



COMPACT DISC TOWER

There's certainly no shortage of CD storage units on the market today, but you'll search long and hard before you'll find one that's as good-looking as this. Classic Mission styling and solid oak construction give our tower a warm, inviting look, and plastic panel inserts featuring a touch-release system allow for easy access to your favorite CDs.

Note: You'll need some thin stock for this project. You can resaw or plane thicker stock to the thicknesses listed in the Bill of Materials. See the Buying Guide for our source of plastic CD holders.

Start with the two side-panel assemblies

1 From 1/2" oak, cut the two side panels (A) to the size listed in the Bill of Materials.

2 Cut or rout a 1/4" rabbet 1/4" deep along the ends and edges on the inside surface of the side panels (A) where shown on the Side Panel drawing and accompanying Groove detail.

3 Cut the four stiles (B) to size. Rout a 1/16" chamfer along all the ends and edges of each stile where shown on the Side Panel drawing and accompanying Chamfer detail. See Tip No. 1 on page 4 for suggestions to help you improve the accuracy and safety of this routing procedure.

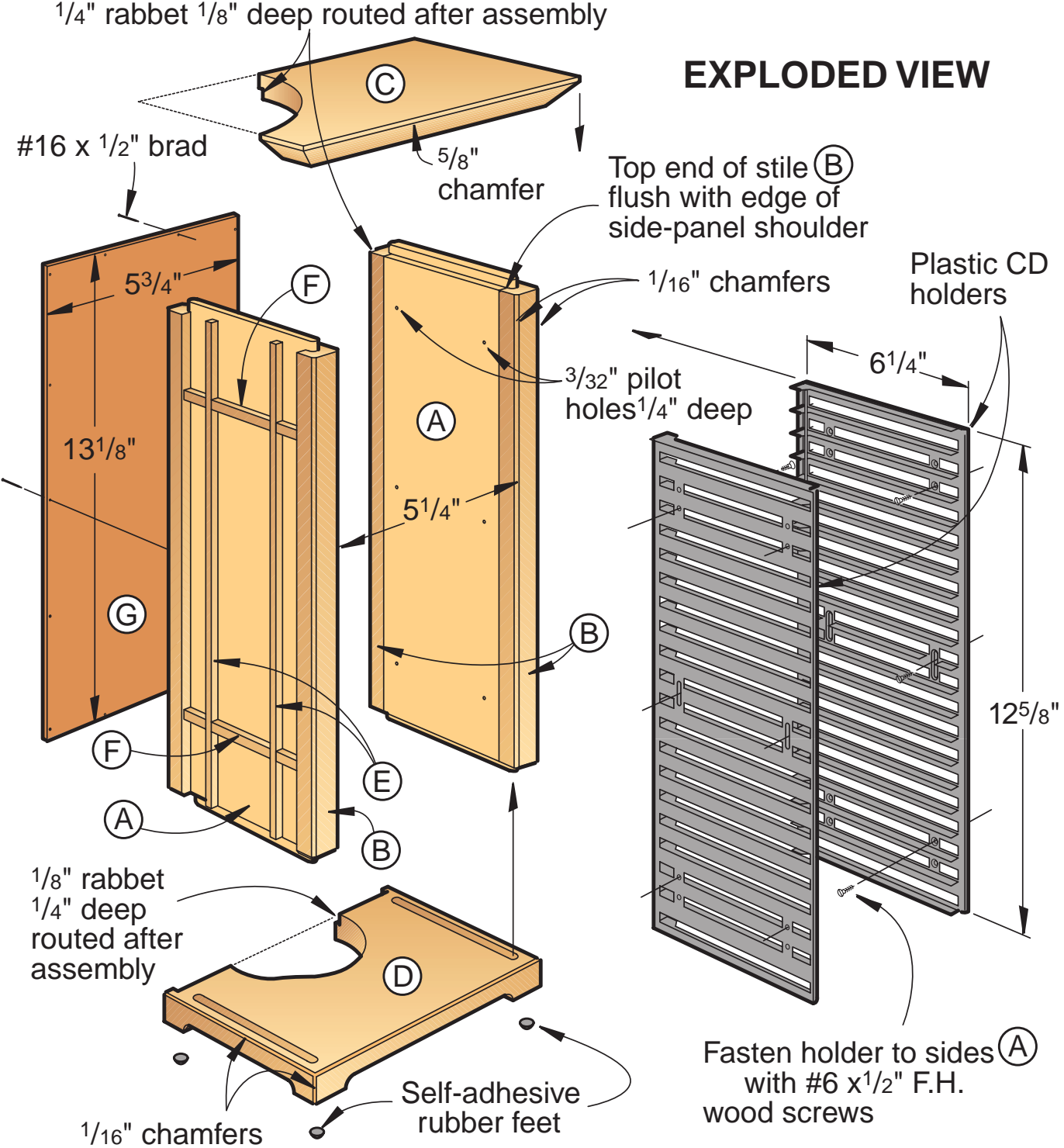


4 Cut or rout a 1/4" groove 1/4" deep centered along one edge of each stile (B). Check the fit of the stiles onto the edges of the side panels. The inside faces of the stile and side panel should be flush where shown in the Groove

detail accompanying the Side Panel drawing.

5 Glue and clamp the stiles (B) to the side panel (A), with the top and bottom ends of the stiles flush with the shoulders of the tenons on the top and

EXPLODED VIEW



Bill of Materials

Part	Finished Size			Mati.	Qty.
	T	W	L		
A side panels	1/2"	5 5/8"	13 1/8"	O	2
B stiles	3/4"	3/4"	12 5/8"	O	4
C cap	3/4"	7 3/8"	8 1/4"	O	1
D base	3/4"	6 5/8"	6 3/4"	O	1
E grille stiles	3/16"	1/4"	12 5/8"	O	4
F grille rails	3/16"	1/4"	5 1/8"	O	4
G back	1/8"	5 3/4"	13 1/8"	H	1

Please read all instructions before cutting.

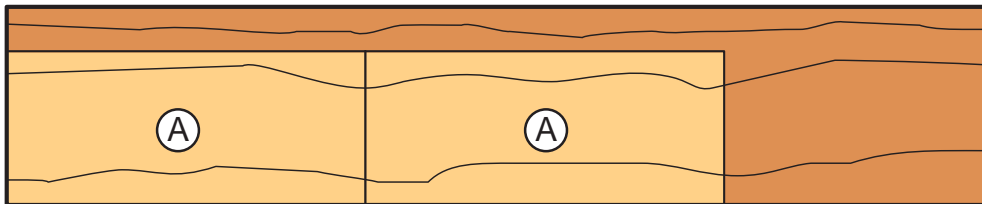
Materials Key: O—oak; H—hardboard.

Supplies: #16×1/2" brads, stain, feet, clear finish.

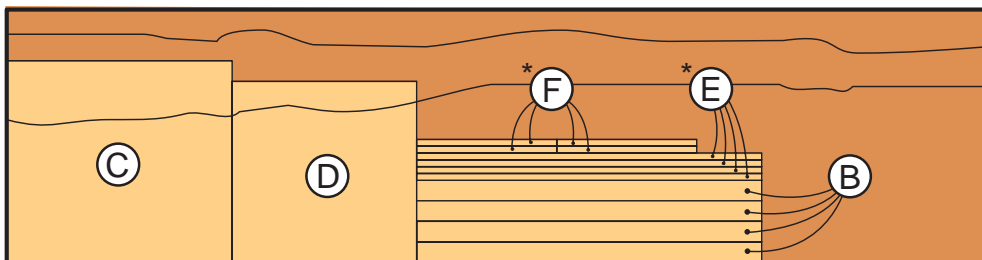
Buying Guide

CD holders. One pair of black plastic panels with touch-release system. Part no. 300CDS, \$11.90/pair ppd. Schlabaugh & Sons Woodworking, 720 14th Street, Kalona, IA 52247 or call 800/346-9663 to order.

CUTTING DIAGRAM



1/2 x 7 1/4 x 36" Oak



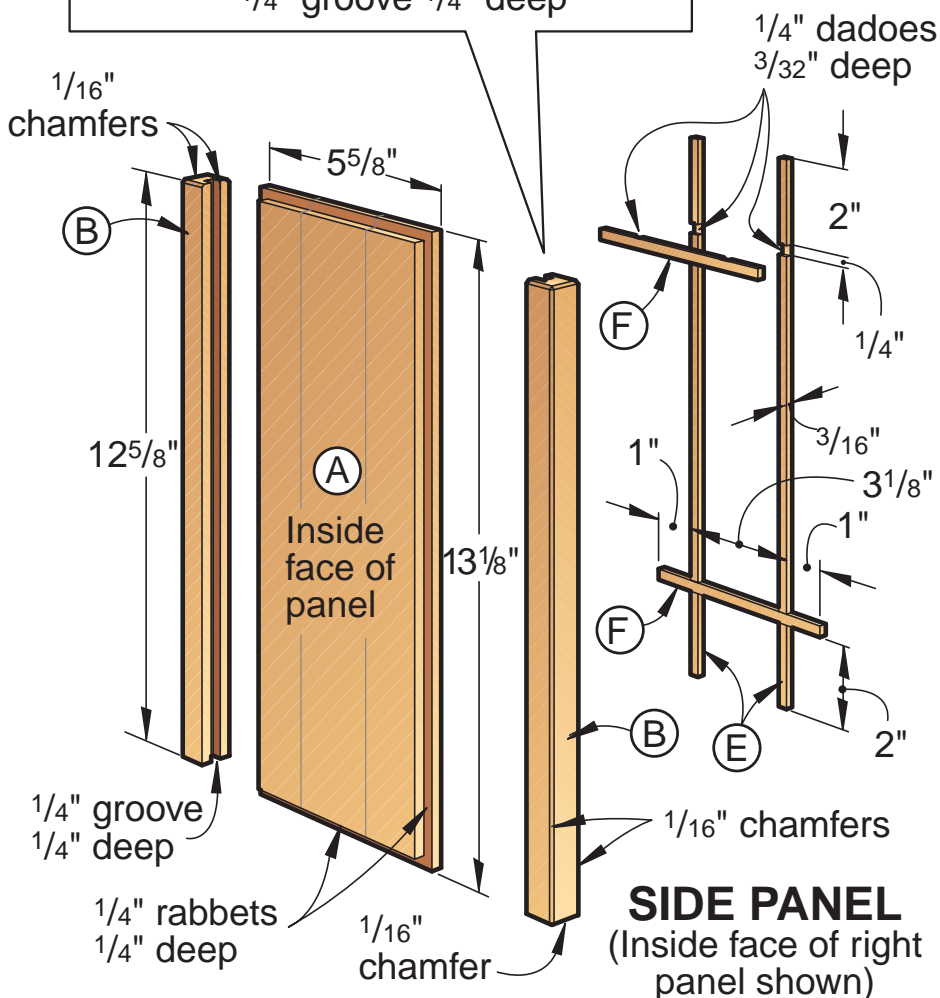
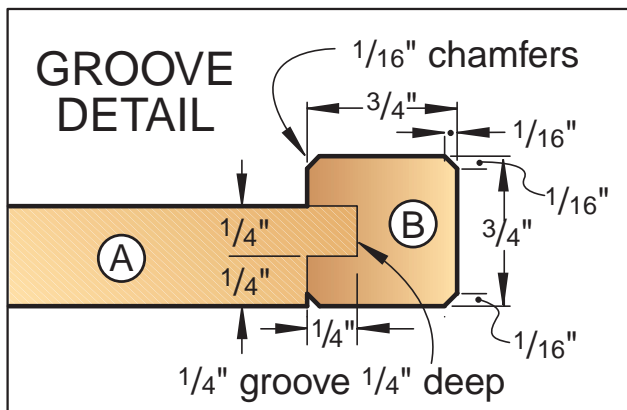
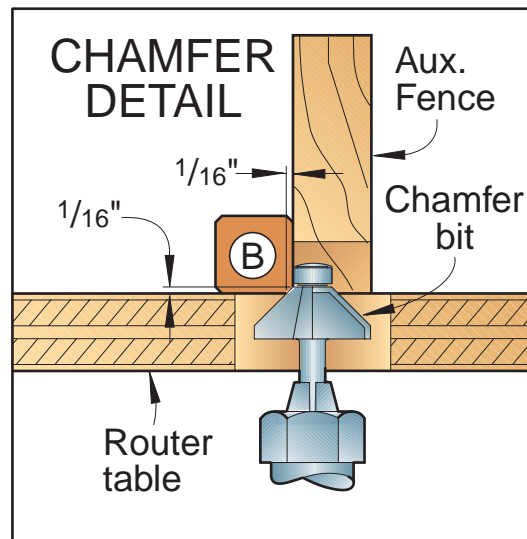
3/4 x 9 1/4 x 36" Oak



1/8 x 6 x 14" Hardboard

*Plane or resaw to thickness listed in Bill of Materials

TIP Tip no. 1—Use a back-board when routing the ends of the stiles. Doing this will help prevent tear out and enable you to squarely guide the stiles past the cutter.



bottom ends of the side panels. Immediately wipe off excess glue with a damp cloth. Then, repeat the process for the other side-panel assembly (A/B).

6 Using a combination square, position a plastic-panel CD holder against the inside face of a side (A), $\frac{3}{32}$ " from the front edge. Make sure the top of the plastic panel and the top shoulder of the side panel are flush. (We used spring clamps to hold the plastic panel in place once it was properly positioned.)

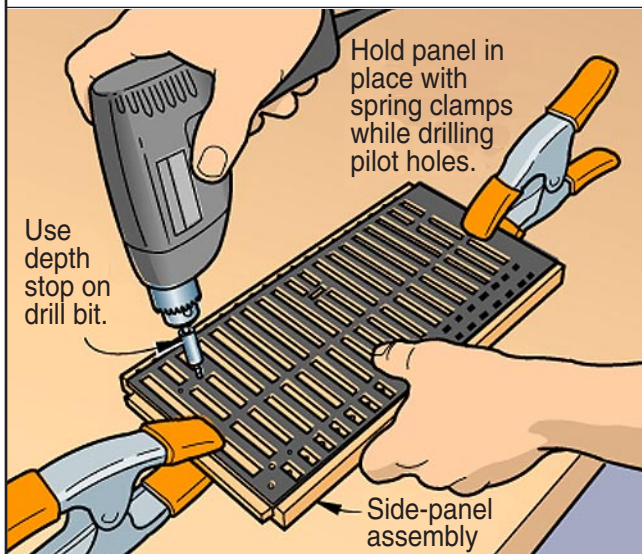
7 Using the holes in the inserts as guides, mark screw-hole centerpoints with an awl, then drill six $\frac{3}{32}$ " pilot holes $\frac{3}{8}$ " deep into the inside face of the oak side panel (A) as shown in the Positioning the Plastic Panel drawing on page 5. **Note:** Use a stop on your drill bit to prevent drilling through the side-panel assembly. Repeat the process on the remaining side panel assembly.

Now, let's build the cap and base

1 Rip and crosscut the cap (C) and the base (D) from $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick oak to the sizes listed in the Bill of Materials.

2 Fit your table-mounted router with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " straight bit, raised $\frac{1}{4}$ " above the surface of the router table. Position the router fence 1" from the edge of the bit where shown on the Groove detail accompanying the Cap drawing. Rout a $\frac{1}{4}$ " stopped groove $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep where shown on the Cap drawing.

POSITIONING THE PLASTIC PANEL



Note that the groove is stopped $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the back edge and is $5\frac{5}{8}$ " long. (We clamped start- and stopblocks to our router fence to ensure an accurately placed stopped groove. You'll want to rout scrap stock first to verify the markings.) Rout the groove in one edge of the Cap as shown in the Routing the Stopped Grooves drawing above right. Reposition the stops, and rout the groove in the opposite edge. **3** Reposition your router fence, and rout stopped grooves in the base (D) where dimensioned on the Base drawing at right. **Note:** Measure and rout carefully. The $5\frac{3}{4}$ " distance between the stopped grooves in the cap (C) must match those in the base (D) so the side panel assemblies will fit squarely.

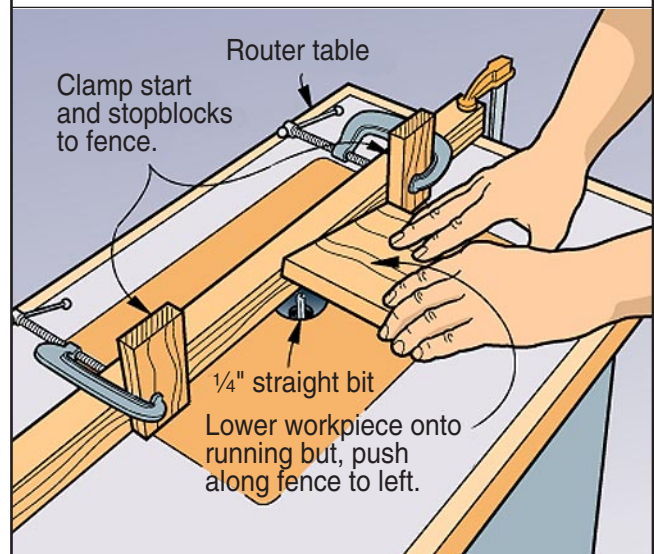
4 Fit your table-mounted router with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " straight bit, with its tip elevated $\frac{1}{4}$ " above the surface of the router table. Now, position the fence where shown on the Rabbet detail accompanying the Cap and Base drawing at right. Clamp scrapwood stopblocks to the fence to stop the rabbets $\frac{7}{8}$ " from the corners. Then, rout a $\frac{1}{4}$ " rabbet $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep along all four bottom edges of the base (D). **5** Fit your table-mounted router with a chamfer bit, and rout a $\frac{1}{16}$ " chamfer along the top side edges of the sides, and then the top front edge of the base (D). Next, rout a $\frac{5}{8}$ " chamfer along the bottom side edges and then the bottom front edge of the cap (C). Rout

this chamfer in several passes, raising the bit in small increments with each pass to prevent chip-out.

It's time to assemble the pieces

1 Use a sharp chisel to round the edges of the tenons on the top and bottom ends of the side panels until the panels fit snugly into the stopped grooves in the cap (C) and base (D). See the Rounding the Tenons drawing on page 6 for reference.

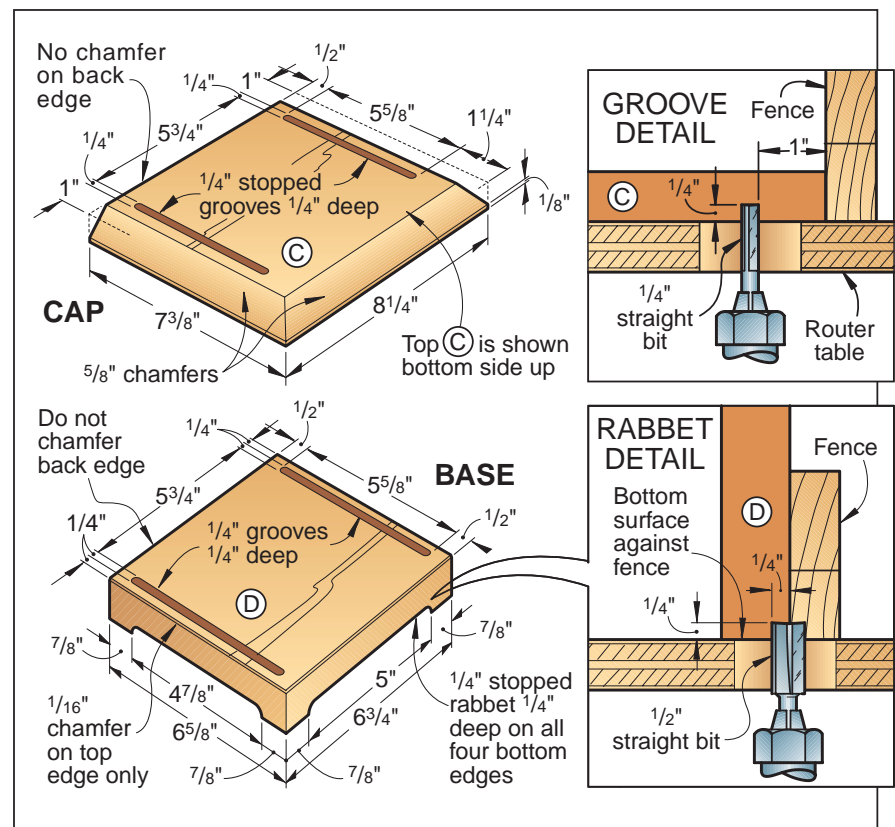
ROUTING THE STOPPED GROOVES



2 Glue and clamp the side-panel assemblies between the cap and base pieces. Check for square.

3 Rout a $\frac{1}{4}$ " rabbet $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep along the back inside edge of the box assembly, using a rabbeting bit in a table-mounted router as shown in the Routing Rabbet in Back of Box drawing on page 6. Chisel the corners of the rabbeted opening square.

4 Rip enough $\frac{3}{16} \times \frac{1}{4}$ " strips for the grille pieces (E, F).



5 Cut mating $\frac{1}{4}$ " dados $\frac{3}{32}$ " deep in the grille parts where dimensioned on the Side Panel drawing. (To prevent chip-out when cutting the dados, we attached a new miter gauge extension to our miter gauge. Then, we clamped stops to the extension for consistently spaced dados.) Dry-fit the grille parts together against the side panel to check the fit. Sand the grille parts. *See Tip No. 2 above right.*

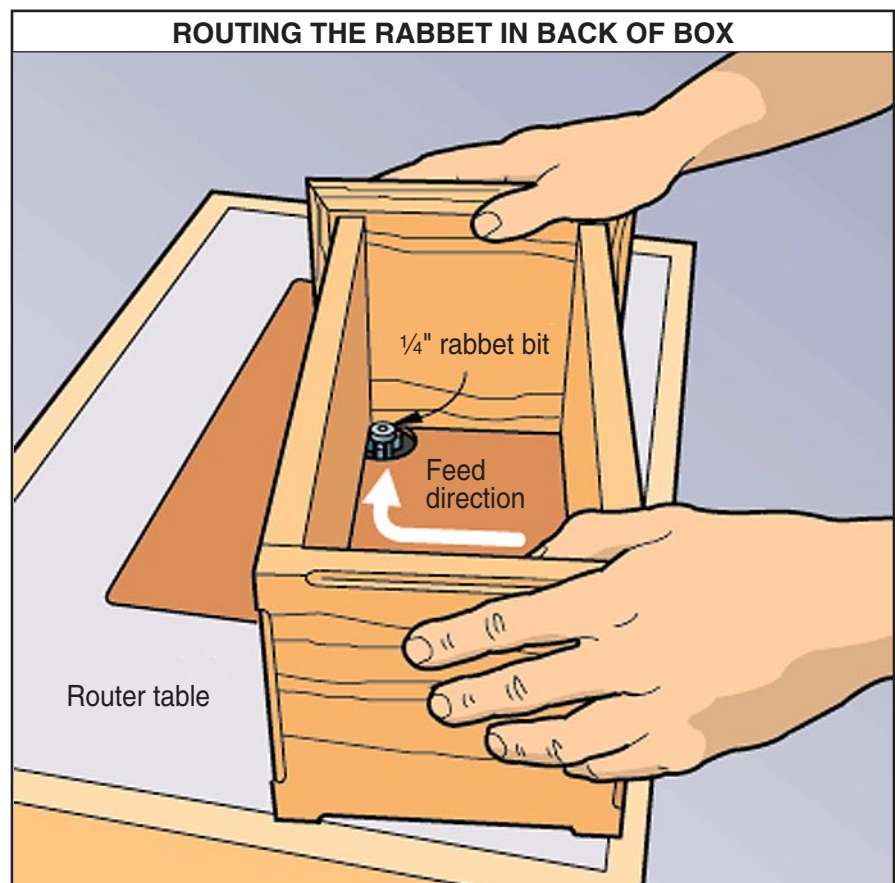
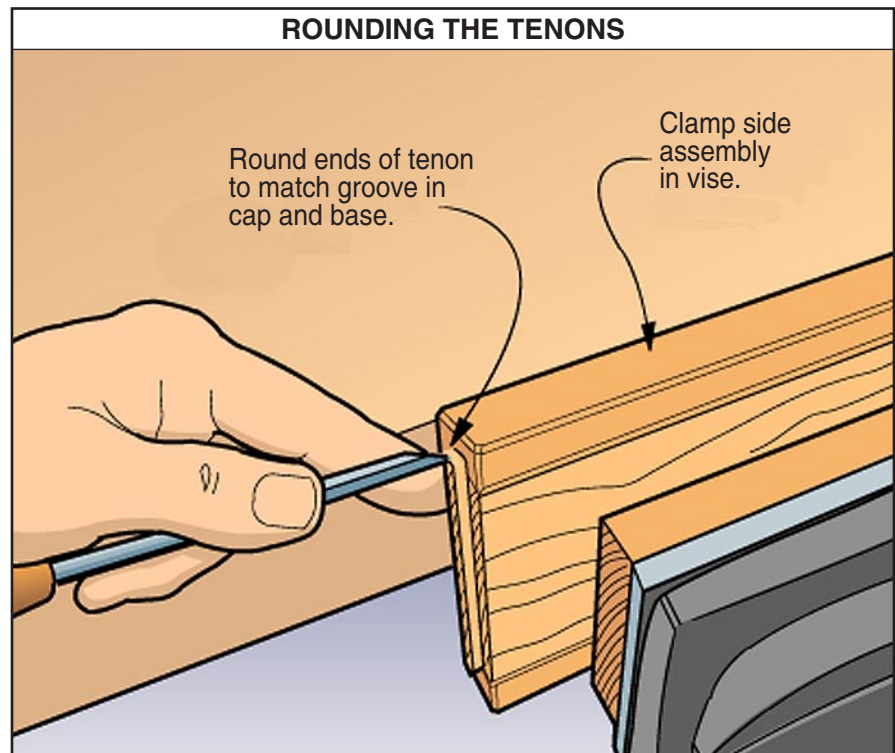
6 Measure the opening, and cut a piece of $\frac{1}{8}$ " hardboard to fit the rabbeted opening and serve as the back (G).

7 Stain the cabinet assembly, grille parts, and back separately. (We used Minwax Early American stain.) Using just a few drops of glue, assemble the grilles, and then adhere one to each side panel. Immediately wipe off excess glue. Now, apply the finish. Because of all the corners and protruding parts, we found an aerosol finish was easier to apply to avoid runs. (We used three light coats of Deft Semi-Gloss Clear Wood Finish.)

8 Using #16 $\times\frac{1}{2}$ " brads, nail the back into the rabbet. Adhere self-adhesive feet to the bottom of the base (D). Using a stubby phillips-head screwdriver, install the black plastic panels, making sure the elastic string on each panel is in place. By gently pushing on a CD stored in the completed project, the elastic string pops the disc forward about $\frac{1}{4}$ " for easy access. ♣

TIP

Tip no. 2—Sand only the top surface of the grilles after assembly. If you sand the edges of the grille parts after cutting the joints, you will ruin the snug fit at the mating dado joints.



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Graphic Design: Jamie Downing

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