

Do It Yourself

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Maple and Walnut CD Cabinet -- Walls and Trim

From "[Wood Works](#)"

episode WWK-202 -- [More Projects »](#)

In this episode of *DIY Wood Works*, host David Marks builds a decorative CD cabinet fashioned out of maple and black walnut.

As a solution to the problem of CD storage, this vertically designed wood cabinet provides plenty of rack space for a CD collection and is intended to be both functional and visually appealing. It features flared trim as well as a sturdy, angled base and top made of black walnut. The darker walnut accents contrast with the light maple of the cabinet. The piece is adorned with a whimsical accent -- a door-pull made of ebony and carved in the shape of a musical note.

The proportions of the case are determined by the size of the rack inserts being used. For this project, plastic commercially made CD racks (**figure A**) were purchased from a woodworking store. They fit along the inside surfaces of the inner walls (**figure B**) that attach to the outer cabinet walls and provide the proper spacing for holding CDs stacked horizontally.

The sides of the cabinet are butted together (**figure C**) and joined with biscuits. The project begins with cutting plywood stock to build the sides. Where the edges of those sides are exposed, they'll be covered with strips of maple

Materials:

Maple and black-walnut stock

Plywood stock

Plastic CD racks (available from woodworking stores)

Table saw

Drum sander

Band saw

Fingerboard

Table router; flush-bearing bit

Biscuit joiner; wood biscuits



This CD cabinet, made of maple and contrasting black walnut, features flared trim that adds weight to the piece.



Figure A



Figure B

Yellow wood-glue
Clamps
Cork blocks
Safety glasses or goggles

Note: Cut sizes may vary. For exact measurements, please contact David Marks through his Web site -- information below under Resources.

Safety Alert: *Always* wear safety goggles or safety glasses when working with wood, saws, drills, routers, etc.

Cabinet Walls

Steps:

1. The plywood stock for the case is cut on the table saw (**figure D**), leaving the pieces slightly oversized.
2. Next, using fingerboards to hold the stock steady on the band saw, 1/8-inch strips of maple (**figure E**) are ripped from a piece of solid stock. The thin strips are then rut through the drum sander to eliminate any rough spots left by the saw-blade.
3. The thin strips are then ready to be glued to the plywood using yellow wood glue. Elevate the plywood on shims, and glue the strips in place (**figure F**), overhanging the top and bottom surfaces of the plywood just a bit.
4. The pieces can then be clamped together (with pieces edge-to-edge, as shown to use fewer clamps) to hold them securely as the glue dries (**figure G**).
5. After the glue has dried, clean edges along the top and bottom are created by trimming away the excess at the router table, using a flush-bearing bit (**figure H**).
6. With the plywood stock banded with maple, the stock is cut to size, using the table saw, for the elements of the cabinet (**figure I**).
7. A biscuit joiner is used to cut slots for the joinery of the maple/plywood case (**figure J and K**). Slots are cut in the side, top and



Figure C



Figure D



Figure E



Figure F



Figure G

8. One side of the cabinet is cut slightly wider than the other (**figure L**) to accommodate the thickness of the hinged door that will be mounted later.
9. With all of the slots cut, the cabinet is dry-fit to make sure that all of the pieces fit snugly. For glue-up, the assembly is set on wood blocks to elevate it and provide better access for clamping (**figure M**).
10. With the slots cut, and the dry-fit complete, glue-up can begin. With the large number of slots in the biscuit joinery, the application of glue is simplified by the use of a biscuit-shaped applicator (**figure N**).
11. Once all the pieces have been glued, and assembly of the cabinet is complete, the assembly is clamped securely (**figure O**) as the glue dries. Cork-blocks on the clamps prevent the wood from being marred. The cork-blocks were taped to the clamps in advance, saving work time as the glue begins to harden.
12. As the glue dries on the cabinet, work can begin on the inner walls. Plywood stock is cut to size and milled up, and maple trim is added to the leading edge.
13. The plastic racks can then be installed on the inner walls. The racks are positioned (**figure P**) to mark for pre-drilled holes.
14. Once the marks are made, the holes can be drilled.
 - **Tip:** To line up the holes accurately, use a self-centering drill bit (**figure Q**).
- 15.
16. Holes are also drilled in the sides for the pins that will hold the maple top shelf in place.
17. Once all of the holes have been drilled, the inner walls are glued into the center section and clamped secure while the glue dries. A combination of spring and screw-clamps is used (**figure R**) to provide adequate pressure for a solid bond between the pieces.



Figure H



Figure I



Figure J



Figure K



Figure L

Walnut Trim

While the maple cabinet is drying, work can begin on the corner trim. Black-walnut stock, that's 1-1/2 square, is used to create the trim pieces. The dark walnut trim provides the attractive, contrasting border for the cabinet (**figure S**). The trim pieces are flared from the top to bottom to supply some visual weight.

- To make the trim, a rabbet is cut along the inside corner of the black walnut stock to wrap around the outside corners of the CD cabinet, covering the plywood edge. The blade on the table saw is set to 7/8-inch, and two passes are made to cut the rabbet in each of the trim pieces (**figure T**).
- After the rabbet has been cut in the trim piece, a tapering jig is used on the table saw to taper one outside face on the trim. The stock is then rotated in the jig to cut a matching taper on the other outside face.
- After the outside faces have been tapered, the stock is turned to taper the inside surfaces as well. Since the outside faces have been tapered, the flat references have been removed. To compensate for that, a shim is inserted in the tapering jig to make the cuts tapering the inside faces (**figure U**). As before, cut the first inside face, then rotate the stock to cut the second inside face.
- Once the rabbets have been cut in the trim, and the pieces have been tapered, the trim pieces are glued to the corners of the case using yellow glue.
- Once they have been glued, the assembly is clamped securely until the glue dries (**figure V**). Again, cork blocks are used to protect the wood from clamp damage.

In the segment that follows, the black-walnut angled base for the cabinet is made.

Sponsored Resource

> [Click here](#) to order your tools and materials for this project from **Woodcraft!**



Figure M



Figure N



Figure O



Figure P



Figure Q

RESOURCES:

Fine Woodworking

A magazine devoted to high-quality craftsmanship in woodworking.

The Taunton Press Inc

Newtown, CT 06470

Phone: 203-426-8171

Fax: 203-426-3434

Email: service@taunton.com

The Small Wood Shop (The Best of Fine Woodworking)

Model: 1561580619

Author: Helen Albert (Editor)

Woodworking Techniques: Best Methods for Building Furniture from Fine Woodworking

Model: 1561583456

Author: Fine Woodworking Magazine

The Taunton Press Inc

Newtown, CT 06470

Phone: 203-426-8171

Fax: 203-426-3434

Email: service@taunton.com

Mastering Woodworking Machines (Fine Woodworking Book)

Model: 0942391985

Author: Mark Duginske

David Marks Website

David Marks, DIY's *Wood Works* host, is a master woodworker. For more information on cut sizes and project details, please contact him via his Website at www.djmarks.com

The Complete Woodworker's Companion

Model: 0823008665

Author: Roger Holmes

(1996)

Watson-Guptill Publications

Lakewood, NJ 08701-9914



Figure R



Figure S



Figure T



Figure U



Figure V

Phone: 908-363-5679

Fax: Private

The Complete Book of Wood Joinery

Model: 0806999500

Author: Richard J. Descistofofo
(1997)

Sterling Publishing Co. Inc.

New York, NY 10016

Phone: 212-532-7160

Fax: 800-542-7567

Advanced Woodworking

Model: 0783539126

Author: Editors of Time Life Books
1998

Time-Life Books Inc.

Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-838-7000

Fax: 703-518-4124

Popular Woodworking Magazine (F & W Publications, Inc.)

F & W Publications, Inc.

Cincinnati, OH 45207

Phone: 515-280-1721

Website: www.popularwoodworking.com

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[Maple and Walnut CD Cabinet -- Walls and Trim](#)

[Maple and Walnut CD Cabinet -- Angled Base](#)

[Maple and Walnut CD Cabinet -- Top and Door](#)

[Maple and Walnut CD Cabinet -- Finishing Touches](#)



The walnut top is also framed in black walnut, matching the sturdy angled base.



The door is adorned with an ebony handle, hand-shaped into a musical note.