

EPISODE #3029 A FINE FINISH

Lessons in Finished Carpentry

The boys are going to build two 3 feet wide by 8 feet tall units. This is way easier than making one 6 foot wide unit, because it will be lighter, and easier to move around. They will use pine veneer particleboard and use decorative moulding to make it all pretty.

There are five steps to building a wall unit, not to say that it is an easy task!

- Design
- Cut out pieces
- Prepare the pieces for assembly
- Assemble & apply finish
- Install

To build a wall unit, you need five things

- Lots of space
- Tools
- A design
- A cut list (to make the best use of your huge sheets of plywood)
- A friend like Danny Proulx who knows what they are doing!

Before you start

- Take a trip to a local wood store like The Wood Source to discuss wood types and design ideas.
- Tips about choosing moulding
 - Clear of knots
 - Straight grain
 - A kiln-dried product

Getting Started

- Design the cabinet (see fig. A)
- When designing your cabinet, keep in mind how much space you have to fill, and what you will be using the cabinet for.
- Also keep in mind how big the pieces of wood are that you will be working with. Plan a cut list with your 4x8 sheet of wood, and try to cut out as many pieces of the cabinet out of one sheet as possible. This is best done with a cutting diagram of the sheet plywood. This will save money, wood, and frustration!
- During the layout phase be aware of grain direction and leave room for the saw cut width.



A. Cabinet plans.



B. Using a table saw.



C. Pushing a sheet against the fence.



D. Safely using a sliding tablesaw.

EPISODE #3029 A FINE FINISH

Cut out the many pieces with a table saw (cuts can also be made with a circular saw or have your lumber store cut the pieces to size for a small fee)

- When cutting huge 4x8 sheets of wood, there's no need to measure. The table saw comes equipped with an adjustable fence that guides the sheet through the saw at the adjusted measurement.
- Table saw tips: (see fig. B)
 - Always wear safety glasses
 - Press wood tightly against the (adjustable) fence to keep the cut straight
 - You may need someone to help push the sheet against the fence with a push stick (see fig. C)
 - When cross cutting the narrow lengths, such as shelves, you can use a sliding tablesaw or a low-cost panel cutting jig (jig plans can be found in many woodworking how-to books) to push the wood through the blade (rather than having two people push it, as this is very dangerous!) (see fig. D)
 - A third option is to use a sliding compound mitre saw or radial arm saw.



E. First Rabbet cut.



F. Second Rabbet cut.

Prepare Pieces for Assembly

Cut Rabbet joints on the backs of the side-pieces of the cabinet

- This is a square-cut groove on the back of the cabinet where the thin back panel will slide into place and is secured.
- Make the Rabbet Cut: We are showing a rabbet cut using a standard blade – that's one option. If you can swing it, think about investing in a stacked dado blade for your saw to simplify the cuts. It makes rabbet cuts in one pass!
 - Adjust the blade to the depth of the rabbet cut
 - Adjust the saw's fence to the total width of the cut; include the blade thickness in the total cut width.
 - Slide the piece, face down, through the saw (see fig. E)
 - Set the fence to remove the waste material which is the depth of the rabbet cut (include the blade thickness when adjusting the fence)
 - Slide the piece again, but on its edge, to finish the square cut (see fig. F)



G. Applying iron-on edging.

Apply the Iron-on Edging (see fig. G)

- Place the pre-cut board into a vise for stability.
- Pre-heat your (spare) iron to the highest temperature.
- Hold the edging in place, on the top of the board, with your fingers.
- Carefully iron the edging on to the board
- Break off the edge
- Roll the edging down with a roller, to ensure that it is stuck properly (see fig. H)
- File the ends straight up and down to avoid crowning the edge tape



H. Rolling down the edging.