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- Capacity @ 90°: 31/8"
  Capacity @ 45°: 23/16"
- Cutting capacity: 30" right, 12" left Overall size: 62" W x 39" D x 48" H
- Footprint: 20½" L x 19½" W
- Approx. shipping weight: 416 lbs.

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- Collection drum size: 35 gallons, max. capacity: 20 gallons
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- Max. airflow: 868 CFM
- Max. static pressure: 9.7

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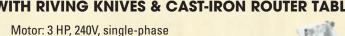
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- Precision-ground cast-iron table size with wings: 48"W x 27"D
- Arbor: 5/8"
- Cutting capacity: 26" R, 8"L
- Max. depth of cut: 3" @ 90°, 21/8" @ 45°
- Approx. shipping weight: 550 lbs.



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- Motor: 3 HP, 220 V, single-phase
- Max. cutting width: 147/81
- Max. cutting height: 61/8"
- Max. cutting depth: 1/8" Rate of feed: 16 FPM & 20 FPM
- Cutterhead speed: 5000 RPM
- Approx. shipping weight: 540 lbs. (G1021Z), 581 lbs. (G1021X2)

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Motor: 2 HP, 220V, single-phase, 3450 LIFT HANDLE RPM, 9A

- Intake hole size: 7"
- Impeller: 13" welded steel
- Collection drum size: 35 gallons, max. capacity: 20 gallons
- Suction capacity: 1023 CFM @ 2.6" SP Max. airflow: 1023 CFM
- Max. static pressure: 10.9"
- Approx. shipping weight: 397 lbs.



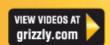
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# TAKING MEASURE

# **Story sticks**

henever I build a project for someone else, I try to include something that gives the completed piece a story; some interesting tidbit the recipient can share with those who might ask about it.

For example, when building a new conference table for my church, I went searching for some solid-wood banding to hide the plywood edges. My hardwood dealer had a whole rack of old-growth oak harvested from sunken ships at the bottom of Lake Michigan. Bingo! A merely functional

table now had a story. Last Christmas, I made "pegs and jokers" games for both kids from a Philippine mahogany shelf I'd salvaged while remodeling our first house.

So, when my son, Colby, married his fiancée, Jenny, last November, I wanted to build them a gift that would have a special story.

Earlier, WOOD® magazine's Tools Editor, Bob Hunter, had shown me a unity cross he had made for a family wedding. One cross nests inside the other, and, during the wedding ceremony, the bride and groom tap in dowels to permanently bind them together. The symbolism—that the only way to separate the two is to destroy each of

the individuals—was too powerful to pass up.

To give it a story, I made the inset cross out of offcuts from the beautiful ash altar furniture made for our family's church. (I'd been saving them for 15 years, waiting for just the right project.) Because Jenny was born in Illinois, I

used quartersawn white oak—Illinois' state tree—for the frame cross. On the back I laser-engraved "What God has joined, let no one put asunder" to really hammer the message home.

It was tremendously rewarding to contribute to the most important day of Colby and Jenny's life together.

Bob shared the unity cross idea with me, so I'll go a step further and share with you my plans for building the cross at woodmagazine.com/unitycross. That's in the new "Member Plans" section of our website. When you check it out, I hope you'll share the story of one of your own projects by posting photos and some simple how-to.

See you in the shop!





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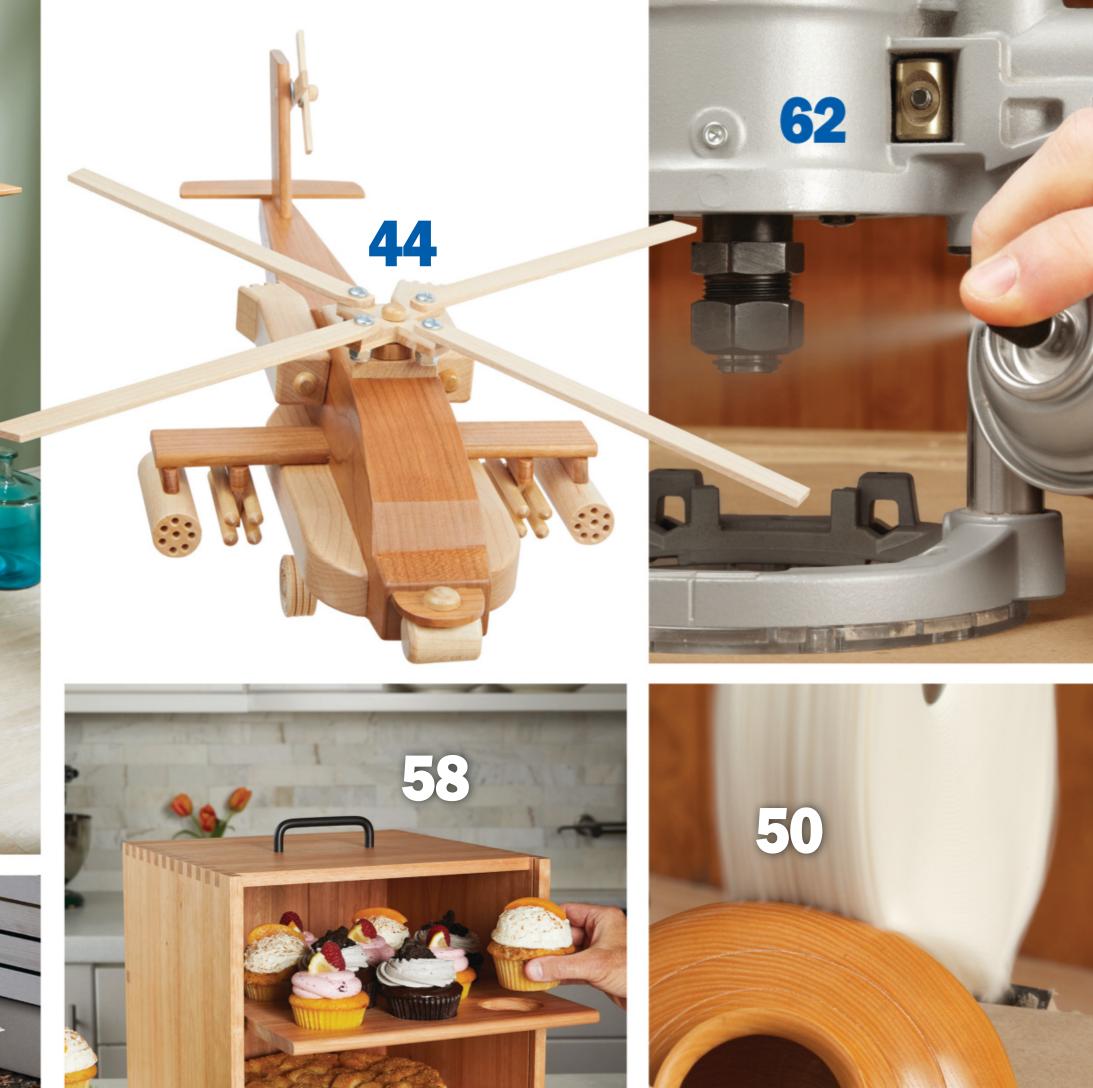
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# **Happy Hammock Stand**

Lucas Peters, posted on Oct 22, 2018



# ...into this!

### Materials or Supplies

### Tool

raterials of Supplies	10013		
Two 8' pine 2x2s	Drill/Drivers		
One 4x8' sheet of particle board	Jigsaws/Saber Saws		
Fourteen 8' cedar 2x4s	Mitersaws		
West System epoxy and hardener	Finish Nailers		
Lag screws	Bandsaws		
Screw hooks	Drum Sanders		
Clear, outdoor finish	Clamps		
Nuts, bolts, washers	handsaw		
	Wood Chisels		

### STEP 1 Trammel

First I created a large curved mold from particle board. To start, I marked a centerline on the particle board. Then I built a makeshift trammel from 2x2s. I attached the trammel's lower 2x2 to the underside of the board in line with the centerline. And I supported the opposite end sort of tenuously on a piece of plywood scrap. The pivot of the trammel is just a screw. There is a particle-board spacer between the 2x2s. Then I drilled a hole for a pencil 89" from the pivot screw. (The distance of the arc from the bottom of the particle board isn't critical.



Just make sure the apex of the arc doesn't go beyond 2' so you can get two from the same piece of particle board. You can see my post-it-note plan in the foreground.

### STEP 2 Mold Parts

After removing the trammel (Don't throw it away!), I cut out the arc with a jigsaw, staying about ½/16" away from the line. Then, I traced a second arc on the other half o the particle board and cut it out. I clamped the two halfs together and used a belt sander to sand the radius smooth to the line. Then, I drilled some large clamp access holes.



### STEP 3

# Sacrifice the trammel to complete the mold

I then cut up the trammel into 3" blocks and used a trim nailer to tack them between the bottom and radius of the arc as shown to form the mold. I added plastic book-binding tape to



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# **Digging out the Splinter**

Just curious: Did the all-wood Splinter supercar you featured on the cover 10 years ago (issue 186, October 2008) ever make it to the street?

**—Wendell Barrick** *via e-mail* 

Yes, but technically no, Wendell. Its progenitor, Joe Harmon, took a few years off from the

project after earning his master's degree in industrial design (for which the car was created) and married Caroline, one of the build-team members.

After being asked in 2016 to show the midengine supercar—90 percent of which is made from wood—at the Essen Motor Show, Joe initially declined because the car wasn't done.

But, inspired by the invitation, he made it street-legal in time to display at the show.

Although he says the car has lived up to his expectations, Joe confesses he's never licensed the Splinter nor driven it at speeds anywhere near its 200 m.p.h. capability. The birth last year of his daughter, Jemma, has made that less of a priority. See more photos at splintersupercar.com.



# Wait—they did what?

Your article on sharpening handsaws in issue 257 (November 2018) brought back memories. When Camp Phillips at Salina, Kan., was being dismantled after World War II, they used handsaws to cut the barracks in half for moving. My dad was the saw sharpener on that job, and he taught me to sharpen them. I remember he always cut off the teeth within 2" of the handle, saying they never cut wood and would snag your pant legs.

—Lowell Johannes Hays, Kan. As a woodworker who uses and appreciates old handsaws, I read with interest your article in issue 257. I cringed when I saw an angle grinder and wire brush being used to clean a rusty saw. Any etching (which can help identify the make, model, and age of the plate) remaining under the rusty surface can be damaged by your method. A more prudent approach is a synthetic abrasive pad, a spray bottle of household cleaner, and a little elbow grease. The process is also made easier by removing the handle from the saw plate.

—**Bob Norcott** Sebec, Maine

# One good turn deserves a non-turned brother

After seeing the Woven Bowl project in issue 253 (May 2018), I was inspired to make a "woven" container for a small extinguisher I keep near the fireplace. But without access to either a bandsaw or a lathe, I needed a different technique to make the vessel round. Here's the method I came up with.

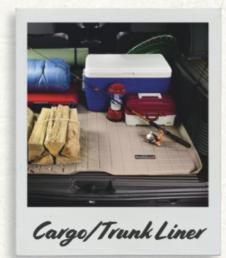
First, I used an adjustable circle cutter in my drill press to create a ring-shaped MDF template with the inside and outside diameters of the vessel. Then, after building

the first layer of the weave, I used the template and a bearing-guided flush-trim bit to rout the inside and outside shape of the layer. As I built each additional layer of the weave, the previous layer served as that layer's routing template, limiting construction to one layer per day.

—**Dave Pettitt** Santa Barbara, Cal.













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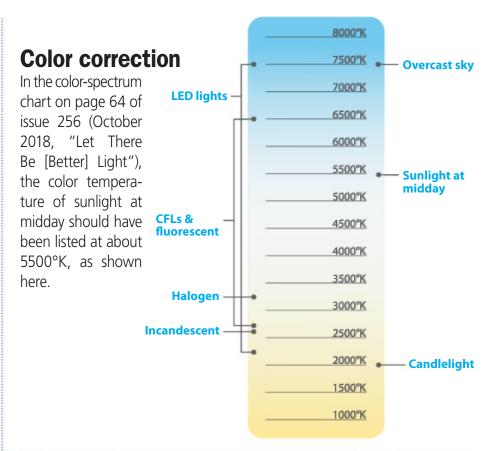
# Dust separator no longer a pipe dream

I was doing research to build my own dust separator when I picked up issue 255 (September 2018). There, on page 18, was my solution. My build went quickly because I used PVC pipe for the legs instead of 2x4s, as shown here. Thanks to Ed Piche for the great tip!

> —**Rick Munroe** Visalia, Calif.

# **SOUNDING BOARD**

YOUR VOICE



# What's your hurry?

As I read through your router-accessories article in issue 255 and the \$600 worth of "gotta have" accessories, my mind turned to golf and bowling—two pastimes in which the better you are at it, the less time you spend doing it. WOOD® magazine's editorial seems to have taken the same attitude toward woodworking: Get the latest and greatest gizmos and get things done QUICKLY so that you spend less time in the shop. Huh?

—**Bob Wey** via e-mail

Bob, we cherish our shop time as much as any woodworker. Being accurate and efficient in the shop doesn't necessarily mean getting out quicker. (But for those time-strapped by a job and other activities, that's a bonus.) It means getting more done in the same amount of time. It means extra time to tidy up the shop at the end of one project, so you can hit the ground running for the next one. It means making 25 toy cars for the children's hospital instead of 20. And finishing up a project sooner gives you time to learn a new woodworking technique that you can enjoy on a future project.

# **Speed infraction**

In the chart on page 16 of issue 258 (December/January 2018/2019, "Ask WOOD"), the maximum speed of 2%-3" bits should be listed as 12,000–14,000. The corrected chart is shown below.

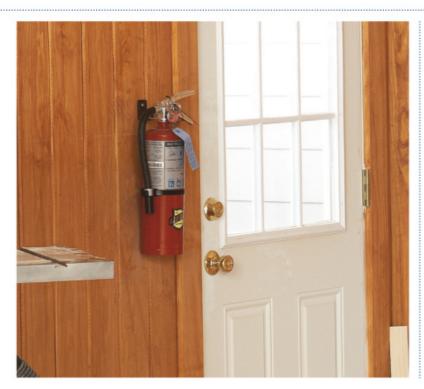
Router Bit Speed Chart				
Bit diameter	Max. speed x 1,000 rpm	My router		
Up to 1"	24			
1%-2½"	16–18			
2%-3"	12–14			
31/8" or larger	10–12			

# A potentially hot shop topic

I enjoy reading WOOD magazine, especially the neat readers' shops you feature. But in many cases, the location of the fire extinguisher is not very well thought out, as if the owners just placed them where they had a blank spot on the wall. In one shop, the extinguisher was hidden behind the bathoom door.

A fire extinguisher should always be hung next to the entry door, in plain sight, and with the handle at about hip level.

> —**Dennis Murphy** Bismarck, N.D.



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8 continued on page 10 WOOD magazine March 2019

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10



**Colin Smith**, of Hurricane, Utah, built this elaborate cabinet to display mementos collected during a trip to Russia with his wife. Colin did all of the carving, marquetry, and gilding by hand.

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hen Ed Kassof converted his twocar garage to a woodworking shop, he exiled the family cars to the driveway, a decision he hasn't regretted.

The shop features many creative solutions for storage, mobility, and multipurpose use. For example, the hideaway tablesaw (*page 14*) and mitersaw workstation with flip-up wings both store small, but work big.

Ed designed his shop with lots of open floor space. Putting casters under benches, a lumber bin, tool cabinet, and clamp rack means that "no tool in the shop is ever in the way of any production," Ed says.

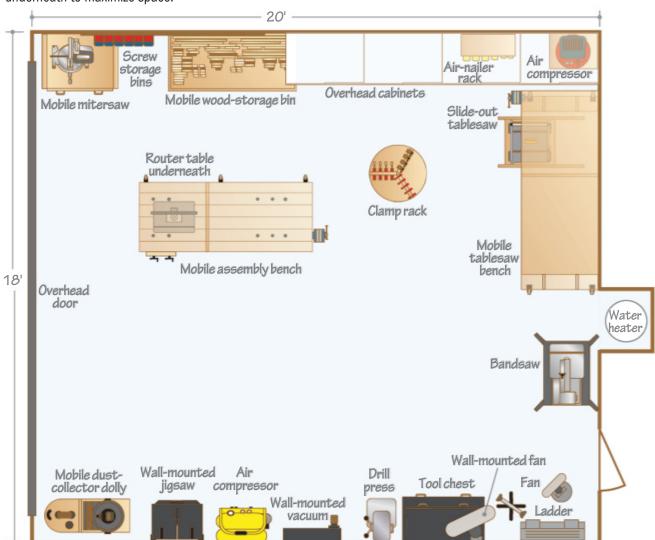
Two custom-made workbenches fill specific needs. The top of the tablesaw workstation consists of a hollow-core door sandwiched between two layers of plywood. At the front of the bench, an outlet strip nestles between the plywood layers. Large drawers hold tablesaw blades and accessories.

The main workbench provides a rock-solid project-assembly worksurface. Its sturdy  $2\times4$  frame supports the  $2\frac{1}{4}$ "-thick solid-wood top; a pair of vises and rows of dogholes add secure work-holding options.

Ed framed in a series of wall cabinets before the drywall was hung. Securing the cabinets directly to the wall studs and ceil-

Ed's main workbench incorporates a large face vise made with pipe clamps, and a conventional wood tail vise. A roll of paper at one end protects the benchtop during glue-ups. His benchtop router table and sander tuck underneath to maximize space.

A wall-mounted shelf keeps Ed's pancake compressor accessible and frees up floor space. The drop-down door reveals accessory storage.







from forest to final form°



14

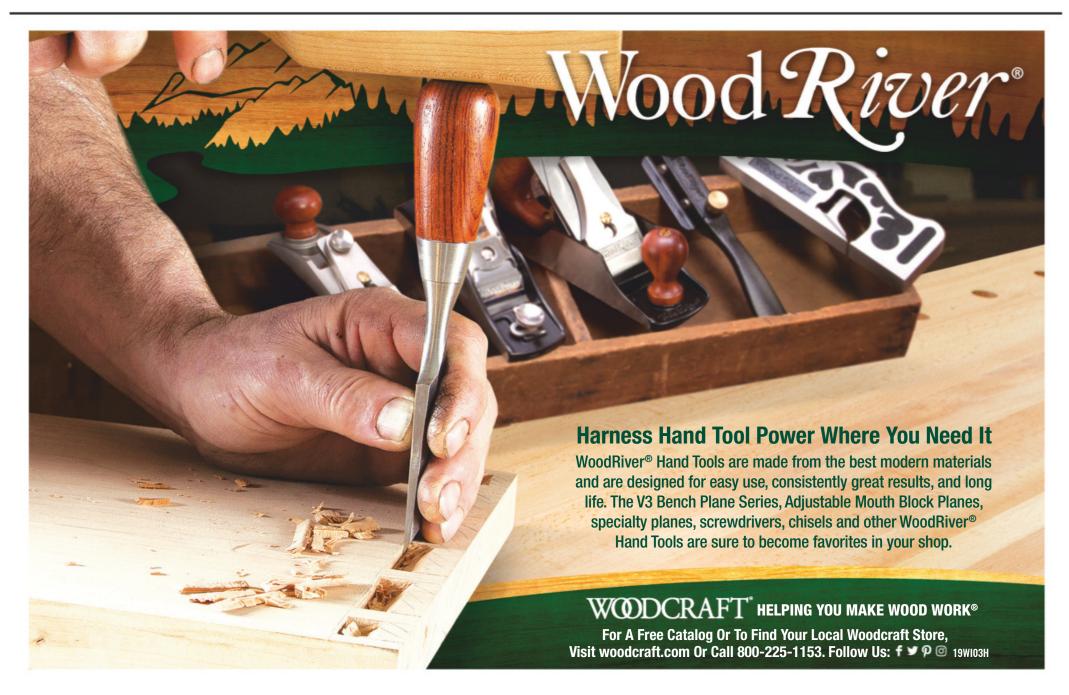
ing joists increased their weight-holding capacity. Sliding ½"-plywood doors hide the contents and create a clean look.

You won't see much sawdust in Ed's shop. He keeps things tidy using a shop vacuum attached to a Dust Deputy miniature cyclone system. This assembly rolls where it's needed on a cart Ed made.



**Ed's benchtop tablesaw stores on a platform** below this workbench (*top left*), then glides out on full-extension drawer slides. The platform lifts up to bring the tablesaw surface flush with the benchtop. The end of the workbench stores the rip fence, miter gauge, and blade guard.

WOOD magazine March 2019





A compact rolling rack corrals lots of clamps and accessories in very little floor space.



**The folding wings on Ed's mitersaw station** support long workpieces, then fold down for compact storage. Two casters on the back, and handles up front, make easy work of moving the workstation.

A 24" wall-mounted Air King fan helps circulate air when the garage door is up. "But it's still warm when the temperature hits 100 degrees outside!," Ed quips, as he reaches for his glass of sweet iced tea.



Ed Kassof, a disabled veteran with 35 years of combined military service, retired from the New York Police Department. During 40 years of woodworking, he has built projects for his home, family, and workshop.

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# ASK WOOD YOUR QUESTIONS



# **Build feather-friendly birdhouses and feeders**

I use all sorts of wood scraps and recycled materials to make houses and feeders for songbirds. Some of those projects attract flocks of feathered visitors, but others don't. What can I do to improve results?

—Dan Polson, Durango, Colo.

A

The material you use and how you treat it can have a big impact on whether a birdhouse or feeder will appeal to its target audience, Dan. For better visitation, try these pointers:

- Like us, birds prefer to stay out of the heat in the summer and the cold during winter. So don't use plastic decking that gets hot in the sun. Tin and other metals also heat up in a hurry and provide little insulation.
- If possible, don't place a birdhouse in direct sunlight. Of course, some species, such as bluebirds, require houses out in the open. For those, make walls and roofs from two wood layers, with a ventilating space of 1" or so between the layers. At the least, provide ventilation holes near the tops and bottoms.
- Thick, solid wood insulates well. Woods that stand up best to Mother Nature include cypress, cedar, redwood, and white oak.
- Avoid treated wood, which could prove hazardous to birds. For the same reason, stay away from pallet wood, which may have been chemically treated.
- Resist the temptation to gussy up your birdhouse or feeder with paint, stain, or other finishes. Birds don't like the residual vapors, and dark colors will amplify the sun's heat. Birds also prefer structures that blend into surroundings rather than attract attention from predators. If you can incorporate bark, branches, or other natural wood features into the project, all the better. On feeders, bark and branches help birds feed on the seeds.
- Staying with the natural theme, avoid sanding the wood. Rough surfaces help adult birds cling to the side of a box when bringing in nesting material or feeding young. And the fledglings will find it easier to scramble out for their first flights.

■ Birds enjoy a tidy house, so include drainage holes in the floor. And allow a means to clean out the house after the nesting season. Scrub down the interior with a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water.

Finally, always remember to build and position a birdhouse to minimize the amount of rain that can get through the entrance hole. An overhang helps, as does making the hole no larger than necessary. Online, you can find many charts showing best hole size (as well as interior dimensions) for many bird species.

Shop birdhouse and birdfeeder plans. woodmagazine.com/birds



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# Light tight spaces when turning vessels

While turning the inside of deep vessels, I struggled to see the tool's cutting action, even while using a flashlight to peer inside. Then, it occurred to me to mount a flexible-neck penlight (woodmagazine.com/streamlight) directly to the tool. Mounted as shown, the light can be repositioned on the tool, as dictated by the shape of the vessel.

—Peter Messinger, East Amherst, N.Y.



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.



For sending this issue's Top Shop Tip, Peter receives an assortment of bandsaw accessories from Carter Products worth \$330.



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# SHOP TIPS

# **Easy-build cart solves** several shop issues

I organize and store hardware in shallow fishing-tackle boxes, with clear lids that enable me to quickly see what's inside. Those boxes began to take up a lot of room on my workbench, so I came up with this cart to hold all of them.

Build the cart from ¾" MDO (medium-density overlay) plywood for the top, bottom, sides, and middle divider. The divider adds structural integrity and creates more storage on the other side of the cart. Determine the cart's dimensions, using your tackle boxes as a starting point. Dado the sides to hold ¼" hardboard panels supporting each tackle box. Attach trim strips to the front and back edges to keep the panels from sliding out.

I added aluminum angle around the top for appearance's sake, durability, and to keep small items from rolling off. The top also makes a good spot for benchtop tools. I built a slightly larger top that fits over the cart top for jobs that require a bigger worksurface. The loaded cart will weigh a lot, so use good casters, two of them the locking type.

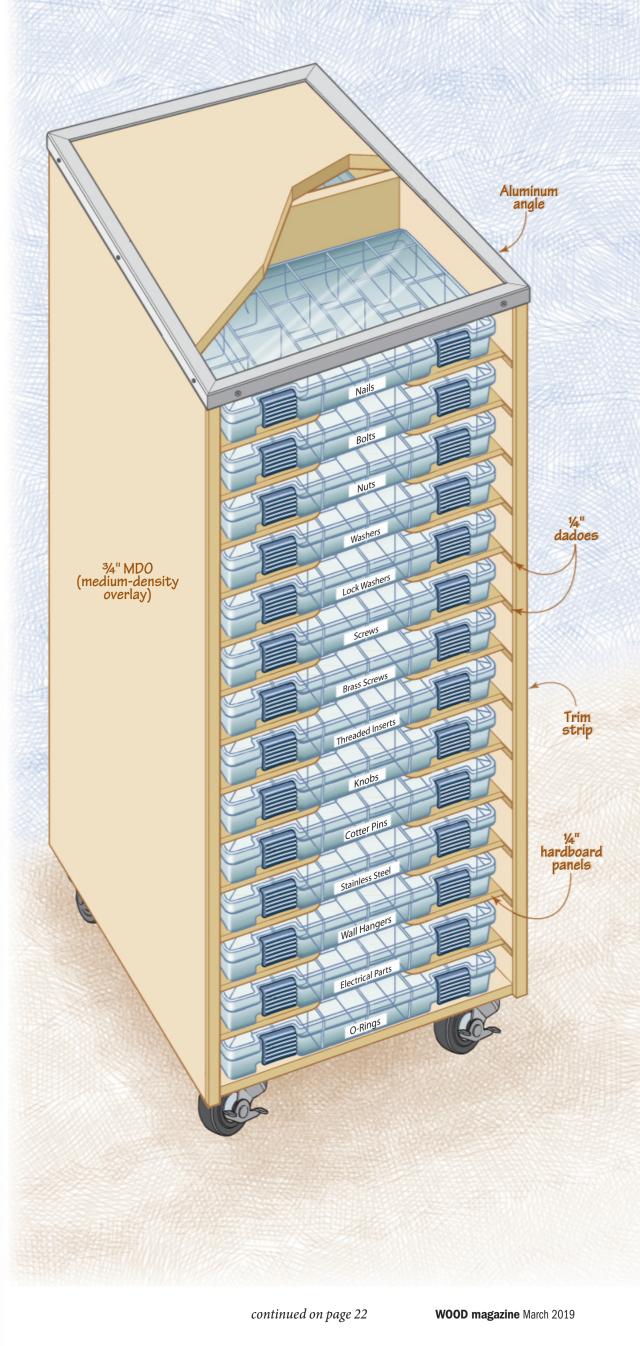
—Kevin Schendel, Saint Cloud, Fla.

# Never forget a great tip

I love a good shop tip but often forget it when an opportunity comes to apply it. To jog your memory, print out tips you're likely to use on a sheet of paper and clip them to the size of labels. Then, use clear packing tape to laminate and stick the tips where you're likely to see them when opportunity knocks.

—Scott Hunter, Chicago







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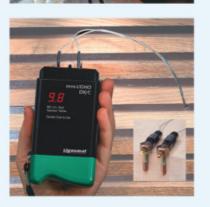
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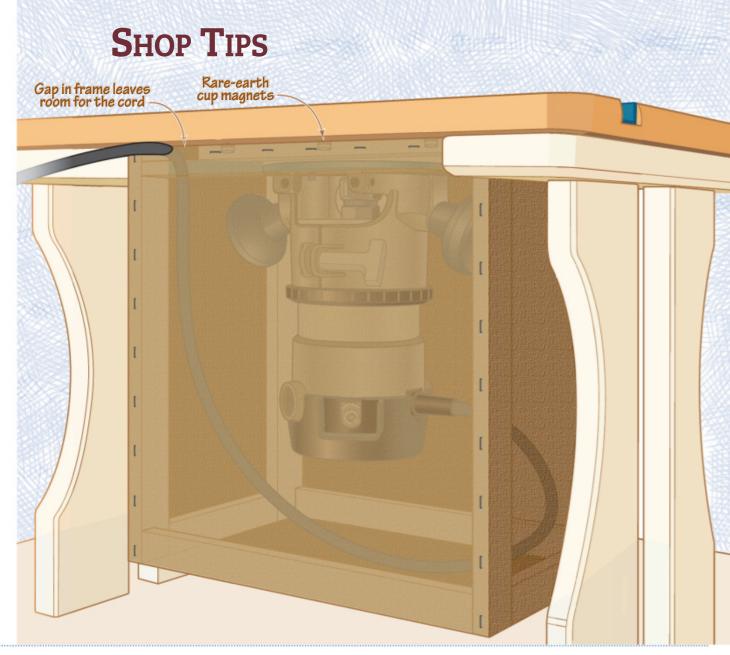
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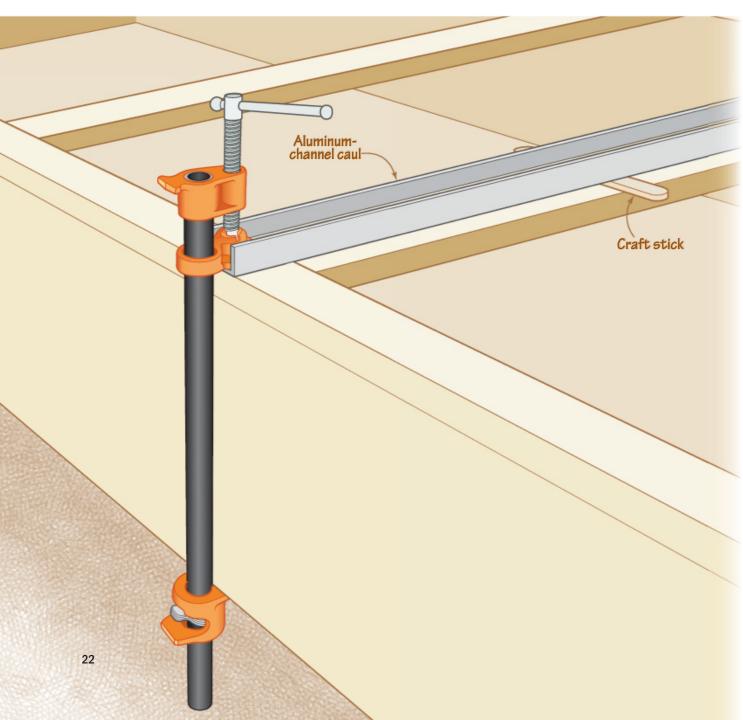


# In-the-bag solution to elusive router-table sawdust

The dust port on a router-table fence collects most of the dust above the table, but some still escapes below. To keep that debris off the floor, I built a lightweight poplar frame, large enough to fit around the router, with ample room for cooling air. I tacked fabric around the sides and bottom of the frame. Rare-earth magnets mounted to the top of the frame attach to metal washers on the underside of the router table. The collector catches all falling debris and detaches easily for emptying. Note that I left room for the cord to exit the collector by leaving a gap in the frame at each corner. That way, no matter how you replace the collector, there's a notch positioned for the cord.

—Tom Moss, Bradenton, Fla.

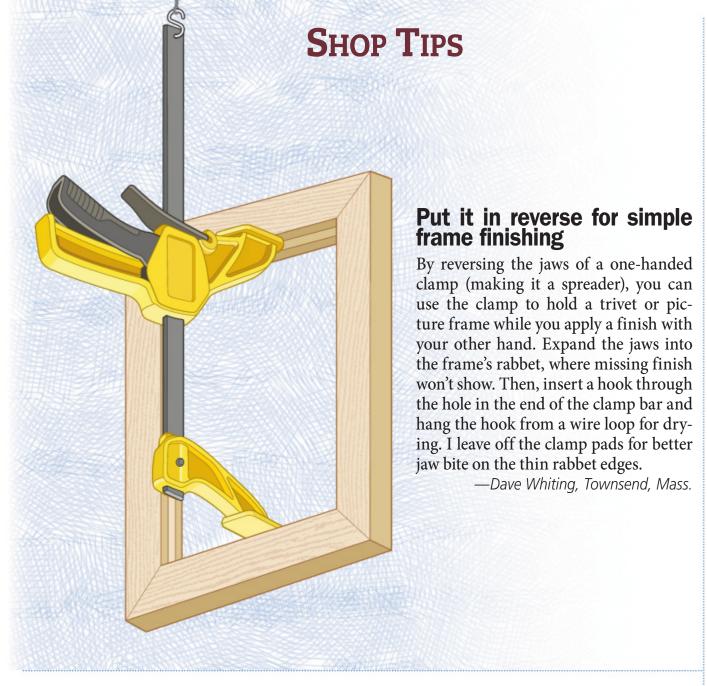




# **Curved caul-like clamping** with this crafts-stick cure

A wood caul, with its slightly bowed face down, helps distribute clamping pressure to the middle of a long workpiece such as a face-frame rail. To get the same effect without having to make bowed cauls, use a straight piece of hardwood or aluminum channel for the caul. Then, insert crafts sticks under the caul where you need a little extra downward pressure.

—Fraser MacLean, Langley, B.C.

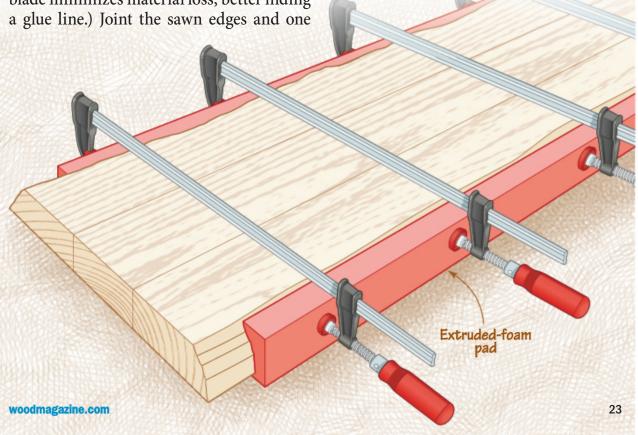


# Flatten natural-edge tabletops...without a router sled

Want to make a tabletop from a wide slab with natural wavy edges, but don't want to go to the hassle of making a router sled and railed platform for flattening the slab? Here's a simple way to get the job done with a portable circular saw, jointer, and thickness planer.

First, rip the slab into boards no wider than 6" using a straightedge. (A thin-kerf blade minimizes material loss, better hiding a glue line.) Joint the sawn edges and one face. Then thickness-plane the boards. Arrange the boards in natural order, and glue them back together, using strips of extruded foam as clamp pads. The foam conforms to the irregular edge to protect it, and gives the clamp jaws a somewhat-square surface to press against.

—Bob Hunter, WOOD® magazine



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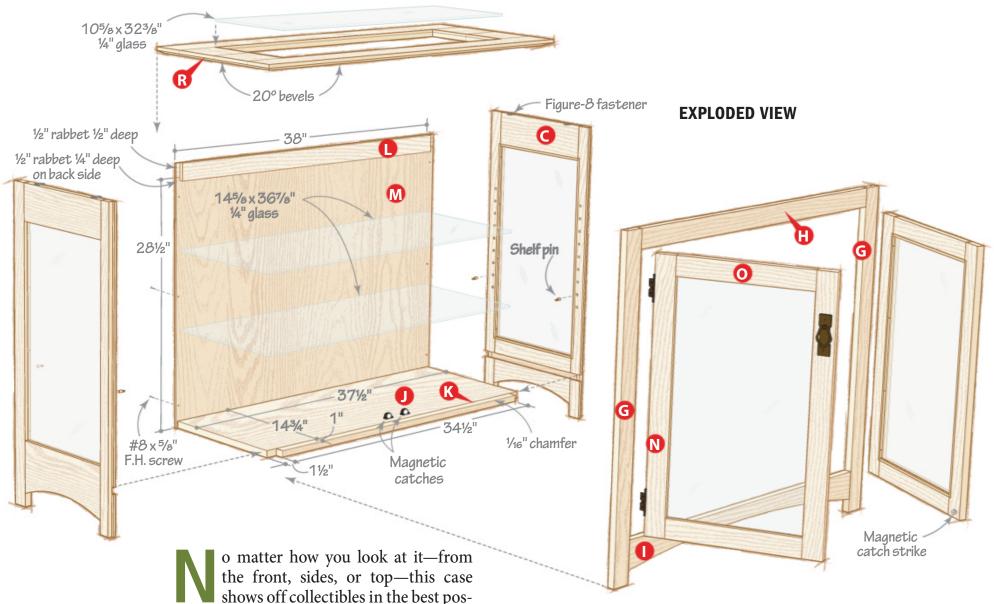
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Note: Although the front stiles (A) and rear stiles (B) have different initial widths, they will appear symmetrical in the final assembly.

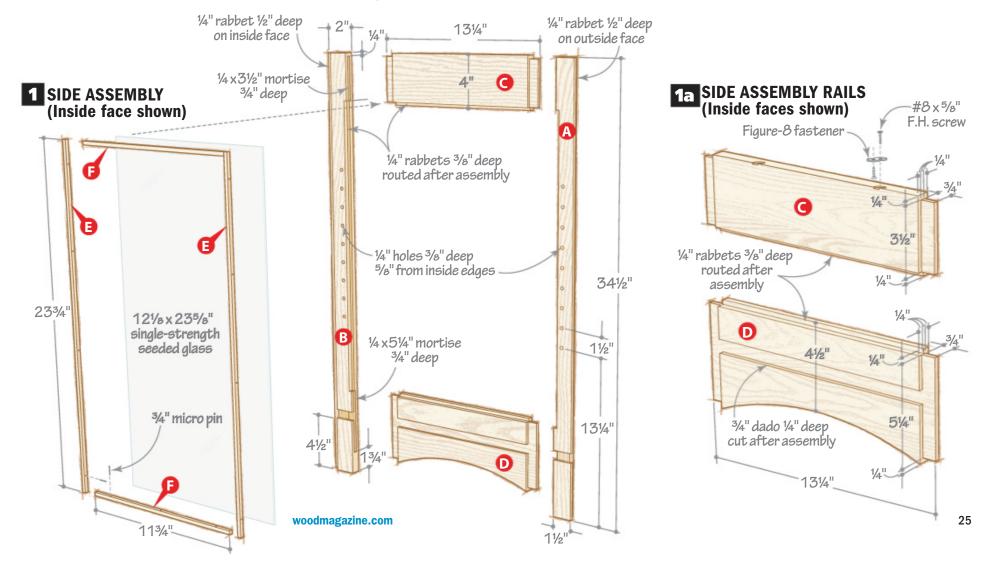
the front, sides, or top—this case shows off collectibles in the best possible light, thanks to lots of seeded (wavy with tiny bubbles) glass. Have the glass cut to size, or cut it yourself following our step-by-step instructions.

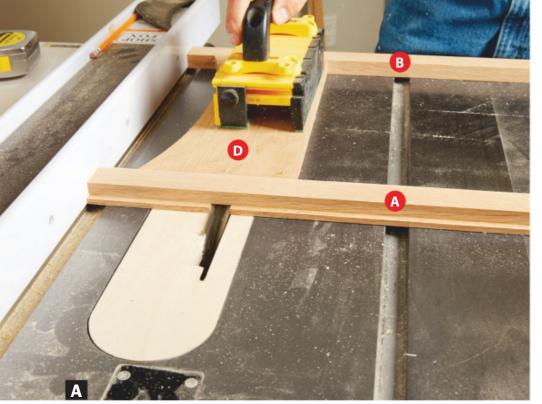
# Make the case

1 Cut side frame parts A–D to size [Materials List, Drawing 1], and arrange them as mir-

ror images. Mark part letters and orientation (right, left) on the outside faces with chalk. Form the stile (A, B) mortises and then cut the rail (C, D) tenons [Drawing 1a] to fit the mortises. Use a fairing stick to draw the arc on the lower rails (D) and bandsaw and sand them to shape.

Learn methods to make mortise-andtenon joints. woodmagazine.com/ mt4ways

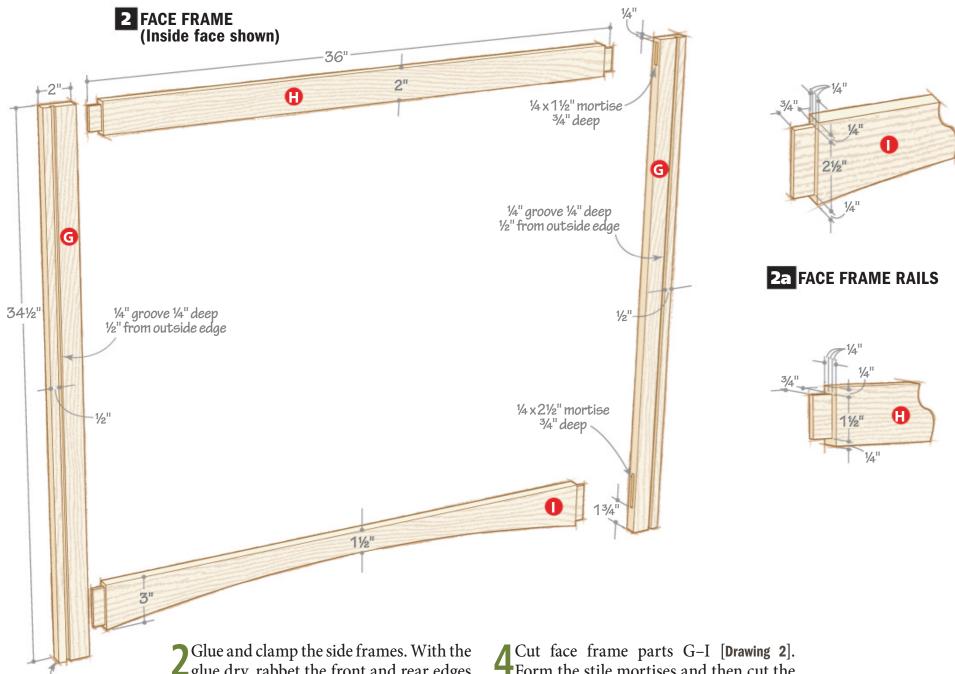




Dado the inside faces of the sides to match the thickness of the bottom (J).



**Squaring braces orient the side and face-frame assemblies** while riser blocks make room for bar-clamp heads.



2 glue dry, rabbet the front and rear edges and drill shelf-pin holes [Drawing 1]. Cut dadoes for the bottom [Photo A]. Rabbet the inside edges of the frame openings and square the corners with a chisel to receive the glass. Finish-sand the sides.

Cut the glass stops (E, F) ½" longer than listed [Materials List]. Finish-sand the stops and set them aside.

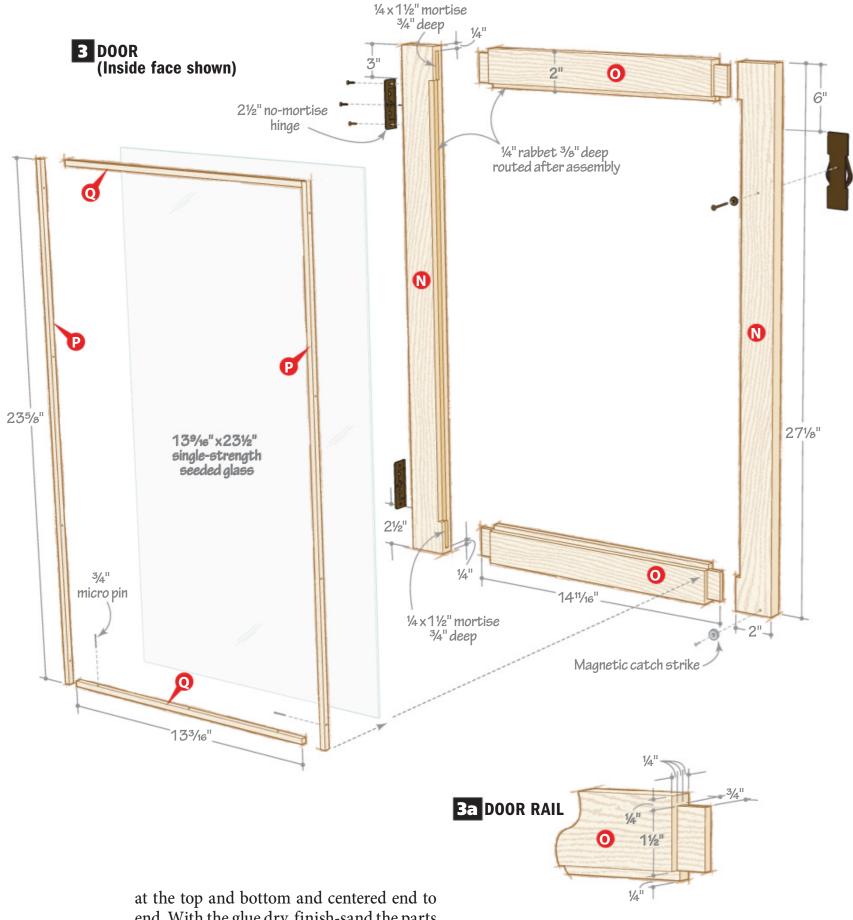
4 Cut face frame parts G-I [Drawing 2]. Form the stile mortises and then cut the rail tenons [Drawing 2a] to fit the mortises. Groove the stiles (G) to fit the tongues formed on the side stiles (A). Bandsaw and sand the arc on the lower rail (I).

Glue and clamp the face frame. With the glue dry, finish-sand it.

6 Cut the bottom (J) and trim (K) [Exploded View]. Glue the trim to the bottom, flush

**Tip!** Dry-assemble the sides, face frame, and bottom assembly to check the fit of the parts before gluing.

¹/16" chamfer



▶Download a free plan for making your own squaring braces. woodmagazine.com/ brace

end. With the glue dry, finish-sand the parts and chamfer the front edge.

Assemble one side (A–D) to the face frame [Photo B]. Glue the bottom assembly (J/K) into the side dado and to the top edge of the face-frame lower rail (I). Glue and clamp the remaining side to the bottom assembly and face frame.

Cut the stretcher (L) and rabbet the ends and edge [Exploded View]. Glue and clamp the stretcher to the sides, flush at the top. Drill counterbores in the edges of the upper rails (C) for figure-8 fasteners [Drawing 1a, Sources]. Sand 1/16" chamfers on the bottom ends of the stiles (A, B, G). Cut the back (M), finish-sand, and set it aside.

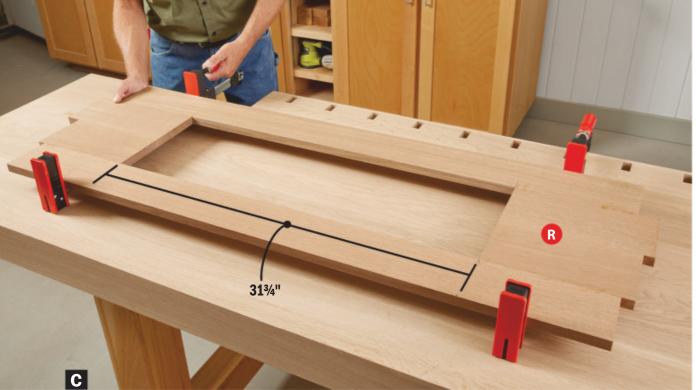
# **Build the doors**

Cut door parts N and O and form the mortises and tenons [Drawings 3 and 3a]. Glue and clamp the doors. With the glue dry, rabbet the rear edges of the door openings and square the corners with a chisel. Drill holes for pulls [Sources]. Finish-sand the doors.

2Cut the door glass stops (P, Q) ½" longer than listed. Finish-sand the stops and set them aside.

Install the doors in the case with no-Importise hinges [Drawing 3, Exploded View, Sources], leaving equal gaps all around. Install magnetic catches [Sources].

► Hang perfectly spaced inset doors. woodmagazine.com/ fittingdoors



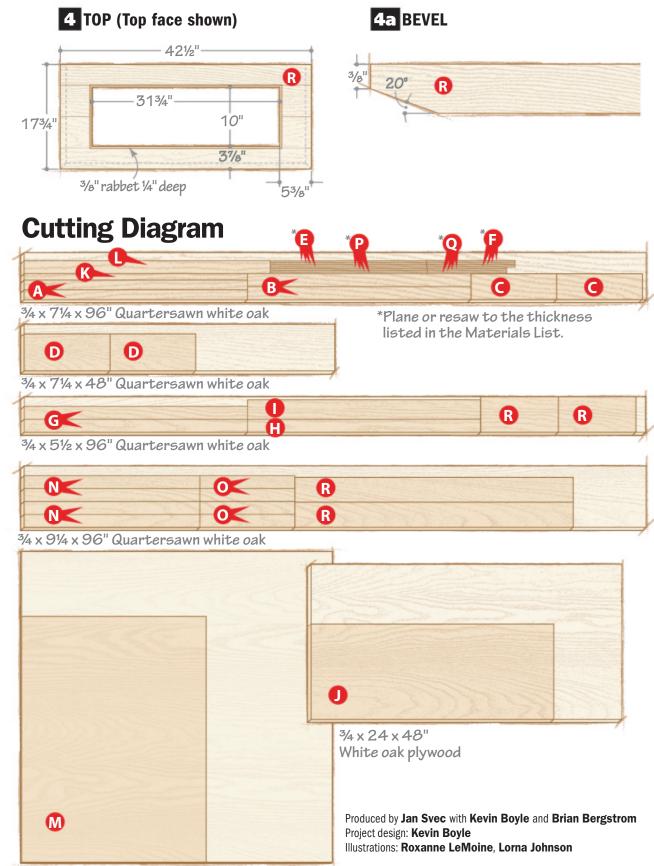
Glue and clamp the panel halves between the rails, creating an opening for the top glass.

# Top it off

- For the top (R), cut two  $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{8} \times 43$ " rails and edge-join a  $\frac{3}{4} \times 10 \times 12$ " panel. With the glue dry, crosscut the panel in half. Assemble the top [**Drawing 4, Photo C**].
- With the glue dry, trim the top to length, and rabbet the upper inside edges of the opening [Drawing 4]. Bevel the ends and front edge [Exploded View, Drawing 4a] on the tablesaw. Finish-sand the top.

# Finish up

Remove all hardware. Inspect all parts and assemblies and finish-sand where necessary. Apply a finish. (We used water-based satin polyurethane.)



Materials List										
Part		T	INISHED <b>W</b>	SIZE L	Matl.	Qty.				
Ca	se			3 3						
_A	side front stiles	3/4"	1½"	34½"	Q0	2				
В	side rear stiles	3/4"	2"	34½"	Q0	2				
С	side upper rails	3/4"	4"	13¼"	Q0	2				
D	side lower rails	3/4"	5¾"	13¼"	Q0	2				
E*	side vertical stops	1/4"	1/4"	23¾"	Q0	4				
F*	side horizontal stops	1/4"	1/4"	11¾"	Q0	4				
G	face-frame stiles	3/4"	2"	34½"	Q0	2				
Н	face-frame upper rail	3/4"	2"	36"	Q0	1				
Ι	face-frame lower rail	3/4"	3"	36"	Q0	1				
J	bottom	3/4"	14¾"	37½"	OP	1				
K	trim	3⁄4"	1"	34½"	Q0	1				
L	stretcher	3/4"	2"	38"	Q0	1				
М	back	1/4"	38"	28½"	OP	1				
Do	ors and top									
N	door stiles	3/4"	2"	27½"	Q0	4				
0	door rails	3⁄4"	2"	1411/16"	Q0	4				
P*	door vertical stops	1/4"	1/4"	23%"	Q0	4				
Q*	door horizontal stops	1/4"	1/4"	13¾16"	Q0	4				
R*	top	3/4"	17¾"	42½"	EQ0	1				

**Materials key:** Q0-quartersawn white oak, OP-white oak plywood, EQ0-edge-joined quartersawn white oak. **Supplies:** #8×%" flathead screws; %" micro pins; %" shelf pins (8);  $12\%\times23\%$ " single-strength seeded glass (2);  $13\%6\times23\%$ " single-strength seeded glass (2);  $4\times10\%\times32\%$ " glass, edges ground and polished;  $4\times14\%\times36\%$ " glass, edges ground and polished (2). **Blade and bits:** Dado set; %" and %" rabbet router bits.

\*Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

**Sources:** Figure-8 fasteners, 20-pack no. 13K01.50, \$3.30 pk. (1 pack); ball-tip full-wrap inset hinges, dark antique English finish no. 01H30.32, \$4.70 ea. (4); %" rare-earth magnets no. 99K32.03, \$0.75 ea. (2); %" panel magnet cups no. 99K32.72, \$2.90 ea. (2); ½" steel washers no. 99K32.62, \$0.60 ea. (2), Lee Valley, 800-871-8158, leevalley.com.

Vertical pulls with cast drops and antique finish no. MS-28, 23.25 ea. (2), Horton Brasses, 00-754-9127, horton-brasses.com.

Note: Seeded glass in the sides and doors provides an antique look. Use standard glass for the top and shelves. 2 Have single-strength glass cut to fit the sides and doors (1/8" less in length and width than the rabbeted openings) or cut it yourself from glass you already may have on hand [Skill Builder]. Have 1/4" glass cut and the edges ground and polished for the shelves and top panel. Trim the glass stops (E, F, P, Q) to fit and install the glass. (We used a micro-pinner to secure the stops.)

Install the doors and hardware. Secure the top with figure-8 fasteners. Move the case to its ultimate location and install the top panel and rest the shelves on shelf pins [Sources]. Arrange your collection on the shelves, step back, and see it sparkle!

**Tip!** To get the best fit for the top glass panel, take the finished top (R) to a glass shop and have them cut and finish the glass to leave a ½16" gap all around.

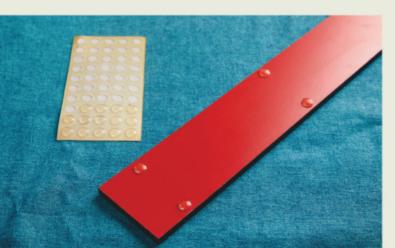
# **SKILL BUILDER**

# Cut glass, save cash

That assortment of perfectly good single- and double-strength window glass in the corner of your shop is worth around \$3 per square foot. Here's how to safely and effectively cut that glass to size for anything from cabinet doors to picture frames.



Cover a flat, sturdy worksurface with a heavy dropcloth to prevent scratching the glass and gather your supplies.



Make a straightedge using any sturdy ¼"-thick material from tempered hardboard to aluminum bar stock. Apply self-adhesive bumpers to prevent slipping.



Wipe the area of the cut with a clean damp cloth to remove dirt and grit.



Position the straightedge and drip or brush paint thinner along the cut path. The thinner lubricates the cut, ensuring a cleaner score line, and prolongs the life of the cutter.



**Grip the glass cutter between index and middle fingers.** Apply firm, even pressure with your index finger as you draw the cutter over the glass along the straightedge in a single stroke.



The score line should be even and continuous with no gaps. Do not rescore the line, as doing so usually leads to a bad break.



**Position the score line** just off the edge of the worksurface, firmly grip the waste piece, and snap the glass along the score line with a quick, firm downward motion.

woodmagazine.com 29





**Most hardwood retailers offer short boards** and sample lots at reduced prices. Take advantage of those to try working new wood species without much risk.

fter tools, the wood itself typically takes the biggest bite out of a woodworker's wallet. Home-center lumber proves a hard-to-resist temptation because of the convenience. But that premilled lumber, especially hardwood, sells at a premium price, compared with buying it roughsawn or partially milled. Starting from the log, every handling and machining step that's done before you buy it adds to your cost. So the closer you get to the log, in most cases, the more you save. You'll also have to do more of those machining steps, but you can, over a few projects, save enough money to pay for a jointer and planer, two machines crucial to dimensioning rough lumber. You can also find a greater selection of sizes and species by shopping at businesses dedicated to selling wood. Let's look at the options.

# **Woodworking retailers**

These businesses specialize in all things woodworking: tools, machinery, bits, blades, hardware, glues, finishes, and, yes, some kiln-dried wood. For example, Woodcraft and Rockler sell selections of S4S hardwood boards, veneer, and natural-edge slabs. If you live near one of these stores, you'll save money by not paying for shipping, and gain the ability to sort through the boards to find what you want. Some stores will cut boards to shorter lengths.

# Hardwood retailer/wholesaler

Companies that specialize in selling kilndried wood, such as Jewell Hardwoods,



**Find exotic wood species at retailers** that specialize in hardwoods, such as Woodworker's Source, shown here. These imported woods offer distinctive looks not common with domestic species, but at a premium price due to their origins and greater shipping costs.

Woodworker's Source, Hearne Hardwoods, and Talarico Hardwoods, buy (or mill the wood themselves) in great enough quantities to offer competitive pricing. The wood from these sellers usually comes skip-planed just under its designated thickness. For example, 4/4 lumber (starting at 1") might be %" thick. You can plane away any slight warping that might occur after the wood stabilizes, and still get ¾"-thick boards.

Unless you can visit the business, most times you have to trust their selections without seeing the boards. Shipping costs can quickly eat up the savings of lower-cost lumber though, so shop around and compare; a retailer located closer to you will likely have lower shipping costs. Check with trade groups, such as the Hardwood Distributor's Association (hardwooddistributors.org), to find nearby retailers.

When shopping for lumber online, you might be able to view specific boards, but more often will be "buying blind" and simply getting what the retailer sends. Also, unless stated, you won't know the moisture content of the wood and how it will react to your environment. Be sure to check the company's return policy for wood. You might get a break on shipping costs by buying in greater quantity or price. Some retailers offer online shopping, where you can see and select specific slabs or lumber lots, complete with photos. And many of these businesses also sell highquality sheet goods in a wide variety of hardwood veneers.

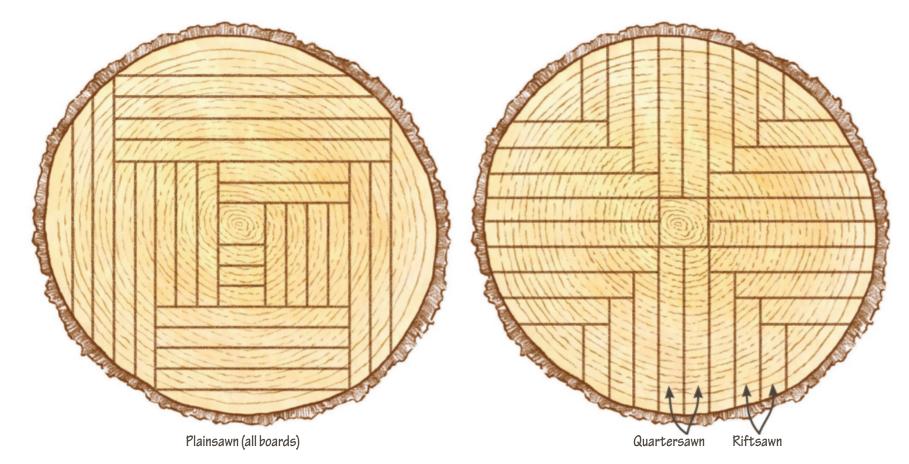
▶ Skip-planed: Wood planed on both faces just enough to reveal the grain, but retaining some milling marks. Roughsawn: Wood that still has its just-off-the-sawmill surfaces.

Hardwood: Any tree that sheds its leaves annually (deciduous).
Softwood: Any tree that has needles rather than leaves and stays green all year (coniferous).

**S4S:** Wood that has been surfaced on all four faces and edges.

Learn more about hardwood terminology and grading specifications. woodmagazine.com/

woodmagazine.com 31



# Sawmill/custom sawyer

Purchasing from a local sawmill or sawyer often proves one of the best values in lumber buying. These mills typically buy logs from within a few hundred miles of their locations. So your choice of wood species will be limited, compared with national retailers. If the mill has its own kiln for drying lumber, expect to pay more than for air-dried boards. Air-dried lumber will likely measure about 12–15 percent moisture. (Ideal working moisture is 6–10 percent; that figure varies by climate.) This wood will typically be roughsawn; to work this lumber you'll definitely need a jointer and planer.

If you have your own logs, a sawyer with a bandsaw or chainsaw mill can often bring the mill to the logs, or you can take the logs to the mill. Either way, you pay for the sawyer's services, but keep all the wood. Some sawyers discount their fees if you help cut and stack the lumber. Also, you can direct how the sawyer cuts the log. An experienced, skilled sawyer will typically cut logs for maximum yield with the least amount of time and effort. This results in more plainsawn lumber (*above*). To get more quartersawn or riftsawn lumber, you'll get less yield and pay more for the extra labor. As soon as you've cut the wood, stack it to dry (shown *below left*) in a barn, shed, or anywhere out of direct weather.

If you prefer, you can buy your own bandsaw mill (below center) or chainsaw mill (below right) and saw your own logs into lumber. Entry-level bandsaw mills start at around \$4,000. Many chainsaw mills sell for less than \$1,000, but you'll need a hefty chainsaw (another \$800 to \$1,300 plus ripping chain) to power it. Most chainsaw mills require a great deal more physical labor in milling logs, compared with a bandsaw mill.

► Watch a video of a bandsaw milling a log, as well as tips for stacking the lumber. woodmagazine.com/ bandsawmill

▶To locate a sawyer near you, search the websites of bandsaw-mill manufacturers.

Most have locator services for customers who use their mills professionally.

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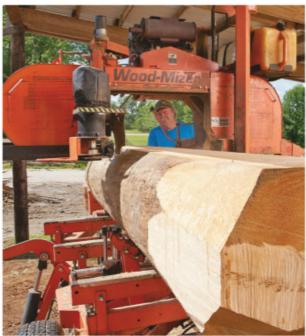
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lumber.

wood moisture content



**Stack fresh-cut boards to air-dry** with narrow spacers (called stickers) between each row. Let the wood dry for at least one year per inch of thickness.



**A bandsaw-mill operator will custom-cut** logs to your specifications. These mills cut the thinnest kerf, wasting less wood.



A chainsaw mill has the added benefit of being the most portable, letting you cut a log where it fell, eliminating the need to drag or move the log.

# Other cost-saving options

**Auctions.** Many farm and estate auctions include stacks of lumber, sometimes including gems, such as walnut, cherry, or white oak. Auctioneers typically sell this lumber by the stack, and often at bargain prices. When assessing a stack of lumber, determine the species, quality, and approximate board footage. If possible, scrape a few boards to get a peek at the grain. And beware of potential pitfalls: The lumber could contain nails, nail holes, splits, cracks, or worm and insect damage. Armed with this information, bid accordingly. Also, be sure you have a way to transport the lumber—most auctions require you to take your prizes home that same day as well as a dry place to store it.

▶ Board foot: The

measure by which

hardwoods sell. A

hoard

board foot equals 144

cubic inches, such as a  $1\times12\times12$ " or  $2\times6\times12$ "

► A few tools to carry

with you when looking

meter, tape measure,

at lumber: moisture

pocketknife, block

plane, calculator.

- Craigslist.org. This online buy/sell site can be both a gold mine and a junkyard, so browse and shop with a discerning eye. To make it easier to see and get the wood, search only the area within driving distance. Ask for details, such as board sizes, condition, and moisture content. Always look over the wood in person before handing over money! Inspect and measure the boards to make sure you're getting the correct species and amount advertised.
- eBay. Like craigslist, this online buy/sell site reaches nationwide, but you can limit your search to postings that originate within a certain radius of home, using the "advanced" search option. When buying boards from a seller too far away to drive, expect to pay shipping costs. Wood on this website tends to involve specific boards or slabs, or unusual pieces, such as burls. Always check the seller's rating: 100-percent positive feedback helps ease worries about buying something sight-unseen. And you can, in most cases, readily return items purchased on eBay—something not possible with craigslist or auction sales.
- Club links and discounts. Woodworking clubs or guilds might provide members with discounts at local retailers. Many clubs also provide links and contact information for trusted retailers along with sources for wood and other supplies. So that club membership might pay for itself in savings available only to members. And, club members tend to share information about sources, and even sell their own lumber at times.
- ▶If you do buy your lumber from a home center, read more about how to shop for the best quality.

  woodmagazine.com/
  homecenterlumber

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Produced by **Bob Hunter** 

Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help minneapolis.craigslist.org for sale Q lumbe 1 - 120 / 228 furniture 2 ☑ tools 16 bundle dupl 55448 \$2000 (North St Paul, MN) \$2000 (North St Paul, MN) Ave, Long Lake MN) crating \$35 cryptocurrency of product recalls Oct 25 Lumber (So Mpls) Oct 24 Live Edge Lumber and Wood

**Searching for lumber online can lead to** occasional gems, but be diligent in determining what the seller has before going to take a look. Some sellers overestimate or don't know exactly the type and amount of wood they have.

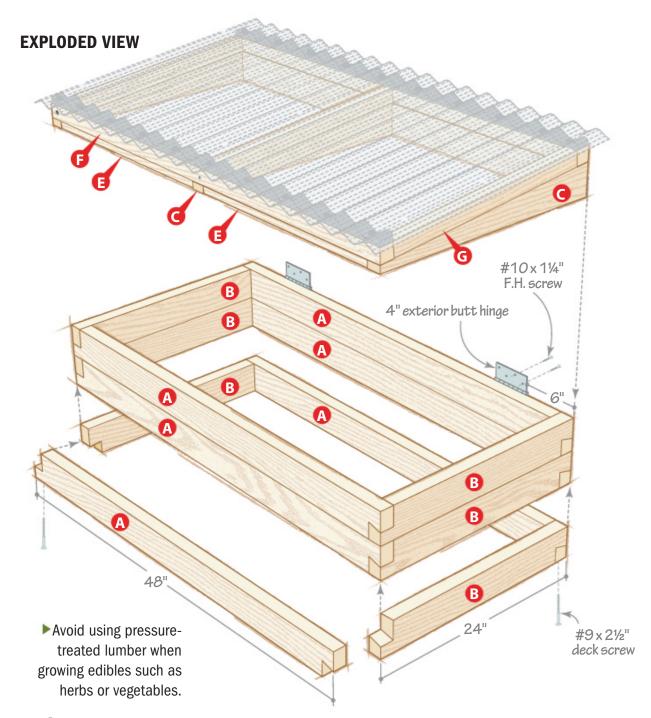
woodmagazine.com



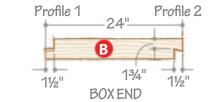
### **Seed Starter Tips**

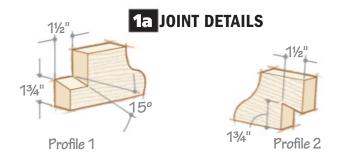
Seed starters protect seedlings from temperature extremes until they're ready to plant in a garden. Here's how to use your new project:

- To check the temperature in the seed starter without going outside, install a remote-sensor outdoor thermometer [Sources] inside the frame. Some models even record high and low temperatures.
- Before starting plants, practice controlling the temperature within the box. Monitor the heat buildup on sunny days and prop the lid open as needed to release excess heat.
- For better temperature control, line the inside walls with 1"-thick foam insulation board. Leave a 1" gap between the top of the foam and the top edge of the wooden box.
- To seal in warmth at night, lay a foam board on the top edges of the foam liner. An old blanket draped over the whole seed starter also helps.
- Place jugs of water inside the frame. The heat they store up during the day releases gradually at night.
- If you position the seed starter on a deck or patio to grow seeds in pots, rest it on at least one layer of foam board.



# Profile 1 Profile 2





### **Build the box**

For each layer (A/B), you'll cut different but mating profiles at opposite ends for a chasing assembly. Three layers stack to 10½" high, but you can add more to boost the height of the sides. Repeat **Steps 1-6** for each layer.

1 Cut the box fronts, backs, and ends (A, B) to length [Materials List]. Label the outside face of each piece. With the outside face toward you, mark the left end "Profile 1" and the right end "Profile 2" [Drawings 1 and 1a].

**2**Clamp two box fronts/backs (A) and two ends (B) on edge with the outside faces away from you and the ends flush. To establish the shoulder of each joint, cut a 1¾"-deep kerf 1½" from the flush ends [**Drawing 1, Photo A**]. Flip the pieces onto their opposite edges, make the unsawn ends flush, and clamp and saw as before.

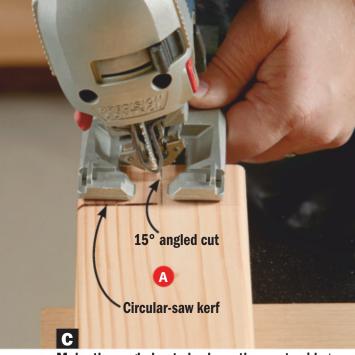
**3** To cut the Profile 1 ends, tilt the base of a jigsaw to 15° [**Photo B**]. Mark a centered line



**Align the ends of the box pieces** (A, B) for consistently positioned kerfs and a wide, stable surface for the saw base to ride on.



**With your circular-saw**, crosscut a scrapwood block at 15°. Use the block to set the jigsaw blade angle.



Make the angled cut slowly on the waste side to ensure a straight cut that, if necessary, can be fine-tuned with a chisel.



**Press a handsaw blade against the "keeper" side** of the kerf and cut at an angle to remove the waste.



**Transfer the angle from the cut end** to the inside face of the mating piece. A square helps ensure the edges stay flush as you mark.

on the inside face of a front/back (A). Jigsaw along the line to the circular-saw kerf [Photo C].

Complete the cut using a handsaw [Photo D]. Repeat for the other Profile 1 ends.

**5** Scribe a Profile 1 end onto the inside face of its mating piece [Photo E]. Set the jigsaw base back to 90° and cut along the scribed line [Drawing 1, Photo F]. Repeat for the remaining Profile 2 ends.

Test-fit each joint [Photo G]. Screw the frame pieces together [Exploded View].

### Top it with a lid

Lay out the lid wedges (C) [Drawing 2] on a 2×4. Rip them to shape [Photo H] before cutting them to length.

**2**Cut the lid backs and fronts (D, E) to length, but wait to cut the bevels. Glue and screw two lid wedges (C) to a lid back and front. Add the second lid back and front and a third wedge.

Sand or plane bevels [Drawing 2] on parts D and E to match the lid wedges (C).

4 Cut the lid rails (F) and stiles (G) to size, and glue and screw them together. Glue this assembly to the lower assembly (C–E).

**5** Plane or sand bevels on the lid rails (F) [**Drawing 2**]. Then sand the lid assembly (C-G).

►Use a wood glue rated for exterior use.

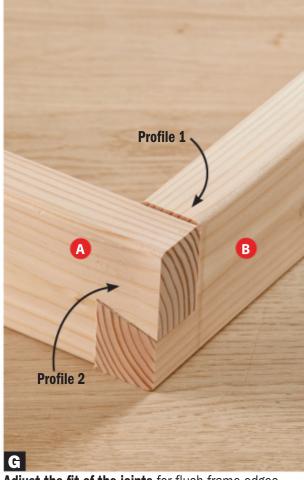


**Tip!** For smooth cuts

from your circular saw, use a 40- or 60-tooth

blade.

**Cut on the waste side of the scribed line** connecting the end of the board to the circular-saw kerf.



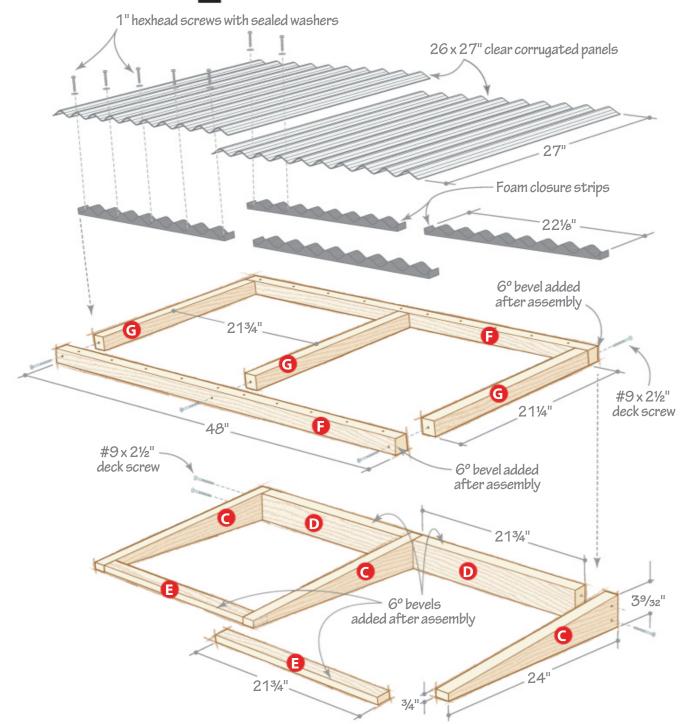
**Adjust the fit of the joints** for flush frame edges with no gaps between the pieces.



**Ripping the lid wedge (C) angle** from an oversize piece of stock makes it easier and safer to cut with a circular saw.

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### **2** LID ASSEMBLY



Note: Drilling ¼" holes in the plastic allows the panel to expand without buckling. Avoid overdriving washer screws—the gasket should not squeeze out around the washer.

### Add the finishing touches

1 Apply exterior-oil finish or paint to the lid and frame assemblies. (We used natural-tone Thompson's Waterseal timber oil.)

**2**Cut two 26"-wide clear panels 27" long [Sources] using a 40- or 60-tooth blade. Drill ¼" holes in the valleys of the corrugation [Drawing 2]. Cut foam closure strips to follow the corrugations.

Center the panels on the lid (they overhang on all sides), and screw the panels and foam to the lid rails (F). Install the hinges [Exploded View].

To install the cold frame, prepare a flat location on bare soil. (Add soil amendments or nutrients as needed.) Rest the bottom frame on the soil and drive 2×2 stakes at the inside corners, leaving enough of each stake exposed to hold the remaining stacked frames and lid assembly in place.

**Materials List** 

Widterials List						
	FINISHED SIZE					
Pai	Part		W	L	Matl.	Qty.
Α	box fronts/backs	1½"	3½"	48"	DF	6*
В	box ends	1½"	3½"	24"	DF	6*
С	lid wedges	1½"	33/32"	24"	DF	3
D	lid backs	1½"	3%2"	21¾"	DF	2
Е	lid fronts	3/4"	1½"	21¾"	DF	2
F	lid rails	1½"	1½"	48"	DF	2
G	lid stiles	1½"	1½"	21¼"	DF	3

<sup>\*</sup>Cut additional parts to build a taller frame.

Materials key: DF-Douglas fir.

**Supplies:**  $26"\times6'$  clear corrugated roof panel, foam closure strips (8' total), 4" exterior butt hinges (2), 1" hexhead screws with sealed washers,  $\#9\times2\frac{1}{2}$ " deck screws,  $\#10\times1\frac{1}{4}$ " flathead screws.

**Blade:** 40- or 60-tooth circular-saw blade.

**Sources:** 26"×6' clear corrugated roof panel and foam closure strips available at most home centers.

ThermoPro PT-60S digital indoor/outdoor thermometer, \$17.99, woodmagazine.com/outdoortemp

Produced by Robert Wilson with John Olson

Project design: John Olson

Illustrations: Roxanne LeMoine, Lorna Johnson



### You gotta obey the speed limits

For best results running a CNC, you must control the feed rate and rpm of the router. You do this all the time with handheld routers, probably without thinking about it. Handheld routers constantly provide tactile feedback and you respond by changing feed rate, reducing the depth of cut, changing the rpm, or all of the above. A CNC router can't respond like a human, so you need to tell the machine what to do. Otherwise, it will quickly dull or break bits, and produce poor-quality cuts. Check the machine's owner's manual to learn how to set rpm and feed rate.

This article serves as a starting point rather than a comprehensive feed and speed guide. If you use different router bits or materials (such as aluminum instead of brass) you'll need to experiment, and possibly change the listed parameters. Some CNC routers yield good cut quality at faster feeds, others require slower feed rates. Good cut quality and router bit longevity depend on chip load—the size of the chip the router bit makes. If you see dust, not chips, the setup needs tweaking. Find chip-load calculators on the web; router bit manufacturers also can help.

►Try a free trial of a speed and feed calculator. woodmagazine.com/cncfeedspeed

► Watch a free video demonstrating each of the projects shown. woodmagazine.com/ cnccuts

**Notes:** To create an incised sign, select only

the letters and the coffee cup when you

create the V-Carve/

Engraving Toolpath.

Cut most hardwoods

shown here.

with the feed and speed

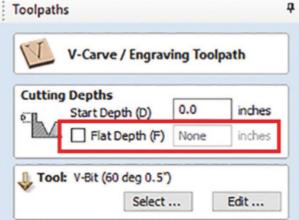
### **Wood sign: Incised letters**

When people first consider what they'll make with a CNC router, making wood signs tops the list. Master this simple process and earn back some of the money you invested in the machine, or just knock out some cool gifts.

For the letters and cup:

- Router bit: 60° ½" V-bit
- **RPM:** 12,000
- Feed speed: 100"/min





**An engraving toolpath requires no depth of cut.** The software automatically "fills" each letter based on the angle and diameter of the V-bit.

For the rectangle border:

- Router bit: 60° ½" V-bit
- **RPM:** 12,000
- Feed speed: 100"/min

Toolpaths						
2D Profile Toolp	ath					
Cutting Depths  Start Depth (D)	0.0	inches				
Cut Depth (C)	0.06	inches				
✓ Show advanced tool	path option	ns				
Passes: 1 Edit Passes						
Machine Vectors  Outside / Right  Inside / Left  On  Direction  Climb  Conventional						
Direction Ocimb	Convento	n roi				
Allowance offset 0.0	inche	s				

**This toolpath requires** *Cut Depth* as it "traces" a single line, not a letter with boundaries. The .06" (about ½16") creates a visible detail. Don't worry about the image under *Cutting Depths* that shows a square profile rather than a V. This is a standard image for this toolpath, regardless of the bit being used.

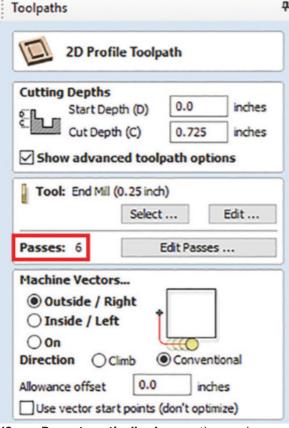


For cutting the exterior:

Router bit: ½" upcut spiral

■ **RPM:** 12,000

Feed speed: 100"/min



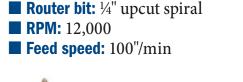
**VCarve Pro automatically chooses** the number of passes based on bit diameter and material thickness. You can modify this as needed, with harder material requiring more passes.

▶The designs and toolpaths used in this article were created in VCarve Pro, software commonly used with benchtop CNC machines.
Find it at vectric.com.

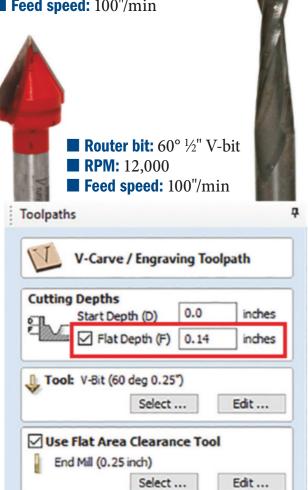
### **Wood sign: Raised letters**

These first two projects show how using different toolpaths on the same design can dramatically affect the final look. This shows the versatility of CNC router work.

For the letters, coffee cup, and border:



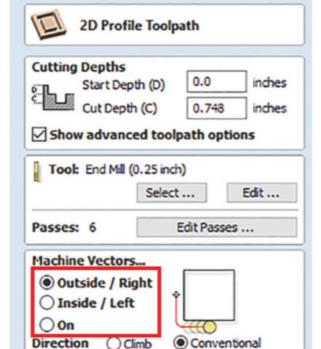
**Note:** To get raised letters and graphics, select the border, letters, and coffee cup when you create the toolpath.



Flat Depth tells you how much the letters and cup will project beyond the background. The ½" bit serves as a Flat Area Clearance Tool, removing waste faster than a V-bit, which routs the finish details. This one toolpath shows both bits but they will, of course, be used separately.



RPM: 12,000
Feed speed: 100"/min

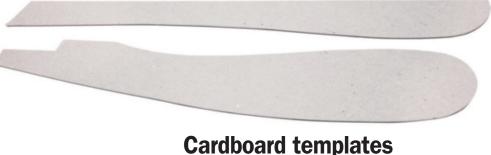


**You can cut** *Outside, Inside, or On the line* you've created. This controls where the router bit cuts relative to the design.

Use vector start points (don't optimize)

inches

Allowance offset



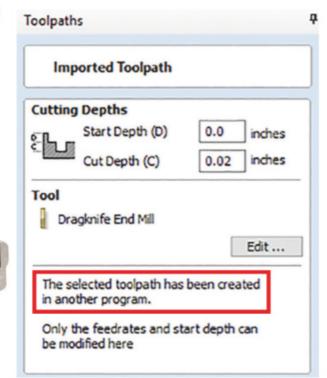
Notes: This tool comes with great setup instructions. To create the toolpath within VCarve Pro, use the Dragknife Toolpath Gadget. The knife cuts materials up to ¼" thick, such as cardboard, styrene, and vinyl-letter material.

Create shapes in drawing software, such as SketchUp, then turn them into templates you can trace onto your project parts. Instead of a router bit, cut with a utility-knife blade.

■ Tool: Donek D4 drag knife

**RPM:** 0

■ Feed speed: 100"/min



Although VCarve
Pro has an on-board
dragknife gadget built
into the software, it
shows up here as an
imported toolpath.



▶360 brass is a specific type of readily available brass [Sources].

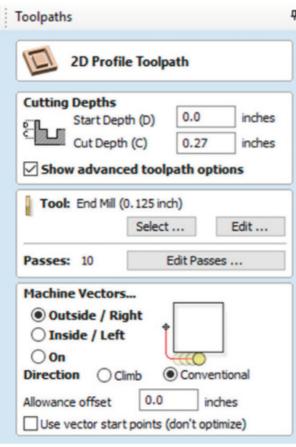
### 360-brass bowtie

Yes, a CNC router can cut non-ferrous metals. Add aluminum, copper, or brass inlays and other decorative items to your projects.

■ Router bit: ½" spiral "O" single flute

■ RPM: 18,000

■ Feed speed: 40"/min



**Cutting non-ferrous metal requires light cuts**, so the machine makes many passes.

Notes: In addition to controlling feed rate and rpm, be careful about DOC when machining non-ferrous metals. Dividing the .27 Cut Depth by the 10 passes results in a light .027" DOC with each pass. You can use a similar setup to cut aluminum or copper, but different materials dictate slight changes in these settings.

### **Engraving granite**

Diamonds are a CNC's best friend, especially for engraving glass, granite, or steel. A diamond-tipped stylus etches amazing detail on these materials, and others.

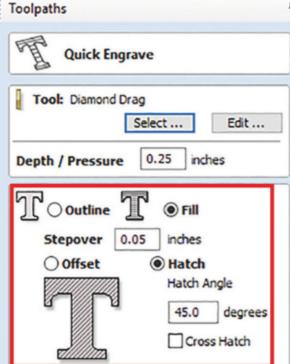
■ Tool: Diamond drag engraving bit

**■ RPM:** 0

■ Feed speed: 30"/min



**Notes:** The diamond drag comes with excellent setup instructions. Increasing DOC on the spring-loaded tip applies the additional pressure required for harder material. It may take some experimentation to get the best cut, depending on the material. Use this tool on plastic, glass, aluminum, brass, and steel. Choose a 120° tip for engraving, and a 90° tip for scoring glass so you can snap it on the score line.



CALLED STATES

Find lots of options to experiment with in the *Quick Engrave* toolpath. Stepover controls line spacing within the engraving. A small number places the lines close together making the final result appear more opaque. Hatch Angle is the angle at which the lines are engraved. I commonly use 45°—experiment to see what you like.

### **Polycarbonate**

Etch polycarbonate to create a translucent sign to hang in a window. Or back- or edgelight it with LEDs for a cool glow.

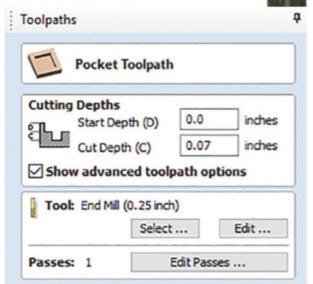
For etching the letters:

■ Tool: ¼" spiral "O" single-flute, plastic cutting used for all operations

**RPM:** 16,000

■ Feed speed: 70"/min

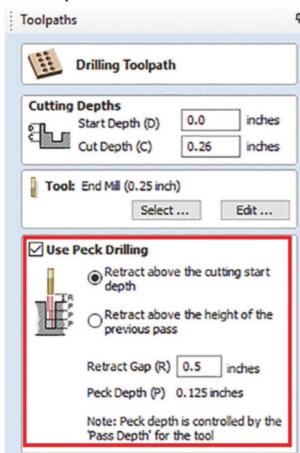
Note: When making signs in polycarbonate, reverse the image and cut from the back, leaving the front smooth.



A light *Cut Depth* suffices for etching letters or artwork in polycarbonate and typically can be done in one pass.

For boring the hanger hole:

■ **RPM**: 16,000 **Feed speed**: N/A



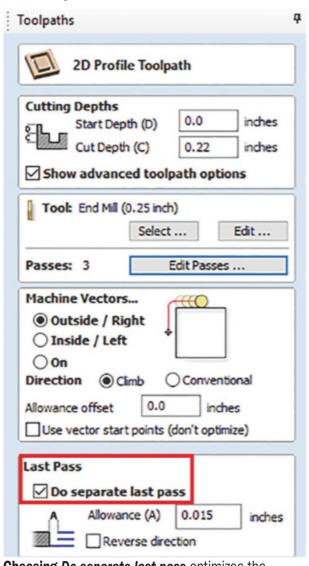
When you Retract above the cutting start depth, the bit repeatedy drills, then raises. That clears the flutes of material prone to sticking to the bit.



For cutting the exterior:

■ RPM: 16,000

**■ Feed speed:** 70"/min



**Choosing Do separate last pass** optimizes the surface finish of the cut. In this case, the part gets cut .015" oversize. The last pass skims off that small amount of material, providing a smooth edge.

### **Foam insulation**

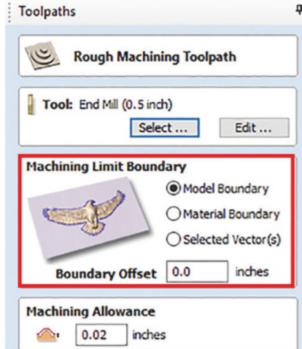
Prototype a project before cutting into expensive wood by cutting and carving foam insulation. Thick foam serves well for paintable letters, decorations, and more.

For initial 3D roughing:

Tool: ½" spiral upcut

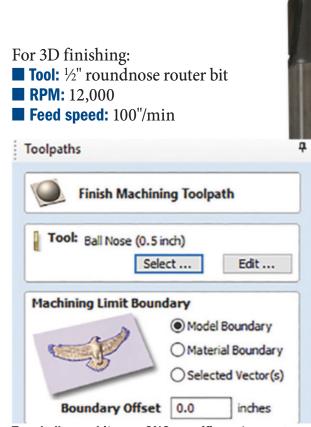
RPM: 12,000

Feed speed: 100"/min



insulation sold by home centers. Painting the final result? Use latex paint to prevent melting the foam.

In most cases you machine 3D artwork to the Model Boundary; literally the edges of the artwork. You can choose to cut all the way to the edge of material (Material Boundary), or to a shape that you created (Selected Vectors).



True ball nose bits are CNC specific and a musthave for small-scale 3D work. For this large 3D artwork, a ½" roundnose router bit works fine.



For cutting out the exterior: ■ Tool: ½" spiral upcut **RPM:** 12,000 Feed speed: 100"/min Toolpaths 2D Profile Toolpath **Cutting Depths** 0.0 Start Depth (D) inches Cut Depth (C) 2.02 inches ✓ Show advanced toolpath options Tool: End Mill (0.5 inch) Select ... Edit ... Edit Passes ... Passes: 12 Machine Vectors... Outside / Right ○ Inside / Left O On Direction Oclimb Conventional

**Use the** *Edit Passes function* if you want to increase or decrease the number of passes.

Use vector start points (don't optimize)

0.0

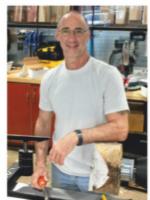
inches

**Sources:** Freud 60°  $\frac{1}{2}$ " V-bit, no. 20-152; Freud  $\frac{1}{4}$ " upcut spiral, no. 75-102; Amana  $\frac{1}{6}$ " spiral "0" flute aluminum cutting, no. 51454; Amana  $\frac{1}{4}$ " spiral "0" flute plastic cutting, no. 51404; Donek D4 drag knife; WidgetWorks Unlimited diamond drag engraving tool; Whiteside  $\frac{1}{2}$ " upcut spiral bit, no. RU5200 (for 1" foam you can use a shorter bit); Whiteside  $\frac{1}{2}$ " ballnose bit, no. 1408. The link below places all of the above bits in an Amazon cart; you can remove any you don't need. woodmagazine.com/cncbits

 $\frac{1}{4} \times 2 \times 12$ " C360 brass plate, Stoner Metals, stonermetals.com, 719-629-9525

 $12 \times 12$ " granite tile, Home Depot Polycarbonate sheets, home centers

Allowance offset



In addition to classes at
Vondriska Woodworks in
Hammond, Wisconsin, George
teaches at woodworking shows,
guilds across the country, and
Weekend With WOOD. Get more
CNC instruction in George's
book, "CNC Router Essentials:
The Basics for Mastering the
Most Innovative Tool in Your
Workshop." woodmagazine.com/
cncessentials

**Notes:** Standard

router bits will easily

cut pink or blue foam

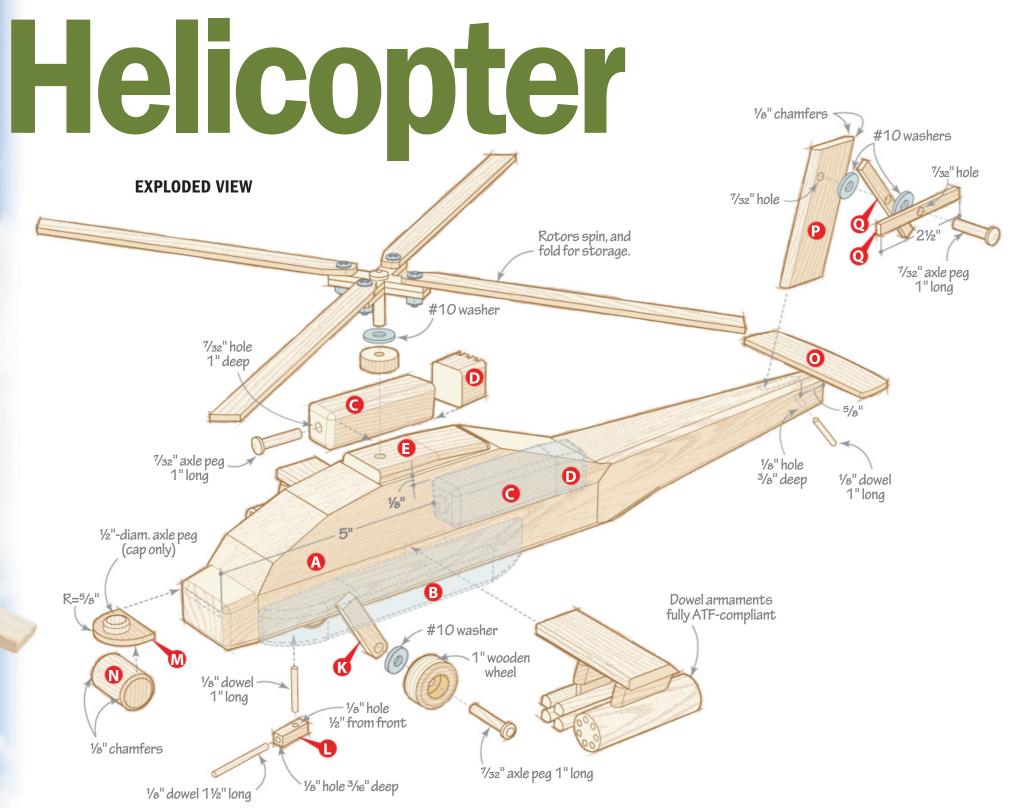


irst seeing service in 1986, the AH-64 "Apache" attack helicopter takes out tanks, bunkers, and other targets. This toy displays much of that firepower, disguised as maple dowels. Easily shape the Apache's iconic angled fuselage profile by following our full-size patterns. And we've gathered all of the hardware and specialty parts in a kit so you can get started quickly [Source].

**Tip!** Learn how to easily apply and remove patterns. woodmagazine.com/applypatterns



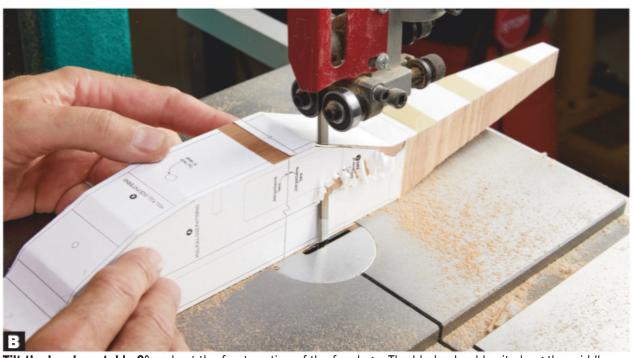
Bandsaw the tail profile between the indicated points on both faces.



### **Build the fuselage assembly**

1 Cut the fuselage (A) to size [Materials List, page 47]. Apply a copy of the Fuselage Sideview Full-size Pattern, pages 48 and 49, to it. Cut the fuselage profile and save the cutoff from under the tail. Drill the ½" hole centered on the width of the tail.

2 Apply the Top-view Patterns to the fuselage (there will be a gap between them), and tape the saved cutoff back in place. Cut the nose and tail profiles [Photo A] and the fuselage front [Photo B]. Remove the pattern remnants, and finish-sand the fuselage.



**Tilt the bandsaw table 6°** and cut the front portion of the fuselage. The blade should exit along the middle line of the **Side-view Pattern**.



**Remove the bulk of the waste** with a 3/8" Forstner bit, drilling 1/4" deep. Then, square up the pocket.

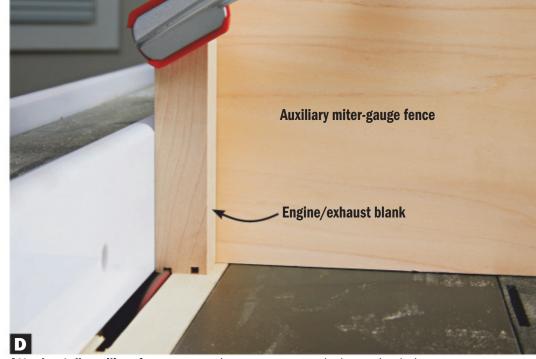
► Much of the Apache's avionics reside in the sponsons.

Tip! Use cyanoacrylate glue and a spray-on accelerator to join small, difficult-to-clamp parts.

Learn to cut and shape small parts safely. woodmagazine.com/ smallparts

Cut the sponsons (B) to size. Apply copies of the **Sponson Patterns** to each. Drill out most of the waste for the landing-gear pocket, then clean up the pocket with a chisel [Photo C]. Cut the sponsons to shape, finish-sand them, and glue them in place **Exploded View**].

Cut two  $\% \times \% \times 12$ " blanks for the engines (C) and exhausts (D). Kerf one end of each [Photo D, Drawing 1]. Round over the edges, then miter-cut an exhaust from each blank. Bevel-rip the long edge of each engine at 6° [Drawing 1a], then crosscut the engines to length. Glue an exhaust to each engine, angled outward. After the glue dries, drill the hole in the engine and glue in an axle peg [Source]. Glue the engines to the fuselage [Exploded View].



Attach a tall auxiliary face to your miter gauge to steady the engine/exhaust blank as you cut the kerfs.

Cut the rotor base (E) to size and shape **▶** [**Drawing 2**]. Round the edges, drill the hole, and glue it to the fuselage [Exploded View]. Drill through the hole ¾" into the fuselage.

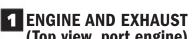
### **Give it wings...and arms**

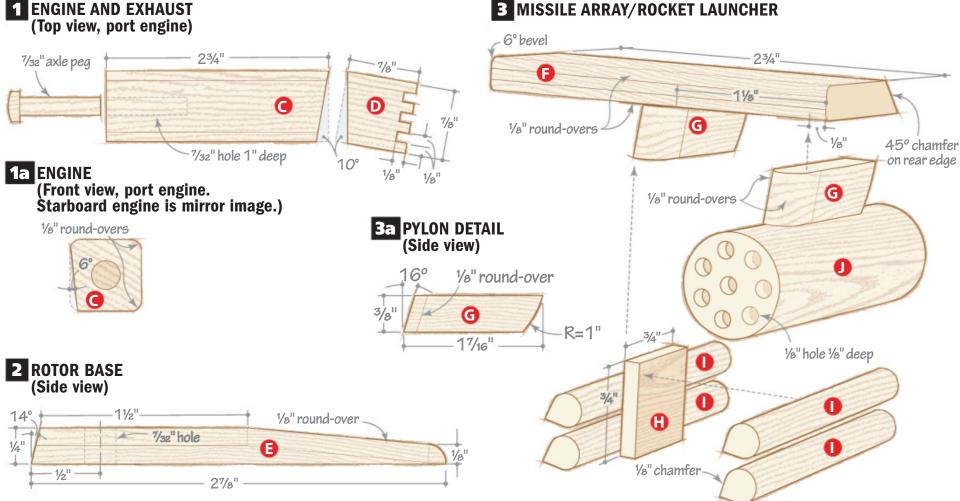
Cut the stub wings (F) to size [Materials List, Drawing 3]. Round the leading edges and chamfer the trailing edges. Bevel one end of each at 6° to match the fuselage. Glue the stub wings to the fuselage and sponsons with the chamfer facing up.

Cut the pylons (G) to shape [Drawing 3a]. Cut the missile hangers (H), missiles (I), and rocket launchers (J) to size. Sand a point on one end of each missile, and drill the holes in the rocket launchers [Pattern]. Glue the missiles to the hangers [Drawing 3]. After

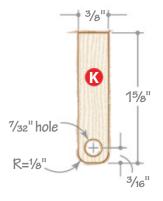
▶The scanning systems on the nose allow the Apache to operate day or night and in bad weather.

►The Apache's helmet-mounted display allows either the pilot or gunner to aim the 30mm cannon where they look.

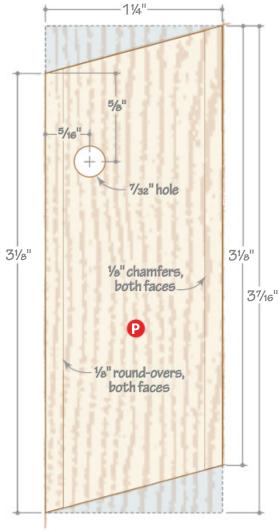




### FRONT-GEAR STRUT (Side view)



### 5 TAIL



the glue dries, adhere the missile assemblies (H/I) and the rocket launchers to the pylons. Glue these assemblies under each wing.

Cut and shape the front-gear struts (K) [Drawing 4]. Glue them into the recesses in the sponsons (B).

Cut the cannon (L) to size and drill the holes [Exploded View]. Glue the dowels in the holes and set the assembly aside.

**5**Cut the scanner mount (M) and scanner (N) to size [Exploded View]. Chamfer the ends of the scanner, then glue the mount to the nose. After the glue dries, glue the scanner below the mount. Cut an axle-peg head to serve as the night-vision turret and glue it to the top of the mount.

### Rear tail and rotors

1 Following the Full-size Pattern and Drawing 5, cut the rear wing (O) and tail (P) to shape. Drill the hole in the tail, round over its leading edge, and chamfer the trailing edge. Glue the wing and tail to the fuselage [Exploded View].

**2**Cut the tail rotors (Q) to size [Exploded View]. Drill the holes, and secure the rotors to the tail (P) with an axle peg and washers. Trim and sand the axle peg flush with the opposite face of the tail.

To form a blank for the rotor hub (R), laminate two pieces of ½"-thick stock with their grain perpendicular to each other. Cut the hub to shape [Drawing 6], and drill the holes.

Cut and shape the main rotor blades (S) and spacer (T), and drill the holes [Drawings 6 and 6a].

**5** Apply a finish to all pieces. (We sprayed on satin-finish aerosol lacquer.) Use CA glue to secure the cannon in place [Exploded

**View**]. Assemble the rotor assembly with machine screws, a washer, and lock nuts [**Drawing 6**], then secure the rotor assembly by gluing an axle peg through it and into the rotor base (E), leaving enough space to allow the rotor hub to spin. Likewise, secure the wheels to the struts [**Exploded View**], and glue a length of dowel in the tail of the fuselage.

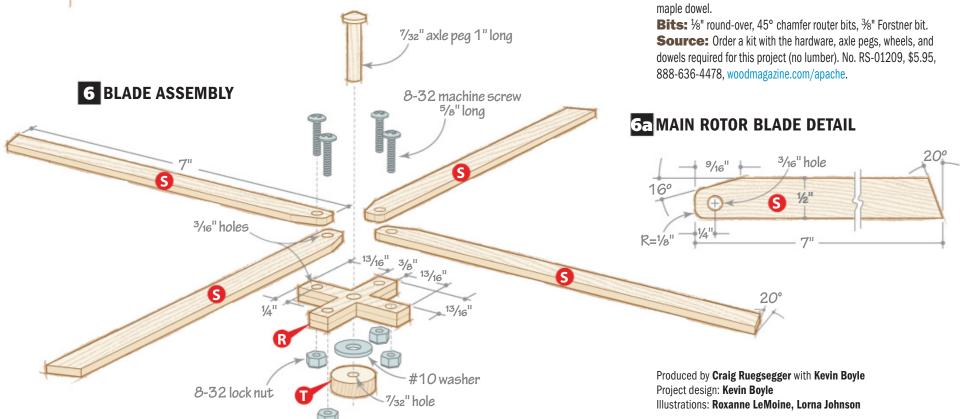
**Materials List** 

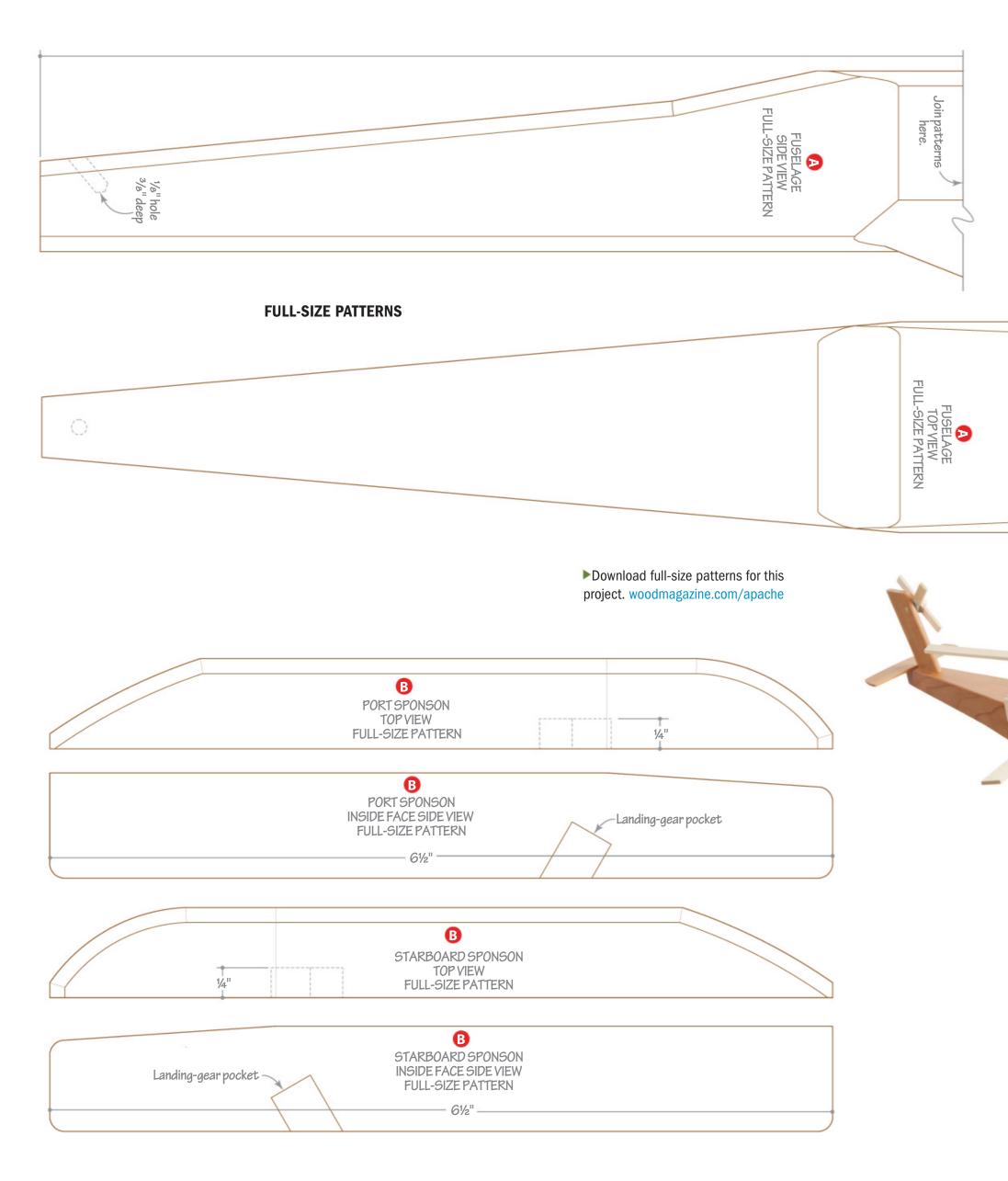
FINISHED SIZE						
Part		т'	M	) SIZE 	Matl.	Qty.
_A	fuselage	1¾"	2½"	16½"	С	1
В	sponsons	3/4"	½″	6½"	M	2
C*	engines	<b>%</b> "	%"	2¾"	M	2
D*	exhausts	½"	½″	7⁄8"	М	2
E	rotor base	1/4"	1¼"	2%"	М	1
F	stub wings	1/4"	1¼"	2¾"	С	2
G	pylons	1/4"	3/8"	17/16"	С	4
Н	missile hangers	1/4"	3/4"	3/4"	М	2
Т	missiles	1/4" (	diam.	2½"	MD	8
J	rocket launchers	3/4" (	diam.	2½"	MD	2
K	front-gear struts	1/4"	3/8"	1%"	М	2
L	cannon	1/4"	1/4"	3/4"	М	1
М	scanner mount	1/8"	7⁄8 <b>"</b>	11/4"	С	1
N	scanner	3/4" (	diam.	1%"	MD	1
0	rear wing	1/8"	<b>1</b> ½16"	3%"	С	1
Р	tail	1/4"	11/4"	31/16"	С	1
Q	tail rotor blades	1/8"	3/8"	2½"	М	2
R	rotor hub	1/4"	2"	2"	LM	1
S	main rotor blades	1/8"	<del>1/</del> 2"	7"	М	4
T	spacer	3/4" (	diam.	1/4"	CD	1
*D1-		ale e for				

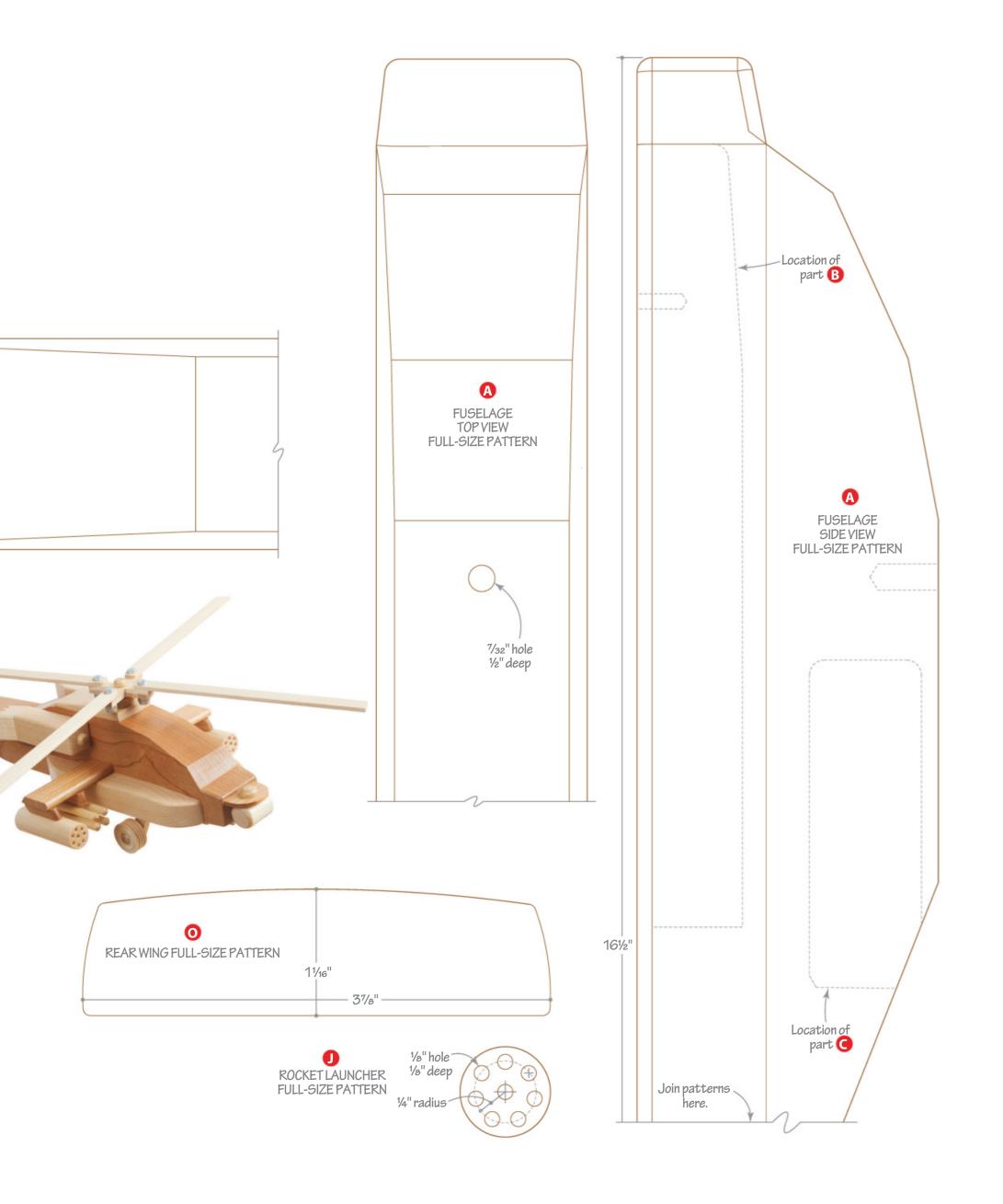
<sup>\*</sup>Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

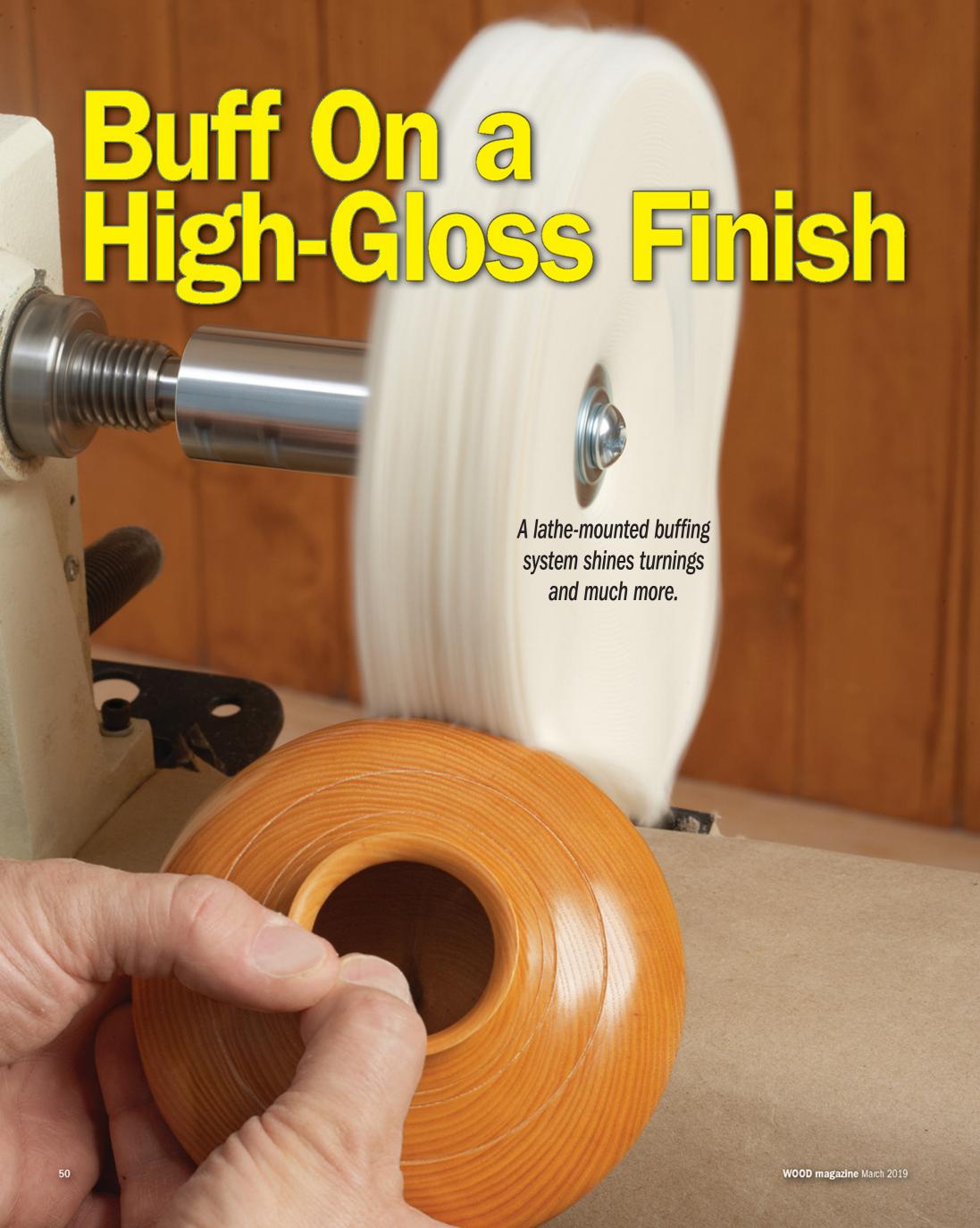
**Materials key:** C-cherry, M-maple, MD-maple dowel, LM-laminated maple, CD-cherry dowel.

**Supplies:**  $\%_{32} \times 1$ " axle pegs (6),  $\%_2$ " axle peg (1), 1"-diam. wood wheels (2), 8-32  $\times$  %" machine screws (4), 8-32 lock nuts (4), #10 washers (5),  $\%_4 \times 12$ " maple dowel,  $\%_4 \times 24$ " maple dowel,  $\%_8 \times 12$ "











An oil-varnish mix brings out the color of the wood and seals the pores while creating a foundation you can polish and wax.



**Sandpaper removes lint** that might otherwise find its way onto your project. Paper protects the lathe from loose polish.

or an eye-catching shine on turned projects, use the same tool that made them—your lathe. Then, stretch your equipment investment by using the same setup to finish other projects small enough to hold. You'll need a set of three buffing wheels, an adaptor for mounting the wheels, tripoli and white-diamond buffing compounds, and a bar of carnauba wax [Sources].

### Begin with a good finish

A glossy finish starts with smooth wood, so sand projects up to 320 grit before you begin polishing and waxing. On turned projects, follow up sanding on the lathe by hand-sanding with a 320-grit sanding sponge. If you're working with a hard exotic wood, such as cocobolo, continue sanding up to 1000 grit.

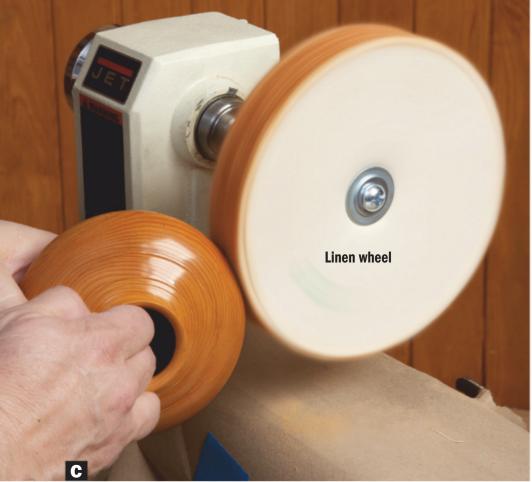
You can polish and wax bare wood, but a film finish provides better protection. We prefer one with a penetrating oil to make the grain "pop," so the bowl shown received four wipe-on coats of Waterlox Original [Photo A, Sources]. You can also use Danish oil, but avoid water-based finishes that can soften from the heat of the buffing wheel. Let the finish dry until you no longer smell solvent on the surface.

While you're waiting for the finish to dry, begin preparing your wheels. Attach a strip of adhesive-backed 100-grit sandpaper to a piece of flat scrap. Then, mount one of the buffing wheels on your lathe and set the motor speed to about 1,800 rpm. Note: For wheel preparation and buffing, wear eye protection and a respirator to guard against airborne lint and abrasives.

Turn on the lathe and press the abrasive against the fabric hard enough to slightly flare out the sides of the wheel [Photo B]. You can reduce the mess by having a helper hold the nozzle of a shop vacuum near the spinning wheel while you press the sandpaper against it. Then, turn off the lathe and vacuum lint and loose sandpaper grit from the layers of fabric. Repeat this process for the remaining two wheels.

### Sources

Wood Buff Kit (three buffing wheels, buffing compounds, wax, and a wheel adaptor), \$73, The Beall Tool Co., 800-331-4718, bealltool.com. Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish, \$31.50 per quart, Woodcraft, 800-225-1153, woodcraft.com.



**A linen wheel loaded with tripoli polish** evens out scratches left by the 320-grit sandpaper. A low gloss already has started to emerge.



**Hold the white abrasive stick against the linen/cotton wheel** for only about 2 seconds to load it for extremely fine polishing.

### 3 steps to a glossy finish

Begin the polishing process by mounting the all-linen wheel and turn on the lathe, again at 1,800 rpm. Press the stick of red tripoli polish—a dustlike silica—against the wheel edge until it turns red. Unlike the finer polish and wax you'll use later, you can load the wheel with this polish. The tripoli abrasive breaks down into smaller particles as you work, so reload the wheel when it no longer removes the sanding scratches.

To prevent buffing wheels from flipping the workpiece back toward you, hold it low against the wheel [Photo C] and apply light to moderate pressure. Keep the project moving and avoid polishing any one place for more than a couple seconds to prevent heating and softening the film finish.

Frequently check your progress in an angled light. You should see an even sheen that contrasts with the duller less-polished areas. Once you achieve an even sheen, stop. Then, wipe the surface with a soft cloth.

Replace the linen wheel with a softer linen/cotton wheel. Turn on the lathe and touch the white abrasive stick against the cloth [Photo D]. You only need a small amount of this extremely fine abrasive.

Polish your project as you did with the tripoli wheel, but use a lighter touch and keep exposing new surfaces to the wheel. For flat surfaces, polish end to end, with the grain, in overlapping passes.

3 After you buff to the desired sheen, replace the linen/cotton wheel with a flannel wheel. Turn on the lathe and lightly press the carnauba wax stick against the



**Buffed and waxed to a high shine**, this turned bowl reflects light evenly around its entire surface. Should you need to renew the finish, simply buff on another coat of carnauba wax.

fabric. You'll need even less of this than the white abrasive.

The wax doesn't polish the finish; it fills the fine scratches left by the white abrasive for a glossy surface. Work the surface until the wax leaves an even shine. If you notice smudges as you handle the project, you're using too much wax. Wear off excess wax on the wheel by holding a piece of clean scrap against the edge. Then, buff again until the wax hardens without smudging.





# S andpaper seems to be simple enough stuff: sand bound to paper, right? But if you read the packages on store shelves, or shop online, your choices in abrasives can be overwhelming and confusing. Hundreds of products, many aimed at auto-body shops, industrial cabinet shops, metalworkers, painters, plumbers, and drywallers, leave many woodworkers in a quandry. Industry terms and marketing-speak further muddy the waters. Fortunately, what you really need to know boils down to five items: the size of the abrasive; how densely the abrasive is packed; the type of abrasive; the backing material; and whether the sandpaper has stearate or not. So let's sort out these choices.

- Learn more about the two different, but similar, scales for grading grit. woodmagazine.com/ sandinggrits
- Following an orderly sanding process saves time and yields excellent results. woodmagazine.com/sandingbasics

### The truth about grit

First, consider grit size when choosing sandpaper. Large, coarse abrasives of 40, 60, and 80 grit easily strip paint and perform the initial smoothing of rough surfaces. Use 100, 120, and 150 grit to remove minor surface imperfections created by cutting and milling. Grits of 180, 220, and 320 serve for final sanding before finishing, and smoothing between finish coats. Grits 320 and above buff finishes to final smoothness.

### The open and closed case

Abrasives labeled "open coat" [Photo A] have about 30 percent less grit, providing space for the dust, or "swarf," to go as you work. Choose open-coat paper when sanding soft or resinous woods such as pine and fir.

Closed-coat papers have nearly 100 percent grit coverage and offer quicker sanding on hardwoods because the swarf on these species isn't sticky.

### Types of abrasives

Many, but not all, sandpapers list their abrasive media on the packaging or back of the sheet. Although any sandpaper abrasive will smooth wood, three types work best for woodworking, with a fourth that we'll also discuss.

Find *garnet* [Photo B], a natural mineral, on inexpensive sandpapers best used for handsanding. The granules, initially sharp, wear quickly, especially when used with power sanders, which explains why garnet has fallen out of favor with many woodworkers.

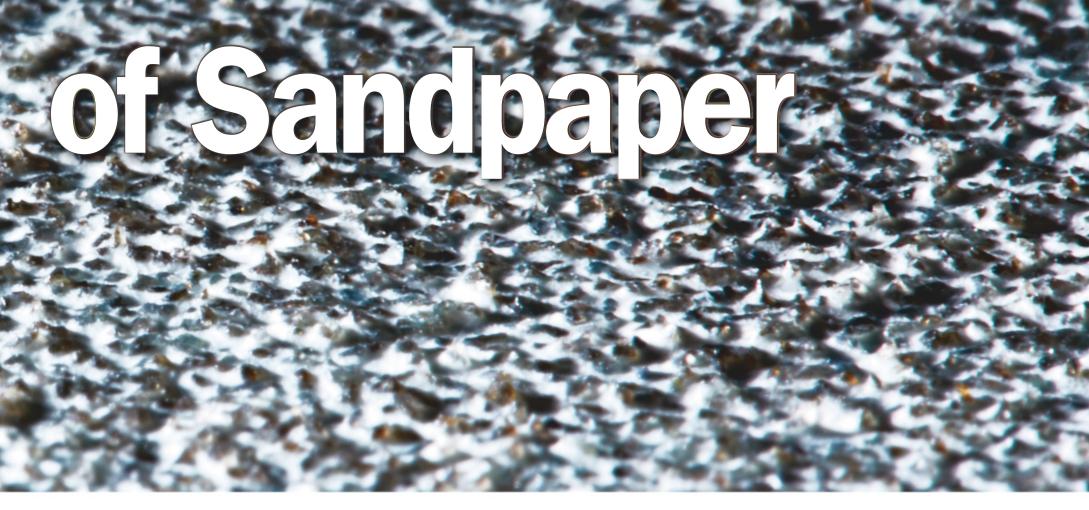
A swarf buildup clogs the sanding medium, reducing effectiveness.



**Open-coat papers may be labeled as such.** Closed-coat papers typically have no designation on the label or backing.



**Garnet has been used on sandpaper for decades.** It's inexpensive, but it doesn't last long in use, so you end up using more to get the same results achieved with other abrasives.



fractures easily, creating fresh cutting edges as you work. The brittleness makes it less suitable for coarse grits but a good choice for finish-sanding by hand, as well as for rubbing out finishes.

Aluminum oxide has become the go-to abrasive for woodworking [Photo D]. This

Hard but brittle silicon carbide [Photo C]

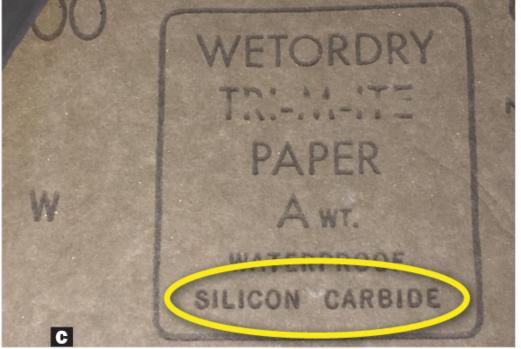
abrasive for woodworking [Photo D]. This low-cost compound excels in nearly every aspect of surface preparation, from paint removal to final finishing. The very hard granules wear slowly and can be used in both hand- and power-sanding operations.

Though better suited for metalworking, you may see *ceramic* in retail stores, touted for woodworking. Ceramic grains break consistently, constantly exposing fresh cutting edges, but some woods may not be hard

enough to break them. Manufacturers may blend ceramic with other abrasives, such as aluminum oxide or silicon carbide, to create a longer-lasting sandpaper [Photo E].



**Aluminum oxide wears down during use** instead of fracturing. As a result, it sands finer as it wears.



Find each of these

abrasives in a full range of grits from 60

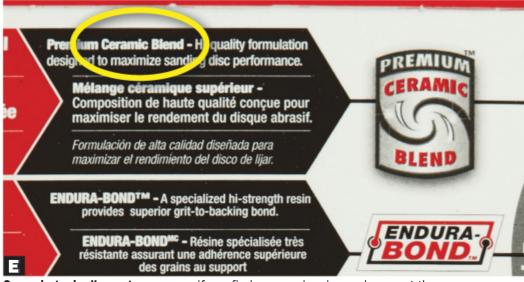
to 220, with silicon

oxide offering even

finer grits.

carbide and aluminum

**In addition to smoothing wood,** silicon carbide excels at buffing the edges of cut glass and plastics, or producing a bright sheen on aluminum or copper surfaces.



**Ceramic typically costs more,** so if you find a ceramic-mix sandpaper at the same price as other abrasives, its durability makes it a good value.



**A-weight paper** conforms easily to the tight curves of a detail sanding block.



**Film backings look shiny.** When folding film-backed sheets, the film grips itself, so the paper holds its bent shape without slipping.

### Backing determines flexibility and durability

Several types of materials serve as backing for abrasives. Manufacturers use an alphabetical scale, with A as the lightest weight, and heavier, more durable backings designated with subsequent letters. Choose papers weighted A, B, or C for hand-sanding, with C and D holding up better to the demands of the coarsest (36–80) grits. Lighter-weight paper flexes more, so choose it when sanding profiles or small interior spaces [Photo F].

Although you can use A–C weight paper on a quarter-sheet sander, they will wear fast and may tear. Instead, look for papers with D, E, or F weights.

Some manufacturers offer film backing that provides great flexibility and resists tearing [Photo G]. The film won't slide around on rubber sanding blocks or pads, improving results. Film withstands moisture and provides a flatter surface, making it a good choice for wet-sanding with water or oil to bring a finish to a mirrorlike sheen.

Discs for random-orbit sanders come with paper, film, or fabric backings in weights that withstand the demands of the tool, so you don't get to choose the weight. Papers and fabric backings labeled as water-resistant or suitable for wet applications have been treated to withstand moisture.

### When to choose stearate

Stearated or self-lubricating sandpaper adds a dry metallic soap between the grains of grit [Photo H]. Swarf doesn't stick to the stearate, as it would to the resin binder that holds the granules, so debris falls away from the paper as you sand. That reduces clogging



**Stearate might be listed on the package**, but look for other words, such as non-loading, no-fill, zinc stearate, or anti-clog.

when sanding resinous woods or painted surfaces. Usually applied to aluminum-oxide or silicon-carbide papers, this dry lubricant causes no finishing problems, such as fish-eye or orange peeling. Although hardware stores and home centers carry some stearate-coated abrasives, you'll find them well-stocked at auto-parts stores.

Regardless of the grit, material, or backing, it's important to discard any abrasive when its cutting action falls off. How do you know? Rub your fingers over the piece you're using, then over a fresh piece of the same grit. If the old one feels significantly smoother, discard it.

### Jig Plan Super Bundle

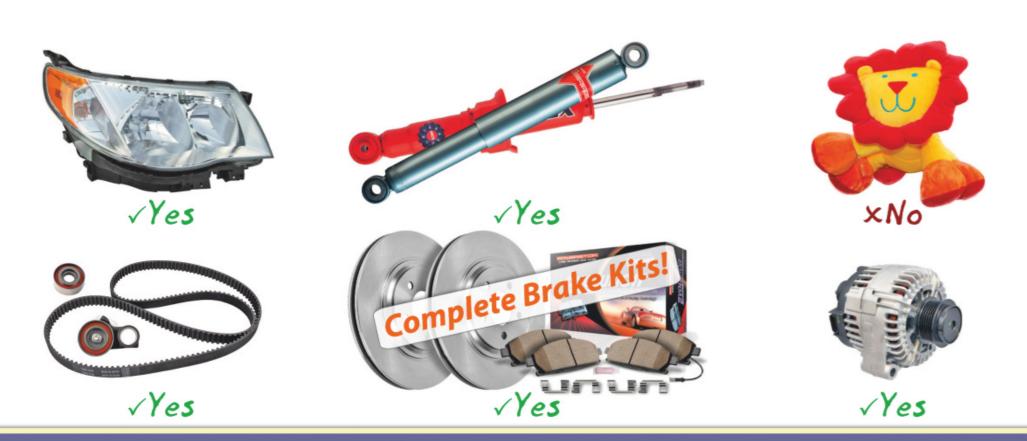


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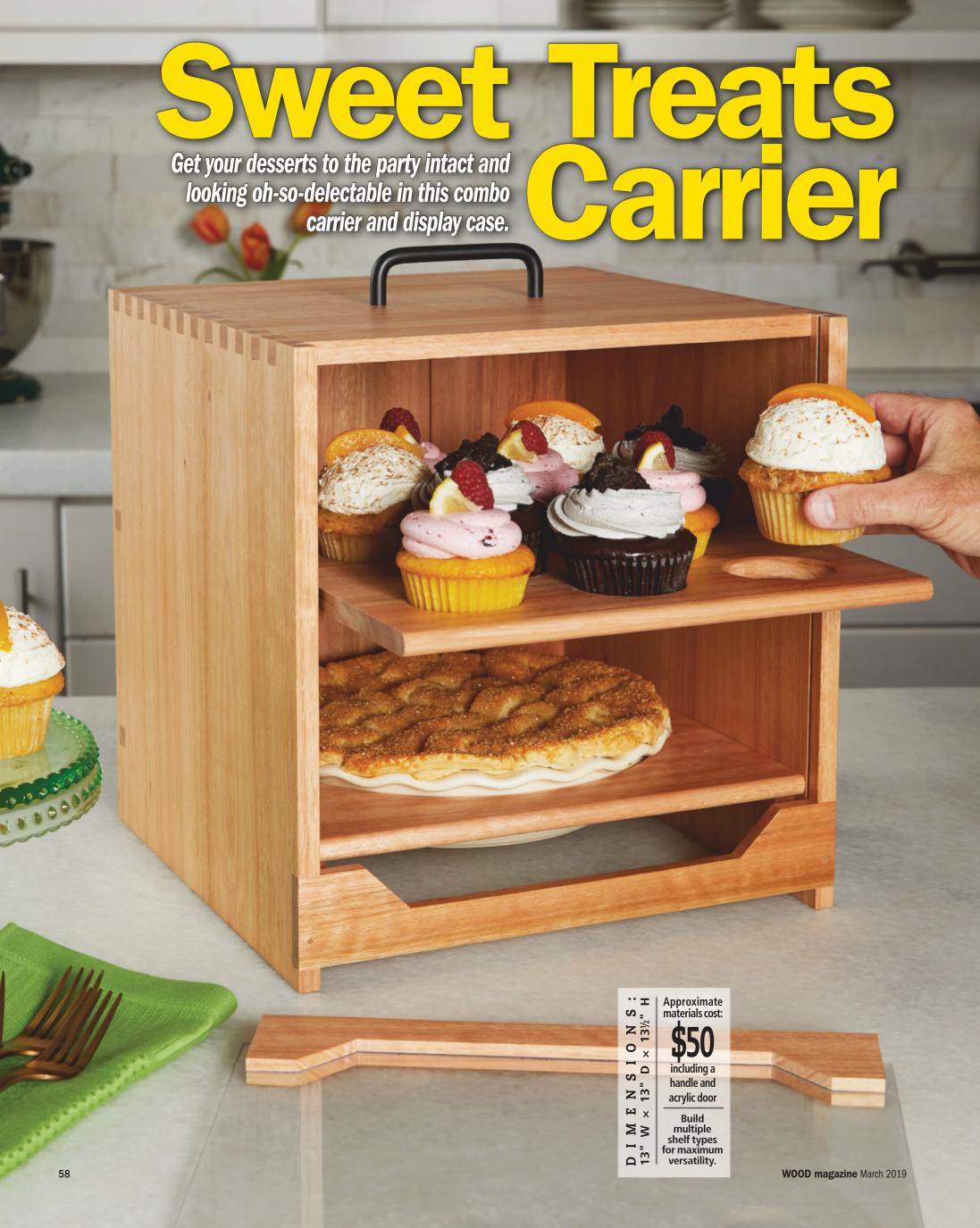
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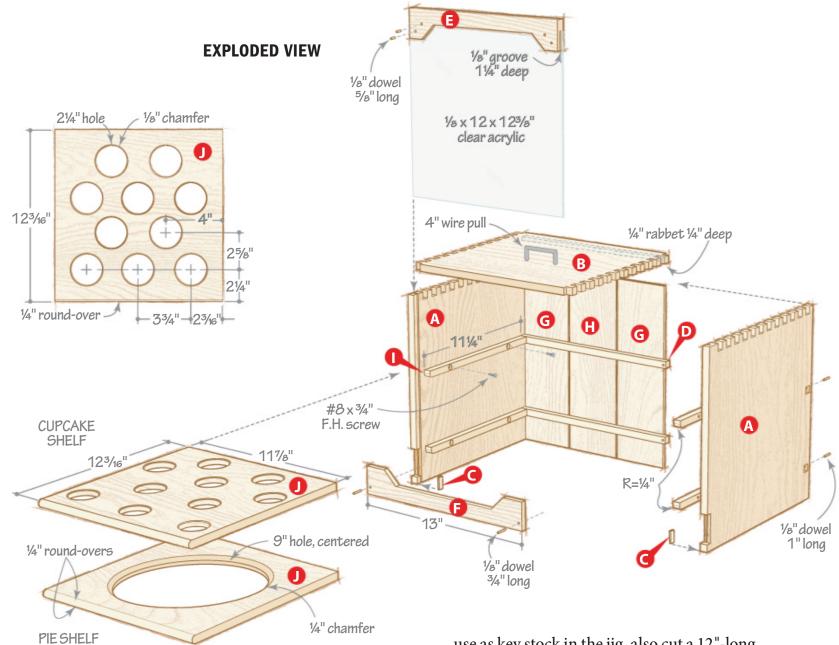


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### First, make the sides and top

Box joints lend loads of strength *and* good looks where the carrier sides and top meet. A lower rail and back stretchers further tie the case together, with their ends exposed in the sides to complement the box joints. For wood we chose relatively light, but strong, lyptus.

1 Glue up panels for the sides (A) and top (B), making the top as wide as the sides for now [Materials List]. When trimming the panels to length, save the cutoffs to use as spacers in the upcoming box-joint jig. For

use as key stock in the jig, also cut a 12"-long scrap to a thickness and width matching the thickness of the sides and top.

2 Install in your tablesaw a ½"-wide dado set, and adjust its height to match the thickness of the sides and top. Attach a ¾×6×24" plywood box-joint-jig face to your miter gauge, positioned so the dado set will cut through the face's approximate center. Stack two of the cutoffs face-to-face and place them against the rip fence. Slide over the rip fence until the cutoffs contact the end of the jig [Photo A]. Lock the rip fence.

Make a dado cut through the jig's face [Photo B]. Unscrew the face from the miter



**Precisely space the box-joint-jig face** from the rip fence using two thicknesses of cutoffs from the sides or top.



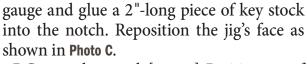
**Cut through the face** and check the fit of the key stock in the notch. If the fit's not snug, adjust the dado set width and/or height.



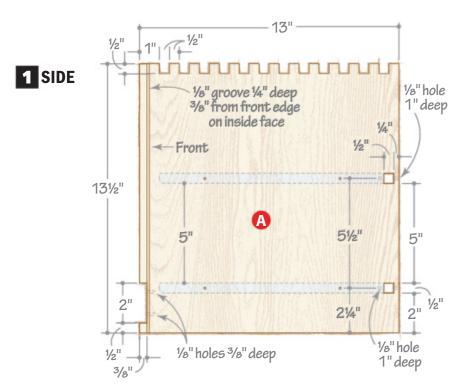
**Butt the jig's end against the rip fence** and rescrew it to the miter gauge. Then slide the fence out of the way.



**Hold the workpiece securely against the jig** as you make the first box-joint cut.



Cut another notch [Photo D]. Position one of the sides (A) tight against the key and make the first box-joint cut [Photo E]. Place that notch over the key and repeat the cuts [Photo F],





**Raise the blade just a hair** before cutting the second notch. Doing that ensures the box-joint's fingers stand slightly proud for flush-sanding later.

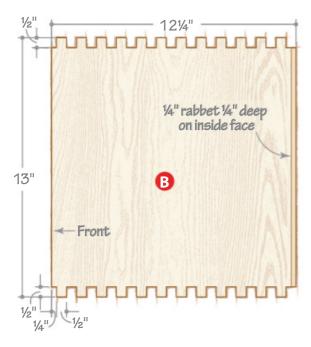


**Work your way across the width of the panel,** positioning the most recent cut over the key in preparation for cutting the next notch.

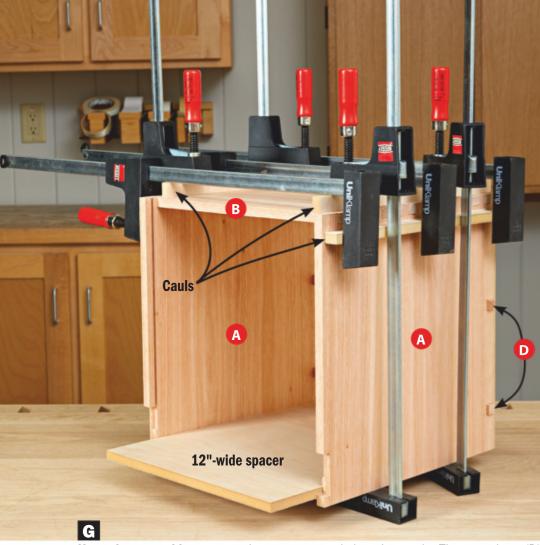
stopping 1" from the edge of the panel [**Drawing** 1]. Repeat on the other side panel.

**5** Cut box joints across the full width on both ends of the top (B). Then rip  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of material from the back edge of the top and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the front. Cut the rabbet on the underside of the back edge [**Drawing 2**].

On the sides cut the groove near the front, two square mortises near the back,



**2** TOP



**Keep the assembly square** using a spacer and clamping cauls. The stretchers (D) stand a little proud, but will be trimmed later.

and the notch on the front edge [Drawing 1]. Glue a filler (C) into the bottom of each groove [Exploded View].

### Just a few more parts to go

1 Cut the stretchers (D) about ¼" longer than listed. Dry-fit the sides, top, and stretchers. Check that the top sits back ¼" from the ⅓" groove (for door clearance). Once satisfied with the fit, glue and clamp the assembly [Photo G].

2 Drill holes in the back edges of the sides into the stretchers (D) [Drawings 1 and 3]. Glue 1/8" dowels just a bit longer than 1" into those holes and trim flush. Trim the stretchers flush.

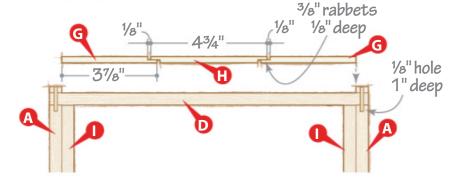
Cut the door rail (E) and case rail (F) to size. In the door rail cut a groove to fit your acrylic [Drawing 4]. Lay out and cut both parts to shape. Set the door rail aside for now. Glue the case rail in place and reinforce the joint with dowels [Drawing 4, Exploded View].

4 Cut to size the slats (G, H), then rabbet four of their edges [Drawing 3]. Glue only the center third of each slat to allow seasonal expansion/contraction.

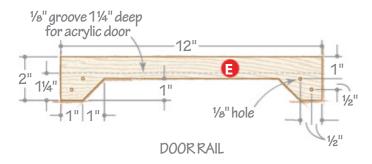
Cut the cleats (I) to size and round over their bottom front ends [Exploded View]. Screw them to the sides.

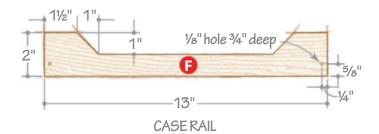
Glue up and cut to size the shelves (J). Round over their front edges [Exploded View]. Cut holes and rout their top edges to customize the shelves for holding a pie or cupcakes.

**3** TOP SECTION VIEW



4 RAILS





**7** Finish-sand all parts. For the door cut a piece of ½" acrylic to fit [Exploded View]. Slide the acrylic into the door rail (E), center it side-to-side, and pin it in place with dowels.

Apply your preferred finish (we sprayed three coats of lacquer). Add a handle centered on the top. Now let's get baking!

**Tip!** If your acrylic sheet comes with a protective film covering, leave it in place until after you apply finish to the project. If it doesn't have a covering, mask the acrylic prior to applying finish.

**Materials List** 

	THE CONTROL OF THE CO						
Part		T	FINISHED W	SIZE L	Matl.	Qty.	
Α	sides	1/2"	13"	13½"	L	2	
B*	top	1/2"	12¾"	13"	L	1	
С	fillers	1/8"	1/4"	3/4"	L	2	
D*	stretchers	1/2"	1/2"	13"	L	2	
E	door rail	5⁄8"	2"	12"	L	1	
F	case rail	3/8"	2"	13"	L	1	
G	narrow slats	<del>1</del> /4"	3%"	13¼"	L	2	
Н	wide slat	1/4"	4¾"	13¼"	L	1	
Ι	cleats	1/2"	1/2"	11¼"	L	4	
J	shelves	1/2"	123/16"	11%"	L	2	

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

Materials key: L-lyptus.

**Supplies:** #8×3/4" flathead screws, 1/8" dowel 36" long, 1/8×13×13" acrylic, 3/4" pin nails, 4" wire pull.

**Blade and bits:** Dado set; 45° chamfer and ½" round-over router bits; countersink; 2½" Forstner bit.

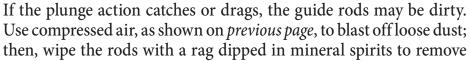
Produced by **Bill Krier** with **Kevin Boyle**Project design: **Craig Ruegsegger**Illustrations: **Roxanne LeMoine**, **Lorna Johnson** 

**Tip!** Use a pin nailer to hold light, unclamped pieces, such as the slats, in place while glue dries.



If your plunge router hangs up or slips down when it shouldn't, use these quick tips to get it back on track.







rust or stubborn particles, *above left*. Finally, lubricate and protect the guide rods by applying a nonstick tool spray, such as Bostik GlideCote (no. 124627, \$21, 800-225-1153, woodcraft.com), *above*.



**If the base doesn't grip the motor tightly**, it may cause the bit's cutting depth to suddenly deepen as the motor slips. Snug the clamp tension screw to get a better bite on the router motor.



**Plunge lock not providing enough purchase?** Tighten the locking stud on the plunge-lock lever. Be careful to not overtighten it, or you may not be able to plunge at all!

- ▶ For tips on getting the most from your plunge router, visit woodmagazine.com/plungeroutertips.
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# No turning required! Salt & Pepper Shakers



n just a few hours, shape two small pieces of wood into custom shakers, each with affordable metal components [Source].

### **Prep the blanks**

Learn to lay out 12

woodmagazine.com/

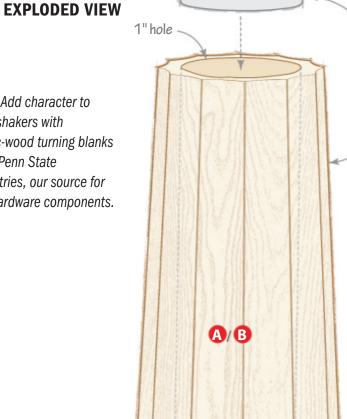
equidistant points

around a circle.

12points

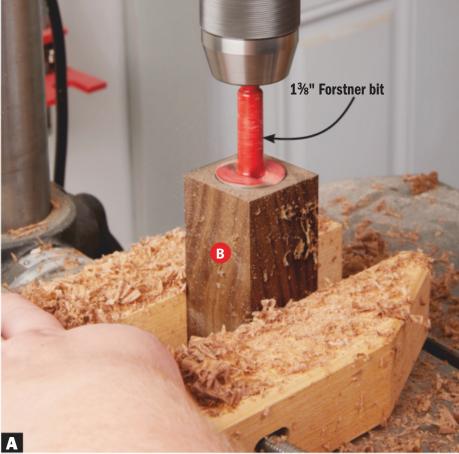
- Create two 17/8×17/8×41/2" blanks (A, B) [Materials List]. We used maple and walnut for a no-brainer color connection.
- 2Draw diagonals to mark the center on each end, and mark the endpoints of each of the 12 facets on the bottom of each blank.
- 3 Drill holes for the tube, cap, and plug [Exploded View, Photos A and B].





Сар

Shaker body

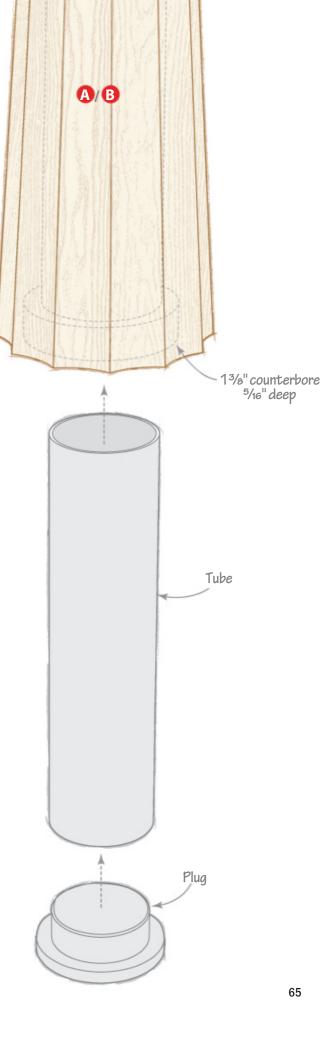


**Drill the counterbore at the bottom of each blank.** Secure the blank in a clamp, with the blank aligned precisely with the bit.



Switch to a 1" bit and bore each blank fully through. If your bit or drill press won't reach the full depth, simply turn the blank over and drill from that end.





**Bevel-rip to shape** 

Build the beveling jig [Drawing 1, Materials List]. Install a short dowel in the divider (D) to provide better purchase for the screw that holds down the top (E).

**2** Secure both shaker blanks (A, B) in the beveling jig with the blank bottoms against the stops. Tilt your tablesaw blade to 30°, and rip 12 facets on each blank [**Photo C**]. Save the first two cutoffs—they become part K in the next step.

► Watch the correct sequence for cutting the 12 facets. woodmagazine.com/ shakerbevels

### **Rout the tapered flutes**

1 Build the fluting jig [Drawings 2 and 2a]. Retrieve the two cutoffs (K), and glue them to the base and riser, spaced to cradle a shaker blank.

2 Install a 1½"-diameter (5%" radius) roundnose bit in your router table. Set the bit ½" above the table and center the bit on the width of the jig. Rout the length of the jig. Raise the bit to ½", clamp in a blank, and rout the first pass on all facets [Photos D-F]. Raise the bit and make shallow passes until the flutes extend the full length of the shaker blanks.

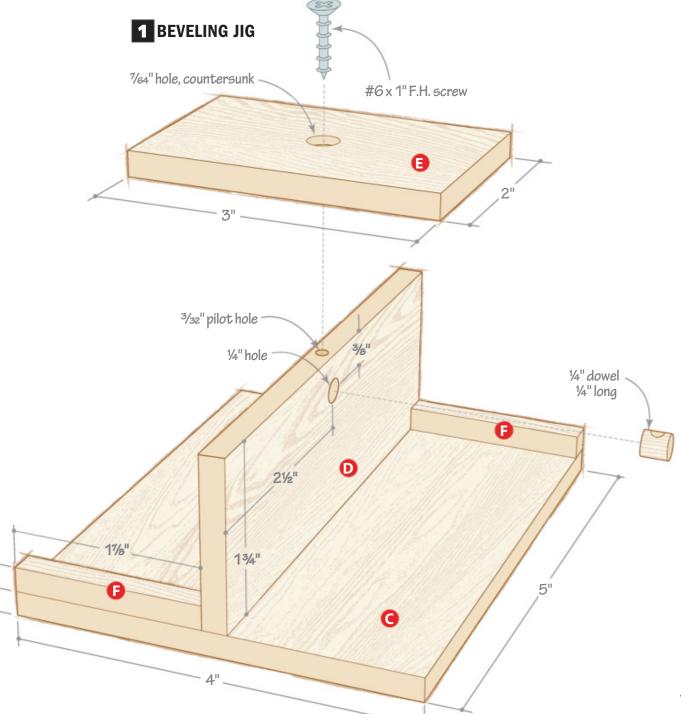


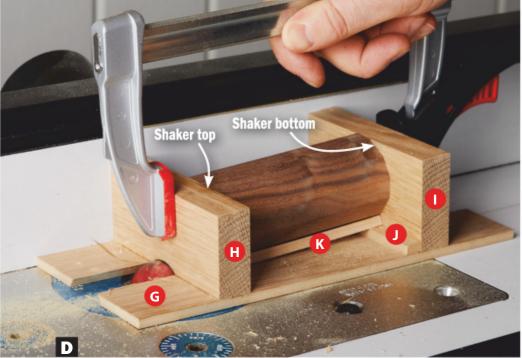
**Bevel-rip each shaker blank** by keeping one of the original flat surfaces resting on the jig, and cutting to the lower layout mark on the edge over the blade. Flip the jig end for end and rip the other blank. Reposition the blanks and repeat until finished.

Sand the shakers smooth and apply a finish. We applied three coats of Varathane aerosol satin lacquer.

Adhere the tubes and caps to each blank with two-part epoxy. When cured, fill each shaker, insert the plug, and add zest to your favorite foods.

**Note:** To safely rout flutes in the shakers without them working loose from the jig, make the cuts in three or four passes.





**Clamp a shaker blank in the fluting jig** with one facet directly over the bit, and rout the full length of the jig. Rotate the blank and repeat for all 12 facets.



Raise the bit until it cuts a flute the full length of the shaker blank. The flute should connect two of the 12 points at the shaker bottom.

2 FLUTING JIG



**Rotate the blank a half-turn, resting on the wedges,** and mark the flute's "smile" on the jig's front. This mark will help you register the blank for routing the last four flutes, which can be difficult to register without a flat surface.

### **Materials List**

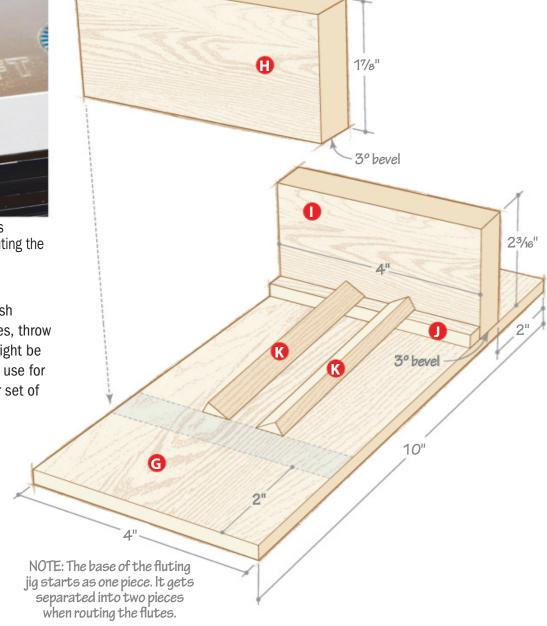
fiai5	LI	) L					
Part		FINISHED SIZE T W L			Qty.		
salt	1%"	1%"	4½"	М	1		
pepper	1%"	1%"	4½"	W	1		
g							
base	1/4"	4"	5"	MDF	1		
divider	1/4"	1¾"	5"	MDF	1		
top	1/4"	2"	3"	MDF	1		
stops	1/4"	1/4"	1%"	MDF	2		
Fluting jig							
base	1/4"	4"	10"	MDF	1		
front	3/4"	1%"	4"	Н	1		
back	3/4"	23/16"	4"	Н	1		
riser	1/4"	3/8"	4"	MDF	1		
wedges	†	†	4½"	M/W	2		
	salt pepper base divider top stops base front back riser	salt 1%" pepper 1%"  base ¼" top ¼" stops ¼"  base ¼" front ¾" back ¾" riser ¼"	salt 1½" 1½" pepper 1½" 1½"  base ½" 4" divider ½" 1¾" top ½" 2" stops ½" ½"  base ¼" 4" front ¾" 1½" back ¾" 2¾6" riser ½" ¾"	salt 178" 178" 4½"  pepper 178" 178" 4½"  pepper 178" 178" 4½"  8  base ¼" 4" 5"  divider ¼" 134" 5"  top ¼" 2" 3"  stops ¼" ¼" 178"  base ¼" 4" 10"  front ¾" 178" 4"  back ¾" 2¾6" 4"  riser ¼" ¾8" 4"	Salt   1½"   1½"   4½"   M		

 $<sup>\</sup>dagger$  Cutoffs from shaker blanks. See the instructions.

**Materials key:** M-maple, W-walnut, H-hardwood, MDF-medium-density fiberboard core (or plywood).

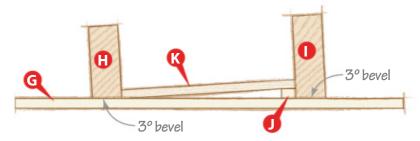
**Bits:** 1½"-diameter roundnose router bit; 1" and 1¾" Forstner bits. **Source:** Salt and pepper shaker kit, no. PKSANDP, \$9.95, Penn State Industries, 800-377-7297, pennstateind.com.

► When you finish routing the flutes, throw out the jig. It might be too unstable to use for making another set of shakers.



### 2a FLUTING JIG SIDE VIEW

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



## Power Sancer Primer

Few of us look forward to sanding, but with most projects it's inevitable. So why not embrace the abrasiveness? These power sanders help you do just that.

Learn more about sandpaper on page 54.

### **Portable Sanders**



**Tip!** Stick with coarse grits (60–120) and use these tools only for rough-sanding. When done, switch to a finish sander.

**Tip!** Sand one grit finer (usually 320) with this tool than you would with a random-orbit sander to remove unseen swirls that would reveal themselves under stain or finish.

**Tip!** Replace the 5-hole pad on an older sander with an 8-hole pad from the same manufacturer; 8-hole abrasive discs are easier to find.

Typically held with one hand, some portable sanders require two hands for better control. All types (belt, orbital, random-orbit, detail) come in corded versions, with many also available battery powered. If you already own tools in a particular battery platform, it might make more sense—cord freedom!—to buy sanders that use the same batteries.

- **Belt.** This handheld sander transports an abrasive belt around drums at each end of the tool. The aggressiveness of a belt sander works best for rapid material removal rather than fine finishing. Most use one of three common belt sizes: 3×18", 3×21", or 4×24". Belt sanders come with a dust-collection bag, but most struggle to capture the large volume of fine dust created. Overcome this by setting up a dust collector or shop vacuum with a large hood to capture dust that escapes the tool. **Orbital.** Primarily used for finishing,
- pad that vibrates in tiny circles, or orbits, to abrade the wood. Sandpaper sheets attach with either built-in clamps or hook-and-loop pads. Newer models feature holes in the pads for improved dust collection, with included punch pads to create matching holes in your abrasives. Orbital sanders produce smooth surfaces, but often leave swirly scratch marks that show up when you stain or dye the wood.
- Random-orbit. If you don't own a power sander, get this one first. A random-orbit sander's 5"- or 6"-diameter pad spins while simultaneously orbiting in tiny circles of 1/8" or less. These combined actions help blend the scratch patterns, so that by the time you sand through 180 or 220 grit, the scratches become almost invisible.

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The pads of most sanders in this class have eight dust-collection holes, and the abrasive discs on the market match them perfectly. The included bag or canister filter provides good dust collection, but for even better performance, attach a fine filtering shop vacuum. If possible, choose a randomorbit sander with variable speed so you can choose the best speed to match the workpiece and abrasive grit. A few models offer dual modes, letting you choose between a fine-finishing, smaller orbit and a larger, more aggressive orbit for rapid removal.

**Detail.** A cousin of orbital sanders, these tools use smaller triangular or rectangular pads for sanding into corners and tight spaces. They remove material well, but it can be difficult to blend their scratch marks with those made by another sander. We view detail sanders as a tool of last resort, when no other will do the job. (Sanding project parts prior to assembly helps avoid the need to sand into tight corners.)

▶ Read reviews of random-orbit sanding discs. woodmagazine.com/sandingdiscs

**Tip!** Avoid using coarse abrasives, which can accidentally scratch adjacent surfaces that might already be ready for finish.





**Tip!** Clamp one of these tools to a workbench for a small, but effective, spindle sander with a tiny table surface.

**Oscillating spindle.** If you don't own a benchtop or floor-standing model, this handheld version works well for sanding curved edges. You'll find only a couple of models on the market (Grizzly and MLCS Woodworking). They come with four drums and abrasive sleeves (½", ¾", 1", and 1½" diameters), providing a good solution for most curves.



abrasive sleeve that can dish out wood quickly if you don't keep it moving. We know of two models (Makita and Porter-Cable Restorer); both have accessory heads available with wire or nylon brushes for (purposely) scratching the wood to add texture or simulated age, or for cleaning up actual barn siding or similar wood. You can also buy paint-removal drums. As you'd expect, these generate a lot of coarse dust, so connect to a vacuum to minimize the mess.

**Tip!** For best control, use this tool in a pulling motion to resist the rotation of the drum.

## WOOD magazine March 2019

# **Stationary Sanders**

Most of these machines come in both robust floor-standing models and benchtop versions that cost less and typically have smaller worksurfaces and motors.

**Tip!** For most work, use a 150-grit disc. It works well enough at shaping workpieces without burning the wood as finer grits can easily do.

**Disc.** Many disc sanders for home shops have 12"-diameter discs, but a few smaller and larger models exist. A self-adhesive abrasive disc sticks directly to the tool's metal platen, which excels at creating square, flat edges. Because you can work only on the downward-spinning portion of the disc, it provides a limited working surface, and you can sand only flat or convex surfaces. Look for a disc sander with a



**Tip!** Use a coarse grit on one platen of your combo sander for shaping, and a finer grit on the other for detail work and smoothing.

Belt/disc combo. These machines have a single motor that powers the belt and disc at the same time. The belts come in 1–6" widths, and the discs from 6" to 12" in diameter. Like a dedicated disc sander, these machines primarily sand flat and convex surfaces. But some models allow you to use one of the belt drums for sanding concave surfaces. The belts excel at sanding long straight edges, such as tapered table legs or box sides.



Tip! When sanding to thickness, use 80-120 grit. For finish sanding, choose 150-220 grit.

▶Read reviews of various power-sanding tools and machines. woodmagazine.com/ review

Tip! Coating the rubber

drum with baby powder or

talcum allows the sleeve

to slide on and off easier.

Tighten the drum's lock

nut to secure the sleeve.

**Drum.** A drum sander's wide abrasivewrapped drum spins parallel to the machine's power-driven feed belt. Because the abrasive wraps spirally around the drum, it requires special-shaped and -sized abrasive rolls. You can sand the faces of a workpiece or assembly (raised-panel door, picture frame, etc.) to a specific thickness, flatten a glued-up panel, or simply remove milling marks. The drums measure 7-18" wide in open-ended models, but you can double the capacity by rotating the workpiece end for end and sanding the other half to the same thickness. Closed-end drum sanders, such as the one shown, limit workpiece width, but virtually eliminate drum deflection or sagging.

one of these machines—with a sanding drum that raises and lowers while spinning—for sanding inside curves. Benchtop models usually include at least four drums of different diameters; floor models often provide 6-8 drums. They usually come with 80- or 100-grit abrasive sleeves for the drums, with finer grits available as accessories. Taller spindles (8-10") provide more working surface for thick or wide workpieces. Heavy-duty spindle sanders have an oilbath gearbox for a quieter, longer life.

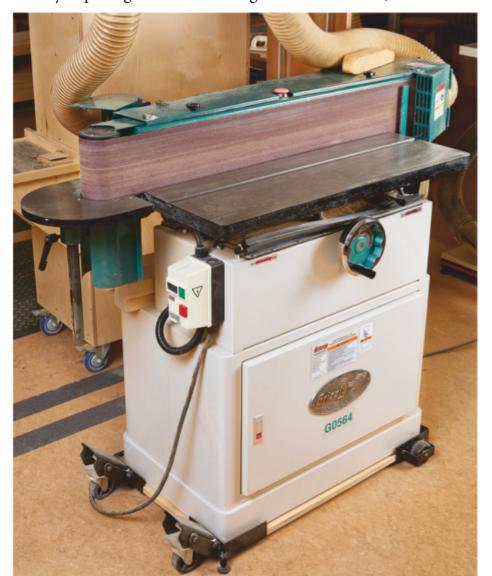
**Oscillating spindle.** Nothing beats



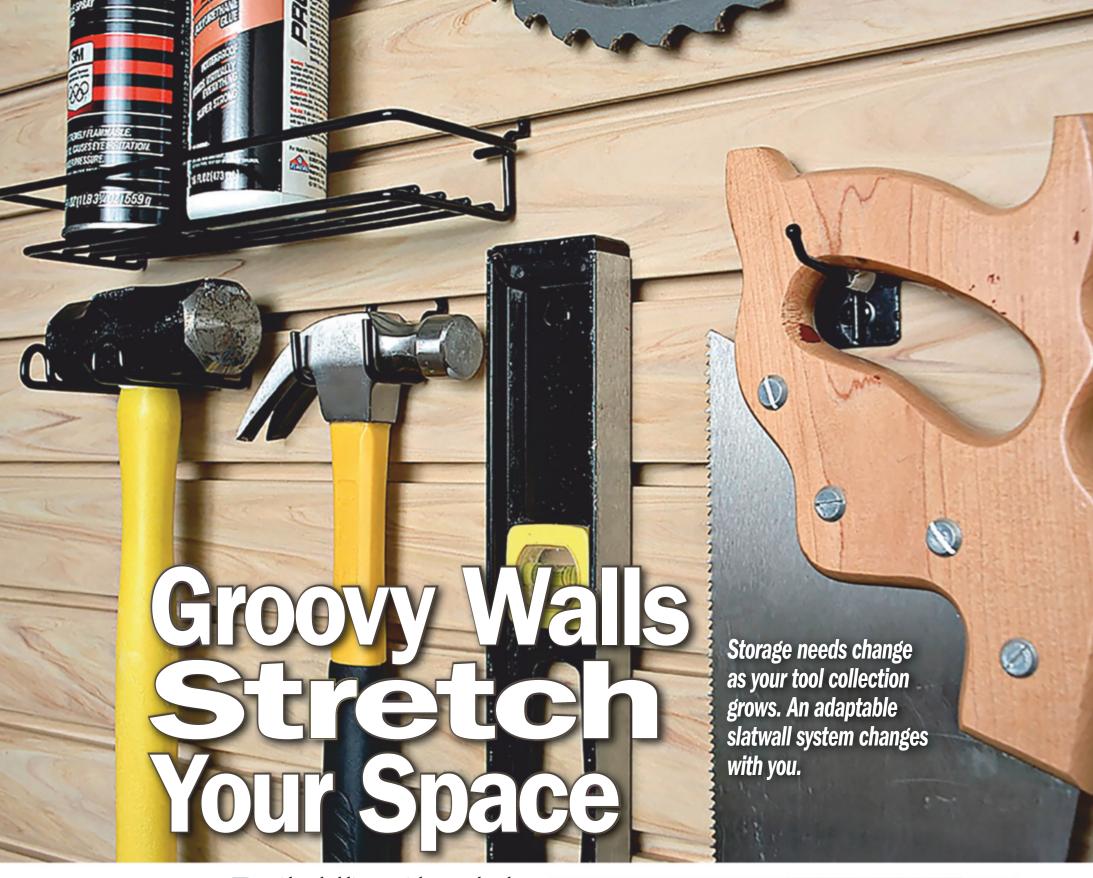
**Oscillating edge.** Think of this as an oversize horizontal belt sander with the upand-down action of an oscillating spindle sander. This action extends the life of the abrasive belt, while also blending the scratch pattern. An edge sander works great for smoothing long straight edges, such as table legs and spindles. You can also shape concave edges at the end on one of the drums, usually requiring the removal of a guard.



Produced by **Bob Hunter** 



woodmagazine.com 71



B esides holding weighty tools that would uncurl a wire peg hook, slatwall storage systems brighten a shop with a more finished look than pegboard, or nails in a wall.

Slatwall consists of strips or panels with horizontal T-shaped or L-shaped slots. Many commercial systems use plastic panels, such as StoreWall's 15"-wide sections that come 4' or 8' long. MDF panels made for retail applications commonly measure 4×8'. You can also make your own panels using ¾" birch plywood.

Hooks, shelves, and other hardware hang in the slots, as shown *above* and on the *next page*. To supplement these with your own custom storage, attach Z-shaped tabs to anything from router-bit holders, as shown on the *next page*, to cabinets. Unlike pegboard hardware, a single hook on some slatwall systems can handle more than 100 pounds.

Learn how to rout slatwall grooves in ¾" plywood. woodmagazine.com/ slatwall



Convenience costs, though. For example, 4×8' sheets of perforated hardboard cost about \$15, but plastic slatwall that covers the same 32 square feet may cost ten times as much. Slatwall hardware comes in a greater variety, but it also costs more than peg hooks. Prices range from about \$2 per slatwall hook to \$25 for a 2'-wide basket or \$80 for a 3'-long shelf.

But you're really paying for flexibility: panels and hardware that, unlike pegboard, can hold a 50-lb cabinet in tomorrow's shop as easily as an 8-oz hand tool today.

## Plan a basic system

To create a slatwall system on a budget, ask commercial remodelers about salvaging slatwall panels and hardware from closed or remodeled stores. If you're hanging cabinets and shelves heavier than about 50 pounds, install plastic slatwall panels. For example, a heavy-duty StoreWall panel holds up to 148 lbs versus 68 lbs on an MDF panel.

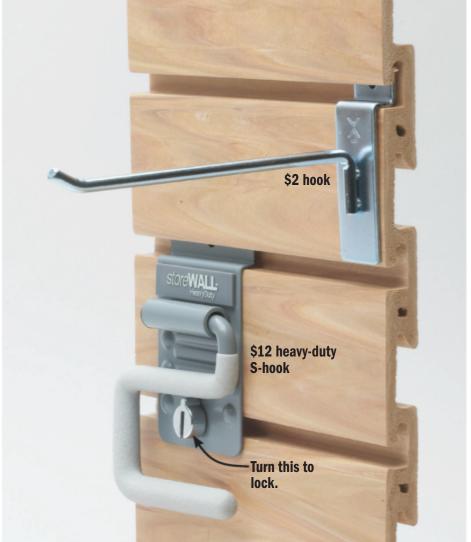
With the wall system decided, it's time to shop specialty stores, home centers, and the web (see **Sources**) for hardware to suit your needs. You can mix inexpensive hardware for light- or medium-duty jobs, as shown *above right*, with more expensive hardware for the heavy stuff because slatwall slots are typically spaced 3" apart to accept all types of hardware.

On a tight budget? Start small by mounting just one row of 15"-wide plastic slatwall strips around your workshop. Position it between chest and eye level—high if you'll use more hanging hooks, and low for baskets. Later, add more strips above the first one to store jigs or lumber, and below to hang more hooks, baskets, and shelves as needed.

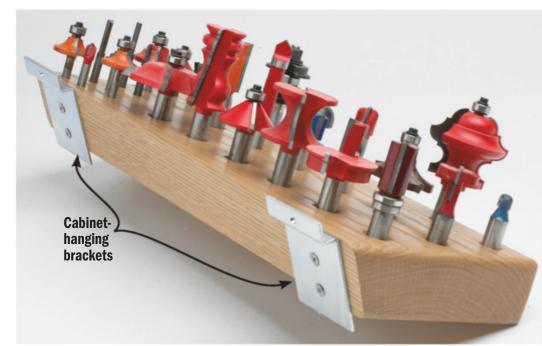
## **Install panels for flexibility**

A future shop reorganization may have you move a rack of hefty pipe clamps to where a few ounces of bandsaw blades now hang, so install all panels for maximum weight capacity from the start. Installation instructions vary, but these tips will help strengthen any system:

- When stacking interlocking panels, install the lowest panel first. Level each strip or course of panels.
- ► Use #8×1½" flathead wood screws on bare studs and #8×2" screws over drywall.
- Drive a screw into every stud at each slot. Screw heads can be painted or covered with color-matching caps available from some suppliers.
- Cut panels as you would veneered plywood: with the good (slot) face up on a tablesaw with at least a 40-tooth blade.



**Hardware from StoreWall comes with a lock** to keep it from pulling loose. Inexpensive hooks can handle lightweight items.



**GarageEscape brackets** made for hanging cabinets on slatwall also can be used to hang shop-made accessory holders.

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When using a portable circular saw, cut with the slot face down using a carbide blade with 32 teeth or more.

Check with the manufacturer to see if screws can be supplemented with adhesive. Allow any adhesive to dry overnight before using the panels.

## **Sources**

Several companies offer slatwall panels and hardware either by mail or through dealers, including:

#### **Garage Escape**

800-548-7528, garageescape.com

#### **Gladiator Garageworks**

866-342-4089, gladiatorgw.com. Note: Gladiator uses proprietary hardware that's incompatible with industry-standard slatwall.

### StoreWall

Heavy-duty panels and accessories, 866-889-2502, storewall.com

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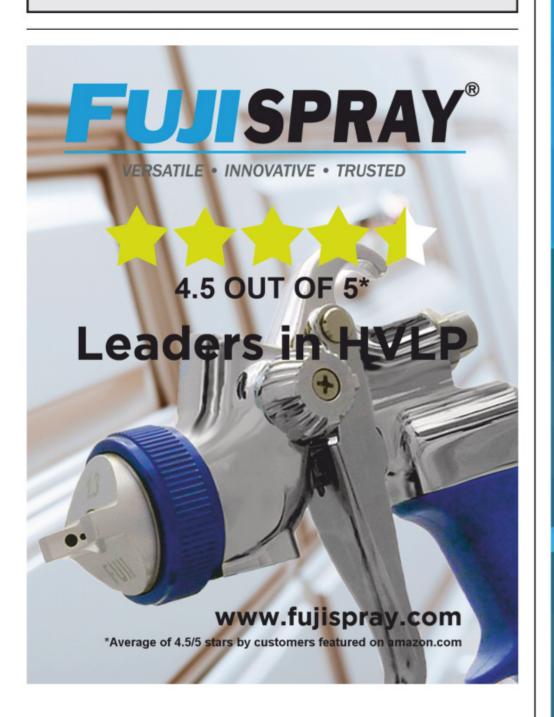
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## **Tools & Materials**

SHOP-TESTED

# Woodworker Support Group

We like these three portable workstations for temporarily adding worksurface and stock support to the shop.

## Pegasus folding worktable and sawhorse

no. WX051, \$100

The 25×31" worksurface provides lots of space, and the sturdy legs make it rock solid. It comes with two quick-action clamps that recess into the aluminum channels, and four bench dogs provide stops for clamping workpieces. The Pegasus folds up nicely and weighs just 30 lbs., making it easy to store.

Worx 855-279-0505, worx.com





no. DWST11556, \$80

This workstation folds up quickly for storage and carries easily, but shines best when set up. Made of heavy-duty plastic with metal legs, it supports up to 1,000 lbs., according to DeWalt. We never piled on that much weight, but it handled everything we stacked on without buckling. Slots and holes accommodate quick-action clamps (not included) to secure workpieces.

DeWalt 800-433-9258, dewalt.com



True to sawhorse tradition, Kreg built this stand to handle heavy loads (1,100-lb. rating per Track Horse). The steel-leg base with an aluminum top rail supports boards and sheet goods with ease. The top rail has a T-slot and included cam clamp to hold stock securely, and T-bolts for mounting a sacrificial 2×4 for sawing. Mount the clamp in one of the end brackets to secure a board on edge for routing or planing. The adjustable legs let you set the top beam 24–35" high.

Kreg Tool 800-447-8638, kregtool.com



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## **Tools & Materials**

SHOP-TESTED

# When you add a quarter horse, you get a grown-up Colt

11/4-hp fixed-base router, no. GKF125CEN, \$130

As a fan of Bosch's 1-hp Colt trim router for more than a decade, I've been eager to get my hands on this amped-up model. The new 1¼-hp Colt has more muscle: I could not bog it down without making ridiculous cuts. With that power comes a larger body, but it's still compact enough to operate one-handed, and it's nimble despite the added size. I like the variable-speed, soft-start motor, and twin LEDs that illuminate around the bit nicely. My favorite feature, though, is the bit-depth adjuster: Three modes on the base lock (locked, unlocked, and microadjust) make it incredibly easy to fine-tune a bit's cutting depth.

This Colt comes with an adjustable edge guide—a nice touch. Bosch's Steve Wilcox says they plan to launch a plunge base—a hotly anticipated accessory—in 2019.

—Tested by Bob Hunter, Tools Editor

Bosch 877-267-2499, boschtools.com



## **DeWalt vacs provide lots of suction**

14 gallon, no. DXV14P, \$149; 10 gallon, no. DXV10P, \$139; 4 gallon, no. DXV04T, \$119

DeWalt's new wet/dry vacuums range in size from 4-gallon capacity to 16. We tested three to see how they fared. The good news: They demonstrated better suction than most comparably priced vacs, and did about as well as other models at trapping the dust. If you use these vacs with the included filters and bags, you should consider wearing a respirator or dust mask to prevent breathing the fine dust that escapes. Or, buy a finer-rated filter (\$25–\$45) to improve the performance of each vac. The bigger models come nicely equipped in terms of accessory nozzles and extensions. The 4-gallon model works best as a detail vac for cleaning up small areas.

—Tested by Tom Brumback

DeWalt 800-433-9258, dewalt.com



woodmagazine.com continued on page 84 79

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## **Tools & Materials**

NEW AND NEXT

## Bandsaw offers fully variable speed

Smart DVR controller with 1¾-hp motor, no. 13-926, \$630

Rikon Power Tools has added a direct-variable-resistance (DVR) motor, with electronic controller, as an accessory for its 14" bandsaws. This new package retrofits to six Rikon bandsaw models and provides the ability to adjust the blade speed anywhere from 100 rpm (45 surface feet per minute) to 2,375 rpm (4,400 sfpm). Rikon says cutting at faster speeds produces a cleaner cut with continuous torque. And this system, they say, provides faster electronic braking at shutdown.

Rikon Power Tools 877-884-5167, rikontools.com

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## Skilsaw launches worm-drive slider

12" sliding compound mitersaw, no. SPT88-01, \$579

The pioneer of the circular saw, Skilsaw has adapted its worm-drive technology to a corded 12" sliding dual-bevel mitersaw. This saw features a 15-amp motor with electric brake,  $60^{\circ}$  right-side miter capacity and  $50^{\circ}$  left with 11 detents,  $48^{\circ}$  bevel capacity left and right with nine stops, and table extensions to support workpieces. LEDs shine down both faces of the blade, creating an alignment shadow that indicates where the saw kerf will be cut.

Skilsaw 877-754-5729, skilsaw.com

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"Blue watches are one of the growing style trends seen in the watch world in the past few years"—WATCHTIME®

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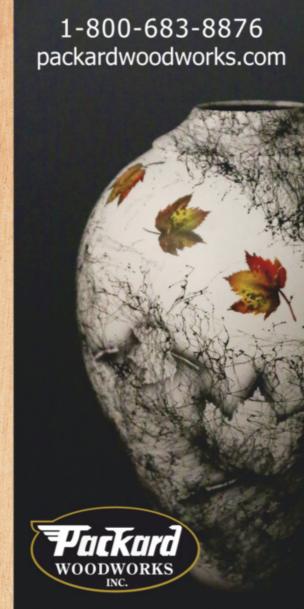
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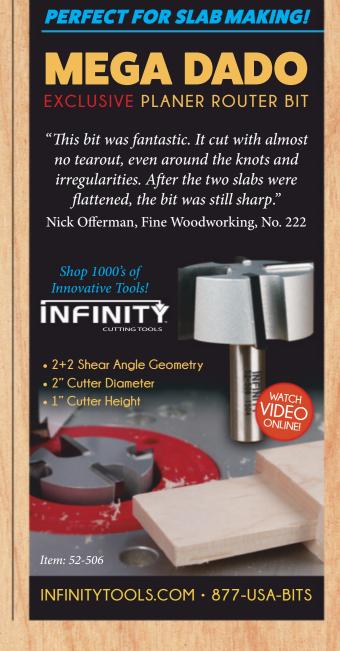
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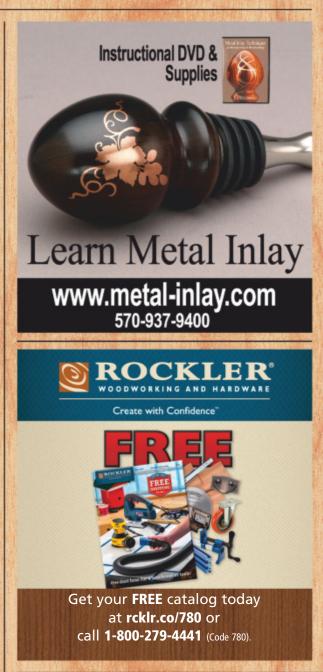
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