

Dartboard cabinet

Hit the bullseye with this easy-to-build project

A dartboard makes the perfect addition to any family space. And what better way to display and store it than in this attractive, custom-built cabinet that'll hold the board, the darts, the chalk and the scoreboard? By Dieter Mylius

Here's how

Step 1 Prepare cabinet sides (A) by routing a 19 x 5mm deep rebate each end. Measure between straight bit in the router and edge of the base plate and clamp a timber fence to the board as a guide for the router. Also clamp a piece of scrap on the exit side to prevent the timber splitting. Similarly, run a 7 x 5mm deep rebate down the inside-back edge.

Step 2 Prepare top and bottom (B) with a 7mm wide groove along the inside-back edge. Glue and nail sides to top and bottom. Punch in nail heads to neaten.

Step 3 Cut back (C) and mark a line 12mm in from the edge all around and continue around edges of board. Divide face into four 'squares'. Coat rough side of cork backing tiles (D) with contact adhesive, as well as inside the lines of the back. When glue is no longer tacky, place the tiles on the back, aligning edges with the square lines. Butt tightly together. Don't try to slide in place, the adhesive won't allow it. Reproduce the 12mm lines on the face of the cork and cut with a sharp utility knife. The cut strips should not have adhered to the back. Nail the back assembly to the cabinet.

Step 4 Edge-glue door sections (E1,E2) together to form a 295mm-wide board. Use dowels, biscuit joints or nail pins to align. Clamp until the joint is dry.

Step 5 Butt the bottom of both doors against a 140 x 19mm batten and continue the join between the doors by drawing a line across the batten. Mark 110mm below door on the line. Mark 605mm up from base on one door side. Make a compass by joining two 19 x 19 x 500mm battens with a bolt and wing nut and drilling a large and small hole in the ends for a pencil and sharpened nail. Draw an arc across both doors through the mark on the edge of the door. Cut out curve with a jigsaw.

Step 6 Measure 78mm from meeting edge and base of each door and draw lines parallel with edges. To make plywood template, cut to size and align with lines. Slide up to arch at top of door. Mark the curve from door onto template. Cut out with a jigsaw, then align in centre of the door again. Hold in place with double-sided tape or small pins. Fit router with a template guide. Use the tip of an antique-style router bit to give a groove width of 8mm and work in an anti-clockwise direction. Remove template.

Invert for other door. Fill holes with wood and round door edges with round-over bit.

Step 7 Cut dart and chalk holders (F) and round over ends. From front, drill two holes for fixing to inside of door. On the top of one holder, drill two sets of three 1.5mm-diameter holes 50, 75 and 100mm from each end for the darts. On the back of the other, cut a stopped 10 x 5mm rebate channel to hold the chalk. Centre and screw holders to doors, with bottom edge 60mm from base of door. Add two hinges to each door, 110mm from top and

bottom. Add knobs at front and two magnetic catches at the cabinet top.

Sand timber, then finish with several coats of Danish oil. Cut the chalkboard (G) and round edges. Coat with chalkboard paint. Screw to door with the chalk holder.

Step 8 Using some lengths of double-sided tape, centre the dart board in the cabinet with the number 20 at top. Drive four short screws into the board from the back to hold securely.

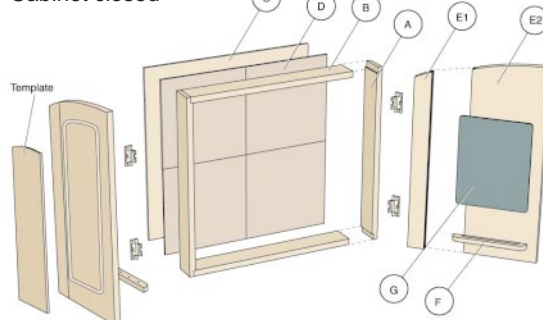
Caution. Children should only use darts while supervised by an adult.

Mounting your dart board

Mount the dartboard so the bullseye is exactly 1730mm from the floor. Drop a plumbline and locate the throwing line 2370mm from the outside face of the dartboard. Lay a 900mm-wide mat or carpet cutout under the throwing area with the mat going about 750mm behind the throwing line. To attach, screw the cabinet to studs or plug into a masonry wall.



Cabinet closed





What you will need

Item	Part	Size	Material
A	Sides (2)	75 x 19 x 600mm	Timber
B	Top/bottom (2)	75 x 19 x 562mm	Timber
C	Back	600 x 590 x 4mm	Plywood
D	Backing (4)	305 x 305 x 4.5mm	Cork tiles
E1	Doors (2)	55 x 19 x 700mm	Timber
E2	Doors (2)	240 x 19 x 700mm	Timber
F	Dart/chalk holders (2)	25 x 15 x 240mm	Timber
G	Chalkboard	230 x 295 x 3mm	MDF

Buy a bristle dartboard made of packed fibres with a wood-panel back. The standard size for a dartboard is 450mm diameter and about 40mm thick. Western red cedar is ideal for the cabinet and some non-standard timber sizes are required. Check size of components against actual unit as it is being built. You will also need a 500 x 140 x 12mm piece of plywood for a template, one metre of 19 x 19mm timber and a 6 x 45mm bolt and wing nut to make a compass, as well as four 65mm flush hinges, two magnetic catches, two knobs and some chalkboard paint.