### **Materials List**

		F	FINISHED SIZE			
Part		T	W	L	Mati.	Qty.
Α	front	3/4"	9"	15¼"	EW	1
В	number backer	1/4"	4¾"	8"	Ply	1
С	back	3/4"	111/8"	15¼"	EW	1
D	sides	3/4"	11"	5½"	EW	2
Ε	bottom	3/4"	51/16"	14"	EW	1
F	hinge rail	3/4"	1½"	16½"	W	1
G	top	3/4"	6½"	16½"	W	1

<sup>\*</sup>Size depends on your house number. See the instructions.

Materials key: EW-edge-glued white oak, Ply-plywood, W-white oak.

Supplies: 2" butt hinges (2).

**Blades and bit:** Dado set; 20-tpi jigsaw blade; ¼" and ¾" straight router bits.

This project requires approximately  $5\frac{1}{2}$  board feet of  $4\frac{1}{4}$  white oak.

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**Tip!** When applying finish, dip only the tip of the brush—½" or so—in the finish to prevent overloading the brush. This reduces drips and makes cleanup easier.

**Tip!** To keep your brush dedicated to a specific finish, write the finish name on the handle.

► Purchase a brush comb. woodmagazine.com/ brushcomb

#### Match the brush to the finish

As a general rule, use a natural-bristle brush for oil-base varnishes and stains, and save synthetic-bristle brushes for water-base finishes or latex. Why? The solvents in oil-base finishes can soften synthetic bristles; natural bristles absorb water if used with latex finishes.

For varnish, our pros prefer oxhair over china (boar) bristles because the finer, softer oxhair makes it easier to flow out the thinner finish. Likewise, our experts prefer nylon bristles over stiffer polyester for applying water-base polyurethane. They also dedicate each brush to a particular finish. This helps avoid cross-contamination and gives consistent results from one job to the next.

#### Bring on the clean

Whether cleaning a natural or synthetic brush, follow a similar process. Use mineral spirits for cleaning natural brushes, and warm water and soap for synthetics.

First, brush out as much excess finish as possible on a flat surface. Pour an inch or so of solvent into a clean container and dip the brush in it. Tip the brush bristle-end up and work the solvent down into the bristles toward the metal ferrule [Photo A]. Repeat this sequence 10 times, occasionally using a brush comb [Opening photo, previous page] to help separate the bristles and work solvent through the entire brush.

Dump the dirty solvent, pour in some new, and repeat the above sequence. Dump the solvent and repeat the cleaning a third



Use multiple rinses with clean mineral spirits to remove all traces of finish, separating the bristles as you go. Take care to keep from bending or breaking bristles—just let the mineral spirits soak the finish out of the brush.

time. Thoroughly rinse a synthentic brush with water to remove any remaining soap suds. To remove excess solvent, hold the brush down inside a receptacle and spin it [Photos B and C].

Use the brush comb to realign and smooth the bristles into shape. Return the brush to its original package or wrap the bristles in craft paper until your next finishing job [Photo D].

Learn more about choosing and using finishes.

woodmagazine.com/ finishes

Produced by Kerry Gibson with Vane Overturff





**Spinning the brush between your hands** uses centrifugal force to fling the solvent out. Confine a natural-bristle brush inside a trash can or other bin. Excess water from a synthetic brush can go down the drain in a sink.



Storing the brush in its original package protects the bristles and helps them retain their proper shape.

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## **Cordless curve cutters**

attery-powered jigsaws free you to navigate intricate curves and switchbacks without fighting a power cord. The best cordless jigsaws provide a clear line of sight to the blade, easy speed changes (especially during a cut), and tool-free blade changes. We tested 11 lithium-ionpowered saws, and recommend these three. (Because most jigsaws are sold without battery packs, it might make sense to get one that shares batteries with your drill or other cordless tools.)



#### 20-volt DeWalt DCS331B \$150 (without battery pack)

2-amp-hour (Ah) pack (DCB203) \$90; 4 Ah pack (DCB204) \$120; saw with 4 Ah pack and charger (DCS331M1) \$280 At 63/4 pounds (with a 4 Ah pack), this saw weighs a pound more than the Bosch or Ryobi. Still, it handles well in use with little vibration. It has good blade visibility (despite no LED), a variablespeed trigger, tool-free footplate, and an easy-touse blade release.

800-433-9258, dewalt.com



#### 18-volt Ryobi P523 \$60 (without battery pack)

2 Ah pack (P102) \$40; 4 Ah pack (P105) \$60

You can't beat the value of this saw. Even if you have to buy a battery pack with the saw, you're in for only \$100-\$120. Although it vibrates more than the Bosch and DeWalt, this saw cuts nicely with good sight lines and balance, and the variable-speed slide switch is within reach of your thumb without letting go of the trigger. 800-525-2579, rvobitools.com

soft, responsive touch and built-in variable speed.

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#### **Tools & Materials**

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# Get a leg up (or an extra hand) with this workstation

Mobile Project Center, no. KWS1000, \$160

To call Kreg's Mobile Project Center a sawhorse sells it short. Its 40-pound weight, wide stance, and rubber feet make it more stable than any sawhorse. That helps when I use it for cutting, drilling, sanding, or assembly, especially when I'm away from the shop. The included Automaxx hold-down clamp slides in the T-track to provide clamping almost anywhere on the 273/4×311/2" worksurface. (Kreg's Automaxx clamps work like locking pliers, but with automatic tension adjustment.) I also like that you can install the clamp in keyholes along the ends to either secure pieces to the legs, or pair the clamp with the included bench dogs to secure larger pieces lying flat. The wings fold up and down easily, and hold solidly during use. And if you buy a second unit, you can couple them together to form a larger worksurface.

—Tested by Kevin Boyle, Senior Design Editor

Kreg Tool 800-447-8638, kregtool.com





#### Seal green wood with white wax

Anchorseal 2, quart \$15; gallon \$33 (available at Woodcraft)

If you work with fresh-cut lumber or "green" turning blanks, you need to seal the end grain to help prevent checking and cracking as the wood dries. I've used Anchorseal 2 for this purpose for years with great success. The wax-and-water mixture goes on white, and then dries clear to form a barrier against rapid water loss, especially on end grain and cross-grain crotches. I usually apply a second coat a day or two after the first to make sure no cracks occur. One gallon covers approximately 100 square feet.

—Tested by Brian Simmons

U.C. Coatings 888-363-2628, uccoatings.com

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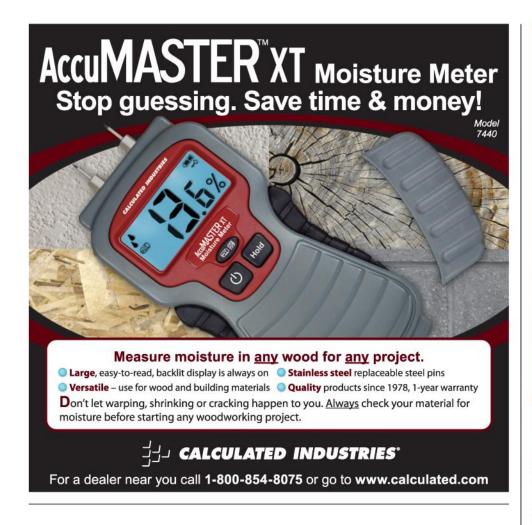


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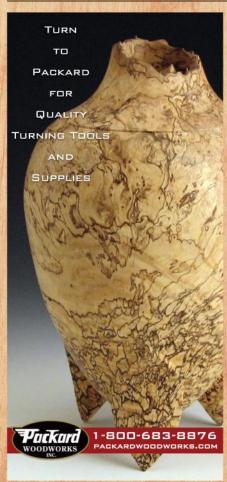
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## Steel of Approval

At \$49, this blade of Damascus steel is a real steal

Damascus steel is legendary. Tales of its unmatched strength, sharpness and durability ring through the ages. There are stories of gun rifles being sliced in two by Damascus steel swords and individual strands of hair being sliced in half, even if they gently floated down on to the edge of the blade.

Now, you can be a part of the legend. The Legend Knife boasts nearly 4" of famed Damascus steel with it's signature, wavy pattern. Damascus steel blade knives can cost thousands. So, at \$49, the price itself is almost legendary.

Cast Damascus steel, known as wootz, was popular in the East and it's an exacting process that's part metalwork, part chemistry. It's produced by melting pieces of iron and steel with charcoal in a low oxygen environment. During the process, the metals absorb carbon from the charcoal and the resulting alloy is cooled at a very slow

rate. The outcome is a beautiful one- Legend Knife \$149\* of-a-kind pattern of banding and mottling reminiscent of flowing water.

Once a lost art, we sought out a knifemaker who has resurrected the craftsmanship of Damascus steel to create the Legend Knife. The genuine Damascus steel blade folds into a tri-colored pakkawood handle that's prepared to resist the ravages of the great outdoors. When not in use or on display, The Legend Knife stays protected in the included genuine leather sheath.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 60 days for a complete refund of the item price. But we believe that once you wrap your fingers around the Legend's handle and experience the beauty of its Damascus steel blade, you'll be ready to carve out your own legend. So call today!

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#### Mirror with a secret

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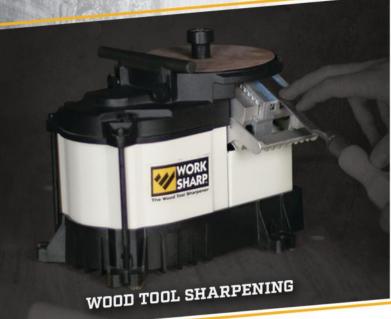














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