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- Motor: 1 HP, 110V/220V,
- single-phase Amps: 11A at 110V, 5.5A at 220V
- Precision-ground cast-iron table size: 14" x 14"
- Table tilt: 10° left, 45° right
- Floor-to-table height: 43'
- Cutting capacity/throat: 131/2"
- Max. cutting height: 6" Blade size: 931/2" (1/8" to 3/4" wide)
- Blade speeds: 1800 and 3100 FPM
- Overall size: 27" W x 671/2" H x 30" D

G0555LA35 ONLY \$655⁰⁰

Footprint: 23½" L x 16½" W Approx. shipping weight:







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ISO 9001

FACTORY



35TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

- Motor: 2 HP, 110V/220V, prewired 220V, single-phase,
- Precision-ground cast-iron table size: 17" x 17" x 1½

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Approx. shipping weight: 342 lbs.

9001 FACTORY



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- Arbor: 5/8" Arbor speed: 3850 RPM
- 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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†115V operation requires part T23999 circuit breaker and wiring procedures that must be completed by an electrician or other qualified service personnel.

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- Motor: 3 HP, 230V, single-phase
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- Motor: 11/2 HP, 110V, single-phase, 3450 **RPM**, 15A
- Intake hole size: 6"
- Impeller: 123/4" welded steel
- Collection drum size: 35 gallons, max. capacity: 20 gallons
- Suction capacity: 868 CFM @ 2.6" SP
- Max. airflow: 868 CFM
- Max. static pressure: 9.7
- Approx. shipping weight: 375 lbs.



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Table tilt: 10° left, 45° right • Floor-to-table height: 37½"

Cutting capacity/throat: 161/4" L of blade

- Max. cutting height: 12% Blade size: 131% long Blade width range: % –1" wide Footprint: 27" W x 17% D Blade speeds: 1700 and 3500 FPM
- Overall size: 32" W x 73" H x 32" D

G0513ANV ONLY \$92500



- Motor: 3 HP, 240V, single-phase
- Precision-ground cast-iron table size with wings: 48"W x 27"D
- Arbor: 5%"
- Cutting capacity: 26" R, 8"L
- Max. depth of cut: 3" @ 90°, 21/8" @ 45°
- Approx. shipping weight: 550 lbs.



G1023RLW ONLY \$155000 - \$16910

- Motor: 3 HP, 220 V, single-phase
- Max. cutting width: 147/81

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- Max. cutting height: 61/8" Max. cutting depth: 1/8"
- Rate of feed: 16 FPM & 20 FPM
- Cutterhead speed: 5000 RPM

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Approx. shipping weight: 540 lbs. (G1021Z), 581 lbs. (G1021X2)

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G1021X2

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2 HP PORTABLE CYCLONE **DUST COLLECTOR**

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

Approx. shipping weight: 397 lbs.

Max. static pressure: 10.9"





WOOD

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BOB BAKER, BRIAN BERGSTROM

PHOTOGRAPHERS JASON DONNELLY, SCOTT MORGAN, BRIE PASSANO CONTRIBUTING EDITORS LARRY JOHNSTON, BILL KRIER,

RANDY MAXEY, ROBERT WILSON

CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS LORNA JOHNSON,

ROXANNE LEMOINE, KURT SCHULTZ

PROOFREADERS SAM CADY, BABS KLEIN, IRA LACHER, THOMAS MORIARTY

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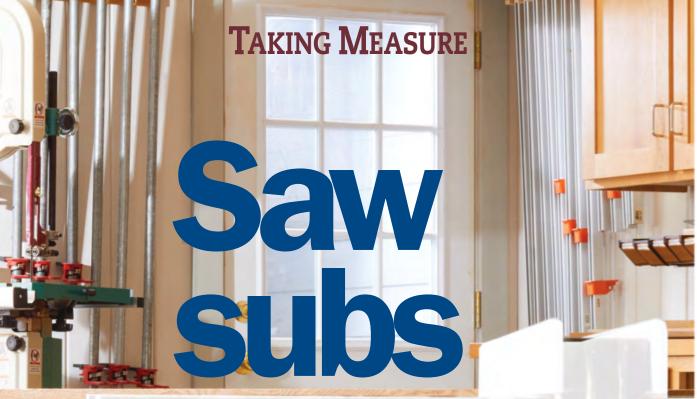
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sk any group of woodworkers what tool they consider to be the most important one in their shop, and the vast majority will probably say "tablesaw." (I would argue for "brain," but let's not get into semantics.)

Perhaps not coincidentally, your tablesaw is also likely the most expensive tool you own, especially when you add up the multitude of accessories that help make it an important, versatile contributor. That cumulative cost—and the space-hogging footprint of a tablesaw—can be a big obstacle to folks trying to get started in woodworking.

Although a tablesaw makes many cutting and machining operations a breeze, you could still make fine furniture with efficiency and accuracy even if all of the tablesaws suddenly vanished from the earth in some kind of weird power-tool rapture. After all, people were working wood long before the tablesaw was invented 250 years ago.

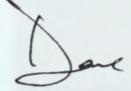
Now, I'm not suggesting that any of us need to embrace our inner Neanderthal and start ripping sheets of plywood for cabinet carcases with a hand saw. But if you don't have the room (or budget) for a tablesaw, you have solid options with smaller, more portable, power and hand tools.

To that end, check out Craig Ruegsegger's "No Tablesaw, No Problem" article on *page 28* that provides alternative methods to get the job done. Even if your shop is a hyper-equipped Garage Mahal, you'll find great techniques you can use to tackle any typical tablesaw task without disturbing that delicate dado setup.

One sawing solution we greeted with skepticism when it was introduced ten years or so ago is the rail-guided tracksaw. But now we wouldn't want a shop without one, especially since compe-

tition and improved technology has made them more affordable than ever. In keeping with the "no table-saw" theme, we shop-tested 9 of those tracksaws and you'll find the results of those tests on *page 48*.

Have fun in the shop!



Dave Campbell dave.campbell@meredith.com Facebook and Twitter: @WOODeditor Instagram: @wood_editor



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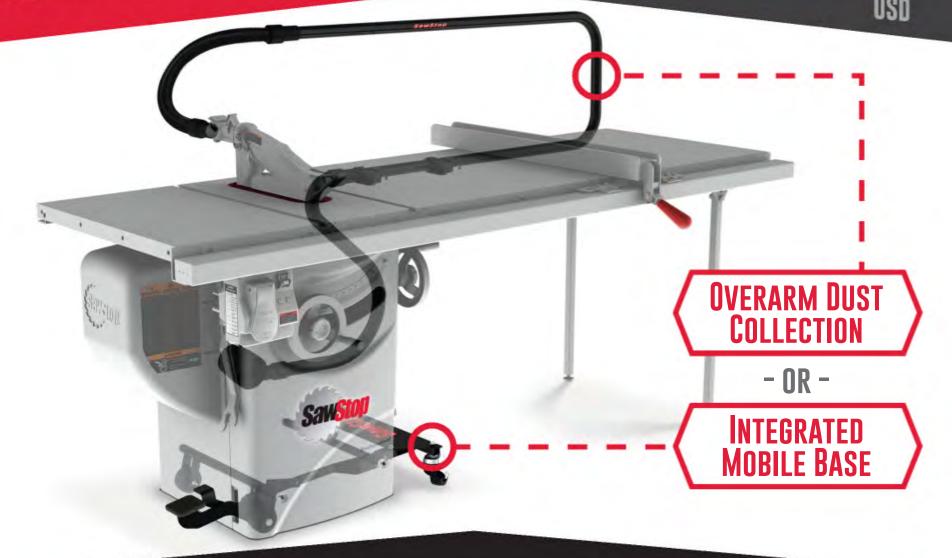


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4 WOOD magazine May 2019



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Use your superpowers for good

Recently, I stumbled across a copy of issue 66 (December 1993) of WOOD® magazine, which included an item about Allyson, my wheelchair-bound daughter, and how woodworkers can use their skills to help those with disabilities. I have always been grateful for that, and thought you might like an update.

Allyson recently completed her reign as Ms. Wheelchair Virginia when she also competed in the Ms. Wheelchair America pageant. She's now a student at Roanoke College in Salem, Va., and is able to live on her own. I'm very proud of her.

And yes, 25 years later, wood-workers are still needed to help make things for disabled folk. Each disabled person has unique needs and, like a woodworking project, the "jig" is unique to the need. There are common items— floor seats, standing tables, etc.—sized to match the person. Or it could be something as simple as a ramp to get a wheelchair up a few steps, or (as my last project for Allyson) creating a desk high enough to get her wheelchair arms under so she can study.



Difference' spot in Finishing

Function is the criterion; aesthetics is a bonus. The most important thing is to use our tools and talents to put something together that helps.

To find need, contact physical therapy and/ or occupational therapy providers in your area: Easter Seals, Shriner hospitals, medical schools, and, of course, rehabilitation departments in hospitals. They'll have catalogs with pictures of devices they need; many will have access to drawings on how to make them.

—**Ross Hart** Salem, Va.





There's an error in the dimensioning of the toddler panel in issue 255 (September 2018). In Drawing 3 on page 58, the top hole on the panel should be only 1" from the top. I also found it

safer to do all my measuring from the bottom of the panels: That eliminates any differences in the overall heights of the panels.

> —**Howard Frischman** Livonia, Mich.





High chair for big kids

Just had to share with you a photo of my dad, Charles Kerekes, sitting in this amazing oversize chair, which he built using the Tall Adirondack Chair & Table plans in issue 254 (July 2018). Of course, he had to upsize the parts and he added a few modifications from another Adirondack he saw at a local ice cream stand.

A retired shop teacher, he made the chair for my business, and it is a huge hit with my customers. I'm an extremely proud and grateful daughter!

> —**Aimee Snelbaker** Hobby House Retreat Middletown, Pa.

Carpenter John lives on

Dave Campbell's column about Carpenter John in issue 258 (Taking Measure, Dec/Jan 2018/2019) really hit home with me and my impatience with my kids, trying to show them stuff and expecting perfection. It made me slow down and appreciate what really matters: time together, humor, and the fact that they'll come back to visit!

—**Dan Hendricks** Green Bay, Wis.

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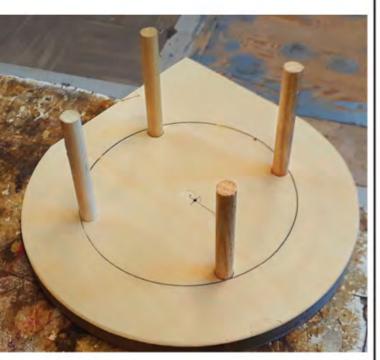
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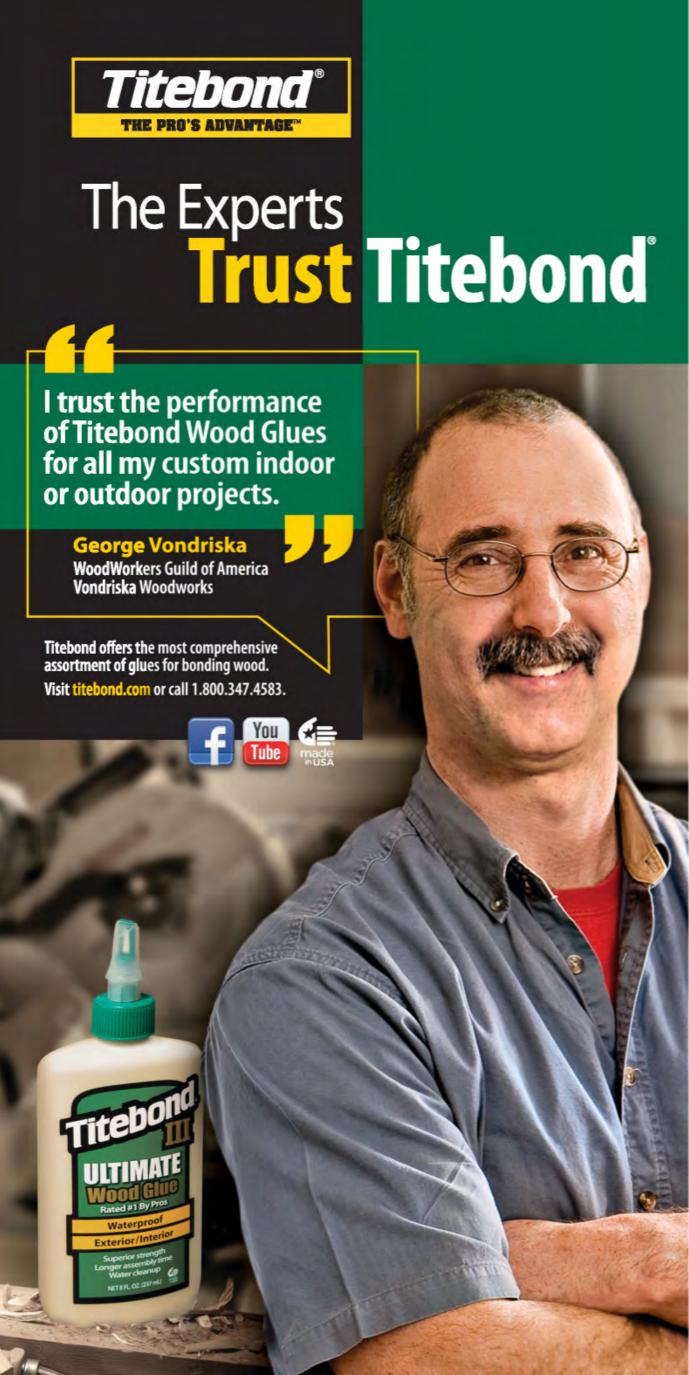
Bespoke jig is the wheel deal

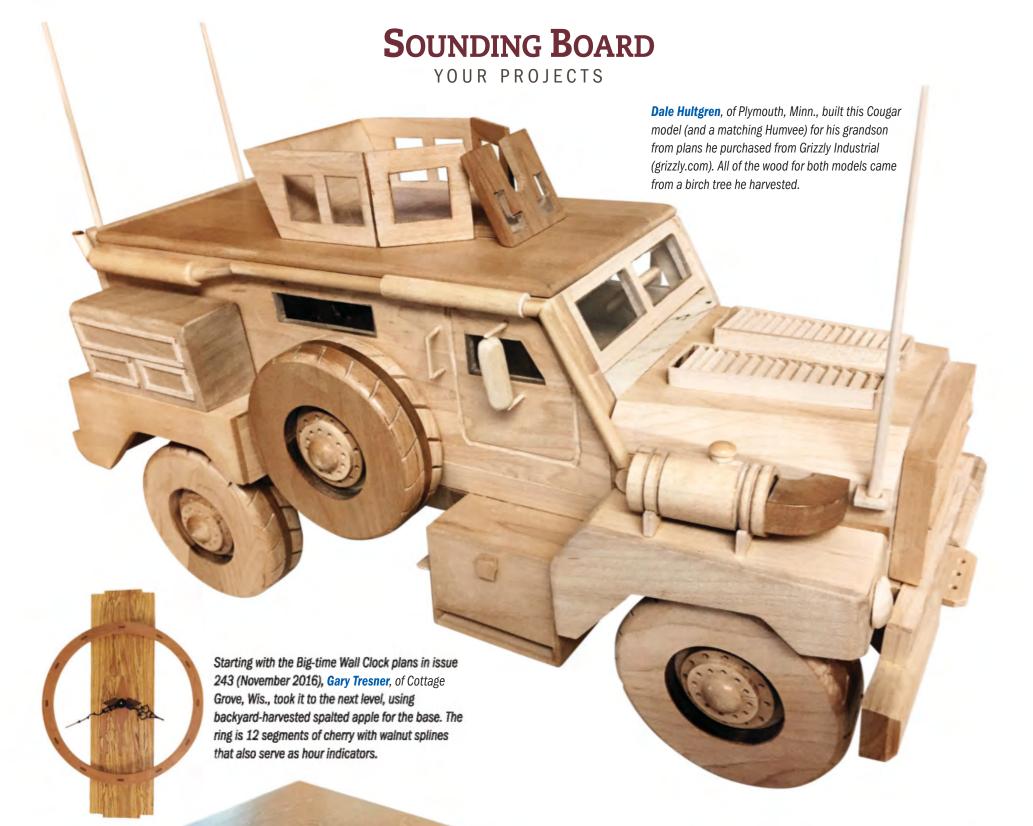
While building the wheels for the Rocking Motorcyle (issue 258), it was a struggle keeping all seven layers aligned while gluing them together. So I traced the inner diameter of the wheels on a scrap of plywood and inset dowels as shown to hold the wheel alignment.

—**Grant Howard**Sudbury, Ont.









Jerry Chervony, of Teaneck, N.J., mashed up state-of-the-art technologies from two drastically different eras to create this very cool icebox-themed media console.



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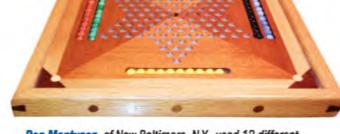
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Ron Mantynen, of New Baltimore, N.Y., used 12 different species of wood, including persimmon, canary wood, ebony, and 100-year-dried Brazilian cherry, in the making of this double-sided game board. It took him about 45 hours to build.



Working from memories of a childhood game, **Robert Gatchell**, of Oak Bluffs, Mass., created this 75"-long freestanding bowling lane from Baltic birch plywood and South American mahogany. Rare-earth magnets embedded in the ball return keep the $1\frac{1}{2}$ " steel balls from straying.

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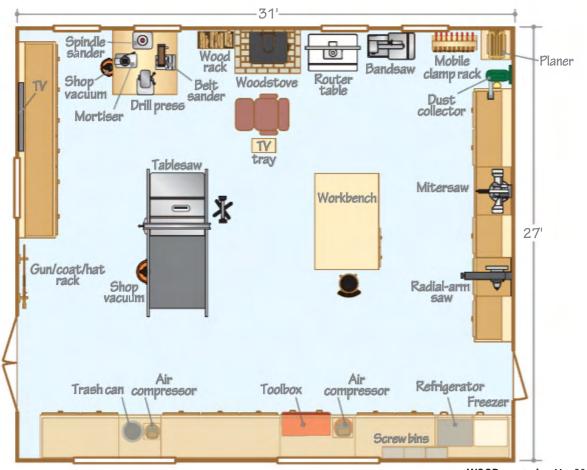




alking into Gary Toles's outbuilding, you might be confused as to whether you're in his shop or his den. The recliner, flat-screen TV, mini-fridges, and woodstove within spitting distance of his tablesaw and workbench could throw you off.

Gary's shop is the culmination of 30 years of woodworking and construction experience. Cabinets he built from *New Yankee Workshop* plans house hand and portable power tools. Besides providing plenty of countertop space to work on—and plan—projects, the cabinets incorporate a fence shared by the radial-arm saw and mitersaw.

Gary hid dust-collection ductwork in a hollow backsplash on his cabinets, with the top of the backsplash serving as shelf space. He piped two auxiliary dust-collection ports to the front faces of the cabinets so he can roll his router table and other tools up to one and plug in a flex hose.













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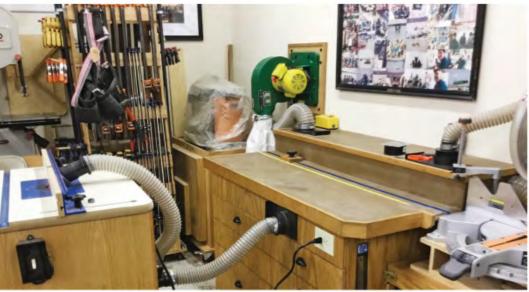
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Gary built all of his shop cabinets to maximize storage space. Even his pancake air compressor rolls on a mobile base to tuck under the countertop. Wall-mounted parts cabinets keep hardware close at hand. Electrical outlets on the fronts of the cabinets add extra convenience for power tools.



Gary's shop also serves as a hideaway, where he can relax in his leather recliner while watching sports on a flat-screen TV. A woodstove keeps the shop toasty warm in the winter.



Ductwork and blast gates built into the shop cabinets make dust-collection hookup easy. The wall-mounted dust collector saves floor space.

The main workbench features a replaceable worksurface and more drawers, and rides on casters for mobility. The tablesaw stands in the middle of the shop, away from the main dust-collection system. So a shop vacuum, operated by a switch at the front of the saw, extracts chips and dust.

Because Gary doesn't like clutter, he takes the time to clean up between projects and puts tools in their respective storage locations.



A 6'-wide double entry door makes it easy to move material and projects in and out. Large windows on three walls provide plenty of natural light.



To keep dust off tools and accessories, Gary built large, deep drawers into his shop cabinets. Full-extension drawer slides make them easy to access.



The main workbench in Gary's shop features a large, replaceable worksurface, drawers for storage, and casters for mobility. In the background, his mitersaw and radial-arm saw share a fence system on his custom-built cabinets.



A retired construction manager, Gary Toles has been woodworking for about 30 years, starting with a Craftsman tablesaw and a Black & Decker router. Over the years, he's outfitted his home and yard with projects he designed and built.

How has this shop/living-room combination worked out? "Life is not all woodworking," Gary quips. When the blades and bits aren't spinning, he loves watching baseball games from the comfort of his backyard hideaway.

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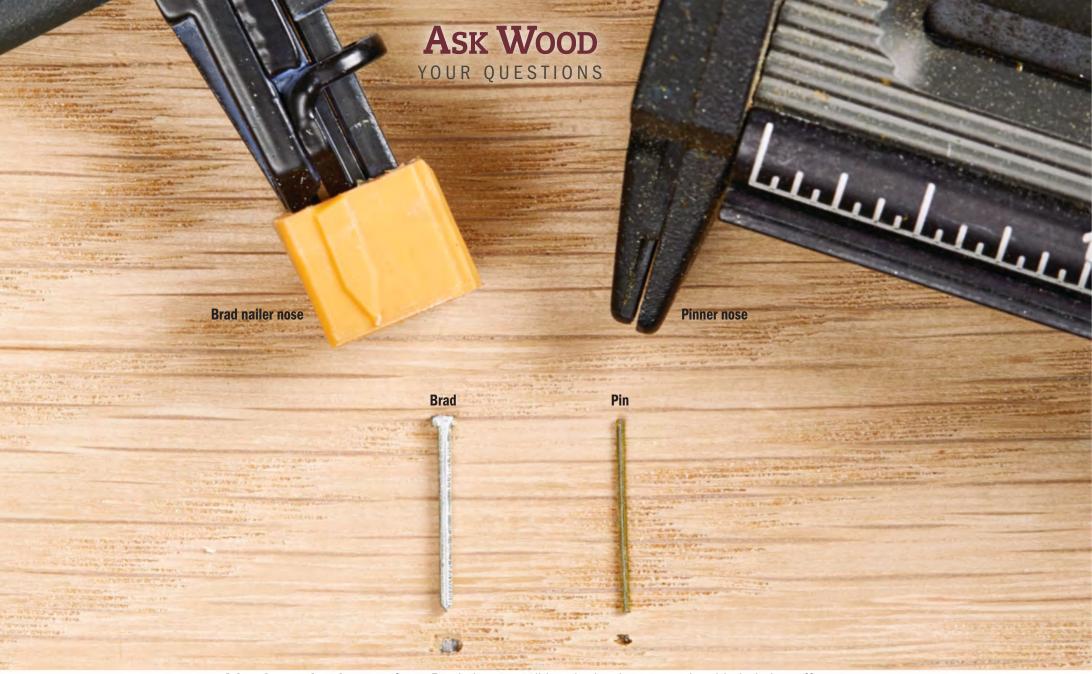




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A head-to-no-head comparison. Brads have small heads that leave a noticeable hole but offer more holding power than pins. Because pins don't have heads, they nearly disappear into the grain of most woods, especially after the application of stain.

Choosing brads or pins: a tale of holes and holding

My pneumatic brad nailer has served me well, but I'm curious about pin nailers that shoot pins even finer than brads. When would I benefit from using such a tool?

—Bob Pruefer, Plymouth, Mass.

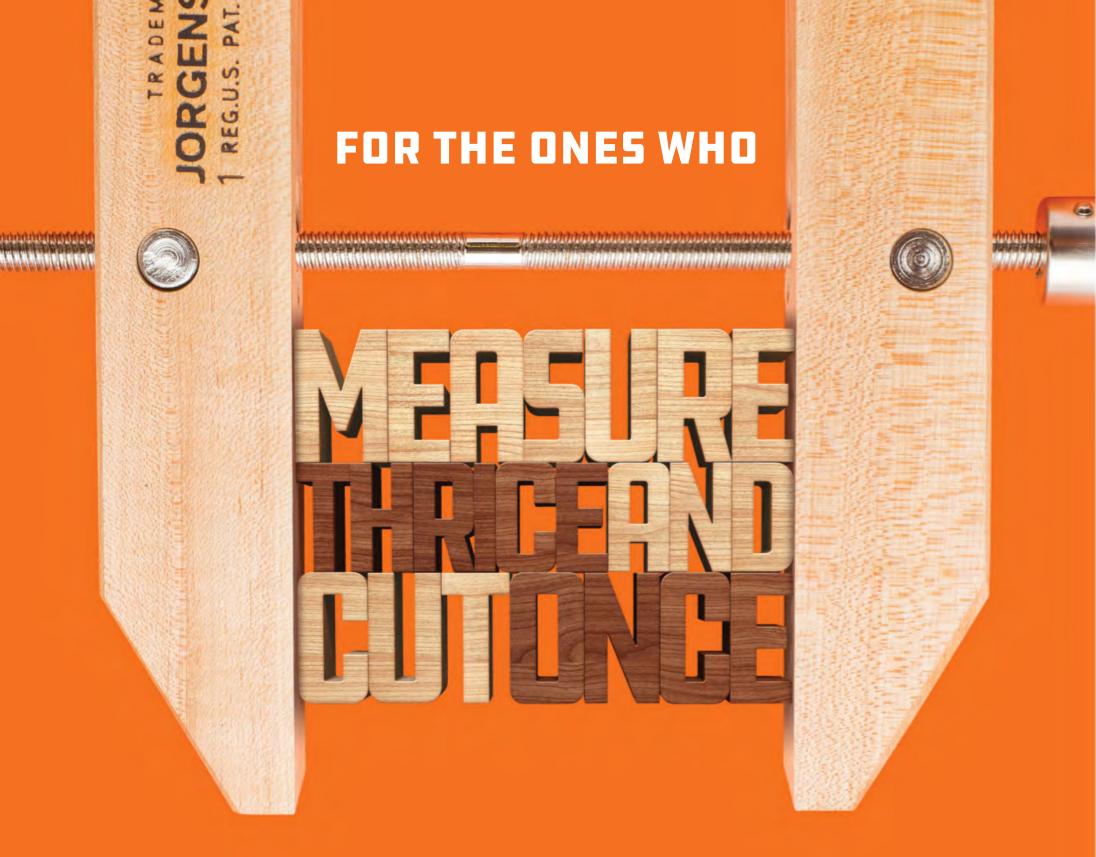
Pin nailers offer several advantages—and drawbacks—compared with brad nailers, Bob. Unlike 18-gauge brads, 23-gauge pins don't have heads, so they leave miniscule holes that typically don't require filling. Besides the cosmetic advantage, not having to fill holes can result in significant time saving when attaching a lot of trim. But the lack of a head gives a pin little holding power. So for most applications, use pins in conjunction with an adhesive such as wood glue. In the WOOD® shop we often use pins to hold glass stops because there's little risk of shattering glass. That's one of the few pin applications that don't require adhesives.

Because of its thinner profile, a pin won't likely split thin, delicate trim or veneer, the way a brad could. And because a pin nailer doesn't have a nose-mounted safety with large plastic pad, as shown *above*, you can precisely position a pin in tight spots. (For safety purposes, a pin nailer has two triggers in place of the nose-mounted safety.)

Brads typically range 5%"-2" long, and pins come 3%"-2" long. But guns capable of shooting pins longer than 1" can be pricey, with those shooting 2-inchers costing upwards of \$200. Despite their thinner gauge, pins penetrate the hardest of woods as easily as brads. But be warned: A pin more likely will deflect off course as it hits denser bands of latewood.

You can buy either type of nailer in its most common pneumatic form (cordless versions are also available) for less than \$100. But if you can afford just one, a brad nailer will prove more versatile. And if you think you might like a compromise between a typical brad and pin, consider a 21-gauge nailer, now available from several manufacturers. Technically brads because they have slight heads, those slim fasteners can be harder to find and require nailers priced close to \$200.

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



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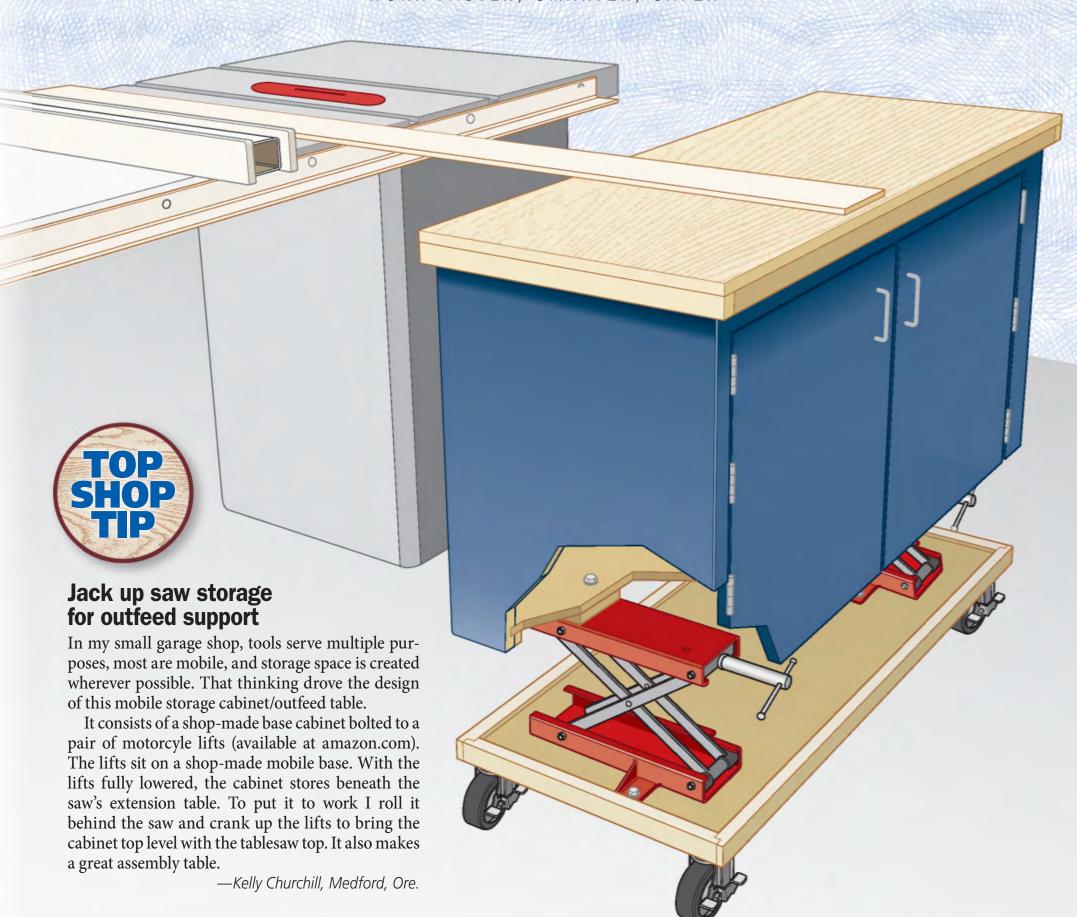
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SHOP TIPS

WORK FASTER, SMARTER, SAFER





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5 Aromatherapy Necklace Kit Starter Set

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SHOP TIPS

Sliding lathe tool tray

After struggling to find a safe and convenient place to set my turning tools while working at the lathe, I designed this sliding tray. It puts the tools within easy reach no matter if there's a small bowl blank or long

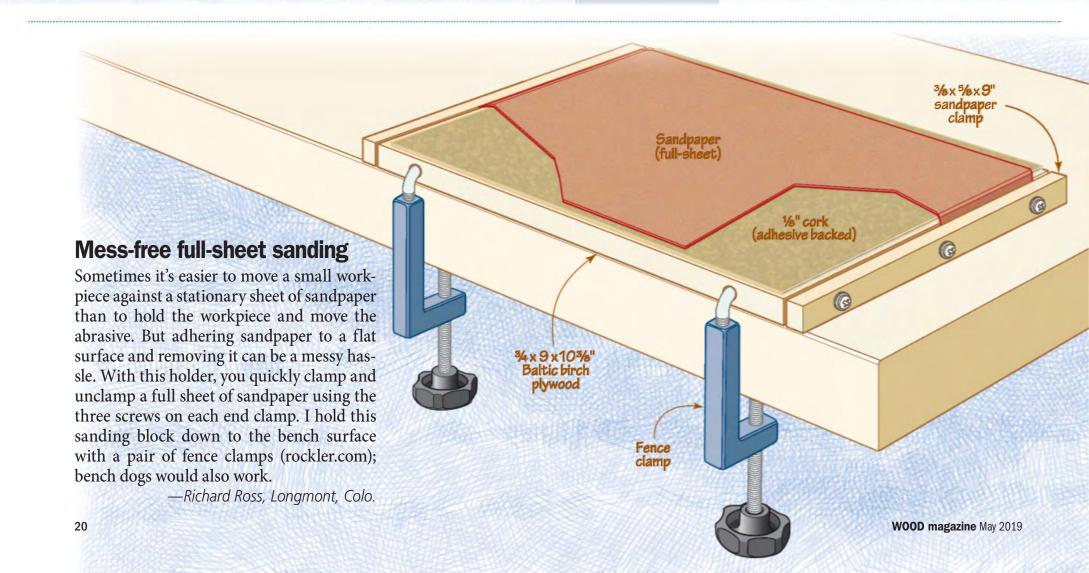
Cleats mounted on tray bottom

To build it, bolt a wood extension to the lathe's tail end. Mount full-extension drawer slides to the extension and a wood tray. Size the parts so the tray slides clear of the lathe bed. Position the slides so the tray glides about ½" above the bed.

spindle on the lathe.

Jeff Baenen, Kenosha, Wis.

Wood bed extension







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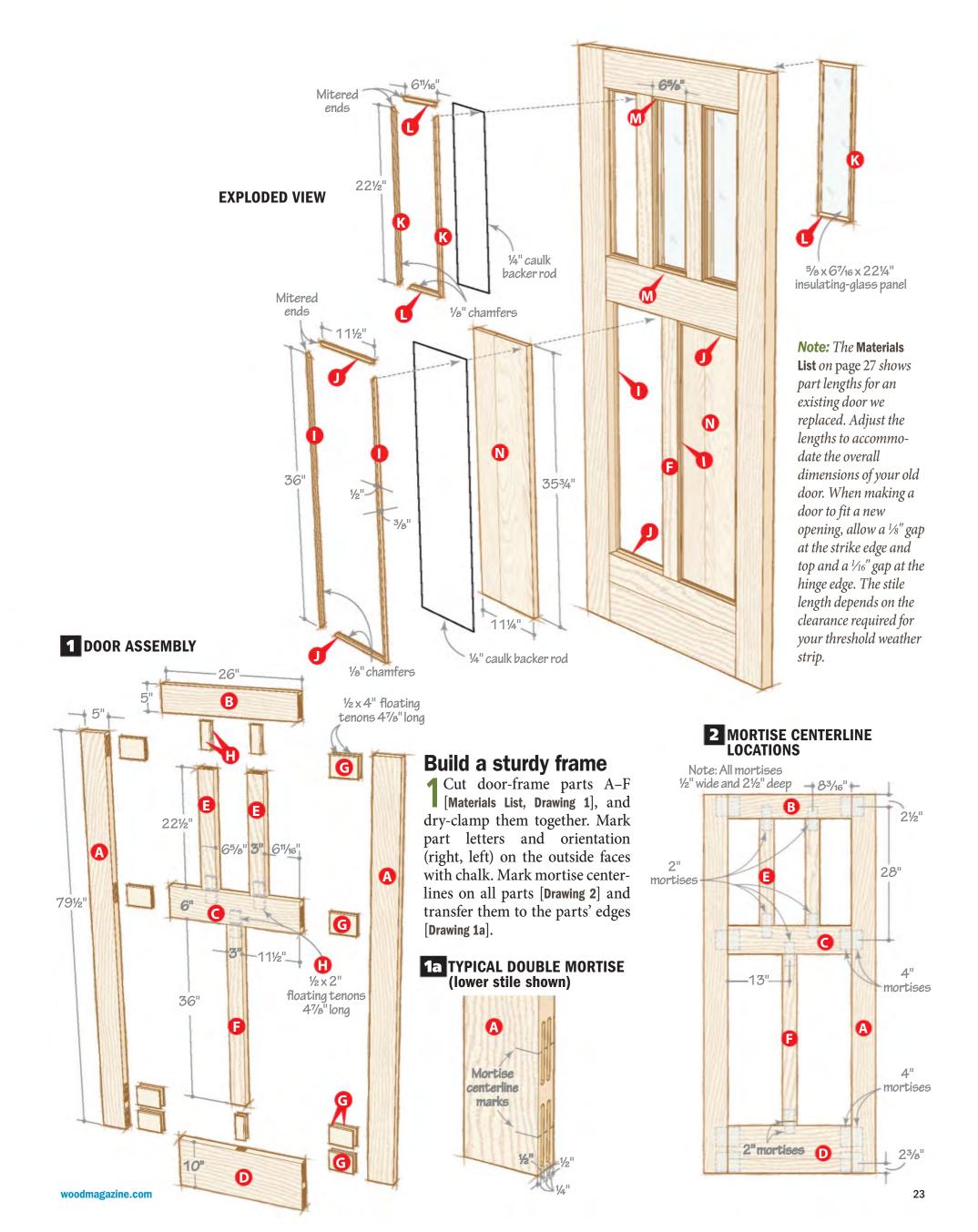


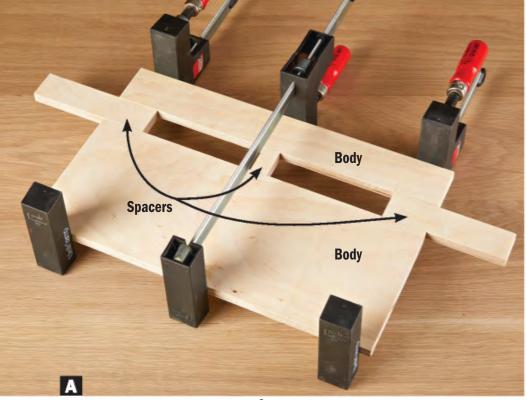
Grand entrance Front Door

Enhance your home's curb appeal with warm, welcoming wood tones.

f you consider making a custom entry door above your pay grade, reconsider. We designed this door with simple, easy-to-fit floating tenons and routed mortises, doubled for strength, made with simple, foolproof jigs. The applied panel and glass stops eliminate the need for an expensive rail-and-stile bit set and finicky setups.

Build sidelight panels using the same techniques as for the door.





Glue spacers slightly wider than 1%" between the jig body parts. The resulting slots should allow free movement of the guide bushing without play.

▶Buy this router bit. woodmagazine.com/ 2.5straight

Note: The largediameter guide bushing allows for efficient chip removal, critical when routing deep mortises.

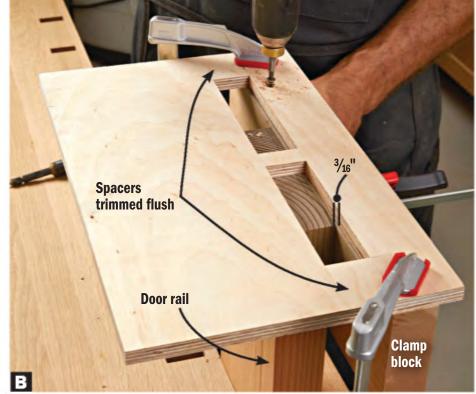
Note: Use the double-mortise jig for all 4"-wide mortises.

2 Install a ½"-diameter, 2½"-cut-length straight bit and a 1¾"-outside-diameter guide bushing in a plunge router equipped with good chip collection. Build the mortising jigs [Drawing 3, Photos A and B], marking the mortise centerlines on the jigs.

Clamp each door-frame part in a vise and plunge-rout the mortises [Drawing 1a, Photo C].

4 Cut a blank 84" long for the large tenons (G) and a 64"-long blank for the small tenons (H), test-fitting the blanks in a mortise as you plane the material to thickness. To allow room for glue, the tenons should slide into the mortises with little resistance. Rout ½" round-overs along the stock edges and cut the tenons to length.

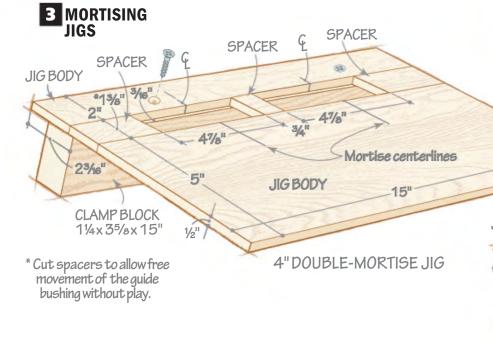
5 Glue the upper mullions (E) between the upper rail (B) and middle rail (C) [**Drawing** 1]. Add one stile (A) and then the lower mullion (F), lower rail (D), and second stile. Clamp the frame and remove any excess glue. Finish-sand the frame.



Clamp the clamp block to a door rail, and the jig body to the clamp block, so the block protrudes 3/16" into the jig-body opening. Screw the body to the block.



Clamp the mortise jig to one face of each part, aligning jig and part centerlines. Rout the mortises in successive $\frac{1}{8}$ "-deep passes. Switch the jig to the opposite face of the part and repeat.



*Cut spacers to allow free movement of the guide bushing without play.

*ISE JIG

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*Cut spacers to allow free movem



Ensure uniform panel- and glass-stop inset using a positioning block with a $\frac{1}{8}$ "-deep rabbet.

Tip! To allow for wood movement and room for

solid-wood panels 1/4"

smaller in length and

width than the opening.

backer rod, cut



Position the old door, hinges attached and lockset removed, on the new one with edges flush all around. Transfer the hinge locations to the new door.

Make the stops and panels

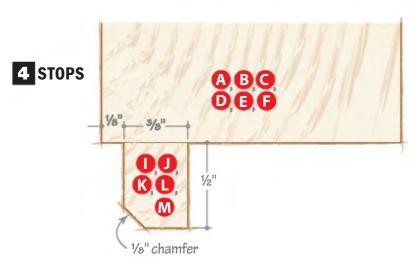
Cut the stops (I–M) 1" longer than listed [Exploded View]. Chamfer one edge of each stop [Drawing 4] and finish-sand them. Mitercut the exterior stops to length and glue them into the door-frame openings set ½" back from the outside face [Photo D]. Set the remaining stops aside.

2Cut the panels (N) and finish-sand them. Set the panels aside.

From a glass shop, order low-E, tempered, 5%"-thick insulating-glass panels 1/4" smaller in width and length than the window openings. (Lead times for these panels vary from a few days to a week.)

Install the hardware

Transfer the hinge locations [Photo E] and the lockset latch and bolt centerlines from the old door to the new one and bore lockset holes. Mortise the latch and bolt plates [Photo F].

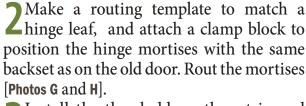


Place the latch and bolt in the lockset holes and mark the mortises. Rout the mortises close to the marks with a trim router and mortise bit. Clean up the edges with a chisel.

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Align the inside edges of the template with the hinge marks on the edge of the door and clamp it in place.



Install the threshold weather strip and hang the door in the opening to check the fit and alignment of the hardware. Remove the door from the opening.

Apply finish and assemble

We used reclaimed Douglas fir joists for our door. But the checks, nail holes, and chipped and missing knots that give this lumber its distinct charm must be filled before finishing. We prefer the quick and easy method shown in the **Skill Builder**, *next page*.

1 Remove all hardware. Inspect all parts and finish-sand where necessary. Apply a finish to the door frame, uninstalled stops, and panels. (We applied Danish oil to bring out the color and then top-coated with an exterior water-based satin polyurethane after the oil fully cured.)

Place the door, inside face up, on your workbench or sawhorses and install the panels (N) [Photo I]. Miter-cut the panel stops to length and install them. (We used a 23-gauge pinner to secure the stops.)

Install the insulating-glass panels in the window openings in the same manner as the panels (N).



Rout the hinge mortises using a top-bearing pattern bit.



Insert ¾" caulk-backer rod between the panels and frame all around to prevent air infiltration and keep the panels from rattling due to seasonal shrinkage.

4 Reinstall all the hardware and hang the door in the opening. Take a walk out to the curb, turn around, and soak in the new look.

Note: To avoid ongoing maintenance problems, use a clear finish only for doors protected from direct sun by a porch roof, recessed entry, or northern orientation. We recommend painting a door exposed to direct sunlight.

SKILL BUILDER

Quickly turn fissures into features

To fill knots and other nonstructural defects in wood we often use colored epoxy. But here's a way that avoids the expense, mess, multiple applications, and downtime waiting for epoxy to cure: brown hot glue sticks (available in other colors) from Surebonder [Source]. The photos

show the two simple steps. A glue gun fitted with a long tip [Source] ensures complete fill of deep voids. With the glue trimmed flush, finish-sand as usual, taking care not to pause the sander over the filled areas.



Even careful layout of parts leaves a few imperfections in workpieces cut from reclaimed Douglas fir joists.



Inject hot glue into cracks and voids, gradually overfilling them. Allow the glue to cool fully.



Pare excess glue flush with the surface. Do not remove excess glue with heavy sanding. The heat of sanding softens and smears the glue.

Cutting Diagram

This project requires 32 board feet of 8/4 Douglas fir, 7 board feet of 4/4 Douglas fir, 5 square feet of $\frac{1}{2}$ " Douglas fir, and 5 square feet of $\frac{1}{2}$ " white oak.



 $1\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4} \times 72$ " Douglas fir

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1	G		G	0	•	G	G) G		G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	15	
	1/0 >	, 5	71/4	, a	6"	Wh	ita	nak													

x 7¼ x 96" White oak



the Materials List.

½ x 7¼ x 96" Douglas fir *Pla	ne or resaw to the t	nickness listed ir
0	N	
³ / ₄ × 7 ¹ / ₄ × 72" Douglas fir		*
0	N	
34 x 51/2 x 72" Douglas fir		1

Produced by Jan Svec with **Kevin Boyle** Project design: Kevin Boyle Illustrations: Roxanne

LeMoine, Lorna Johnson

Materials List

	iatenais L	13t				
Pai	rt	т	FINISHED S W	IZE L	Matl.	Qty.
Α	stiles	1¾"	5"	79½"	DF	2
В	upper rail	1¾"	5"	26"	DF	1
С	middle rail	1¾"	6"	26"	DF	1
D	lower rail	1¾"	10"	26"	DF	1
E	upper mullions	1¾"	3"	22½"	DF	2
F	lower mullion	1¾"	3"	36"	DF	1
G*	large tenons	1/2"	4"	47/8"	WO	16
H*	small tenons	1/2"	2"	47/8"	WO	12
*	vertical panel stops	3/8"	1/2"	36"	DF	8
J*	horizontal panel stops	3/8"	1/2"	11½"	DF	8
K*	vertical glass stops	3/8"	1/2"	221/2"	DF	12
L*	outer horizontal glass stops	3/8"	1/2"	611/16"	DF	8
M*	center horizontal glass stops	3/8"	1/2"	6 ⁵ /8"	DF	4
N	panels	3/4"	11 ¹ /4"	35¾"	DF	2

*Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

Materials key: DF-Douglas fir, WO-white oak.

 $\textbf{Supplies:} \ 4\text{" caulk-backer rod (34'); **}\% \times 6\% \times 224\text{" low-E, tempered,}$ insulating-glass panels (3); 1" micro pins.

Glass dimensions depend on the dimensions of your window openings. **Bits: Two-flute, ½"-shank, ½"-diameter, 2½"-cut-length, straight; ¼" round-over; 45° chamfer; ½" mortise; and top-bearing pattern router bits.

no. 103N, \$5.99. Surebonder, 800-860-3838, surebonder.com.

Source: Brown hot-glue sticks, $\frac{5}{16} \times 4^{\text{"}}$, 12 pack no. CO-12BRWN, \$2.99 pk.; 7/16×4", 6 pack no. CO-6BRWN, \$2.99 pk.; professional 100-watt, high-temperature, full-size glue gun no. PRO2-100, \$37.49; needle extension nozzle

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oodworking existed long before table-saws. And although today's shops tend to center on a tablesaw, you can still do superb woodworking without one. Here's how. G0555LX grizzly.com 28 **WOOD magazine** May 2019



An edge guide attached to a circular saw helps you rip pieces to identical width.

Ripping

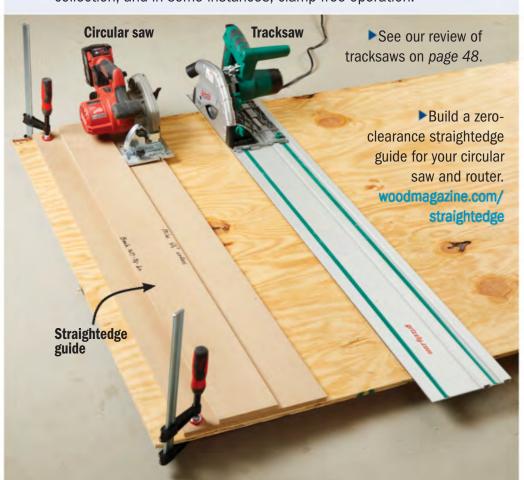
For cutting a board lengthwise, if the board has no true edge to begin with, turn to a tracksaw, or a circ saw with a straightedge guide. If the workpiece has a straight "factory" edge already, as sheet goods do, an edge guide may be a better choice [Photo A].

A well-tuned bandsaw with a fence can turn out straight rips as well, but the sawn edge typically needs cleanup [Photo B]. To cut several pieces of identical width, rip each one over-width, then joint one edge and plane their opposite edges as a group [Photo C].

Joint edges on the router table. woodmagazine.com/rtjointer

A circular saw or tracksaw?

Two tools discussed in this article work similarly: a circular saw guided by a shop-made straightedge, and a tracksaw. Which you choose may come down to budget. Find circular saws for as little as \$40, then construct a straightedge guide from scrap sheet goods. Spend a \$300 minimum for a tracksaw and you'll get a saw with plunge action, a blade that tilts for bevels while still aligning with the guide's cutline indicator, the accuracy of a saw mated to a guide, better dust collection, and in some instances, clamp-free operation.





Ripped with a 5-tpi blade, this bandsawn edge needs jointing or planing before it is ready for glue-up.



Stack several workpieces face to face to stabilize the group and run them on edge through a planer.

Pick the right blade for the job at hand

When choosing a saw, equip it with the right blade. For crosscuts, higher tooth counts (teeth per inch, or tpi) produce smoother sawn surfaces. Ripping requires fewer tpi to allow space between them to carry away the sawdust. Even the best blade dulls with use, so sharpen or replace it as soon as it shows signs of having lost its edge.



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An auxiliary fence prevents chip-out on the rear edge of the workpiece. Adding a stopblock simplifies cutting identical-length boards.

Learn basic mitersaw operations. woodmagazine.com/mitersawbasics

Crosscutting

Cutting boards across the grain is best accomplished with a well-set-up mitersaw [Photo D]. For boards wider than the mitersaw's capacity, reach for a handsaw, circular saw [Photo E], or tracksaw.

You can also use the bandsaw for boards narrow enough to fit between the blade and front edge of the table, and short enough to feed steadily [Photo F].



A rafter square provides an accurate guide for crosscutting with a circular saw. Adding an extension and a stop helps you cut pieces to identical length.

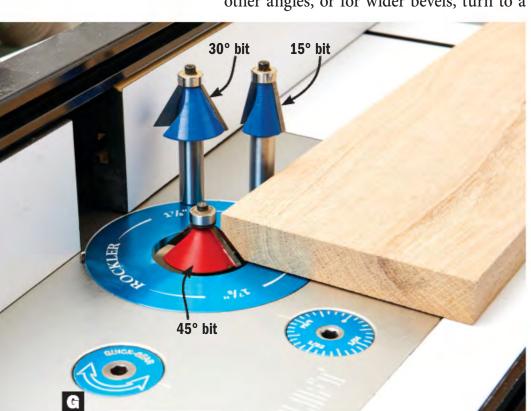


Guide a workpiece with a miter gauge when crosscutting on the bandsaw. A stand to the side helps support long workpieces.

Bevels

To bevel or chamfer stock up to 3/4" thick, choose a chamfer bit [**Photo G**] in either a handheld or table-mounted router. For other angles, or for wider bevels, turn to a

guided circ saw or tracksaw. You can also tilt the bandsaw table, guide the workpiece with a fence [Photo H], and clean up the cut with a few passes from a hand plane.



Find chamfer bits in standard angles of 15°, 22.5°, 30°, 45°, and 60°.



For best workpiece stability, place the fence below the blade and bevel the edge opposite the fence. This scrapwood fence accommodates a wider workpiece than the factory-supplied fence.

WOOD magazine May 2019

Dadoes, grooves, and rabbets

Use a straight bit in the router table or a handheld router to cut dadoes (a U-shape channel cut *across* the grain) [Photo I]; grooves (a U-shape channel cut *with* the grain) [Photo J]; and rabbets (an L-shape cut along the edge or end of a board) [Photo K].

► Get free instructions for the dado jig. woodmagazine.com/ dadojig



This jig adjusts to match the thickness of the piece being seated in the groove. Using a straight bit and guide bushing to guide the cut allows for routing shallow grooves and dadoes.



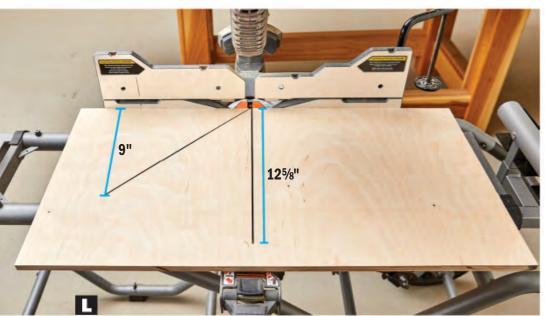
Guide a handheld router with a straight bit along a zero-clearance straightedge. The same technique cleans up rough edges for edge-to-edge glue joints.



A sharp rabbeting bit cuts a smooth wall and bottom. Swap out the bearing to cut rabbets of different widths.

Miters and beveled crosscuts

A mitersaw makes easy work of crosscutting a board at an angle across its face (a miter) or through its thickness (a bevel), although crosscut capacity decreases as the miter angle increases [**Photo L**]. Detents lock the blade at common angles, such as $22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, 30° , and 45° . Sliding mitersaws provide the most capacity, with 12° sliders maxing out around 13° at 90° , when cutting $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ -thick stock. For wider boards or panels, tilt the shoe of a circ saw or tracksaw.



At 90°, this 10" sliding mitersaw cuts 12%". Turned to a 45° miter, the capacity falls to 9".

Tapers

Cut tapers at the bandsaw [Photo M], and clean up the sawn face with a few strokes from a hand plane.



Mark the taper on the workpiece, then cut just along the waste side of the line. Smooth the cut edge to the line using a jack plane.

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Align clean-cut edges, if possible, then trim the opposite edges. A $7\frac{1}{4}$ " circular saw will cut $2\frac{1}{2}$ " deep.



Stack and clamp a template or properly sized piece on a rough-cut piece. A flush-trim router bit mills the oversize panel for a perfect match.

Sheet goods and panels

Size sheet goods and glued-up panels with a circ saw and straightedge, or a tracksaw. To create identical-size parts, cut them slightly oversize, then stack several, clamp them or

apply double-faced tape between them, and cut all to final size at the same time [Photo N]. Create additional matched parts using a router and flush-trim bit [Photo 0].

Cut both the mortise and tenon on the router table. woodmagazine.com/routermortisetenon

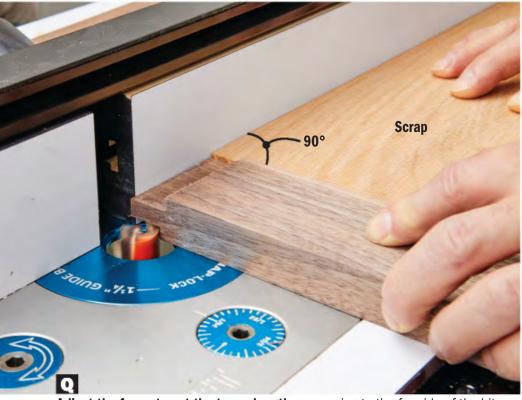
Joinery

The tablesaw cuts clean, accurate tenons, half-laps, box joints, and more. But these joints and others can be accomplished by other methods.

Tenons: Set up your bandsaw with a fence and stopblock [Photo P], use a straight bit in the router table [Photo Q], or cut them with a handsaw [Photo R].



Measure from the fence to the opposite face of the blade to determine the thickness you'll remove from the cheek. A stop sets the tenon length. Bandsaw or handsaw the shoulder.



Adjust the fence to set the tenon length, measuring to the far side of the bit. Guide the workpiece with a miter gauge or scrap with a square corner. Raise the bit height in small increments to sneak up on the fit.



The reinforced spine of a backsaw resists flexing, helping the blade track true. Practice cutting to a line on scrap to hone your skills.

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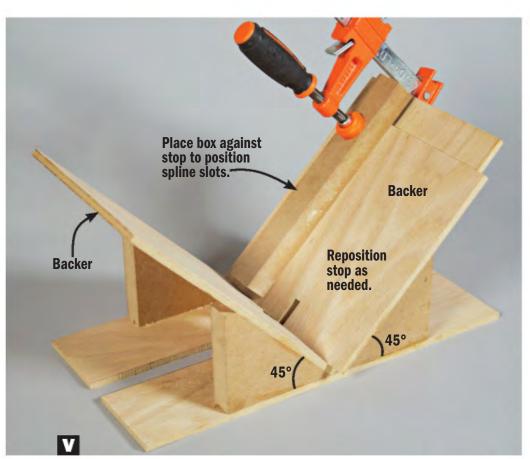


Set up the same as for cutting a tenon, sneaking up on the bit height until the faces of the dry-fit workpieces rest flush.

► Buy plans for the box-joint jig. woodmagazine.com/ boxjointjig **Half-laps:** A straight bit in the router table allows fine-tuning the joint as you work for a flush fit on both faces [**Photo S**].

Box joints: A box-joint jig works just as well on a router table as on a tablesaw [Photo T]. Fingers must match the width of a router bit. **Splines:** Cut a groove the length of an edge at the router table [Photo U]. Strengthen and dress up miter joints by routing slots through them [Photos V, W], then gluing in splines.

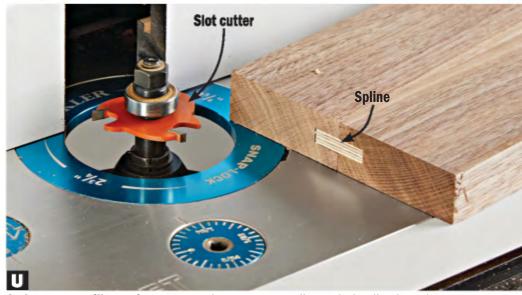
Produced by Craig Ruegsegger



To reinforce mitered box corners, build a cradle from scrap plywood or MDF to fit your project. Ensure that the two backers rest square so the box won't shift as you rout the slots.



This self-guided jig clamps to the router table, so it works on tables that don't have a miter-gauge slot.



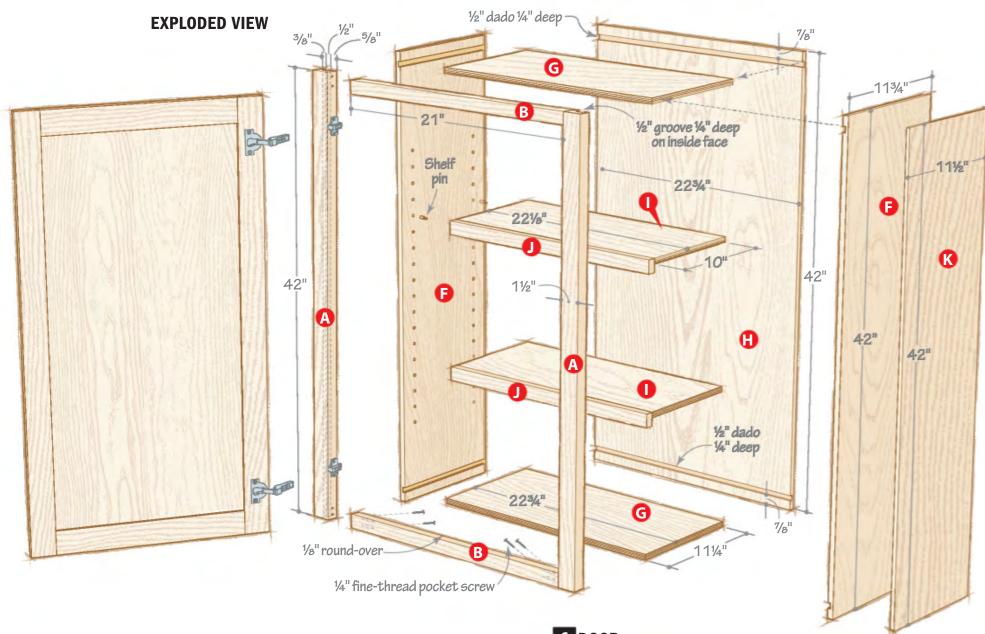
 ${\bf A}$ slot cutter mills mating grooves that accept a spline to help align boards during glue-up.



Register the jig against the router-table fence. A straight bit cuts the spline slots. Move the stop on the jig to reposition the box to rout additional slots at each corner.

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Join four pieces for the face frame

grooves in the stiles later.

Cut the face frame stiles and rails (A, B) to size

[Materials List, page 37], and round over the

inside edge of the bottom rail only [Exploded

View]. Assemble the face frame with pocket

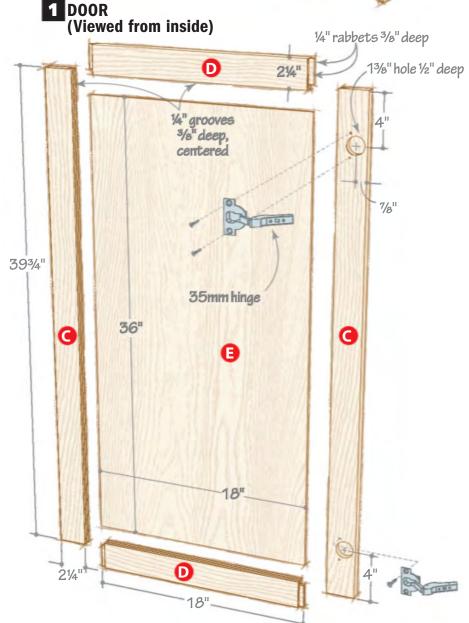
screws, and finish-sand it. You'll cut the

Tip! When building several cabinets, save shop space by building all of the face frames and doors first, and the bulkier carcases last.

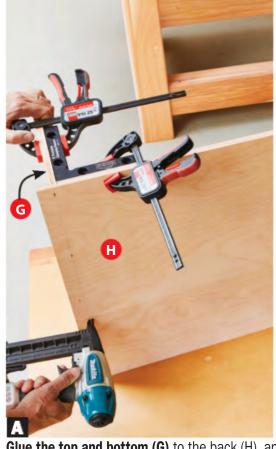
Make another frame and a panel for the door
Cut the door stiles and rails (C, D) to size

If you resize the cabinet, make the door 3/4" wider and taller than the face-frame opening.

Cut the door stiles and rails (C, D) to size [Drawing 1] and cut the grooves to match the thickness of the plywood for the door panel (E). Rabbet the ends of the rails to create centered tongues to fit the grooves. Cut the panel to fit the dry-assembled door, finish-sand it, then glue up the door. Drill the hinge holes using a Forstner bit, finish-sand the frame, and apply a finish to the face frame and door.

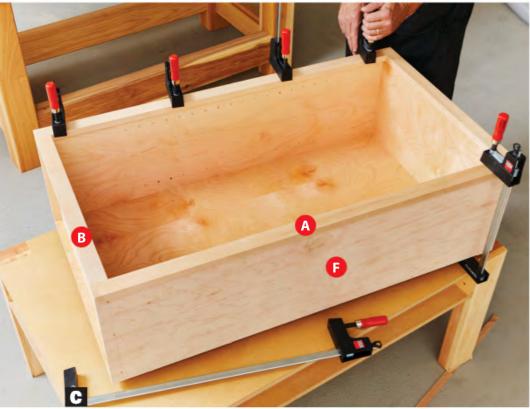


(Left side shown, right side is a mirror image)





Glue the top and bottom (G) to the back (H), and secure with 1" narrow-crown staples, or #6 screws. A clamping square helps align the pieces while you work. Then glue and staple each side (F) to this assembly.



Glue the face frame to the carcase, seating the sides (F) in the grooves in the stiles (A). To avoid unsightly holes, do not nail or staple the face frame.

Dadoed panels make the carcase

► Get perfect dadoes in just two cuts. woodmagazine.com/ perfectdadovid

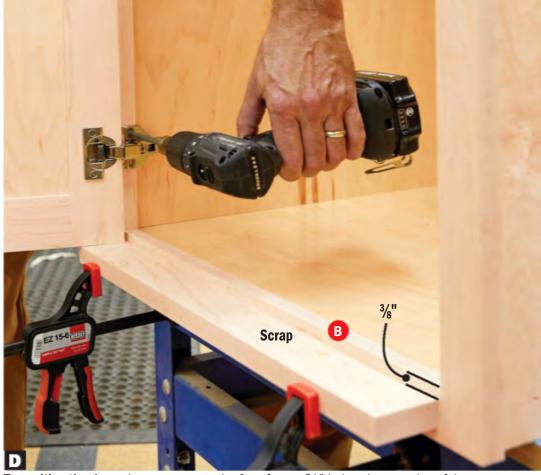
Make a simple shelfpin-hole jig. woodmagazine.com/ shelfpinjig

36

Cut the cabinet parts (F–J) to size [Exploded View]. Set up your dado blade to match the thickness of your ½" plywood. Groove the inside faces of the face-frame stiles (A); dado the cabinet sides and back (F, H); and rabbet the sides (F) [Exploded View, Drawing 2]. Drill the shelf-pin holes.

Put it all together

Assemble the cabinet as shown in **Photos A-D**. Then, glue the shelf trim (J) to each shelf (I) [**Exploded View**]. Apply a finish to the shelves and any show panels (K) needed for the visible cabinet sides, then set them aside while you hang your new cabinet.



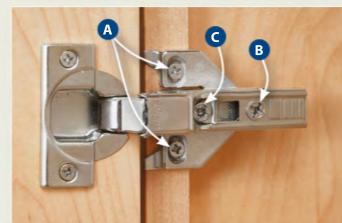
To position the door, clamp a scrap to the face frame, 3/8" below the top edge of the rail (B). Rest the door on the scrap, and screw the hinge plates to the face frame.

SKILL BUILDER

Three-way adjustable hinges align

doors perfectly

European (35mm) hinges adjust in three axes, making it easy to fit doors. Loosen screws **A** to shift the door up or down; adjust screw **B** to move the door toward or away from the face frame; and use screw **C** for side-to-side adjustments.





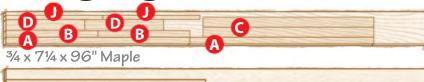
A shop-made stand supports the upper cabinet at the desired height while you level it and drive the screws into studs.

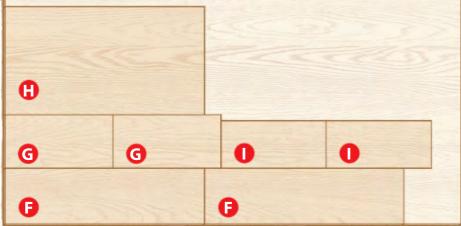
Tip! Avoid marks on the wall by marking stud locations on painter's tape below the upper cabinet.

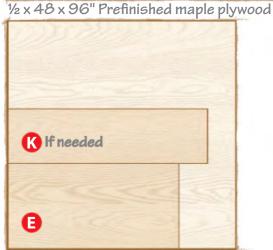
Hanging the cabinets

Remove the door by unclipping the halves of the hinges. Install any base cabinets first; you'll use them to help install the upper cabinets. If you have no base cabinet, hang the upper cabinet at a comfortable height above the floor—54" is standard.

Cutting Diagram







 $\frac{1}{4} \times 48 \times 48$ " Maple plywood

SKILL BUILDER

Installing above a counter

If the base cabinet already has a countertop, adjust the height of the stand accordingly, then subtract $\frac{1}{4}$ " from that height. When installing the upper cabinet, rest the stand on a $\frac{1}{4}$ "-thick spacer. Removing the spacer creates room to pull out the stand when the job is done.



To install an upper cabinet above a base cabinet, build a 19%"-tall stand [Photo E], and rest it on the brace of the base cabinet. (If the base cabinet already has a countertop, see the Skill Builder, above.) Place the upper cabinet on the stand. Screw the back to the wall studs with 3" screws, then slide the stand out. Snap the door hinges onto the cabinethalf of the hinges, and adjust the door as needed [Skill Builder, previous page]. Glue the show panels to the cabinet and install the shelf pins and shelves.

Tip! Coat the tips of the screws in wax so they install easier.

Materials List

(for one cabinet 42" tall and 24" wide)

•						
Pai	rt	T	FINISHED W	SIZE L	Matl.	Qty.
Α	face-frame stiles	3/4"	1½"	42"	M	2
В	face-frame rails	3/4"	1½"	21"	М	2
С	door stiles	3/4"	21/4"	39¾"	M	2
D	door rail	3/4"	21/4"	18"	М	2
E	door panel	1/4"	18"	36"	MP	1
F	side	1/2"	11¾"	42"	PMP	2
G	top/bottom	1/2"	111/4"	22¾"	PMP	2
Н	back	1/2"	22¾"	42"	PMP	1
ı	shelf	1/2"	10"	22%"	PMP	2
J	shelf trim	3/4"	1"	22%"	М	2
K*	show panel	1/4"	11½"	42"	MP	1

^{*}If needed.

Materials key: M-maple, MP-maple plywood, PMP-prefinished maple plywood.

Supplies: $1\frac{1}{4}$ " fine-thread pocket screws, door pull, $\frac{1}{4}$ " shelf pins (8), $\#8 \times 3$ " panhead screws.

Blade and bits: Dado set; 1%" (35mm) Forstner bit; 1/8" round-over bit.

Sources: Blum 110° soft-close hinges (2), no B071B3650, \$5.62 each, Woodworker's Hardware, 800-383-0130, wwhardware.com.

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





Find shellac in flake or button form. Button shellac creates a more mar-resistant finish than flakes but comes only in darker hues.



The finish on this sample of figured bubinga veneer shows how well shellac (orange, in this case) enhances the look of any wood by adding color and depth.

In addition to its use on wood, shellac was once widely found in semiconductors and motor windings because of its nonconductive

properties.

The secret ingredient

Shellac originates with the lac beetle, mainly in India and Thailand. Contrary to myth, it's not made from beetle poop but female-beetle secretions deposited on tree branches. Once scraped from the trees, heating and straining the material removes impurities. It's then rolled out into sheets to cool and dry. Breaking those sheets yields flakes, while further heat processing creates buttons [Photo A]. Each form dissolves in denatured alcohol, creating a liquid finish.

Depending on the type of tree upon which the beetles feast, natural shellac colors range from a dark garnet through brown, red, orange, and yellow. Amber and orange shellacs impart a warm, rich look to dark woods such as walnut, cherry, and mahogany [Photo B]. Bleached shellac imparts clear, lightblonde and super-blonde shades. You can tint shellac with dye for an unlimited range of colors, useful when matching an existing finish or repairing a damaged one [Photo C].

Though not as durable as polyurethane or varnish, shellac proves much easier to repair. All shellac products produce a gloss sheen.

Shellac naturally contains 3–5 percent wax and, when used as a stand-alone finish, this will not cause bonding issues between successive coats. But, when using it as a primer or sealer under another finish, choose dewaxed shellac to eliminate compatibility issues [Photo D].

So simple, anyone can mix it

Shellac is mixed in "cuts" which refer to the proportion of shellac flakes (measured in

Tip! Buff with 0000 steel wool to create a satin sheen.



Measure carefully when using powdered and liquid dyes or universal tinting colors (UTCs), and make more solution than you need. It can be difficult to precisely replicate a color in subsequent batches.



Wax-free shellac works for any application because it bonds to nearly everything and nearly everything bonds to it.



Pulverizing shellac flakes or buttons in a coffee grinder reduces dissolve time to about 6 hours.

▶ Don't need a gallon of shellac? Mix 1, 2, or 3 oz of flakes with 8 oz of alcohol for a 1-, 2-, or 3-pound cut. pounds) to solvent (measured in gallons). So, 1 pound of flakes mixed in 1 gallon of alcohol makes a 1-pound cut. A 2-pound cut would be slightly thicker and provide a quicker build. Very seldom does a mixture go beyond a 4-pound cut.

Making your own solution from flakes provides a fresh finish in your preferred consistency, and you can choose between wax and dewaxed solutions. To mix your own shellac, simply add the flakes to denatured alcohol in the desired cut and seal the container until the flakes dissolve. This usually takes about 24 hours. Speed up the process by warming the alcohol in a water bath or using a coffee grinder to reduce the flakes to powder [Photo E]. Strain the finished solution to remove any undissolved material.

The cut found in premixed shellac may vary, so check with the manufacturer for information on its formulation. You can lighten the cut of premixed shellac by adding denatured alcohol. Premixed shellac lasts about 3 years on the shelf. Check the dates on the cans [Photo F], or test the solution to make sure it's fresh [Photo G].

Ultra-easy application

Whether sprayed, brushed, or padded on, shellac dries quickly at optimal conditions of 70°F and 50–70 percent humidity. Though it dries to the touch in about 30 minutes, allow 1 hour between coats. Each coat dissolves into the previous one, creating a single, thicker coat, so don't sand between coats to enhance bonding, as with varnish or urethane finishes.

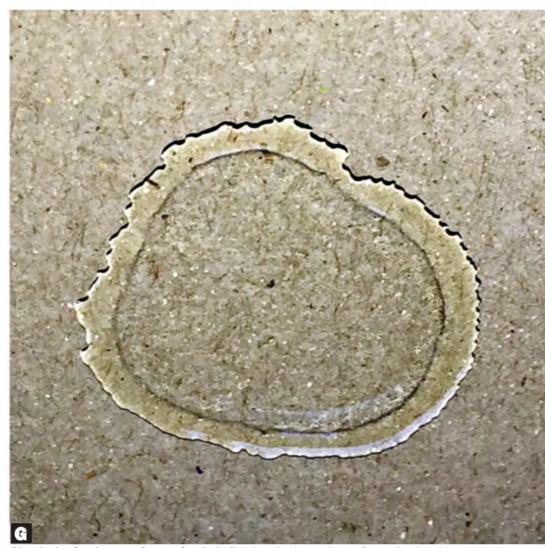
An aerosol can of shellac provides the simplest application method [Photo H].



The first number in the code on top of a can of Zinsser shellac indicates the year of manufacture. The next character shows the month, using 1–9, plus 0, N, or D for October, November, and December. The next two numbers indicate the day of the month. This batch was created on March 6, 2018.

Choose it for intricate projects where brushing would be difficult. Spray on multiple light coats rather than one heavy coat.

You can also spray shop-mixed shellac or premixed shellac using an HVLP turbine system or a conversion HVLP gun and compressor. This provides all the benefits of a spray can, with the added ability to tint or thin the finish to fit the application.



Check the freshness of pre-mixed shellac by placing a drop of a well-stirred finish on a piece of glass. Within 30 minutes, the shellac should dry to a hard finish. If it stays tacky, discard the batch.



Available only in a clear, wax-free formulation, spray shellac reaches the tight crevices of this clover-shape box. Shellac's quick dry time reduces runs.

You also can brush on shellac [Photo I]. Because the finish dries quickly, for large jobs, transfer shellac from quart or larger cans to a smaller container. Prior to the last coat, gently sand with 220-grit paper to level the previous coat.

Learn French polishing in this free video. woodmagazine.com/ frenchpolish

> Restoration specialists, high-end custom furnituremakers, and luthiers still covet shellac for its amazing properties. Go ahead and try it on that special heirloom project you have in mind. 🗣

> Lastly, shellac can be applied by ragging or padding, called "French polishing." Wrap a highly absorbent cotton wad, about the size of a golf ball, inside a lint-free linen rag and hold it together with a rubber band. (It resembles a badminton birdie when complete.) Add shellac to the rounded end using a squeeze bottle, and move the pad in light side-to-side or figure-eight strokes over the surface of the project [Opening photo]. As the pad dries, it will begin to drag rather than glide across the workpiece. Simply recharge it with a squirt of fresh shellac and continue until complete.



Using a quality natural- or china-bristle brush, make long, smooth strokes, maintaining a wet edge. Do not overbrush. Clean brushes with denatured alcohol.





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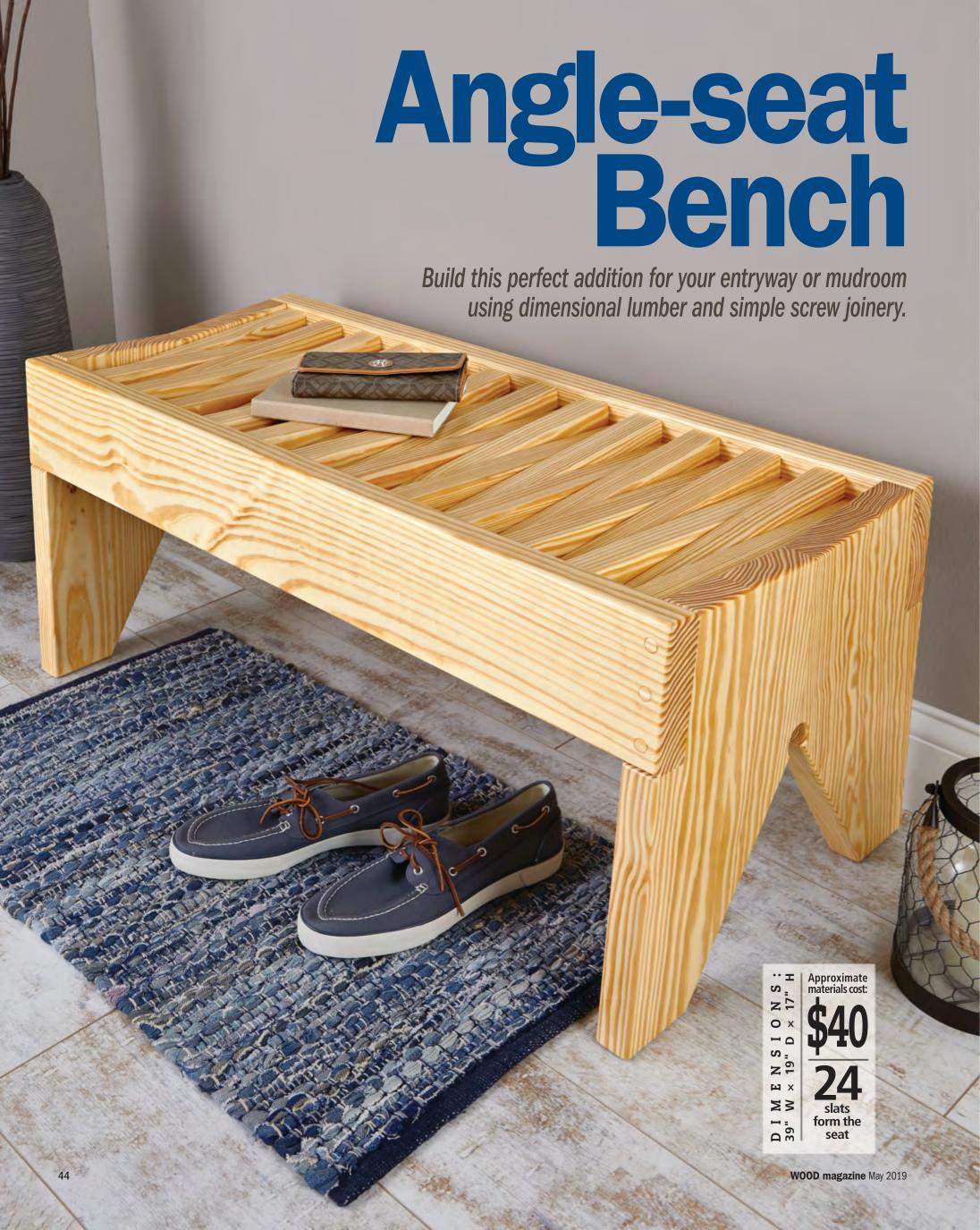
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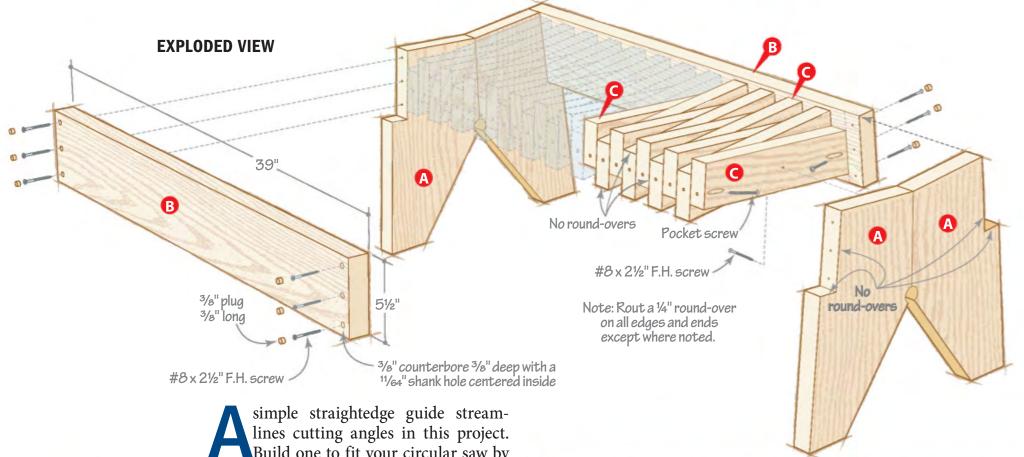
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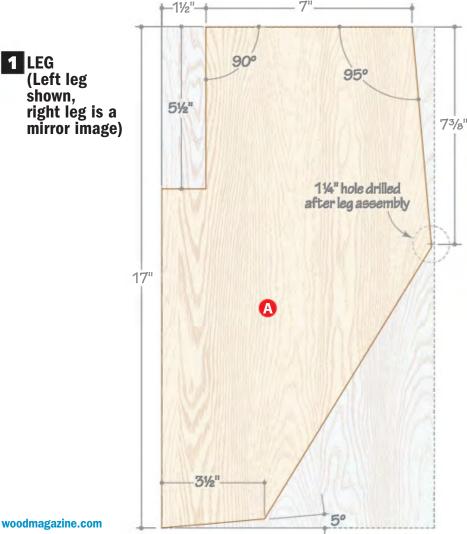


►Watch a video on making a straightedge. woodmagazine.com/ straightedge

Build one to fit your circular saw by first making a 10×30" base from ¼" plywood or hardboard. Glue on a strip of the same material to serve as a fence, positioned slightly farther from one edge than your saw's blade from its inner shoe edge. Press the saw against the fence and trim the base to form a zero-clearance edge.

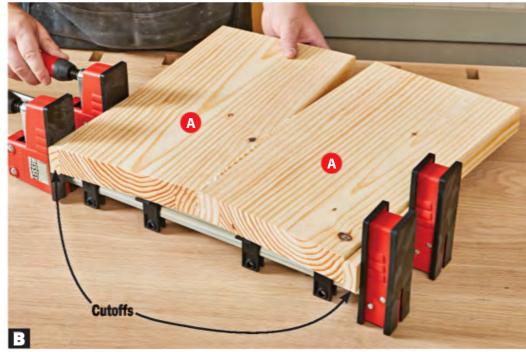
Start with the legs

1 Cut four leg blanks (A) to size [Materials List]. Lay out and cut the 95° angle on each blank [Drawing 1, Photo A], and glue them together [Photo B].





Align the cutoff jig with the angled layout line, clamp the jig to the leg blank (A), and cut the angle.



Glue two leg blanks together at the angled edges, using the cutoffs as clamping cauls to provide parallel edges for the clamps. Repeat for the other legs.



Clamp the cutoff jig across the bottom of each leg assembly aligned at the outer corners. Cut to provide straight ends that will sit flat on the floor.



Use a 1½" Forstner bit to drill the hole. Support the back side with a piece of scrapwood to prevent tear-out.



Use the circular saw and cutoff jig to make the diagonal cuts, stopping when the top of the kerf intersects the hole. Cut away the remainder with a jigsaw.



Use a jigsaw to cut the notches on each leg assembly. Clean up the cuts as needed with chisels and sandpaper.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \bf 2 & After the glue dries, crosscut the bottom \\ \bf 2 & of each leg assembly [{\it Photo C}]. \\ \end{tabular}$

3 Lay out the diagonal lines on each leg assembly [**Drawing 1**], and drill the holes where the diagonals intersect [**Photo D**]. Cut along these lines in each assembly [**Photo E**].

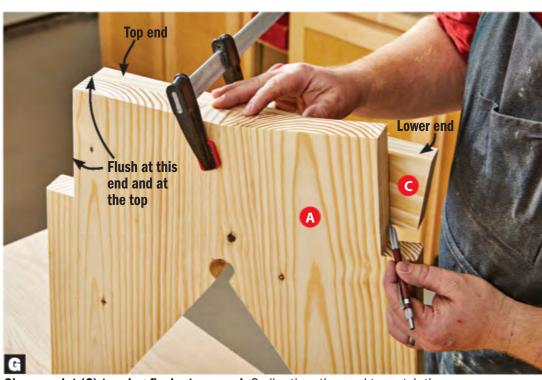
Lay out and cut the notches for the rails (B) [Drawing 1, Exploded View, Photo F].

Now add the rails

1 Cut the rails (B) to size, and set them aside. Cut the seat slats (C) 16" long with square ends.

2 Scribe a slat to match the leg assemblies [Photo G]. Transfer this angle to your mitersaw, and cut one end of all the slats to final length.

3 Drill the pocket holes on one face at each end of all slats [Photos H and I].



Clamp a slat (C) to a leg flush at one end. Scribe the other end to match the angle where the slat will connect to the side rail.

WOOD magazine May 2019



Set the jig and depth collar for 1½"-thick stock, center the jig on the lower end of the slat, and drill the hole.



At the upper end, drill the hole nearer the bottom edge of each slat.



Clamp a slat (C) to the leg assembly $\frac{1}{4}$ " down at the upper end of the slat. Screw the slat to the rail (B).



Countersink and drive a 2½" screw into the leg assembly. Offset this screw for each succeeding slat to avoid hitting the previous screw.

4 Round over all edges and ends except those where two parts join together. Sand all parts to 220 grit.

Screw one rail (B) into the notch in a leg assembly [Exploded View]. Pocket-screw a slat (C) to the leg assembly [Photos J and K]. Add the other rail, and then the remaining slats and leg assembly.

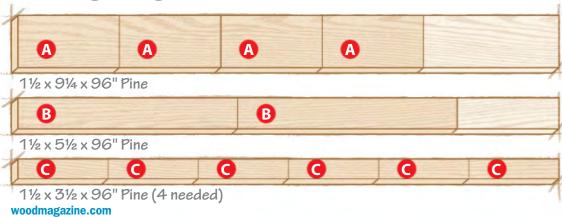
6 From a scrap of project stock, make wood plugs with a ¾" plug cutter. Use these to plug the screw holes on the faces of the rails. Trim and sand flush.

Apply finish to the completed bench. We wiped on three coats of Watco Danish Oil (natural finish), sanding between coats with a 320-grit sanding sponge. Now, take a seat and rest!

Learn how to make and install wood plugs. woodmagazine.com/ perfectplugs

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

Cutting Diagram



Materials List

	<u>iatoriaio</u>							
		FINISHED SIZE						
Par	t	T	W	L	Matl.	Qty.		
Α	legs	1½"	9¼"	17"	Р	4		
В	rails	1½"	5½"	39"	Р	2		
C*	slats	1½"	3½"	14¾"	Р	24		

*Parts cut to fit base assembly. See the instructions.

Materials key: P-southern yellow pine.

Supplies: $\#8 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " flathead screws, $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pocket-hole screws. **Bits:** $1\frac{1}{4}$ " Forstner bit; $\frac{3}{6}$ " plug cutter; $\frac{1}{4}$ " round-over router bit.





Makita's cordless saw allows plenty of hand room at the handle with the batteries installed. The other cordless saws' batteries get in the way.

saw, but allows then known as Festo, cutouts on alucut saw that rode on an aluminum track.

f you struggle to cut bulky sheet goods on your tablesaw—or lack the necessary infeed and outfeed space to do so—then consider getting a tracksaw. These saws work much like a sidewinder-style circular saw, but use a plunge-cutting action that allows you to more easily and safely create cutouts with no entry or exit points. Riding on aluminum tracks, they make precise, straight, furniture-quality cuts, even at an angle. Try that on a tablesaw!

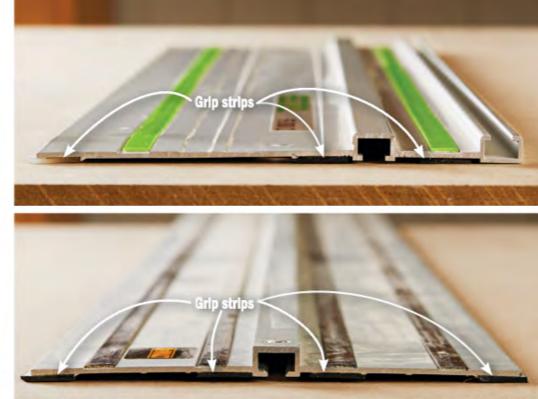
These saws will never completely replace your tablesaw—although you can make one work that way—because it's difficult to rip boards narrower than 8–10" without additional support.

To find out the true capabilities of these saws, we tested nine models, including three battery-powered versions, head-to-head in the *WOOD*[®] shop. All of them performed well, but a few stood out.

First: corded or cordless?

With advancements in lithium-ion battery technology, you can go cordless with few concessions. Although battery-powered saws can't currently equal the power of the best corded models, the difference in most models is negligible. And if you already own cordless tools of a brand and voltage of those in our test, you can save money by buying the saw bare (without batteries). And the obvious benefit of cordless: no cord to catch on the track or workpiece.

In testing, we cut all types of sheet goods, as well as 4/4 and 8/4 red oak. Each saw sailed through sheet goods with ease, and only the Festool 36-volt saw had difficulty with the hardwood.



Tracks that lie flat on the workpiece, such as this Festool (top), didn't slip in use, even without clamps. DeWalt's slightly crowned track reduced the grip strips' effectiveness, requiring clamps. (A DeWalt representative said crowned tracks would be replaced under the company's warranty program.)

To gauge the runtime of the three cordless saws, we measured how far each could cut per charge. (See the chart *below*.) The Makita 36-volt saw (*above left*) doubled the output of the other battery saws. But if you'll only make a few cuts at a time, any of the saws will do the job.

Now, get your saw on track

All of the saws can be used without a track, just like a regular circ saw. But guiding them with a track guarantees dead-straight cuts. All the tracks work similarly: The saw straddles a raised rib that maintains a straight cutting line, and rubber grip strips on the bottom prevent the track from scooting during a cut. These grip strips held well enough that we didn't need to clamp the track to the workpiece in most cases, even on slick melamine-coated particleboard. The DeWalt tracks, shown above, worked better when we clamped them to the workpiece. We recommend always clamping your track in place, regardless of the brand, to avoid potential miscuts, especially as dust builds up on the strips and lessens the grip.

You can buy each saw by itself, and then buy the lengths of track you want separately,

Tip! Whenever possible, buy your tracks at a store, or have them shipped to a store, rather than having them shipped to you. Many of the tracks we received for testing, including several over 8' long, shipped in simple cardboard packaging. These aluminum tracks can be easily damaged, so limit the chances.

Cordless saws cut hundreds of feet per charge

Model	odel Battery Battery voltage amp-hours		Linear feet of ¾" melamine particleboard cut per charge*	Battery recharge time (minutes, per battery)*		
DeWalt	60	6.0	268	50		
Festool	36 (18×2)	5.2	282	30		
Makita	36 (18×2)	5.0	580	64		

^{*} Average of three tests

Saw and track costs to crosscut and rip 4×8' sheet goods

Model	Price to cut 4' material*	Additional cost to cut 8' material*	
CORDED SAWS			
DeWalt DWS520K	\$505	\$85	
Festool TS 55 REQ-F-PLUS	\$795	\$165	
Festool TS 75 EQ-F-PLUS	\$865	\$165	
Grizzly T10687	\$335	\$72	
Makita SP6000J	\$475	\$100	
Triton TTS1400	\$400	\$105	
CORDLESS SAWS (including	batteries and	l chargers)	
DeWalt DCS520B	\$605	\$85	
Festool TSC 55 REB	\$880	\$165	
Makita XPS01Z	\$605	\$100	

^{*} Includes some optional accessories.

or in saw/track kits. To help you make a fair price comparison, the chart *above* shows the minimum investment needed to crosscut and rip $4\times8'$ sheet goods (the most common use for tracksaws). You can buy single tracks that span these dimensions, or shorter tracks that link end to end.

Maximizing the cut

All the saws use "snuggers" on the footplate to eliminate a sloppy fit on the track's rib. The Grizzly, both Makitas, and the Triton have slotted guides and stabilizers on the saw's footplate—similar to the T-shaped slots and bars (or washers) on a tablesaw miter gauge—that keep the plate flat on the track when making beveled cuts, shown above right.

The track itself provides kickback protection by virtually eliminating the risk of veering off course and binding the blade in a cut, making these saws safer than a standard circular saw. In addition, most of the saws incorporate either a riving knife (Grizzly, shown at *right*), a rib-riding antikickback/backslide mechanism (Triton), or both (DeWalt and Festool). Only the Makitas lack any secondary antikickback protection.

Each of the tracks has a flexible plastic edging that—after you trim it to fit your saw's blade—helps prevent chip-out of surface fibers when cutting. DeWalt's track, with a centered rib, has this edging on both sides, the only one like this in our test. This lets you run the saw in either direction, or





Makita's slide-out stabilizer slips into a groove to prevent the saw from lifting off the track during beveled cuts.

dedicate one side of the track to 90° cuts and the other to beveled cuts. (With some tracks, bevel-cutting reduces this edging's effectiveness on 90° cuts.) Each of the saws created less chip-out in maple-veneered plywood than in melamine-coated particleboard (next page), so we give credit to those saws that cut melamine cleanly. The Festool, Makita, and Triton saws earned the highest marks for clean cuts. Also, Festool's sawmounted chip guard (next page) prevents chip-out along the offcut side of the blade.



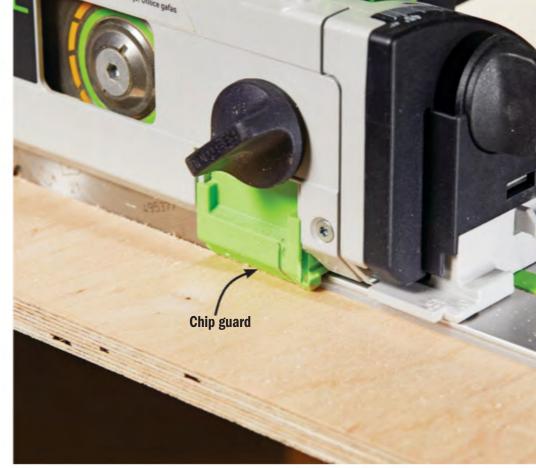
A riving knife follows the blade, and keeps the kerf open to prevent kickback resulting from the workpiece touching the back edge of the blade.



Makita's corded tracksaw made the cleanest cuts, as shown here in melamine-coated particleboard.



in the same material.



Like a zero-clearance insert on a tablesaw, Festool's replaceable chip guard prevents chip-out by holding down surface fibers at the point of cut.

More tracksaw tidbits

- **Dust collection.** The Festool and Makita saws earned the highest marks here when used in conjunction with a shop vacuum. Only the cordless Festool comes with a dust bag; Triton offers one as an accessory.
- Variable speed. All but one of the saws (Grizzly) have variable-speed motors. (See the chart on page 54.) But we don't see this as a significant advantage for cutting wood and sheet goods.
- **Depth scale.** Each saw's cutting-depth scale is calibrated for using the saw on wood without a track. So when you use the track, you have to also account for its thickness. Other than being able to set a depth stop to avoid overexposing the blade beneath the workpiece—not an act that requires great precision—we don't see the scale as a big deal. ■ Noise. All these saws measured loud enough that you should always wear hearing

protection when using them.

Corded models

DeWalt DWS520K

800-433-9258, dewalt.com

High Points

- ▲ The DeWalt tracks, with a centered rib, allow you to run the saw on either side with equal effectiveness.
- ▲ An antikickback device on the saw prevents the tool from backsliding if the blade binds.
- ▲ 3-year warranty.

Low Points

- ▼ The aluminum tracks were slightly crowned, reducing the grip on workpiece surfaces enough to require clamping the track in place.
- ▼ It takes just one connector to join tracks, but often required fussing with the fit to get the saw to glide smoothly over the transition.
- ▼ Dust collection was only fair when connected to a vacuum.

More Points

Changing blades was cumbersome, but once you get used to the process, it's okay.



Festool TS 55 REQ-F-PLUS

888-337-8600, festoolusa.com

High Points

- ▲ A splinter guard prevents chip-out on the side of the cut not covered by the track's antisplinter edging.
- ▲ A slip-clutch and riving knife prevent kickback should the blade bind.
- ▲ Easiest blade changes among the test group.
- ▲ Dust collection was excellent when connected to a shop vacuum.
- ▲ Festool's tracks tie with Makita's as our favorites.
- ▲ 3-year warranty.

More Points

- ➤ This saw tripped a thermal overload switch when ripping 8/4 red oak—a function meant to protect the motor. To avoid this, use a blade better suited for ripping hardwood than the provided 48-tooth blade.
- ▶ The power cord detaches from the saw for easier storage in the stackable plastic case.



Festool TS 75 EQ-F-PLUS

High Points

- ▲ With the largest motor in the group, this saw demonstrated the most power in testing, yet still feels nimble.
- ▲ Its 8¹/₄" blade provides the deepest cut capacity at just over 2³/₄".
- ▲ Like the Festool TS 55, this model has excellent chip-out prevention, antikickback protection, easy blade changes, excellent dust collection, detachable cord, excellent tracks, and 3-year warranty.





Grizzly T10687

800-523-4777, grizzly.com

High Points

- ▲ A stabilizer holds the saw securely to the track when tilting the saw for beveled cuts.
- ▲ A detachable stop provides a reliable endpoint for stopped cuts.
- ▲ Its low price provides a great entry point for a tracksaw.

Low Points

- ▼ This saw demonstrated the most chip-out, especially in melaminecoated particleboard.
- ▼ Although it never stalled, this saw labored when ripping 8/4 oak.
- ▼ You can't lock the saw in the plunge position, making blade changes more difficult.
- This saw does not come with a storage case or bag.

More Points

➤ Grizzly offers only 28" and 55" tracks. So to make 8' cuts, you must join together a combination of tracks. The good news: It's the lowest-priced unit when doing this.



WOOD magazine May 2019

Makita SP6000J

800-462-5482, makitatools.com

High Points

▲ A built-in depth stop lets you make a shallow scoring pass that eliminates chip-out before making the full-depth parting cut. However, the blade cut so well (when new and sharp), we didn't need to do this, even with delicate veneers and melamine.

▲ A stabilizer holds the saw base flat on the track when tilting the blade to make beveled cuts.

▲ Makita's tracks tie with the Festool tracks as our favorites.

Low Points

▼ No antikickback protection.



Triton TTS1400

855-227-3478, tritontools.com

High Points

- ▲ Antikickback protection is built into the saw.
- ▲ A stabilizer prevents the saw from tipping off the track when making beveled cuts.
- ▲ 3-year warranty.

Low Points

- ▼ The soft-start motor can be annoyingly slow to get up to speed.
- ▼ The saw's footplate required some filing to remove metal burrs in order to make it glide smoothly on the tracks.

More Points

- Dust collection was good when using a vacuum, but the dust port points inward rather than outward, putting the hose in the way of the operator's hand.
- ➤ Triton offers only 28" and 59" tracks. So to make 8' cuts, you must join together a combination of tracks. The good news: It's the second-lowest-priced unit when doing this.



Cordless models

DeWalt DCS520B

High Points

- ▲ The most powerful saw of the three cordless models.
- ▲ It shares the same advantages of dual-edge tracks as the corded DeWalt.
- ▲ 3-year warranty.

Low Points

- ▼ This saw's tracks share the same crowning and connection problems as the corded DeWalt.
- ▼ The antikickback device requires you to slide the saw onto the track from the end, rather than setting it down onto the track—a fussy task.

More Points

- ▶ Plunging this saw requires more of a forward-and-down push than the primarily downward push with other saws. It's not bad, but takes getting used to.
- The battery pack creates a pinch-point when operating the saw left-handed. That's not the case with the right hand.



Tracksa	IWS	C	ut a	as	str	aig	ght	as	a	rail			
	PERFORMANCE RATINGS (1)							SAW					
MODEL	OVERALL EASE OF USE	OBSERVED POWER IN 4/4 STOCK	OBSERVED POWER IN 8/4 STOCK	ABSENCE OF SURFACE TEAR-OUT	DUST COLLECTION (WITH SHOP VACUUM)	EASE OF CHANGING BLADES	EASE OF TILTING SAW	BLADE DIAMETER, INCHES	MAX. DEPTH OF CUT, INCHES (ON TRACK)	MOTOR SPEED, MIN.——MAX. (RPM)	BLADE BEVEL RANGE, DEGREES	AVAILABLE TRACK LENGTHS, INCHES	
CORDED SAWS													
DEWALT DWS520K	В	В+	В	В-	C+	В	A-	6 ¹ / ₂	2%	1,750-4,200	0-47	46, 59, 102	
FESTOOL TS 55 REQ-F-PLUS	A	В	С	A-	A-	A	A-	61/4	2%	2,000-5,200	-1-47	32, 42, 55, 75, 95, 106, 118, 197	
FESTOOL TS 75 EQ-F-PLUS	A	A	В+	A-	A-	A	A-	81⁄4	2 ²⁵ / ₃₂	1,350–3,550	0-45	32, 42, 55, 75, 95, 106, 118, 197	
GRIZZLY T10687	С	В-	С	C+	В	С	A	61/4	2 5⁄32	5,500	0-45	28, 55	
MAKITA SP6000J	A	В+	В-	A	A	A-	А	6½	2¾6	2,000-5,200	-1-48	39, 55, 118	
TRITON TTS1400	В-	B+	C+	A-	B+	В	A	6½	21/8	2,000-5,000	0-48	28, 59	
CORDLESS SAWS													
DEWALT DCS520B	В	В	В-	B-	C+	В	A-	6½	21/8	1,750-4,000	0-47	46, 59, 102	
FESTOOL TSC 55 REB	В-	C+	D	A-	A-	A	A-	61/4	21/8	2,650-5,200	-1-47	32, 42, 55, 75, 95, 106, 118, 197	
MAKITA XPS01Z	A	В	С	A-	A	A-	А	6½	2 ¾16	2,500-6,300	-1-48	39, 55, 118	

Excellent 1. В

Good Fair

Poor

- 2. (A) Track router adapter
 - (B) Canvas saw-storage bag
 - (C) Track clamps
 - (D) Dust-collection bag
 - (G) Track miter gauge
- (P) Parallel edge guide
 - (R) Track connector

 - (S) Stackable saw-storage case
 - (T) Track T-square
 - (V) Canvas track-storage case
- **3.** (C) China (G) Germany
 - (Z) Czech Republic
- 4. Prices current at time of article production and do not include shipping, where applicable.
 - (*) Does not include batteries or charger

Festool TSC 55 REB

High Points

- ▲ Like the other Festool saws, it has an effective splinter guard, antikickback measures, easy blade changes, excellent tracks, and 3-year warranty.
- ▲ Its battery packs charged fastest (30 minutes).
- ▲ Excellent dust collection when using either the included dust bag or a vacuum.
- ▲ A fine-adjustment knob on the plunge-depth stop lets you easily calibrate the depth of cut.

Low Points

- ▼ This saw struggled to cut 4/4 oak, and stalled after cutting just a few inches of 8/4 oak. Its runtime was half that of the Makita cordless saw.
- ▼ Poor ergonomics make this saw uncomfortable to hold and use, primarily because the battery packs crowd into the handle area.

More Points

> You can run this saw on just one 18-volt battery, but it cuts faster and longer with two.



OPTIONAL		NOISE LEVEL, DECIBELS (WHILE CUTTING 4/4 OAK)	SAW WEIGHT, LBS (BATTERIES INCLUDED FOR CORDLESS MODELS)	CORD LENGTH, FEET	WARRANTY, YEARS	COUNTRY OF ASSEMBLY (3)	SELLING PRICE, SAW ONLY (4)
S	A,C,G,R,T	114	11.5	13.5	3	Z	\$400
S	C,G,P,R	107	9.9	13	3	G	\$590
S	C,G,P,R	107	13.6	13	3	G	\$660
_	C,R	116	11	8	1	С	\$215
S	C,G,P,R,V	107	9.7	8	1	С	\$370
_	B,C,D,G,P,R,T,V	112	12	10	3	С	\$315
-	A,C,G,R,S,T	98	12.5	N/A	3	Z	\$380*
D,S	C,G,P,R	109	11.7	N/A	3	G	\$490*
_	C,G,P,R,S,V	106	11.2	N/A	1	С	\$350*

Tracking down a winner

After running all of the saws through rigorous testing, the powerful Festool TS 75 EQ-F-PLUS emerged as the Top Tool overall.

If you prefer a cordless model, go for the Makita XPS01Z, our Top Tool in that subcategory. Not only did it outperform the other battery-powered saws, but we also prefer it to some of the corded models.

Is your tool budget more limited? Then consider the Makita SP6000J, a great corded saw for about half the price of the Festool TS 75. It's our Top Value.

Produced by Bob Hunter with Bob Saunders

Makita XPS01Z

High Points

- ▲ Using two 18-volt battery packs, this saw dominated the other cordless saws by cutting more than twice as much material per charge.
- ▲ It proved well-balanced and easy to hold and use—best among the cordless models.
- ▲ This saw has the same scoring-pass capability as the corded Makita, and it also made excellent cuts without using this feature. It also has the same effective tilt-lock system, and the same excellent tracks.

Low Points

- ▼ Like its sibling, this saw lacks antikickback devices and a riving knife.
- ▼ The battery packs take just over an hour to charge. So if you don't have extras, you'll have to wait on these.
- ▼ This saw does not come with a storage case or bag. However, if you buy a kit including batteries and charger, you also get a storage case.

More Points

- ▶ Although the saw never stalled during demanding 8/4-oak ripcuts, it did get hot to the touch.
- ➤ Makita offers a version of this saw (no. XPS01PTJ, \$500) with wireless Bluetooth connectivity to a similarly equipped 36-volt vacuum (no. XCV08Z, \$460 without batteries). This combination worked well and required no power cords.







Build a smart space

Not every woodworker starts out in a roomy basement, garage, or freestanding building. If space is a luxury where you live, make the most of it. The projects in this series fit along a single wall 12' wide—about the width of a single garage bay—but you can fit any one project into even tighter spaces. Start with the anchor of any workshop: a workbench that folds away when you're finished. Then add a sliding-compound mitersaw table that also tucks away. In the issues ahead, look for the storage and organizer ideas *below* to make your workspace even more efficient.

▶You don't need an existing shop to create a new one. See No Tablesaw? No Problem on page 28 for tips on working without a tablesaw.



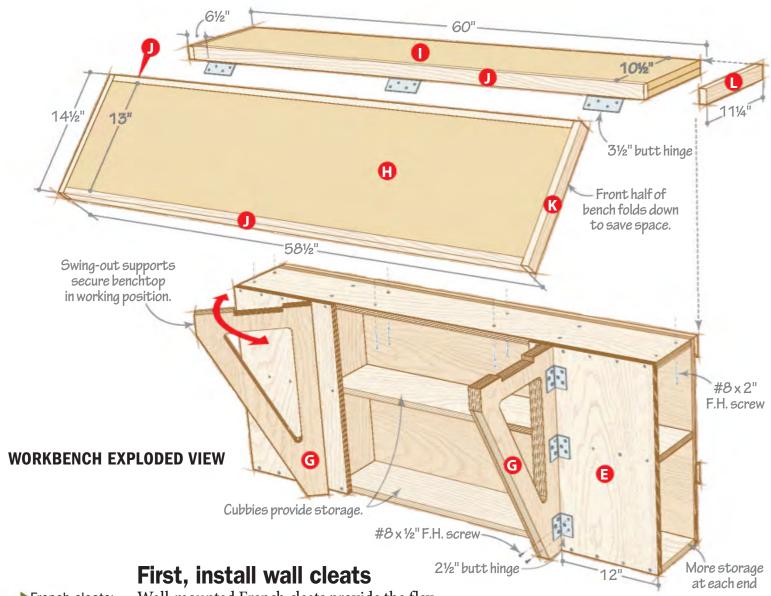
There's more to come

Find these One-Wall Workshop projects in upcoming issues:

- Open cabinets
- 2 Cordless-tool charging station
- 3 Clamp rack
- 4 Cordless-drill holder
- 6 Hand-tool storage rack
- 6 Shop-towel holder
- Hardware storage shelf



Build a workhorse workbench



French cleats: Beveled strips that interlock to hang an item on a wall. Wall-mounted French cleats provide the flexibility to add and reposition the components we'll present here and in future issues. We designed everything to fit a 12' span, but you can customize the length to suit your space.

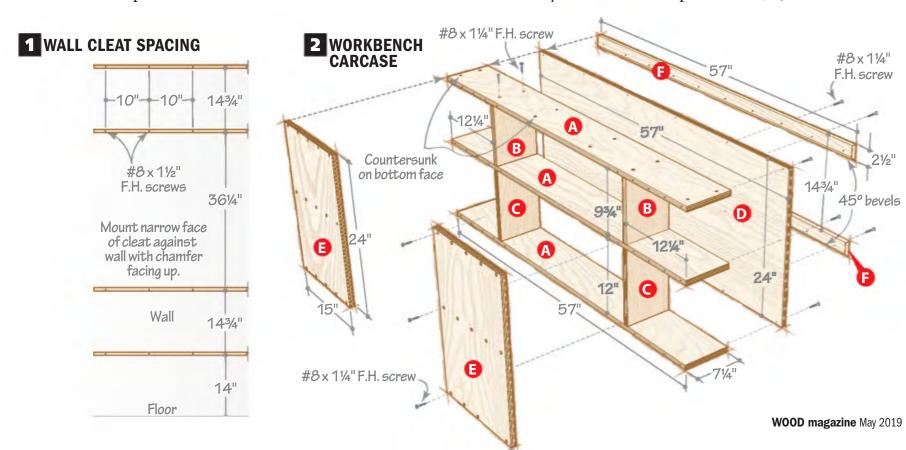
1 Cut eight ¾×2½" maple boards 6' long for the wall cleats. Use double-faced tape to fasten one of the boards to a sheet of Baltic birch plywood with the edges flush. Rout a 45° chamfer on the cleat edge [Photo A]. Repeat for each cleat. Sand the cleats and apply finish. (We wiped on three coats of polyurethane.)

2 Screw three sheets of 3/4" birch or Baltic birch plywood vertically to the wall studs. (We painted the plywood to match the wall.)

3 Mark the locations for the four cleats along the plywood using a level [Drawing 1]. Drill mounting holes in the cleats. Starting from the bottom, have a helper support each cleat while you screw them in place.

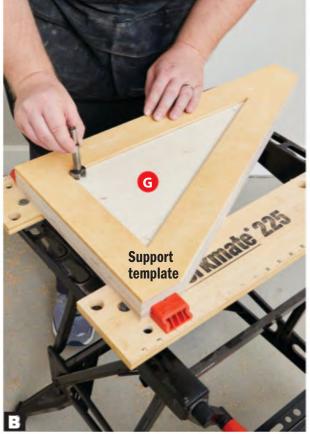
Avoid scorching routed edges. woodmagazine.com/routerburn

▶ Drill and countersink 1/8" pilot holes for the #8 screws used in this project.





Ride the bearing along the plywood edge to chamfer a wall-cleat edge in two passes.



Hold a 1" Forstner bit at the inside corners of the template and press down to mark hole locations.



Jigsaw on the waste side of the lines connecting the corner holes in the supports (G).

Make tablesawquality cuts with a circular saw. woodmagazine.com/ circsaw

Tip! If you plan to build the mitersaw stand, too, cut and chamfer the stand cleats (Q) at the same time.

Laminate: Facegluing pieces of the same size to create a thicker blank.

Begin with a hanging case

1 Cut parts A–E [Materials List, page 60]. Glue and screw the upper shelf dividers (B) to the top and middle shelves (A) [Drawing 2].

2Glue and screw the lower shelf dividers **(**C) to the bottom shelf (A). Then glue and clamp the upper assembly (A/B) to the lower assembly (A/C).

Fasten the back (D) to the shelves (A–C) with the ends and edges flush.

Glue and screw the front panels (E) to the A–D assembly with the edges flush.

5 Cut the hanging cleats (F) and rout them the same as the wall cleats. Glue and screw the narrow face to the back (D) with the beveled edges down [**Drawing 2**].

Laminate the supports

1 Cut four tabletop support blanks (G) [Materials List] and laminate two blanks for each support. From 1/4" hardboard, cut a sup-

port template to shape [**Drawing 3**]. Trace the template onto each blank and cut the outside shape, but wait to cut the top notches.

2 Use the template to mark the inside cutout and hole locations at each corner

[**Photo B**]. Drill holes at the corners and jigsaw the openings in the supports [**Photo C**].

Attach the template to a support (G) with double-faced tape. Use a top-bearing flush-trim bit to clean up the inside edges of the supports in two passes [Photo D], then remove the template. Repeat for the other support.

Lay out the notches on the supports (G) [Drawing 3]. Saw %"-deep notch ends. Clamp a scrap 2×4 to a support (G) with the top edges flush, and stand the support upright [Photo E]. Rout away the rest of the waste to form each notch.

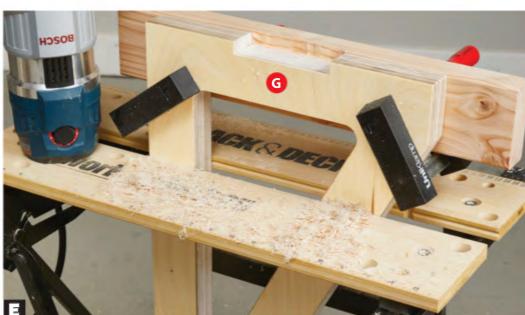
Tip! Use a backer board beneath the support (G) when drilling corner holes to prevent tear-out.

3 TABLETOP SUPPORT

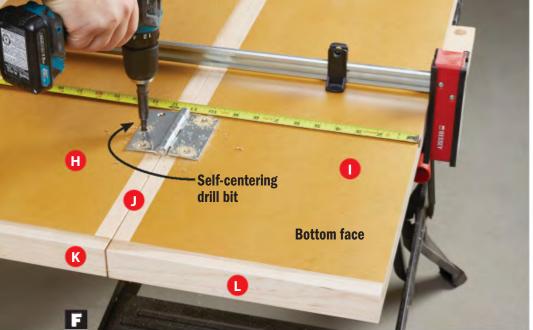




Press the bit bearing against the template for the first pass around the inside of a support (G). For the second pass, lower the bit and press the bearing against the first cut.



Clamp a 2×4 to the support (G) to reduce tear-out and provide a wide surface for steadying the router. You can use the flush-trim bit or a straight bit.



Center the hinge barrel between the folding (H) and mounted (I) tabletops. All three hinges should be the same distance from the mounted tabletop edge.

Install only the center-hole hinge screws, then check that the support swings

Install only the center-hole hinge screws, then check that the support swings smoothly before driving the remaining screws.

Make tough tabletops

Laminate and cut the tabletops (H, I) to size. Cut the front and back tabletop trim (J) and glue the pieces to the tabletops (H, I) [Workbench Exploded View]. Cut and glue on the end trim pieces (K, L).

2 Sand the trim flush with the tabletops and ease the edges. Apply three coats of wipe-on polyurethane to the tabletops, supports (G), and case.

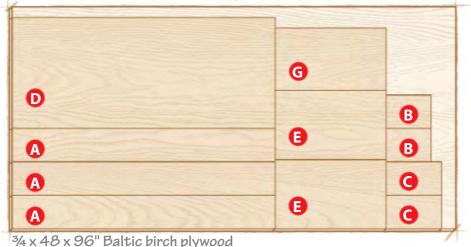
Clamp the folding and fixed tabletops together facedown with the ends flush. Install the hinges [Photo F].

With the tabletops still facedown, center the upside-down case on the fixed tabletop (I/J/L) with its back edge flush with the outside face of the cleat (F) [Workbench Exploded View]. Screw the case to the tabletop.

5 Screw three hinges to a tabletop support (G), aligning the barrel edges with the support edge. Hold the support in position on

a front panel (E) and ensure that the notch clears the tabletop hinges [Workbench Exploded View]. Drill and drive the hinge screws [Photo G]. Repeat for the second support. Have an assistant help you flip the assembly and hang it on the wall cleats.

Workbench Cutting Diagram



G

34 x 51/2 x 72" Maple

34 x 51/2 x 72" Maple

34 × 5½ × 72" Maple Wall cleats (4 needed)

 $3/4 \times 48 \times 24$ " Baltic birch plywood

0	
0	
0	
0	

34 x 48 x 96" Medium-density fiberboard

Tip! A self-centering drill bit helps you bore precise hinge-screw pilot holes.

Purchase a set.

woodmagazine.com/
selfcenterbits

Note: The length and

number of 3/4×21/2"

boards for the wall cleats will vary to fit

your shop space.

Materials List

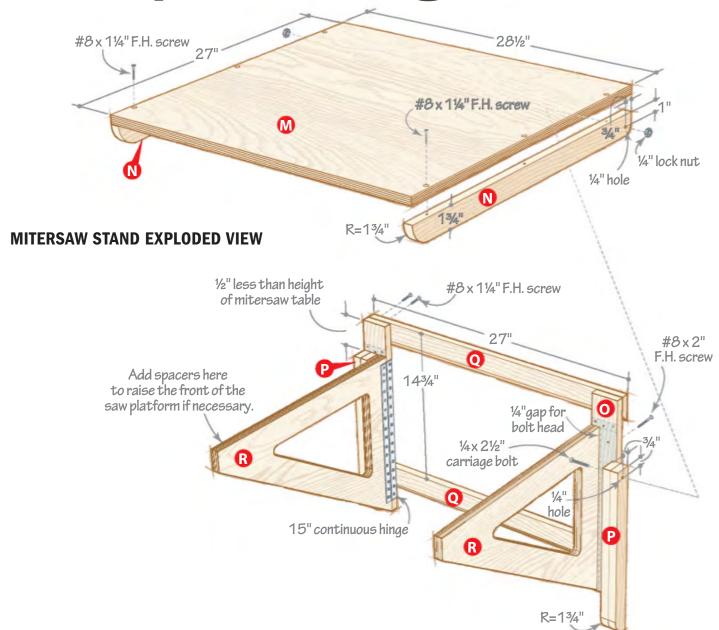
		F				
Pai	rt	T	W	L	Matl.	Qty.
Wo	rkbench					
Α	shelves	3/4"	71/4"	57"	ВВ	3
В	upper shelf dividers	3/4"	7¼"	9¾"	ВВ	2
С	lower shelf dividers	3/4"	71/4"	12"	ВВ	2
D	back	3/4"	24"	57"	ВВ	1
Е	front panels	3/4"	15"	24"	ВВ	2
F	hanging cleats	3/4"	2½"	57"	М	2
G	tabletop supports	1½"	13½"	24"	LBB	2
Н	folding tabletop	1½"	13"	58½"	LMDF	1
Ι	mounted tabletop	1½"	10½"	58½"	LMDF	1
J	front/back table trim	3/4"	1½"	58½"	М	3
K	folding-table ends	3/4"	1½"	14½"	М	2
L	mounted-table ends	3/4"	1½"	111/4"	М	2

Materials key: BB-Baltic birch plywood, M-maple, LBB-laminated Baltic birch plywood, LMDF-laminated medium-density fiberboard.

Supplies: 2½" butt hinges (6), 3½" butt hinges (3), #8×2" flathead screws, #8×1¼" flathead screws, #8×½" flathead screws. **Blade and bits:** 1" Forstner bit; ¾"-dia. top-bearing flush-trim and 45° chamfer router bits.

60

Add a space-saving mitersaw stand



Note: For comparison to your mitersaw, the model shown measures 20" wide by 25" deep.

Start with the saw platform

Before you begin, check that your mitersaw base will fit on the saw platform (M) [Mitersaw Stand Exploded View]. If you have a sliding compound mitersaw, check that the rails will not extend past the back of the platform.

Cut the saw platform (M) and arms (N) to size [Materials List, page 62; Mitersaw Stand Exploded View]. Jigsaw and sand rounded corners on each arm. Drill the hole in each arm.

2Glue and screw the platform arms (N) to the platform (M) flush with the edges.

3 Cut the cleat connectors (O), hinge blocks (P), and hanging cleats (Q). Laminate the hinge blocks. Chamfer the hanging cleats.

Glue and screw the hanging cleats (Q), bevel down, to the cleat connectors (O) [Mitersaw Stand Exploded View].

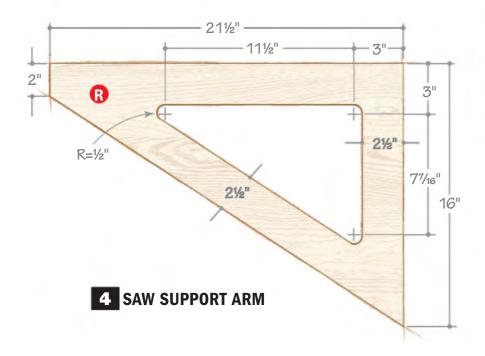
Round the bottom ends of the hinge blocks (P) and drill the holes [Mitersaw Stand Exploded View]. Glue and screw the hinge blocks to the cleat connectors (O).

6 Sand the platform (M/N) and mounting assembly (O–Q), and apply three coats of finish to both

7Bolt the platform (M/N) to the hinge blocks (P) [**Photo H**].



Ensure that the saw platform (M/N) swings freely and ease any corners that bind before tapping the carriage bolt to seat it in the hinge block (P).





If the saw-base mounting screws break through the platform (M), raise them slightly using washers beneath the screwheads.

Saw shopping?
Check our review of
10" sliding mitersaws
in issue 256 (October
2018), or go online for
mitersaw reviews.
woodmagazine.com/
mitersaws

Add saw supports

1 From ¼" hardboard, make a template for the saw supports (R) [Drawing 4]. Cut the saw supports.

2Drill, jigsaw, and shape the inside opening of each support as with the tabletop supports (G). Sand and apply three coats of wipe-on polyurethane finish.

Cut 15" continuous hinges and fasten them to the saw supports (R). Then screw

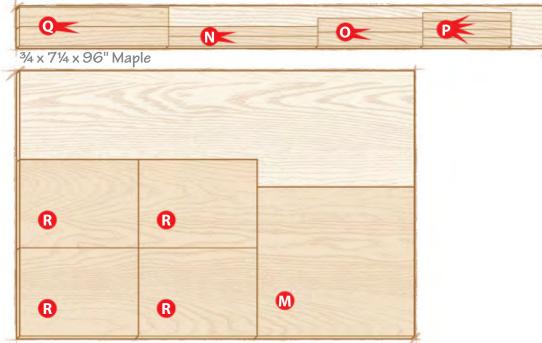
the hinges to the inside edges of the cleat connectors (O) [Mitersaw Stand Exploded View].

Position your mitersaw on the table and mark the mounting-screw locations. Drill pilot holes and mount the saw to the base [Photo I].

Remember to lock the blade carriage on your sliding mitersaw before lowering the table.

Produced by **Robert Wilson** with **John Olson** Project design: **John Olson** Illustrations: **Roxanne LeMoine, Lorna Johnson**

Mitersaw Stand Cutting Diagram



34 x 48 x 72" Baltic birch plywood

Materials List

		F	INISHED	SIZE		
Pai	rt	T	W	L	Matl.	Qty.
Mit	tersaw stand					
М	saw platform	3/4"	27"	28½"	ВВ	1
N	platform arms	3/4"	1¾"	27"	М	2
0	cleat connectors	3/4"	2½"	19"	М	2
Р	hinge blocks	1½"	1½"	16"	LM	2
Q	hanging cleats	3/4"	3½"	27"	М	2
R	saw supports	3/4"	16"	21½"	ВВ	2

Materials key: BB-Baltic birch plywood, M-maple, LM-laminated maple.

Supplies: 1½×30" continuous hinge, #8×2" flathead screws, #8×1¼" flathead screws, ½×2½" carriage bolts (2), ¼" lock nuts (2). **Blade and bits:** 1" Forstner bit; ¾"-dia. top-bearing flush-trim and 45° chamfer router bits.

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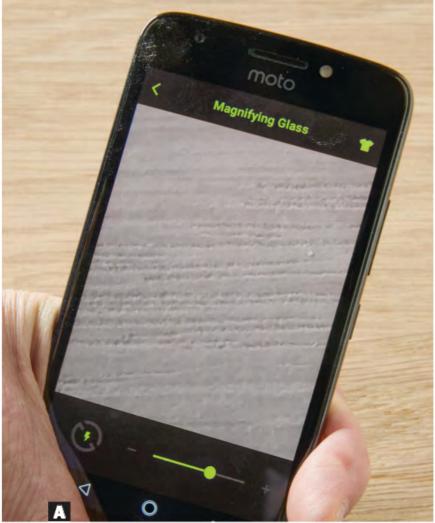
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Magnification can help determine grain orientation. Knowing it helps you lay out project parts for best appearance and joint strength.



Going with the grain feels smooth because the ends of the fibers at the surface point in the same direction as the movement of the rag.

Learn more about trees and lumber. woodmagazine.com/ upclose woodmagazine.com/ knowwoodgrain

Why does wood have grain?

As trees grow they produce cells, which arrange themselves as fibers and water-conducting vessels. Some run vertically, others form radial structures (rays) outward from the center of the tree. Each year's cells create a cylinder of fibers—a growth ring—around the tree, from bottom to top.

Wood fibers resemble a package of uncooked spaghetti. But because we're talking about nature, things aren't neat and linear: Those fibers may twist and turn, growth rings vary in thickness from year to year, branches grow and create knots. Even the way the sawmill operator cuts a log into lumber directly affects a board's grain.

5 ways to follow the grain

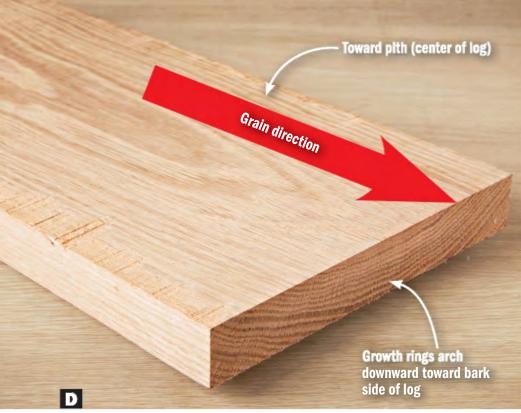
To avoid tear-out, pay attention to the grain direction in relation to the cutting edge. Always move the tool along the wood or the wood across a cutter (such as when using a jointer) so the cutting edge doesn't dig under

the fibers and lift them up. Here are five ways to judge grain direction.

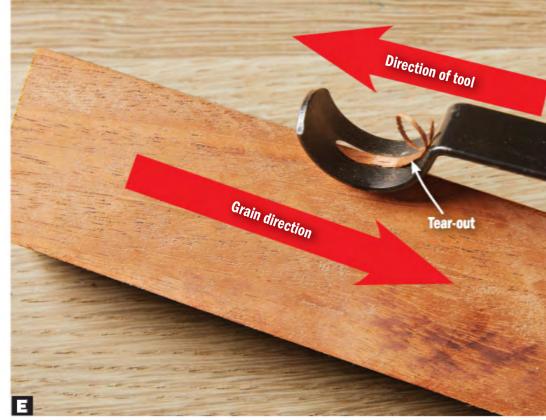
- 1. Check the face grain and figure. You can usually determine grain orientation—the alignment of the grain along the board's surface—just by looking. (It's obvious in some species, such as walnut, oak, and mahogany.) Figure—the grain pattern—shows orientation, too. But even with magnification, it's difficult to judge the *direction* the grain runs in the board just by looking at the surface [Photo A]. Rely on other methods to be sure.
- **2. Feel the face.** Find the grain direction simply by running your gloved hand or a shop rag along the board surface, following the grain orientation [Photo B]. If you feel snags and splinters, then you're moving against the grain.
- **3. Look around the corner.** For a quick and accurate determination, check the grain orientation on the surface adjacent to the one you want to work [Photo C].



Upward trending grain lines on the edge point in the direction the grain runs on the adjacent top face of this board. It runs opposite on the other face.



Growth rings that arch downward indicate grain that runs the same way as the cathedral points. An upward arch shows that the grain runs against them.



The big splinter lifted by the cornering tool indicates that the grain on this piece runs opposite the tool's movement.

Note: A cornering tool forms round-overs more quickly and precisely than sanding and without the need to set up a router. It never mars the edge or face, either. Set of two for ½" to ¼" round-overs with honing jig, no. 05K50.30, \$36.50, leevalley.com.

4. Check the end grain. Looking at a cathedral pattern in the grain, you might assume that the grain runs toward the point. That isn't always true; check the end grain to make sure [Photo D].

5. Try a cut. Slide a cornering tool, chisel, or even a sharp knife along a corner of the board. Watch for splinters, a sign you're going against the grain [Photo E].

Remember, the cutting edge of a router, planer, or jointer turns against the direction of feed, and it can lift up and tear out a splinter when moving against the grain. When grain runs to an edge at a sharp angle [Photo B], tear-out becomes more likely. Visualize

the cutting-edge movement in relation to the grain when it contacts the wood.

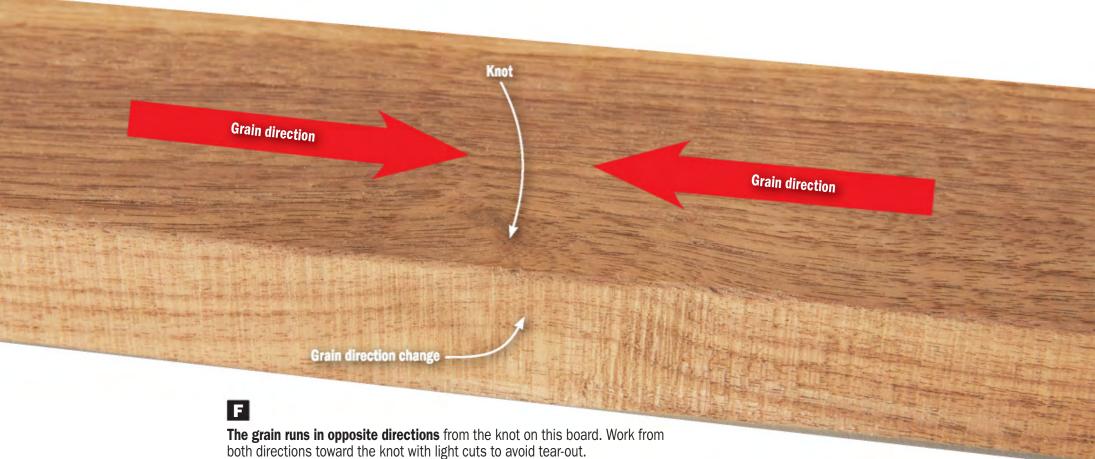
Dealing with difficult grain

Sometimes the grain runs different directions on the same board [Photo F]. Highly figured boards may defy finding a consistent grain direction.

When the grain runs in two directions, hand-plane or rout to or from each end of the board to or from the point where the grain changes. Then, work that area with light cuts. Take a final light cut in the predominant grain direction. Angling the plane across the surface produces a shear cut that may provide some relief.

Tip! When planing tears up your figured lumber, try a card scraper with a sharp burr edge instead. woodmagazine.com/scraper

Find out more about using hand planes. woodmagazine.com/handplanes



WOOD magazine May 2019



A zero-clearance tablesaw insert and a high-quality crosscut blade will give you practically splinter-free cuts across the grain.

► Bring zero-clearance cutting to your shop. woodmagazine.com/ zeroclearance

Tip! Keep your jointer and planer knives and saw blades clean and sharp; they will cut better and last longer.

Tip! Make a simple crosscut sled that combines the clean-cutting benefits of a zero-clearance insert and a miter-gauge extension. woodmagazine.com/simplesled

► Build an adjustable zero-clearance fence for your mitersaw. woodmagazine.com/ mitersawzcfence

Minimize router tearout. woodmagazine.com/ routertearout

Planer and jointer techniques

Sharpen your jointer and planer knives to minimize tear-out. Take light cuts (about ½4") in the principal grain direction the full length of the board, watching the results closely; turning the board end-for-end may give better results. Feed as slowly as you can without burning. If possible, run the workpiece through the machine at a slight angle.

A jointer or planer with a true helical or spiral cutterhead makes the cleanest cuts because it shears the wood at a skewed angle, compared to the head-on hit from straight knives. Although no benchtop planers come with such cutters, many 15" or larger planers do. Jointers 6" and larger often feature these cutters, and some manufacturers sell them to retrofit straight-knife jointers.

Support those fibers

Avoid splintered crosscuts and miter-cuts by supporting the fibers right up to the blade. Start with a zero-clearance throat insert in your tablesaw [Photo G]. (You can make a zero-clearance baseplate for a circular saw, too.) Another approach is to score the cutting line [Skill Builder].

To prevent edge tear-out on the tablesaw, attach an extension to your miter gauge, overhanging the end beyond the blade, and saw through it for a zero-clearance miter gauge [Photo H]. As a bonus, the kerf through the fence makes it easy to precisely line up your cut. Follow a similar strategy on the mitersaw [Photo I].

Similarly, installing a zero-clearance fence on your router table results in cleaner cuts, especially on complex profiles.

Produced by Larry Johnston



A miter-gauge extension with a blade kerf supports the board on both sides of the cutline and reduces splintering on the trailing edge.



Add an auxiliary table and fence to keep a mitersaw cut clean. Buy or make a zero-clearance table insert and fence for a permanent all-angle solution.

SKILL BUILDER

Scribe the cutting line for splinter-free sawing

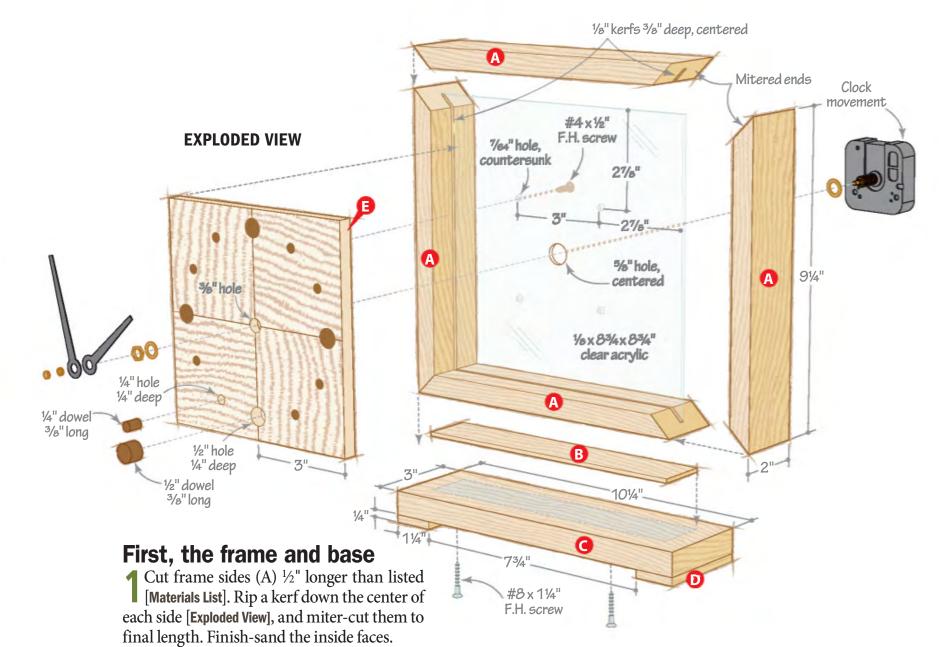
Before making a crosscut or miter-cut, scribe with a marking knife the cutline on the bottom face and back edge (for a tablesaw; when using a circular saw, scribe the top face and front edge). By cutting the fibers right at the line, you'll prevent them from splintering back past the line as the blade breaks out of the board.



Time Suspended Floating-face Clock



WOOD magazine May 2019



2 Glue together three of the frame sides and place those and the unglued side into a band clamp. After the glue dries, sand the outside faces. Mask off the unglued miters and set aside.

3 Cut the base spacer (B), base (C), and risers (D) to size. Glue the spacer (centered) and risers to the base. Finish-sand the assembly.

Make a face

1 Cut the clock-face backer (E) ½" wider and longer than listed. (We used a scrap

of maple-veneered MDF; any plain or veneered MDF will do, as will Baltic birch plywood.)

2 Cut a strip of veneer 3½" wide by 15" long. (We used zebrawood; any straight-grained veneer will look good.) From the strip cut four 3½" lengths [Photo A].

Tape together two squares with their grain aligned 90° to one another. Repeat for the other two squares. Tape together those two assemblies [Photo B].



Use a scrap backer and square to make 90° crosscuts with a sharp knife. Cut from both edges toward the center to avoid tear-out.



Stack the veneer assemblies face-to-face, with one long edge aligned, and tape them together at top and bottom.



Align the two clamping blocks flush and sand the veneer edges flush to the blocks using 100-grit sandpaper.



Tape together the two long edges you just straightened, with the grain of adjoining squares 90° to each other.



To attach the veneer to the backer (E), apply a uniform layer of glue to the backer, place the veneer assembly (tape side up) onto the glued surface, place a sheet of waxed paper on top of that, add a caul sized to match the backer, and apply clamping pressure.

veneer squares of the same size, measure from the center intersection of the squares to the edge of the glue-up when determining where to set your saw's fence for the trim cuts.

Clamp the veneer between two blocks of wood with the aligned long edge protruding [Photo C]. Sand the exposed veneer straight. Tape the four squares [Photo D].

5 Glue and clamp the veneer assembly to the backer [**Photo E**].

6 After the glue dries, cut the clock face to the final size shown for the backer [Materials List]. Trim all sides to ensure each veneer square measures 3" square.

The Lay out a 5"-diameter centered circle and hour positions on the veneer [Photos F, G].

With Forstner bits, drill holes at each of the marks and seams along the circle [Exploded View]. Glue in dowel plugs (we used walnut) and trim them flush with a flush-cutting saw. Finish-sand the face, drill the clock-movement hole, and set the face aside.

Finish it up

Apply finish to the wood parts—we sprayed three coats of satin aerosol lacquer.

Cut and drill the piece of acrylic. Screw the acrylic backer to the clock face, and slide the backer into the groove in the frame. Glue on the remaining frame side (A).

Screw the base assembly to the bottom of the frame. Install the movement and hands [Source].



To mark the 1 o'clock position on the face, leave the compass set at $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and place its point at the intersection of the marked circle and a veneer seam.

Project design: **Kevin Boyle**Illustrations: **Roxanne LeMoine, Lorna Johnson**

Kevin Boyle

Produced by Bill Krier with

	IMCOLIMIC					
		F	INISHE			
Pai	rt	T	W	L	Matl.	Qty.
A *	frame sides	5 ₈ "	2"	9¼"	W	4
В	base spacer	1/8"	1½"	8¾"	W	1
С	base	1"	3"	10¼"	W	1
D	risers	1/4"	3"	11/4"	W	2
F*	clock-face backer	1/2"	6"	6"	MDF	1

^{*}Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

Materials List

Materials key: W-walnut, MDF-medium-density fiberboard. **Supplies:** $\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{3}{4}$ " acrylic, $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{1}{2}$ " walnut dowel, $\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ " flathead screws (2), $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$ " flathead screws (4), veneer. **Bits:** $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{1}{2}$ " Forstner bits.

Source: Order the clock movement and hands. Kit no. RS-01215, \$6.95, 888-636-4478, woodmagazine.com/floatingclock.



Mark the 2 o'clock position by moving the compass point to the intersection of the marked circle and the veneer seam at the 12 o'clock position. Strike another short arc. Repeat these steps to mark the remaining hour positions.

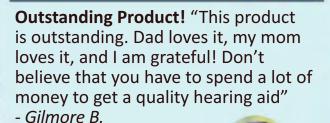
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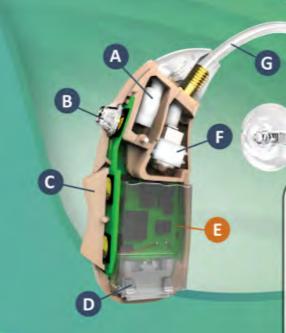


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Veritas lets you choose the frog angle, type of blade steel, and tote and knob shapes, so you can put together a tool that fits your hands and style of working. The one shown has a 45° bed, a wear-resistant PM-V11 blade, traditional tote (which we found quite comfortable), and standard knob, better suited to larger hands. The knurled-knob Norris-style blade adjuster turns easily with negligible backlash. The easily adjustable mouth accommodates heavy or paper-thin cuts.

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For lighter work, when you don't want to muscle a h 3½-lb bevel-up tool works beautifully. (Bevel-up plan

Veritas Low-angle Smooth Plane, \$217

For lighter work, when you don't want to muscle a heavy plane, this 3½-lb bevel-up tool works beautifully. (Bevel-up planes don't require chipbreakers so you can quickly swap blades to change the cutting angle.) The lower cutting angle—37° vs. 45° in smoothing planes—often cuts cleaner, especially across end grain. Toolless blade and mouth adjustments make fine-tuning cutting depth a snap. Choose a blade from one of three steel hardnesses.

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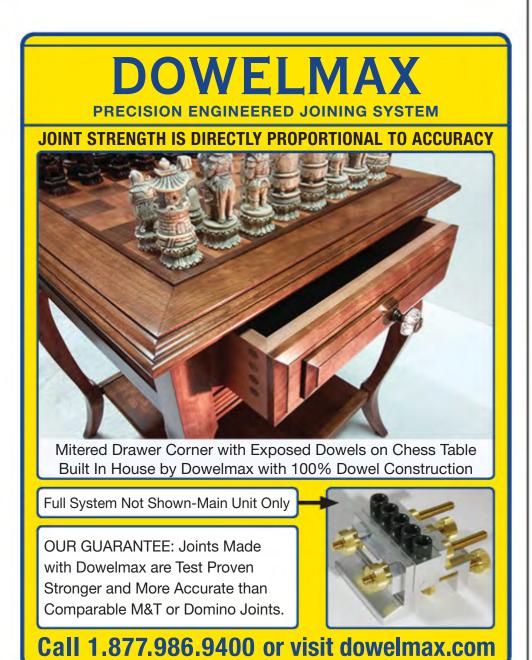
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Confession time: I love router tables. Anytime I can do a task on the router table rather than with a handheld router or tablesaw, I'm doing it. And this Rockler compact router table intrigued me from the moment I saw it.

It's available in three configurations: one for 1¹/₄-hp compact routers, another for 1½–2¼-hp midsize routers, and a third with insert plates for both router types. I prefer the compact-router version for two reasons. First, the small size of the table suits smallto medium-size project parts well. And a compact router, though limited to ¼"-shank bits, still provides lots of options for edgeforming and joinery bits. Also, you can easily lift out a compact router and use it handheld without removing the insert plate. (With a midsize router, you have to remove one of the handles to fit it through the plate opening.) But if you dedicate a midsize router to this table, you'll get along great and be able to use ½"-shank bits.

The $18\frac{1}{2}\times16\frac{3}{8}$ " top has a slick melamine coating and a good split-panel fence with $2\frac{1}{2}$ " dust port. A miter slot provides options for jigs and accessories. You can mount this to a wall (where it folds flat if you remove the router), clamp it to a workbench, or fold it up and take it to a job.

—Tested by Bob Hunter, Tools Editor

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trend

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—Tested by Bob Baker

Trend Routing Technologies 877-918-7363, trend-usa.com

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WOOD magazine May 2019



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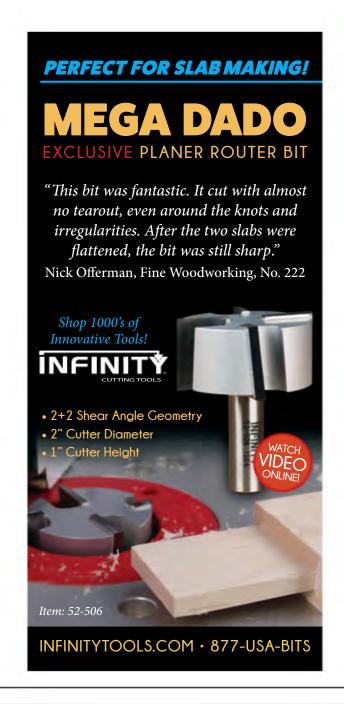
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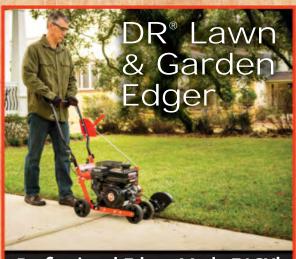
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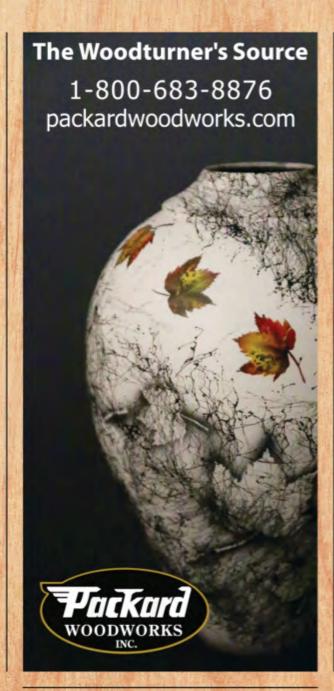
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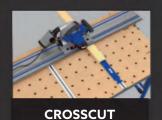








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