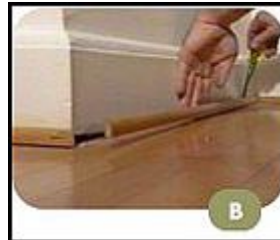


Window Seat



Premanufactured wall cabinets are the key to creating a simple window seat.





Problem: An area in your home would be ideal for a window seat, but building one from scratch would require advanced carpentry skills.

Solution: You can use premanufactured wall cabinets to create a built-in window seat that also provides storage space.

Equipment list:

Tape measure
Drill, with drill bits and a Phillips driver bit
Chisel
Hammer
Nail set
Clamps
Caulk gun with adhesive caulk
Jigsaw
Wall cabinets
#6 finish nails
#8 x 2" drywall screws
Edging and molding pieces
Safety glasses

Select cabinets for window seat

1. Determine measurements for height, width and depth.
2. Select appropriate-sized cabinets (custom-made or premanufactured) from kitchen supply store or hardware store (**figure A**).

* Get molding, side, and base trim materials that match the cabinets you select. Most cabinet manufacturers provide these.

* Select cabinets that will be sturdy enough to bear the weight of someone sitting on them.

Prepare area for window seat installation

1. Remove shoe molding from around wall in sitting area (**figure B**).
2. Build a wooden frame pedestal out of 2" X 4" lumber (**figure C**). The frame should be the same width as the window seat area but 2 or 3 inches less than the depth of your window seats. Include a center support in your frame for added stability. For added height, you can use 2" X 6" lumber for your frame.
3. Lay the frame flat inside the seat area and screw the sides and back to the wall (**figure D**).

Mount cabinets onto frame

1. Remove the doors from the cabinets for easier handling (**figure E**).
2. Clamp the cabinets together to make sure they are flush on top and along the front (**figure F**).
3. Drill pilot holes in the side frames of each cabinet and screw them together using wood screws. Use a drill bit that is narrower than your screws.
4. Center the cabinets between the two side walls.
5. Drill pilot holes into the base pedestal and screw the cabinets into place. Remember that the base is recessed. You may want to mark a line indicating the location of the base to help you screw directly into the wood.
6. Measure the space between the wall and the cabinets (**figure G**). Measure at the top and just above the base molding on the wall.



7. Transfer the measurements onto a filler piece and cut it to size (**figures H and I**). You may need to contour one of the corners to accommodate the base molding. The filler piece should be the same height as the cabinet face (**figure J**).
8. Fasten the pieces to the sides of the cabinet using pilot holes and wood screws as before. Be sure to keep the top and bottom of the filler pieces flush with the cabinet.
9. Get measurements for the toe kick trim, cut it to size, and nail it into place using small finish nails. Drive nails until approximately 1/4" of the nail shows above the surface. Use a nail set to drive nails just below the surface.

Mount seat onto cabinets

1. Measure the length along the face of the cabinet. Transfer the measurements to a piece of shelving material, and cut it to size. Use shelving material that matches the cabinets as closely as possible. The depth of the shelving material should be sufficient to cover or slightly overlap the front of the cabinets.
2. Cut a piece of cabinet trim to the same length (**figure K**).
3. Using the cabinets as a work surface, pre-drill pilot holes through the edge trim and the edge of the shelving material. Nail it into place using small finish nails, using a nail set as before. Use clamps to hold the tops of the boards flush while nailing.
4. Remove the boards from the top of the cabinets, and run a bead of panel adhesive along the cabinet edges (**figure L**).
5. Press the seat into place (**figure M**).

Finish the project

1. Replace the cabinet doors.
 2. Fill any nail holes with caulk or matching fill material.
 3. Caulk any voids along the wall, and use trim pieces to cover any large gaps that exist between the seat and the wall (**figure N**).
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