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LINGERIE DRESSER PLAN

Honest, solid construction. I guess that's what I like about this seven- drawer dresser. It's built like it should be. Raised-panel drawer fronts. Solid-wood top. Frame and panel sides. Dovetail drawers. And just enough cove molding to give it a distinctive appearance.

Most important, the dresser seems to fit comfortably in almost any setting. It's a classic piece that doesn't stand out in a room like a piece of homemade furniture.

SIDE FRAMES

I began building the dresser by assembling the two side frames. These consist of three rails (horizontal pieces), two stiles (vertical pieces), and ¼" plywood panels.

Start work by cutting six rails from 4/4 stock (13/16" actual thickness). Cut the top rails (A) 3" wide, the middle rails (B) 2¾" wide, and the bottom rails (C) 3⅝" wide. Then cut all six rails to a common length of 10", see Fig. 1.

CORNERS. The three rails on each side are joined by two stiles to make the side frames. However, before assembling these pieces, I added another piece to the stiles. I glued the front and back face frame pieces (stiles) to the side frame stiles, refer to Fig. 5. This way each corner is an L-shaped assembly that consists of a side stile (D) and a front stile (E) or back stile (F).

STILES. The side, front, and back stiles are all cut from 4/4 stock. Cut the four side stiles (D) to a width of 2⅝" and the four front and back stiles (E and F) to a width of 1¾", see Fig. 1. Then cut all eight pieces to a common length of 44⅞".

Note: The length of the stiles determines the height of the dresser. This measurement depends on the number and size of the drawers. Since I wanted to use a standard dovetail jig, I had to make the drawer height a multiple of ⅞". (I chose 5¼".) Once all seven drawers, rails, and slight gaps between each drawer were added up, the length of the stiles came to 44⅞".

JOINERY

After all of the rails and stiles are cut to finished size, the joints that hold them together can be cut.

GROOVE FOR PANELS. Start by cutting a ½"-deep groove on the edges of the rails (A, B, C) and the side stiles (D) to accept the plywood panels, see Fig. 1. Center the groove on the thickness of the workpiece.

As the grooves are cut, cut only the inside edge of the top and bottom rails (A and C), and the side stiles (D). Then cut the groove on both edges of the middle rails (B).

Shop Note: The panels are made from ¼" plywood. But most hardwood plywood actually measures less than ¼" thick. So cut the grooves just wide enough to accept the actual thickness of the plywood panels.

STUB TENONS. After cutting the grooves, I cut stub tenons on the ends of all six rails to fit into the grooves on the stiles. The length of the tenons matches the depth of the grooves (½") and the thickness matches the width of the grooves.

DADOES. Next, I switched over to work on the front and back stiles (E and F). The first step here is to lay out the position of eight ¼"-wide dadoes, see Fig. 1. (These dadoes are pre-cut to hold the frames that support the drawers.)

The first dado is ⅞" from the top end. (Note: Mark the "TOP" of each piece so the dadoes can be lined up later.) Then seven more dadoes are laid out every 6⅛". This should all come out so there's 1⅛" between the top of the last dado and the bottom of the stile.

After laying out the dadoes, raise the dado blade ¼" above the table and set the rip fence as a stop ⅞" from the inside of the blade, see Fig. 2. Now check that the blade matches the layout line and cut the dado. Then turn the workpiece end for end, check that the blade matches the pencil line on that end, and cut a dado.

After cutting the end dadoes on all four pieces, move the fence 7" from the blade and cut the second dado in each piece. Repeat the process to cut the remaining dadoes.

FIGURE 1

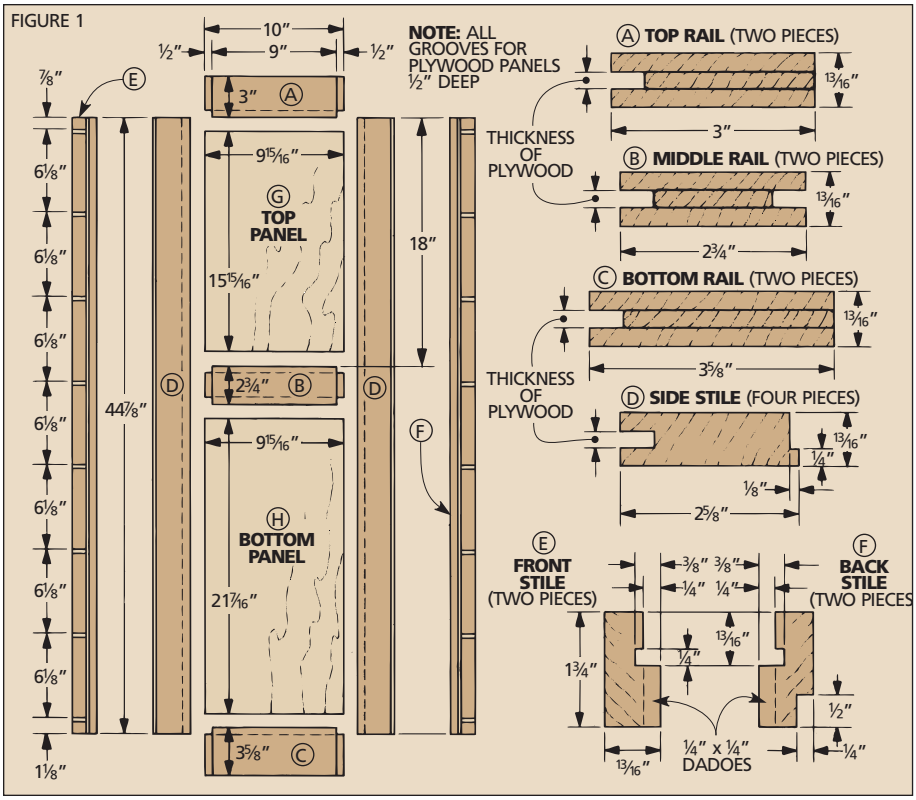


FIGURE 2

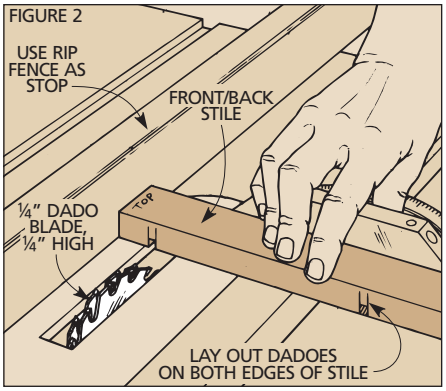
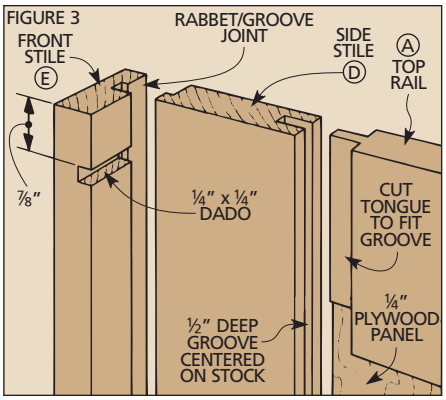


FIGURE 3



CORNER JOINT. When all the dadoes are cut, you can begin work on the corner joint that holds the front and back stiles (E, F) to the side stiles (D), see Fig. 3.

The first step is to cut a 1/4"-wide by 3/8"-deep groove down the inside face of the front and back stiles (E, F). (This groove is cut on the face with the eight dadoes.) Position the fence so the distance to the outside of the blade equals the thickness of the side stile (D), see Step 1 in Fig. 4.

A PROBLEM. Here's where I ran into the first design problem. If you went ahead and cut a tongue on the edge of the side stile (D) to fit into this groove, the eight dadoes would be exposed. (You would see eight "holes" on the sides of the dresser.)

To prevent this, I cut a rabbet the same depth as the dadoes on the inside face of each front and back stile (E, F). The side stile (D) then fits into the rabbet and hides the dadoes, see Fig. 3.

RABBET. To cut the rabbet, raise the dado blade 5/8" above the table. Then stand each front and back stile on edge and trim a section off the inside face, see Step 2 in Fig. 4. After this cut is made, the dadoes should have disappeared up to the groove.

BACK RABBET. Next, lower the dado blade to 1/2" above the table and cut a rabbet on the back stiles (F) for the 1/4" plywood back. (Note the position of this rabbet in Step 3.)

TONGUE. The last step is to make a tongue on the side stiles (D) to fit the groove in the front and back stiles (E, F). To make the cut, lay the stile flat on the saw and raise the blade just high enough to produce a tongue that fits into the groove, see Step 4.

ASSEMBLY

Once the tongues are cut to fit into the grooves, dry-assemble the side frames to take measurements for the plywood panels (G and H). (Cut the panels so there is a 1/16" clearance on the height and width, see Fig. 1.)

Then the frames can be assembled. I did this in two steps. First, I glued up the corner pieces.

STILE TO STILE. Start by gluing a side stile (D) to a front stile (E) - making sure the eight dadoes face in, see Fig. 5. Check the corner to be sure it's perfectly square.

PANELS, RAILS, AND CORNERS. After all four corners are assembled, glue and clamp them to the rails and panels to make a side frame, see Fig. 5.

Shop Note: Before I actually glued up these frames, I double-checked to make sure I had two mirrored sides. Also, check to see that the "TOP" label on all four stiles is actually on the top.

Once everything is lined up, glue each side assembly together checking that the pieces lie flat against the pipe clamps and the ends are flush.

FIGURE 4

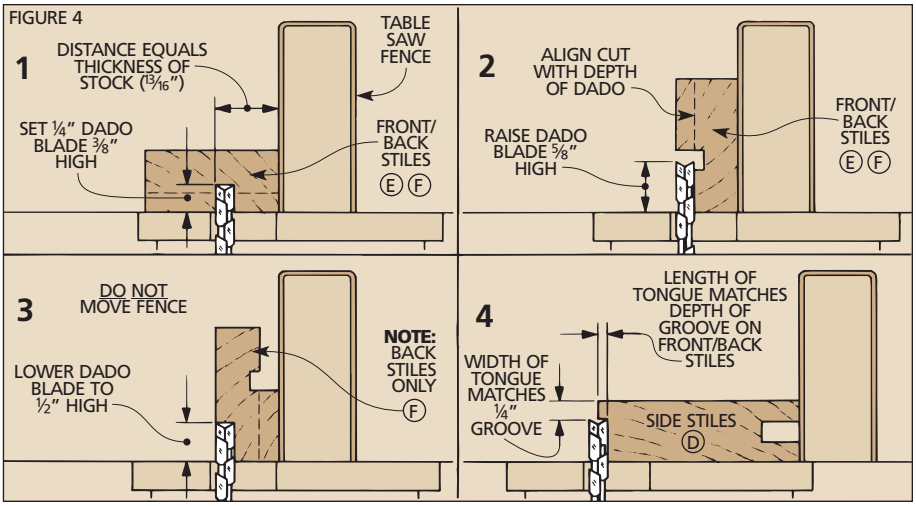
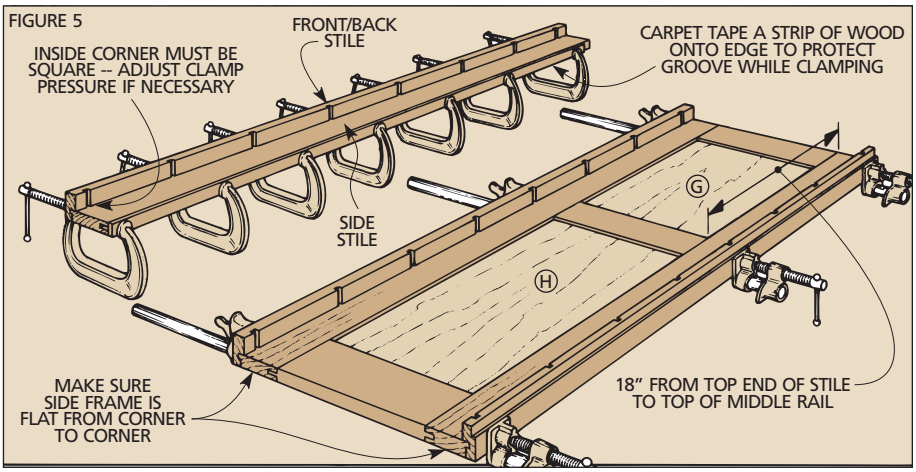


FIGURE 5



MATERIALS

FIGURE 6

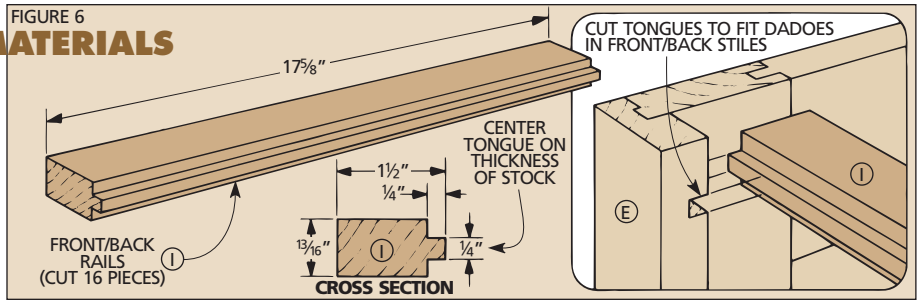


FIGURE 7

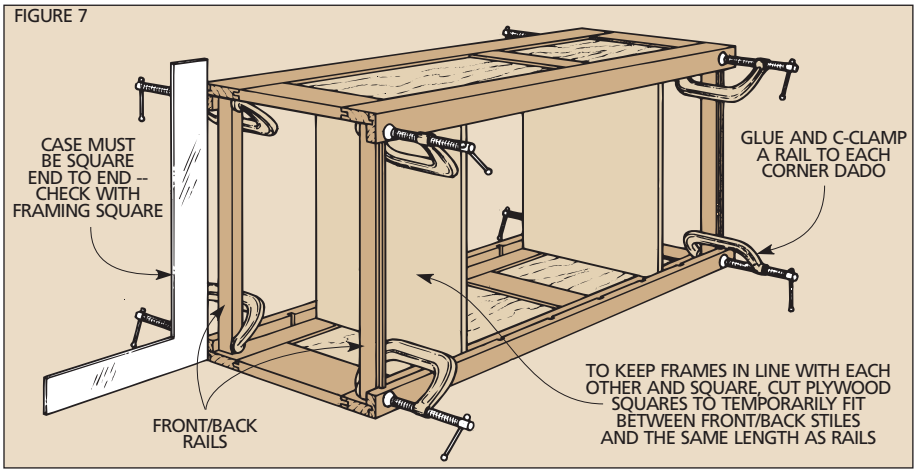


FIGURE 8

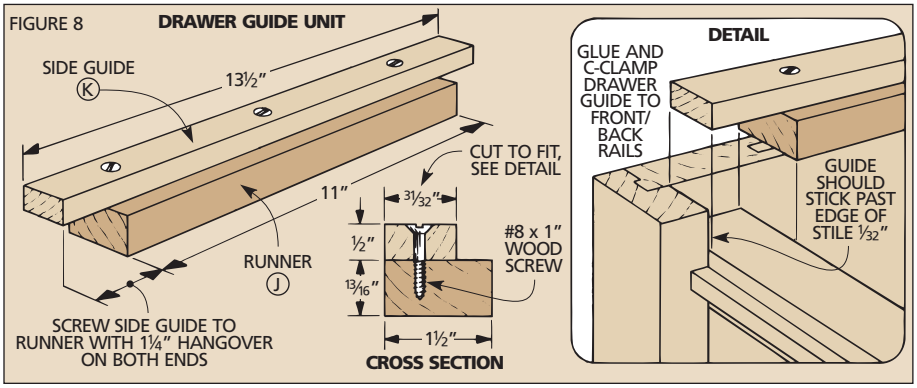
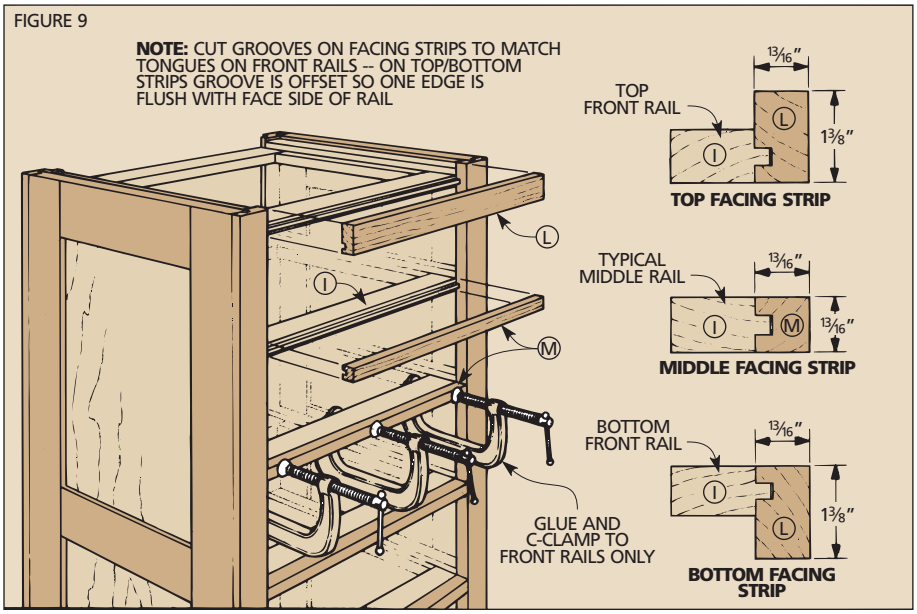


FIGURE 9



SUPPORT FRAMES

While the side frames were drying, I began work on the drawer support frames.

FRONT/BACK RAILS. Start by cutting 16 front and back rails (I) from 4/4 stock to a width of 1½" and length of 17⅝", see Fig. 6. (When in place, this should yield an opening of 15¾" between the face stiles.) After the rails are trimmed to size, cut rabbets on the front edge to create a tongue that fits into the dadoes on the front and back stiles (E, F), see Fig. 6.

ASSEMBLY. Once the rails fit in the dadoes, assembly can begin. Lay one side frame face down on a flat surface and glue a rail into each top and bottom dado, see Fig. 7. Then glue the other side frame to the other end of the rails.

Shop Note: I placed a piece of squared-up plywood temporarily inside each end to hold the assembly square, see Fig. 7. After the glue sets, add the remaining rails. If the side frames are bowed outward, use pipe clamps to pull the sides tight to the ends of the rails.

DRAWER GUIDES. Next, drawer guides are mounted to the rails. These guides are made from two pieces - a runner (J) and a side guide (K), see Fig. 8.

To make these drawer guides, first cut 16 runners (J) from 4/4 stock to a width of 1½". Then cut them to length to match the distance between the front and back rails on the cabinet (11" in my case), see Fig. 8.

Next, cut 16 side guides from ½" stock. To determine their width, measure from the inside corner to the edge of the front stile and add 1/32", see Detail. Then cut them 2½" longer than the runners (13½").

Now screw a side guide to the top of a runner to make a complete drawer guide unit, see Fig. 8. The side guide hangs over the runner by 1¼" on each end so it can be glued to the top of the front and back rails, see Detail in Fig. 8.

FACING STRIPS

After all of the drawer guides are glued in place, work can begin on the front facing strips. There are two different sizes of facing strips, see Fig. 9. The top and bottom strips (L) are wider (1⅜") than the six middle strips (M) (13/16"). But all of the strips are made from 4/4 stock and cut to a rough length of 16".

CUT THE GROOVES. After cutting to rough length, cut a ¼" x ¼" groove on the back face of each facing strip to fit onto the tongue on the front rails (I), see Fig. 9. The groove on the top and bottom strips (L) is offset on the width as shown in Fig. 9. The groove on the six middle strips (M) is centered on the thickness of the stock.

CUT TO LENGTH. After the grooves are cut, all the facing strips can be cut to length to fit between the front stiles and then glued in place, see Fig. 9.

CHAMFERS. Next, I routed stopped chamfers on the four corners. To stop the chamfers near the ends, clamp a stop block flush with each end of the stile, see Fig. 10. (Option: You can also rout a chamfer around the inside of the frame by using a V-groove bit and a guide attached to the base of the router.)

BASE

After routing the chamfers, work can begin on the base. The base consists of a mitered frame glued on top of a kickboard frame.

MOLDED FRAME. Start by cutting a frame front (N) and two frame sides (O) from 4/4 stock to a width of 2⅜", see Fig. 11. Then rough cut the front to a length of 23" and sides to a length of 18".

Before cutting the pieces to final length, rout a bullnose edge on the pieces. First, rout a ½" round-over on the top edge, see Step 1 in Fig. 11. Then, to rout the bottom edge, switch to a ¼" round-over bit and raise it 3/16" above the table, see Step 2.

After the pieces are routed, miter the front piece (N) on both ends so the length is 2¼" longer (from long point to long point) than the width of the cabinet. (In my case the frame front was 21½.") Miter each side piece (O) on one end only and cut them 1⅛" longer than the depth of the cabinet (16¼").

Next, glue the front miters together. Hold them on a flat surface until the glue sets.

KICKBOARD. After the three-sided frame is glued, cut a kickboard front (P), back (Q), and two sides (R) from 4/4 stock to a width of 3½", see Fig. 12. Then miter both ends of the kickboard front (P) and back (Q) so the length of each piece is ½" shorter than the bullnose frame (21").

Next, miter both ends of each kickboard side (R) so the length is ¼" shorter than the bullnose frame sides (16").

KERF AND SPLINE. To help keep the miters aligned while clamping, cut a kerf in each miter. Then rip a spline off the edge of a piece of 4/4 stock to fit the kerf, see Joint Detail in Fig. 12. Once the joints are cut, glue the kickboard frame together checking each corner for square.

ASSEMBLY. After the kickboard frame dries, glue the three-sided bullnose frame to the top of the kickboard frame, see Fig. 13. The bullnose frame is centered on the front and flush with the back. (This leaves a ¼" overhang on the front and sides.)

FILLER STRIP. One final step is to glue a filler strip to the top of the kickboard back, see Detail in Fig. 13. This strip creates a ¼" rabbet for the cabinet back to fit into.

BASE TO CASE. To attach the base to the case, drill shank holes through the top of the molded frame. Next, turn the case upside down, and position the base so it's centered across the front and flush with the back. Then mark and drill the pilot holes, and screw the base to the case, see Fig. 14.

FIGURE 10

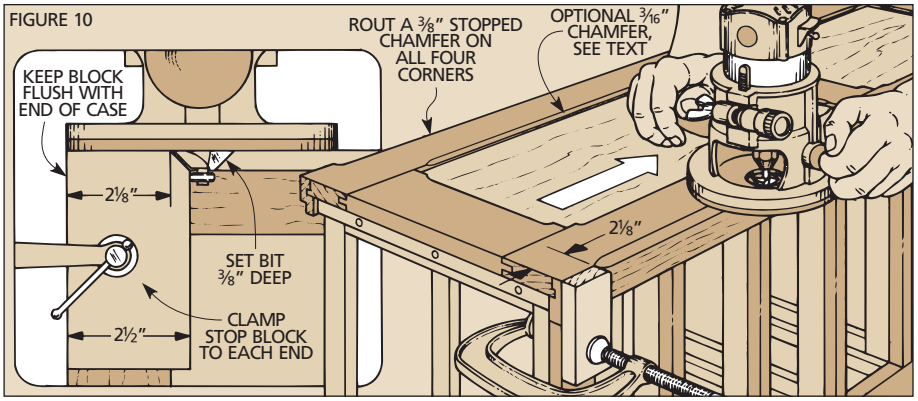


FIGURE 11

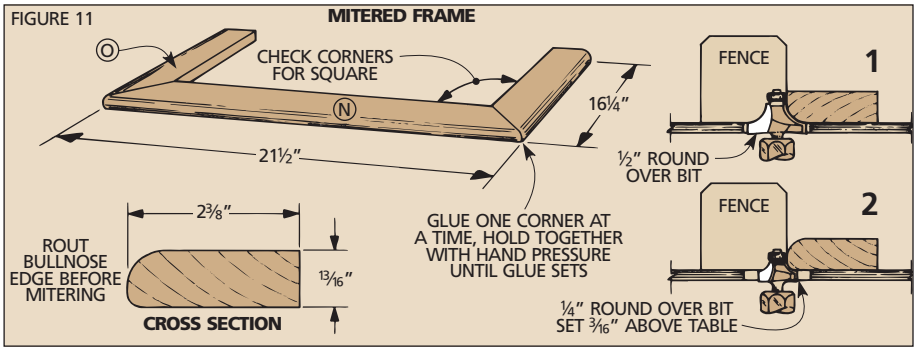


FIGURE 12

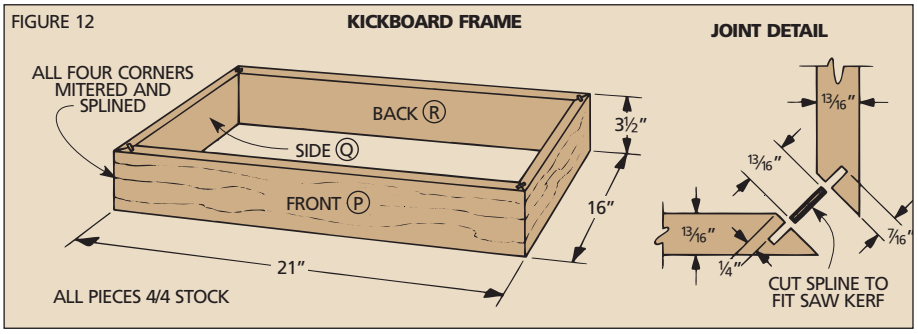


FIGURE 13

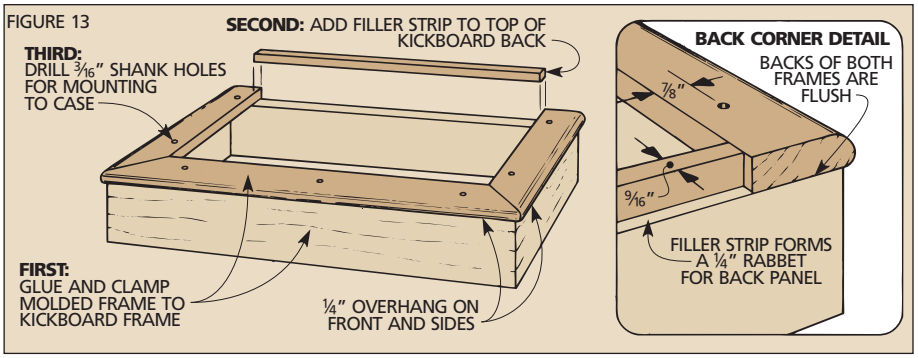
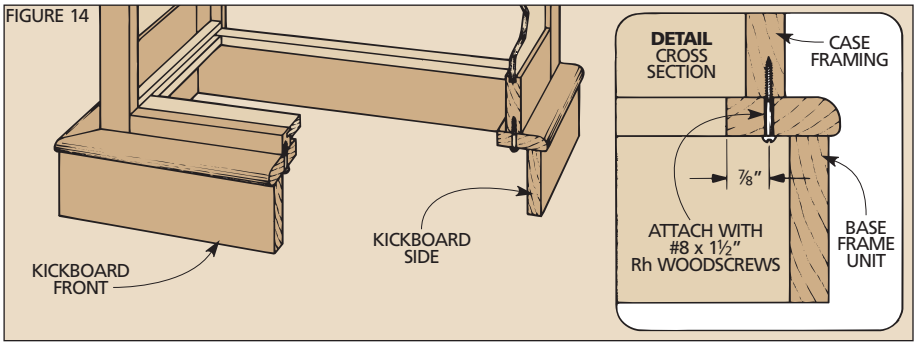
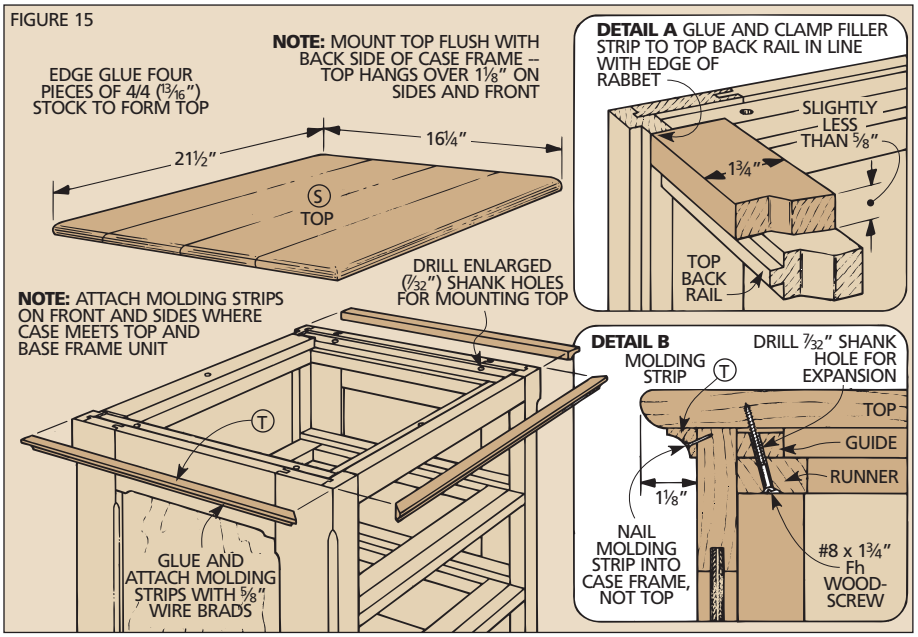
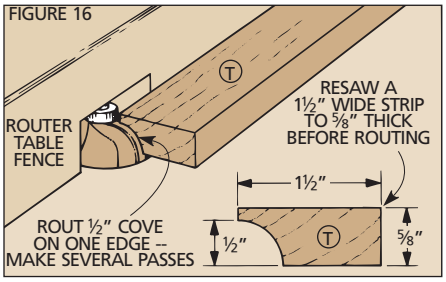
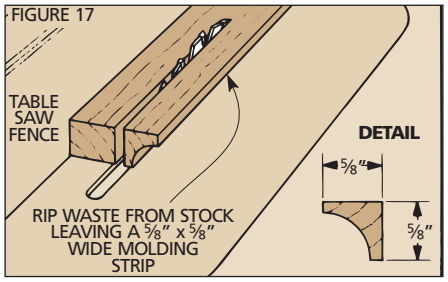


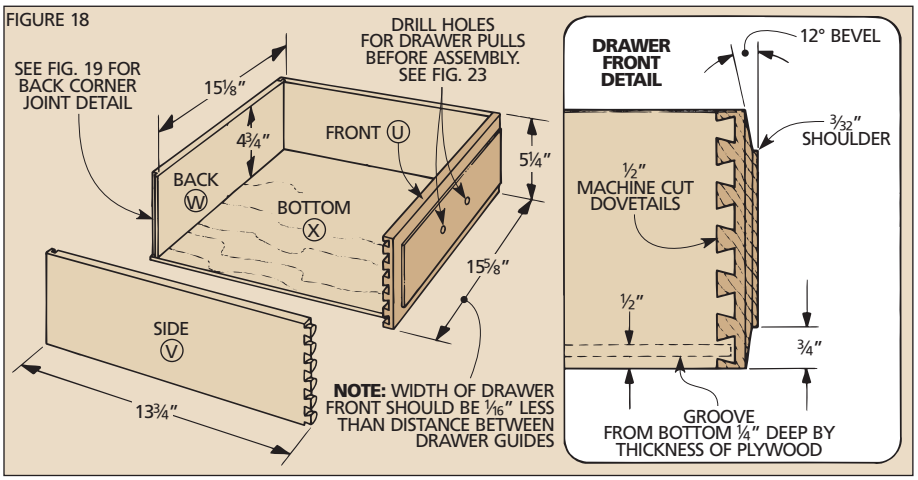
FIGURE 14

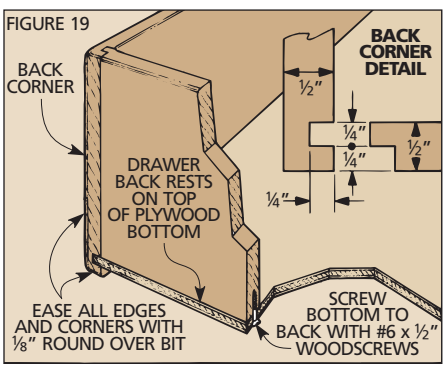


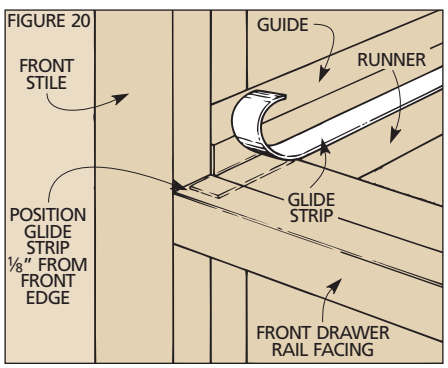












THE DRESSER'S TOP

After the base was screwed to the bottom of the case, I started work on the top (S).

BUILD UP TOP. Begin by edge-gluing four pieces of 4/4 stock to make a blank that's 18"wide and 22½" long. After the blank dries, plane it flat and cut it to finished size: 2¼" longer than the cabinet's width and 1⅛" wider than its depth, see Fig. 15.

ROUT PROFILE. Next, rout the two sides and the front (but not the back) creating the same bullnose profile as on the base frame - except the ¼" round-over is on the upper edge, see Detail B in Fig. 15.

FILLER STRIP. Before screwing down the top, I added a filler strip between the top back rail and the case top, see Detail A.

ATTACHING TOP. To secure the top, first center the top on the case (flush in back) and clamp it down. Then drill angled holes with a #8 pilot/countersink bit up through the top rails and drawer guides, see Detail B in Fig. 15.

After drilling the holes, remove the top and enlarge the shank holes so the top can expand and contract with changes in humidity. Then screw down the top.

MOLDING STRIPS

To dress up the front and sides of the cabinet, I added molding strips above the base and below the top, see Fig. 15.

MAKING THE STRIPS. To make the six strips (T), start by resawing some 1½"-wide stock to ⅝" thick. Then rout a ½" cove on one edge, see Fig. 16. Next, trim the molding off the outside edge of the workpiece, see Fig. 17.

MITER AND ATTACH. Now miter the strips to fit around the front and sides of the cabinet. Then glue and nail each strip to the case, see Detail in Fig. 15. (For a tip on hiding the nails, see page 9.)

DRAWERS

After the molding strips are in place, the only thing left is to make the drawers.

CUT THE PIECES. Begin by cutting seven drawer fronts (U) from 4/4 stock to 5¼" wide and 1/16" less in length than the distance between the guides, see Fig. 18.

Next, cut fourteen drawer sides (V) from ½" stock 5¼" wide and 13¾" long. Then cut seven drawer backs (W) from ½" stock to a width of 4¾" and ½" less in length than the drawer fronts (15 3/16").

JOINERY. Once all the pieces are cut to size, rout half blind dovetail joints on the front corners of each drawer.

Next, cut a dado across the back end of each side piece and a matching tongue on both ends of each back piece, see Fig. 19.

BOTTOM. Now, cut a ¼"-deep groove for the bottom panel on the inside edge of the sides and front, see Fig. 18.

Then cut a ¼" plywood bottom panel (X) to fit between the bottom of the side

grooves and from the bottom of the front groove to the back edge of the drawer back.

RAISED PANELS. Before assembly, the drawer fronts are cut to create a raised field. (For more information, see page 7.)

Then, drill the holes for the drawer pulls. Counterbore a 5/8" hole for the nut on the back side and then drill a 1/4" shank hole, refer to Fig. 23.

ASSEMBLY. Finally glue up the drawer, checking that the corners are square. (To help keep the drawers square during assembly, I built a jig, see page 9.)

When the glue dries, slide the bottom panel in place and screw it to the drawer back, see Fig. 19.

GLIDE STRIPS. There are a few details to complete the drawers. To help the drawers glide smoother and create a slight gap below each drawer front, add nylon glide strips to the drawer guides, see Fig. 20.

DRAWER STOPS. Also, to stop the drawers from going too far back into the cabinet, I glued and clamped a 1/4" pad to the top of each front rail, see Fig. 21 and 22.

The opposite is to stop the drawers from being pulled all of the way out. To do this I screwed a turnbuckle to the back of the front rail above each drawer, see Fig. 23.

BACK. When all the drawer work is done, cut a 1/4" plywood back (Y) and screw it in place.

FINISH. I finished the dresser with General Finishes' Two-Step System and then mounted the pulls.

FIGURE 21

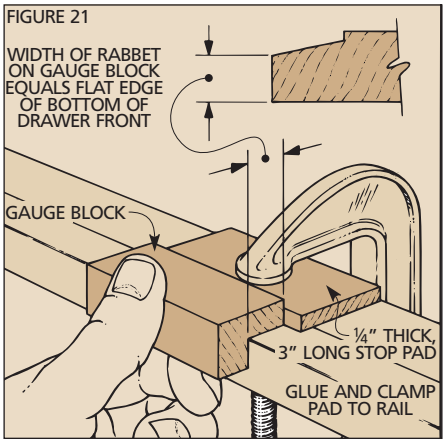


FIGURE 22

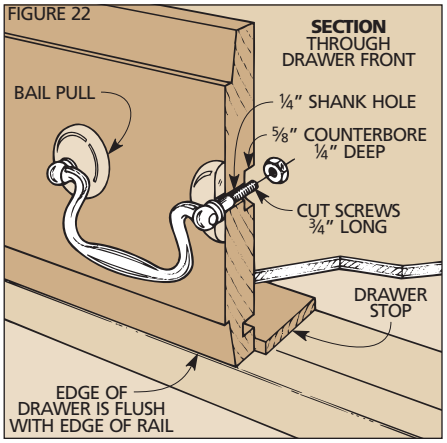
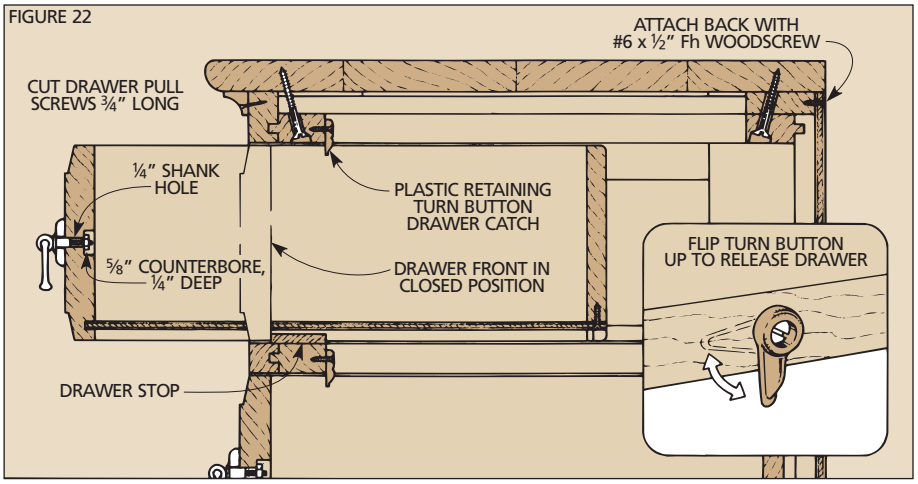


FIGURE 22

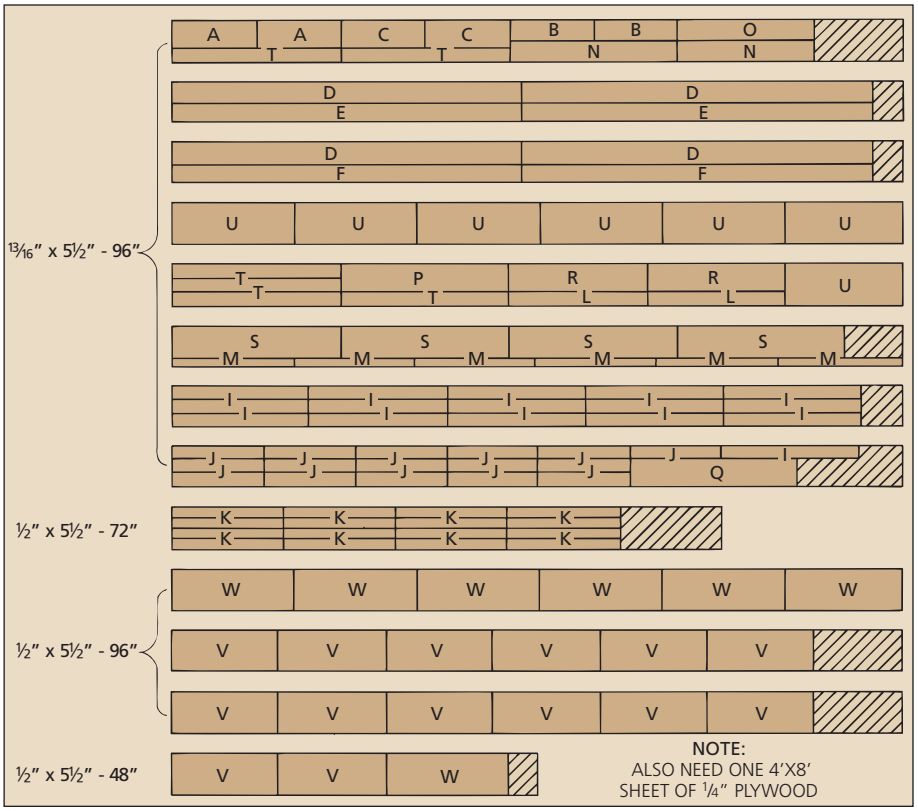


MATERIALS LIST

Overall Dimensions: 50"h x 21 1/2"w x 16 1/4"d

SIDE FRAMES	
A Top Rails (2)	13/16 x 3 - 10
B Middle Rails (2)	13/16 x 2 3/4 - 10
C Bottom Rails (2)	13/16 x 3 5/8 - 10
D Side Stiles (4)	13/16 x 2 5/8 - 44 7/8
E Front Stiles (2)	13/16 x 1 3/4 - 44 7/8
F Back Stiles (2)	13/16 x 1 3/4 - 44 7/8
G Top Panels (2)	1/4" ply. - 9 15/16 x 15 15/16
H Bottom Panels (2)	1/4" ply. - 9 15/16 x 21 7/16
INTERIOR FRAMING	
I Front/Back Rails (16)	13/16 x 1 1/2 - 17 5/8
J Runners (16)	13/16 x 1 1/2 - 11
K Side Guides (16)	1/2 x 31/32 - 13 1/2
L Top/Bottom Facing (2)	13/16 x 1 3/8 - 15 3/4
M Middle Rail Facing (6)	13/16 x 13/16 - 15 3/4
BASE/TOP	
N Frame Front (1)	13/16 x 2 3/8 - 21 1/2
O Frame Sides (2)	13/16 x 2 3/8 - 16 1/4
P Kickboard Front (1)	13/16 x 3 1/2 - 21
Q Kickboard Back (1)	13/16 x 3 1/2 - 21
R Kickboard Sides (2)	13/16 x 3 1/2 - 16
S Top (1)	13/16 x 16 1/4 - 21 1/2
T Molding Strips (6)	5/8 x 5/8 - 10 ft.
DRAWERS	
U Fronts (7)	13/16 x 5 1/4 - 15 5/8
V Sides (14)	1/2 x 5 1/4 - 13 3/4
W Backs (7)	1/2 x 4 3/4 - 15 1/8
X Bottoms (7)	1/4" ply. - 15 1/8 x 13 11/16
Y CABINET BACK (1)	1/4" ply. - 16 3/4 x 44 7/8

CUTTING DIAGRAM



Raised Panels

Two Methods to the Classic Look

What's the best way to cut raised panels? The traditional method is to use a special hand plane with an angled sole. This plane cuts an angled border (chamfer) around the edge of the panel, leaving a "raised" field in the center.

TABLE SAW METHOD

An easier approach is to use a table saw to cut the chamfers. Actually you're making two different kinds of cuts - two rip cuts (on the sides, with the grain) and two cross cuts (at the ends, across the grain).

So, one of the first considerations is the type of blade to use. I use a carbide-tipped (40 or 50 tooth) combination blade.

After the blade is mounted, attach a tall auxiliary plywood fence to the rip fence to help steady the panel, see Fig. 1. Then tilt the blade to an angle of 10° to 20°. (On the dresser drawer fronts in this issue, I used an angle of 12°.)

Next, raise the blade so the distance from the table to the highest point on the blade equals the width of the chamfered border you want. This is the distance from the edge of the panel to the shoulder of the field (3/4" on the drawer fronts).

Finally, adjust the rip fence so the blade cuts off enough to leave a 3/32"-high shoulder - to "raise" the field in the center of the panel, see Fig. 1.

MAKE THE CUTS. Now it's just a matter of making the cuts. Hold the panel on end and cut the two ends first. Be careful to keep your fingers away from the path of the blade. Once the ends are complete, cut the two sides.

CLEAN UP CUT. After all four chamfers are cut, the disadvantage of using the table saw becomes obvious - there are swirl marks on the chamfered edge. It's usually worse on the end grain, but all four edges will have to be sanded or scraped.

To sand the chamfers, I make a sanding block with a bevel on one side, see Fig. 2. When sanding, the bevel rides against the angled shoulder left by the saw cut.

ROUTER TABLE METHOD

The swirl marks are even worse if you're working with cherry (as I was on the dresser). Cherry burns easily and you end up with swirls of burn marks that are almost impossible to sand out.

Dreading the thought of all that sanding, I decided to try a different technique - cutting the chamfered borders on the router table. I don't mean by using one of those $100 panel-raising bits.

After a little experimenting, we came up with a simple method that uses a straight bit and a fence angled at 12° - a set-up that costs almost nothing.

THE FENCE. The first step is to make the angled fence. Begin by cutting a 2x4 the same length as the main part of the router table fence (24" on the *Woodsmith* router table).

CUT THE ANGLE. Then cut an angled face and small support ledge on the front of the fence. I cut the angle and ledge in two steps, see Fig. 3. First, tilt the saw blade to 12° and move the rip fence so it's 1/8" from the blade (measured at the table top level), see Detail A in Fig. 3.

Since the cut is deep, I made it in two passes. Raise the blade about 2" above the table and make a first pass. Then raise the blade 3 1/8"above the table (leaving room for the 3/8"-high ledge) and make a second pass, see Detail A in Fig. 3.

CUT THE LEDGE. Next, to form the angled ledge, lower the blade and move the rip fence to the other side of the blade. Then set the fence 3/8" from the blade (measured at the table top) and raise the blade so it cleans out the waste, Detail B in Fig. 3.

FIGURE 1

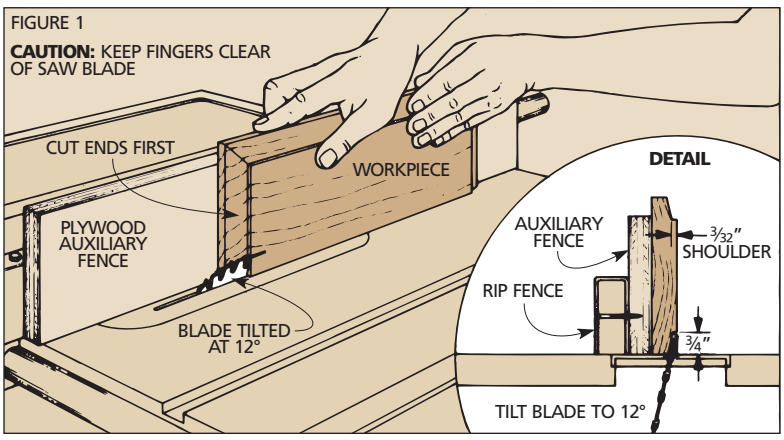
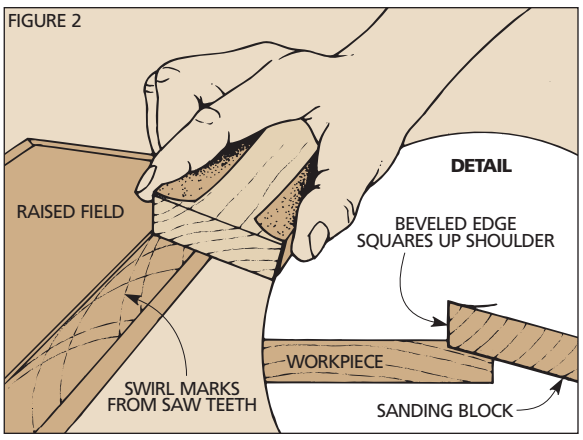


FIGURE 2



Shop Note: To keep the workpiece from pinching down on the waste piece, I slipped a 1/8" Masonite spacer into the first kerf, see Detail B.

NOTCH FOR BIT. After the ledge is cut, notch out a small opening in the ledge to fit around the router bit, see Fig. 4.

MOUNT WITH SCREWS. Next, mount the angled fence to the back face of the router table fence (so the screw hole won't be on the front), see Fig. 4.

FEATHERBOARD. After the angled fence was screwed in place, I made a featherboard to hold the panel tight to the fence, see Fig. 5. (It also acts as a guard when routing.)

I added a spacer block under the featherboard so it pressed tight against the field (center section) of the raised panel (not the chamfered edge), see Fig. 5. Also, I trimmed off the end of the featherboard at a 12° angle to match the angle of the fence.

ROUTING THE RAISED PANELS

I actually routed the raised panels by standing in front of the router table and reached over the fence, see Fig. 5. Start by mounting a 1/2" straight bit in the router and raise it so the fluted cutting edge sticks above the ledge an amount equal to the desired width of the chamfered edge.

ROUTING THE EDGES. I routed the chamfers in three passes, moving the fence toward the bit a little between each pass, see Steps 1, 2 and 3 in Fig. 5. (You have to reset the featherboard between each pass.)

There's a number of things to keep in mind when routing. First, start by routing the ends of the workpiece, then clean up any chipout by routing the sides. Next, to keep the bit from pulling the workpiece through the jig, move the workpiece from your right to left. Finally, position your hands so you can feed at a constant rate. If you stop in the middle, there may be a little divot in the routed surface.

It's a good idea to work with a test piece the same thickness as the drawer fronts. Then, on the last pass, sneak up on the final position of the fence to get the correct shoulder height. (It's 3/32" on the dresser.)

SANDING. Though routing creates a much cleaner chamfer than sawing, there's always a little bit of sanding left to do. I use a beveled sanding block like the one shown in Fig. 2 to get rid of any remaining "fuzz."

FINAL THOUGHTS. The one limitation of this technique is that the width of the chamfered edge is limited to the length of the cutting edge on the router bit.

On most common straight bits, this is only 1". However, there are longer mortise bits that have cutting edges up to 3" long.

One other thought. I used a 1/2" straight bit with a 1/2" shank to cut the chamfered edge. Although it's not necessary, I feel more comfortable using 1/2" shank bits whenever possible.

FIGURE 3

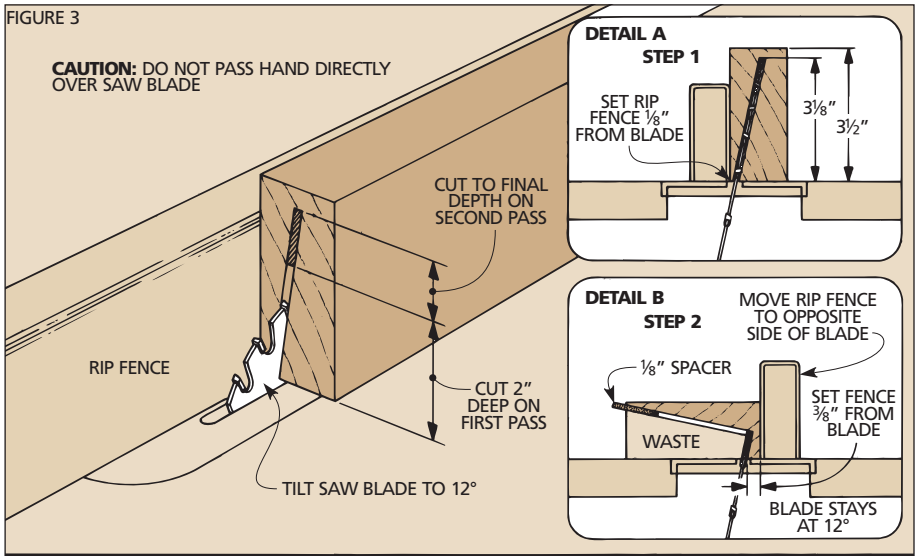


FIGURE 4

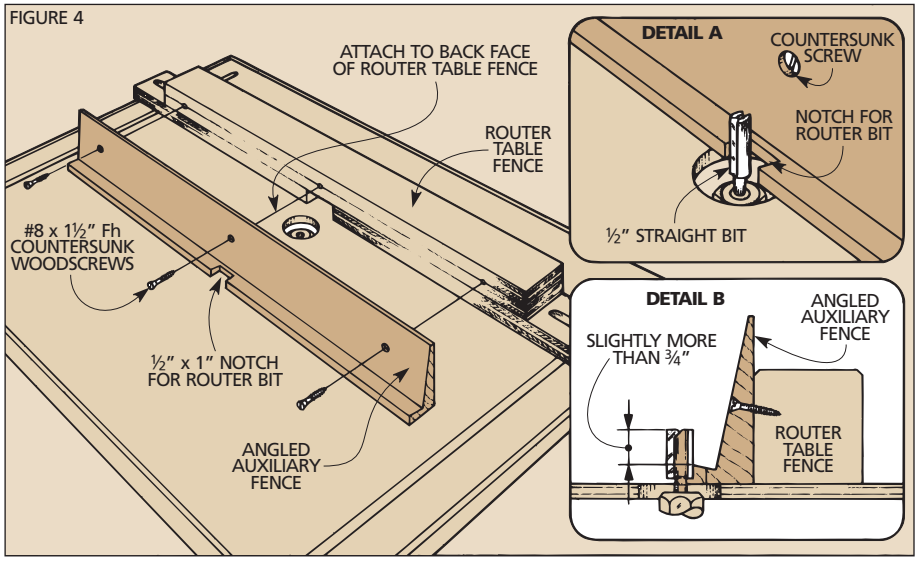
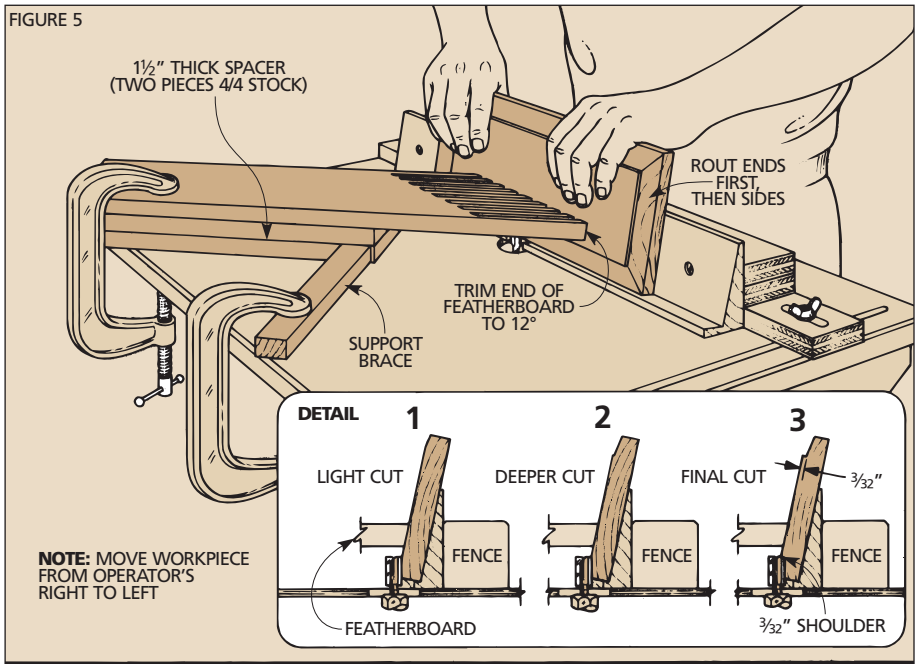


FIGURE 5

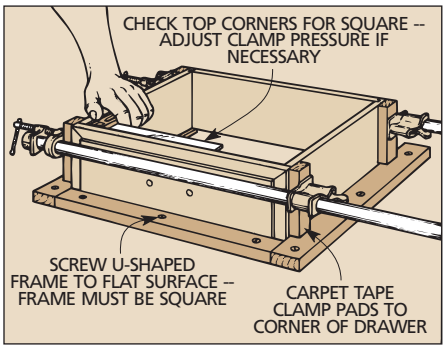


Shop Notes

SQUARING JIG

One of the most important considerations in making the dresser in this issue is that all of the assemblies must be square - especially the drawers. If the drawers aren't square, their faces won't be flush with the front of the cabinet.

To help hold the drawers square during assembly, I built a U-shaped squaring jig. Start by dry assembling one of the drawers. Then set the drawer on top of your bench or a flat piece of plywood and screw



or nail down three pieces of scrap as a fence around it. Check with a try square that the inside corners are absolutely square.

To assemble a drawer, spread glue in the joints, put the pieces together, and then slide it into the jig. Next, put clamps across the drawer to hold it together.

The jig holds the important part of the drawer (the bottom edge) square. But since the top is not held in the jig, check the top corners for square. Then allow the glue to set before removing the drawer from the jig.

BLIND NAILING

One of the problems of using nails in a project is how to cover the nail holes. I was faced with this problem when fastening the molding to the dresser.

WOOD PUTTY. The easy solution is to drive in the brad, countersink it, and fill the top of the hole with plastic wood putty. It's quick, but getting an exact color match with the wood is difficult.

There's another problem. Most woods (especially cherry) age and change color, but most plastic wood putties stay the same. It's a matter of trying to guess what color putty to choose that will match the wood two years (or more) from now.

ANOTHER METHOD. There's another method to hide the nails that has been used by finish carpenters for years - blind nailing. To do this you lift up a chip, set the nail, and then glue the chip back in place.

BLIND NAILER. To lift the chip, there's a special tool available called a "blind nailer." It looks like a miniature plane that holds a small chisel for a blade.

One source for this tool is Garrett Wade Company, 161 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-1205; 800-221-2942; Blind Nailer plus Chisel, Order No. 44K01.04, $19.95 (At time of original printing).

A blind nailer quickly lifts a thin chip, but if you're careful you can do the same thing with a 1/4" (or smaller) chisel.

LIFT CHIP. Start by holding the chisel parallel with the grain and the bevel facing down, see Step 1. Then raise the back of the bevel slightly off the work surface and wiggle it forward or tap it lightly with a mallet. The goal is to curl up a chip without allowing it to break off.

DRIVE BRAD. Next, grip a brad with a pair of needle nosed pliers and tack it most of the way in with a tack hammer, see Step 2. (To prevent splitting the molding, use as thin a brad as possible. We used 5/8" x 19 gauge brads on the dresser.) Then set the brad below the bottom of the chip with a nail set.

GLUE DOWN. After the brad is set, spread a very thin layer of glue under the chip with a toothpick and roll the curled chip down with your thumb, see Step 3.

HOLD UNTIL IT SETS. To hold the chip down tight until the glue sets, press a 1" dowel into the cove molding, see Step 4. If a very thin layer of glue has been used, it will set within a minute or two. (On a flat surface, use a flat block and put a piece of wax paper between the block and the chip.)

SAND. After the glue has dried completely (at least an hour), sand the surface flat. On the cove molding I wrapped the sandpaper around the dowel as a sanding block.