

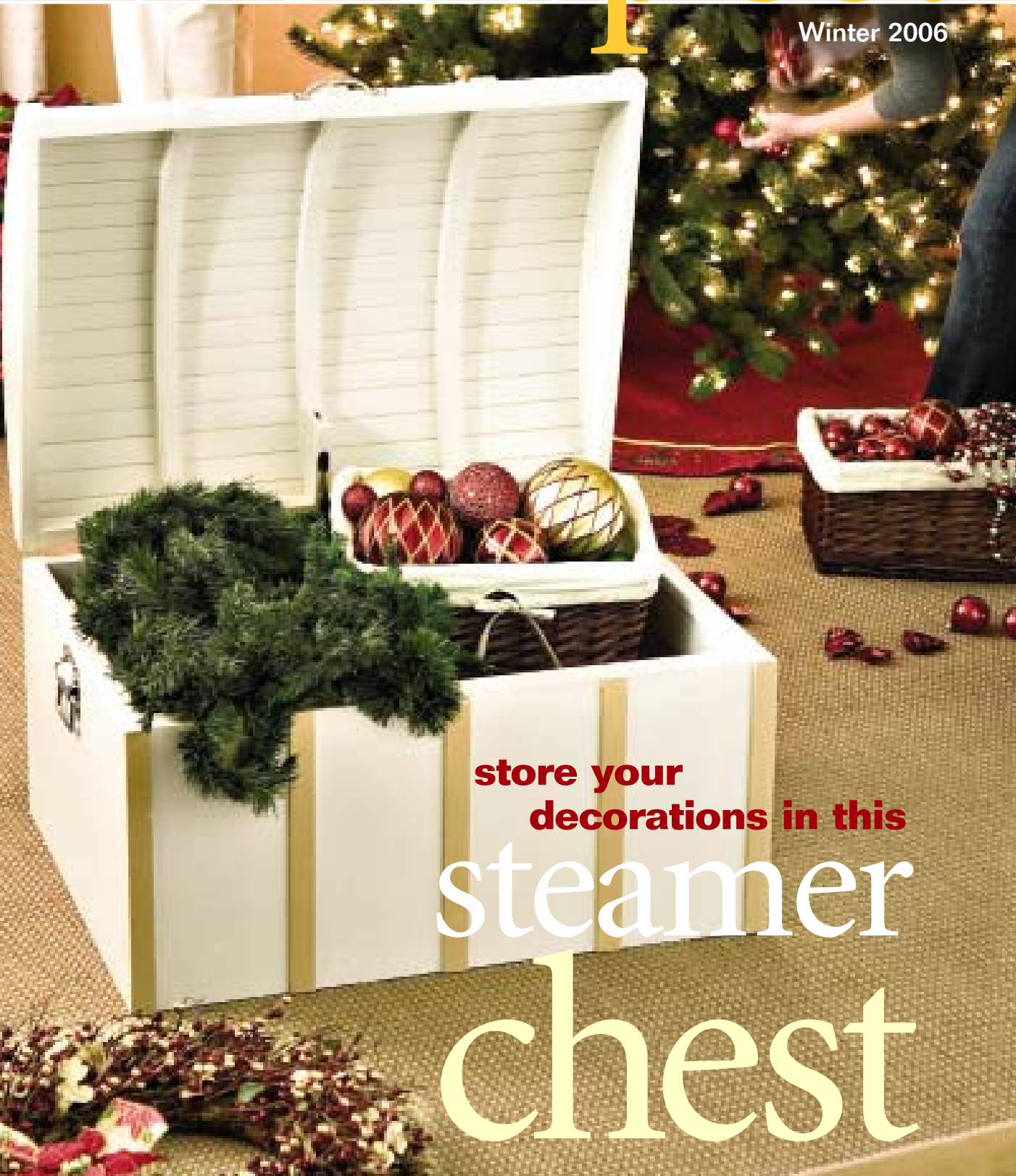


the

An Exclusive Lowe's
Woodworkers Publication

woodpost

Winter 2006



**store your
decorations in this**

**steamer
chest**

From Our Shop

It's that time of year, when we're feeling that there's no place like being home for the holidays—and appreciating what it means to have family members near at the end of the year. In this issue, we've included new projects to bring style and function to your home, as well as timesaving ideas to help you get ready.

Hosey Hutson, who creates our projects, put his experience in woodworking and design to good use for this issue by making plans that are simple to build, yet offer amazing finished pieces. You'll hear more about Hosey and the other people who craft our projects in the next issue.

Speaking of our projects, the unique bath pantry in this issue provides a great storage solution while adding style and personality to that space. Our steamer chest makes for another clever storage idea with its old-world charm. It can house either your Christmas decorations or extra blankets to keep you and your guests warm on cold nights. And our tool guide will save you time when using power tools such as your circular saw and router.

Of course, this is also gift-giving season, so we've given you ideas for tools to put on your list to help round out your workshop. Whether you're buying your first power tool or are looking to trade up, you will appreciate our Shop Smart section, a great guide for satisfying your woodworking needs and wants.

We'd love to hear about any projects you create from this and past issues of *The Wood Post*. Please send your comments and suggestions when you visit us online at Lowe.com/Woodworkers. There you also can register to receive monthly e-newsletters for more projects, tips, and great ideas for woodworking applications.

Also, look for new features coming in 2007. We will be bringing you exciting new photography and ideas, plus we'll be providing a place online for you to access all of our projects from the past few years.



Melissa Birdsong
Vice President, Trend, Design & Brand
Lowe's Companies, Inc.

P.S. Tell us about your projects or how you became interested in woodworking. Send your responses c/o Sandy Culver, P.O. Box 523, Birmingham, AL 35201. **If we profile you in an upcoming issue of *The Wood Post*, you'll receive a free Hitachi 14.4-volt 3/8-inch cordless drill/driver kit.**



PHOTO: JOHN O'HAGAN/SPC

FREE TO MEMBERS!

As a member of Lowe's Woodworkers, you're entitled to a free woodworking plan with each issue of *The Wood Post*. Try our plan for this tool chest (shown at left). It's available online until March 1, 2007, at Lowe.com/FreePlan.

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Let us hear from you!

We'd like to know what you think of this newsletter. Please log on to Lowe.com/WWsurvey to fill out a quick survey, and have a chance to win a \$200 Lowe's gift card. Hurry, the survey ends December 1.

the pros know

Q&A With the Experts at



Let's Build Something Together™

I'm just getting started in woodworking. With what power tools should I begin?

A: Let this be fair warning that a bite from the woodworking bug lasts a lifetime, and you will never exhaust the list of goodies you want for your shop. Power tools can help you work quickly and accurately. For handheld portables, start with a circular saw and a cordless drill. Invest in quality for these, because you'll use them often. In a circular saw, look for ball-bearing construction, a 15-amp motor, and a 7/8-inch blade. A cordless drill will earn its keep faster than any other power tool. Most 12-volt models provide a good balance between power and lightweight utility for general woodworking. For carpentry or heavy usage, you might want to consider an 18-volt drill. Other tools you are likely to want soon include a router (at least 1.5 horsepower, with 1/4- and 1/2-inch collets), a jigsaw (for cutting curves), and a random-orbit finishing sander. This package of power tools will let you put professional touches on your projects.

Soon, you'll also want bench-top or stationary tools. Start with a 10-inch table saw, which is probably the most versatile machine you can own. A compound miter saw—sliding or pivot-arm—makes precise end cuts in lumber and moulding. Finally, a drill press will provide accuracy and speed. Splurge on the table saw if you can, because it will be the workhorse of your shop. And did we mention clamps? You'll want to buy lots and lots of clamps. See Shop Smart on page 12 for more on tools. Have fun shopping!

What type of glue is best to use for woodworking projects? Can I use the same glue in everything I build?

A: Most woodworking glues could be described as "general purpose" adhesives, but that doesn't mean they are ideal for every project or application. Even the basic yellow woodworker's glue, which is made of aliphatic resin, is available in different varieties. Titebond, for example, manufactures three types of yellow glue—one is recommended for interior use, while the other two are formulated to be weather resistant and waterproof. Such ready-to-use glues dry in a reasonable amount of time, are relatively inexpensive, and have a good shelf life. They'll probably handle most of your projects.

Other adhesives are designed to provide better performance, but there are trade-offs. Epoxy (two-part) adhesives are incredibly



strong and waterproof, and they fill gaps well. They also will bond materials that are dissimilar or nonporous, such as metal and wood. However, epoxies do require mixing, and they can be difficult to clean from surfaces. Two more key drawbacks—higher cost and noxious fumes—often relegate epoxies to spot gluing where

high strength is required. Another good choice for attaching wood assemblies or mixed materials is polyurethane glue, such as Sumo Glue, which requires no mixing. Under the right conditions it provides a waterproof bond. Once cured, excess glue can be easily scraped and sanded, and it will not interfere with a finish. Like epoxy, however, polyurethane glue costs more than yellow glue and emits harmful fumes until cured. Shelf life can be as little as six months after opening, so it's best to buy container sizes that you can use relatively quickly.

Are eyeglasses enough protection in the shop?

A: No. Your prescription eyeglasses aren't designed or intended to be used for eye protection. Modern safety glasses feature lenses made of polycarbonate, which is the same tough and flexible plastic used to create laminated bullet-proof glass. Even the impact- or scratch-resistant lenses on conventional eyeglasses are not designed to protect against hard or sharp objects moving at high speed. Such lenses can fail, or even worse, break into shards. A bigger concern, however, is that conventional frames simply don't guard enough of your eyes. Safety glasses have wraparound frames that shield the sides of the user's eyes, rest on or close to the cheekbones, and extend upward to the brow ridge above the eyes. So be sure to stick with safety glasses; most are designed to fit over your prescription eyewear.



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Bath Pantry

Welcome guests this holiday season with a beautiful storage solution.

If one room in most homes is notorious for lacking storage, it's the bathroom. There never seems to be enough space to store and organize necessities such as linens, towels, and toiletries. Our solution is a great-looking piece of furniture that allows for a lot of storage in a small space while keeping everything conveniently at hand.

This project offers terrific results while requiring intermediate-level skills in tool use and construction.



Instructions:

General: Cut and label the parts as needed, using the Cut List as a guide and adjusting for fit. Use glue and appropriate-length nails for assembly unless otherwise specified. All frame construction involves glue and pocket hole joinery unless otherwise specified.

Step 1: Build the front face frame.

- Cut the (01) front stiles; at the bottom of one, mark at $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the outside edge and again 2 inches from the bottom. Use a flexible steel ruler to bend an arc between the two marks. Cut out and use the piece as a template to do the same for the remaining stiles.
- Cut the (02) front rails, and attach to the (01) front stiles using pocket holes.
- Cut the (03) front mid stile to length, and attach it to the (02) front rails.
- Attach the (04) long rails to the left (01) front stile and the (03) front mid stile. Attach the (05) short rails to the right (01) front stile and the (03) front mid stile.
- Fit a router with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch cove bit, and rout a stopped cove along the outside edge of both (01) front stiles, stopping at the bottom of the top (02) front rail.

Step 2: Prepare the end face frames.

- Cut the (06) end stiles to length, and use the stile template from Step 1a to cut arcs at the bottom of each.
- Cut the (07) end rails and the (08) end mid rail, and attach them to the (06) end stiles.

Step 3: Build the mid frame by cutting and attaching the (09) mid stiles and (10) mid rails.

Step 4: Prepare the interior panels.

- Cut the (11) interior panels per the Cut List.
- Fit a router with a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch straight bit, and cut dados $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep. The Tool Guide on page 10 works well for this step.
- Drill $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch holes $\frac{3}{8}$ inch deep at 2 inches on center for the shelf pins. The holes should be $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches from each edge.

Step 5: Assemble the case per Figure 1.

- Attach an (11) interior panel to the inside of each end face frame with the top and front edges flush. Attach an (11) interior panel to both sides of the mid frame with the top and front edges flush.
- Attach the end face frame/interior panel assemblies to the front face frame.
- Attach the mid frame/interior panel assembly to the front face frame so that the top of the assembly is flush and centered with the top of the front face frame.
- Cut the (12) A partitions and the (13) B partitions to slide into the dados on the (11) interior panels.
- Cut and attach the (14) case back to the (11) interior panels, the (12) A partitions, and the (13) B partitions.

Step 6: Assemble the top, shelves, and doors per Figure 2.

- Cut the (15) top to fit.
- Scribe and cut the (16) top trim front and the (17) top trim sides from the half-round moulding. Attach using glue and brads. Refer to the Workshop column on page 15 for tips on scribing.

TOOLS YOU'LL USE

Read more about these tools in Shop Smart on pages 12–13.



router



drill



miter saw



power sander



good to know

Acrylic is used instead of glass for the doors on this project. A Lowe's employee can cut acrylic sheets to meet your specifications.

- Attach the top assembly to the case so that the back is flush and centered from side to side.
- Cut all the shelves $\frac{3}{8}$ inch shorter than the opening and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (including the noses) less than the distance from the (14) case back to the inside of the front face frame. Cut and attach the (19) long nose to the front edge of the (18) long shelf, and the (21) short nose to the front edge of the (20) short shelf.
- Insert shelf pins in the desired locations; insert the shelves.

Step 7: Assemble the doors.

- Measure the door openings, and add 1 inch in both directions.
- Cut the (22) top door stiles, (23) top door rails, (24) bottom door stiles, and (25) bottom door rails to length. Attach the rails to the stiles using pocket hole joinery. Be careful not to screw into the interior $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the rails.
- Fit a router with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch roundover bit, and round over the outer edges of the doors.

- d.** Change to a 3/8-inch rabbeting bit, and rout a rabbet around the inside back edges of the door assemblies. Use a chisel to square the corners of the rabbets.
- e.** Cut the (26) top window and (27) bottom window, subtracting 1/8 inch in both directions so that the windows will fit inside the rabbets. Note: A Lowe's employee can cut acrylic sheets to your specifications at no extra charge. Secure using clear window and door caulk and the (28) stop. Attach the stop using brads but not glue.
- f.** Drill holes for the hinges per the manufacturer's instructions, but don't install them yet.

Step 8: Apply a finish.

- a.** Fill all nail holes. Sand, and apply a paint primer. Sand again, and then apply a finish. We used Signature Colors by Valspar, Laura Ashley Home, Gray Earth #116 for the exterior and Winter Oak #114 for the interior, both in a satin finish.
- b.** Install the hinges, and add knobs and felt bumpers to the doors.
- c.** Install nail-on furniture glides.

Project #Win061 ■



CUT LIST

Part Name	Material	Size (in inches)	Quantity
Front Face Frame			
(01) front stiles	1 x 6	3/4 x 1 3/4 x 65 1/4	2
(02) front rails	1 x 6	3/4 x 2 3/4 x 26 1/2	2
(03) front mid stiles	1 x 6	3/4 x 2 3/4 x 57 3/4	1
(04) long rails	1 x 6	3/4 x 1 3/4 x 16	3
(05) short rails	1 x 6	3/4 x 1 3/4 x 8 3/4	3
End Face Frame			
(06) end stiles	1 x 6	3/4 x 1 3/4 x 65 1/4	4
(07) end rails	1 x 6	3/4 x 2 3/4 x 8 1/2	4
(08) end mid rails	1 x 6	3/4 x 1 3/4 x 8 1/2	2
Mid Frame			
(09) mid stiles	1 x 6	3/4 x 1 3/4 x 63 1/4	2
(10) mid rails	1 x 6	3/4 x 1 3/4 x 8 3/4	3
Panels			
(11) interior panels	3/4-inch plywood	3/4 x 11 3/4 x 63 3/4	4
Case			
(12) A partitions	3/4-inch plywood	3/4 x 9 3/4 x 11 3/4	5
(13) B partitions	3/4-inch plywood	3/4 x 11 3/4 x 25 3/4	5
(14) case back	1/4-inch plywood	1/4 x 28 1/2 x 63 3/4	1
(15) top	3/4-inch plywood	3/4 x 13 1/2 x 31 1/2	1
(16) top trim front	half-round moulding	3/8 x 1 1/8 x 32 1/4	1
(17) top trim sides	half-round moulding	3/8 x 1 1/8 x 13 3/8	2
(18) long shelves	3/4-inch plywood	3/4 x 10 3/4 x 15 3/8	2
(19) long noses	1 x 6	3/4 x 1 1/2 x 15 3/8	2
(20) short shelves	3/4-inch plywood	3/4 x 8 3/8 x 10 3/8	2
(21) short noses	1 x 6	3/4 x 1 1/2 x 8 3/8	2
Doors			
(22) top door stiles	1 x 6	3/4 x 2 3/4 x 27 1/2	2
(23) top door rails	1 x 6	3/4 x 2 3/4 x 12 1/2	2
(24) bottom door stiles	1 x 6	3/4 x 2 3/4 x 30 3/4	2
(25) bottom door rails	1 x 6	3/4 x 2 3/4 x 12 1/2	2
(26) top window	acrylic sheet	1/8 x 13 3/8 x 23 3/8	1
(27) bottom window	acrylic sheet	1/8 x 13 3/8 x 26 3/8	1
(28) stop	1 x 6	1/4 x 1/4 x (to fit)	1

TOOL LIST

- table saw (or circular saw with a straightedge guide)
- miter saw (or handsaw with miter box)
- jigsaw (or band saw)
- router with 3/8-inch rabbeting bit, 1/4-inch roundover bit, 3/4-inch straight bit, and 1/4-inch cove bit
- drill/driver with 1 3/8-inch Forstner bit
- K3MS Kreg Jig K3 Master System
- pneumatic nail gun (or hammer)
- power sander and various grits of sandpaper
- flexible steel ruler
- caulking gun
- chisel
- clamps
- tape measure
- pencil

LOWE'S LIST

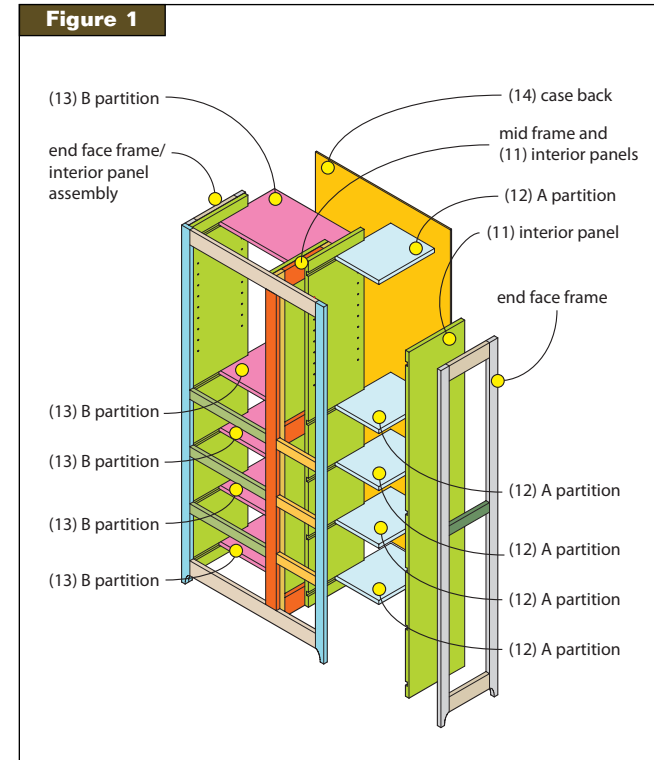
Lumber*

- 5 (8-foot-long) 1 x 6s, poplar
- 1 (48- x 96-inch) sheet of 1/4-inch birch plywood
- 2 (48- x 96-inch) sheets of 3/4-inch birch plywood
- 1 (8-foot-long) piece of 3/8- x 1 1/8-inch half-round moulding

Hardware & Supplies

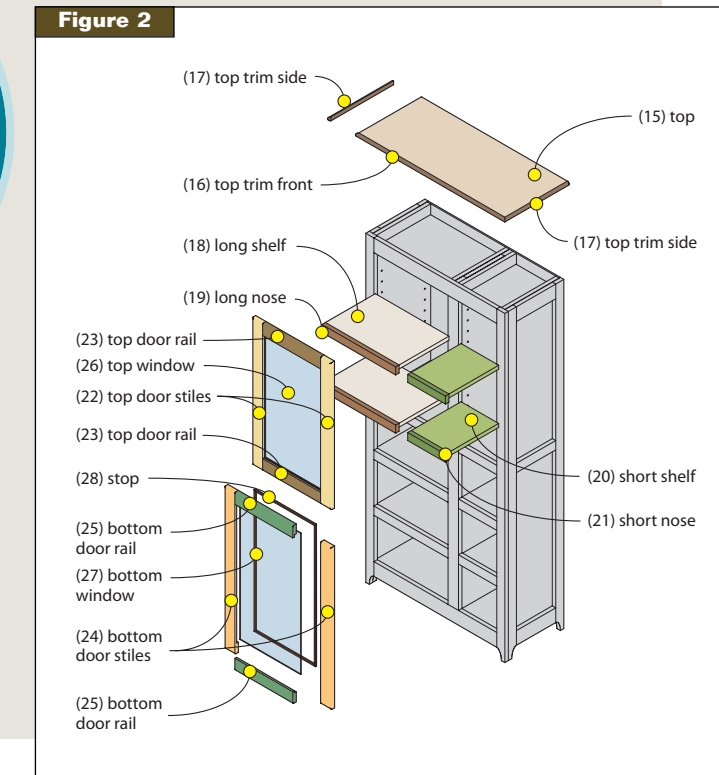
- 2 (1/2- x 18- x 24-inch) clear acrylic sheets
- 1 box 4d finishing nails
- 1 box (#18 x 3/4-inch) wire brads
- clear window and door caulk
- wood glue
- 4 (1/2-inch) overlay frame-mounted European hinges
- 2 sleek black nickel decorative knobs
- 1 package shelf pins (20 count)
- 1 package (3/4-inch) nail-on furniture glides
- 1 package felt bumpers
- stainable wood filler
- 2 quarts paint

*Availability varies by market.



Finished Dimensions:
Height: 66 inches
Depth: 13 3/8 inches
Width: 32 1/4 inches

good to know
 More detailed illustrations are at Lowe.com/Woodworkers. You'll need them to build the front face frame, end face frames, mid face frame, interior panels, and door assemblies.



Steamer Chest

Highlight your skills by crafting this timeless treasure.

Steamer chests originally were used in the late 1800s by passengers traveling on steamships. Everything they needed for their voyage was placed in the chest because it was the only luggage allowed in their rooms. Other trunks were stored in the cargo hold. Today you don't have to go on a voyage to appreciate the storage capacity and classic lines of our steamer chest. Its curved top makes a great accent piece for any decor.

Instructions:

General: Cut and label parts as needed, using the Cut List as a guide and adjusting for fit. Assemble using glue and appropriate-length nails unless otherwise specified.

Step 1: Prepare the (01) lid ends and the (02) ribs, which support the chest's curved top. Each of the (02) ribs consists of a layer of poplar sandwiched between two plywood (03) stiffeners.

a. On ¼-inch plywood, lay out the pattern for one (01) lid end and one (02) rib as shown in Figure 1.

b. Cut out these templates, and then use them to trace two (01) lid ends and three (02) ribs onto a 1 x 6; cut out the shapes. Discard the lid end template.

c. Use the rib template to lay out five (03) stiffeners on ¼-inch plywood. Cut them out. **d.** Attach the (03) stiffeners to both sides of each (02) rib using glue and brads. Allow to dry.

e. To ensure the curves of the (01) lid ends and the rib assemblies match, clamp all five pieces together, aligning the convex surfaces. Sand these as one unit. Then remove

the (01) lid ends and clamp the rib assemblies together. Sand the concave surfaces to match.

Step 2: Build the lid.

a. Cut the (04) struts, and place them between the (01) lid ends so that the edges are flush as shown in Figure 2. Attach with glue and nails. Check this assembly for square by measuring the diagonals of the lid end/strut assembly. If necessary, use scrap wood as temporary bracing to square up the assembly.

b. Attach the rib assemblies to the (04) struts with glue and nails, spacing them as shown in Figure 2.

c. Cut the (05) skin to size. Bevel one of the 25⅝-¹/₁₆-inch-long sides at 27 degrees (note the grain direction shown in Figure 2). You will bevel the other side in Step 2f. To bend the plywood over the (02) ribs and the (01) lid ends, cut a series of ⅛-inch-deep kerfs on the underside of the skin at 1 inch on center, parallel to the beveled edge.

d. Cut the (07) lid noses to size with one long edge beveled at 27 degrees.

e. Attach a (07) lid nose to a (04) strut so that the short side of the bevel aligns with the top of the (04) strut.

f. Test the fit of the (05) skin by butting its beveled edge against the beveled edge of the (07) lid nose and bending it over the (02) ribs. Mark where it hits the (04) strut, and cut a 27-degree bevel along that side. Trim excess if needed, and attach the (05) skin with glue and brads. Then attach the remaining (07) lid nose.

g. Cut the (06) top straps to length with a 27-degree bevel on each end. Scribe and



cut the (08) nose straps to length with a 27-degree bevel on one end.

h. Attach the (06) top straps with glue and brads, flush with the edges of the skin and spaced 7⅞ inches from leading edge to leading edge as shown in Figure 2.

i. Align the beveled point of the (08) nose straps with the (06) top straps where the (07) lid nose meets the (05) skin. Test-fit the (08) nose straps, adjusting the length if necessary, with a 27-degree bevel, before attaching them to the (07) lid noses.

Step 3: Build the chest.

a. Attach the (10) stringers to the (12) end stringers with glue and nails per Figure 3.

b. Attach the (16) floor panel to the stringer assembly with glue and brads.

c. Attach the (11) end nailers to the (15) end panels with glue and brads so that they are flush with the tops of the (15) end panels and ¾ inch in from each side.

d. Attach the end assemblies to the floor assembly with glue and brads.

e. Attach the (09) nailers to the (14) panels with glue and brads, flush with the top of the (14) panels and ¼ inch in from each end.

f. Attach the (13) corners to the (14) panels with glue and brads, positioning them ¼ inch in from each end.

g. Attach the panel assemblies to the end panel/floor assembly.

h. Test-fit the (17) straps for the front and back of the chest assembly, and attach using glue and brads. Nail only at the (09) nailers and (10) stringers.

Step 4: Complete assembly.

a. Prepare the (18) lid support block per the lid support block detail, and then attach it to the center (02) rib using pocket holes and screws.

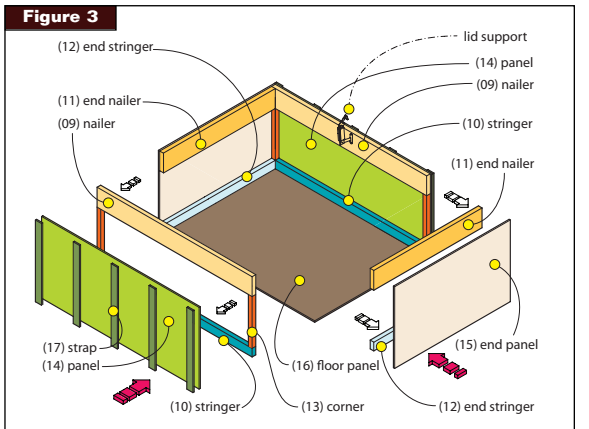
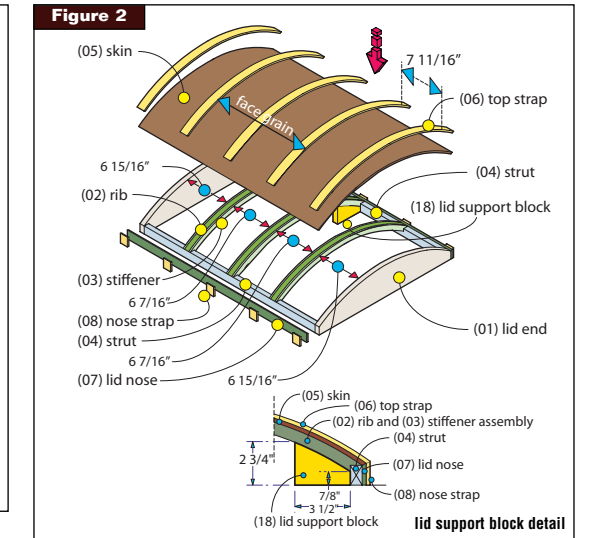
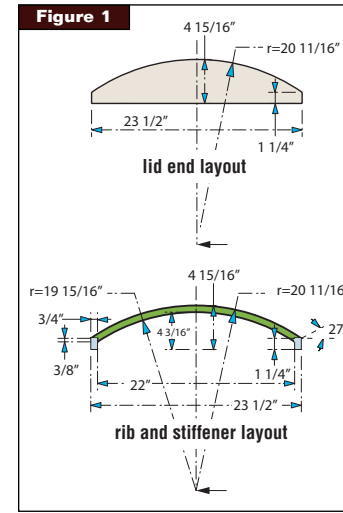
b. Fill all nail holes and sand all surfaces smooth. Then prime and paint both the lid and chest.

c. Attach the lid to the chest by surface-mounting two 2½-inch hinges.

d. Install the lid supports per the manufacturer's instructions.

e. Center and attach a chest handle to each (15) end panel so that it is positioned 1 inch below the top. Center and attach the pull on the lid front.

Project #Win062 ■



TOOL LIST

- table saw (or circular saw with a straightedge guide)
- miter saw (or miter box and handsaw)
- jigsaw (or band saw)
- power sander and various grits of sandpaper
- pneumatic nail gun (or hammer)
- drill/driver with drill bit set
- K3Ms Kreg Jig K3 Master System
- clamps
- tape measure
- pencil

LOWE'S LIST

Lumber*

- 1 (8-foot-long) 1 x 4, poplar
- 2 (8-foot-long) 1 x 6s, poplar
- 1 (48- x 48-inch) sheet of ¼-inch birch plywood
- 1 (48- x 96-inch) sheet of ¼-inch birch plywood

Hardware & Supplies

- 1 box 1¼-inch Kreg pocket hole screws, fine thread
 - 1 box 4d finishing nails
 - 1 box (#18 x ¾-inch) wire brads
 - 2 pairs (1 each center) lid supports
 - 2 (2½-inch) broad loose pin hinges
 - 2 (3½-inch) zinc chest handles
 - 1 (3-inch) sterling nickel pull
 - stainable wood filler
 - wood glue
- *Availability varies by market.

Finished Dimensions:

- Height: 19¾ inches
- Depth: 24 inches
- Width: 32 inches

CUT LIST

Part Name	Material	Size (in inches)	Quantity
Lid			
(01) lid ends	1 x 6	¾ x 4⅞ x 23½	2
(02) ribs	1 x 6	¾ x 4⅞ x 23½	3
(03) stiffeners	48- x 96-inch plywood	¼ x 4⅞ x 23½	6
(04) struts	1 x 6	¾ x 1¼ x 30½	2
(05) skin	48- x 96-inch plywood	¼ x 25⅝ x 32	1
(06) top straps	48- x 96-inch plywood	¼ x 1¼ x 25¾	5
(07) lid noses	48- x 96-inch plywood	¼ x 1¾ x 32	2
(08) nose straps	48- x 96-inch plywood	¼ x 1¼ x 1½	10
Chest			
(09) nailers	1 x 4	¾ x 3⅝ x 31½	2
(10) stringers	1 x 4	¾ x 1½ x 31½	2
(11) end nailers	1 x 6	¾ x 3⅝ x 22	2
(12) end stringers	1 x 6	¾ x 1½ x 22	2
(13) corners	1 x 6	¾ x ¾ x 9¾	4
(14) panels	48- x 96-inch plywood	¼ x 14¾ x 32	2
(15) end panels	48- x 96-inch plywood	14 x 14¾ x 23½	2
(16) floor panel	48- x 48-inch plywood	¼ x 23½ x 31½	1
(17) straps	48- x 48-inch plywood	¼ x 1¼ x 14¾	10
(18) lid support block	1 x 6	¾ x 2¼ x 3½	1

TOOLS YOU'LL USE | Read more about these tools in Shop Smart on pages 12–13.



band saw



tape measure



table saw



jigsaw



clamp

PHOTOS: BRIAN FRANCIS; STYLING: PADEN REICH

Tool Guide

Make cuts like a pro with this guide for your power tools.

Even with a steady hand and a good eye, when you make freehand cuts portable power tools tend to wander off the mark. One solution is to use a guide that fills the offset between the base plate of your tool and its blade or bit, therefore allowing you better control of the cut.

Our shop-made guide project can be used with almost any portable cutting tool, such as a circular saw, jigsaw, or router. It's designed to handle two tools—a different one on each side. The instructions below are for building one 8-foot-long tool guide, but the materials listed will yield three guides up to 8 feet long (they're also handy at 2- and 4-foot lengths).

Instructions:

General: Cut and label parts as needed, using the Cut List as a guide and adjusting for fit.

Step 1: Build the tool guide.

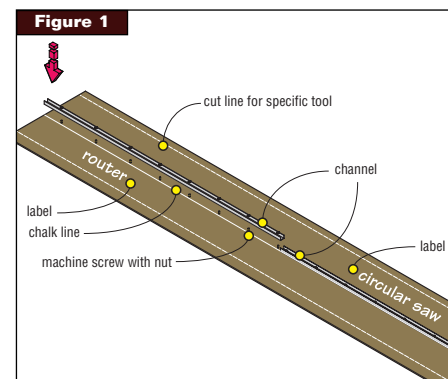
- a. Rip a 16-inch-wide strip from 3/8-inch-thick hardboard for each guide you plan to make.
- b. To ensure a good epoxy bond between the two aluminum channels and the panel, clean the bottom of the channels and the surface of the panel with mineral spirits or paint thinner, and sand lightly.
- c. Locate and mark the center of the (01) hardboard panel at both ends. Make marks 3/8 inch to one side of the center of the panel, and snap a chalk line at these marks.
- d. Mix the epoxy, and apply it to the bottom of the channels.
- e. Lay the channels along the chalk line as illustrated, and set a light weight, such as a 2 x 4, on top. Let the epoxy cure overnight.
- f. Locate the center of the channels on the back of the assembly, and snap the line to mark it.
- g. Use a countersink pilot bit to drill holes approximately 6 inches on center along this line through the panel and channels.

h. Secure the channels to the panel with flat slotted machine screws and nuts.

Step 2: Customize the guide.

- a. Select two power tools to use with the guide. Align the base plate of one tool against the channel, and run the tool along the length of the channel, cutting off the unneeded portion. Repeat on the other side of the panel for use with a different tool.
- b. Label both sides of the panel with the name of the tool to be used.
- c. To use the guide, mark the material where it needs to be cut, and place the edge of the panel at that mark. Clamp in place and make the cut. No offset measurements are necessary.

Project #Win063 ■



TOOL LIST

- table saw (or circular saw and a straightedge guide)
- power sander and sandpaper
- drill/driver with drill bit set and countersink pilot bit
- chalk line reel and chalk
- clamps
- tape measure
- pencil

LOWE'S LIST

(for 3 tool guides)

Lumber*

- 1 (48- x 96-inch) sheet of 3/8-inch hardboard paneling

Hardware & Supplies

- 6 pieces (4-foot-long) aluminum channel, measuring 3/8 inches inside
- 6 packages (6-32 x 1/2-inch) flat slotted machine screws with nuts
- 1 package (5-minute) epoxy
- paint thinner or mineral spirits

*Availability varies by market.

Finished Dimensions:

Width: 16 inches
Length: 96 inches

CUT LIST

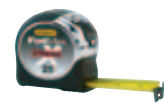
Part Name	Material	Size (in inches)	Quantity
(01) hardboard panel	hardboard paneling	3/8 x 16 x 96	1-3

TOOLS YOU'LL USE

Read more about these tools in Shop Smart on pages 12-13.



drill



tape measure



power sander



table saw

PHOTO: JOHN O'HAGAN/SPC



This tool guide is handy to use for any project that requires long straight cuts.



Tool Wish List

Dear Santa:

My wish list is long this year, but I promise to make very good use of what's on it. You see, I'm trying to beef up my workshop by adding new tools and getting an upgrade on others. I have a list of projects that's probably as long as your naughty-and-nice list. And speaking of lists, I've been nice!

'Tis the season for woodworkers to enjoy rounding out their workshops with these great gifts.



What It Is: K3MS Kreg Jig K3 Master System (#168410)
What It Does: may be the most important tool to hit woodworking in years; makes joinery faster and easier with precision-drilled holes and high-quality screws for strong, seamless butt joints (This tool can be used to make the steamer chest and bath pantry projects in this issue.)



What It Is: Irwin stand-alone miter saw laser guide (#170507)
What It Does: turns my miter saw into a laser-guided power tool; retrofits my saw with a laser guide line for more precise cuts; easy to install because it replaces the outside washer of my current miter saw



What It Is: Delta ShopMaster 9-inch band saw (#233003)
What It Does: uses a saw blade formed into a one-piece belt, or band, to cut precise straight lines and curves; the curves help add character to otherwise plain workpieces (This tool can be used to make the steamer chest and bath pantry projects in this issue.)



What It Is: Delta ShopMaster 10-inch single-bevel compound miter saw (#232884)
What It Does: makes straight cuts or angled cuts, including miters; especially helps me with miter cuts needed for trim and larger pieces; powerful and easy to use



What It Is: Skil 1-hp router combo kit with Site-Light (#109589)
What It Does: highly versatile tool; hundreds of different bits provide both streamlined and decorative edges; makes functional grooves and joinery cuts, such as rabbets and dados, or simply straightens an edge to near perfection (The tool guide project on page 10 is great for use with this router.)



What It Is: Hitachi 14.4-volt 3/8-inch cordless drill/driver kit (#182091)
What It Does: the workhorse of most of my joinery and home improvement projects; predrills nail and screw holes; drives screws to secure joints



What It Is: Bostitch 3-piece finish and trim combo kit (#236551)
What It Does: a pneumatic nailer that makes my project assembly faster and more accurate; drives a nail faster than using a hammer; applies more direct force in a single instance, resulting in project pieces staying in place; includes 6-gallon oil-free air compressor, 2 1/2-inch 16-gauge finish nailer, 1 1/4-inch 18-gauge brad nailer, and 1-inch 18-gauge stapler



What It Is: DeWalt 36-volt circular saw (#95272)
What It Does: another workhorse for the shop; serves the same basic purpose as a table saw, but is more portable



What It Is: Black & Decker Cyclone 4-in-1 sander (#226118)
What It Does: smooths out rough edges, makes panels feel like glass, and covers up my mistakes; makes finishing the job much faster; does a more complete job than hand sanding



What It Is: Delta ShopMaster 10-inch, 13-amp table saw (#232975)
What It Does: my workhorse when it comes to cutting (see The Pros Know on page 3); great for ripping (cutting lengthwise along a board) as well as making smaller cuts and some angled cuts; likely to become the center of my workshop



What It Is: FireStorm 18-volt single-source orbital jigsaw (#236107)
What It Does: can cut highly detailed curves and angles, such as those in the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle; similar in function to the band saw, but is portable



What It Is: Shop-Vac 5.5-peak-hp 5-gallon Vac 'n Vac (#127133)
What It Does: keeps my workshop neat; removes sawdust from the area before I paint or stain a project; portable for easier cleanup

Stocking Stuffers



What It Is: Swanson 16- x 24-inch steel carpenter square (#118056)
What It Does: used for squaring joints, marking straight lines, and measuring

What It Is: Stanley FatMax Xtreme 25-foot tape measure (#235572)
What It Does: used for measuring and marking, especially when scribing to fit during projects (see Workshop on page 15)



What It Is: Aearo Fuel indoor/outdoor safety glasses (#15027)
What It Does: protects my eyes from things I may encounter in the workshop, such as sawdust and hard or sharp objects moving at high speed



What It Is: Bessey 24-inch K Body clamp (#22119)
What It Does: holds my workpieces in place during cutting, shaping, or assembly (such as when I'm applying glue to joints); ideal for assembling panels or other large pieces

begin with the wood

Brush Basics

Choosing a brush to suit your finish produces perfect results.

Whether your project calls for paint, stain, or a clear top-coat, most finishes can be categorized as either water or oil based. To achieve the best results, select a brush that's designed to apply the type of finish you're using. Brushes are typically classified by their bristles; the three most common are natural, synthetic, and a blend of the two.

Bristle Types

Natural bristles, often called China bristle brushes, can provide the smoothest finish. Natural bristle brushes work particularly well with oil-based finishes such as stain, paint, or polyurethane. Synthetic bristles, which are man-made and usually cost less than natural bristle brushes, yield a finish that is less smooth. But for applying a water-based finish, synthetic is your best choice due to its lower absorption rate. Combination bristle brushes typically mix natural bristles with synthetic bristles. These types perform admirably in most situations. Priced between natural and synthetic varieties, synthetic brushes are a great all-purpose addition to the shop.

Tip Types

Two common tips are straight and angled (also called a sash or cut-in brush). Straight brushes, also known as flat-end brushes, work best for application on large surfaces, such as tabletops or cabinet sides. An angled tip reaches into corners and crevices, such as the inside corners of drawers, where a straight brush can't. For large projects, have both tip types on hand.

Finishing Tips

Choose the largest brush suitable for the surface, and precondition the brush before use for easier cleaning when you are done. First, dip the bristles in the thinner or solvent for the finish that you are applying. Use water for water-based finishes and mineral spirits for oil-based finishes. Then remove excess solvent by wrapping the bristles in a clean cloth before dipping the brush into the finish. As a general rule, lower half the bristles into the finish. Although you should only apply finish with the bristle tips, dipping halfway allows for less frequent reloading. ■



workshop

Measure Twice, Cut Once

Get more out of your power tools by measuring and marking accurately.

When it comes to affordable, reliable gear, it is a golden age for home-shop woodworkers. We now have access to benchtop thickness planers, contractor-style table saws, compact drill presses, and versatile miter saws—all capable of precision once available only in the form of heavy, expensive commercial equipment. Today's tools can turn out great projects in almost any home workshop.

Getting precision and potential out of these tools, however, requires mastering a skill called layout, in which you measure and mark your workpieces. These preliminary steps provide the essential foundation for both simple and complex projects and allow you to develop skills and consistency with some basic strategies.

Careful Measuring

You'd be surprised how many dimensions in your projects can be handled within the modest range of a 12-inch rigid metal rule. Use your combination square if you don't want to buy an extra. Larger dimensions will require a tape measure. For consistency,

use the same measuring tool throughout a project. Make sure the end hook on the tape moves freely when you change modes from outside measuring (hooking the tape end on a workpiece edge) to inside measuring (butting the tape end up against a surface). Avoid dropping measuring tools—particularly combination squares and tape measures, which can give false readings if bent or jarred out of alignment.

Precise Marking

To mark a workpiece, you need something that provides a fine line. Many woodworkers develop personal preferences for tools that allow for this kind of precision. Ideally, find something that can produce a very thin line (less than 1/4 inch) that you can either erase or easily sand out. A standard #3 pencil, an engineering pencil, a scratch awl, or a marking knife all work well. When using a pencil, mark the workpiece with a V. Doing this makes it easier to locate a precise point, and to follow up with a square to mark a line.

Scribing To Fit

Reading a tape measure and precisely transferring that measurement to a workpiece is an essential woodworking skill. However, you can reduce errors by avoiding that step altogether and marking a workpiece directly



PHOTO: JOHN O'HAGAN/SPC

—a technique sometimes called "scribing to fit." In its simplest form, this technique involves test-fitting the piece in place and then marking for the cut. If the fit is right, the actual dimension is often irrelevant, and you don't have to remember whether you read 12 1/4 or 12 3/4 inches on your tape measure. The same can be said for using jigs or indexing stops to cut, drill, or machine multiple pieces of the same size and/or shape. Mark one "template" workpiece, and use it to set up a jig or machine to do the rest—you will work faster and get more consistent results. "Measure twice, cut once" is the old adage. Sometimes, though, you're better off not measuring at all. ■

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member profile

Early Start

Before she was old enough to go to school, Melissa Beck was a woodworker.

At the age of 4, she watched her father, Lewis, craft a beautiful entertainment center for the family's Tennessee home. "He even let me help him, as much as any father can tolerate 'help' from a young child," she recalls with a laugh. When she was 9, she built a deck with her dad.

And at 11, she made a footstool as a Mother's Day gift.

Melissa now carries on her father's love for woodworking at her home in Colorado. Surrounded by her three dogs who "constantly try to eat sawdust," she enjoys her hobby on her backyard deck, from doing home improvement projects to making holiday gifts for friends and family. Recently, Melissa built

Melissa Beck

an addition to her own toolshed, complete with shingles, for storing the lumber she purchases at Lowe's.

As a recreational therapist who works with neglected and abused children, Melissa has an opportunity to share her gifts with others. "The kids and I have made wooden yo-yos and toy cars together. Someday I hope



PHOTO: DALE McDONALD

to teach a woodworking class for them," she says.

Along with cherished memories of helping her dad, Melissa continues to benefit from his advice. "My parents have always been so resourceful," she explains. "This kind of ... skill gives you a real sense of independence and ownership." ■

put it together

Drawers: Simplified

Assembly and installation aren't intimidating if you take the right approach.

Sooner or later, all woodworkers tackle projects that involve building drawers. For most, it is a routine step that naturally follows earlier successes. And for others, building a precise assembly that has to fit and move inside another is intimidating. It's true that drawers must fit well to work properly, but attentive measuring, cutting, and assembly will ensure that. Equally critical is that the drawer is built strong enough to withstand the loads it will carry during repeated cycles of opening and closing. Like a wooden chair or a post-and-beam railroad trestle, a drawer lives or dies by its joinery. Construction does not have to be complicated, but it has to be strong—especially at the front corners where the greatest stress occurs during use.



PHOTO: PADEN REICH/SPC

significantly improves the joinery because it concentrates cross-directional strength exactly where stress will occur during use.

Fit for Travel

Getting the drawer to fit and operate properly requires a solid, square assembly. Good corner joinery is the foundation, but the drawer bottom also helps retain alignment. Fit the bottom panel snugly into grooves milled in the drawer sides and front like we did for our project, and use nails or screws to secure it to the lower edge of the drawer back.

Clearances around the drawer should be sufficient to prevent binding, but not great enough to allow wobbly travel or misalignment. Exact requirements will vary depending on what slide mechanism, if any, is used. A drawer can simply fit into its "cubby" and glide on its bottom edges. For smoother travel, though, it helps to guide the drawer's movement. This can be done with a hardwood runner like we used, or with metal drawer glides that provide ball-bearing smoothness. Be sure to test fit and allow the necessary clearances when using this type of hardware. Be sure yours is rated for the right load capacity, which typically will be for 75 to 100 pounds. ■

Start Simple

As illustrated in our Tool Chest project that's available online at Lowe.com/FreePlan (see page 2), even simple butt joints can be used to form drawer corners. Keep in mind, though, that a more simple joint requires reinforcement with adhesives and hardware. For our project, that means securing the glue joint with finishing nails driven through the drawer sides into its ends. This additional step

significantly improves the joinery because it concentrates cross-directional strength exactly where stress will occur during use.



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