

practical ideas
for your home

workbench



HOME STORAGE SPECIAL!

- ▶ laundry makeover
- ▶ quick closet cures
- ▶ garage gear-up

2007 TOP 10 INNOVATIONS

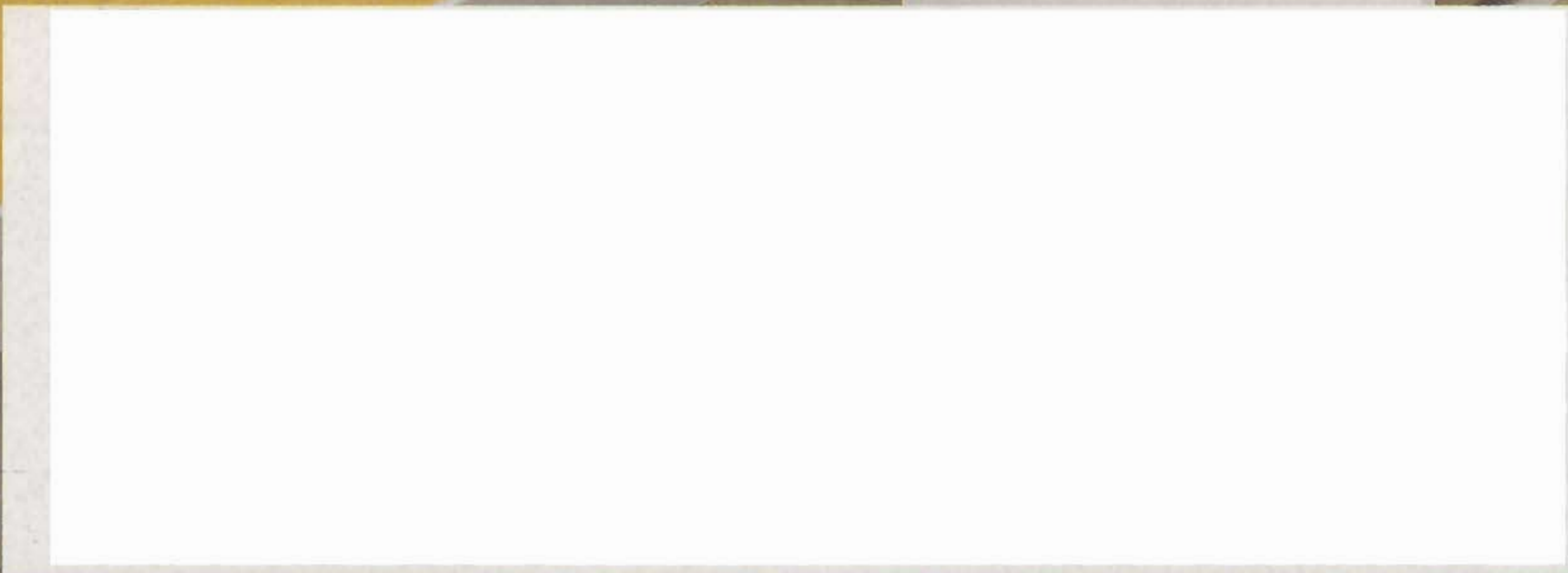
4 EASY PROJECTS UNDER \$40

- ▶ front-entry facelift
- ▶ cottage cabinet
- ▶ glass display shelf
- ▶ elegant serving tray

PAINT POWER

transform any room with metallic glazes

BONUS! 50 ALL-TIME BEST TIPS



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EDITOR'S NOTES

It's a red-letter day here at *Workbench*.

With the publication of this issue, we're celebrating the 50th anniversary of *Workbench* magazine. In the here-today-gone-tomorrow world of magazines, that's certainly a notable achievement — one that never would have been possible without the enthusiasm, support, and dedication of readers like yourself. So a sincere thanks for your role in helping us achieve this historic milestone.

Speaking of history, the first issue of *Workbench* rolled off the press in 1957. (The same year Ford introduced the Edsel, Sputnik orbited the earth, and Buddy Holly topped the charts with "That'll Be the Day.") Back then, you could buy a copy of the magazine for thirty-five cents or get a one-year subscription for two dollars.

The seeds of *Workbench* were sown right after World War II with a magazine called *Profitable Hobbies*. It contained articles ranging from quilting and raising chinchillas to making jewelry and growing grubs for bait. By the '50s, though, it had been renamed *Workbench* to reflect a new focus on home improvement.

Well, this new direction struck a chord with homeowners. And during the next five decades, DIYers came to depend on *Workbench* for practical projects they could build using basic tools, techniques, and materials.

Okay, so what's in store for the next 50 years? A fresh new cover design, for starters. We also plan to include a special 50-year retrospective in each issue of 2007 (a review of 50 years' worth of covers and 50 timeless tips in this issue). And, of course, we'll continue to offer simple ideas to improve the value, appearance, and livability of your home — ideas that, in a nutshell, transform your house into a home.



Tim





50th Anniversary Specials!

50 Years of Workbench Covers (page 8)

50 Timeless Tips (page 28)

easy weekend projects



60

Service with a Style

This tray is ideal for serving food and drinks. But with its elegant style and interchangeable decorative inserts, you may not want to put it away.

60

Old Window: New View

Convert an old window sash and a few store-bought boards into an eye-catching display cabinet in a matter of hours.

66

A Touch of Glass: Display Shelving

Distinctive doesn't mean difficult—or expensive—with these glass display shelves. For less than \$40, their clean look can be yours.

68

home storage solutions



52

Reinvent Your Closet

Cluttered closets driving you crazy? Here are all the supplies, insights, and instructions for taming the mess, plus a set of stylish doors to boot.

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Laundry Room Makeover +5 Easy Add-Ons

With these simple cabinets and accessories, even laundry can be fun.

52

Garage Slat-Wall System

82

"When you consider how much time you spend in the laundry room, shouldn't it be more than just a utilitarian space? Shouldn't it be, dare we say it, *comfortable* as well?"

—page 53

ONLINE

WorkbenchMagazine.com

Get even more information about the projects and articles in this issue:

Laundry Center Bonus Features

- Cutting Diagrams, Complete Shop Drawings, & Materials List
- Free Articles: Building Laminate Counters
- Cutting Dadoes & Rabbets



Happy 50th ANNIVERSARY WORKBENCH!

From the

The All-New 2007 GMC Sierra

MATERIALS LIST



BUYER'S GUIDE

WASHER & DRYER
Whirlpool Duet Washer and Dryer
 866.698.2538
Whirlpool.com
(Supplied by O'Callaghan's - 515.276.3232)

SINK & FAUCET
American Standard Silhouette Sink
 800.442.1902
AmericanStandard-US.com
Pegasus Side-Action Faucet/Sprayer
 800.553.3199
HomeDepot.com

IRONING BOARD
Rev-A-Shelf Fold-Out Ironing Board
 502.499.5835
Rev-A-Shelf.com

LAUNDRY BAGS
 (2) Laundry Bags for Bagger Org. System
 877.631.2922
Skyburst.com

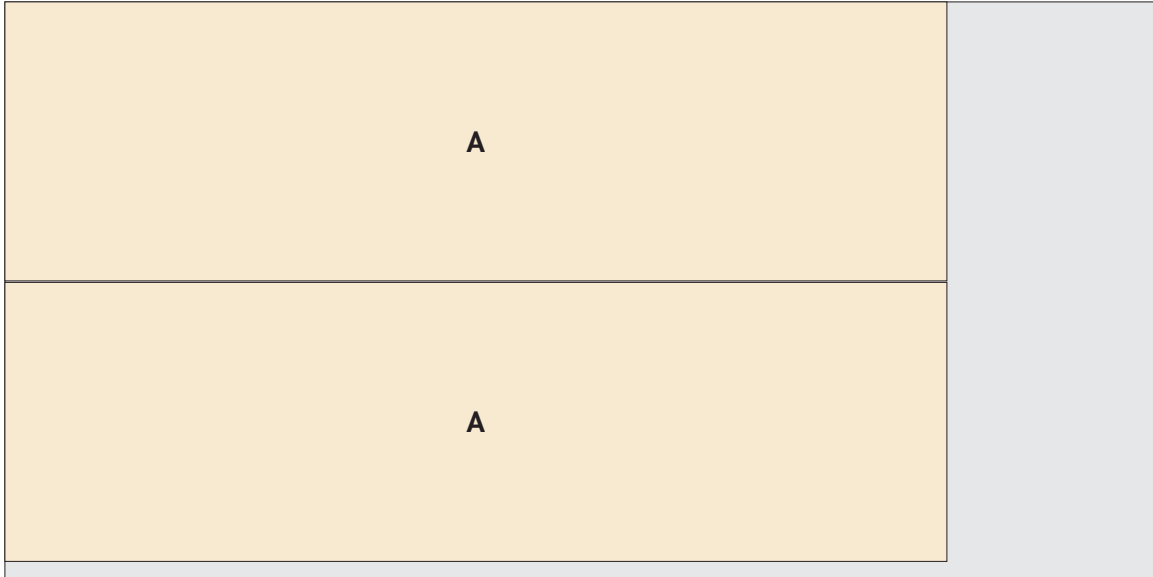
PROJECT HARDWARE
 (8) 26mm Blum Clip-on Hinges (#38411)
 (6) Lift-O-Mat Gas Springs (#34373)
 Folding L-Brackets (#58377)
 White Surface-Mount Puck Lights (#25315)
 22" Full-Extension Drawer Slides (#30230)
 800.279.4441
Rockler.com

(7) 5" Polished Chrome Handles (BBK-03592)
 866.695.6627
MyKnobs.com

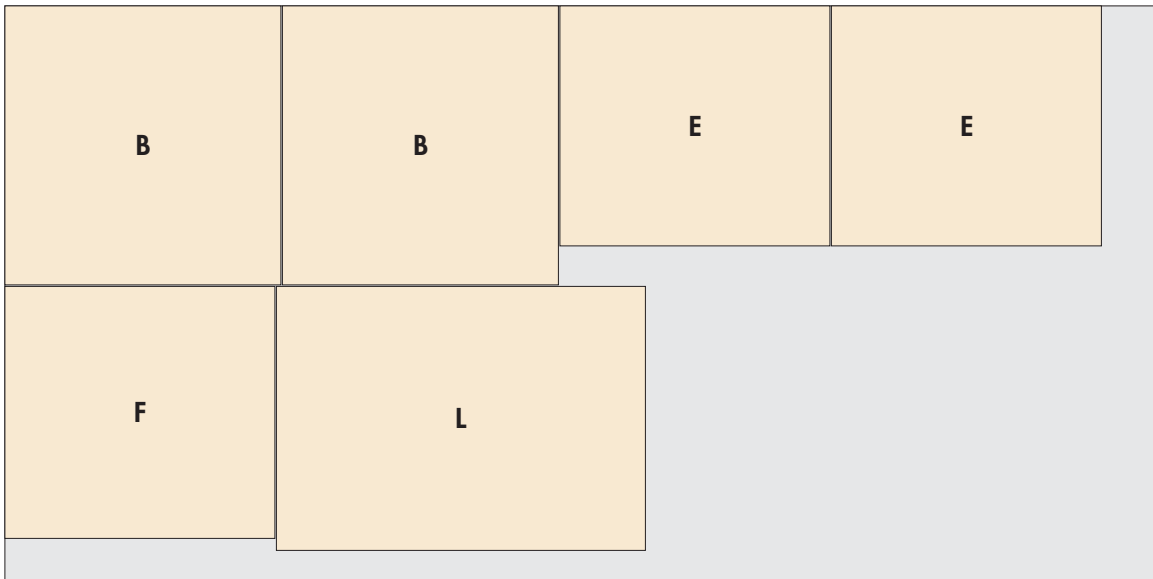
MATERIAL LIST

Part	Qty	Size	Material	Part	Qty	Size	Material	
STORAGE TOWER				AA	BACK PANEL	1	¾" x 13¾" x 25¼"	Melamine
A	SIDES	2	¾" x 23¼" x 78½"	BB	BOTTOM PANEL	1	¾" x 14⅞" x 22"	Melamine
B	TOP/BOTTOM	2	¾" x 23" x 23¼"	CC	BASE SIDES	2	¾" x 2½" x 22"	Oak
C	TOWER BACK	1	¼" x 23½" x 78½"	DD	BASE FRONT/BACK	2	¾" x 1¾" x 14⅞"	Oak
D	MOUNTING CLEAT	1	¾" x 3½" x 22½"	EE	RAILS	2	¾" x 3½" x 22"	Oak
E	TOP/BTTM. SHELF	2	¾" x 20" x 22½"	FF	FALSE FRONTS	2	¾" x 4½" x 17⅓/16"	Melamine
F	MIDDLE SHELF	1	¾" x 21" x 22½"	NARROW UPPER CABINET				
G	TP/BTTM. SUPPORT	4	¾" x ¾" x 19"	GG	END PANELS	2	¾" x 24" x 78"	Melamine
H	MIDDLE SUPPORT	2	¾" x ¾" x 17½"	HH	SIDES	2	¾" x 16" x 17¼"	Melamine
I	BASE SIDES	2	¾" x 3½" x 18½"	II	TOP/BOTTOM	2	¾" x 17" x 35"	Melamine
J	BASE FRONT/BACK	2	¾" x 3½" x 24"	JJ	BACK	1	¼" x 16" x 35½"	Hardboard
K	TOWER DOOR	1	¾" x 24" x 78½"	KK	MOUNTING CLEAT	1	¾" x 3" x 35"	Pine
L	WORK TABLE	1	¾" x 22" x 30¾"	WIDE UPPER CABINET				
M	MOUNT. BLOCKS	2	1½" x 3½" x 11"	LL	SIDES	2	¾" x 16" x 17¼"	Melamine
N	RACK ARMS	2	¾" x 2" x 41"	MM	TOP/BOTTOM	2	¾" x 17" x 59"	Melamine
O	RACK RAILS	2	¾"-dia. x 16"	NN	BACK	1	¼" x 16" x 59½"	Hardboard
SINK CABINET				OO	MOUNT. CLEATS	2	¾" x 3" x 29"	Pine
P	CABINET SIDES	2	¾" x 23¼" x 31"	PP	DIVIDER	1	¾" x 15" x 17"	Melamine
Q	CABINET BOTTOM	1	¾" x 23" x 35"	DOORS & SHELF				
R	CABINET BACK	1	¼" x 31" x 35½"	QQ	DOOR STILES	6	¾" x 2" x 16"	Poplar
S	BASE SIDES	2	¾" x 3½" x 18½"	RR	DOOR RAILS	6	¾" x 2" x 30¾"	Poplar
T	BASE FRONT/BACK	2	¾" x 3½" x 36"	SS	OPEN SHELF	1	¾" x 16" x 60"	Melamine
U	DIVIDER	1	¾" x 23¼" x 31"	TT	SHELF EDGING	2	¾" x 3" x 60"	Poplar
V	COUNTER CLEATS	2	¾" x 2" x 34½"	UU	SHELF CLEATS	2	¾" x ¾" x 15¾"	Pine
W	CABINET CLEATS	2	¾" x 3" x 16⅞"	VV	BACK PANEL	1	¼" x 10" x 60"	Hardboard
X	CABINET DOOR	1	¾" x 17⅓/16" x 26¼"					
LAUNDRY BIN								
Y	HANGER RODS	2	¾"-dia. x 22¾"					
Z	FRONT PANEL	1	¾" x 17⅓/16" x 26¼"					

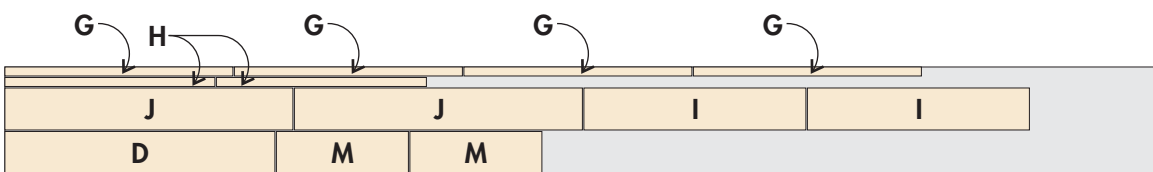
CUTTING DIAGRAM



3/4" x 48" x 96" White Melamine

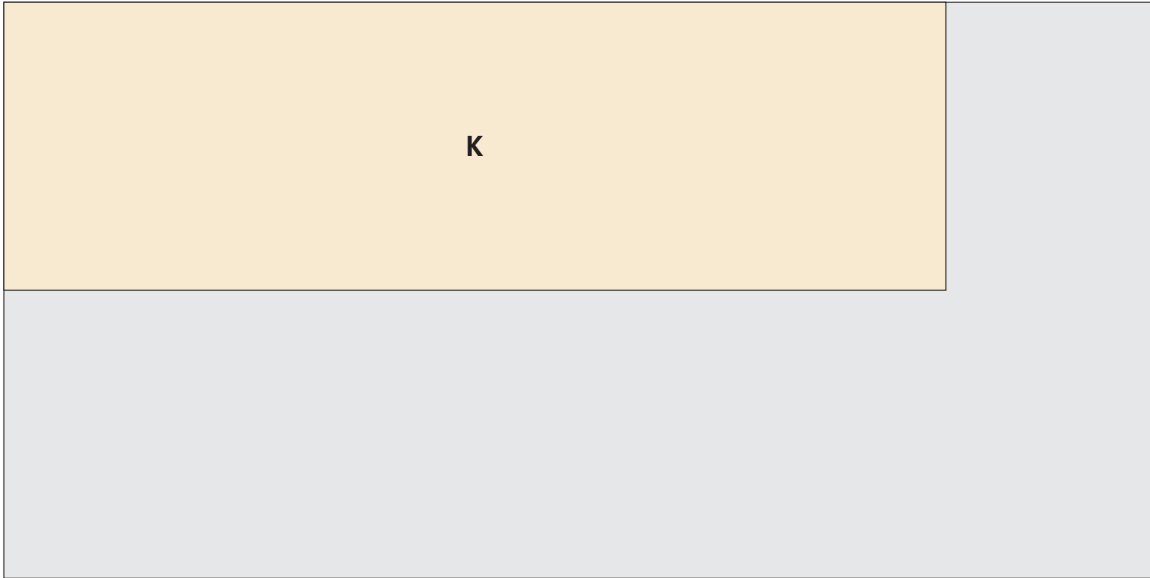


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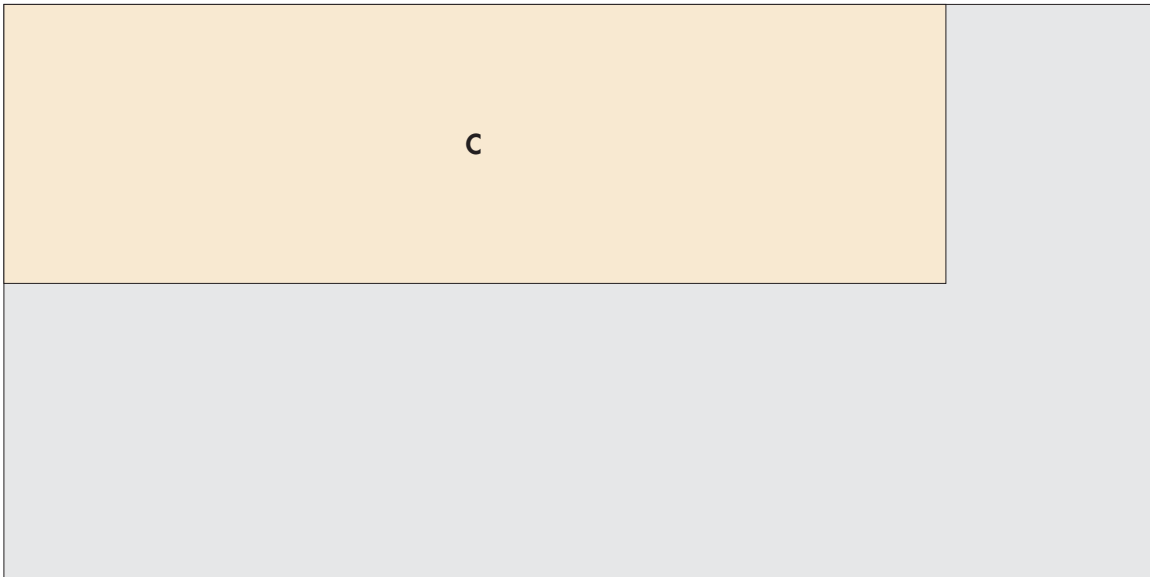


3/4" x 9-1/4" x 96" Pine

CUTTING DIAGRAM



3/4" x 48" x 96" Melamine

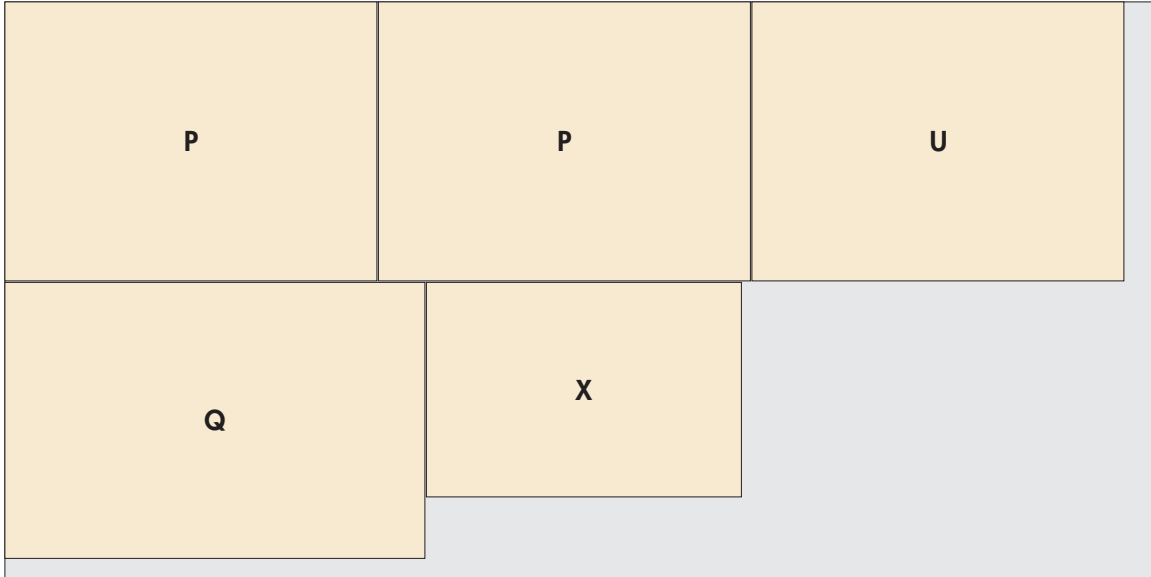


1/4" x 48" x 96" Hardboard

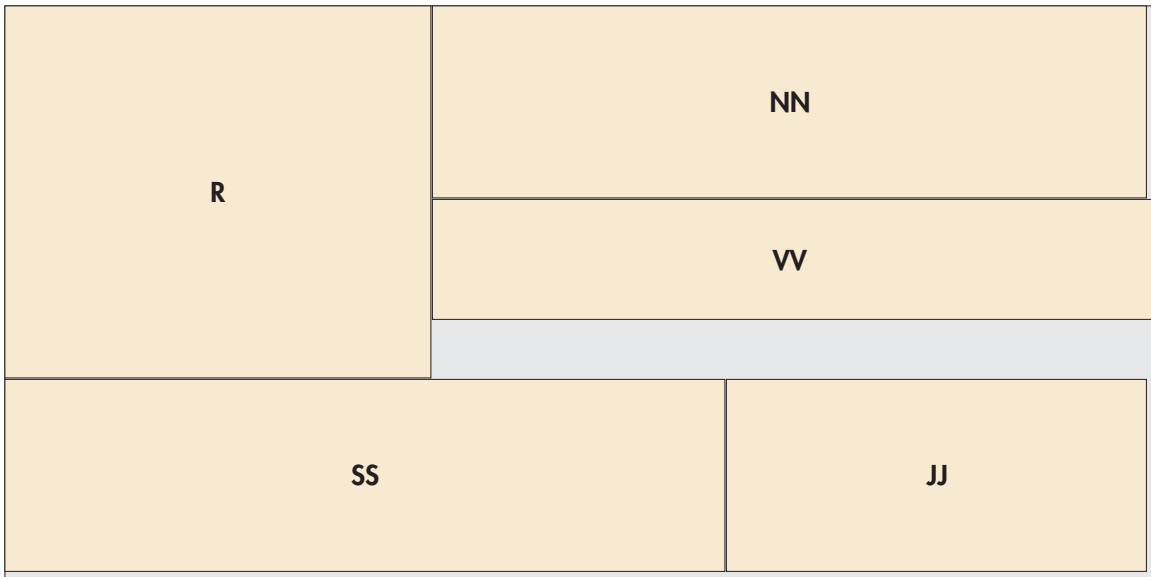


3/4" x 5-1/2" x 48" Oak

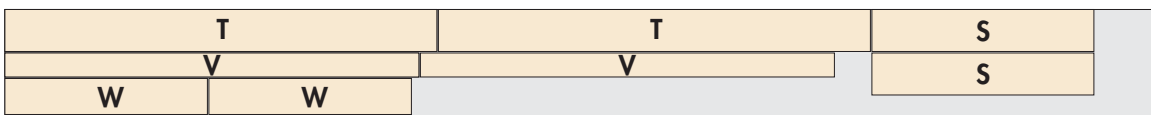
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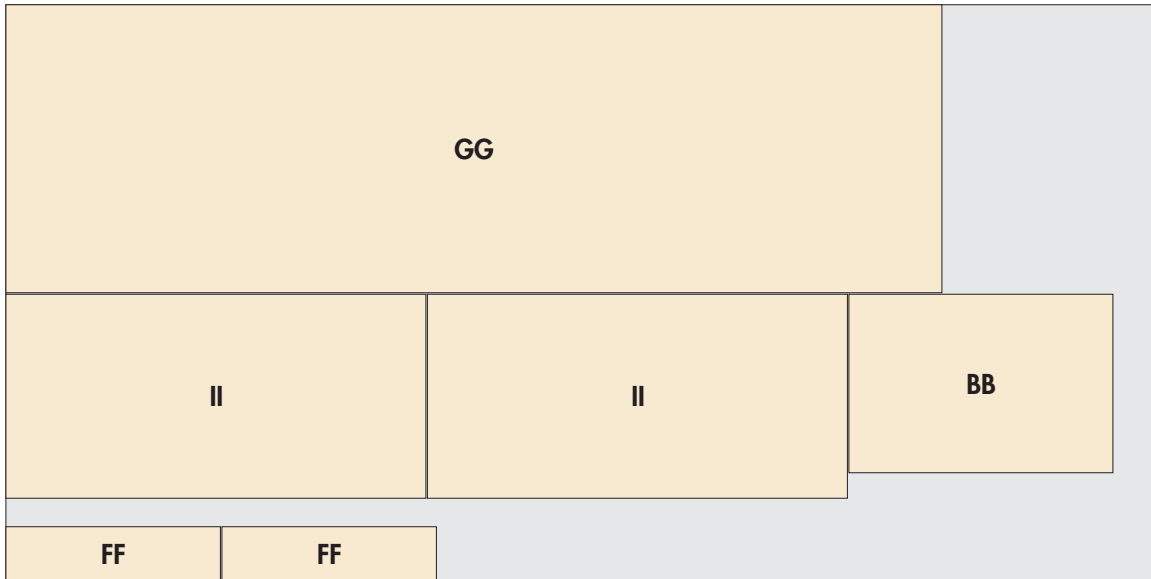


1/4" x 48" x 48" Hardboard

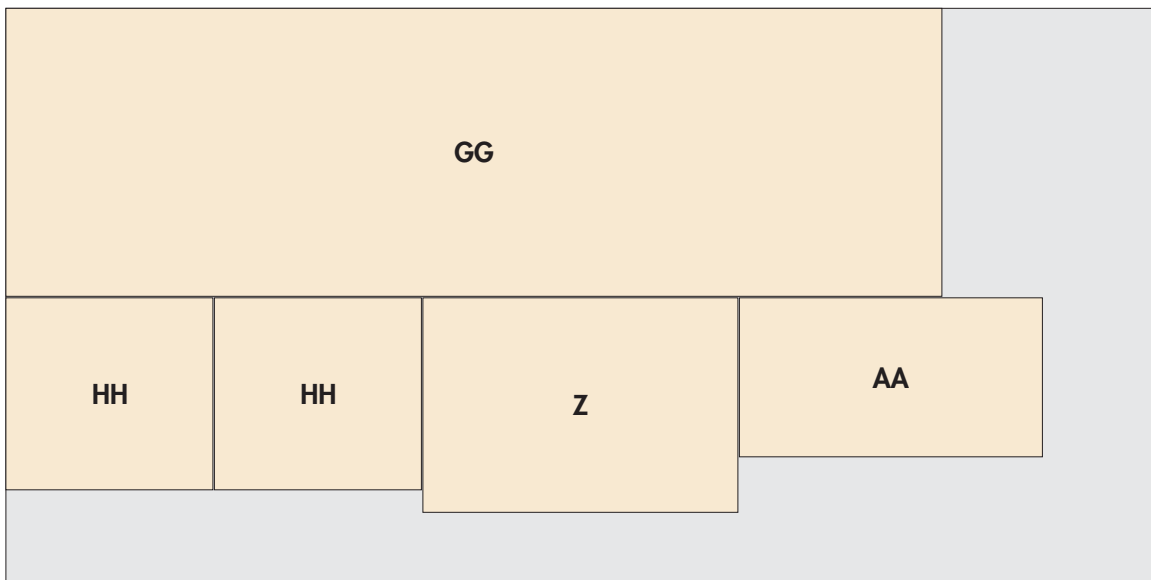


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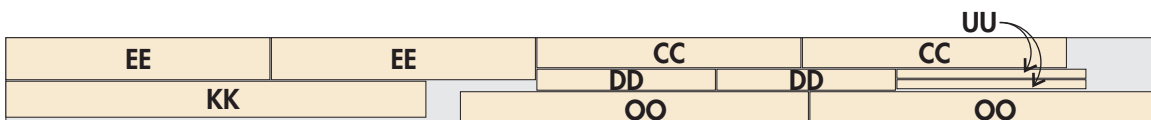
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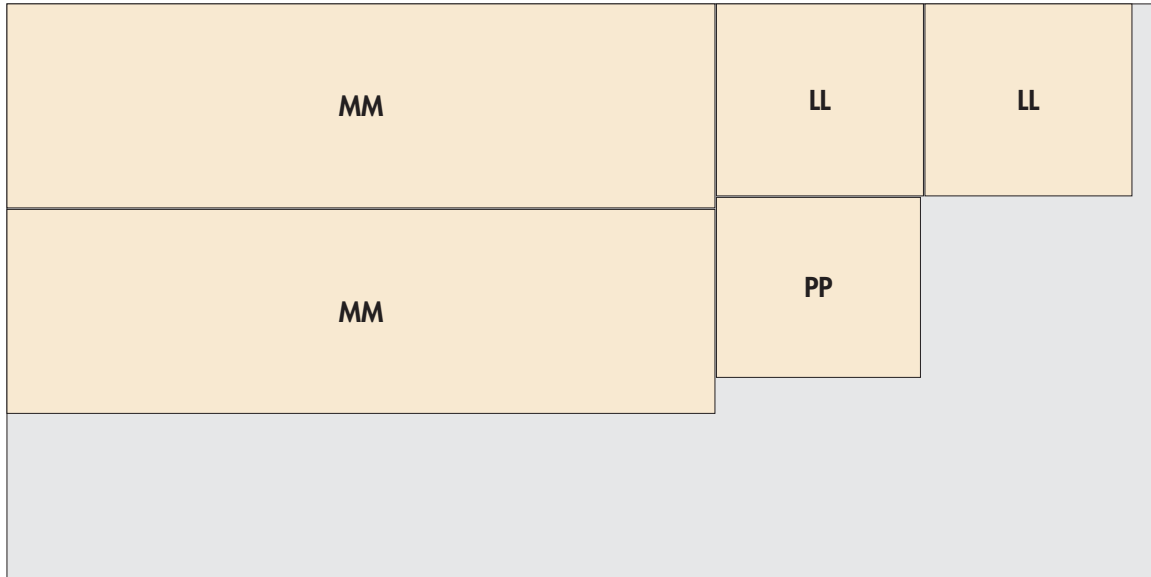
3/4" x 48" x 96" White Melamine



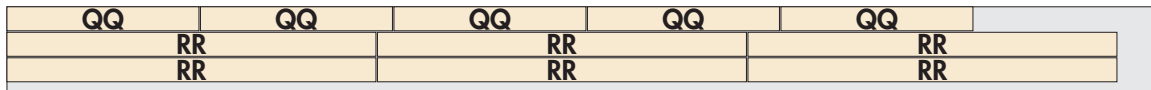
3/4" x 48" x 96" White Melamine



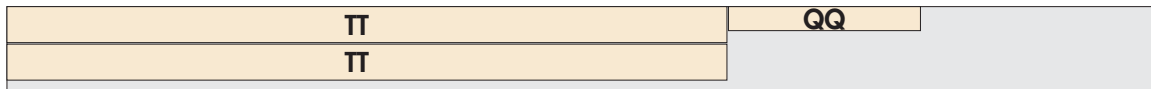
3/4" x 5-1/2" x 96" Oak

CUTTING DIAGRAM

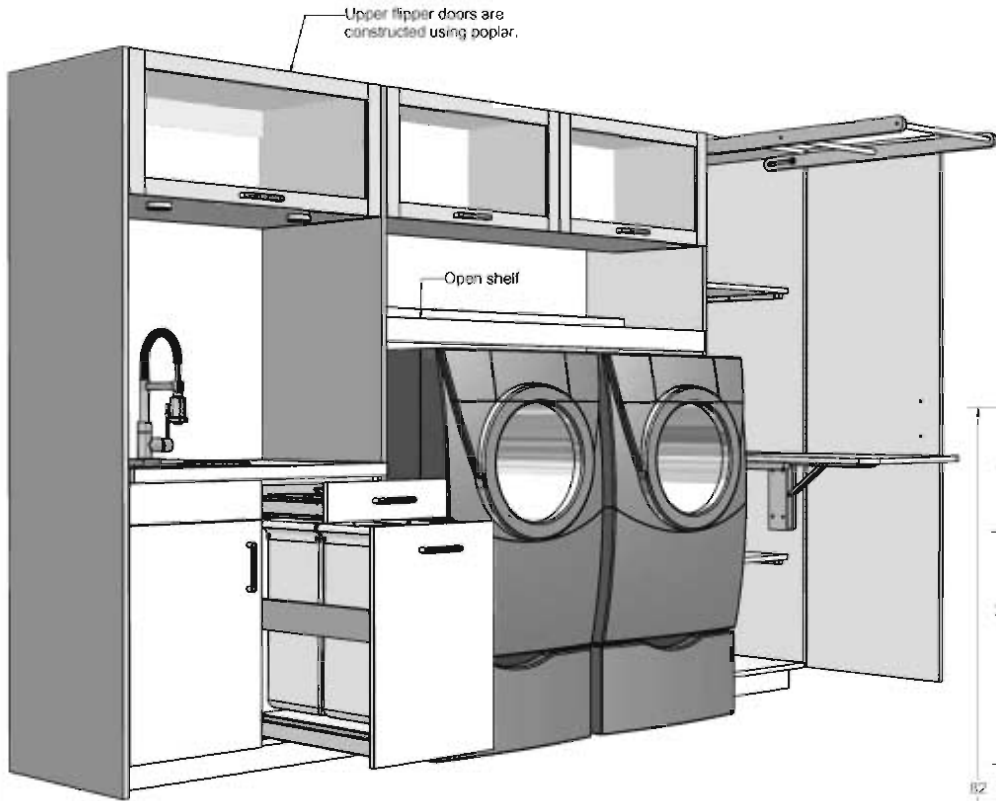
3/4" x 48" x 96" White Melamine



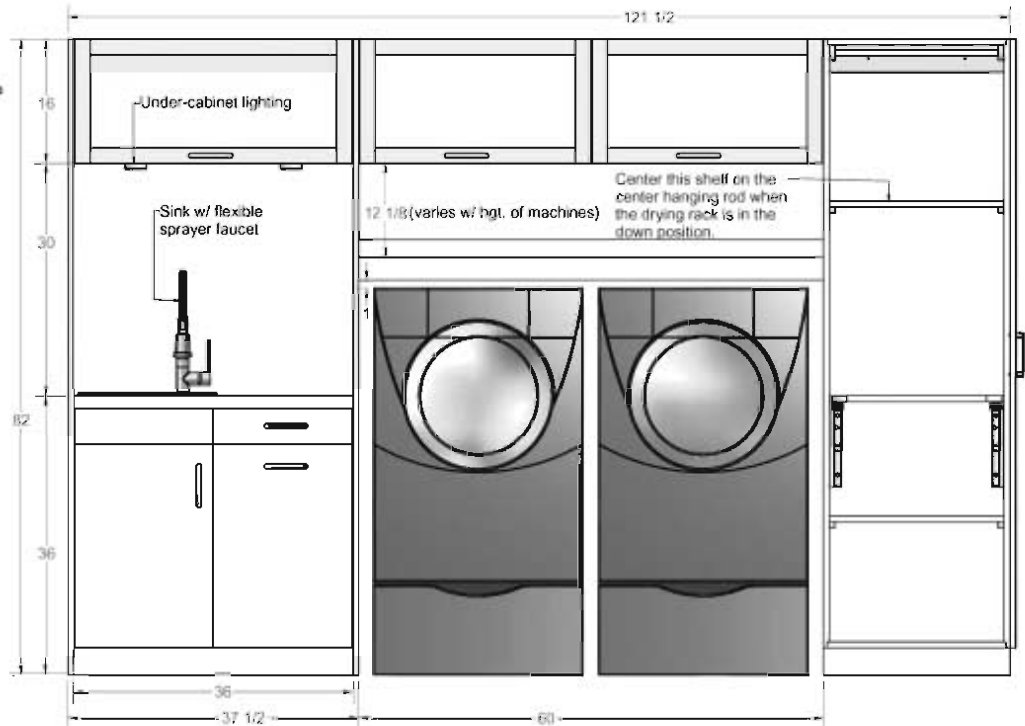
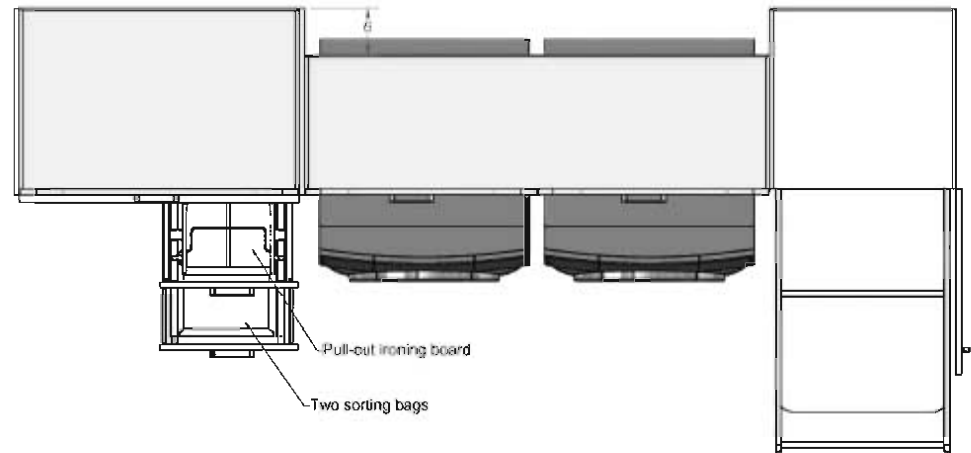
3/4" x 7-1/4" x 96" Poplar

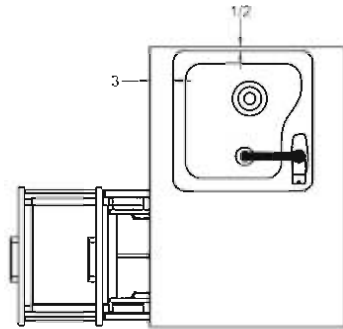
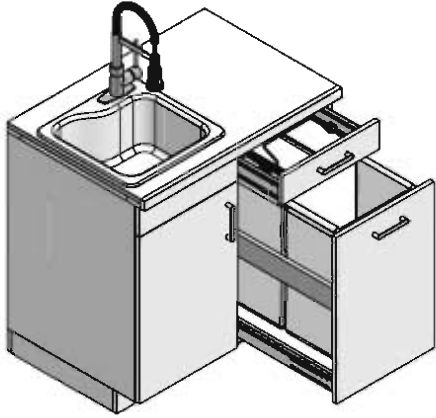


3/4" x 7-1/4" x 96" Poplar

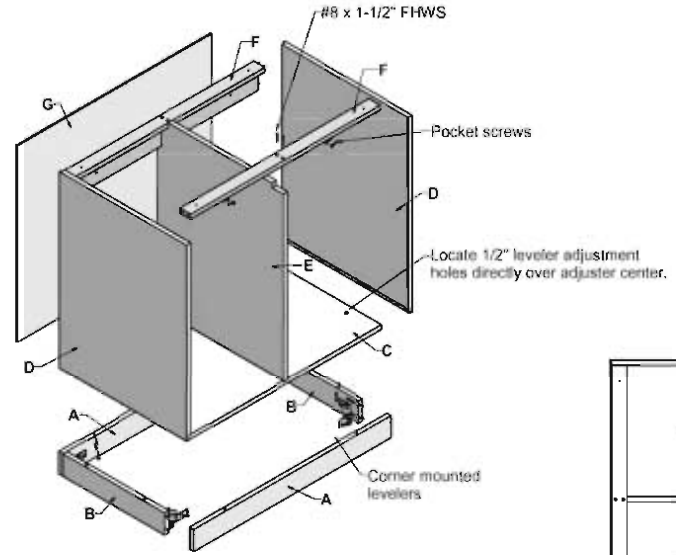


Note: Cabinets are constructed using white Melamine. All exposed edges are covered with white edge tape

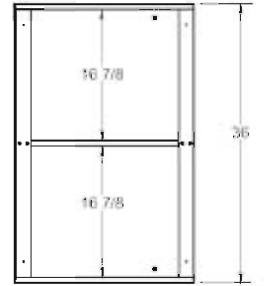




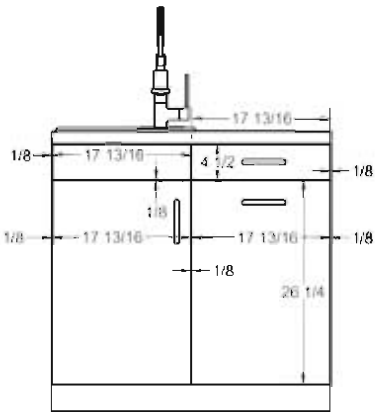
Top View



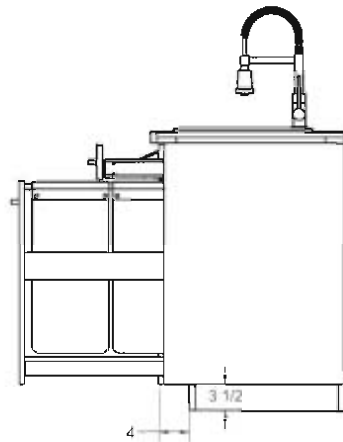
Carcass Construction



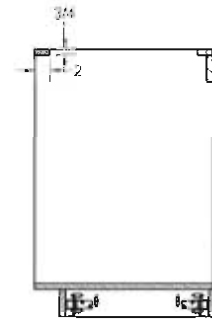
Top View



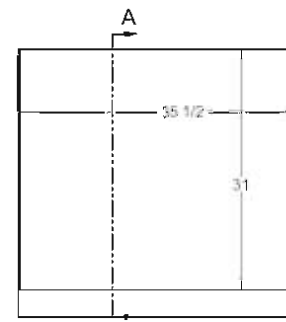
Front View



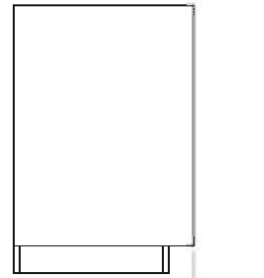
Side View



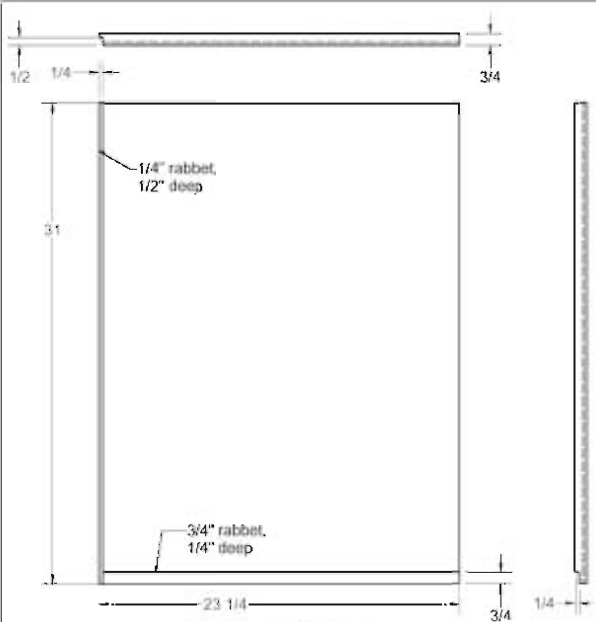
SECTION A-A



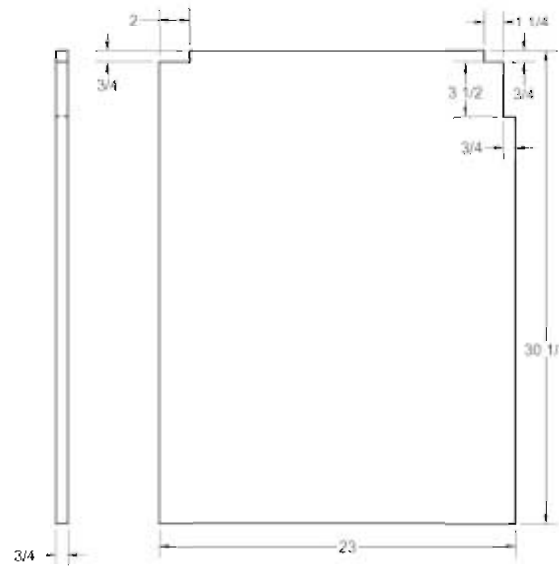
Back View



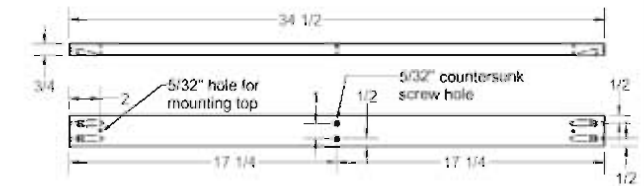
Side View



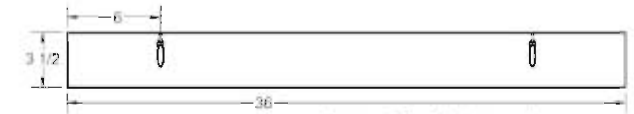
Right End Panel - D
(left panel mirrored image)



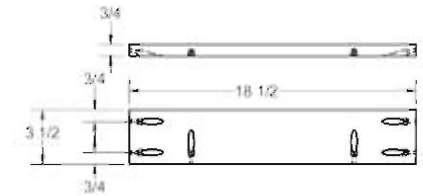
Divider Panel - E



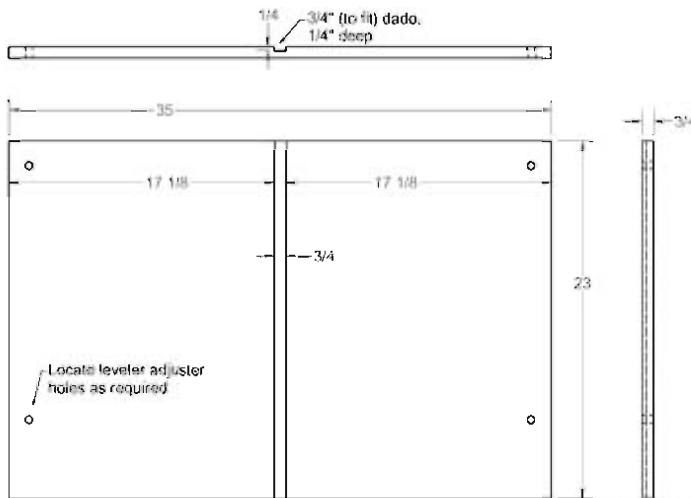
Top Mount Cleats - F



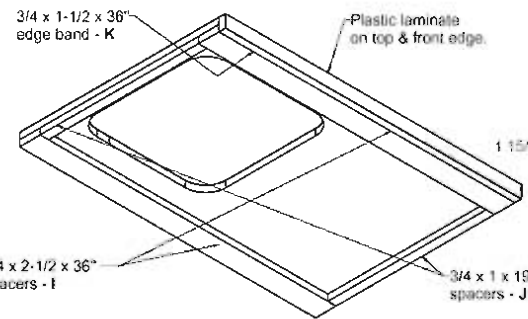
Base - Front/Rear - A



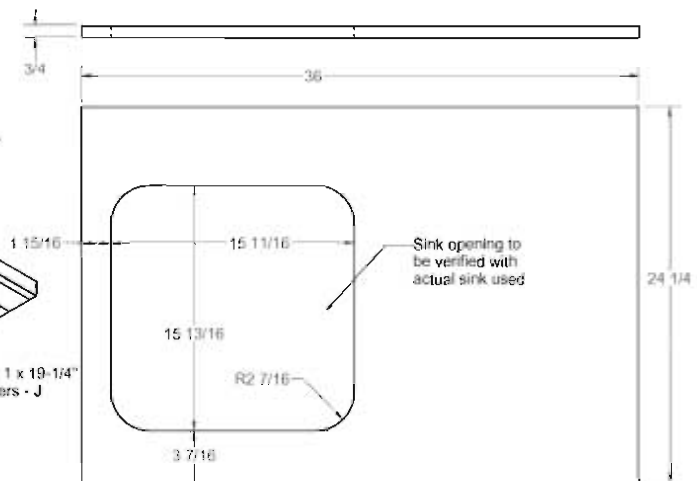
Base - Sides - B



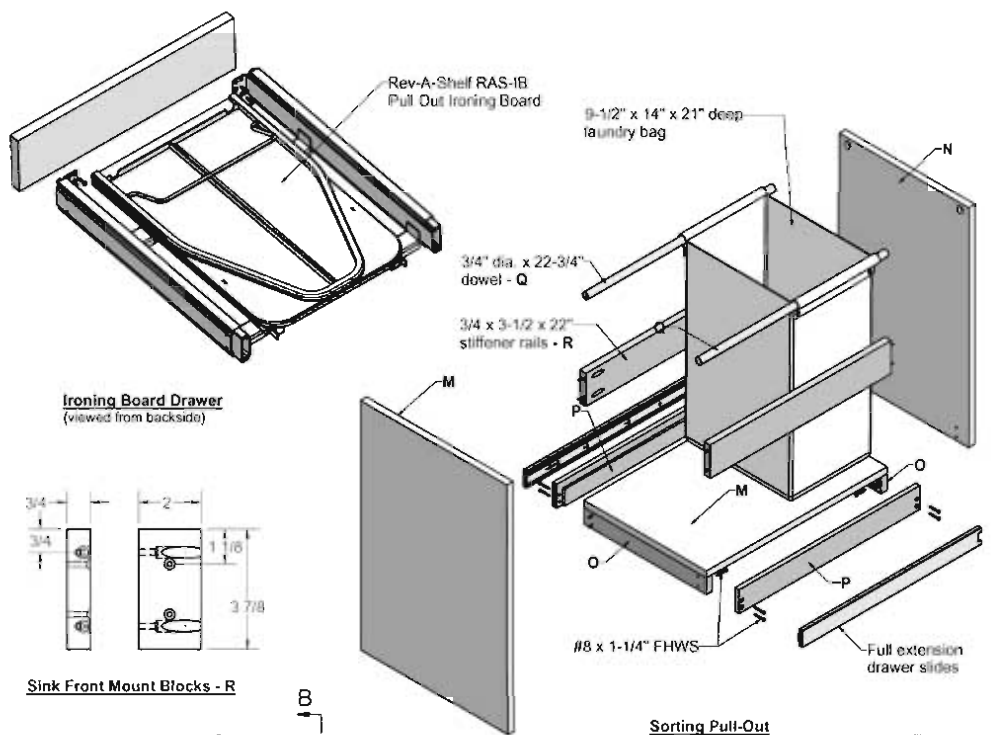
Bottom Panel - C



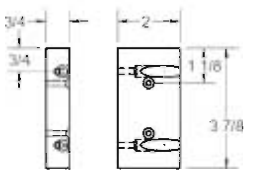
Top Viewed from Bottomside



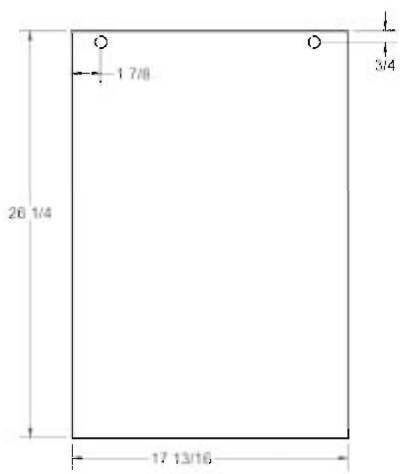
Top Panel - H



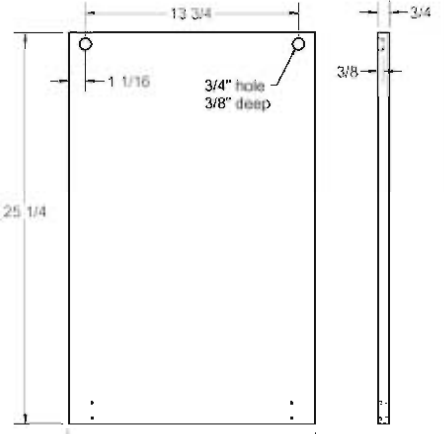
Ironing Board Drawer
(viewed from backside)



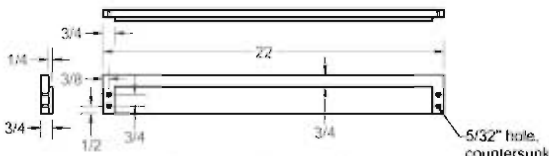
Sink Front Mount Blocks - R



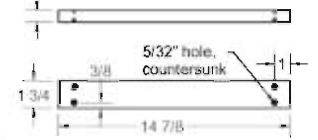
Sorting Pull-Out Door - M



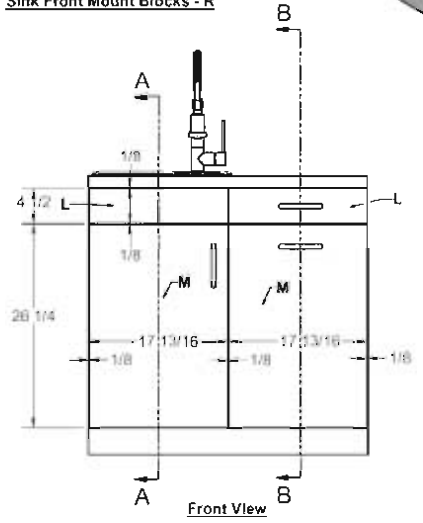
Sorting Pull-Out Back Panel



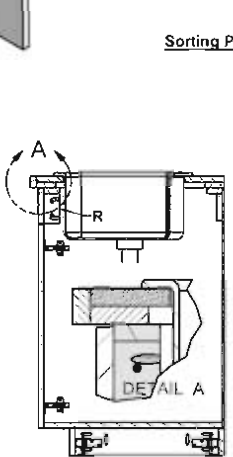
Sorting Pull-Out Base Side - P



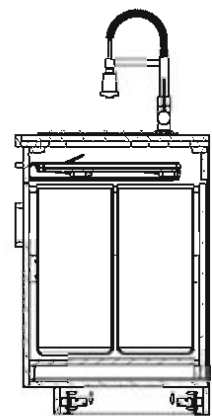
Sorting Pull-Out Base End - O



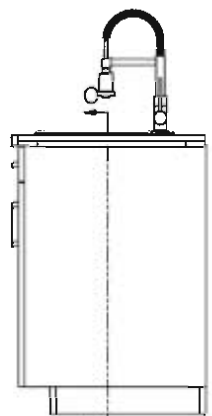
Front View



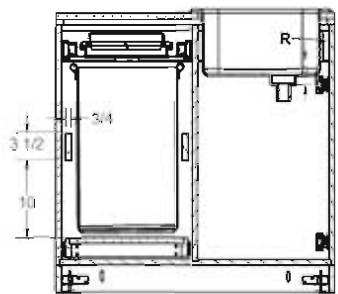
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SECTION B-B

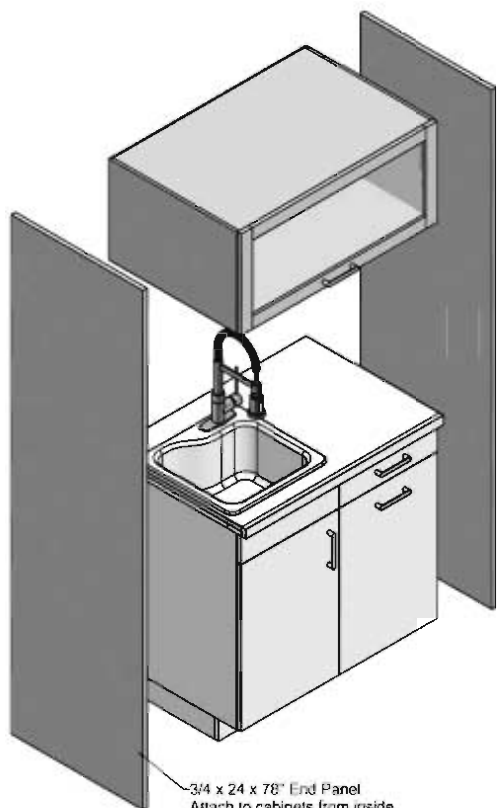


Side View



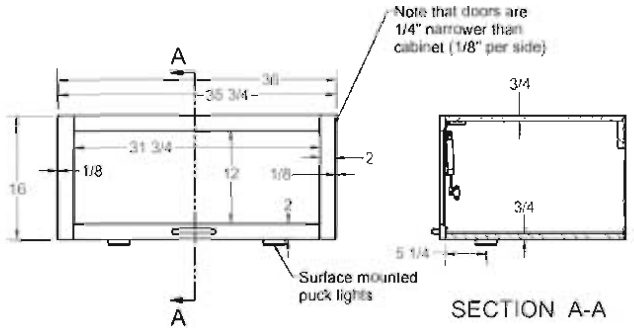
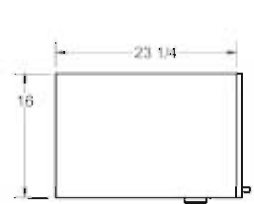
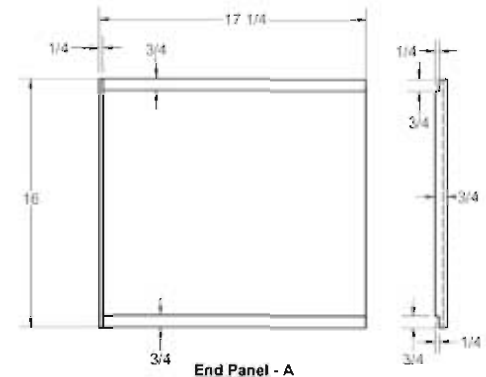
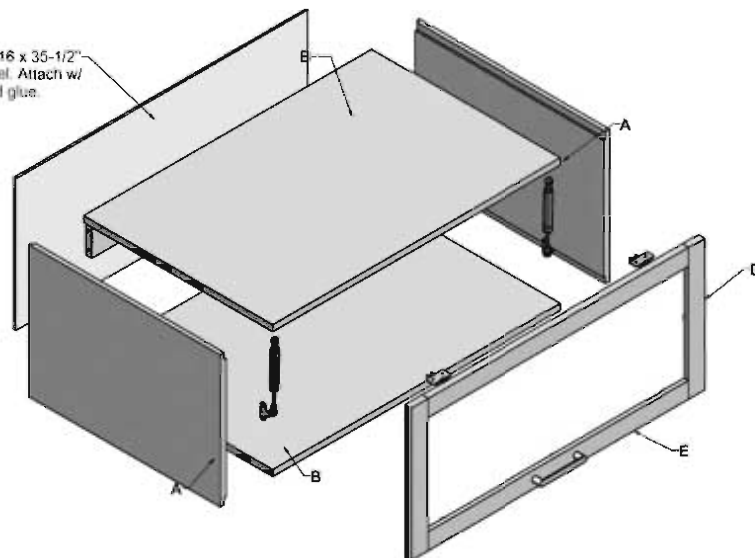
SECTION C-C

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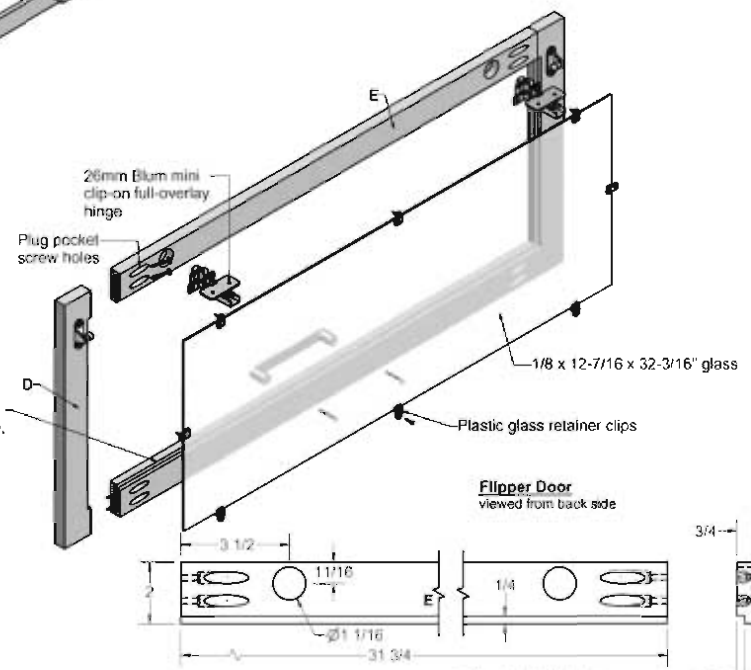


3/4 x 24 x 78" End Panel
Attach to cabinets from inside
with #8 x 1-1/4" FHWS

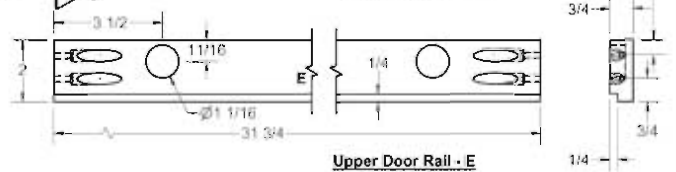
C - 1/4 x 16 x 35-1/2"
back panel. Attach w/
brads and glue.

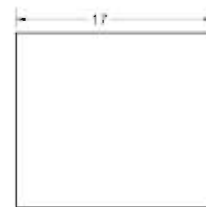
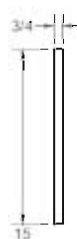
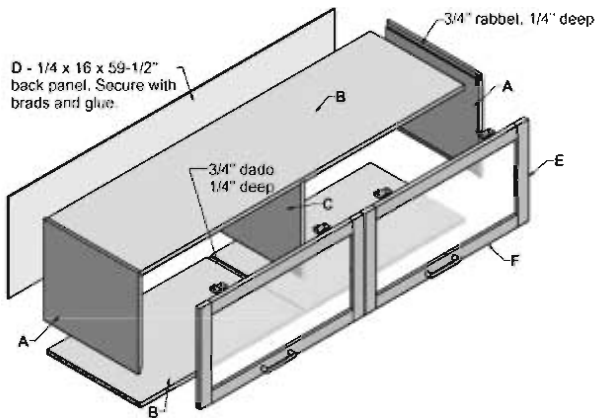


Cut 1/4x1/4" rabbet
after door frame assembly.
Square corners w/ chisel.

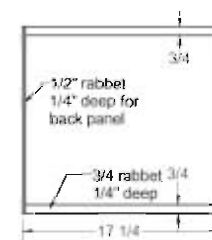


Flipper Door
viewed from back side

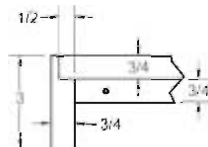




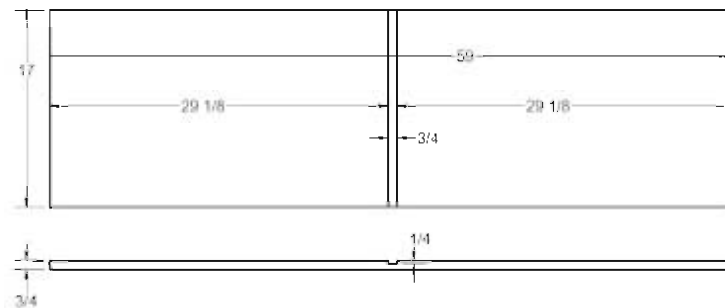
Center Panel - C



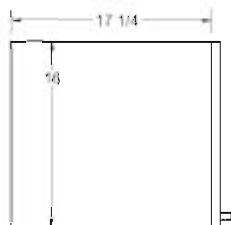
End Panels - A



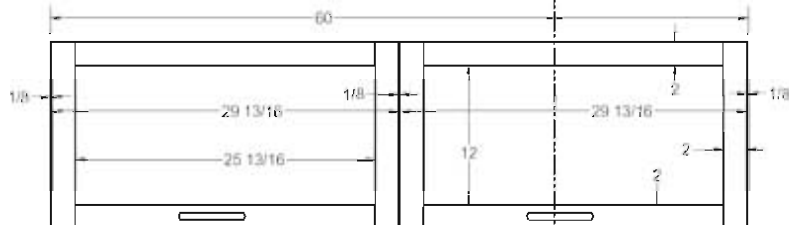
DETAIL A



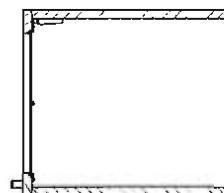
Top & Bottom Panels - B



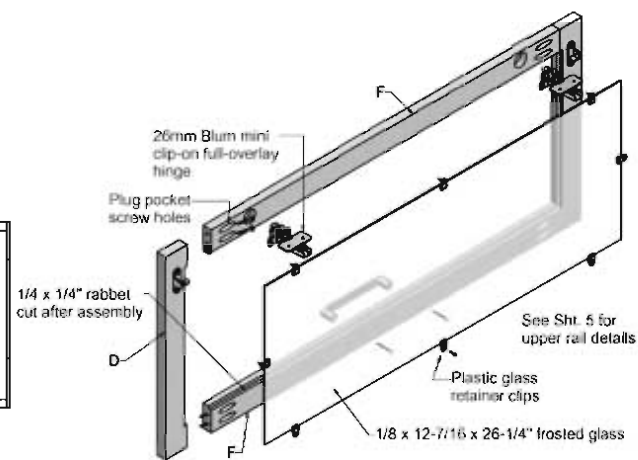
Side View

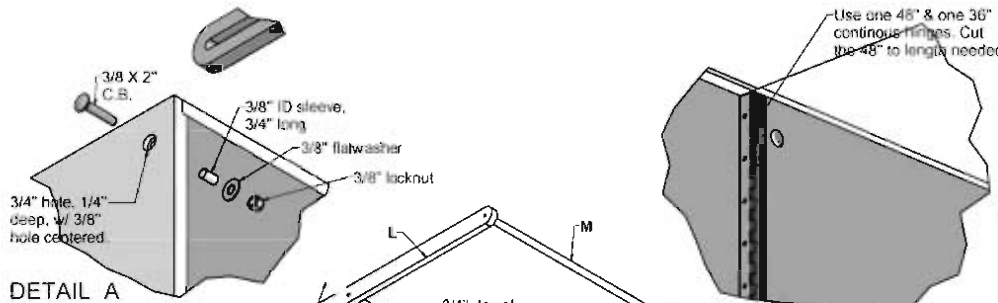


Front View

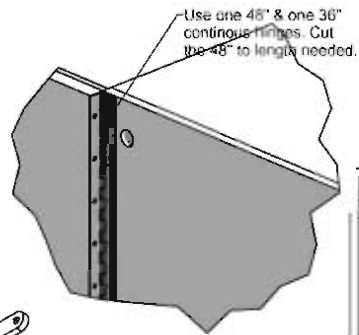


SECTION A-A

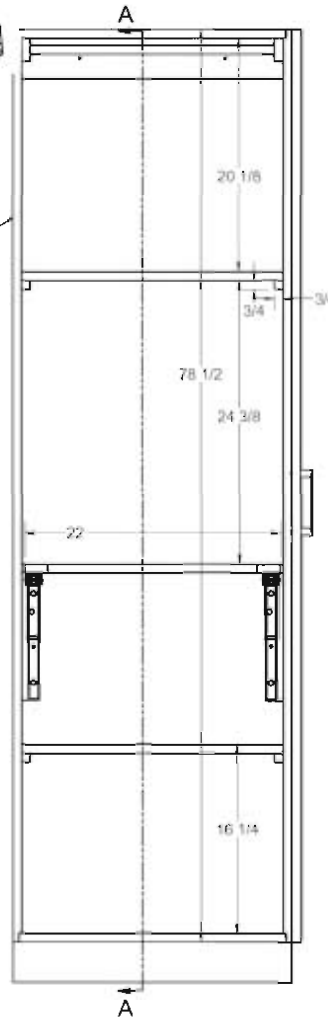
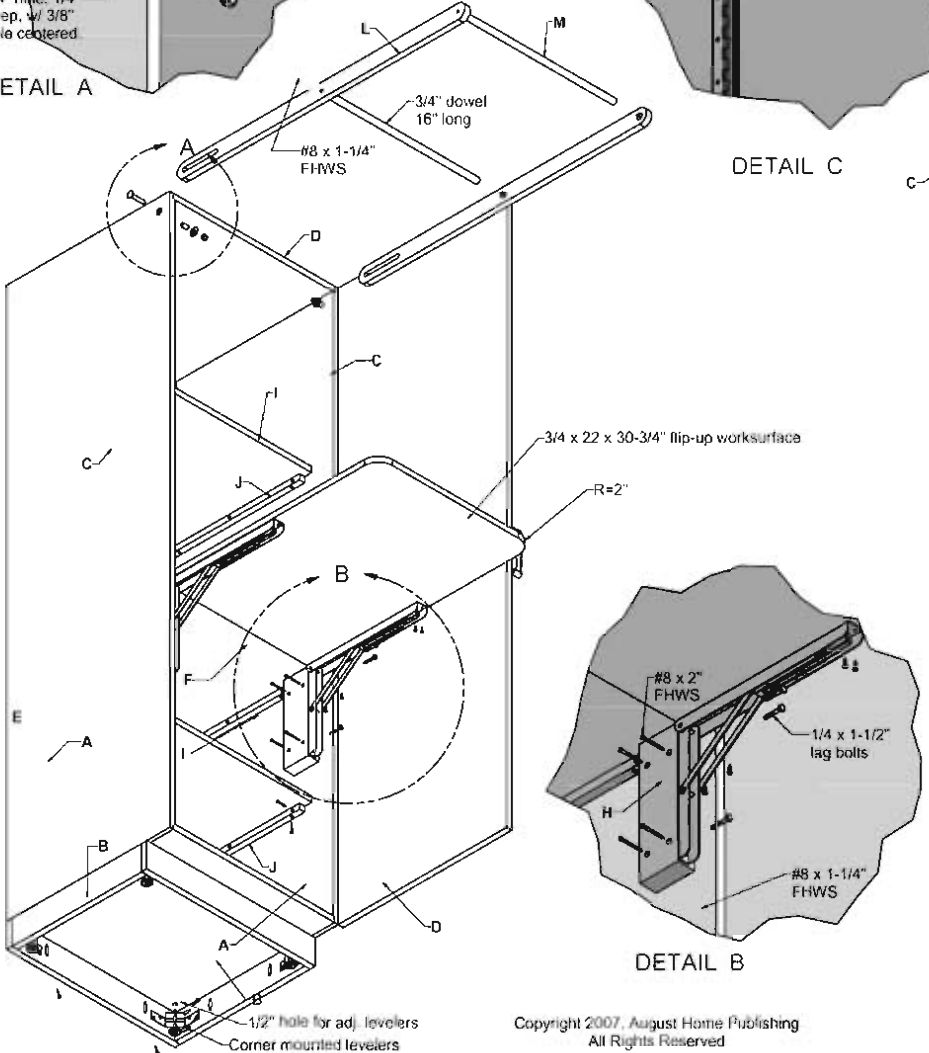




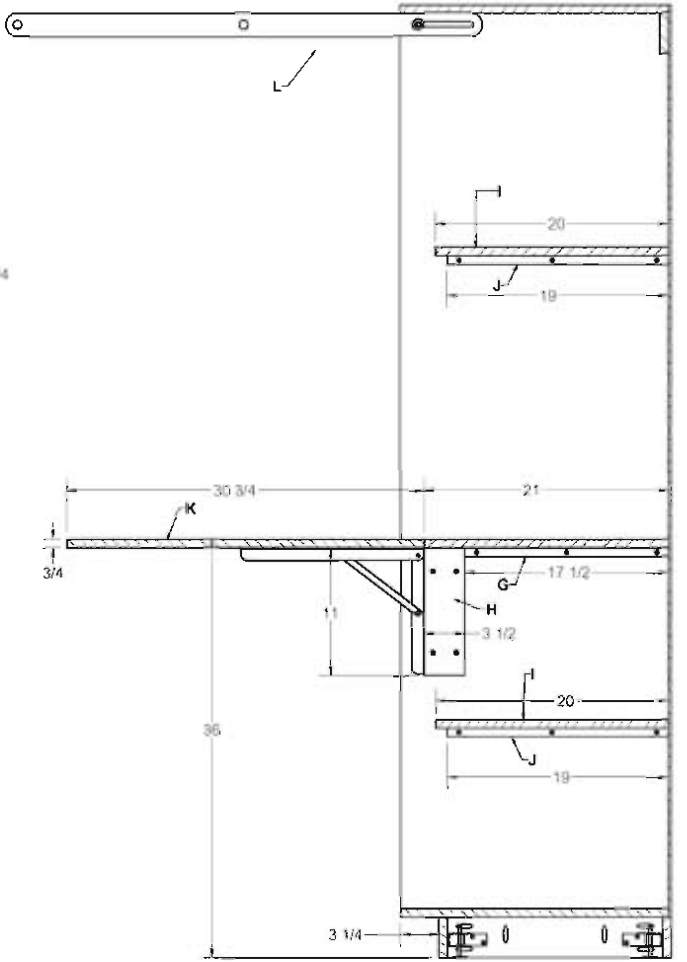
DETAIL A



DETAIL C

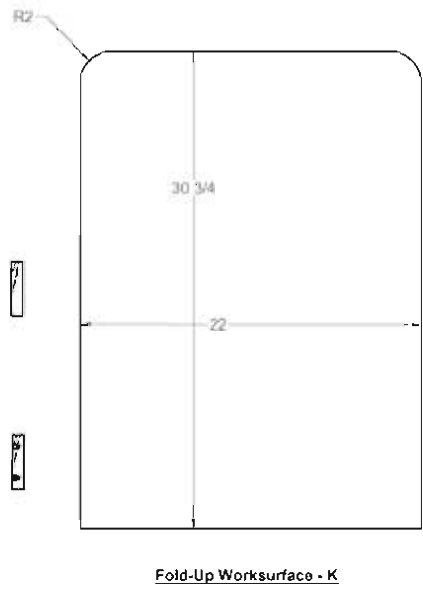
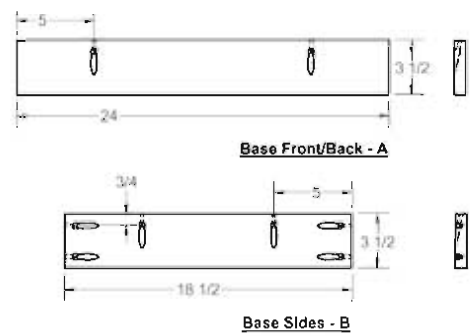
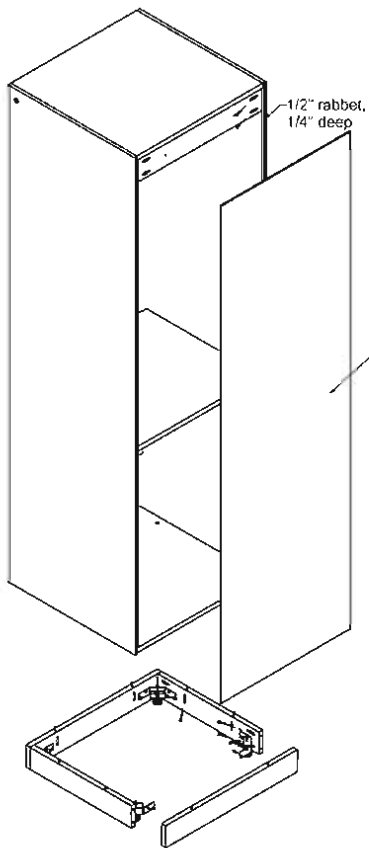
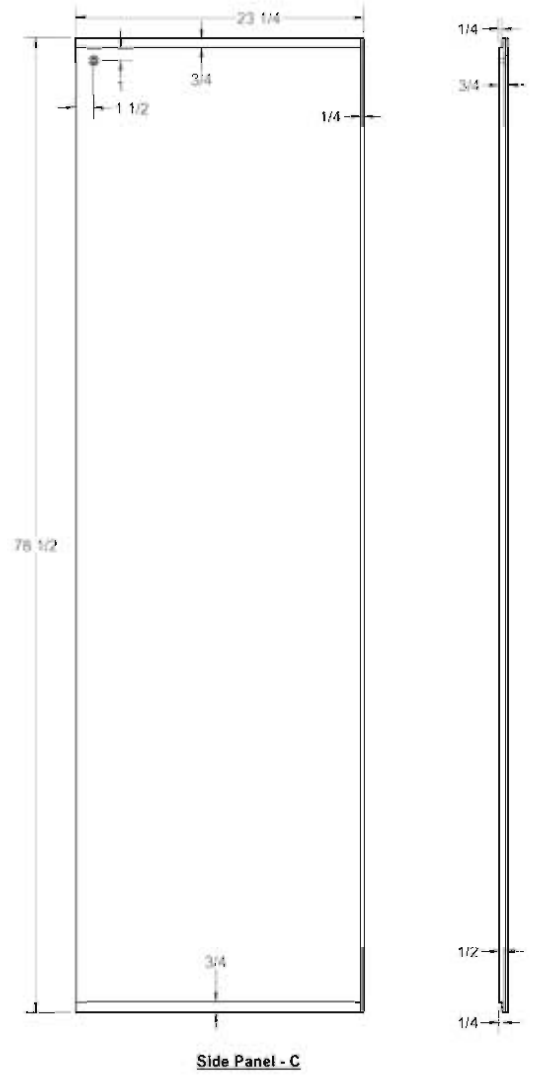
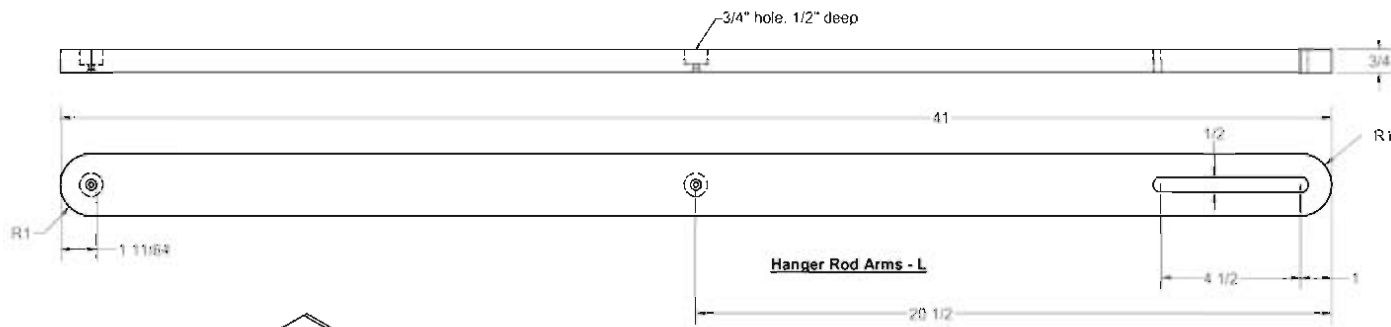


Front View



SECTION A-A

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stylish home
makeovers



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Easy & Inexpensive Front-Entry Makeover

See how a \$30 faux-graining kit can make a drab steel entry door look like solid oak.

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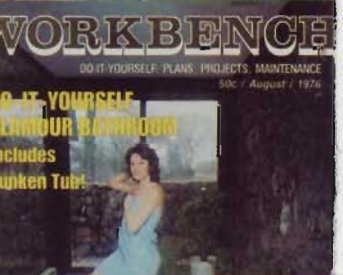
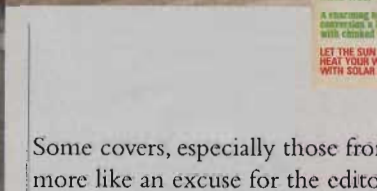
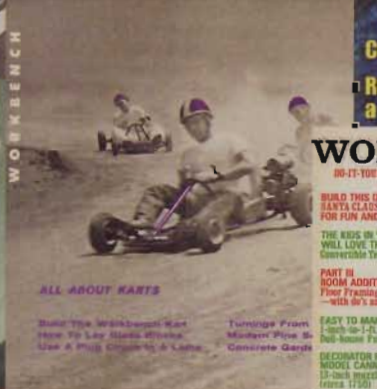
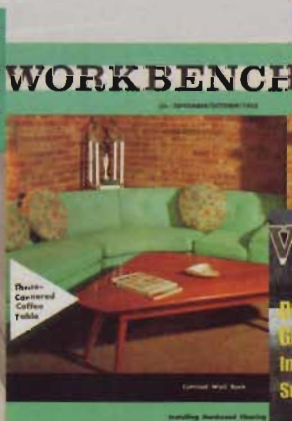
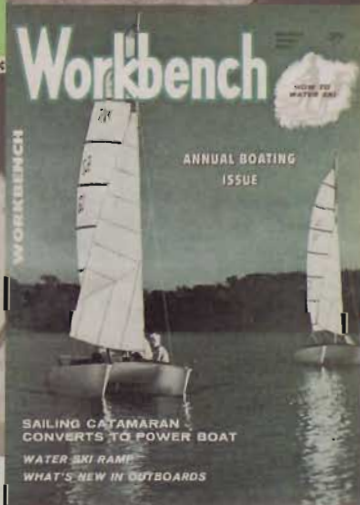
**Happy 50th
ANNIVERSARY
WORKBENCH!**

From the
**The All-New
2007 GMC Sierra**

50 Years of COVERS

Just this once, judge a book by its cover. Or more accurately, judge a *magazine* by its covers. Certainly, fifty years' worth of covers offers plenty to form an opinion on. We couldn't fit all 300 covers here, so we picked a few from each decade that we feel represent the spirit of the day and the character of the magazine.

The magazine transitioned from *Profitable Hobbies* to *Workbench* over a series of three issues. Is it just me, or does that "under-cave storage unit" on the March-April 1957 issue still look like a good idea?



Some covers, especially those from the 1960s, look more like an excuse for the editors to go outside and play than any real attempt at useful projects. It's an editorial philosophy the current staff would like to see revived.



“Giant Elephant Stool?” Really? You’d think the editors would at least have the courtesy to include plans for a giant elephant pooper scooper in the next issue. They didn’t.

The current issue demonstrates that *Workbench* continues to evolve. But it’s more than just a logo. You’ll also see the focus shifting inside the magazine to keep pace with the way people think about their homes and amenities that make them uniquely their own.

February 1997 was the first official August Home Publishing–produced issue of *Workbench*. Though we did assemble the previous issue from a box full of project plans and rough drafts that we received from the previous publisher.



The elaborate Cave of the Winds decks put visitors within 20 feet of Bridal Veil Falls.

REMARKABLE CONDITIONS DEMAND

Extreme Deck Care

Every year, a small team of hardy workers dismantle, maintain, and then rebuild the elaborate deck system that gets visitors up close and personal with Niagara Falls.

Does the thought of maintaining your deck leave you cold? If so, be glad you don't work with the maintenance team at Niagara Falls State Park.

This team of employees gets left cold *and* wet as they work to maintain the system of platforms and stairs that comprise the Cave of the Winds decks (Photo, right). These decks put more than 300,000 visitors every year up close and personal with the falls.

All that foot traffic subjects the decks and their protective stain to a lot of wear. But it's the constant soaking of water that really gives the decks a workout.

The water makes it impossible to refinish and maintain the decks in place. And in the winter, the spray freezes, which would coat the decks and stairs with a thick coat of crushing ice.

So every fall a dedicated team of six disassembles the *entire* deck and stair system and carries it piece by piece to an indoor work area. It takes several



These decks don't get a break; they're deluged with water 24 hours a day.

cold, wet weeks, and the entire job has to be done using only hand tools. The water quickly ruins even cordless tools.

After refurbishing the decks over the winter, the crew puts everything back together again in the spring.

Now cleaning and restaining your own deck doesn't sound so bad, does it?



MOVING ADVICE ONLINE

Home centers are stocked with products and information to help us maintain our homes. But you might be surprised to learn that they're a great place to get information about buying or selling a home, as well.

Home Depot provides this service with HomeDepotMoving.com (above). There, you'll find advice on selecting a mortgage, getting the best price when you sell a home, or inspecting and improving a home you want to buy. You'll also find a long list of calculators that will help you determine how many of those home-improvement products you'll need to buy (at the home center, of course).



OVER THE FENCE



ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS WHEN

Hiring a Contractor

Hiring a pro to work on your house? Here are a few questions you should ask from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI.org):

- How long have you been in business?
- What is the time frame for starting the project?
- What is your approach to a project of this scope?
- Is your company a full service or specialty firm?
- Do you have design services available?
- Do you carry workers' compensation and liability insurance?
- May I have references for projects that are similar to mine?
- What percentage of your business is repeat or referral business?
- How many projects like mine have you done in the past 12 months?
- Will we need a permit for this project?
- May I have a list of your suppliers?

\$9 Billion

Movie
Tickets

\$316 Billion

Home
Improvement

Home vs. Theater

Americans are movie junkies. That's proven by the \$9 billion or so we spend annually on movie tickets alone.

That obsession pales, though, in comparison to the one we have with fixing up our homes. In 2006, Americans were expected to spend \$316 billion on home improvement. That's 35 times more than the amount spent on movies.

So if you're working hard to pay off those home-improvement expenses, do something to celebrate your contribution to the economy. How 'bout a movie?

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CREATIVE CARVING REVEALS THE Spirit In a Tree

When a stout Scotch pine died in the yard of Tim Robertson, the editor of *Workbench*, his wife, Cindy, just couldn't bear the thought of cutting that old friend down. Instead, she brought it back to life with the help of tree sculptor Jessy Kern.

Jessy transformed the remains of the trunk by carving the bearded face of a "tree spirit" into the wood. His tools of choice for the task? His great imagination, a good eye for reading the wood, a couple of chainsaws, and a propane torch.

The saws are standard-issue, but they're equipped with special bars and chains designed for carving. Wielding those and working freehand, he first defines the face and beard of the spirit. Then he deepens the cuts to further refine the shapes (*right*).

After carving, Jessy turns to a propane torch. He uses it to char highlights and shadow-lines into the wood and make the sculpture stand out (*above right*).

To see a gallery of some of Jessy's other tree sculptures, pay a visit to his website: ChainsawCarvings.org.



A propane torch chars the wood to create highlights that are much more permanent than paint (*above*). Compact but powerful saws make quick work of the sculpting when used by skilled hands (*left*).

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Product Information Number 180

FLEXIBLE WATER-SUPPLY PIPES

Simplify Plumbing

Q: I need to re-route some plumbing, and I'm not totally confident in my ability to sweat-solder all those joints in the copper water pipes without leaks. A friend told me about flexible plastic tubing that can be used for water supply instead. Could it be an easier option for me?

Roger Anderson
Cheyenne, WY

A: The tubing is called cross-linked polyethylene, or "PEX." Developed in the 1960s, it is gaining popularity as a substitute for copper pipe.

PEX Has Flex—The flexibility of PEX simplifies routing water pipes, especially for do-it-yourselfers. That's because PEX bends instead of having to be fitted with an elbow at every turn (above).



Flexible cross-linked polyethylene tubing, or "PEX," can be used in place of copper pipe for running hot- or cold-water lines. Check building codes to see if it's approved in your area.

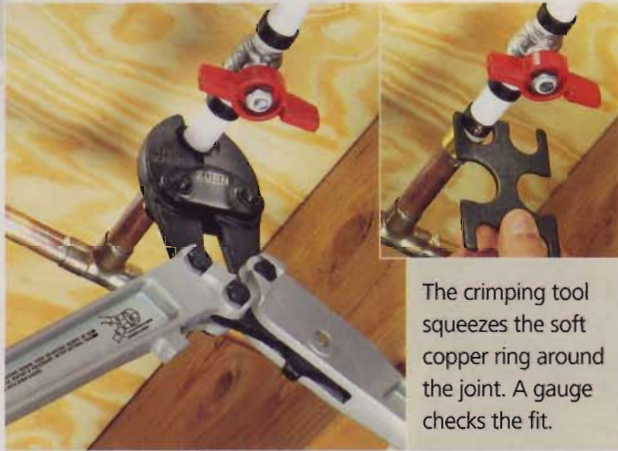
Easy Connections— This means PEX water lines have fewer joints, which reduces the number of potential leaks. Where PEX tubing gets joined to a fitting, the joint is secured with lock rings and a crimping tool.

The process is easy. After cutting the tubing to length (using a utility knife or PEX cutter), just slip copper lock rings over the tube, and then slide the parts to be joined together by hand.

Next, use the tool to crimp the copper lock ring around the joint (Photo, left). After crimping, a gauge shows whether the ring is tightened properly (Inset).



PEX tubing is available in several diameters that match copper pipe. Colored tubing can be used to distinguish hot and cold water lines.



The crimping tool squeezes the soft copper ring around the joint. A gauge checks the fit.

PROPER SETUP FOR A Cordless Drill Clutch

Q: I bought my first cordless drill, and I'm not sure how to use the numbered "clutch" ring. How does it work?

Laura Clark
San Diego, CA

A: A drill clutch allows the chuck (which holds the bit) to stop spinning when it meets resistance while the motor still turns. That prevents over-driving or

stripping screws. You can set how much resistance it takes to cause slip by rotating the clutch ring. A low number allows a lot of slip, while the highest setting allows none.



GOT QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS!

Include your full name, address, and daytime phone number. You'll receive a free one-year subscription to **Workbench** (or a one-year extension to your current subscription) if we publish your question.

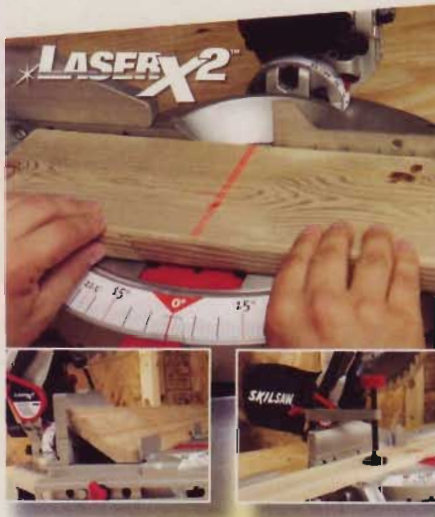
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- Forums:** forums.woodnet.net
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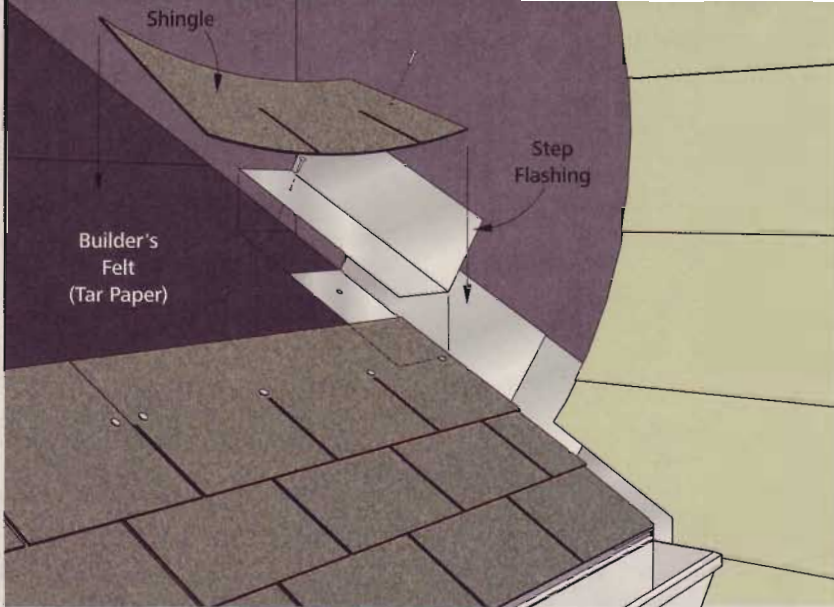
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Product Information Number 368



PROPER FLASHING TECHNIQUES

Prevent Roof Leaks

Q: I'm getting estimates for a new roof, and one of the roofers made a big deal about the importance of installing "step flashing," while the other didn't. To be honest, I don't know what step flashing is, so I'm not sure of its importance. Can you shed some light on it for me?

Richard Mendoza
Chicago, IL

A: Step flashing is used to seal gaps anywhere a roof meets a vertical surface, such as a wall or chimney. If your roof has areas like this, step flashing is a critical component of the roof structure for preventing leaks.

The flashing consists of thin metal sheets—often aluminum—that get bent into an "L" shape. One leg of the L sits under the shingles; the other leg gets tucked up under the siding (Illustration, above). That way, any water that runs down the wall, or against it from the roof, can't seep into the gaps between the two.

The reason it's called "step" flashing is that it gets woven in as the shingles are laid, stepping over each shingle before the next is installed. This way, any water that might find its way under a shingle hits the flashing and then runs out over the top of the shingle below it.

PUMP UP THE VOLUME TO

Locate Circuit Breakers

Q: I know I need to shut off the circuit breaker before working on an electrical outlet, but how am I supposed to know what breaker controls which outlets?

John Long
Belle Plaine, IA



A: An easy way to find breakers is to plug a radio into the outlet in question and crank up the volume. Then flip breakers off one at a time until the radio goes off. Once you find which breaker controls the outlet, mark the breaker number inside the outlet cover (left). Also mark the breaker box with the outlets or room each breaker controls.



DECIPHERING THE DIFFERENCES 2x4s vs. Studs

Q: I needed 8-ft. long 2x4s for a project, so I just bought 2x4 studs. Only after I got home did I realize that they're not 8-ft. long. I thought walls in houses usually measure 8-feet tall, so I assumed the studs would be, too. Were the ones I bought cut incorrectly, or is there something I don't know?

John Mason
Detroit, MI

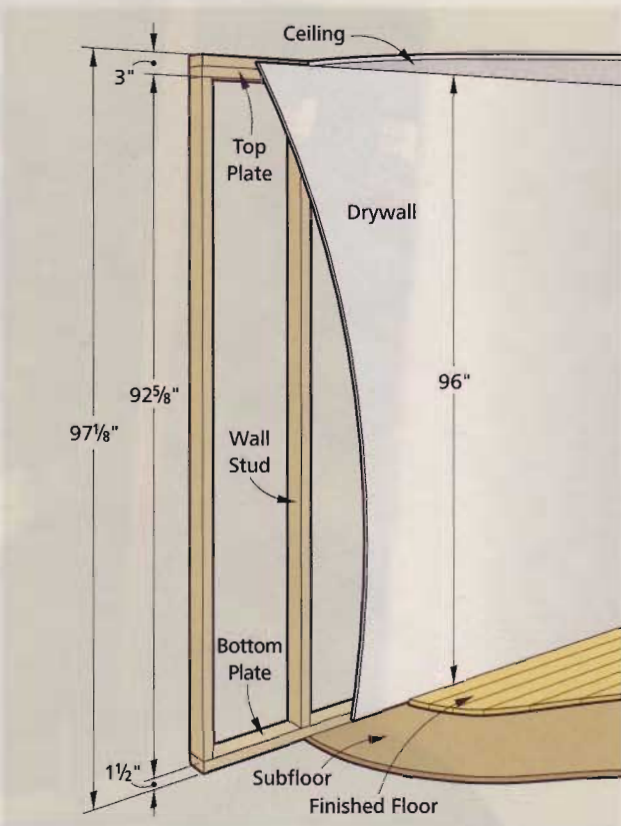
A: It's easy to confuse a stud with an 8-ft. 2x4, but they are different. In the building trades, the term "stud" refers to a 2x4 that's 92⁵/₈" long. That length might seem odd,

but not if you understand how a wall is built.

As the Illustration at right shows, the wall studs sit on a bottom plate, also made from a 2x4 (1¹/₂" actual thickness). At the top of the wall there's a double-thickness top plate.

Add these numbers together (1¹/₂" + 92⁵/₈" + 3") and you get a total wall height of 97¹/₈". And yes, that's 1¹/₈" more than 8-ft.

But this extra height is there for a reason: When the ceiling gets covered in drywall and flooring gets laid over the subfloor, the finished height of the wall will be almost exactly 8-ft.



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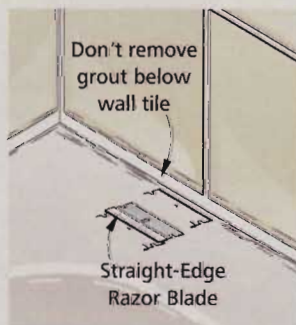
Product Information Number 172



1] Cracked or peeling caulk between a bathtub and wall needs to be repaired to prevent leaks. Use a sharp utility knife to cut out as much of the old caulk as possible.



With a good-quality caulk gun (above), caulk won't continue to ooze, as it does from an inexpensive gun (below).



2] Before applying new caulk, use a razor blade to scrape off all old caulk residue. Then scrub the area to get rid of soap scum.

THE EASY WAY TO Caulk a Tub

Make your shower look better and prevent water leaks by replacing the cracked caulk between the tub and the surrounding walls. These tips will ensure that the new caulk looks good and lasts.

problem:

The caulk that seals the joint where your bathtub meets the wall has seen better days. Some is cracked, some missing, and what remains is discolored and impossible to clean.

The first challenge lies in digging the old stuff out. The second is laying down a bead of new caulk that's smooth so that the fix looks better than the problem. Luckily, both challenges are easy to overcome.

solution:

Where a bathtub meets the surrounding walls, caulk prevents water from seeping into the wall and causing damage or mold growth. Eventually, the caulk gets hard and cracked. Luckily, replacing the caulk is easy.

First, cut out as much of the old caulk as possible using a utility knife (Fig. 1).

Next, use straight-edge razor blades to scrape away remaining residue (Fig. 2).

Note: If your tub or surround is made of fiberglass, use stiff plastic

scrapers instead of razor blades to prevent scratches.

After removing the old caulk, scrub the area and let it dry before moving on.

To ensure that you'll get a consistent application, mask the tub and walls (Fig. 3).

Squeeze a bead of caulk into the space between the tape strips. A good caulk gun makes this easier (below left).

Now smooth the caulk to give it a finished appearance (Fig. 4). Wipe away excess as necessary. Then peel off the tape, and let the caulk cure.



3] To get a straight caulk line, place masking tape on the tub and the tile. Place each strip of tape about $\frac{3}{16}$ " from where the surfaces meet.



4] Lay down a $\frac{1}{4}$ " bead of caulk. Then use your fingertip or the end of a Popsicle stick to shape the caulk. Remove the tape carefully.



THE BASICS OF Rewiring a Switch

problem:

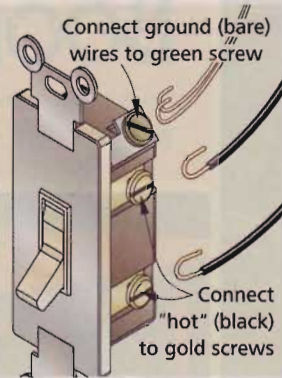
A light switch no longer works, but you've never replaced one before.

The process is easy, as long as you understand the wiring options on the new switch you are using, prepare the wires appropriately, and connect them correctly.

solution:

Before doing any electrical work, of course, shut off the power to the circuit (see page 18). On a switch with screw terminals (above left), be sure to hook the black wires around the screws clockwise, so the screws grip the wires well (Photo). Wrap both bare ground wires around the green screw. (The white wires bypass the switch.)

Some switches have holes in the back that can be used instead of the screws (above right). Push the wire fully into the hole, and then pull to make sure it's secure.



The screws on the side of a switch are where you connect the two "hot" (black) wires.



Some switches have "jab hole" connections. A gauge shows how far to strip the wire.

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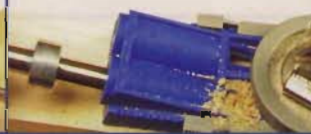
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as good today
as they were yesterday

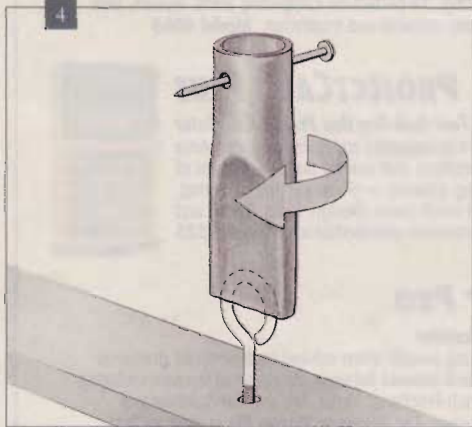
1 > FREE A BINDING DOOR

December 1957

Sometimes, even a properly adjusted door will rub on the threshold whenever it is opened or closed.

To overcome this trouble, simply place a sheet of coarse sandpaper on the threshold with grit side up. **Note:** Self-adhesive sandpaper

that's readily available today is perfect for this. Then, once the sandpaper is secured to the floor, carefully pass the door over this paper several times. This will free the rubbing door without removing unnecessary stock, as is usually the case when the door is trimmed with a saw or plane.



2 > ROLLER CLEANER

December 1957

Here is a quick way to clean a paint roller after you have finished painting a room. Place a piece of heavy-gauge wire screen over a paint tray. Then dip your roller into water or paint thinner, and roll it back and forth over the screen several times.

After a few dips and a bit of rolling on the screen, your roller will be almost as clean as the day you bought it.

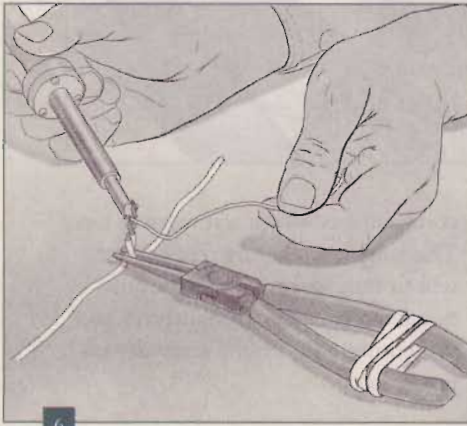


3 > SCRATCH REPAIR

February 1958

When finishing or refinishing furniture, gouges and scratches can be neatly hidden by using the sanding dust from the same piece mixed with clear varnish, lacquer, or nail polish.

Make a paste that's as thick as possible (to prevent shrinking), and force it into the crack or gouge with a small putty knife or even the tip of a screwdriver. When the "filler" is dry, sand it smooth, and apply a finish.



6

4 > SCREW-EYE T-HANDLE

June 1958

Turning screw eyes in or out is easy with this simple T-handle that you can make yourself (Fig. 4). It consists of a 4" length of 3/4"- or 1"-diameter aluminum tubing and a large nail. Partially flatten one end of the tubing by hammering it or by squeezing it between the jaws of a vise. Flatten it just enough so it fits snugly over the screw eye.

Then drill a hole in the opposite end to accept a nail that will be used as a sliding handle.

5 > PRYING WEDGE

August 1959

A rubber door wedge comes in handy when pulling nails (Fig. 5). With the wedge, it's much easier to pull stubborn nails without damaging the wood.

The wedge also provides a bit of extra leverage for pulling heavy nails, and its soft surface won't mar the surrounding wood, no matter how hard you pry against it.

6 > PLIERS CLAMP

October 1959

With the aid of a rubber band, you can easily turn an ordinary

pair of pliers into a makeshift clamp for securing small parts while you work on them (Fig. 6).

You can even adjust the clamping pressure by varying the type of rubber band you use and the number of times you wrap it around the pliers handle.

7 > IMPROVISED "V"

June 1960

A V-block is an invaluable jig for drilling accurately into round stock, or even into the corner of square stock.

When no V-block is handy, you can easily improvise one from two short lengths of pipe. Just lay the pipes flat on the table of your drill press, and clamp them lightly together, as shown in Fig. 7. Or, for a more permanent solution, drill holes through the pipes and bolt them together.

8 > CARRIAGE BOLT RASP

February 1961

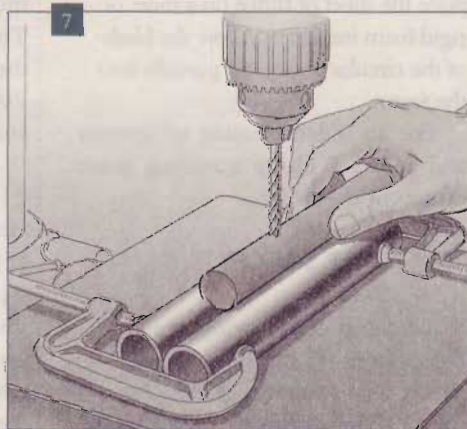
To enlarge a drilled hole that is just slightly undersized, a carriage bolt or a length of threaded rod can work nicely as a makeshift rasp.

Simply slide the threaded portion of the bolt into the hole, and then work it back and forth to remove material and enlarge the hole.

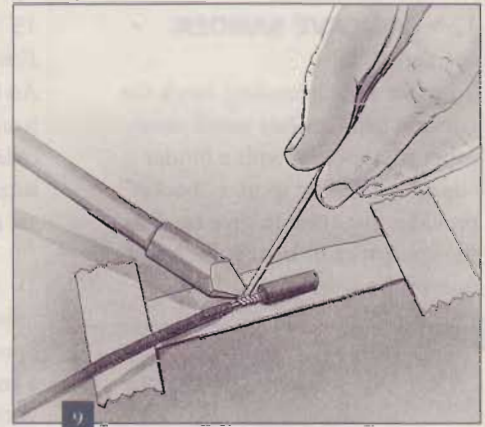
9 > TAPE SMALL PARTS

April 1961

When you have tiny parts to glue or solder together, use two-sided carpet tape to hold the parts still. Stick a piece of the tape to your



7



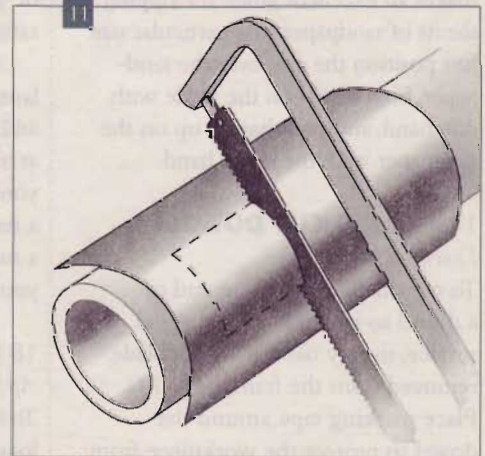
9

work table, and then place the small parts on the exposed sticky face until the glue sets or the solder cools (Fig. 9).

10 > DRIP-PROOF PAINT CAN

June 1961

Keep the ridge in the top of a paint pail clean by punching a number of holes in it with an ice pick or awl. The paint drains back into the container, and the holes are sealed when the lid is replaced.



11

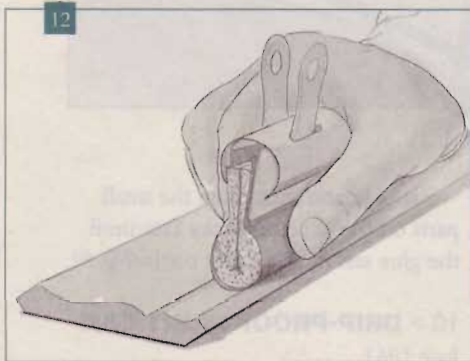
11 > CUT HOLES IN METAL

October 1961

Cutting square or rectangular holes in sheet metal can be done neatly and simply with this trick: Mark the opening, then bend the metal over a cylindrical shape (like a piece of PVC pipe or a length of dowel or closet rod). Cut two sides with a hacksaw (Fig. 11), then turn the workpiece 90 degrees, bend it on the curve again, and saw the other two sides.

12 > CONCAVE SANDER*February 1962*

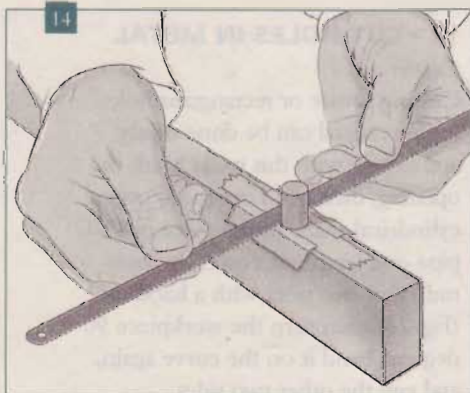
To make a great sanding block for concave surfaces, just attach sandpaper to a sponge with a binder clip (Fig. 12). The sponge "backer" provides just enough give to allow the sandpaper to match the curvature of the work nicely.

**13 > TEAR SANDPAPER***December 1962*

The toothed edge of a hand saw makes an excellent guide for ripping sheets of sandpaper to a particular size. Just position the saw over the sandpaper, hold down on the blade with one hand, and pull sharply up on the sandpaper with the other hand.

14 > FLUSH-CUT DOWELS*December 1962*

To cut off the projecting end of a dowel so it's flush with a wood surface, simply use a hacksaw blade removed from the frame (Fig. 14). Place masking tape around the dowel to protect the workpiece from getting scratched by the blade.

**15 > GLUE BOTTLE CAPS***February 1982*

An ideal cap for most glue bottles is an ordinary electrical connector, called a wire nut. Because of their large size and bright color, they are not easily lost.

16 > GLUE SPATULA*February 1982*

Spreading glue or adhesive over a large surface is easily done with a large rubber kitchen spatula (Fig. 16). Such spatulas are flexible enough to spread a thin coat of glue, yet stiff enough for good control. However, once used this way, it's best not to return them to the kitchen!

**17 > REFACE A DOOR***June 1986*

When an exterior service door (like those often used on garages) starts to peel and lose its veneer, you can save a lot of money by refacing the door rather than replacing it.

Simply cement a piece of laminate over the ailing surface and the door will look as good as new. If you shop around a bit, you might even be able to find a remnant piece of laminate in a suitable color and compound your savings even more.

18 > CUTTING LATTICE*April 2000*

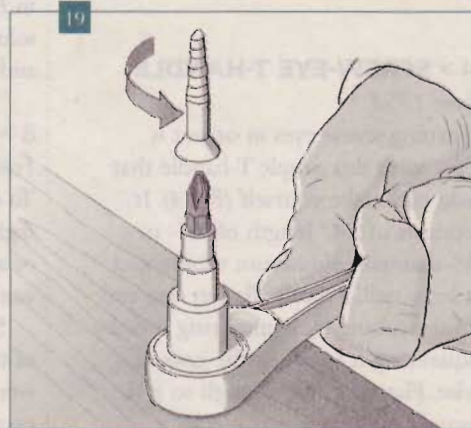
To make clean cuts in lattice without losing pieces or jarring the slats loose, place the sheet of lattice on a sheet of rigid foam insulation. Allow the blade of the circular saw to cut partially into the foam.

For an added measure of security and accuracy, clamp a cutting guide on top of the lattice.

19 > TIGHT SPACES*April 2004*

When faced with driving screws in tight spaces, try this: Mount a 1/4" socket on a ratchet (Fig. 19). The socket is the perfect size to accept

common hex-shank screwdriver bits. This simple ratcheting screwdriver will fit into spaces where conventional screwdrivers, drill/drivers, and sometimes even stubby screwdrivers just won't go.

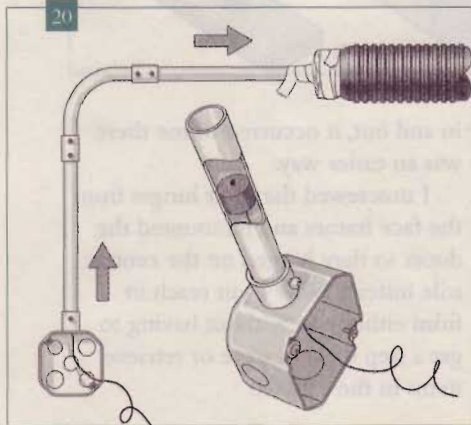
**20 > SHOP VAC WIRE PULL***October, 2004*

Here's an easy way to fish wire through electrical conduit: Connect a shop vacuum to one end of the conduit, and insert a loose-fitting sponge tied to a string in the other. Then turn on the vacuum to suck the sponge through the conduit (Fig. 20). Now tie the wire to the string, and pull it back through.

21 > STRAW CONDUIT*April 2003*

Feeding a low-voltage wire (to install a garage-door opener, for example) through several wall studs that are ganged together can be a nuisance. The flexible, small-gauge wire always seems to get hung up inside the holes.

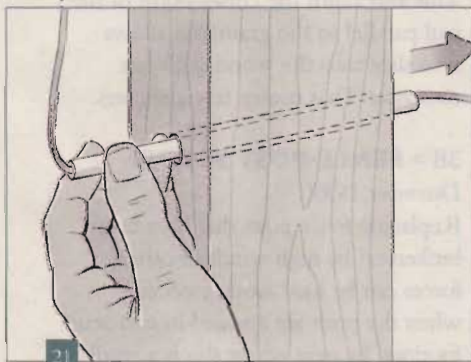
A simple solution is to first slip the wire through a straw, and then poke the straw through the holes in the studs (Fig. 21). The straw is stiff enough that it won't catch in the hole, and it provides the perfect conduit for the fine wire.



22 > PIPE-CUTTING PAIL

October 2003

To make a simple pipe rest, cut two V-shaped notches on opposite sides of the top rim of a 5-gallon bucket. Lay the pipe across the pail, nest it in the notches, and it stays put while you cut it to length (Fig. 22). A decent-sized notch accommodates a variety of pipe sizes.



23 > "FIXING" CHALK LINES

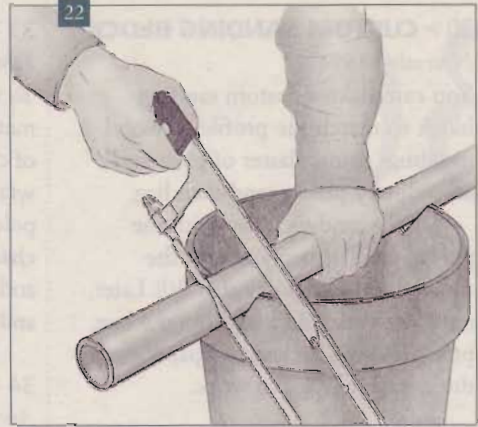
June 2006

A smudged chalkline is worthless when your goal is accurate layouts and dimensions. So I "fix" the line by spraying a light coat of hair spray over it. It takes the hair spray just a moment to "set up" and protect the line from smudging.

24 > EPOXY CLEANUP

June 2006

Rubbing alcohol is a great way to clean up excess epoxy, if you do it before the epoxy cures. The best rag for the job is a clean, lint-free cotton cloth, like a piece of an old cotton T-shirt. Be sure to wet the rag thoroughly because the alcohol will evaporate quickly, and you won't have a lot of time for re-wetting before the epoxy hardens.



25 > MAGNETIC HANDLE

March 1992

Picking up brads and small nails with your fingers can be painful if you stick yourself with the pointed end. A simple way to avoid this is to install a small cylindrical magnet (available at most hardware stores and hobby shops) into a hole drilled in the end of a wooden hammer handle. A dab of epoxy will secure the magnet.

26 > PENCIL PUSH STICK

August 1965

Working with small pieces on a table saw or other stationary tool requires an extra measure of caution to keep your fingers out of harm's way.

For those times, an unsharpened wooden pencil with a rubber eraser is an effective push stick for small stock. The rubber eraser gives more than enough grip for pushing the small pieces.

27 > EPOXY BAG

March 1993

A neat and easy way to mix and apply two-part epoxy is with a plastic sandwich bag (Fig. 27).

First, dispense equal parts of epoxy resin and hardener into a corner of the bag. Then knead the bag to mix the epoxy. Cut off a small piece of the corner to make a nozzle, and squeeze the bag to dispense the glue.

When you're through gluing, put the bag aside. After the glue remaining in the bag has hardened, you'll know the repair is solid.

28 > DISHWASHER PANEL

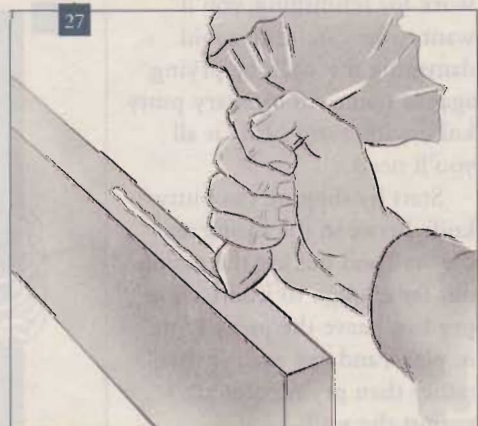
February 1994

If your dishwasher's front panel is dented, rusted, or just the wrong color, there is hope. Remove the door's side trim, and slip out the panel. Take it to a home center or kitchen remodeler, and get a piece of plastic laminate cut to the same size. (You can even match your kitchen countertop.) Use the laminate to replace the old panel. Your new panel will be rustproof, dent-proof, and easy to clean.

29 > DUST CONTROL

September 1995

Patching plaster and drywall can be a messy job, particularly when it's time to sand—it's almost impossible to eliminate the dust. An effective method for keeping dust from spreading through the house is to hang a wet bed sheet in the doorway. This creates an effective dust filter. When you're done, simply throw the sheet in the washing machine.

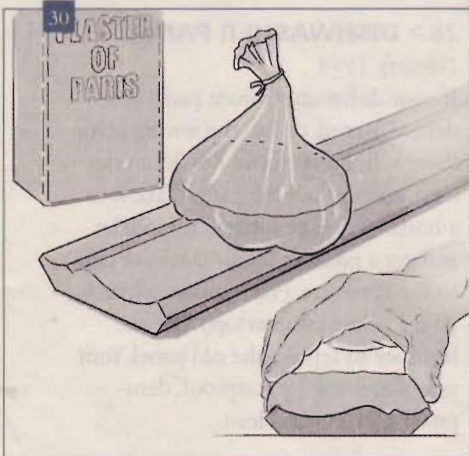


30 > CUSTOM SANDING BLOCK

November 1996

You can make a custom sanding block to match the profile of wood moldings using plaster of paris and an ordinary plastic sandwich bag.

Fill the sandwich bag with the plaster, press it firmly against the molding, and let it dry (Fig. 30). Later, remove the dried block from the bag, press adhesive-backed sandpaper onto the surface, and go to work.



31 > INSULATION CUTTER

August 1965

Hedge shears, which are nothing more than an enormous pair of scissors, are perfect for cutting bats of fiberglass insulation to length. As long as the shears are sharp, they'll cut cleanly and effortlessly every time.

32 > REMOVING MOLDING

April 1998

When removing casing and trim work for refinishing, you'll want to be careful to avoid damaging the walls by prying against them. An ordinary putty knife with a stiff blade is all you'll need.

Start by slipping the putty knife between the casing and the wall and pulling the casing out far enough to insert a flat pry bar. Leave the putty knife in place, and pry against that, rather than prying directly against the wall.

33 > CHAIN CUTS PAINT

February 1999

To remove peeling paint from a metal pole or pipe, take a length of chain, such as a log chain, and wrap it a turn or two around the pole (Fig. 33). Pull the ends of the chain back and forth, moving up and down the length of the pole, and watch the paint chips fly.

34 > PENCIL TIP TRICK

April 1999

A simple way to repair "worn out" screw holes is as close as the nearest Number 2 pencil. Drive the point of the sharpened pencil into the screw hole, then snap it off. The tapered point fits holes of any size and provides a new structure for the screw to bite into.

35 > TOILET VAC

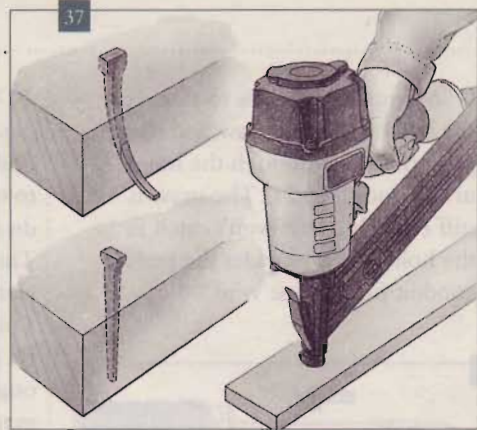
August 1999

Before removing a toilet for any reason, you'll first want to ensure that you've completely emptied the water. You can get rid of most of the water by shutting off the supply line and flushing the toilet two or three times. For the water that remains in the bowl and trap, simply use a wet/dry shop vacuum to suck the water out of the toilet.

36 > DOOR REVERSAL

August 1999

In my small kitchen, cabinet space is at a premium, so I needed to use the over-the-fridge cabinets for everyday items. After struggling to get dishes



in and out, it occurred to me there was an easier way.

I unscrewed the door hinges from the face frames and remounted the doors so they hinged on the center stile instead. Now I can reach in from either side without having to get a step stool to store or retrieve items in the cabinet.

37 > PREVENT "SHINERS"

October 1999

A common problem when using a pneumatic nailer to install hardwood trim is that nails can "blow out" the side of the trim (Fig. 37). These are called "shiners" and are caused by the nail following the path of least resistance, which is determined by the grain direction.

The best way to avoid shiners is to turn the nailer parallel to the grain. This also aligns the chisel-point of the nail parallel to the grain and allows it to slice into the wood with less resistance. That means fewer shiners.

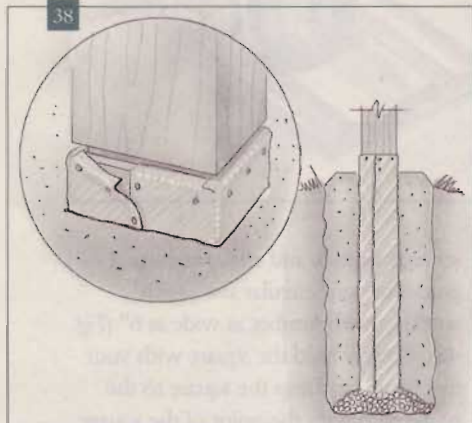
38 > FENCE-POST SLEEVE

December 1999

Replacing fence posts that have been broken off by high winds or other forces can be hard work, especially when the posts are encased in concrete footings. In areas where this is a regular occurrence, fence builders have simplified the replacement process by using a "boot" that allows them to replace a broken post without having to excavate the entire footing (Fig. 38).

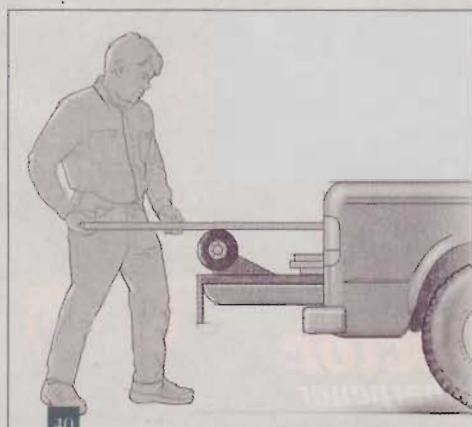
This boot is just a sleeve of galvanized tin or copper flashing that gets wrapped around the fence post when you first set it and pour

the footing. The flashing should extend from the bottom of the post to several inches above the top of the footing. Mark where the top of the flashing meets the post, and use a circular saw to cut a shallow ($\frac{1}{8}$ "-deep) kerf around the post.



Next, crimp the top of the flashing so it fits into the kerf, and then caulk the joint. Now nail the flashing to the post, making sure to locate the nails so they will be above the top of the concrete. Finally, plumb the post in the hole, and pour in the concrete.

If the post breaks in the future, pull the nails out of the flashing, remove the old wood from the footing, and insert a new post into the flashing sleeve.



39 > MOUSE PAD SANDER FIX

October 1998

When you eventually wear out the rubber pad on the bottom of a palm sander, you can make an inexpensive replacement from a computer mouse

pad. A mouse pad has the right thickness and consistency, and the cloth surface grips stick-on sandpaper well.

To make a new pad, remove the baseplate from the sander, and scrape off the old rubber pad. Place the sander base on the mouse pad, trace around the outside, and mark the location of the mounting holes. Then cut the new pad to size, and glue it to the sander's base plate with contact cement.

40 > SHEET GOODS HELPER

February 2001

On a recent trip to the lumberyard to buy plywood, I discovered that a hand truck can serve as a great helper when loading sheet goods into a truck.

Simply place the hand truck on the tailgate with the wheels up, and then lift one end of the plywood sheet onto the wheels (Fig. 40). Now pick the other end of the plywood up off the ground, and "roll" the sheet into the bed.

While this tip works great for exterior sheet goods, I wouldn't suggest it for hardwood plywood unless you want tire tracks running down your wood.

41 > PERFECT 45° MITERS

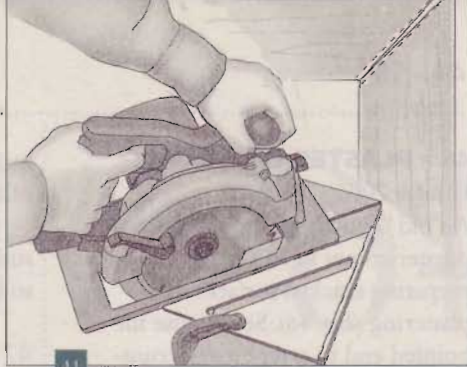
February 2005

While installing the handrail on my newly constructed deck, I found that the 45° miters I had so carefully cut didn't fit tightly together. As it turned out, a variation in the deck meant that the boards came together at an angle slightly less than 90°. Rather than guess at the angle and recut the boards on my miter saw, I clamped the boards into position and used a circular saw to cut across the joint, cutting both boards at once (Fig. 41). This created matching angles — and a perfect-fitting miter joint.

42 > SHOP VAC ENDS CLOGGED DRAINS

February 2005

Next time your sink clogs, reach for your shop vacuum before



reaching for any of those expensive liquid drain cleaners. Simply fit the nozzle of the vacuum hose tightly in the drain opening. Make sure the vacuum is set up for "wet" operation, and then switch it on. It should remove the obstruction in seconds.

43 > HANDY NOTEPAD

April 2005

To create a convenient place to jot down dimensions and other notes, attach a Post-It notepad to your tape measure with double-sided tape.

44 > HOLD SMALL PARTS

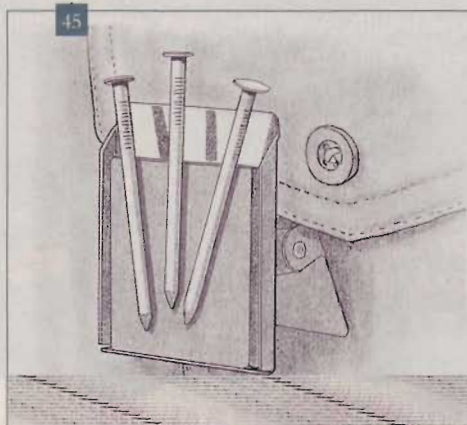
June 2005

Staining small parts such as screw-hole buttons or knobs can be a pain. They're hard to hold, and they usually get knocked over before the stain dries. To hold them in place, use a dab of hot glue to stick them onto a protective paper. Then just brush on the stain, let it dry, and remove the buttons.

45 > MAGNETIC HOLDER

August 2005

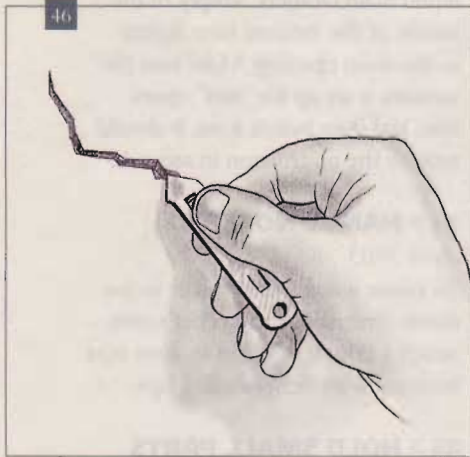
To keep nails and small hardware within easy reach, use a magnetic clip (Fig. 45). Clip it to your clothing or the project, and the hardware you need will always be close at hand.



46 > **PLASTER CRACK AID**

October 2005

An old "church key" style can opener comes in handy when preparing cracked surfaces for plastering (Fig. 46). Simply use the pointed end to scrape away crumbling plaster chips. This will open up the crack enough to accept a decent



quantity of joint compound or other filler.

It will also provide a solid surface for the filler to adhere to, so it forms a strong bond.

47 > **"BELT" SANDER**

October 2005

To sand a workpiece with a curved profile, such as a piece of crown or cove molding, one simple solution is to stick a strip of self-adhesive sandpaper to an old leather belt (Fig. 47).

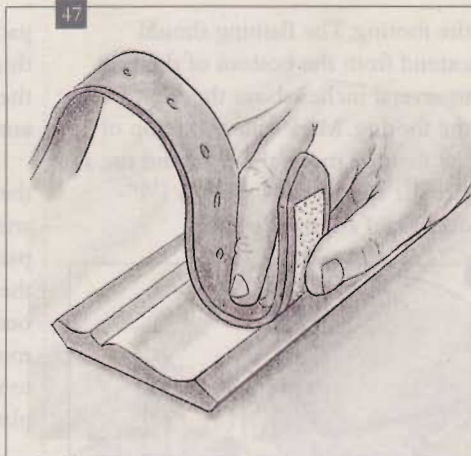
The leather belt is flexible enough to conform to the curves of the molding, yet still distributes pressure evenly and provides a sturdy backer for the sandpaper.

48 > **CUTTING GUIDE**

October 2006

A common speed square (available at any hardware store or home center) can

47



serve as a quick and effective cutting guide for your circular saw when working with lumber as wide as 6" (Fig. 48). Simply hold the square with your free hand, or clamp the square to the workpiece with the point of the square facing toward you. Then, as you make the cut, take care to keep the shoe of the circular saw firmly against the edge

"Ouch."

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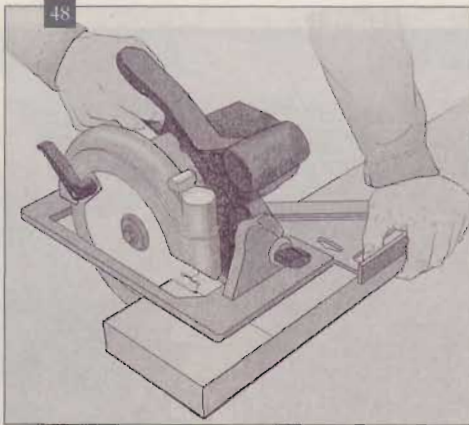
Rebate offer good on purchases made Jan. 1–Apr. 30, 2007. Rebate cannot be combined with any other offer from manufacturer.

of the square to accomplish a clean, square cut every time.

49 > **Stocking Stripper**

October 2006

When stripping paint off a spindle or baluster, it can be very difficult to remove all the paint from the nooks and crannies of the elaborate profiles these pieces often have.



To reach down into all that fine detail, try using a nylon stocking. Just apply stripper to the workpiece, and then rub the stocking back and forth in a "towel off" motion. The stocking conforms to the shape of the spindle and provides abrasion to help remove the old finish.

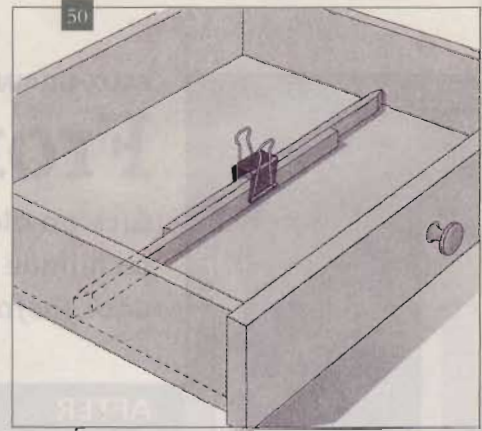
50 > **MEASURING STICKS**

December 2006

To get an accurate measurement of an inside dimension, such as the inside of a drawer, use a "story stick" (Fig. 50).

In this case, the story stick is simply two thin boards joined by a binder clip. One end of each board is beveled to create a point that increases the accuracy of the stick.

To take a measurement, expand the story stick until it touches both sides of the space you're measuring.



Secure the boards with the binder clip, then remove them, and take your measurement.

This same technique can be used on a much larger scale, such as for measuring from one wall to another to determine the size of a sheet of drywall. In this case, you can use 1x2s for the story stick and C-clamps instead of a binder clip.

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BEFORE



FAUX-GRAIN A DOOR FOR A

Front-Entry Makeover

Give an old door a bold new look. This simple faux-graining technique uses paints and stains to transform a steel entry door (*before photo*) into a great-looking "oak" door.

AFTER



Two-Color Cover-up

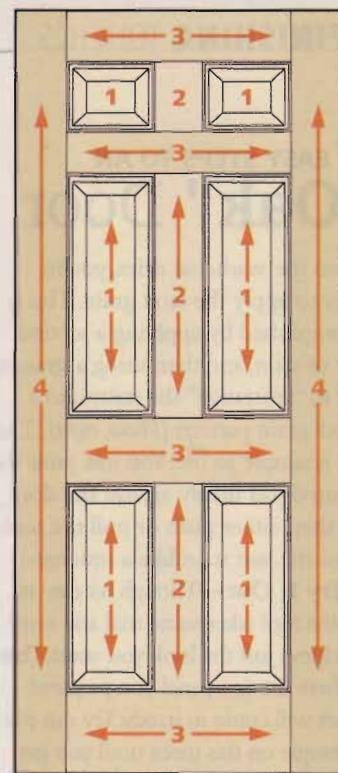
It isn't just the "faux" grain that gives a door the look of wood. To make it convincing, the background color *underneath* that grain must look like the real deal as well. For this "oak" door, that background color is produced by a coat or two of beige paint, followed by a light washcoat of stain.

Prep & Paint—The whole process is easier if you remove the door from its opening. We cut a plywood panel to fit the opening and screwed it in place while working on the door. That done, remove the hardware, sand the surface of the door smooth, and apply the first coat of paint (Fig. 1).

Test Panel—While you're at it, it's a good idea to paint a "test" panel of scrap plywood as well. Later on, this will give you a chance to practice your graining technique before moving to the door itself (page 38).

Apply a Washcoat—Once the paint dries, the next step is to apply a washcoat of stain to the door. The idea is to create a slightly darker tint than the paint color, so it more closely resembles oak. Brush on a very light coat of stain, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 below. Also, don't forget to apply the washcoat to your test panel.

Sequence for Success—For best results, you need to complete one section of the door before moving on to the next (Illustration, right). For this door, that meant starting with the raised panels (1), moving to the middle stiles (2), working on all the rails (3), and then finishing up with the outer stiles (4). This sequence allows you to orient the grain so it mimics the way a real wood door is built, giving it a more natural appearance.



For each coat of paint or stain, be sure to finish the door in the proper order. This lets you work in a controlled fashion and create faux "joint lines."



1] After removing the hardware and sanding the door smooth, brush on the base paint. It may require two coats.



2] To ensure a light coat of stain, dab the door every few inches with stain, and then smooth it out with a foam brush.



3] Continue smoothing the stain with the brush until you create a uniform, consistent color across the surface.



ALL-IN-ONE GRAINING KIT

Tracking down the right paint, stain, and supplies to create realistic faux-grain would be a challenge. Luckily, a company called Old Masters has made the shopping easy by packaging almost everything you'll need in one handy kit.

The kit is available in eight different wood tones and includes the items shown here for \$30. (You may want to pick up extra brushes and an extra graining tool, as well.) For more information, visit OldMastrs.com or call 800-747-3436.



SIX EASY STEPS TO AN “Oak” Door

When the washcoat dries, you're ready to apply the faux grain. This is accomplished by applying a second coat of stain, and then using a graining tool to “rearrange” the stain into a wood-grain pattern (*Photo, right*). The tool is simple to use: You just press the textured pad firmly against the door and then either push or pull the tool across the wet stain like a squeegee.

Try It Out—Though it's easy to use, the tool takes some trial and error to achieve just the look you want. This is where the test panel you prepared earlier will come in handy. Try out the technique on this piece until you get the hang of it. And remember, you can always “erase” any grain you don't like. As long as the stain is still wet, just smooth it out with a brush, and try again.

To the Door—Once you're comfortable working with the graining tool, you're ready to try it on the door. Remember, if your door has raised panels, start with those. Brush on a thin coat of stain (*Fig. 1*). Then drag the tool steadily across the panel to create the faux wood grain (*Fig. 2*). The important thing is to not stop moving the graining tool. This will deposit a pool of stain that won't resemble wood grain.

The tool works great on flat areas, but narrow strips like the beveled edges of a raised panel can be challenging. One trick that works well here is to trim a tool down to width to fit those areas (*Fig. 3*). You can also use an artist's brush to “paint” grain onto hard-to-reach sections of the door (*Fig. 4*).

The finishing sequence (*shown on page 37*) is of primary importance while graining. Follow this order to ensure that the grain aligns correctly (*Fig. 5*).

Feather It Out—Once you're satisfied with the look of the door, allow the stain to dry for 25 to 30 minutes. Then “feather” out the grain with a soft-bristle brush (*Fig. 6*). Let the stain dry overnight, and then brush on two coats of polyurethane to seal and protect the door. ■

This graining tool has curved ridges of varying diameter along its surface. As you slide the tool over wet stain, rocking the pad will change the pattern left behind by the tool.



1] Working a section at a time, apply a thin coat of stain to the door. If your door has raised panels, stain those first.



2] As you slide the graining tool, rock it back and forth to create different grain patterns in the stain.



3] To grain the beveled edges of a raised panel, get an extra graining tool and trim it to fit the space.



4] A small artist's brush comes in handy for “erasing” any unwanted grain, as well as filling in grain in tight spaces.



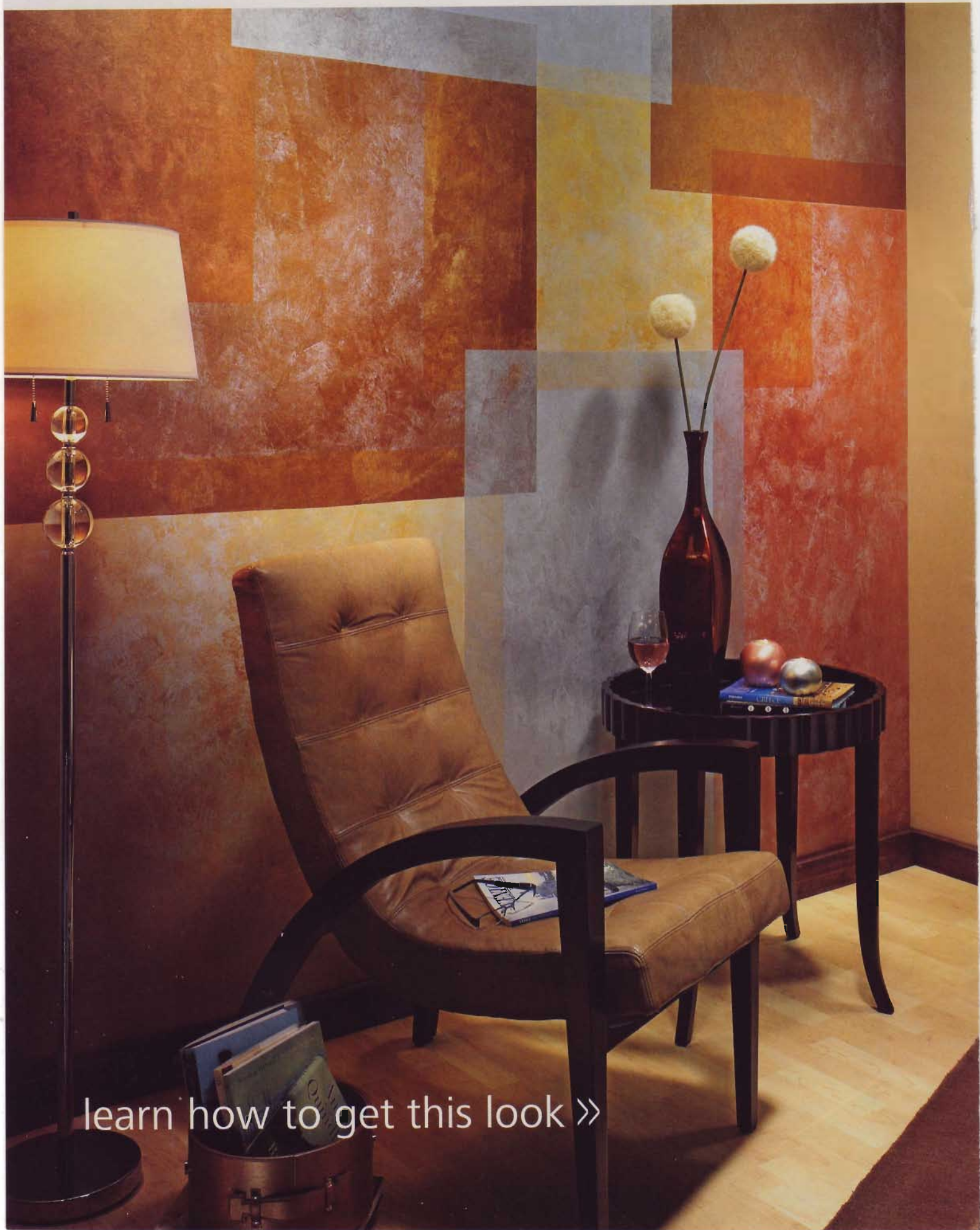
5] Make sure to follow the proper sequence as you grain the door to define the “joint lines.”



6] When the stain sets up, lightly brush it with a “dry” brush to smooth and soften the grain lines.

PAINT POWER

Stop thinking of your wall as a place to *hang* art, and let the wall *be* art with this unique color-blocking technique. The secret is an assortment of translucent glazes in metallic hues. When layered over a vivid base coat, the effect is dramatic and eye-catching.



learn how to get this look »

10 SIMPLE STEPS TO A

METALLIC GLAZE MASTERPIECE

Many old masters worked in metals to create their masterpieces. They employed elaborate tools and nearly mystic techniques to shape bronze, copper, silver, and gold into works that are as breathtaking today as when they first sprang from molds centuries ago.

Now imagine being able to apply the same coveted qualities of those metals to any wall in your home. The tools are much simpler: a seamless paint roller, a cloth rag, painter's tape, and white chalk. Likewise, the skill required can be cultivated in moments rather than decades. And while you won't technically be working with metals, you will be using a collection of glazes that are formulated to simulate the color and texture of desirable metals (*Photos, below*).

Like all glazes, these are translucent, which simply means they allow the color underneath to show through. This also means that the base coat is just as integral to the technique as the glazes. For this project, we chose Benjamin Moore's "Yukon Sky," (*Paint & Supplies, right*). This vivid, blue-violet color, once washed in layers of glaze, hints at a steely blue that completes the illusion of metallic blocks.

The blocks themselves are where the real artistry begins. By first designing the blocks on a scale drawing of your wall, and then transferring that design to the wall itself using chalk and painter's tape, you can easily create your own art work that will be framed by everything else in the room.



COPPER

BRONZE

SILVER

GOLD

paint & supplies

Benjamin Moore Paints
www.BenjaminMoore.com
800-344-0400

- Base Coat: One gallon of Super Spec Yukon Sky (CC-920), eggshell finish
- Color Blocks: Studio Finishes Metallic Glazes (one quart each of Gold, Copper, Silver, and Bronze)

Other Tools:

2"-wide painter's tape, paint rags, white chalk, graph and tracing paper, primer, 4-ft. level, 4" or 6" seamless paint rollers



planning the perfect project

Perhaps the most important, and ultimately satisfying, step in this technique is designing the layers of color blocks. As you begin this process, you need to know the two key elements that will make or break your project: the size of the blocks and the arrangement of the colors.

There is no hard-and-fast rule about block size. The best guide is that bigger walls require bigger blocks to establish a pleasant sense of scale. The best way to find the proper balance for your wall is to first sketch your design on graph paper and tracing paper (*Fig. 1*).

Once you've hit upon a design you like, you can arrange the colors. The important thing here is to plan your blocks in layers, with dark colors (copper and bronze) making up the first layer of blocks. Medium tints (gold) make up the next layer, and the lightest colors (silver) are used for the topmost layer. This allows the dark colors to show through the lighter ones where they overlap, creating even more color variations and enhancing the illusion of texture and dimension. From there, simply transfer the design to the wall, and paint the color blocks following the steps shown in the sequence of photos on this page and the next.

1] Draw the layout of your wall and all of the color blocks on a sheet of graph paper. Then use tracing paper to divide the blocks into layers of color.



2] Prime the wall, and add two layers of the complementary base coat. Let the paint dry for 24 hours (*above*).

3] Outline the first layer of your design on the wall with white chalk. Use a level to keep your lines straight (*right*).

roll on the base coat — then lay out the blocks



tape, paint, and dab



4] Apply painter's tape along the chalk lines. Press the edges of the tape down firmly with a stir stick or similar tool.



5] Wipe off the chalk lines with a rag. Then apply a coat of glaze with a 4" or 6" seamless roller. The glaze will dry quickly, so work on one block at a time.



6] Use a damp rag to "rag off" just enough glaze to let the base coat show through.

a new color—with an overlap



7] Let the glaze dry for two hours before removing the tape. Then add the next layer, using the roll-on, rag-off sequence.



8] Consistent ragging pressure will ensure even coloring within the block.



9] As you paint on the final layer of color, remember that it will naturally appear darker where it overlaps other colors. Focus on applying the paint evenly.



10] Because the top layer of paint is lighter than everything beneath it, less ragging off will be required to let the other layers show through.



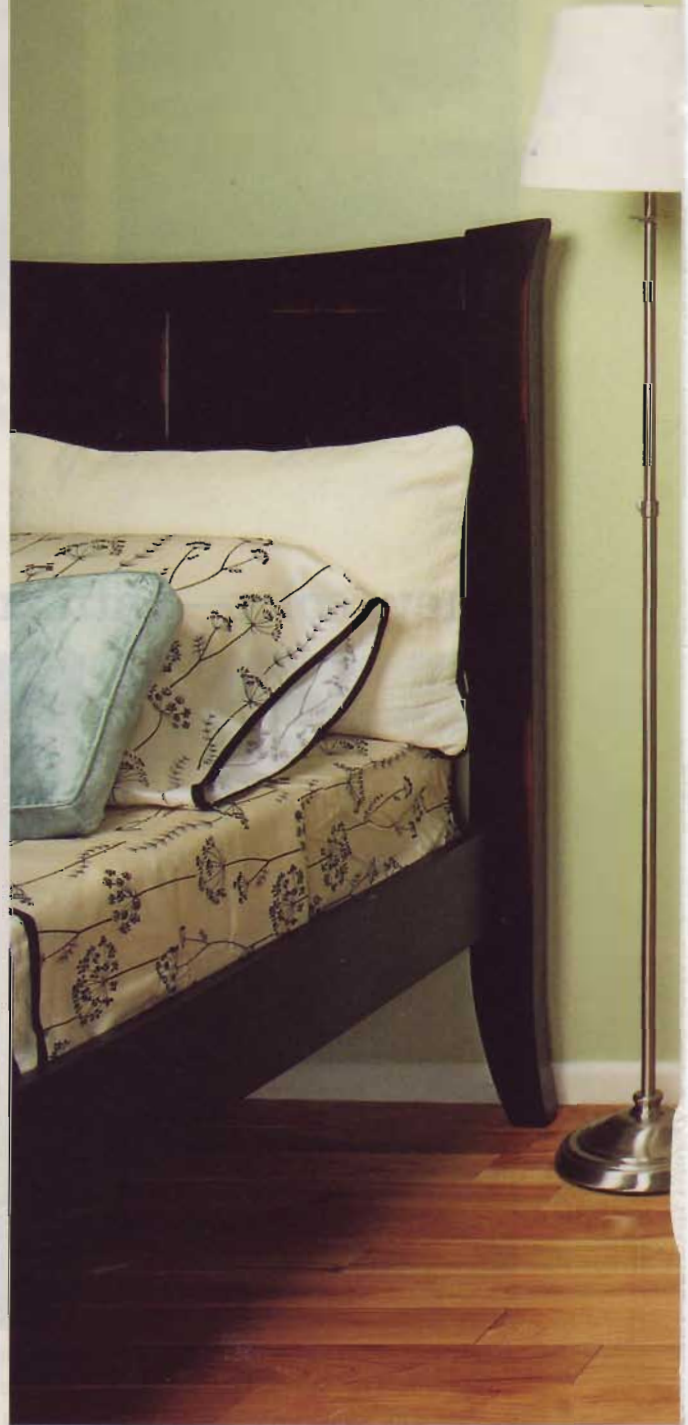
Reinvent Your Closet

Transform your closet from out of control to organized by adding a custom closet system and a new set of stylish doors.

Getting organized is a goal everyone has, but one that often gets pushed aside in favor of higher-impact projects. Yet it's easy to argue that few home improvements can have as great an impact on everyday life as organizing your closets. Plus, it presents a perfect opportunity to integrate the style of the entire room.

That's what we did with the bland bedroom shown above. At right, you can see that it started with installing a new closet system. We'll show you how easy it is.

Then we stepped up the style with new closet doors (*below*) that you can easily assemble and install yourself (*page 50*), a fresh coat of paint, and a new hardwood floor.





Have a System

When organizing a closet, the first thing to decide is whether you'll use a cabinet-style organizer or one of the ventilated-wire versions. For this closet, we chose ventilated wire.

The biggest reason for the choice was economy. The setup in this closet cost around \$300, which was far less than outfitting it with a cabinet-style system. In fact, it would have been possible to spend even less.

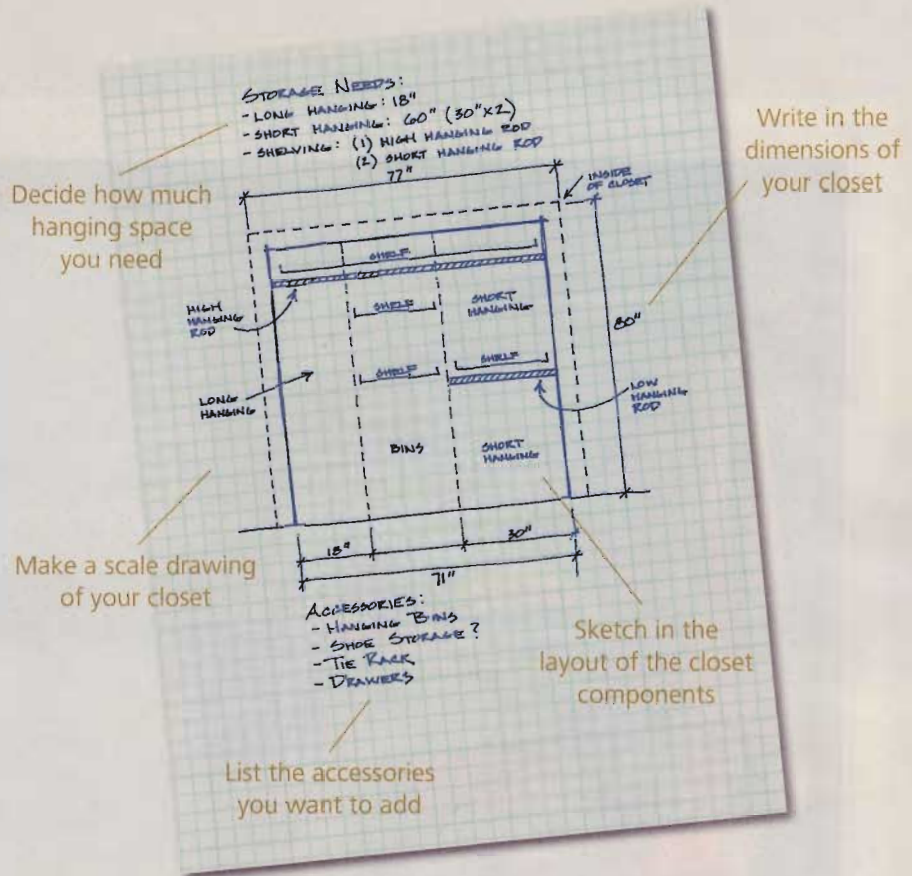
Choose the Right Wire—That's because there are two types of ventilated-wire organizers (*below*). Fixed-mount versions are pretty basic, so they're priced the lowest. A track-mount system, which we selected for this closet, costs more but is versatile, as well as easier to install and arrange.

Draw Up a Plan—Though installing an organizer is easy, figuring out what components you need isn't. You'll find there's a dizzying selection of shelving, brackets, and hardware.

To determine which ones you should buy, you need to first measure your closet and make a sketch (*above right*). Then you need to answer a few questions about the items that you'll be storing in the closet.

When you measure the closet, record the inside height, width, and depth. Also mark the location of the door.

Now think about how much space you need to devote to the items you'll store. Start with long hanging clothes,

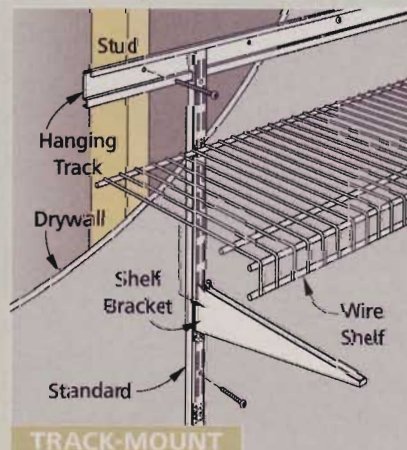
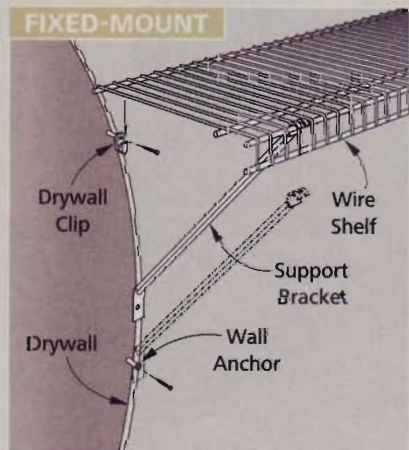


such as dresses and coats. Those require a high-mounted closet rod, which usually is suspended below a long shelf that spans the width of the closet. Write down how many linear feet of hanging space you'll need for these long items.

To store shorter hanging items like shirts, you can utilize the same high-mounted rod and then mount another rod below it to better utilize the space.

That done, fill any remaining space with shelves for clothes, drawers or bins for small items, shoe racks, and other accessories. Add those to your sketch.

With your plan complete, you can add up how many linear feet of shelving and hanging rod you'll need, plus the number of standards, brackets, and other hardware. Decide on accessories (*right*), and then you're ready to shop.



ORGANIZER OPTIONS

When you shop for ventilated-wire closet organizers, you'll find two types: fixed-mount and track-mount.

Fixed-mount systems attach using brackets and wall anchors (*far left*). So once they're installed, fixed-mount systems are difficult to reconfigure.

Track-mount systems use a horizontal bar that accepts vertical standards (*near left*). They offer more flexibility because you can reconfigure components easily and add a wide variety of accessories.

3-Step Install

After the work of selecting the organizer components, you'll be pleased to know that installing them is easy.

Start with the hanging track. If necessary, cut it to length with a hacksaw. Then position the track on the wall, at least as high as your highest shelf, and make sure the track is level.

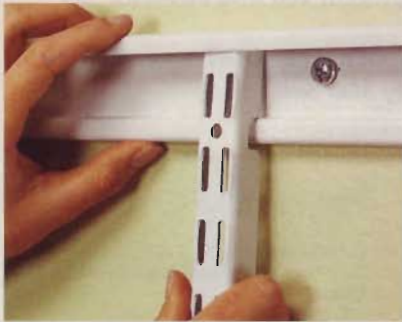
Next, drive screws through the track and into the wall studs (or the wall top

plate if mounting at ceiling height). The track bears a lot of weight, so be sure it's mounted securely.

With the track in place, just hang the standards on the track (Fig. 1). Once the standards are in, slide them side-to-side to position them. Refer to the instructions that come with your components to figure out where the standards should be placed.

Now that they're in position, you need to install a stabilizing screw in each standard. Just pivot the standard out of the way, and then drill and install a wall anchor and a screw (Fig. 2).

At this point, you can cut shelving to length as necessary and then clip it to the shelf standards. Mount closet rods and your other components, and you are ready to load up the closet.



1] After screwing the track to the studs, just insert the standards. Slide the standards either direction to position them.



2] Once you've positioned each standard, you need to stabilize it by driving a screw into a stud or a wall anchor.



3] All that's left to do is slip the brackets into the wall standards, and then mount the shelves and accessories to them.



ACCESSORIES ABOUND

Ventilated wire shelving systems, whatever style or brand you choose, are based around two basic components: shelves and shelf-support brackets.

With some systems, that's about as far as it goes. But most manufacturers offer accessories that let you make the systems more versatile and fit them to your closet space and storage needs. In addition, you'll find that some accessories designed for standard closet rods can be used with the wire systems, too.

At far left, the basic shelving is augmented by closet rods suspended on brackets that hang from the shelves. That makes it easy to slide clothes. A stack of basket-style drawers keep smaller items under control.

At near left, we put a hanging soft-sided shelf in at one end, added enclosed drawers, and installed an angled shoe shelf and slide-out tie rack.

See the *Project at a Glance* on page 50 for information about these accessories.



1] To attach the stiles, insert locking cams in the pre-drilled holes. Then slide the stile into position to test the fit.



2] Apply glue to the door joint, slide the stile into place, and then use a wrench (included with the kit) to tighten the cams.


Doors Dress It Up

A big source of style in this room comes from replacing the plain old slab doors with a great-looking set of new doors (*Photos, page 46*). In fact, finding these doors is what pushed this project beyond a simple exercise in organization to a reinvention of an entire room.

What's unique about these doors is that they come as a ready-to-assemble kit. That might sound complicated, but it's not. Two of the three panels in each door are already assembled. So all you have to do is insert the vertical stiles and glass that fits in between.

That process starts with installing the hardware (*Fig. 1*). Though the hardware does most of the holding,

you need to add glue to the joints as you install the stiles (*Fig. 2*). After that, it's just a matter of slipping in the glass and attaching the other panel (*Fig. 3*).

While the glue sets up on the doors, you can mount the rail the doors ride on to the top of the door opening. Rollers go onto the doors with just a few screws. These allow you to adjust the doors, so they hang properly and slide smoothly. 

—Written by David Stone, illustrated by Matt Scott



3] Slide the glass panel into the grooves in the stiles, and then attach the last panel to complete each door.

Project at a Glance:

CLOSET ORGANIZER SYSTEM
Shelf Track System with SuperSlide Shelves
ClosetMaid
800.874.0008; ClosetMaid.com

CLOSET ACCESSORIES
Basket Drawers, Tie/Belt Rack, Shoe Brackets
ClosetMaid (*above*)
Hanging Six-Shelf Organizer with Drawers
Real Organized Series from Lowes
800.445.6937; Lowes.com

DOORS
NuPorte Simplicity #1220, Espresso Finish
Aura Home Design
800.647.8145; AuraHomeDesign.com

WALL PAINT
Harbour Town #493
Benjamin Moore Paints
888.236.6667; BenjaminMoore.com

DOORS THAT DO MORE

These closet doors look like expensive custom pieces, but they came right off the rack at the home center. They're made by Aura Home Design. The doors are available in several wood tones or with a painted surface and with solid- or frosted-glass panels (*Photos, right*). Though they're made of coated particleboard, the look is convincing.

What really makes these doors unique, though, is that you can get them either fully assembled or as the kits that we installed. The advantage of the kits is that they're easy to haul in any vehicle, and they go together in no time.





Easy-to-make melamine storage cabinets house five handy accessories that are at the heart of this **well-organized laundry room**.

laundry center makeover

+5 QUICK & EASY ADD-ONS

Comfortable. Cozy. Inviting. These words describe many rooms in the home, but they rarely get mentioned in reference to the lowly laundry room.

When you consider how much time you spend in the laundry room, though, shouldn't it be more than just a utilitarian space? Shouldn't it be, dare we say it, *comfortable* as well?

We designed this laundry system with exactly that in mind. As comfortable as it is, though, that cheery exterior hides a massive amount of built-in storage and other organizational features.

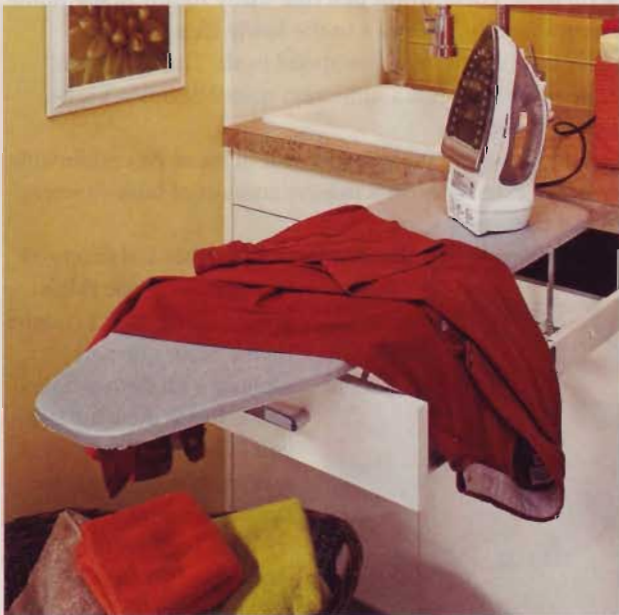
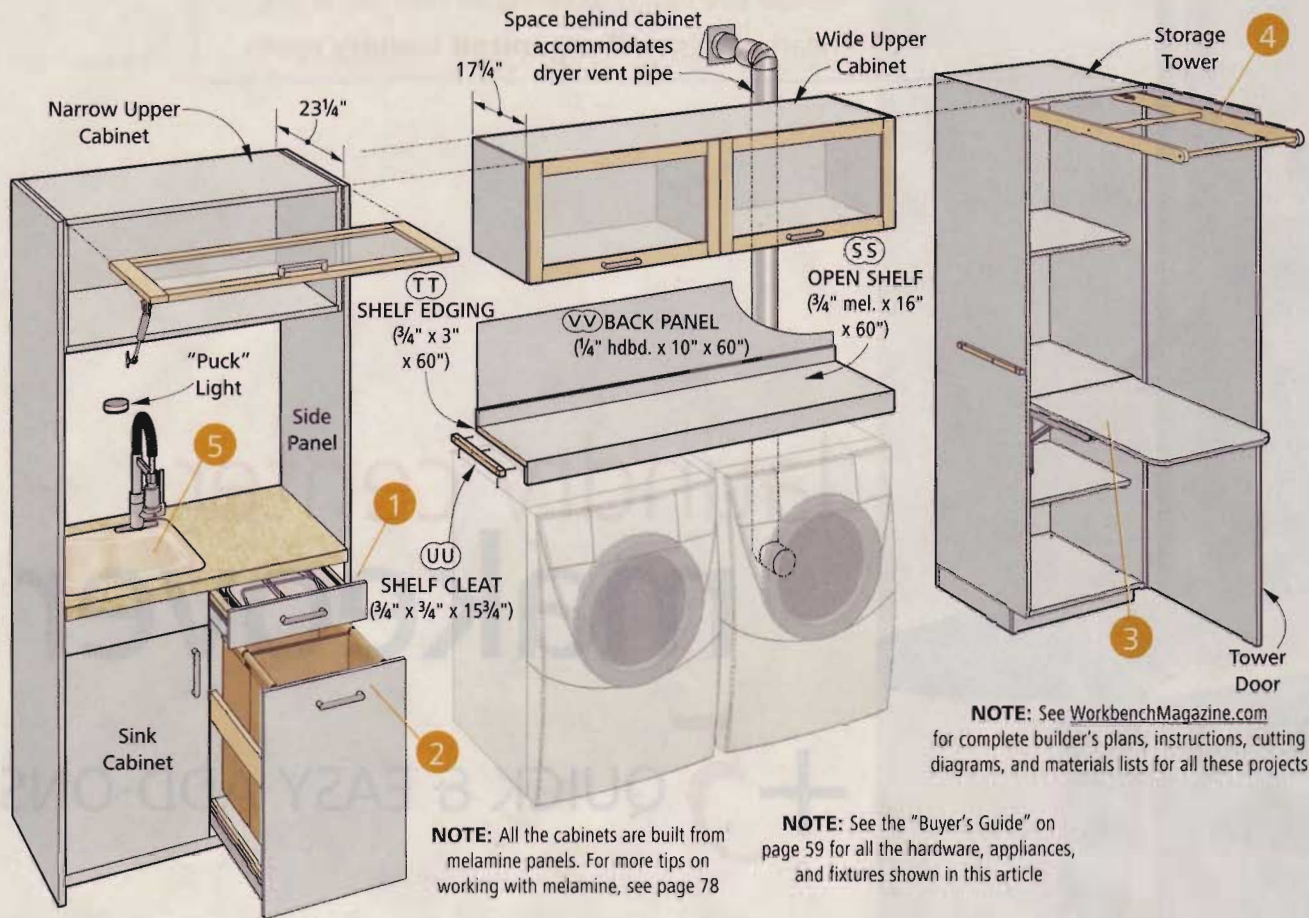
It all starts with the storage cabinets that surround the washer and dryer—a large tower on one side, a

lower cabinet with a counter on the other side, and cabinets with flip-up doors above. Inside these cabinets, you'll find five handy accessories that make doing the laundry a breeze.

We'll highlight some of the unique features of this system on the following pages. Also, check out WorkbenchMagazine.com for complete plans to build this laundry center.



5 GREAT LAUNDRY ROOM ADD-ONS



FOLD-OUT IRONING BOARD

1 This ironing board from Rev-A-Shelf pulls out from the cabinet and swings up for use. A "drawer" front conceals the board.



BUILT-IN CLOTHES HAMPER

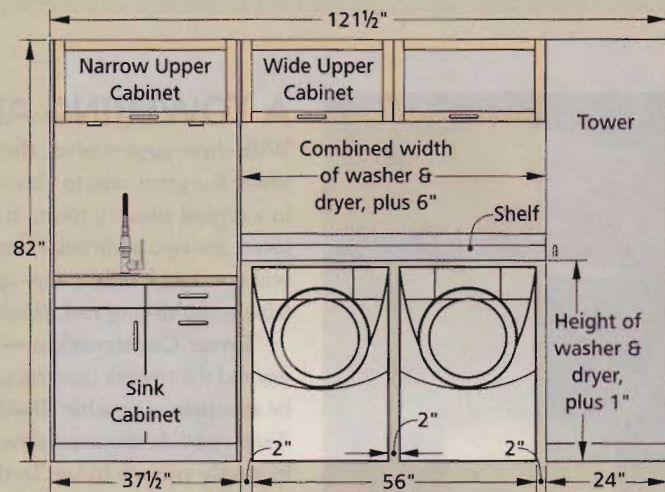
2 Fabric sorting bags suspended on dowels make a handy clothes hamper that pulls out from the cabinet.

SURROUNDED BY STORAGE

One of the keys to an efficient laundry center is having everything you need on hand. Here, we help you accomplish that by surrounding the washer and dryer with useful storage on all sides.

The size of these components, of course, will depend on the size of your washer and dryer, as well as the size of the room. Our laundry center ended up a little over 10-ft. long overall. If that works for you, all the dimensions for this center are presented on the following pages. Or refer to the *Illustration* at right to see how to modify the center to fit your space.

These projects work just as well as stand-alone projects as they do in a set. So feel free to build as many of the cabinets as your storage needs require.



FLIP-UP WORK TABLE

3 To fold clothes, flip up this convenient work table. When you're done, the table stows out of the way inside the tower.



SWING-OUT HANGING RACK

4 This rack swings out and "locks" in place for hanging clothes to dry. Like the table, it tucks inside the tower for storage.



UTILITY SINK & FAUCET

5 A small utility sink and a flexible sprayer faucet mounted above one of the cabinets make quick work of removing stubborn spots and stains.



A TOWERING AMOUNT OF STORAGE

With three large shelves, this storage tower is a great way to clear the clutter in a typical laundry room. Inside the tower are two additional features that will come in handy: a flip-up work table and a drying rack (Photo, left).

Tower Construction—We wanted the tower's construction to be as simple as possible (*Building the Tower, right*). At the same time, it had to be sturdy enough to last. To that end, the tall tower sides (A) have rabbets in the ends that hold the top and bottom panels (B). Another rabbet in the back edge of each side accepts the back panel (C). (You'll find an article on cutting rabbets at WorkbenchMagazine.com.)

The tower sides, top, and bottom are assembled with glue and screws. The next part that's added to the case is a mounting cleat (D) that gets installed between the case sides with pocket screws. Later on, this cleat is used to anchor the tower to the wall.

After attaching the cleat, paint the front face of the back panel white to match the rest of the tower. Then attach it with glue and screws.

At this point, you can add the three storage shelves (E, F). Later on, the work table will be positioned at the same height as the middle shelf. Note that this middle shelf is also longer than the top and bottom shelves, so the work table can extend out further from the tower.

Each shelf gets screwed to a pair of shelf supports (G, H) attached to the case sides. Note that the middle shelf supports are shorter than the others. Later on, this will help you mount the work table easily. Now is also a good time to apply iron-on edgebanding to the tower parts.

Add a Base—The tower sits on a base that elevates the cabinet. This keeps it off the potentially damp

laundry room floor. The base has levelers that provide an easy way to level the cabinet on uneven floors.

The base is made up of four pieces (I, J) of $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick stock that get cut to size and painted white to match the tower. The parts are joined with pocket screws. Another set of pocket holes drilled near the top edges of all the base parts let you attach the base to the tower from below. Once the base is attached to the cabinet, drilling holes above each leveler in the tower bottom allows you to insert a screwdriver and adjust the levelers (*Base Detail, below right*).

Put on the Door—The tower is enclosed with a door (K), which is a large melamine panel sized to overlay the front edges of the tower. After cutting it to size and applying the edgebanding, hinge the door to the tower.

Work Table—One unique feature of this tower is the flip-up work table (L). It's a melamine panel that's cut to fit between the tower sides. The table is supported by a pair of folding L-brackets.

The L-brackets are attached to a pair of mounting blocks (M). These blocks are cut from a 2x4 and screwed in place below the middle shelf. After that, just attach the L-brackets to the cleats, and then screw the table to the brackets (*Work Table Detail, right*).

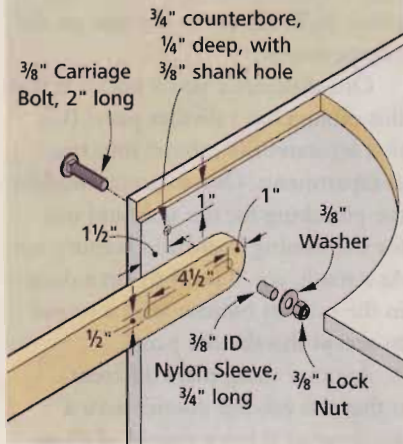
Drying Rack—At the top of the tower is the drying rack. It consists of two hardwood arms (N) with dowel rails (O) between them to create a place to hang clothes. A slot at the end of each arm accepts a bolt that connects the rack to the tower. If you swing the rack up and push it in toward the cabinet, the slot allows you to slide the arm back and "lock" it in place.

The rounded ends of the arms are easy to cut with a jig saw. Even the slots are simple: Just drill holes at each end, and cut between them with a jig saw. Then all that's left is to drill holes in the arms to accept the rails, which get installed with glue and screws.

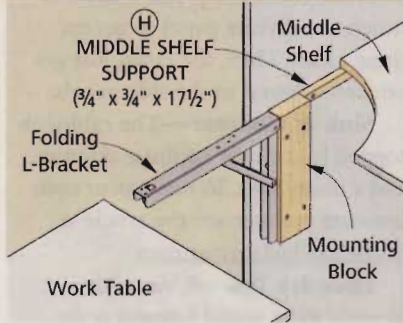
In addition to 30 cubic feet of storage, the tower has a rack for drying clothes and a table for folding and stacking them.

To attach the rack, first drill holes in the tower sides for carriage bolts to pass through. Next, a nylon sleeve gets inserted in the slot in each hardwood arm to protect it from the bolt threads. The bolt then passes through this sleeve and gets secured with a washer and a lock nut on the inside of the tower (see the Rack Installation Detail, below).

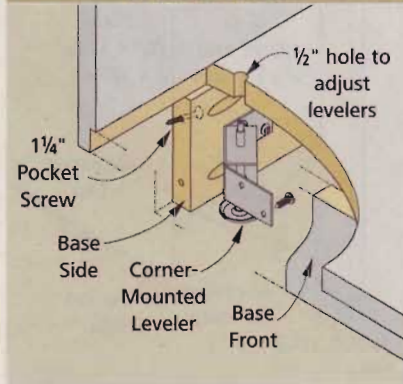
RACK INSTALLATION DETAIL



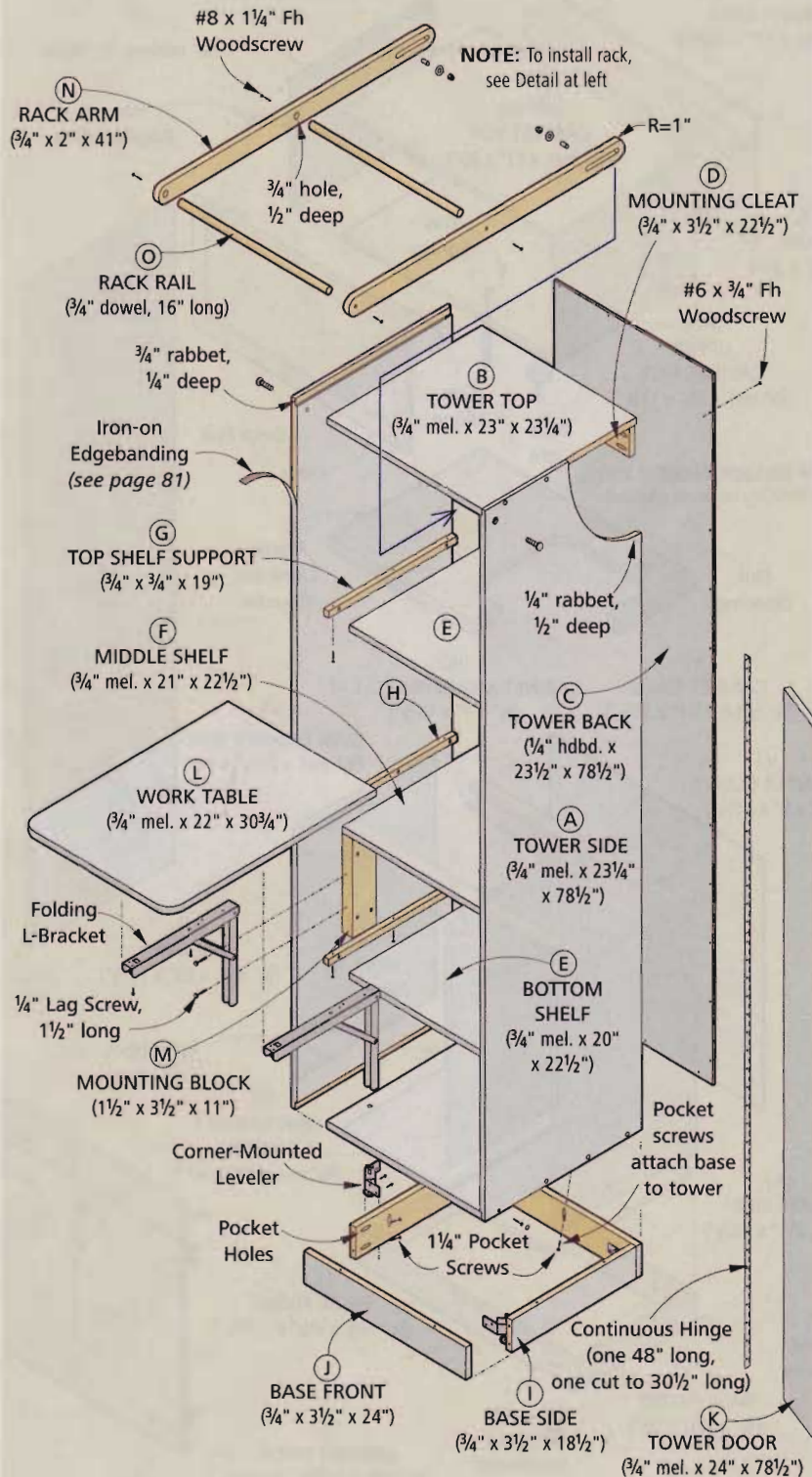
WORK TABLE DETAIL



BASE DETAIL



BUILDING THE TOWER



SINK CABINET

SINK & UPPER CABINETS

This laundry center's other storage cabinets, a lower sink cabinet and two upper cabinets, are built similarly to the tower shown on page 56. In addition to more storage, they provide room to add a fold-out ironing board, a pull-out laundry bin, and a utility sink.

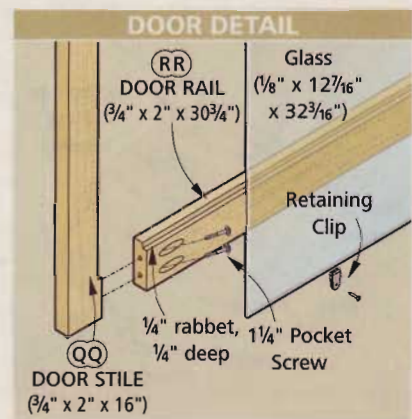
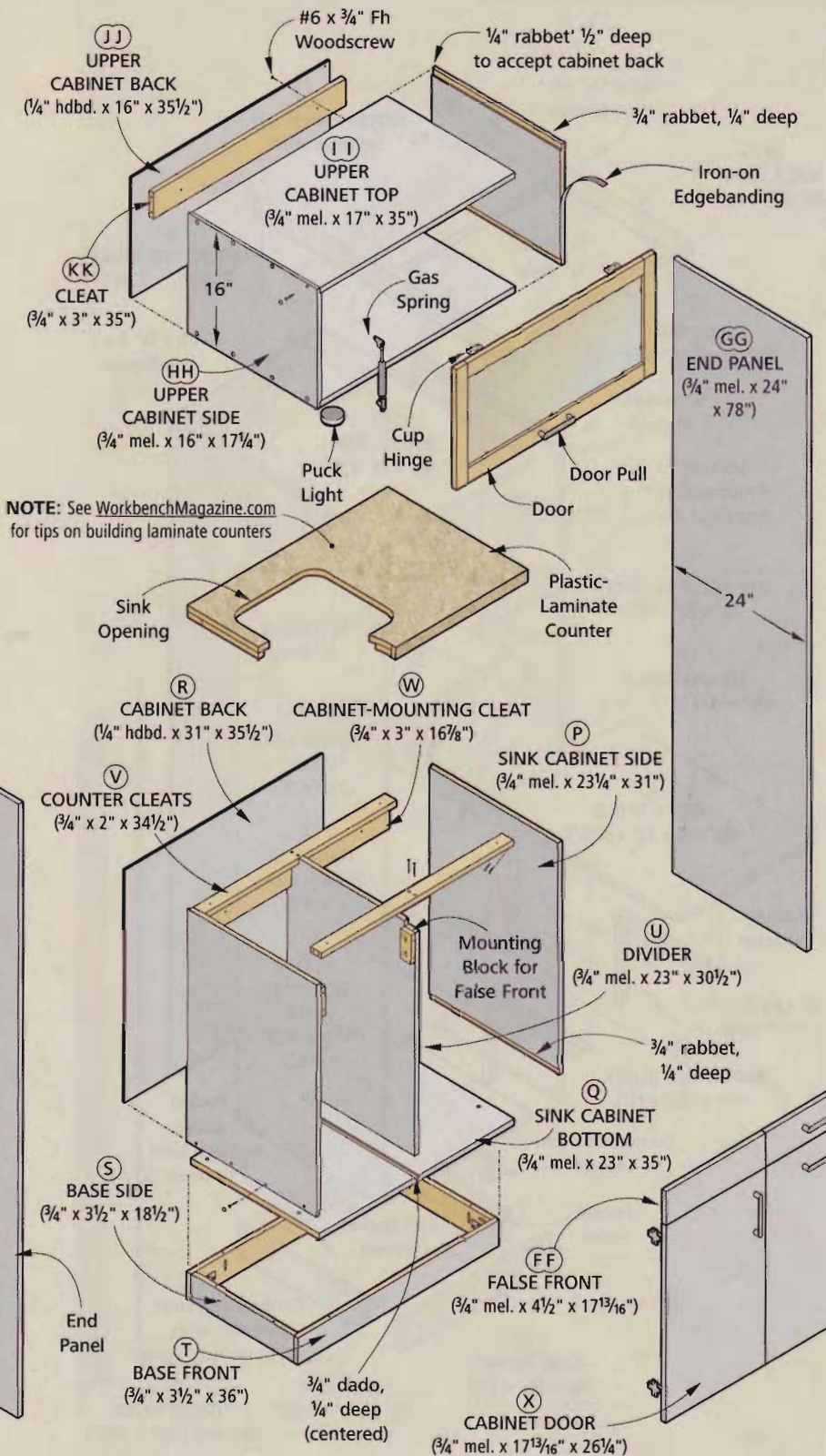
Sink Cabinet—Like the storage tower, the sink cabinet is a basic melamine box. It features sides (P) that are rabbeted to accept a bottom (Q) and back panel (R). It also sits on a base (S, T) similar to the one on the storage tower.

One difference you'll notice is that this cabinet has a divider panel (U) that separates the cabinet into two compartments: One to accommodate the plumbing for the sink, and one for the ironing board and laundry bin. As a result, you'll need to cut a dado in the cabinet bottom with a router to accept this divider panel.

Another thing that's different is that this cabinet doesn't have a top. Instead, it has a couple of cleats (V) that are used to attach a plastic laminate countertop. You'll need to notch the divider panel to accept these cleats. Then, the cleats just get pocket-screwed to the side panels.

Sink & Counter—The cabinet is topped by a plastic laminate counter and a utility sink. To make your own laminate counter, see the article at WorkbenchMagazine.com.

Laundry Bin—One of this center's most useful features is the



pull-out laundry bin. This bin is a three-sided box with dowels at the top for hanging laundry bags. It slides in and out of the cabinet on a pair of full-extension drawer slides (see the Laundry Bin Illustration, below).

Ironing Board—The easiest accessory to add to the laundry center is the flip-up ironing board (shown on page 54). That's because the board, drawer slides, and hardware come in one handy kit. All you have to add is a false drawer front (FF), which is cut to size from melamine.

Upper Cabinets—The final elements of this laundry center are the upper cabinets. There are two cabinets in our setup: a narrow cabinet that's mounted above the sink between two tall melamine end panels (GG) (Illustration, left), and a double-wide cabinet that mounts above the washer and dryer (Illustration, page 54). Like the other cabinets, these are just rabbeted boxes.

The two upper cabinets are quite similar, but you'll notice that the

wider cabinet has an added middle divider to separate it into two compartments. This requires cutting dadoes in the top and bottom panels to accept this divider.

Also, the wide upper cabinet isn't as deep as the narrow one. As you'll see on page 54, this allows you to mount the cabinet with a gap behind it in case you have water pipes, wiring, or a dryer vent running up the wall behind your washer and dryer.

The upper cabinets feature frosted glass-paneled doors that hide their contents from view. These doors are made with hardwood rails and stiles joined together with pocket screws. To accept the glass panels, rout a rabbet around the frame openings. Then, install the doors with hinges. Adding gas springs allows the doors to open and close easily and lock securely in place when open.

—Written by Wyatt Myers, illustrated by Erich Lage, project designed by James R. Downing

BUYER'S GUIDE

WASHER & DRYER

Whirlpool Duet Washer and Dryer

866.698.2538

Whirlpool.com

(Supplied by O'Callaghan's - 515.276.3232)

SINK & FAUCET

American Standard Silhouette Sink

800.442.1902

AmericanStandard-US.com

Pegasus Side-Action Faucet/Sprayer

800.553.3199

HomeDepot.com

IRONING BOARD

Rev-A-Shelf Fold-Out Ironing Board

502.499.5835

Rev-A-Shelf.com

LAUNDRY BAGS

(2) Laundry Bags for Bagger Org. System

877.631.2922

Skyburst.com

PROJECT HARDWARE

(8) 26mm Blum Clip-On Hinges (#38411)

(6) Lift-O-Mat Gas Springs (#34373)

Folding L-Brackets (#58377)

White Surface-Mount Puck Lights (#25315)

22" Full-Extension Drawer Slides (#30230)

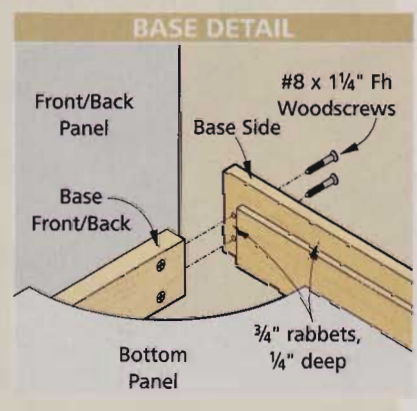
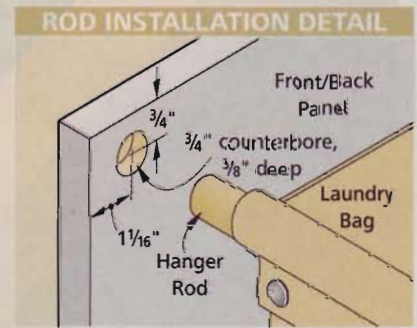
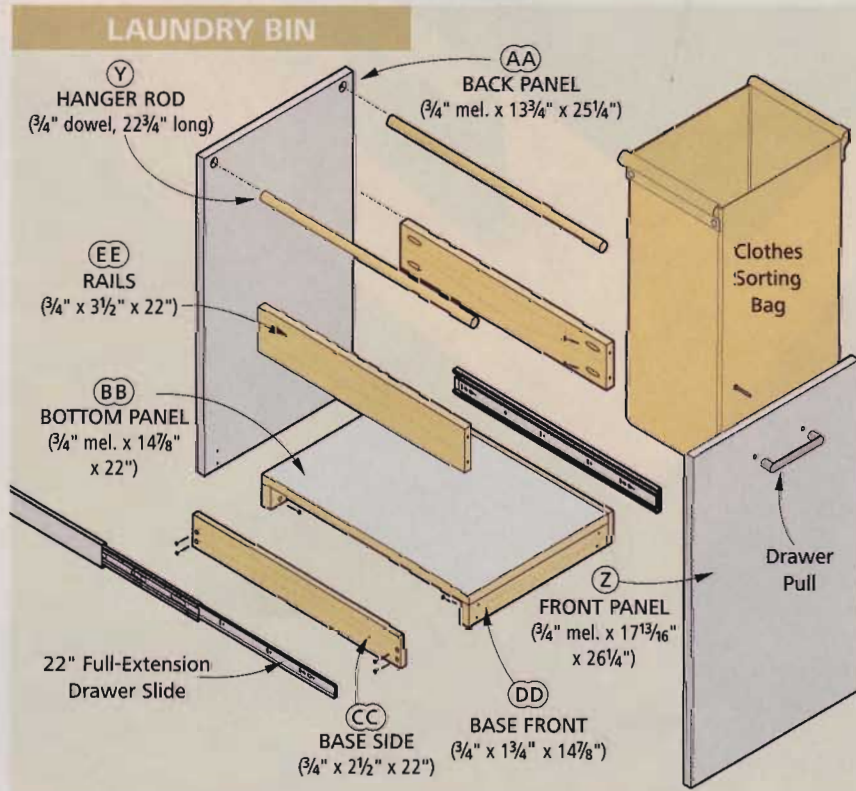
800.279.4441

Rockler.com

(7) 5" Polished Chrome Handles (BBK-03592)

866.695.6627

MyKnobs.com







SERVICE WITH A STYLE

With a decorative glass panel highlighted by a black-fabric insert, this serving tray has a sophisticated style. If you prefer a more casual look, you can insert other fabrics, wallpaper, or dried flowers (*page 65*). Whatever you choose, this tray looks so good you may never put it away. But you could, thanks to a base that folds for storage.

TURN OUT THE SERVING TRAY

Building this serving tray is a straightforward process. Even if you're not an accomplished woodworker, you'll catch right on. And for tools, you'll only need a table saw, a drill, and a few clamps.

The *Construction View* shows that the tray starts out with a large wood frame. Then a glass bottom panel, a decorative insert, and a backer get inserted into rabbets cut in the inside edge of each frame piece. This "package" is held in place with narrow cleats attached to the frame.

You'll see, too, that the ends of the frame are thicker than the sides. But they're glued up from two pieces of stock so that the entire tray can be built from $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick stock (maple in this case). Those ends then get attached to the sides with a simple tongue joint.

Make the Sides and Ends—To get started on the tray, first cut the sides (A) to size. Then set them aside for the moment.

Making the ends (B) is a two-step process. First, you need to cut four 2" x 12" blocks from the same $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock. Now glue pairs of the blocks together to make two $1\frac{1}{2}$ "-thick blanks. Be sure

to keep the edges aligned. Then cut the tray ends to length.

Create the Rabbets—Now it's time to cut the rabbets in the sides and ends. A table saw makes quick work of this in two passes.

Start by making a pass in each tray side, as shown in *Step 1*, below. Without changing the setup, cut the end pieces. But this time, the *edge* of each piece rides against the saw table.

To complete the rabbet, make a second cut in each piece (*Step 2*).

Cut the Tongues—Now you can cut the short tongues on each end piece that join them to the sides. You can use the same fence position. Just lower the blade to make a $\frac{1}{2}$ "-deep cut. Then cut the tongues as shown in *Steps 3 and 4*.

Assemble the Tray—With the tongues cut, you can glue the side and end pieces together. Then, to reinforce the joints and add a decorative touch, drill holes and insert dowels after the glue dries. See the *Box* on page 64.

Bring on the Insert—With the main tray complete, it's time to add the glass and decorative insert that give the serving tray its distinct style. When

installed, these will rest in the rabbets in the tray and be held in by cleats.

The first step is to cut the backer panel (C) to fit. Then you can have glass cut $\frac{1}{8}$ " smaller in width and length than the backer.

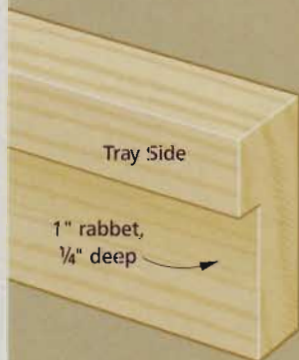
Now cut the cleats (D, E) that secure the glass and backer from $\frac{1}{4}$ "-thick stock. That done, drill countersunk holes in the cleats for mounting screws.

After drilling those holes, turn the tray upside down, and lay the glass in place in the rabbets. Lay your decorative insert in next (see page 65 for a few insert options). Then add the backer. Now mark the location of screw holes in the tray, remove the insert "package," including the glass, and then drill the pilot holes. This is also a good time to drill countersunk mounting holes for the handles.

Finish & Assemble—Before going further, apply a polyurethane finish to the tray and cleats. Finally, secure the glass by bedding it in a thin bead of silicone. That seals the glass to prevent any spills from seeping under and ruining the decorative insert. After the silicone sets, reinstall the insert and backer, and then secure the cleats.

RABBETS IN TWO STEPS

Cutting the wide rabbets in the tray sides only requires your standard saw blade and two simple setups.

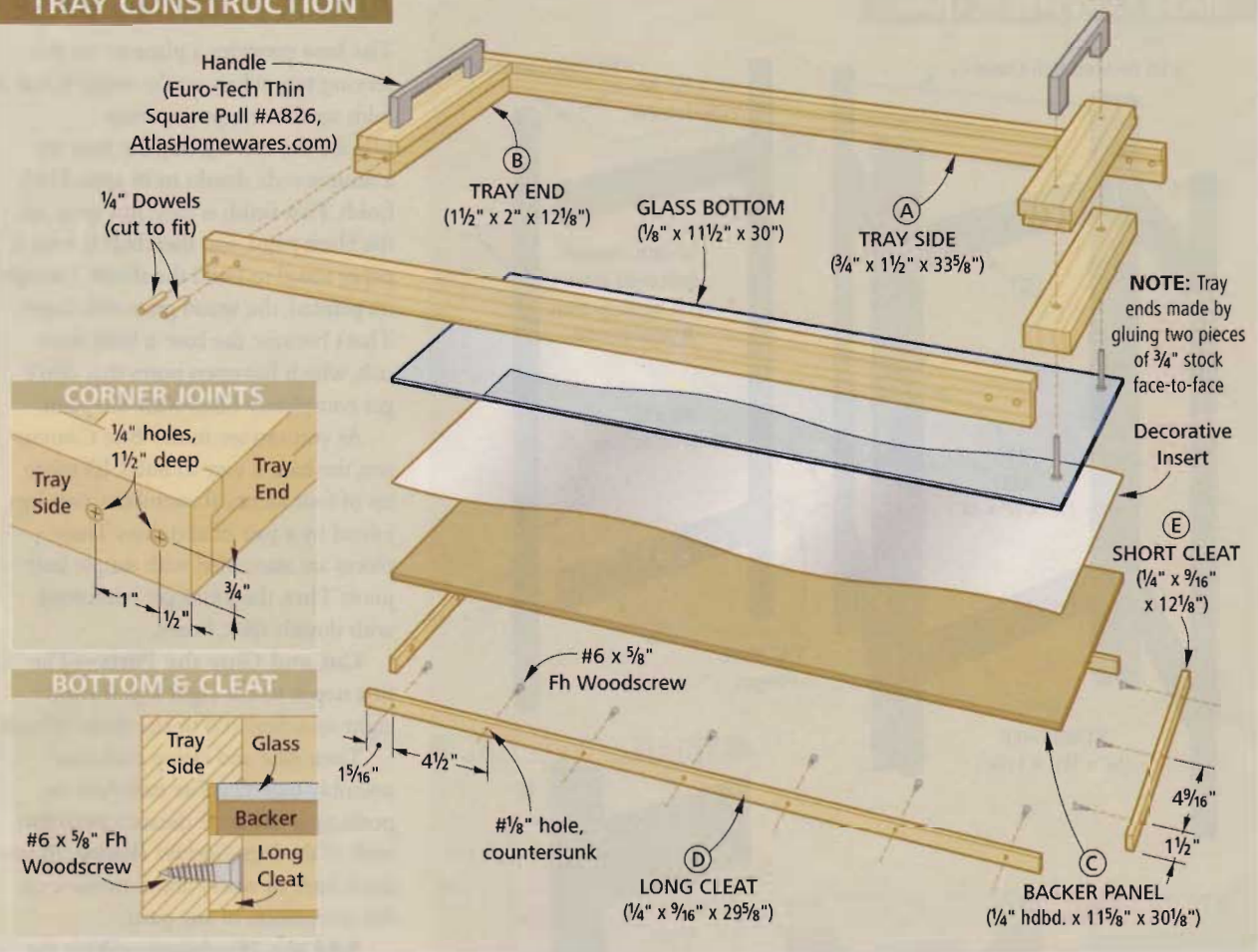


1] Position the fence with $\frac{1}{2}$ " between it and the blade. Then raise the blade $\frac{1}{4}$ ". One face rides on the saw table.



2] Reposition the fence $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the outside edge of the blade. Raise the blade, and cut to complete the rabbet.

TRAY CONSTRUCTION



SIMPLE TONGUE JOINTS

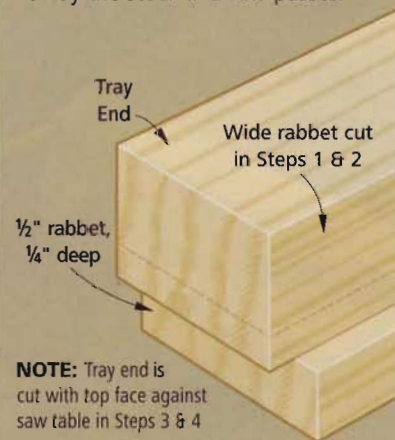


3] To cut the tongues in the tray ends, butt the piece against the fence. Then use the miter gauge to push the workpiece.



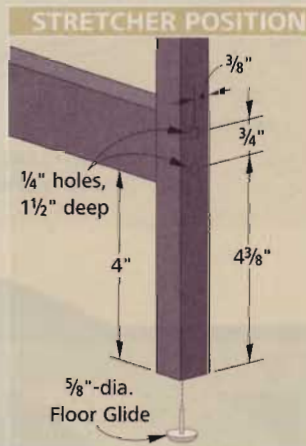
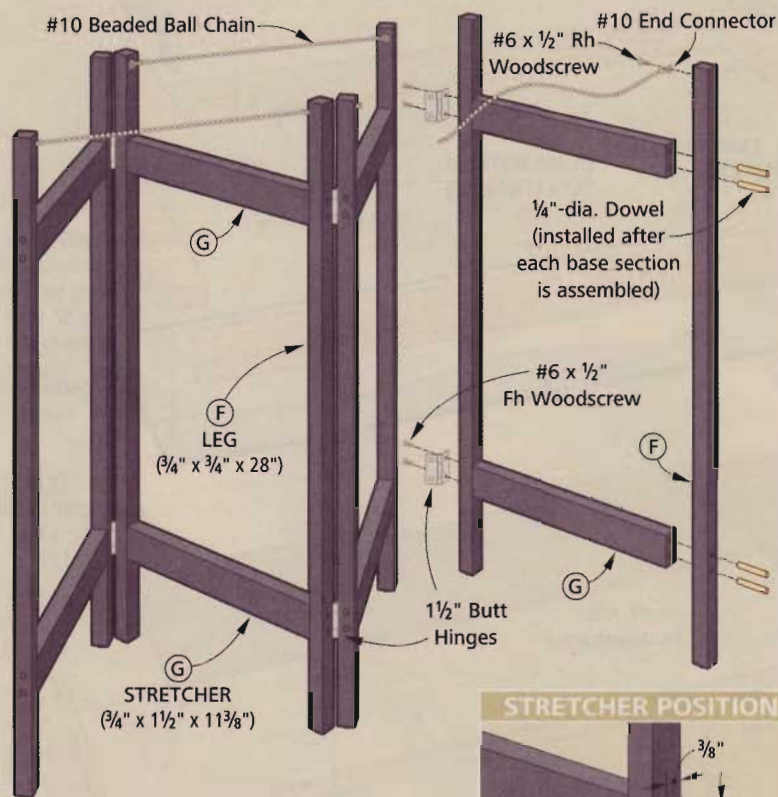
4] Complete the tongue by sliding the end piece against the fence and making a couple more passes over the blade.

Cutting the tongues is straightforward, too. Use a miter gauge and the fence as you "nibble" away the stock in a few passes.

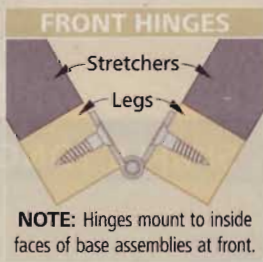


NOTE: Tray end is cut with top face against saw table in Steps 3 & 4

BASE CONSTRUCTION



NOTE: Hinges mount to edges of base assemblies at back.



NOTE: Hinges mount to inside faces of base assemblies at front.

ADD A FOLDING BASE

The base provides a place to set the serving tray when you're using it, but it folds up for compact storage.

Like the serving tray, the base has a unique style thanks to its satin-black finish. That finish is easy: Just spray on flat black paint, and then buff it with a paper towel to build the sheen. Though it's painted, the wood grain still shows. That's because the base is built from oak, which has open pores that don't get completely filled with the paint.

As you can see in the *Base Construction*, the base is easy to build. It's made up of four identical assemblies: two legs joined by a pair of stretchers. These pieces are assembled with simple butt joints. Then the joints get reinforced with dowels (*Box, below*).

Cut and Glue the Parts—The first step is to cut eight legs (F) and eight stretchers (G) to size from 3/4" oak.

Then glue and clamp each base assembly together. The stretchers are positioned the same distance from the ends of the legs (*Stretcher Position*), so you don't have to worry about messing up the orientation of any parts.


Add the Hardware—With the dowels in, it's time to add the hardware.

You'll see in the *Details* at left that the hinges are mounted differently at the front and back of the base. That way, none of them show from the front.

Mount the front hinges first. Just lay two base assemblies side by side with a 1/8" gap between them. Then mount hinges to the *face* of these pieces.

For the back hinges, stack all four base assemblies with the hinged pair in the middle. Again, use 1/8" spacers between them. Then mount hinges to the *edges* of the outer two assemblies.

To ensure that the base opens to the same width each time, ball chains connect the base assemblies. Just set the base up with the tray on top, then cut the chains to length. Fit ends to the chains, and then screw them to the base.

With the hardware mounted, you can paint the base—hardware and all. 

—Written by David Stone, illustrated by Matt Scott, project designed by James R. Downing



DOWELS REINFORCE THE JOINTS

Adding dowels reinforces the joints on the serving tray and adds a bit of decoration. Just drill holes through the tray sides and into the ends. Then glue in the dowels. Now cut and sand the dowels flush.

Reinforce the joints in the base, as well.

insert the
style that
suits you



From the outset, this tray was designed to be as stylish as it is functional. And we know "stylish" means different things to different people.

The tray shown above was built from poplar, and then spray-painted white. With bamboo-wrapped handles, it takes on a casual appearance. Wallpaper printed with cupcakes adds a playful touch.

You can personalize your tray by putting almost anything thin, such as decorative paper, wallpaper, or even dried flowers, under the glass. If you want a change, just pull out the backer and slip in a new insert.



OLD WINDOW

newview

Create a nifty niche for displaying knickknacks with just a salvaged window sash, a couple of boards, some paint, and a few hours.

If you're looking for a decorative project that delivers maximum impact with minimum fuss, this display cabinet is tough to beat. It's so easy that you can build it one day and hang it the next.

That simplicity is partly due to the fact that you don't have to build the framed-glass door. It's made from a "barn sash" window picked up at a home center. If you can't find one there, check a farm-supply store, or look for an old sash at a swap meet or garage sale.

The cabinet, too, is super simple. It's made by cutting 1x6, 1x8, and 1x2 boards to length, driving a few screws, and then tacking on a back (*Illustration*). It's important to get the window sash first, though, because you'll need to match the size of the cabinet to the height and width of the sash.

Here's how it all goes together:

- 1] From a straight pine 1x6, cut the sides, top, and bottom to length, as shown in the *Illustration*.
- 2] Temporarily clamp these pieces together to form a shallow box. Drill two counterbored holes at each corner, through the sides and into the ends of the top and bottom.
- 3] Disassemble the cabinet, spread glue on the ends of the top and bottom, and then glue and screw it together (*Assembly Detail*).

DESIGN NOTES:

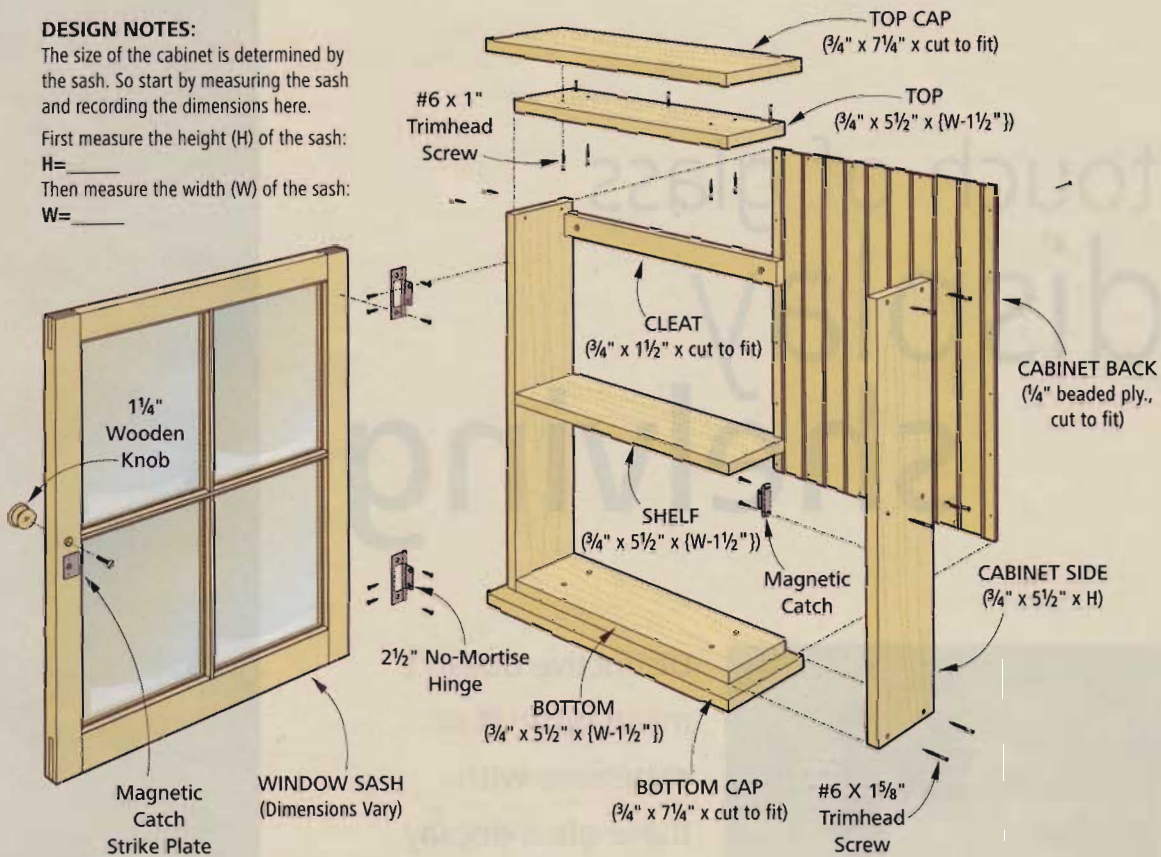
The size of the cabinet is determined by the sash. So start by measuring the sash and recording the dimensions here.

First measure the height (H) of the sash:

H= _____

Then measure the width (W) of the sash:

W= _____



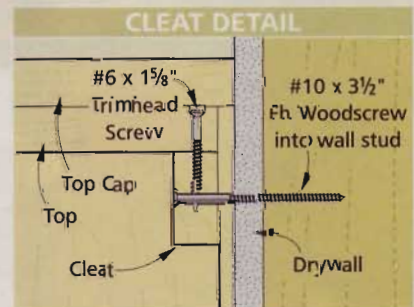
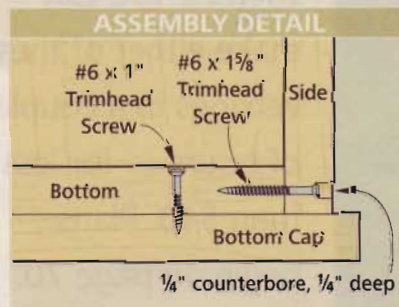
4] Measure and cut a back panel from 1/4"-thick plywood (this one has a beaded pattern). Then nail it in place.

5] Make a cleat that's used to hang the cabinet. Measure between the sides, and then cut the cleat to fit. Then glue and screw it in place (*Cleat Detail*).

6] Screw a pair of hinges to the front of the cabinet. Set the door in place, mark where the hinges will hit, and then screw the hinges to the door.

7] Cut a shelf to fit inside the cabinet. Position it behind the horizontal muntin bar in the sash. Then drill holes, and screw the shelf in place.

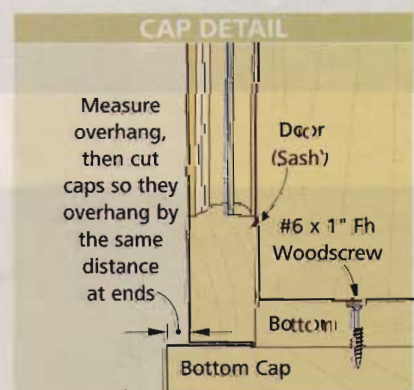
8] Make the top and bottom caps from 1x8 stock. Cut them to length so they overhang equally in front and at the ends (*Cap Detail*). Now screw the caps in place.



9] Sand all the surfaces of the cabinet with 120-grit paper, and ease the edges by sanding off the sharp corners before priming and painting the cabinet inside and out.

10] Add a door knob and catch to wrap it up.

11] Mount the cabinet to the wall by driving 3 1/2" screws through the cleat and cabinet back and into the wall studs.



—Written by David Stone, illustrated by Erich Lage, project designed by Ted Kralicek

a touch of glass display shelving



Distinctive doesn't mean difficult or expensive with these glass display shelves. You can make either of these versions in a couple of hours — for less than \$40. Plans begin on page 70.





MAKING THE SHELVES

In addition to its stylish good looks, this glass shelf has a simple design that makes it extremely easy to build.

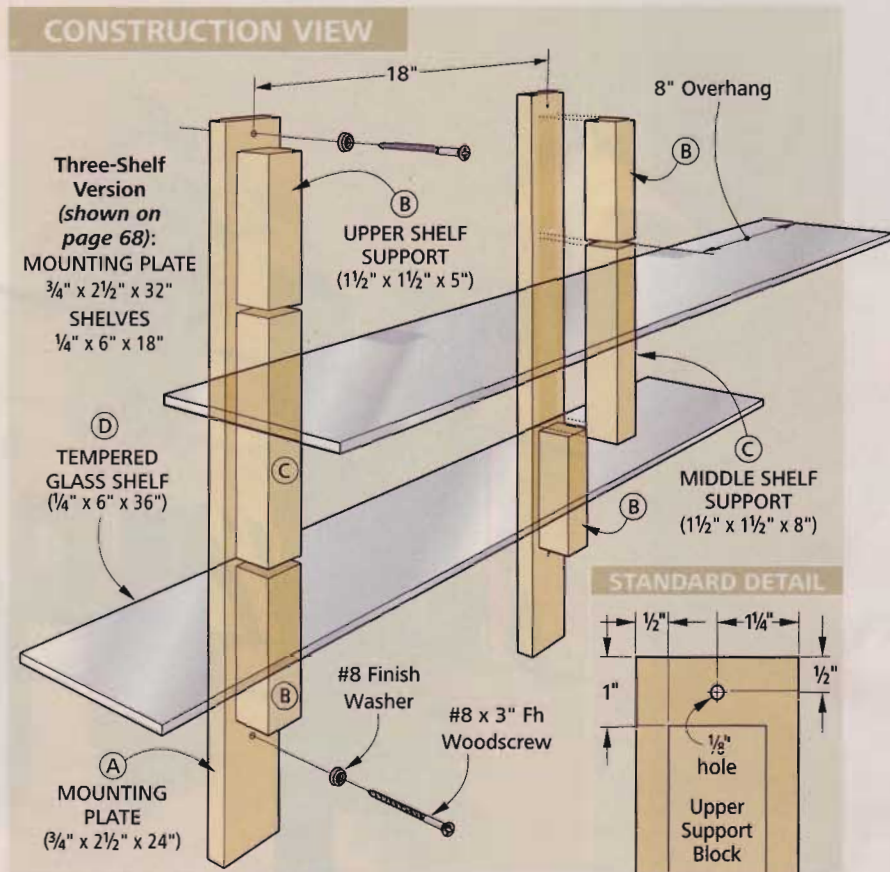
For larger walls, you may want to make the version shown here with two shelf standards (vertical supports) and a pair of 36"-long shelves. For narrower walls, try the single-standard version with three 18"-long shelves that's shown in the *Inset Photo* on page 68.

Round Up Materials—Either way, it won't take long to round up the materials. We used 1/4" tempered glass for the shelves, which we purchased from a glass shop for \$23. The wood parts are poplar, which is available at most home centers. Poplar is a pale, greenish-white wood that doesn't have much character. But applying a dark-colored stain produces a warm, rich tone (see *Staining Poplar* on page 71).

Start with the Standards—With materials in hand, you can get started on the shelf standards. Each standard consists of a vertical mounting plate and three thick shelf support blocks (*Construction View*). The shelves simply fit into narrow slots between the blocks.

To make the mounting plates (A), crosscut a 24"-long piece from a 6-ft. 1x6. Next, rip two 2 1/2"-wide strips from it. Then drill mounting holes, as indicated in the *Shelf Standard Detail*.

With the plates done, it's time to focus on the shelf supports (B, C). These are 1 1/2"-thick wood blocks



that hold the shelves in place. If you have 1 1/2"-thick stock, you can go ahead and use it. If not, it's just a matter of gluing and clamping two pieces of 3/4"-thick stock face to face.

If you decide to glue up the blocks, you'll find that tightening the clamps can make the pieces twist out of alignment. So it's best to glue up pieces that are about 1/2" wider than needed.

Just be sure that one piece overlaps the edge of the other by about 1/4" along its entire length. This way, you'll have a continuous straight edge to guide against the rip fence. Then rip the glued-up blank to width on the table saw (*Squaring Up a Glued-Up Blank*).

Now you can cut the shelf supports (B, C) to length. To provide plenty of height for items on the bottom shelf,

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

DIFFICULTY: Easy One-Day Project

PROJECT COST: \$40

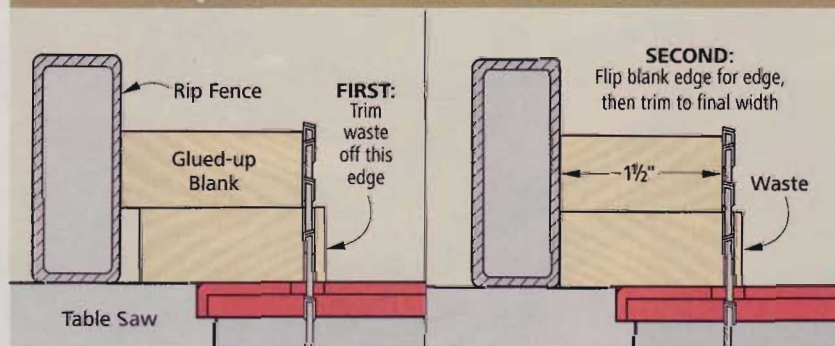
TOOLS: Table saw, drill, clamps, screwdriver

SUPPLIES: 1x6 poplar, 72" long, (4) #8 finishing washers, (4) #8 x 3" Fh woodscrews, (2) 1/4" x 6" x 36" tempered glass shelves

STAIN: General Finishes Gel Stain (Java)

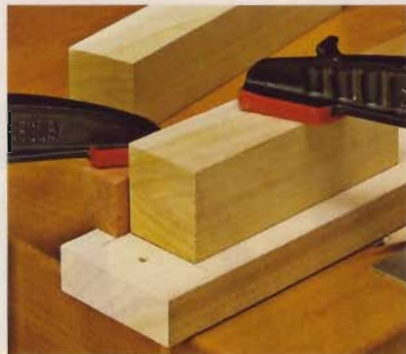
WALL PAINT COLORS: Two-Shelf Version: Benjamin Moore: Fennel Seed (1101); Metallic Glazes & Base Coat (see page 41) Three-Shelf Version: Benjamin Moore: Sage Tint (458)

SQUARING UP A GLUED-UP BLANK

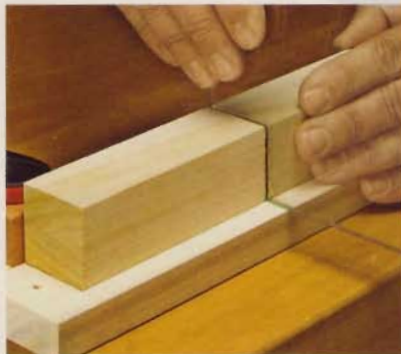


To square up the blank for the support blocks, set either one of the overhanging edges against the rip fence, and trim the opposite edge (*left*). Then flip the blank, and trim it to final width (*right*).

1] Mark a line to accurately position the upper shelf support. A scrap clamped to the mounting plate aligns the blocks vertically.



2] Set the upper block against the scrap, align it to the mark, and glue it in place.



3] Use the glass shelves as spacers to locate the middle and lower supports.

the middle support is 3" longer than the other two. Note that the three-shelf version has two middle supports.


At this point, you're ready to glue the shelf supports to the mounting plates. For appearance (and to prevent the shelves from binding), the supports must align both vertically *and* from one standard to another. The tips in *Figures 1 and 2* above help accomplish that.

The alignment of the shelf supports is important, but it's the spacing between them that's critical. The goal is to get a snug fit. Of course, if it's too tight, the shelves won't fit. Too loose, and the shelves will wobble. For a perfect fit, use the glass shelves as spacers when positioning the blocks (*Fig. 3*).

Install Shelves—After applying a stain (*below*), it's time to install the



Transform the pale color of poplar (*left*) into the warm look of walnut (*right*) with an easy-to-use stain (*below*).

shelves. To help secure them, apply a dab of silicone to the back edge of each shelf where it will contact the standards. Then, working on a flat surface, wiggle the shelves into place. Finally, mount the standards to the wall. 

—Written by Tim Robertson, illustrated by Kurt Schultz, project designed by James R. Downing

STAINING POPLAR

Poplar can be tricky to stain because it has a tendency to blotch. And the dark-colored stain we used would make that even more conspicuous.

To minimize the blotching, sand the surface using progressively finer grits of sandpaper (120- to 220-grit).

Another trick to reduce blotching is to use a gel stain (*Figs. 1 and 2*). It's thicker than other stains, so it won't penetrate the wood fibers as deeply. That results in a more uniform color.



1] Apply a liberal amount of gel stain with a cloth, keeping it out of the slots between the supports.



2] After wiping off the excess, use a "dry" foam brush to remove any built-up stain in the corners.

'07



top 10 innovations

Innovation is change coupled with improvement. And in this space, we have rewarded innovative tools for six years now.

But it's time to make a change of our own. And an improvement.

For the first time, the *Workbench* Top 10 Innovations Awards will include products as well as tools.

Quite frankly, we've been just overwhelmed by the cutting edge products we've seen at building and remodeling shows. And we can't, in good conscience, continue to look past those products in our search for something that can be narrowly defined as a tool.

In the end, although it made it much more difficult to pare the list down to only ten, we feel including non-tool products makes this the best list, or at least the most innovative, we've offered to date.



Black & Decker Alligator Lopper

MOST PEOPLE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T own chainsaws. It's not a tool you just pick up and learn how to use. Chainsaws require instruction. They're potentially dangerous tools. Unfortunately, grooming a yard sometimes involves something more than a conventional lopper or a pair of hedge shears can handle.

At times like this, the Alligator Lopper from Black & Decker proves its worth. This lopper/chainsaw hybrid is almost foolproof to operate. If you can use a pair of scissors, the Alligator shouldn't be a problem. Just squeeze the triggers (one on each handle to ensure both hands are in a safe place), open the jaws, and then close them on the branch that needs pruning. The chainsaw blade does the work. And the serrated edge of the Alligator's jaw helps prevent kickback. Any branch 4" or less is fair game. An ejection port near the handles makes sure the wood chips don't clog the blade.

The Black & Decker Alligator Lopper sells for about \$100 at a variety of retailers. Visit BlackAndDecker.com or call 800-544-6986 for more information.

Evolution Rage Circular Saw

IT ISN'T OFTEN THAT I feel as though I've been swept into an infomercial, but my most recent trip to the International Hardware Show was just like that. It was during this show that I encountered the Evolution Rage circular saw in action for the first time. As I stood there watching the saw cut through everything placed in its path, I thought for sure there must be some trick to it.

How could one saw, using the same blade, cut through plastic, wood, and even mild steel without slowing down? There were no sparks, and the steel was cool to the touch immediately after being cut.

Had to be a trick.

But it wasn't. I purchased a Rage circular saw a few days later and began some testing of my own. I discovered in short order that it did everything its makers claimed.

As it turns out, a combination of high-grade carbide, unique tooth geometry, and a motor geared for power over speed combine to give the Rage the cutting power to slice effortlessly through ferrous and non-ferrous metals, wood, plastic, and just about anything else it runs into.

Surprisingly, the saw sells for about \$150, which is what you'd expect to pay for premium saws that are largely



limited to cutting wood. Spare blades are available for the equally reasonable price of just \$25 each.

For more information, or to order a Rage circular saw, visit EvolutionRage.com or call 866-386-8665.





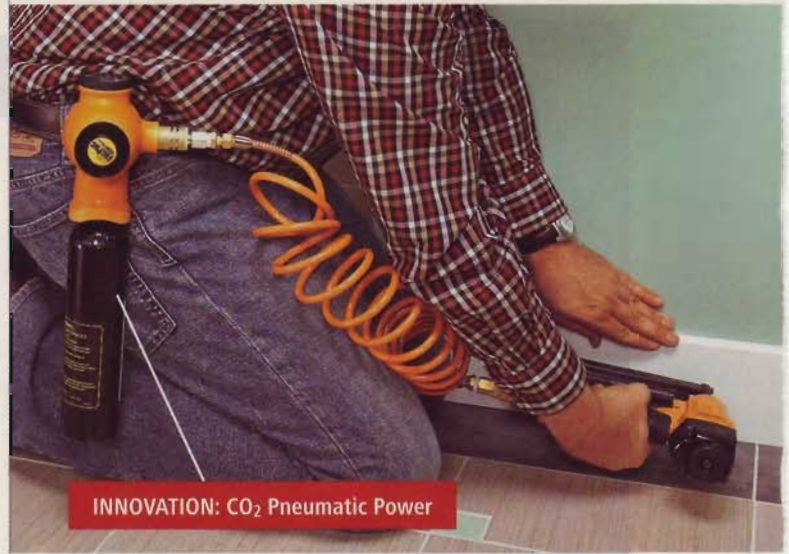
JacPac

WHOEVER COINED THE PHRASE “light as air” never hauled a twin-stack air compressor to the second floor. Believe me, it really is the ungainliness of even allegedly “portable” air compressors that have kept pneumatic nailers from replacing hammers entirely.

But with the advent of the JacPac CO₂ Power System, the inevitable extinction of the hammer may be at hand.

At the heart of the JacPac system is a patented regulator that links just about any pneumatic hand tool to a CO₂ canister (the same type used to power paintball guns).

A 9-ounce cylinder of CO₂ provides enough air power to drive up to 500 18-gauge brad nails. A refill on this



INNOVATION: CO₂ Pneumatic Power

size canister will cost you less than \$4. Our JacPac kit included a combination brad nailer/stapler, one 9-ounce CO₂ cylinder, a 10-foot flexible hose, and the regulator. Suggested retail for this kit is around \$180. A kit without the nailer/stapler is available for approximately \$130.

For additional information on the JacPac, including a video of the tool in action, visit JacPacCO2.com. You can also call 800-567-0864 to find out more.

INNOVATION: Bolt-together Balustrade



Fusion Balustrading System

FOR BETTER OR WORSE, the stairway in many newer two-story homes tends to be positioned immediately inside the front door. It's often the first thing your guests see as they enter your house.

This means your stair railing, or balustrade, should be as attractive as it is functional. Unfortunately, most “builder-grade” balustrades are uninspired and bland. But to replace a balustrade, with all its intricate cuts and angles, requires skill beyond most DIYers. Unless, of course, you use the Fusion Balustrading system.

This unique collection of wood and metal railing components makes crafting an elegant balustrade as simple as assembling an erector set.

For now, the metal connectors are available in chrome and brass. You can combine those with prefinished hemlock or oak components to create the best balustrade for your décor. Additional metal finishes and wood species are in the works, according to a company spokesperson.

You'll pay about 25% more for a Fusion balustrade than a conventional system. For additional information about Fusion, contact their exclusive American distributor by calling 800-638-4200 or check out the company's website at AmericanWoodMouldings.com.



Antex Pipemaster Soldering Tool

WHILE I DON'T HAVE the statistics to prove it, I suspect many homeowners draw the line on DIY projects at: If it involves an open flame in close proximity to combustible parts of my house, I'm calling a professional.

Thus, most DIYers shy away from sweat-soldering copper plumbing together.

Thanks to a new product from Antex Electronics, however, soldering is as safe and simple as using a pair of pliers.

The Antex Pipemaster is an alternative to conventional, open-flame torches for soldering plumbing components. It uses two heating elements to apply heat directly to the pipe. Different size elements accommodate pipe



INNOVATION: Flame-free Soldering

and fittings from $\frac{3}{8}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ ". It takes about three to four minutes for the Pipemaster to heat the pipe to the point where solder will melt and run into the fitting.

The Pipemaster is available through Netbridge Industries at NetbridgeOnline.com or by calling 877-299-7366. A basic kit includes the Pipemaster and $\frac{1}{2}$ " elements for about \$120. Additional elements are available for around \$20 per set.

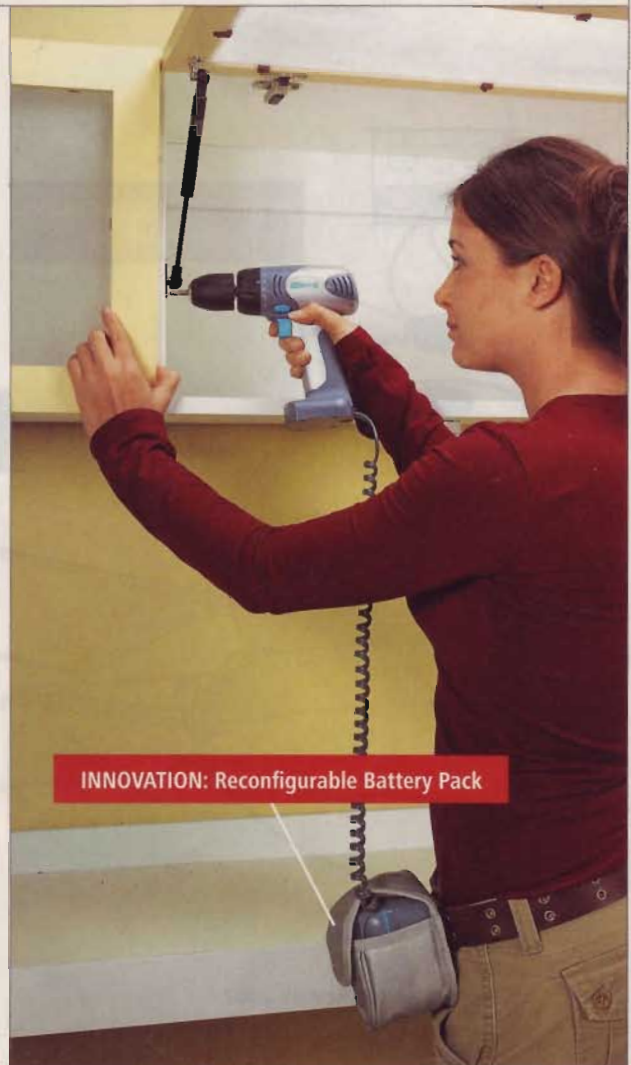


Barbara K Power-Lite Cordless Drill

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN TOOLS "for men" and tools "for women" is sometimes blurry. But one tool that truly demonstrates an understanding of the differences between the way men and women use tools is the Power-Lite Cordless Drill from Barbara K Tools.

Fundamentally, this is a 12-volt drill that is as convenient and capable as any other consumer-grade model. What makes this drill unique and innovative is a detachable battery. This simple alteration allows the user to shift the heaviest part of the tool — the NiCad battery — from their hand to their hip. The battery can also be connected directly to the drill.

The Power-Lite drill sells for about \$40. Call 800-803-5657 or visit BarbaraK.com or for more information.



INNOVATION: Reconfigurable Battery Pack

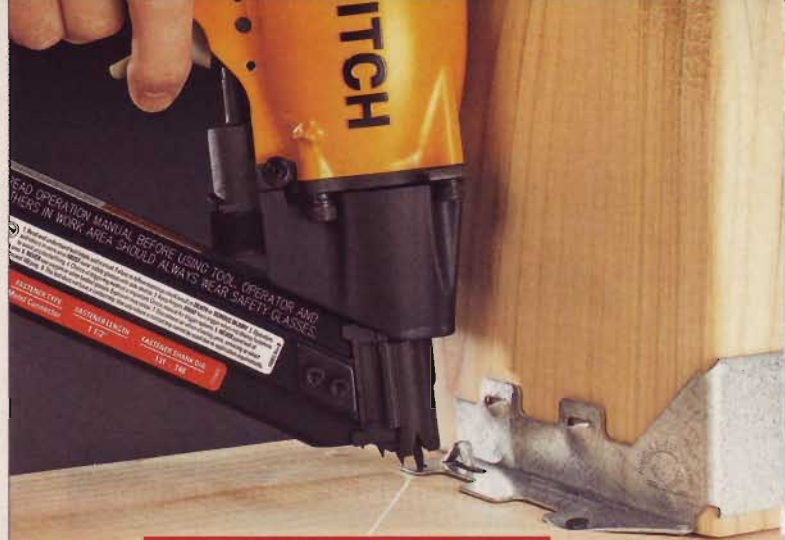


Bostitch StrapShot

METAL FASTENERS, SUCH AS joist hangers, rafter ties, and hurricane ties, bring great strength and simplicity to modern construction. But they can also slow the construction process down because they usually require hand nailing. That's because typical framing nailers don't allow you to accurately align the nail with the small holes in a metal fastener.

The new StrapShot Nailer from Bostitch changes that. This compact nailer is designed specifically for mounting metal fasteners.

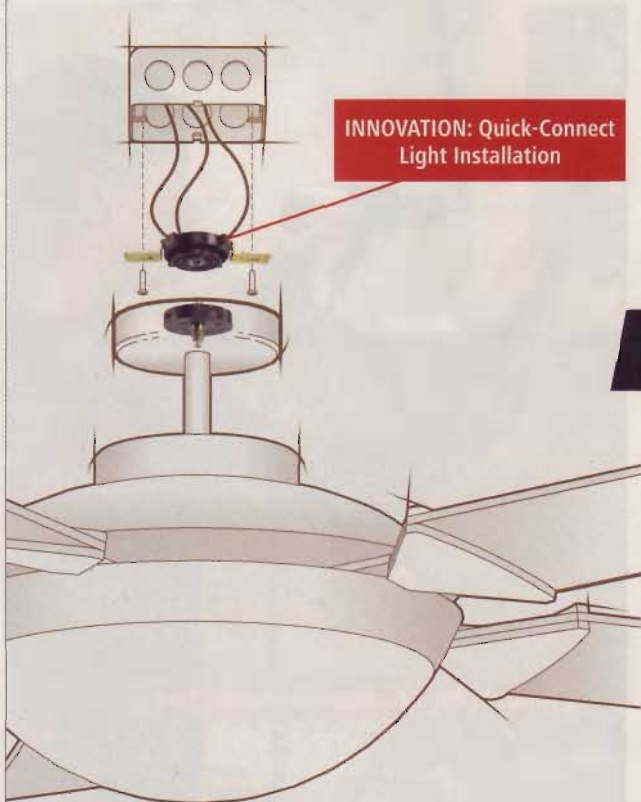
What sets the StrapShot apart from conventional nailers is the absence of a bulky tip on the nose of the nailer. It's



INNOVATION: Precise Nail Placement

this tip on most framing nailers that makes precision so elusive. The StrapShot has an open nose design that lets the nail point protrude slightly. So precise placement is as simple as putting the point of the nail right where you want it and pulling the trigger.

The StrapShot (model MCN150) sells for around \$260 and is available online and at many specialty tool retailers. Visit Bostitch.com or call 800-556-6696.



INNOVATION: Quick-Connect Light Installation



Safety Quick Light

THE SAFETY QUICK LIGHT is an ingenious two-piece device that provides both the *electrical* and *mechanical* connection for ceiling- or wall-mounted light fixtures. The Safety Quick Light consists of a female receptacle, which installs into any 4" electrical outlet box, and a male plug, which comes already installed on the light fixture. Once the female receptacle is connected to the electrical supply and mounted in the outlet box, you simply snap the light fixture into place. No additional wiring is necessary.

Safety Quick Light fixtures are available at Home Depot under the Hampton Bay Brand and marketed as "Fast Attach." For additional information, call 770-754-4711 or visit SafetyQuickLight.com.



Irwin XP One-handed Bar Clamps

FOR YEARS, QUICK-ADJUSTING clamps have offered a compromise between convenience and clamping pressure. These clamps work fine where fast assembly and disassembly are more important than exerting any real force on a joint. But when the integrity of the joint is paramount, it has always been better to use bar or pipe clamps. Now Irwin Industrial Tools has introduced a new quick-adjusting clamp that exerts enough power for even the most demanding projects.

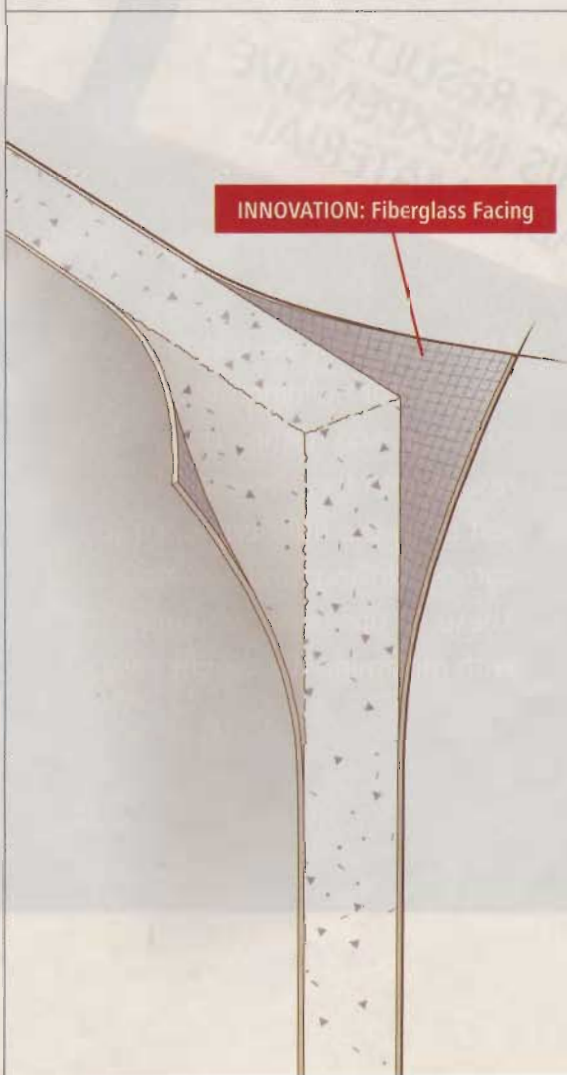
This is thanks in large part to an internal power-lock system that enables the user to exert as much as 550 pounds of clamping pressure with one hand, or twice as much as earlier models. A new I-beam style bar supports



the increased pressure without bowing or twisting, and larger pads distribute the force more evenly.

Of course, the clamp still has all the convenient features that made it so popular to begin with, including rapid adjustment and a quick-release trigger.

The new XP models are available in lengths from 6" to 50" and range in price from \$25 to \$60. Visit Irwin.com or call 800-464-7946 for more information.




GP DensArmor Paperless Drywall

MOLD CANNOT LIVE ON cheese alone — seems it likes to eat paper, too. Which may explain why experts estimate that 70 percent of homes may have mold in the wall cavities: The mold is fattening up on the paper facings that have been standard fare on drywall for years.

One way to stop the spread of mold is to stop feeding it. Which is precisely what Georgia Pacific has in mind with its new DensArmor Plus Paperless Interior Wallboard.

This new generation of drywall substitutes fiberglass facings for the traditional paper facings, effectively eliminating a potential food source for mold. That makes this new drywall ideal for use in areas prone to moisture (another favorite feature of mold colonies), such as kitchens, bathrooms, and basements.

On the other hand, there's no reason you can't (or wouldn't) use DensArmor throughout an entire home. It installs the same as conventional drywall and would add just over \$1,000 to the cost of building a new 2,300-square-foot home. To find out more about DensArmor Plus, visit GP.com/build or call 800-284-5347. 

—Written by Bill Link, illustrations by Matt Scott



melamine

GET GREAT RESULTS
WITH THIS INEXPENSIVE
& DURABLE MATERIAL

Melamine is the perfect material for building utility cabinets. And getting good results with this sheet stock just takes the right approach to cutting, drilling, and assembly. These 12 tips make working with melamine downright easy.



To make straight cuts, guide the circular saw with a straightedge. A setup block makes it simple to position your straightedge the proper distance from the cutline.



The setup block matches the distance from the blade to the edge of the base.

12 TIPS FOR WORKING WITH MELAMINE

When it comes time to build your next set of utility cabinets (like the laundry center on page 52), it's worth giving melamine a closer look. The material couldn't be more basic: It's just particleboard with a plastic resin coating on both faces. That gives melamine attributes that other cabinet-building materials lack: It's inexpensive, durable, requires no paint or finish, and is readily available at any home center.

Melamine is also easy to work with. But it does present some challenges that require specific techniques. The tips that follow will ensure great results, no matter what the project.

1 Forget the Table Saw. Despite its many advantages, melamine does have one drawback—the sheets weigh about 90 pounds apiece, so cutting them on a table saw by yourself is darn near impossible. A better option is to break down the sheets into smaller parts with a circular saw (*Photo, left*). A pair of sawhorses is all you need to position the sheet at a comfortable height.

2 Pick the Right Blade. The blade that comes on most circular

saws is made for rough cuts in dimensional lumber. And while it's fine for these cuts, it can chip melamine badly.

Luckily, you can convert your circular saw into a smooth-cutting tool. Just buy a 140-tooth plywood-cutting blade like the one shown below. I picked this one up at the home center for \$5. Each tooth is very small, so it takes a small “bite” out of the material, which results in less chipout. These blades do dull quickly, however, so buy a handful of them if you have a large melamine project.

3 Tape the Cutline. Another way to get a smooth, chip-free cut is to run a strip of masking tape along the cutline. Masking tape holds the surface of melamine together, which further prevents tearout.

4 A Simple Straightedge. Of course, you'll still need a way to guide the circular saw in a straight line as you cut. A lot of fancy straightedges are available for this purpose, but I like the simple approach: Just buy a sheet of 1/4" hardboard (available at the home center) and cut a strip that's about 8" wide from one edge.

Using the “factory” edge of this strip to guide the base of the saw assures that the saw will travel in a straight line. To position the straightedge the correct distance from the cutline, make a simple setup block from scrap wood (*Photos, above*).

5 Support the Sheet. It's important to support the sheet of melamine on both sides of the cutline. If it isn't fully supported, the cut portion of the sheet will fall away, causing a ragged tear.

For the setup shown at left, sawhorses are sufficient to keep the piece supported. But if you were cutting *across* the sheet instead, you'd want to prop the sheet up on a pair of 2x4s to prevent it from falling.

6 Try a Router. Another option for getting a smooth, chip-free cut in melamine is to cut the panel about 1/8" larger than you need it with the circular saw, and then trim it to final



Nothing can produce a smoother, cleaner edge on a sheet of melamine than a router and a straight bit.

size with a handheld router equipped with a straight bit (*Photo, above*). This process requires an extra step, but a router produces an exceptionally clean edge with virtually no chipout.

To produce clean cuts in melamine, try this inexpensive plywood-cutting blade. Its 140 teeth take small bites to reduce chipout.



MORE MELAMINE TIPS: DRILLING & ASSEMBLING

Once you have all your melamine parts cut to size as smoothly as possible, it still takes a few additional steps to transform those parts into sturdy cabinets. The tips below explain the best practices for drilling holes for fasteners and then assembling all of these melamine parts.

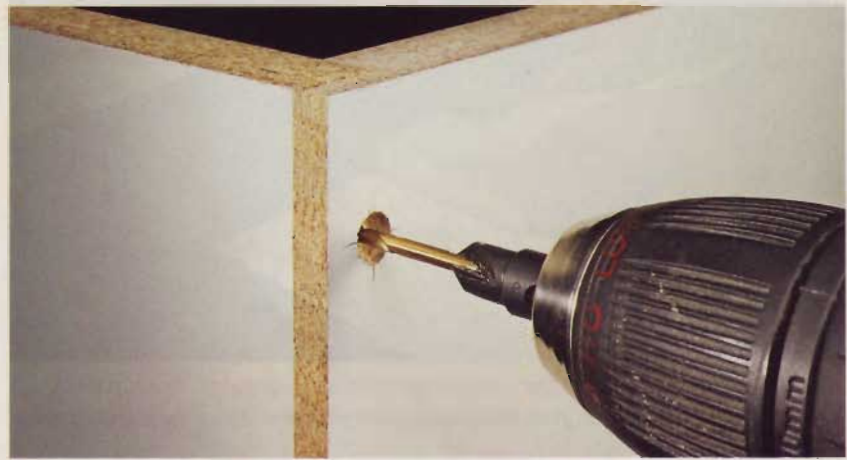
7 Pre-drill for Screws. When you're assembling melamine parts, the particleboard core has a tendency to split when you drive screws into the edges. But there's an easy way to avoid this headache: Just pre-drill pilot holes for the screws.

A great tool for drilling these pilot holes is a combination pilot hole/countersink bit (*Photo, above right*). This bit does two things in one operation: It pre-drills a pilot hole to accept the screw shank, and it creates a "countersink" that's sized to accept the screw head. When you drive the screw, the countersink allows the screw head to sit below the surface of the melamine.

8 Use the Right Glue. Along with screws, you'll want to assemble your melamine cases with glue to ensure rock-solid construction. A few manufacturers make a special melamine glue that offers several advantages over standard glues (*Photo, below*).

First, melamine glue is thick, so it's less likely to run or drip as you assemble the project. It also has a strong initial "tack" (or adhesion) for aligning pieces precisely. Even with this strong tack, though, it still has a long "open" period, which means you have more time (about 10 to 15 minutes) to get all your parts put together before the glue starts to dry.

Melamine glue is thicker than standard glue to prevent runs, and it has a long open time. It's available for \$6.50 a pint through Woodworker's Supply (800-645-9292; Woodworker.com).



To prevent the edges of melamine from splitting, pre-drill pilot holes for screws. This bit drills a pilot hole for the screw shank and a countersink for the screw head.

It even has a white color that dries clear on the melamine surface.

9 Plug the Holes. After you finish assembling your melamine cases, it's a good practice to hide the exposed screw heads. This gives your project a more finished appearance. There are a couple of simple options available for doing this.

The first option is a slightly rounded plastic cap that covers up the screw head. The white color of the cap matches melamine perfectly, and the raised "ribs" on the underside of the cap fit into the screw head to hold the cap in place. (Caps are available to fit either square-drive or Phillips-head screws.)

The second option is a self-adhesive sticker. Just peel it off, and stick it over the hole. Both options (shown in the *Photo* at right) are available from Rockler by calling 800-279-4441 or online at Rockler.com.

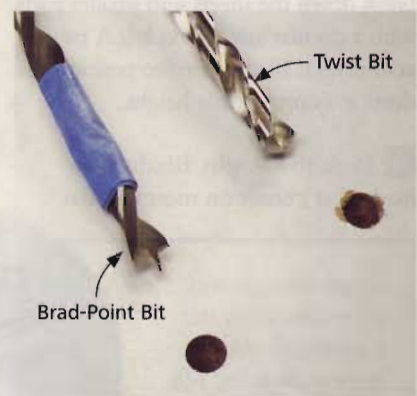
supports), choose a brad-point bit instead. A brad-point bit has cutting spurs on the tip, so it scores an outline of the hole before it begins cutting. This results in a crisp, clean hole. Plus, the brad-point bit also has a center spur, which makes it less likely than a twist bit to "wander" off the center point as you begin drilling.



Exposed holes can be covered with either plastic caps that lock into the screw heads or self-adhesive "stickers."

10 Pick the Right Point. Chipout isn't only a risk when you're cutting melamine. It can also occur when drilling holes in it, especially if you use a standard "twist bit" (*Photo, right*). This type of bit pulls material upward as it turns, which can cause the plastic coating around the hole to peel away.

If you need to drill a hole that won't be covered up (such as holes for adjustable shelf



While standard twist bits can chip the plastic coating, brad-point bits score the surface to produce cleaner holes.



Melamine edgebanding comes pre-coated with a heat-activated glue, so you simply iron it onto the exposed edge.

COVERING UP THE EDGES

Although both faces of a sheet of melamine are plastic-coated, the edges are not. So you'll need to cover up those edges for a clean, finished look. This too is a simple process. It just takes a roll of iron-on edgebanding (again, available at home centers), a clothes iron, and a few simple tips.

11 Iron on Edging. The edgebanding for melamine comes in a 25-ft. roll and has heat-activated glue applied to one side. It's a hair wider than $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick melamine, which makes it easy to cover an edge completely. To apply it, you just cut a strip a little longer than

the edge you're going to cover, set it in place, and make a pass over it with a clothes iron on its highest setting (*Photo, left*). The glue will melt and adhere the strip firmly in place.

For a long edge, it helps to hold the edgebanding in place temporarily with a few strips of masking tape. Then just remove the tape as you get close to it with the iron.

12 Trim to Width. After allowing the edgebanding to cool for about five minutes, you need to trim off the extra width, so it aligns flush with the faces. There are a couple of ways to do this. You can use a sanding block with coarse-grit



To use this trimmer, squeeze the spring-loaded sides against the melamine faces, and slide it slowly along the edge.



Where the trimmer won't fit, make a few quick passes with a file (or coarse sandpaper) to remove extra banding.

sandpaper or a sharp chisel. But the best tool is a double-bladed trimmer that removes both edges of the banding at the same time (*Photo, left*). It's available for \$15, again through Rockler. To use it, just squeeze the spring-loaded sides of the trimmer against the faces of the panel, and run the trimmer along the edge.

The only drawback to this trimmer is that it can't cut all the way into corners. Here, you can use a file or coarse-grit sandpaper to touch up the edges (*Photo, above*). After that, you can trim any extra length off the edgebanding with a utility knife, and then apply edgebanding to the adjoining edge of the case.

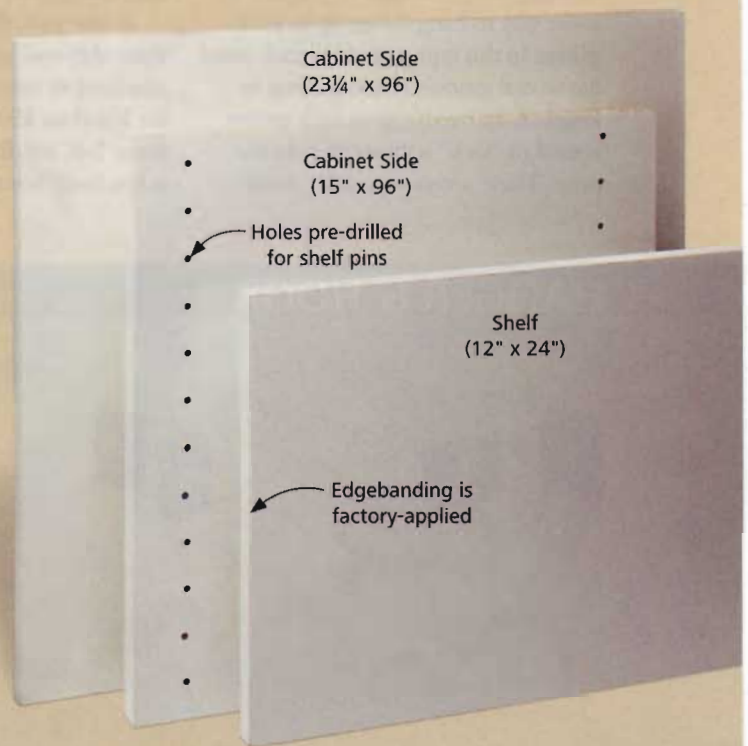
—Written by Wyatt Myers

PRE-CUT MELAMINE PANELS: EXPLORING THE OPTIONS

Most home centers sell melamine in big sheets (49" x 97") that are quite heavy (90 pounds). That makes these sheets hard to load up at the home center and equally difficult to move around in your garage or shop when you get ready to build something.

Luckily, home centers have made it easier to work with melamine by offering panels in a variety of pre-cut lengths and widths, ranging from large case sides (23 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 96") to small shelves (12" x 24"). Some of these panels are even pre-drilled with shelf pin holes, which makes it easier to install adjustable shelving (*Photo, right*). And many come with the edgebanding already applied.

For any project where you need the parts to be customized to fit a particular space, your best bet may be to cut the pieces yourself from larger melamine sheets. But if you can use these already-prepared panels, you'll save yourself a lot of the time and effort it takes to cut, drill, and apply edgebanding to melamine.



AT LAST—AFFORDABLE

Slat-Wall Storage

Get garage clutter off the floor and onto the wall with a sturdy, inexpensive slat-wall hanger system.



These inexpensive slat-wall panels are easy to install, and they accept over 20 different accessories for storing tools, lawn and garden equipment, recreational gear, and other assorted garage items.

When you take a closer look at slat-wall storage systems, it's hard to imagine an easier way to hang things up in your garage. In this type of system, each panel has several grooves running along its length. A lip overhanging each groove is used to "lock" accessories onto the panel. These accessories range from

hooks and hangers to baskets, shelves, and bins (*Photos, below*).

In the past, the only drawback to these slat-wall systems was the cost: It was hard to find a 4-ft. slat-wall panel for less than \$50. But recently, I found these 1-ft. x 4-ft. panels from Suncoast at my local home center for around

\$10 apiece. They're made of a sturdy resin composite, so they hold up well under heavy loads without cracking.

But it's the large variety of accessories that makes this slat-wall system so versatile. They're durable, lock securely in place, and range in price from \$3 to just over \$30.

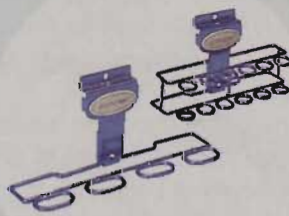
HANGER & HOOK OPTIONS



Hooks
(\$4-\$8)



Loops
(\$7-\$9)



Tool Racks
(\$5)



S-Hooks
(\$4)

Easy Install

The nice thing about this slat-wall system is that you can cover as much, or as little, wall as you'd like depending on your storage needs.

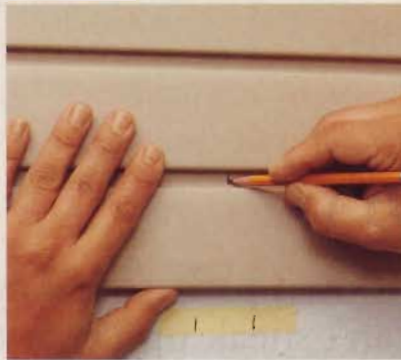
For hanging shovels, rakes, and other long garden tools, you may decide to run a single horizontal row of panels. In this case, they just butt together end to end. Each panel also has a tongue at the top and a groove on the bottom. So if you decide to stack a number of them vertically, they interlock to look like one continuous panel.

Find Wall Studs—Regardless of how you decide to arrange your slat-wall panels, you need to make sure they're mounted securely to bear the weight that will hang on them. So it's critical to install the panels by driving screws into wall studs. See Fig. 1 to locate the studs easily.

You'll want to mark the stud locations in the grooves (specifically, in the top and bottom grooves of each panel). This is a good place to install the screws, as it makes them less visible once the slat-wall is mounted.

Pre-drill Holes—These resin slat-wall panels are sturdy, but they will crack if you drive screws into them without first drilling holes. To prevent this, pre-drill screw holes in each panel.

Shoot for Six—Each slat-wall panel should be mounted with at least six screws. If a panel only rests on two wall studs, you'll want to pre-drill holes in the drywall and install



1] Mark the location of wall studs with masking tape. Then transfer these marks into the grooves of the panel.



2] After pre-drilling mounting holes, move the panel into position, level it, and install it with 2" or longer screws.

hollow-wall anchors for the two additional screws.

Mount Panels—With the holes drilled in the panel, you can move it back onto the wall. Realign the mounting holes with the wall studs, and then attach each panel to the wall as shown in Fig. 2.



To install an accessory, slide it along a groove until you find the right position. Lock it in place with tabs that engage two of the grooves.

BUYER'S GUIDE

Suncast
800-444-3310
Suncast.com

Home Depot
800-553-3199
HomeDepot.com

Lowe's
800-445-6937
Lowes.com

True Value
773-695-5000
TrueValue.com

Menards
800-871-2800
Menards.com

Ace Hardware
866-290-5334
AceHardware.com

BASKET OPTIONS



Sporting Goods Rack
(\$30)



Bins
(\$3)



Baskets
(\$12-\$18)



Shelves
(\$10-\$20)

Tool Report

A nail gun that clears its own path, two ways to sand, a miter saw you can't sneak up on, and a drill bit holder that won't pass airport security.

EXHAUSTIVE NAILING — It's no big news that Hitachi has been tweaking the design of their pneumatic finish nailers — they've always been a leader in this category, and updating designs and capacities is just part of staying on top. But one interesting feature that's showing up on Hitachi nailers bears special mention. See that little red button near the top of the nailer pictured at right? It's an air duster. Just push that button, and you get a blast of air through the nailer's exhaust port (that's the black disk on top of the nailer) that you can use to blow dust and debris out of your way. It has absolutely no impact on the performance of the nailer, other than to add a bonus function. At present, it's available only on the **NT65MA2 15-Gauge Finish Nailer (1)** (pictured here) and the **NT65M2 16-Gauge Finish Nailer**. We hope to see it added to other models as Hitachi continues to update their full line of nailers. It's a small thing, but sometimes that makes all the difference.

SMALL "OUT OF POCKET" JIG — The Kreg Jig became synonymous with "pocket-hole jig" years ago. And yet this persistent little company continues to find new ways to make pocket-hole joinery more affordable and appealing. Case in point is the **R3 Pocket Jig (2)**. For just about \$45, you get this compact jig that adjusts for drilling boards from 1/2" to 1 1/2" thick, along with the required drill and driver bits, stop collar, and a small assortment of screws and wood plugs. It really is the perfect way to get started with this incredibly versatile joinery system. So if you're not familiar with pocket-hole joinery, now's a good time to take a closer look. You can build just about anything using this technique, and now it's as affordable as it is simple. Check out Kreg's website for more information.

ENDLESS SANDING — Revolutionary ideas in sandpaper don't happen often. The last one was about 90 years ago when 3M invented wet/dry sandpaper and changed automotive finishing forever. Now, almost a century later, the next big thing in sandpaper once again comes from 3M. This time, it's a line of nearly indestructible, flexible sanding abrasives called **Sandblaster (3)**. The secret to this sandpaper's long life is a foam-like material that resembles non-slip drawer liner. This material serves as a backer for the coarse-grit sandpapers (80, 120, and 180), but for finer grits (220, 320, and 400), the drawer-liner stuff is the sandpaper. And as it turns out, this makes for incredibly durable and flexible sandpaper. Next time you're shopping for sandpaper, you'll want to give Sandblaster a try and see for yourself how effective it really is. A variety of sanding blocks designed to work with Sandblaster products are also available.

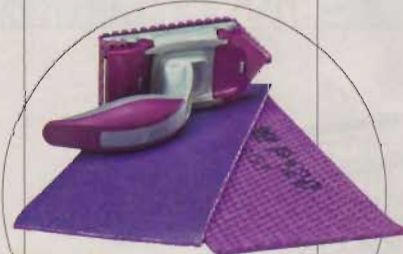
MIXING BAG — I don't think I can describe how to mix concrete using a big yellow nylon



1 Hitachi NT65MA2



2 Kreg R3 Pocket Jig



3 3M Sandblaster



4 CreteSheet

sheet in 1,000 words or less. So I'll just have to say that the **CreteSheet (4)** is one of the most worthwhile homeowner tools I've seen in a long time. It turns the backbreaking work of mixing and hauling concrete into a simple, manageable job. The CreteSheet can be used by one or two people, and besides its concrete uses, it's also a great way to haul rocks or gravel or to mix mulch and topsoil. The best way to understand how the CreteSheet works is to visit the website and watch the video. While you're there, you can order the product directly from the company for about \$20.

A "RIGHT-SIZED" CIRCULAR SAW — The new **Fuego Compact Framing Saw (5)** from Ridgid (model R3203) is everything you need in a circular saw and less — less weight, less size, and less likelihood it will break when you drop it.

At just eight pounds, this is one of the lightest corded framing saws on the market. It also uses a 6½" blade (rather than the typical 7¼" blade). This allowed Ridgid to downsize the saw and give it the "compact" designation without sacrificing any meaningful capacity. The saw can still cut through 2x4 boards, even at a 45° bevel.

To keep weight down, the saw features magnesium blade guards and a composite shoe. These same materials give the saw its resiliency, making it capable of withstanding a one-story drop without breaking. The Fuego sells for about \$140 at Home Depot and comes with two blades and a nylon contractor's bag.

BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED — Campbell Hausfeld's new **6-Volt Cordless Screwdriver (6)** (model DG350000CK) is the perfect little tool for those light-duty screwdriving jobs around the house. It has just the right power and speed for projects like cabinet and drawer knobs, light switch plates and outlet covers, and curtain rods or mini-blinds. And at \$13, you're not spending a bunch of money to have powered, cordless screwdriving convenience.

Campbell Hausfeld can sell the drill/driver at such a low price because you supply the batteries — 4 AA's to be exact. This departure from cordless convention (which generally dictates that cordless tools should include more, bigger, and the most expensive batteries) actually makes a lot of sense. It makes the tool affordable; you don't have to bother with yet another battery charger; and replacement batteries are as near as your junk drawer or neighborhood convenience store.

PAINT EATER — How ironic that a company best known for affordable, effective paint *applicators* (Wagner) now offers an affordable, effective paint *remover*. I suppose it makes sense. After all, removing old, cracking, crumbling paint is the first step to a good paint job. And the new **PaintEater (7)** from Wagner is certainly up to the task.

The PaintEater uses a 3M flex-disc to strip away old paint. The disc has some flexibility to conform to irregular surfaces and also has a coarse, web-like abrasive pattern that removes paint fast without clogging up. Expect to pay about \$100 for a PaintEater. A replacement disc costs about \$16.

BIT CLIP — The **Bosch Self-Feeding Bit Clip (8)** holds 15 titanium Phillips screwdriver bits and looks like a handgun magazine. Why would you not want one of these? You know you're going to need the bits, and if there's a cooler way to organize them, I don't know about it. Look for the Bosch Bit Clip at hardware stores, home centers, and online for about \$15.



5 Ridgid Compact Framing Saw



6 Campbell Hausfeld 6-Volt Screwdriver



7 Wagner PaintEater



8 Bosch Bit Clip

FOR MORE INFO:

Hitachi Pneumatic Nailers
HitachiPowerTools.com
800-706-7337

Kreg Pocket Hole Jigs
KregTools.com
800-447-8638

3M Sandpapers & Abrasives
3M.com
888-364-3577

CreteSheet Concrete Mixer
CreteSheet.com
512-454-5279

Ridgid Circular Saw
Ridgid.com
800-474-3443

Campbell Hausfeld Screwdriver
CHPower.com
800-424-8936

Wagner PaintEater
WagnerSprayTech.com
800-328-8251

Bosch Bit Clip
BoschTools.com
877-267-2499

Skil Miter Saw
SkillTools.com
877-754-5999

Jefferson Tool Nail Extractor
NailExtractor.com
843-556-0455

THE SAW THAT SEES YOU COMING — Skil is back in the miter saw business. The **Skil 3800 (9)** marks the company's return to the category after a nearly decade-long absence. And it's a triumphant return, from what I can see. The new saw is loaded with useful features, including crown molding stops, table extensions, and a vertical clamp. But the "wow" feature is a motion-activated laser cutline indicator. As you approach the saw, a sensor sees you coming



9 Skil
3800 Miter Saw

and turns the laser on. When you're done cutting, just walk away, and the laser turns itself off as well. The saw, with the SmartCut motion-activated laser, sells for about \$180 at hardware stores and home centers.

NAIL PULLER — Hammers were invented to *drive* nails, not pull them.

For pulling nails, try **The Extractor (10)** from Jefferson Tool. It's a specialized plier that can remove nails other tools can't even get ahold of. Serrated jaws grip the nail, and the curved base offers substantial prying power to free stubborn nails. The tool is especially useful for pulling nails through the back of molding pieces to avoid damaging the face of the wood. The Extractor is available through the company's website for about \$25. www.jefferson-tool.com



10 Jefferson Tool
The Extractor



DRIVES 4 SIZES OF NAILS WITH NO EFFORT

■ Comfortable Ergonomic Styling with Cushioned Non-Slip Grip.

■ Trigger and Surface Safety Locks.

■ Non-Marring Bumper.



DRIVES 4 DIFFERENT SIZE BRAD NAILS UP TO 1 1/4" LONG

BOGE POWER 14 AMPS

■ New Heavy Duty Nail Driving Power with Built-in 10' Cord.



Available at home centers, lumber yards and hardware stores, wherever fine tools are sold.



Arrow Fastener Co., Inc., 271 Mayhill Street, Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07663
 Canada: Jardel Distributors, Inc., 6505 Metropolitan Blvd. East, Montreal, Quebec H1P 1X9
 United Kingdom: Arrow Fastener (U.K.) Ltd., Unit 5 2K Park, 23 Commerce Way, Croydon CR0 4ZS, Surrey
www.arrowfastener.com Rev.1002

Product Picks

Whether it requires revitalizing, repair, or replacement, this crop of home products provides some compelling solutions to common problems.

PLIANT POLYURETHANE — Polyurethane repair kits are great for fixing rotten or flawed wood. But the problem with most of these products is their consistency. They tend to be so thick and viscous that filling a gap with them is like stuffing chewing gum into a knot hole. Not so with new **PL Fix (1)** from Henkel Consumer Adhesives.

This two-part epoxy maintains a pudding-like consistency for several minutes after mixing, which lets it flow easily into voids for uniform filling and coverage. It also adheres to most surfaces, including wood and metal, quite readily. Additionally, the epoxy resists sagging, despite its fluid consistency. As it hardens, PL Fix can be shaped and worked to conform to odd shapes. After a few hours, the epoxy will be hard enough to work with power or hand tools. And unlike other two-part epoxies, PL Fix doesn't turn to dust as soon as you touch it with a blade or bit. In fact, it actually responds to tooling much the same way wood does. You can even shave a thin curl of the epoxy using a hand plane, so sanding, drilling, cutting, or carving are all possible.

This unique combination of workability and the natural durability of epoxy make PL Fix a great choice for a variety of household repairs, such as rebuilding rotting exterior trim or repairing broken or damaged furniture. A PL Fix repair kit includes one 250-gram tube of resin and one 65-gram tube of hardener and sells for around \$20.

NOT THE USUAL GRIND — Whatever you can't eat, chance are an **Evolution Series InSinkErator (2)** probably can. The Evolution Series includes five models to accommodate a wide variety of food-disposal needs. The compact model, shown here, is for families that don't cook as much or have restricted cabinet space. At the other end of the spectrum is the powerful Excel model, which has three stages of grinding to reduce all the scrapings of a full holiday meal into so much drain mulch with the flip of a switch. There's even a model designed specifically to work with septic systems by automatically injecting a microorganism to help break down the food waste.

Regardless of which model best suits your needs, they all share some common traits. Most notably is what InSinkErator calls SoundSeal Plus. In layman terms, this is a collection of insulation and anti-vibration components that make the disposers operate extremely quietly. My personal favorite, though, is the in-home parts and labor service warranty that comes with every Evolution model. Anything that keeps me from having to stick my hand down there has to be good. Prices range from \$180 to \$330, depending on the model.

DON'T REFINISH, REVIVE — A typical hardwood floor starts to look a bit down-trodden well before a full refinishing job is due. When that happens, an application of **Minwax Hardwood Floor Reviver (3)** might be just the ticket. This water-based topcoat helps keep an unwaxed, polyurethane-finished hardwood floor looking fresh and can even rejuvenate a slightly damaged floor. Subsequent coats can be applied every three to six months to keep the floor looking its best. Reviver is available in low- and high-gloss sheens



1 Henkel Adhesives
PL Fix



2 InSinkErator
Evolution Compact



3 Minwax
Reviver



4 Thomas' Kitchen Art
Liquid Stainless Steel



and sells for about \$20 for a one-quart bottle. One quart will cover approximately 175 to 225 square feet.

STAINLESS "STEAL" — Can't afford an entire kitchen full of stainless steel appliances? No problem. Just paint the ones you've got with **Thomas' Kitchen Arts Liquid Stainless Steel (4)**. Don't misunderstand — this isn't just silver paint. This is actually stainless steel particles suspended in a liquid polymer. Simply roll it on, "back-brush" it to give it some texture, and then topcoat it. And just that easily, your outdated, olive-drab appliances are fabulous stainless steel — all for about \$100 per appliance.

Liquid Stainless Steel is also great for smaller appliances, and it's a perfect way to breathe new life into accent pieces, like drawer and door pulls. For just \$9, you can order a sample of the Liquid Stainless Steel and try it out for yourself before taking on a big project. Check out the company's website for additional photos or to order samples or kit packs.

GRAND GUTTERS — While I can't validate Englert Inc.'s claim that their new **RainPro (5)** is the "first new design for residential gutters in 50 years," I will agree that the increased capacity and elegant styling of the gutter make it an attractive choice. I know, I know... elegant gutters. But take a look at the *Photo*, and you can see how the gutter integrates well with the architecture. But that's just part of the story. RainPro actually has 12% more water-carrying capacity than typical gutters, which equates to hundreds of gallons on even a small home. It also creates faster flow rates and lessens the chance that your gutters will overflow during heavy rains.

RainPro is a seamless system, so it can only be installed by an approved contractor. To find a contractor in your area, call the toll-free number or visit the company's website.



5 Englert, Inc. RainPro Gutter



6 Sherwin Williams VinylSafe Paint

New Bench Dog Products

PB WOODWORKER

ProMAX Complete Router Table

STOCK NO. 40-087

ProMAX Complete Router Table comes with ProMAX cast iron router table (#40-031), ProMAX End Cap (#40-044), ProMAX Professional Cabinet (#40-074).



- ▶ Only full-size cast iron router table in the marketplace.
- ▶ Integrated router bit storage with pull-out shelves.
- ▶ Drawer option with full extension ball bearing slides.
- ▶ Fence and cabinet made in USA.
- ▶ Unique cubby for storing your routers.
- ▶ Router table includes award-winning 28" ProFence.
- ▶ Bolt and cross dowel construction and steel hardware for the ultimate in strength.
- ▶ Includes 4" dust port.
- ▶ Components available separately.
- ▶ Curved side panels for better ergonomics.
- ▶ Solid Baltic birch panel construction.
- ▶ Table size: 27" x 20", height: 35 1/2".

ProMAX Complete Router Table shown with optional Cab-Loc mobile base. No ProMAX products include Cab-Loc mobile base.

PROMAX PROFESSIONAL CABINET FEATURES



Center router bay allows easy access and great dust collection.



Pull-out router bit storage is fast and convenient.



Lower cubby is perfect for spare router storage.



Comes with 4" dust port.



ProMAX Complete Router Table shown with the following options: Cab-loc mobile base (#40-008), Door Pack (#40-084) and Drawer Pack (#40-083)

PB WOODWORKER

PRO-BENCH Premium Workbenches

PRO-BENCH models below are shown with the following options: Cab-loc mobile base (#40-008), Door Pack (#40-084), Drawer Pack (#40-083)

- ▶ Unfinished sycamore top
- ▶ More stable and easier to flatten than maple
- ▶ Hi-lo storage shelves
- ▶ Rear storage area for tools and clamps
- ▶ Cabinet-style base
- ▶ Mobile base ready
- ▶ Front row bench dog holes
- ▶ Premium vises

CABINET OPTIONS Compatible with both ProMAX Professional Cabinets and PRO-BENCH Cabinets.



DOOR PACK #40-084



DRAWER PACK #40-083



CAB-LOC #40-008



50" MODEL STOCK NO. 40-085

PRO-BENCH 50" Model includes 50" Top (#40-088), 3" Cabinet (#40-089), and two Standard vises (40-090). Note: Optional Quick release vise is also available for this model.



72" MODEL

STOCK NO. 40-086 PRO-BENCH 72" Model includes 72" Top (#40-092), 4" Cabinet (#40-093), Quick release vise (#40-091), and Standard vise (#40-090).

MADE IN USA



For more product information visit our website at

www.benchdog.com



VINYL-SAFE PAINT — As vinyl siding nears its 50th birthday, many first-generation vinyl siding installations are starting to look a bit weathered. Fortunately, there is now a dependable way to breathe new life into old siding. Sherwin-Williams has formulated two of their most popular exterior paint lines with **VinylSafe Color Technology (6)**. In short, you can now paint vinyl siding any color you want without the risk of warping or buckling, which has long been a problem when trying to use a dark paint on a lighter siding.

Both SuperPaint and Duration lines include the new vinyl-friendly chemistry. To locate a Sherwin-Williams dealer in your area, contact the company at their toll-free number or their website.

ELECTRIC CANDLES — If you don't think of LED lighting as being warm and inviting, these new **Aurette LED Candles (7)** from Phillips Lighting may change your opinion. The "candles" combine rechargeable, long-lasting LED light with the flicker of real candles in frosted glass vases. These are a great alternative to low-voltage outdoor lights, which aren't portable, and even regular candles, which come with fumes and messy wax.

The Aurelle LED candles sell individually for about \$15 or in a variety of combination kits that cost as much as \$200.



7 Aurelle LED Candles

FOR MORE INFO:

Henkel Adhesives PL Fix
StickWithPL.com
800-999-8920

InSinkErator Disposers
InSinkErator.com
800-558-5700

Minwax Reviver
Minwax.com
800-523-9299

Thomas' Liquid Stainless Steel
LiquidStainlessSteel.com
800-650-5699

Englert Inc. RainPro
RainProGutters.com
877-777-6488

Sherwin-Williams VinylSafe
Sherwin-Williams.com
800-474-3794

Philips Aurelle Lights
Lighting.Philips.com
800-555-0050

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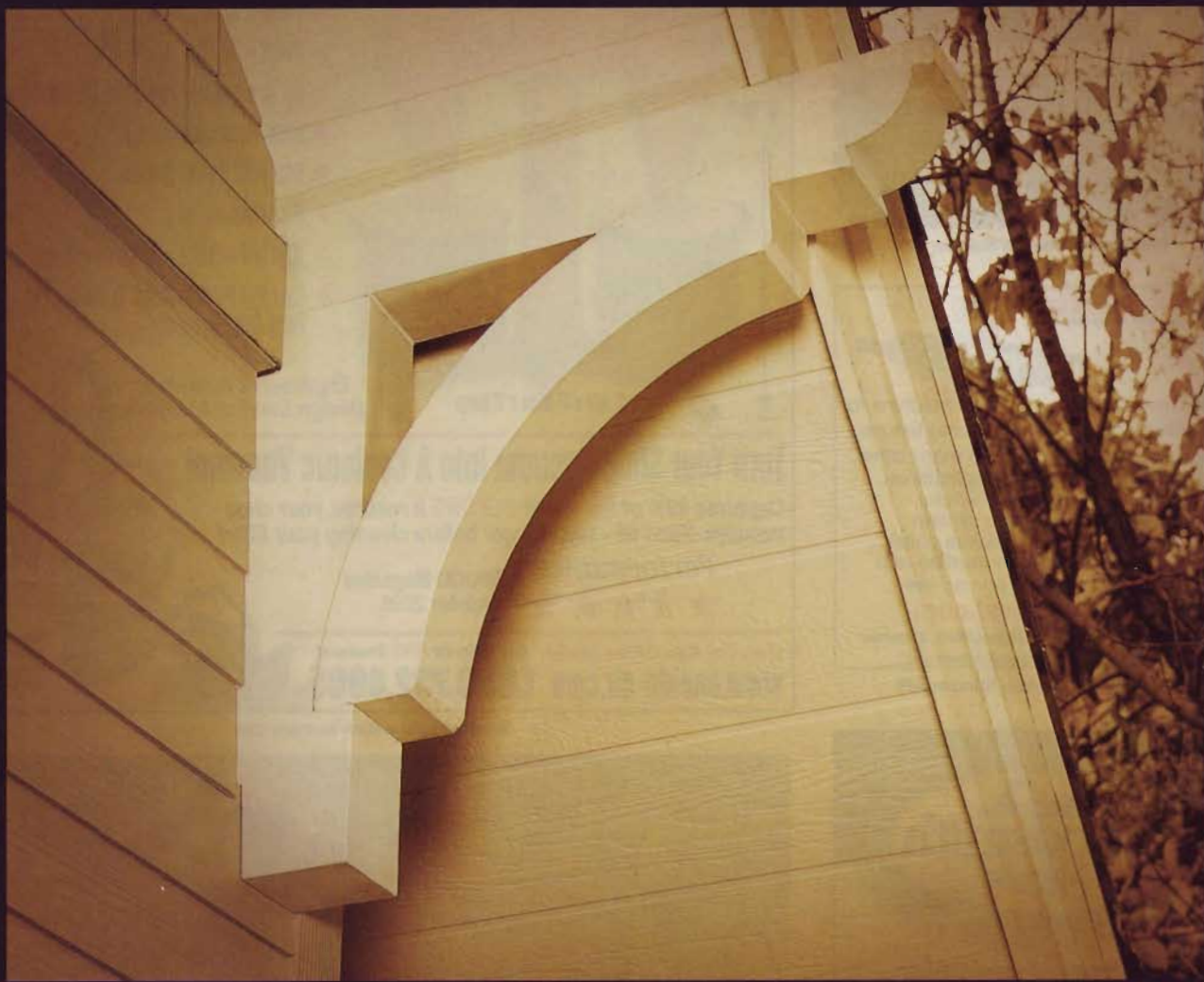
Enter daily online at www.rockler.com/powermatic or visit a Rockler Woodworking and Hardware store near you. To call the store nearest you, dial 1-877-ROCKLER



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Code 722

*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. Open and offered to legal residents of the 50 U.S. and DC, except FL, who are age 18 or older at time of entry. Void in FL and where prohibited by law. Sweepstakes starts at 12:00:01 AM CT on 9/26/06 and ends at 11:59:59 PM CT on 4/30/07. Subject to full Official Rules, available at www.rockler.com/powermatic. Sponsor: Rockler Companies, Inc., Medina, MN 55340.



KNEE BRACE

A widely overhanging roof helps define homes built in the Arts & Crafts and Bungalow styles. Of equal importance is the structure that supports this wide overhang: The knee brace.

Like the homes that they adorn, knee braces are seen in a wide variety of styles. Some are plain and utilitarian, while others are elegantly embellished.

This knee brace falls in between, with substantial legs and a subtle beaded profile at the outer end. An elegantly arched crossmember spans between the legs, adding a lot of style and a great deal of strength to keep those overhangs standing straight and proud.