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# workbench myhome my style

Volume 1, No. 6

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## {A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR}

We have to make you want it. It's as true for a magazine as it is for any other product. When you see *My Home My Style* on the newsstand or in your mailbox, you have to want to pick it up and look inside. Once you do, we know that you'll like what you find. But first, we have to make you want it.

**Cover Conundrums.** That's why we spend so much time working on covers. We'll experiment with dozens of combinations of photos and words as we try to figure out just what you'll like best. You can see a couple of the versions we tried for this issue below. They highlight the same story, but in very different ways.

**Cast Your Cover Vote.** Now, we want you to let us know if you think one kind of cover fits *My Home My Style* better than the other. You can cast your vote at [MyHomeMyStyle.com](http://MyHomeMyStyle.com).

**Get on (the) Board.** While you're there, make sure that you always have a say about what goes *on* and *inside* this magazine by joining the *My Home My Style* Advisory Board. As a member, you'll have opportunities to tell us what you want to see in upcoming issues, to share your opinions about past issues, and to tell us what else we can offer to best serve your needs. Just click on "Join Our Advisory Board."



## Pick your perfect cover!

Do you like an up-close look at one item featured in the issue (left), or do you prefer a view that shows the whole room scene (right)? Share your cover preference at [MyHomeMyStyle.com](http://MyHomeMyStyle.com).



## {STAFF INSIGHT}

When we set out to create a **custom kitchen island** (page 32), we knew it had to be great-looking and easy to build. That sounds like a tall order, but by selecting materials creatively, we accomplished both goals.

We started by making the base from a pair of office file cabinets. They came ready to assemble and had a stylish cherry finish. It doesn't get easier than that.

Finding a cool counter surface, though, was going to be more challenging. Then, at one of our local home centers, I came across a large panel made up of individual aspen boards. After applying a finish, it looked like a high-end kitchen's butcher-block counter—for a total cost of about \$50.

James R. Downing, Senior Project Designer

look beyond ordinary cabinetry, and you'll find materials that can create a cool **custom kitchen island!**

## Favorite Things

Check out these fabulous finds that got us excited while putting together this issue!

### Pipe Dreams

You won't find a mudroom organizer like ours (page 20) in any catalog.

We built it from plumbing pipes and fittings to get a completely unique and modern look.

Kent Welsh,  
*Sr. Project Designer*



### Picture This

Picture frames can do much more than just show off art and photos. We used store-bought frames and fun fabric to class up inexpensive message boards. But we didn't stop there. The framed boards swing with style as doors for easy-to-build wall cabinets! Check them out on page 48.

Catherine Seiser, Assistant Editor

craft and decor items make cool cabinet doors!





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create a serene scene in  
any room by using our  
creative paint techniques to  
*coordinate the colors!*

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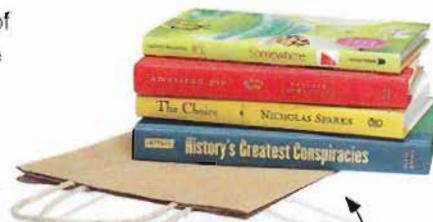
## Unite Your Books with Decorative Covers

Remember covering your textbooks in high school? Kate Browning of Pella, Iowa, shows us how that same simple technique can turn a bunch of mismatched hardcover books (right) into one cool, coordinated bookcase display (above).

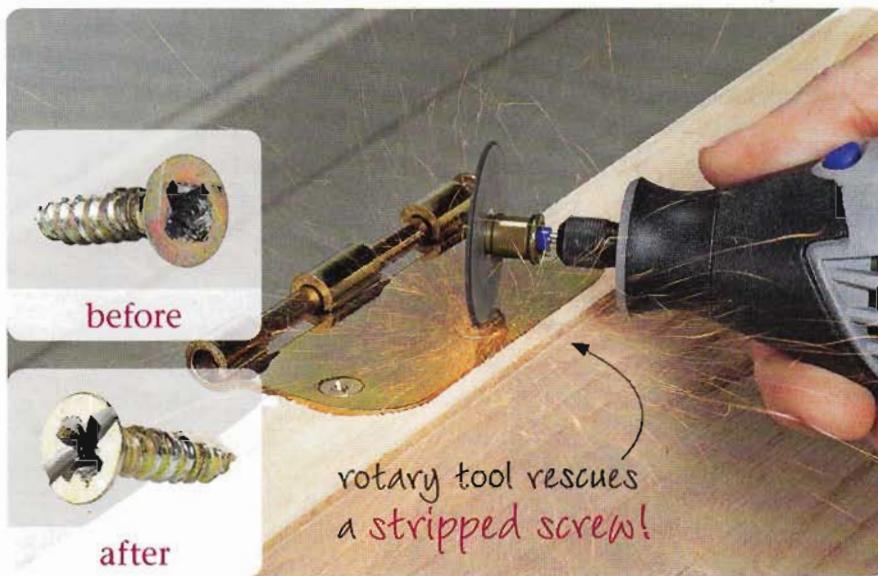
**Colorful Options.** Once it's unfolded and cut open, an 8" x 10" gift bag is the perfect size to cover almost

any hardcover book. A combination of plain brown and patterned bags gave our bookcase a fun, funky vibe.

**Cut, Then Wrap.** First, remove the handles and completely unfold the bottom of each bag. Then cut up one side of the bag to create a single sheet. Set the book on this sheet, and then fold and wrap it around the book for a smooth, snug fit.



coordinate books  
with gift bag covers



## Simple Stripped Screw Removal

We've all been there before: You try to remove an old screw, and the drill bit just spins uselessly in the screw head, creating a jagged mess like you see in the *Before Photo* above.

**Rotary to the Rescue.** Arthur Lee of Santa Cruz, California, uses a rotary tool equipped with a cutting wheel to cut a slot in the screw and get a

second chance at removing it. If you're careful, you can even cut this slot without damaging the area around it.

To cut the slot, just turn on the tool, hold it perpendicular to the screw head, and slowly lower it onto the center of the screw. Once the slot is cut, you can remove the screw using a flathead screwdriver.

## 3 quick tips

**1]** Joshua Shirey of York, Pennsylvania, found a use for plastic flowerpots in the wintertime: to salt his icy sidewalks. Fill the pot with salt, and tap the side to release salt through the holes in the bottom of the pot.

**2]** Kev Douglas of Surfside, California, puts a dab of grease on the tip of a screwdriver if he has to drive a screw into a tight space. This holds the screw in place while he secures it easily.

**3]** Stanley Krasovic of Honesdale, Pennsylvania, uses a bar clamp with the pads removed for loosening nuts or bolts that are too large for an ordinary wrench.

## Cleaner Caulking

Applying caulk is the perfect way to fill gaps and create seamless transitions between sinks, tile, or trim boards and the surrounding wall. But here's what you don't often hear about caulking: Applying a clean bead can be really tricky.

**Tape Trick.** Richard Anderson of Naperville, Illinois, solves the problem with painter's tape. Just apply the tape on either side of the area where you want the caulk to go. Now lay the caulk, and smooth it with your finger (Fig. 1). Then slowly peel off the tape, and you'll be left with a perfect bead of caulk (Fig. 2).



Smooth the bead of caulk with your finger. Get your finger wet first to prevent sticking.



Carefully peel off the painter's tape, pulling away from the caulk to create a smooth bead.



Got a great tip?

*My Home My Style* will pay you for it. Just send your ideas to: Email: [editor@myhomestyle.com](mailto:editor@myhomestyle.com)  
Mail: Readers' Tips, *My Home My Style* Magazine, 2200 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312



## 3 Options in 1 — all with **Sheer Style**

**Q:** I have beautiful sheer window curtains, but they don't block light or provide much privacy. Is there a way to add these features while still keeping my window coverings stylish?

Amy Nielson, Providence, RI

**A:** Shades and blinds can block light and add privacy, but they're expensive and often not very stylish. You may be better off adapting your existing window coverings.

An opaque fabric panel attached behind a sheer one provides shade and privacy for just a few dollars. Plus, it gives you some quick-switch style options: Sweep the fabric panel to the side and leave the sheer down (*Photo, left*), pull both layers to the side (*left Inset*), or let both layers hang down (*right Inset*).

Begin by choosing fabric that lets little or no light shine through it. You'll need the panel to be the same width as your sheer; the length should equal the distance from the seam below where the curtain rod goes to the bottom edge. If you're not up for hemming all four edges, use a product called Fray Block to seal them (*Inset, below*).

Once your panel is ready to go, attach it to the sheer with a single stitched line (*Photo, below*).



Pin the front face of the fabric panel to the back face of the sheer, and sew a line just below where the curtain rod goes — either by hand or by machine.

## The Buzz About MDF

**Q:** MDF is used for all sorts of projects on home improvement TV shows. What exactly is it, and what's so great about it?

Naomi Becker, Reno, NV

**A:** Medium-density fiberboard (MDF) is a composite wood product sold in panels. It's engineered by bonding fine wood fibers together with adhesives, pressure, and heat.

DIY projects are often built with MDF because it's easy to work with and relatively inexpensive. The stiff, flat, and uniform material — free of grain and knots — cuts and drills nicely. And the smooth surface can be painted or stained. Although some safety precautions must be taken when working with MDF (to avoid exposure to formaldehyde and dust), it's a building material worth checking out.



## The Science of Spray Paint

**Q:** Why do the directions on a can of spray paint say to recoat "within 1 hour or after 48 hours"?

Chris Robbins, Catoosa, OK

**A:** Mark Sadler, a Rust-Oleum chemist, explained to us that solvents in spray paint evaporate within about an hour. At that point, the applied paint is too dry for a subsequent coat to "melt" into the film on the surface, so it will essentially lay on top. The painted surface is not immediately durable enough to withstand the solvents in fresh paint, however. To avoid wrinkles, let it cure for 48 hours.



Need answers?

*My Home My Style* has them! Send your questions to: Email: [editor@myhomestyle.com](mailto:editor@myhomestyle.com)  
Mail: Readers' Q&A, *My Home My Style Magazine*, 2200 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312

## Choose the Right Screws

**Q:** Which types of screws should I have on hand for DIY projects?

Anthony Molen, Cheyenne, WY

**A:** There are as many different types of screws as there are tasks around the house, but these are the five we use the most.

**Wood screws** have deep threads that taper toward a sharp point, a design ideal for holding **wood to wood**.



**Machine screws** are best for **projects with metal**. They don't have a pointed tip since they're used with a nut or tapped hole.



**Deck screws** hold up well on **outdoor projects**. And their larger-gauge threads can cut directly into soft materials.



**Drywall screws** and construction screws are inexpensive and good for **all sorts of projects and odd jobs**.



**Masonry screws** are a must when driving into **brick, stone, or concrete**. You'll need a special bit to drill the pilot hole.





metal-mimicking  
paint lets you  
update old knobs!

# spray your way to matching hardware

Metallic spray paint lets anyone give mismatched or dated hardware a better-than-new look. It's a fun and foolproof way to give your kitchen or bath a budget-friendly face-lift.

**U**pdating hardware is one of the quickest ways to dramatically improve the look of a bath or kitchen. But replacing a roomful of hardware can be pricey. If your metal fixtures are tired-looking but still function well, try refreshing them with spray paint. It's easy and gives you a great new look that will last for years.

A number of paint manufacturers even have spray finishes on the market that reflect hardware trends, so you can find popular colors like oil-rubbed bronze, satin nickel, and copper.

**Spray with Confidence.** To master the techniques necessary to achieve a great-looking finish, just take a look at the photos and tips on the next page.



**Quick tip:**  
To make it easier  
to paint the knobs,  
push nails through  
the back of a piece  
of Styrofoam to  
hold them.



**Hardware replacements over time** can result in a hodgepodge of finishes that hurt a room's style (left). Regain cohesiveness by recoating every piece with the same metallic color.

## Spray-Painting Basics

Hardware gets a lot of use, so it's important to do some prep work to ensure the new painted finish will hold up over time. Start by removing every piece and scrubbing it thoroughly with TSP Substitute until there's no trace of grime.

**Steps to Success.** Today's metallic spray paints allow any DIYer to achieve a professional-looking finish. Just review the three steps below, and also follow the paint manufacturer's recommendations for spray distance and dry time.



1

**Scuff Up the Surface.** To ensure that the new paint will stick to the shiny metal, roughen the fixture with a sanding pad, and wipe off all of the dust.



2

**Apply the Paint.** Next, spray on several even coats of paint, using a light touch to avoid drips. Allow the piece to dry.



3

**Spray on a Top Coat.** Now you can lightly spray on a clear topcoat to add sheen and protect the piece from wear.

create a warm, inviting atmosphere with a

# Tuscan-inspired makeover!



ILLUSTRATION BY TRAVIS RICE

The appeal of a charming, simple Tuscan space is undeniable. Find out how to get the look in your home by adding elements like an earthy color palette, natural accents, and rustic furnishings.

You would be hard-pressed to find anyone who would turn down a vacation to beautiful Tuscany. The sun-drenched Italian landscape, rich artistic history, and picturesque dwellings make it an attractive escape. With all of these great attributes, it's not difficult to see why homeowners are inspired to decorate their homes like the ones found in the region.

**Simply Charming.** Although no two Tuscan spaces are exactly alike, most of them share some common style and design elements. For example, many of the rooms embrace the beauty of practicality. These spaces feature carefully chosen furnishings that perform essential functions within the rooms, in addition to adding style.

**Natural Beauty.** You'll also see that many aspects of Tuscan style are inspired by nature. Whether it's the earthy colors or the decorative greenery and artwork, almost everything seems to be influenced by the land.

Replicating the rich tradition found in Tuscan homes may seem like a difficult task, but the spaces provide plenty of inspiration. We'll walk you through some of the design elements that we applied to this space to help you get started on your own room.





## 1. Earthy Color Palette

The rich, organic look of Tuscan style starts with a color palette that transports you to the Italian countryside. All of the colors used in Tuscan-inspired spaces are pulled from the region's natural surroundings.

The wall color in a Tuscan-inspired room is usually a subtle yet sunny tone that sets the stage for darker accents. Your best bets for wall colors are warm, light tones with hints of yellow.

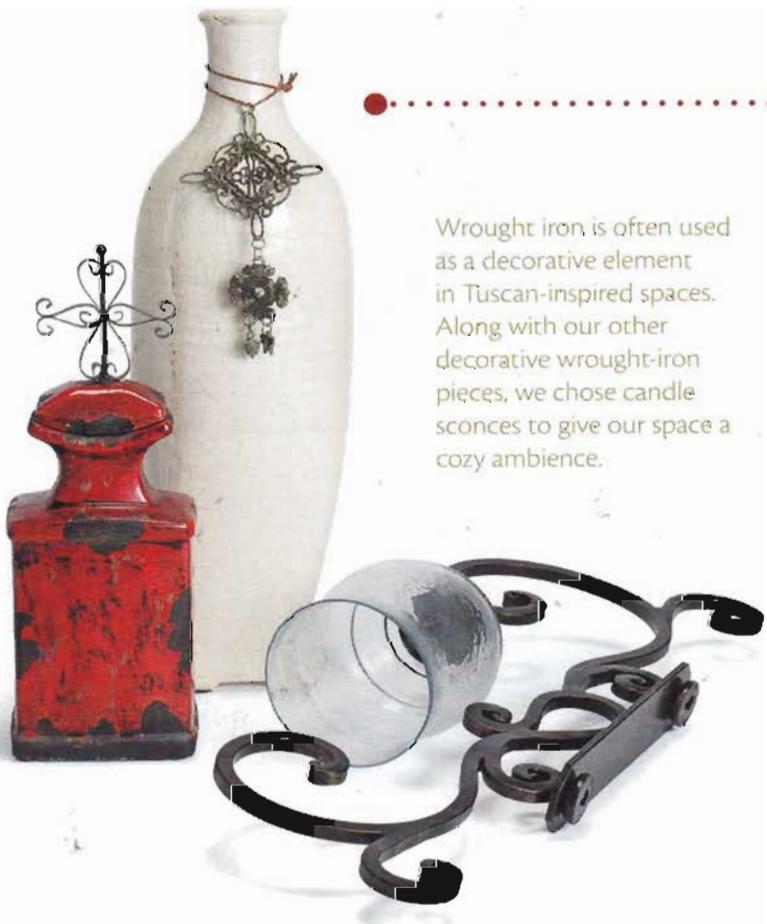
Before you paint, consider whether you'd like to add some contrast to your walls. Some people choose to apply textured plaster or a faux paint technique to get an aged effect. For a more modern approach, we simply painted the walls in a creamy tone that you might find in a Tuscan farmhouse.

Next, pile on the attractive accent colors that pull in the colors of the flowers, trees, stone, and other natural elements that you



The striking shades of red, gold, and orange on these decorative accents were inspired by the colors that can be found in the beautiful Tuscan fields.

could find in Tuscany. Colors such as muted greens, reds, golden yellows, and terra cottas look great in Tuscan spaces. If you need more inspiration for your color palette, look at some photos of Tuscan landscapes for ideas.



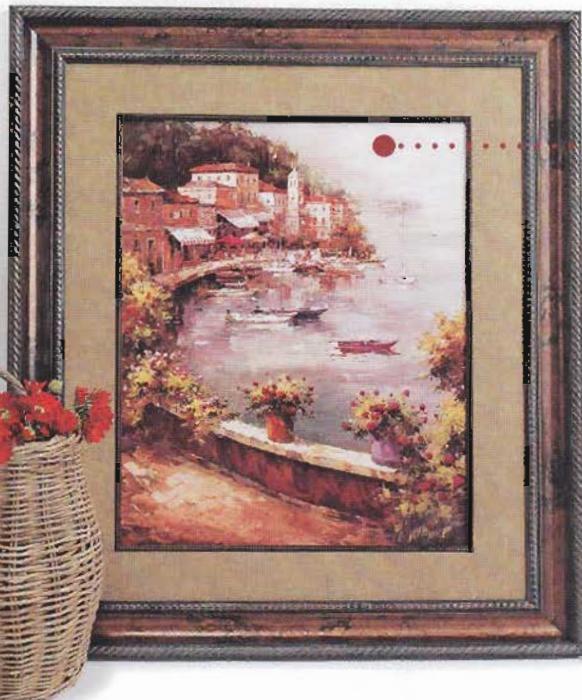
Wrought iron is often used as a decorative element in Tuscan-inspired spaces. Along with our other decorative wrought-iron pieces, we chose candle sconces to give our space a cozy ambience.

## 2. Repeated Elements

You'll notice that repetition is a common design element in Tuscan homes. Materials like stone and iron are used in several places throughout a space to make use of locally available materials. You'll also see groups of similar objects displayed out in the open.

In this Tuscan-inspired space, we brought in repetition by adding several decorative pieces that incorporate wrought iron. Since wrought iron is a material that's often used in Tuscan-inspired spaces, the pieces also enhance the overall look.

Another way to use repetition is to display groups of similar items. In Tuscan homes, you'll sometimes see groups of functional objects like jars and pots stored in the open. To bring this idea into our Tuscan-inspired room, we placed a small group of decorative containers on the console table. Their aged looks and earthy color tones add to the room's Tuscan feel.



It's easy to add the beauty of the outdoors through artwork and accents. The scene depicted on this wall art features floral elements that make it a great accompaniment to a basket of faux flowers.

### 3. Nature-Inspired Accents

The natural influences that can be found throughout Tuscan spaces go far beyond the earth-inspired color scheme. These rooms also feature plenty of decorative accents and dramatic artwork that conjure up images of the outdoors.

The artwork displayed in Tuscan-inspired spaces can feature landscapes, flowers, and other subjects found in nature. We chose wall art that provides an appealing "view" above the small work area. This touch gives the space a more open feel.

There are a few other simple ways to bring the outdoors into your space. Something as seemingly ordinary as a bowl of fruit or a basket of faux flowers becomes beautiful when set off by the earthy colors and rustic furniture. To freshen the space, incorporate some branches or greenery. Both faux arrangements and real plants can be used to add some life to the room.

*we glued a reclaimed spigot to a rustic piece of wood to create a decorative basket hanger*





Beautifully rustic pieces are perfect for a Tuscan space. We purchased a new console table that has an antique look, but you could also transform any piece by giving it a distressed painted finish.

## 4. Rustic Furnishings and Architecture

The furnishings and architectural materials used in Tuscan spaces make a huge contribution to their rustic beauty. For example, many rooms feature a lot of stone, whether it's used in the floors, walls, or fireplaces. We added this material to our room by installing a stone-look tile floor. Many Tuscan spaces also feature exposed wood ceiling beams that show off the home's architecture.

Another way to give your space some rustic appeal is to add furnishings that capture the warm, lived-in feel of Tuscan farmhouses. This is a great opportunity to bring together timeworn heirloom furniture or antique pieces that you can find at garage sales and thrift stores.

If you can't find suitable secondhand pieces, you could try looking at stores that sell new furniture. Since "distressed" furniture is very popular, you'll probably find new pieces—like this console table—that look like they could be antiques.







# add a rustic accent with a decorative faux-stone column

**A**lmost any room can benefit from a few large, impressive accent pieces, and the space in the *Photo* at left was no exception. Rustic columns helped bring personality to a previously bare corner.

**Cost-Friendly Solution.** The problem with many large accent pieces is that they can quickly exceed your budget. That's why we created these faux-stone columns from inexpensive building forms (*Photo, above*) and terra-cotta flowerpots and saucers.

When we found the building forms (*Resources, page 62*), we knew they were perfect for the project. The four-foot-tall tubes come in 8", 10", and 12" diameters.

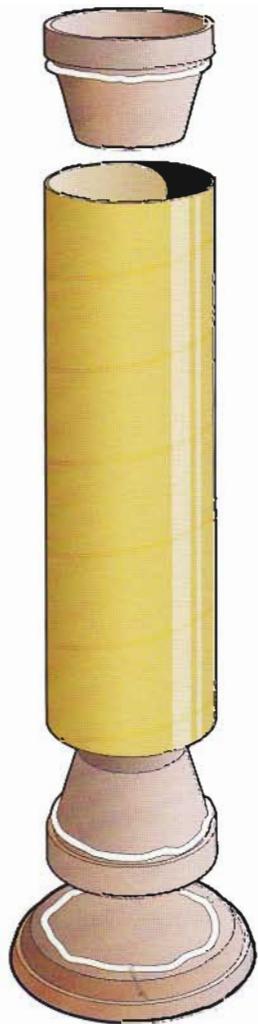
**Build the Columns.** If you'd like to make shorter columns, just draw lines around the tubes and cut them to your

desired lengths with a jigsaw. Then you're ready to assemble the columns.

The base of each column is made from a flowerpot and a saucer. Trace the top edge of the flowerpot onto the bottom of the saucer. Then apply a bead of construction adhesive and press the flowerpot in place.

When the adhesive on these pieces is dry, apply another bead of adhesive around the flowerpot and set the tube into it. Let these components dry, and then adhere another flowerpot into the top of the tube.

**Finishing Touches.** The fun really begins when you're ready to use drywall compound to create a textured finish. Follow the steps below to get the look. To see more photos of the project, visit our online slide show at [MyHomeMyStyle.com](http://MyHomeMyStyle.com).



## Faux-Stone Finish



**1** **Dab drywall compound** onto the column with a sponge. To get the best texture, the column should show through the compound in places.



**2** **Drag a putty knife** gently over the surface of the compound. Continue to apply compound and smooth it until the column is covered, then let it dry.



**3** **Lightly brush paint** over the entire column. To "age" the column, dab on random spots of gel stain and rub the spots with a rag to soften the look.





# *from pipe dream to* **sleek mudroom storage set**

This set of mudroom organizer projects gets its unique and customizable style from unlikely materials: ordinary plumbing pipes and fittings.

**W**hen you walk through the plumbing supply section at your local home center, you probably don't have furniture and storage projects on your mind. But the metal pipes and plumbing fittings that you can find there have proven to be sturdy and attractive building materials for this unique set of mudroom organizer projects.

**Customizable Components.** We designed a sleek shelf unit, a bench, and a coat rack that you can assemble with readily available pipes and fittings. The pieces have a surprisingly versatile style that would look great in almost any space. Build just one of the projects or all three of them to suit your home's storage and space needs.

You can further customize the mudroom organizer projects by painting the pipes and fittings in a color that coordinates with your space. For example, you could pick metallic paint to match your door hardware and light fixtures, or a bright, eye-catching color to make a bold statement.

**Simplified Construction.** Since the pipes and fittings are threaded, they just screw together to form the components of the mudroom organizer set. The shelf and benchtop are made from dimensional lumber, which you can get cut to length at the home center to simplify the process even more. Over the next few pages, we'll walk you through each of the projects from part preparation to assembly.

# organize your space with a custom shelf unit

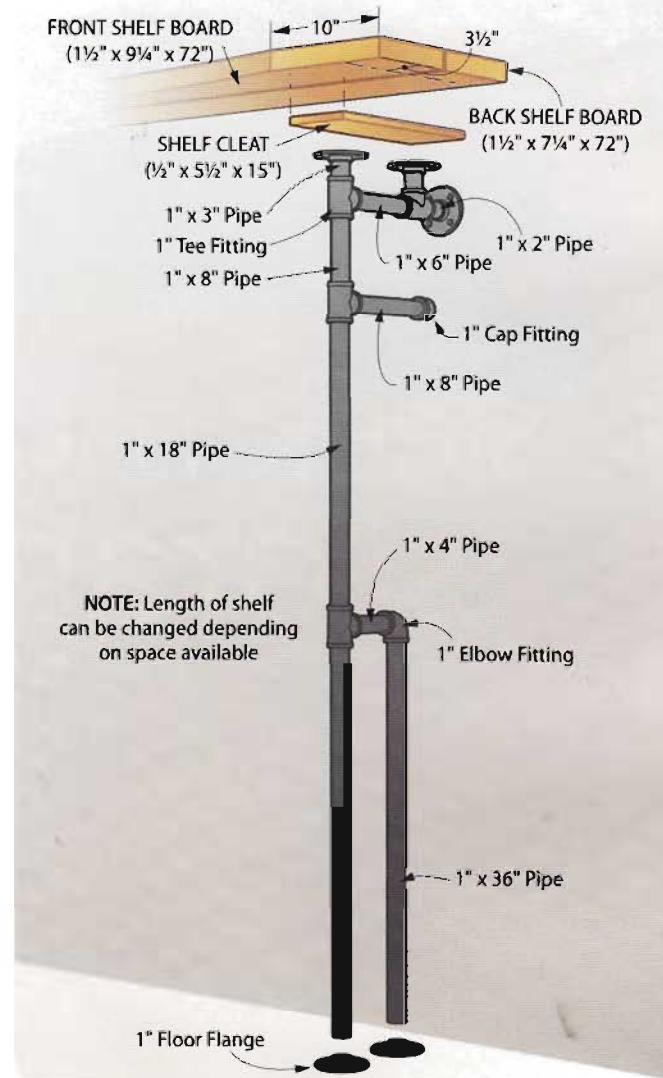
The beauty of building with pipes is that they're durable and easy to connect. Plus, the pipes will give your mudroom set a sleek look that you just can't achieve with any other building materials.

**Purchase the Pipes.** Home centers usually stock several types of pipe, including galvanized and black pipes. Either of these types would work, but galvanized pipes tend to be more expensive than black pipes.

All the pipes used in these projects are standard lengths that you should be able to purchase pre-cut. If you need pieces with custom measurements, most home centers can cut and thread pipes to your desired lengths for an additional fee.

**Prepare the Parts.** Before you begin assembling your mudroom projects, spray paint the pipes, fittings, and any screw heads that will be visible. To get the look of aged pipes, we wiped on gel stain in some spots after the pipe components were put together. When the finish is dry, spray on a clear coat.

Once the parts are ready, assemble the shelf unit by following the steps below. To build the bench and the coat rack, turn to pages 24 and 25.



## Shelf Unit



1

First, cut two shelf boards to length. If you'd like to add a decorative curve to the front board, draw the line, and then cut along it with a jigsaw (above).



2

Cut three cleats that will connect the two shelf boards. Screw the cleats to the undersides of the shelf boards (above), and then stain or seal the shelf.



3

Make two base pieces to support the shelf. To build a base piece, first screw a length of pipe into one of the flanges that will rest on the floor.



## Shopping List

- (1) 2x8 board, 72" long
- (1) 2x10 board, 72" long
- (2) ½x6 boards, 15" long
- (10) 1" floor flanges
- (2) 1" 90-degree elbows
- (8) 1" tee fittings
- (2) 1" cap fittings
- (4) 1" pipes, 36" long
- (2) 1" pipes, 18" long
- (4) 1" pipes, 8" long
- (2) 1" pipes, 6" long
- (2) 1" pipes, 4" long
- (4) 1" pipes, 3" long
- (2) 1" pipes, 2" long
- #10 x ¾" screws
- drywall anchors & screws
- spray paint, finish, & clear coat



4

Add a tee fitting, a shorter length of pipe, and an elbow fitting (above). Then continue adding the pipes and fittings as shown in the illustration.



5

Finish each base piece with three flanges: two at the top to support the shelf and one on the back that will connect the unit to the wall.



6

Drive screws through the flanges to connect the base pieces to the wall. Then set the shelf on the base pieces, and drive screws into the shelf (above).

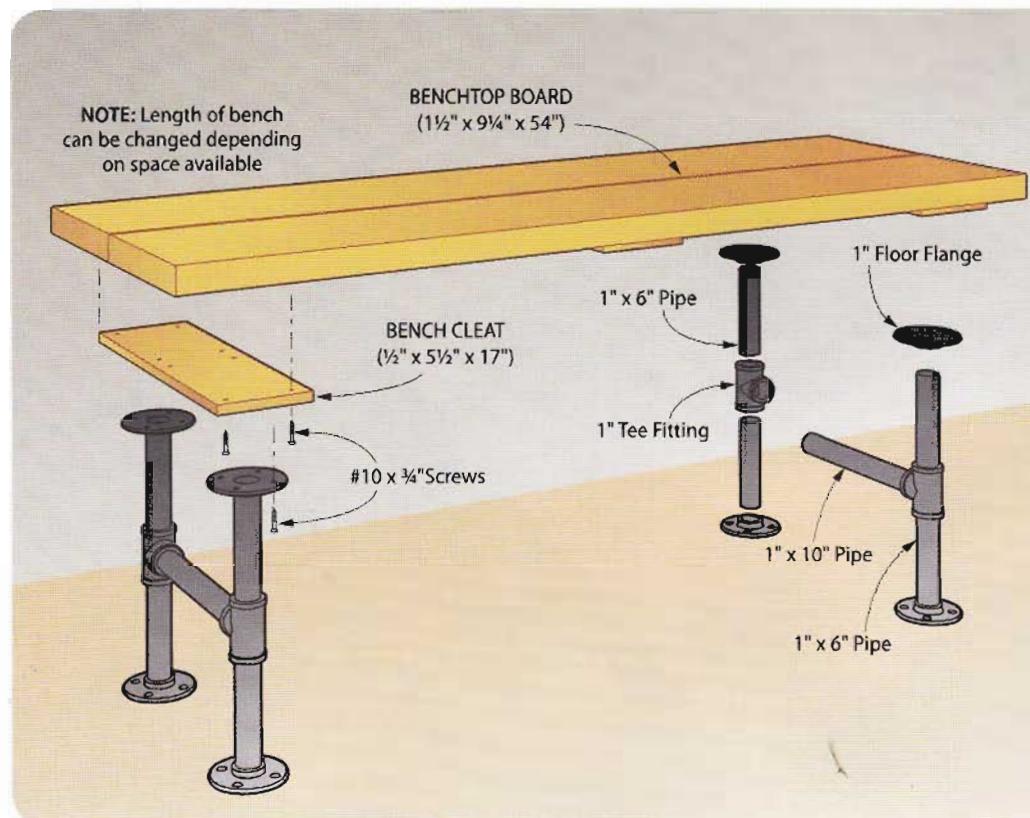
# add more function with a bench & coat rack

The pipe-frame shelf unit adds a lot of handy storage to your mudroom, and this bench and coat rack will help you pack even more function into the space. These pipe projects could also be used as stand-alone pieces in other areas of your home.

**Practical Projects.** We designed the bench (*right*) to provide a place to sit while you're putting on your shoes or flipping through the mail. Like the shelf unit, it rests on flanges that you can twist to level the project on uneven floors.

You can mount the coat rack (*page 25*) to the wall to keep your often-used accessories on hand—and off your furniture or the floor. It only requires a few parts and adds a lot of convenience.

First, prepare the pipes and fittings as described on page 22. Then continue reading to find out how you can build these projects for your home.



## Pipe-Base Bench



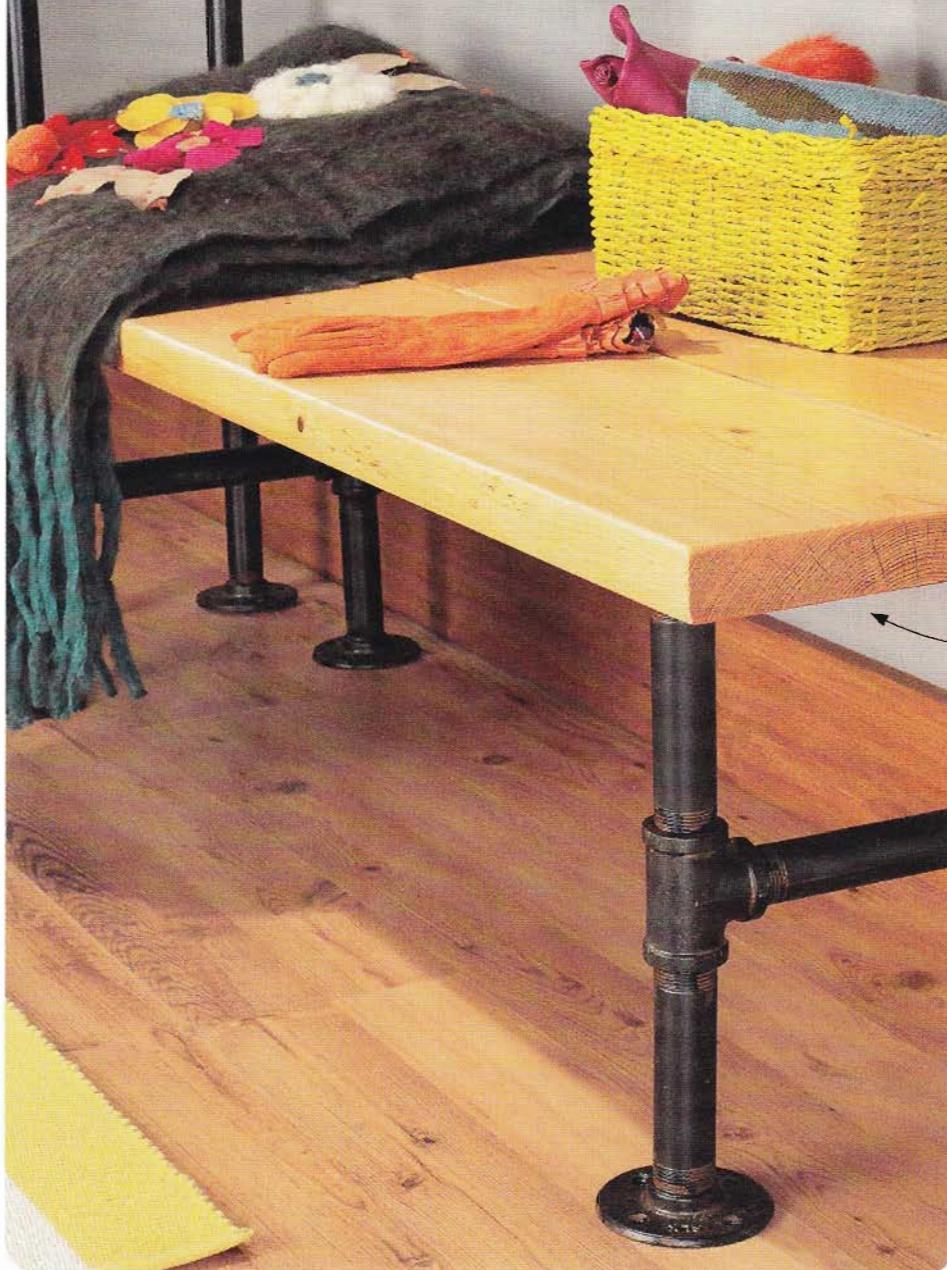
**Cut two boards** and three cleats for the bench's top. Then screw the cleats to the undersides of the boards (*above*), and stain or seal the shelf.



**Connect the pipes and fittings** to form the bench legs. Then join the legs for each end of the bench with a horizontal length of pipe (*above*).

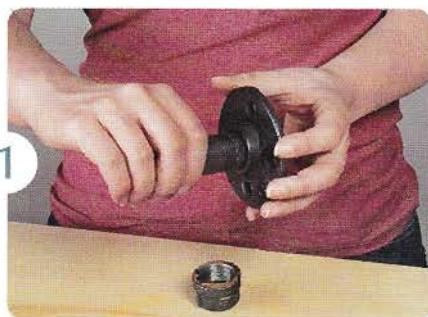


**Attach the base pieces** to the benchtop by driving screws through the flanges and into the cleats on the underside of the benchtop.



a matching coat rack and bench give you even more opportunities to add storage & style

### Custom Coat Rack



**1**  
Cut a 1x6 to length, and then stain or seal it. Next, create the hooks by screwing together pipes and fittings as shown in the Photo above.



**2**  
**Secure the pipe assemblies** by driving screws through the flanges (above). Then drive screws through the board and into the wall to mount the rack.

### Shopping List

#### Bench

- (2) 2x10 boards, 54" long
- (3) 1/2x6 boards, 17" long
- (8) 1" floor flanges
- (4) 1" tee fittings
- (8) 1" pipes, 6" long
- (2) 1" pipes, 10" long
- #10 x 3/4" screws
- spray paint, finish, & clear coat

#### Coat Rack

- (1) 1x6 board, 54" long
- (4) 3/4" floor flanges
- (4) 3/4" cap fittings
- (4) 3/4" pipes, 3" long
- #10 x 3/4" screws
- drywall anchors & screws
- spray paint, finish, & clear coat

## Paint Power



# refresh a room with a truly no-fail **tone-on-tone** color scheme

If you lack confidence when it comes to choosing color schemes, there's a simple solution: Just layer several shades of the same, or closely related, hues to achieve a visually appealing look that works with any design style.

**T**here's a certain mystique about home color schemes. Many people are so intimidated by choosing a new one that they feel it requires the expertise of an interior designer or, at the very least, someone who's "good with colors." Fortunately, finding that perfect combination of hues doesn't have to be a mysterious or stressful process.

**Terrific Tone-on-Tone.** So what is a surefire secret to great-looking color combinations? Apply a *tone-on-tone* color scheme to walls and most furnishings. The simplest tone-on-tone schemes are built around a single color, with darker shades and paler tints of that color being incorporated throughout the room. This can also be called a *monochromatic* scheme.

Just imagine picking all the hues printed on one paint chip; it's that easy. For example, you might mix gradients of blue that range from nearly white to deep navy. It's a safe scheme for anyone to implement because you don't need to understand how various unrelated colors interact. Best of all, subtly layered tone-on-tone schemes always look elegant, balanced, and visually appealing.

**Admirable Analogous.** A variation of tone-on-tone adds in a second color that's

closely related to the main hue. This is called an *analogous* scheme. To understand the concept of analogous colors, just think of your art teacher's color wheel. Remember how yellow was next to yellow-green, which was adjacent to green? When you're implementing an analogous tone-on-tone scheme, it's fine to mix in your chosen hue's next-door neighbor on the color wheel.

Analogous colors can add interest to tone-on-tone decor while maintaining a scheme's harmony. Like the blues and greens we chose, they're often found in nature and provide a pleasing effect that's easy to live with. When creating a tone-on-tone scheme with two analogous colors, just make sure that one color remains dominant.

**Beyond the Walls.** Of course, changing a room's color scheme isn't just about painting walls. We'll show you what you can achieve by also painting accessories, and then how to create all the looks.

eucalyptus inspired our new color scheme with its soothing shades of green and blue



Before



## use paint to create a refreshingly **cool room** that's just your style

Reinventing accessories you already own when redecorating, instead of purchasing everything new, is all the rage right now. And painting those items provides the perfect opportunity for this. It's easier on the budget, of course, but there are other benefits, too.

**Joys of Renewing.** Reinventing items, rather than replacing them, is an Earth-friendly option you can feel good about. If you don't already own all the accessories needed for your new decor, consider checking out thrift shops or garage sales.

Another great reason to paint existing items: There's an endless range of custom-mixed colors available. That means you can choose the exact hues and shades you want for your new tone-on-tone scheme, rather than settling for colors found on mass-produced accessories.

**Tie It Together.** We'll show you several techniques we used to paint accessories on page 30. When you've finished painting, put the room together by assembling any other decor elements like pillows, window treatments, or rugs. Then layer them in with the accents you painted for a lush look that's truly your own.

create a comfortable, custom  
feel by layering all of the  
room's elements together





## simple ways to transform your accessories with paint



### Sponge Paint a Metal Mirror

This dark, tired-looking metal mirror didn't suit our new color scheme of fresh greens and blues. To give it new life, we masked the mirrors with painter's tape and then lightly sponged on green metallic glaze.



### Dip 'n' Drip Wooden Bowls

To help interesting brown wooden bowls work in our new scheme, we simply dipped the top edges in green latex paint and set them upright to dry. The free-form drips down the sides add character, and the custom color enhances the room's decor.





### Simply Spray Paint a Candlestick

Sometimes it just takes a can of spray paint to reinvent a piece you already own. Satin finish looks best on most accessories, and several light coats will give great results.

### Create a Two-Tone Ceramic Vase

To paint multiple colors on a glazed ceramic vase, start by scuffing it with a fine grade of sandpaper. Then wipe off the dust, and spray light bands all around the piece.



### Stencil Patterns on a Fabric Shade

Pre-cut vinyl stencils allow even the most inartistic DIYer to create beautiful, perfect patterns. Spray some stencil adhesive on the back first to ensure clean edges. Then use a stencil brush to dab paint in the openings.



### Customize a Wicker Basket

If you can't find the right shade of spray paint on the shelf, try a Preval pressurized sprayer. A Preval applicator is just a little spray bottle that you can fill with any canned paint, so you're able to select a shade that truly matches your new decor.

## Storage Solutions





# from ordinary office file cabinet to clever Kitchen Island

Every kitchen can use more storage and surface solutions. With this bold, easy-to-build island, you can "file" away kitchen clutter and add much-needed counter space.

**A**n island has become a convenient feature in many kitchens. If you don't have one in your kitchen, chances are good that you want the extra storage and counter space that an island provides.

The only problem with adding an island to an existing kitchen is that it's a custom cabinetry job to create one to fit your space. That often comes with a hefty price tag.

**Office Storage in a Kitchen.** Of course, there's one piece of furniture that's already pretty adept at filing away clutter and providing a handy work surface that you can buy right

off the shelf at many stores—a lateral office file cabinet. We used a file cabinet as our inspiration for creating a stylish, spacious island that could fit any kitchen style. We chose two cherry cabinets for this kitchen, but the wide variety of cabinet styles available makes it easy to find one that works for your kitchen.

**Put It Together in No Time!** By starting with cabinets purchased from the store, building this island becomes surprisingly simple. In fact, even a beginner could handle it easily. Turn the page to see all the construction details and design options for this cool kitchen island.

A simple office file cabinet from Target (see page 62) serves as the basic building block for this kitchen island. The cabinets come in "flat pack" boxes and go together in minutes. We connected two side by side and then added the top panel.

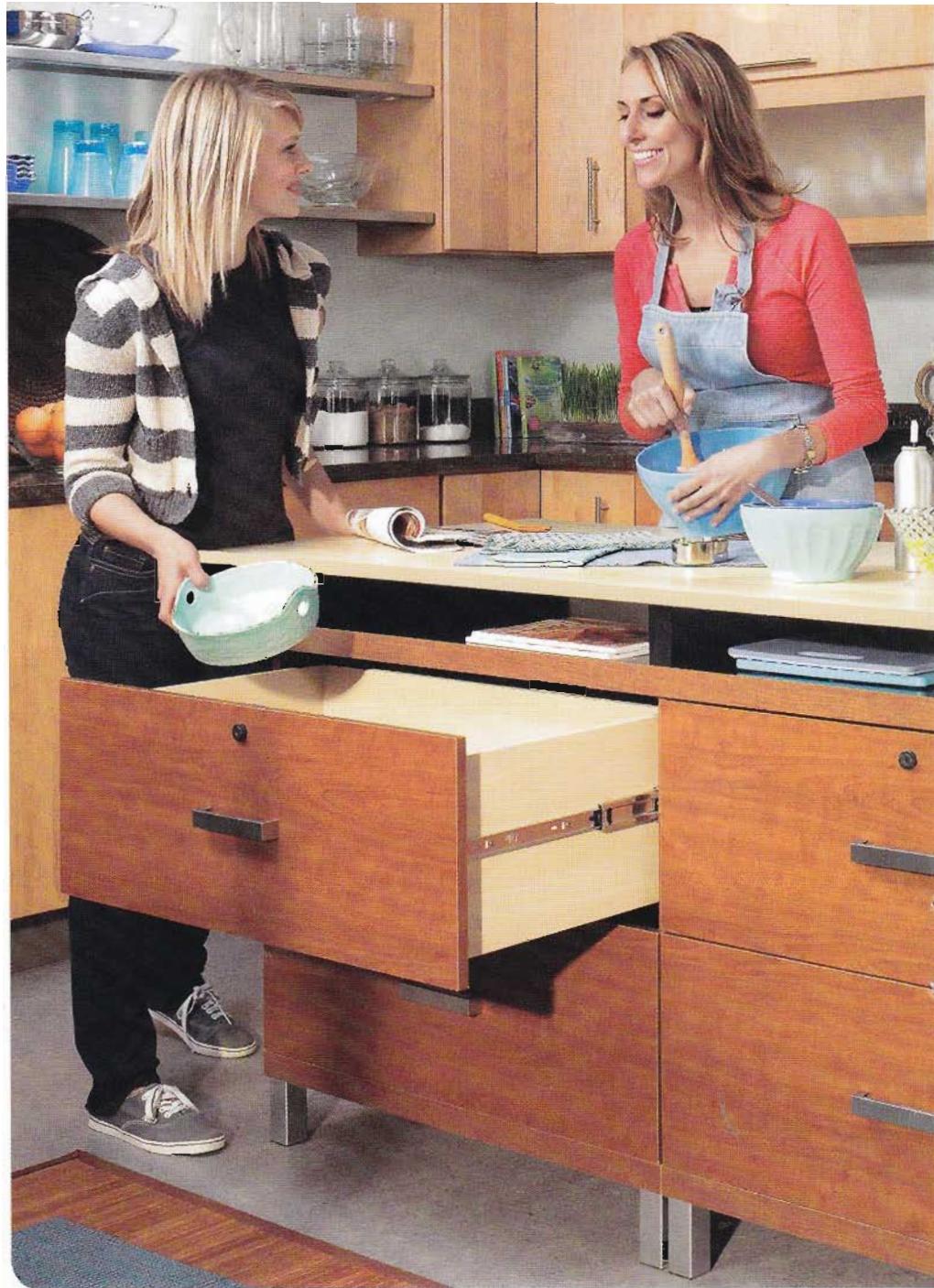


## build your own island step by step

Creating a custom island for your kitchen sure is easy when you start with store-bought cabinets. Assembling them according to the manufacturer's instructions just took a few minutes.

**Basic Parts.** There really isn't much to the other parts of this island, either. The "risers" (the boards that elevate the top) are cut out of two poplar 1x4 boards that you can buy right off the shelf at the home center. Each riser is made by gluing two of these cut boards face to face (*Illustration, page 35*).

The top itself is a pre-assembled panel made from aspen boards that we finished with polyurethane—we didn't even have to cut it! We just mounted it flush with the back of the cabinets so that it would overhang the front slightly.



### Island Assembly



1

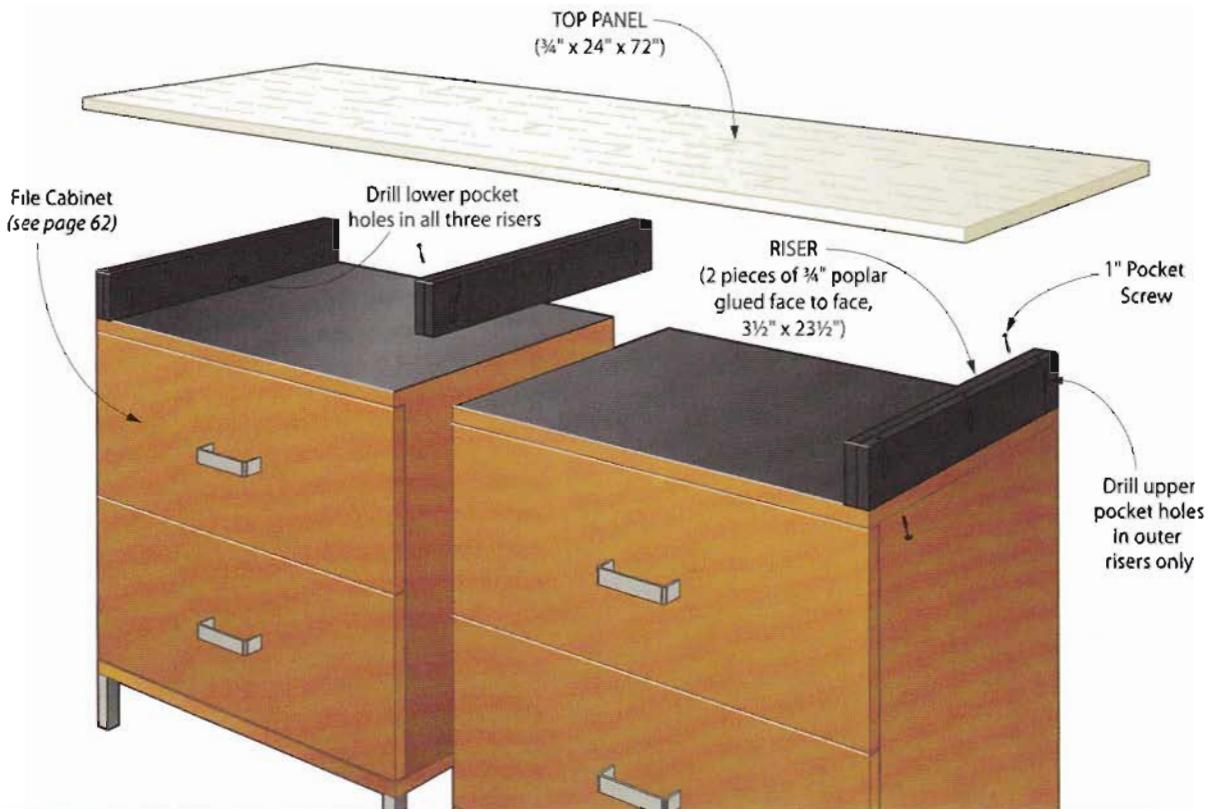


2



**Remove the drawers,** and clamp the sides of the two cabinets together. Drill six  $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes through the sides, and then connect the cabinets to each other with connector bolts (see page 62).

**Cut and glue up the risers,** then drill pocket holes (*Illustration*). Now use a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " drill bit to enlarge the six pocket holes that will be used to attach the top. This allows for wood movement.



## add a cool hanging rail

One simple, functional accessory you can add to your island is a hanging rail. We ordered this rail system from Lee Valley (page 62) and connected it to the cabinets with screws. You can purchase S-hooks that slip over the rail to hold utensils and other kitchen items.

**Two Mounting Options.** The rails come in 24" lengths, so you can mount them to the ends of the island. You can also attach a couple of them side by side along the back to add even more convenient storage.



**3** Spray paint the risers black by making a number of thin, overlapping passes.



**4** Attach the three risers to the top of the cabinet with pocket screws.



**5** Position the top, and drive pocket screws into it through the outer risers.



**6** Reinforce the drawers for heavy items with pieces of 1/4" hardboard cut to fit inside.

## 2 ways to make this island your own!



### Small & Mobile

If you don't have space for the large island shown on page 32, simply build your island using just one file cabinet.

**Smaller Top.** The aspen top we used is available in a variety of sizes, so you can purchase a smaller one to fit above the single file cabinet. If you need to cut it down a bit to fit nicely above the cabinet, just use a circular saw or jigsaw guided by a straightedge.

**Make It Move.** It made sense to allow this smaller island to move around the kitchen based on the work you have at hand, so we added four inexpensive but durable swivel casters to the base of the cabinet. The casters we used are listed on page 62.

If our island doesn't work for your kitchen, don't worry. You have all kinds of options for customizing the look to suit your style.

**Different Cabinets.** The first thing you can do is choose a different cabinet. They are available in all different sizes, styles, and finishes. You can even stain or paint the top for a different look.

**Different Arrangement.** Another possibility is to arrange the cabinets differently than we did. Here's an option that features just one cabinet, and another with the cabinets mounted back to back.

## Big & Wide

If you want a blockier island that's not so narrow and long, you can achieve this look by simply mounting two file cabinets back to back.

**Similar Assembly.** These particular cabinets had  $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick back panels, so it was easy to do this with connector bolts just like we showed on page 34.

**Painted Top.** The home center didn't sell an aspen panel that was the right size for the top of this island, so we cut down a sheet of medium-density fiberboard (MDF) instead. You can paint it any color you want to suit your kitchen's style. Then finish it with several coats of clear polyurethane to improve its durability for the kitchen.



**Style Step by Step**



# illuminate your home with dramatic displays of festive lights

Nothing tells the world you're in a celebratory spirit like sparkling glass containers generously filled with twinkling white lights. This easy project offers tons of decorating impact for a very modest cost.

**T**here's something magical about lighting displays, whether it's a neighbor's tastefully lit yard during the holidays or the flashy Las Vegas strip. It's no wonder that we often think of lighting when we want to create a memorable atmosphere in our own homes.

Fortunately, it's easy to make charming displays in any room by simply combining glass containers and inexpensive white lights. The project's "wow" factor comes from massing numerous vessels and lights.

**Captivating Containers.** You don't have to spend a lot of money on glass containers to achieve knockout

results. You probably already have some clear vases or decanters around the house that will work fine, and you can pick up additional ones just about anywhere. Using a variety of shapes and sizes only adds to the project's impact and uniqueness.

**Glass-Cutting 101.** On the next few pages, we'll show you some neat tricks that will help you pull this project off, like how to drill holes in the glass containers, so the lights' power cords can pass through. This allows several light sets to be connected without creating an unsightly tangle of cords.





## simple tips for drilling holes in glass

Drilling through glass isn't really much harder than drilling through wood if you use the right tools and keep a few tips in mind. Once you master the technique, you'll be able to cut holes in everything from wine bottles to glass blocks. The key elements to drilling glass include using the right bit, keeping the bit lubricated, and drilling at the proper speed and pressure.

**Definitely Go Diamond.** To cut the holes for this project, you'll need a 1"-diameter diamond drill bit. These are also called diamond hole saws. You should be able to pick one up at a hardware store or home center for less than \$20.

Diamond drill bits are specially made to cut holes in hard, brittle materials like glass, tile, ceramics, and granite. Never try to drill holes in these materials with a spade bit or carbide twist bit.

**Keep It Cool.** One big challenge when you're drilling hard

### Drilling Holes in Glass



1

**Lay the vessel in a tub of water** that's deep enough to totally submerge it. If necessary, adjust the water level until it's about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " higher than the vessel.



2

**Then start slowly drilling** at an angle to "seat" the bit. It helps to steady the bit with your fingers to prevent it from skittering around on the slick glass.



3

**Gradually straighten the drill** and finish cutting through the glass. When the bit is about to break through, reduce the pressure to help prevent chips.



materials is reducing heat buildup. Using water as a lubricant (*Photo, right*) is a cheap and effective way to keep diamond bits cool for the several minutes it takes to drill a hole. Of course, working around water means that you'll need to use a cordless drill for safety.

**Slowly but Surely.** When you're drilling glass, friction is the enemy, and drilling faster just increases friction. The hole is created by gradually grinding the glass into powder, so use a low drill speed (700-800 rpm) and let the bit do the work. If you see dark burn marks on the bit, slow down.

**Perfecting Pressure.** Increasing pressure works when drilling wood, but it's an invitation to disaster when drilling glass. Use only light to moderate pressure to minimize heat and help prevent cracks and fractures. When you've almost drilled through the glass, lighten the pressure to reduce chipping.

**To achieve the constant lubrication needed when drilling glass, just place the glass container in a tub and add water until it's completely covered. Using a plastic or rubber tub will help keep the glass item from getting scratched while you drill.**

Be sure to practice drilling on inexpensive glassware like Mason jars until you've mastered the technique. Beginners often find that the trickiest step is getting the hole started, since at first the bit has a tendency to slide around on the glass. To help the bit get "seated" (grinding steadily), try holding it between your thumb and forefinger (*page 40, Photo 2*). It doesn't hurt!

**Frost, Then Light.** After drilling all the holes, rinse the containers in clean water to remove residue, and dry them thoroughly. Now it's time to frost the containers (*see the photos below*). The frosted portions will provide an interesting contrast to the unfrosted glass.

Finally, feed lights through the holes in each vessel (*Photo, page 40*) and connect strings as necessary.

### Frosting a Glass Vessel



1

**Use painter's tape to mask** around the lower part of each vessel. The exact location doesn't matter; the frosted sections look best positioned randomly.



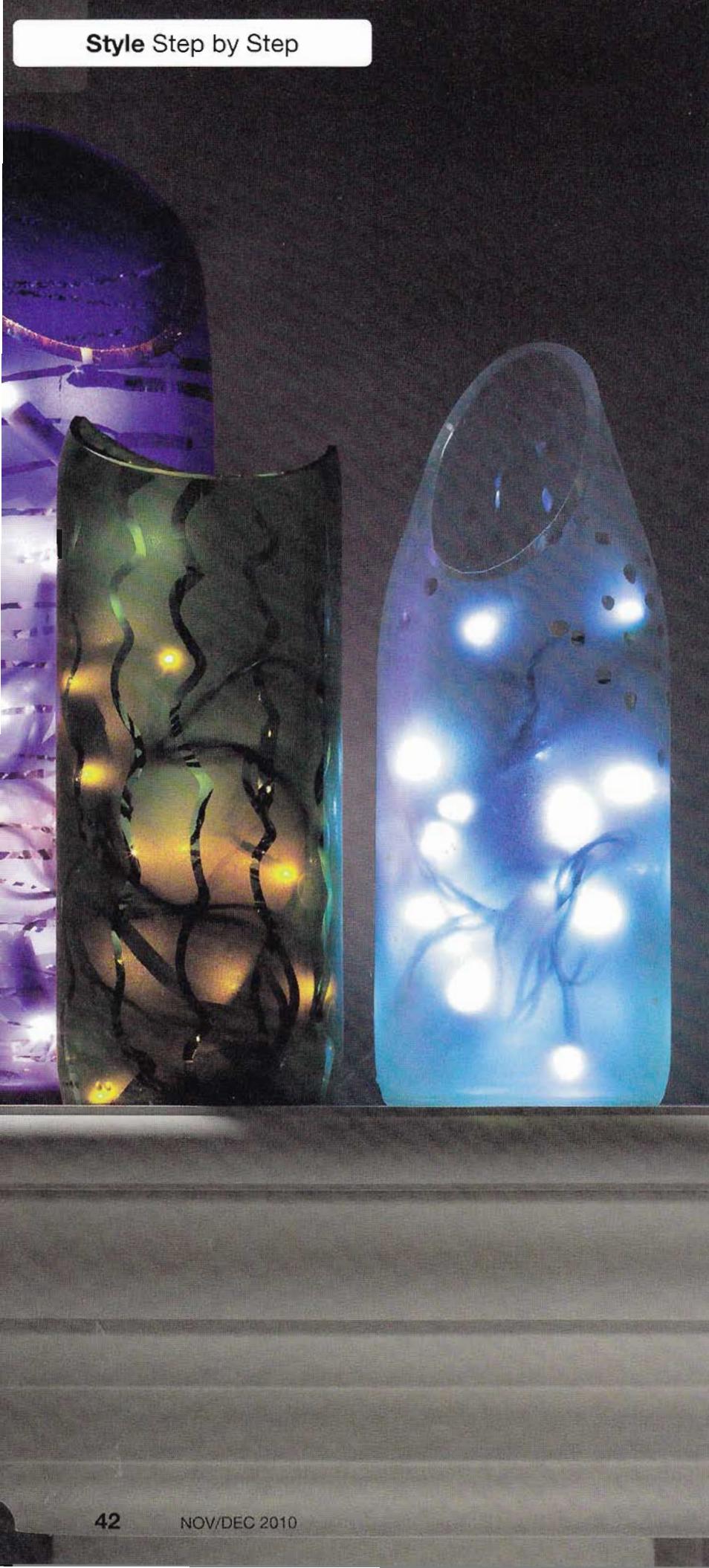
2

**Next, cover the top part** of the vessel with plastic (we used grocery bags) to protect the container from overspray. Secure it with a bit more painter's tape.



3

**Now lightly spray the vessel** using a frosted spray finish for glass. For best coverage, spray on two light coats. The frosting dries in just a few minutes.



## design options for year-round lighting impact

### Clean and Modern

Lights don't need to be put away after the holidays. The popularity of long-lasting, energy-efficient LED lights has made it easier than ever to incorporate tiny lights in your decor all year. With many battery-operated sets now available, you can even use them in vessels that you'd rather not cut holes in.

Almost any glass container can be a candidate for illumination. The clean-lined vases at left were made from salvaged wine bottles (*see page 62*). We drilled holes and placed battery packs outside the vases for access to the switch.



Small "rice-style" LED bulbs, powered by a battery pack, can add subtle points of light almost anywhere. Combine several strings for a brighter effect.



Tiny white "fairy lights" dot long, thin strands of silver-plated wire, creating a unique and extraordinary effect. LED bulbs mean they'll last and last.

## Tall and Striking

These pale green, hammered glass containers come in many sizes and shapes, so they invite fun groupings. To give them eye-catching sparkle, insert LED lights that are attached to numerous strands of thin wires (see page 62).

**The Secret's in the Strand.**  
The long wire strands are stiff enough to stay vertical within the vessels, but flexible enough to hang gracefully. Silver plating on each wire reflects the small bright lights and adds to the ambience.

Some LED light sets can now be powered either by battery pack or plug-in adapter. Look around local stores or online to find light sets in a style and brightness that will look best with the glassware you'd like to illuminate.



# compact craft center

*offers big creativity  
in a small space*

Don't let a lack of space for projects stifle your creativity. This compact craft center provides a hardworking, great-looking work area in less than 10 square feet. You can create one for yourself in no time using off-the-rack materials.



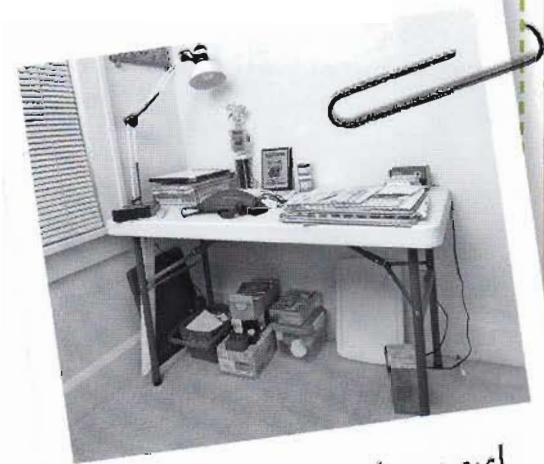
a simple wood dowel keeps  
craft spools *neat and tidy*

**L**ots of us love to work on hobbies or crafts at home, but we rarely have a dedicated space for doing so. This homeowner was at least lucky enough to have carved out a small corner in her home office, but she couldn't fit much in the space except a small folding table (*Before Photo*). It offered a work surface, but nothing more. There was no storage, which left the area perpetually overcrowded, unorganized, and unattractive.

**Keep It Compact.** As you can see in the *After Photo*, we created an organized, attractive craft center in the same space. It offers a big work area that's made of durable, easy-to-clean melamine. File cabinets sit underneath to hold supplies and papers—and they roll out to provide extra work space.

**Build in Storage.** Up top, we added shelving that provides lots of storage and display space. The shelves are mounted to brackets that are designed for organizing closets. They're inexpensive and easy to install. A wall-mounted magnetic dry-erase board ties the upper space together.

This craft area may be compact, but it makes it easy to let your project ideas live large. Plus, it's so simple to put together that you can create one for yourself in just a few hours. The next two pages show you how.



*before the makeover!*



## craft center step by step

Before you start building your craft center, you'll need to do some planning. Start by measuring your space so you can size your craft center. Then check out the project details and products we used in the illustration at right. You'll find sources for those products on page 62.

**Size the Table.** The next step is determining the length of the work table. You'll want at least 24" of width to tuck your legs under the table. Add to that the width of your file cabinets, plus about 4" extra. Then cut your work surface to size. Ours is made from a 20"-wide melamine "cabinet side." If your home center doesn't stock these, you can cut a sheet of melamine to size, and then paint the edges white.

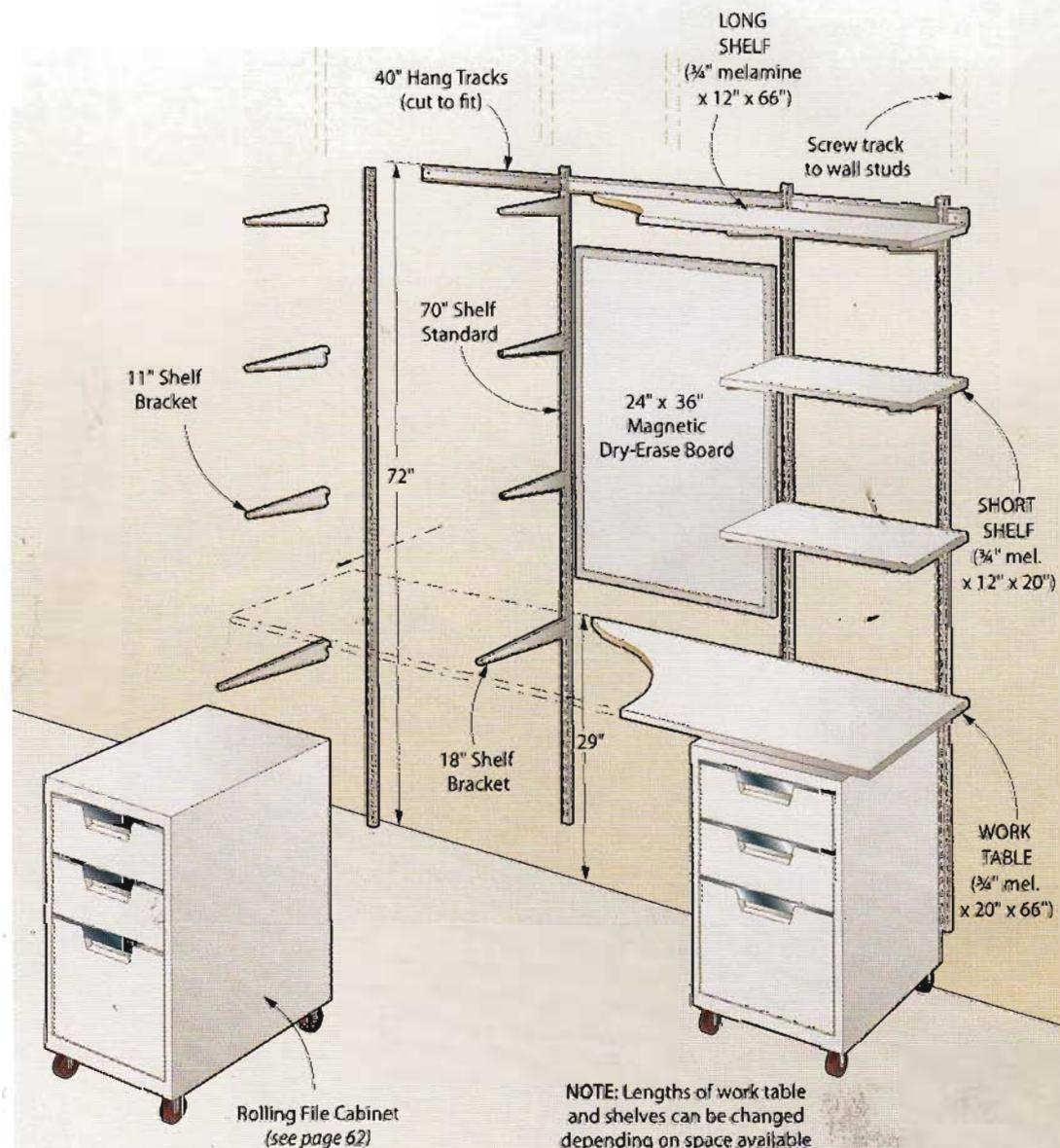
**Bring in Brackets.** The shelving comes next. That starts with locating the wall studs, and then hanging the horizontal rail. You may have to cut the rail to length using a hacksaw.

Now hang shelf standards. Install deep shelf brackets, and then add the work table. Make sure the standards and brackets will clear the sides of your file cabinets before you secure the standards to the wall.

**Send in Shelves.** Now you can determine where you want to position the wall shelves. Just cut them to length, and then paint the ends white. Mount the shelves on brackets, and then secure the shelves from underneath. Hang the dry-erase board, and your new compact craft area is ready to use.



shelf brackets fit in multiple locations for easy adjustability





a pair of rolling file cabinets  
do double duty as handy  
storage & work space

+ glue  
+ paint  
+ brushes

## Make It Your Own



# adorable storage thanks to a picture frame cabinet door

A store-bought picture frame containing a dressed-up cork panel makes the perfect "door" for an office supply cabinet. Choose any shape and style of frame you like — you'll size and build the basic cabinet to fit.

An organized, attractive work space calls for a mix of both stylish and functional accessories—including storage units, message boards, and decorations. But that's not to say you can't mix and match to make the boring items beautiful and the pretty items practical! Here, a picture frame with a cork board insert serves as a good-looking door for a wall cabinet you'll build yourself (*Photo, below*).

**Picture Frame Door.** It all starts with the picture frame. The "open" frames available at craft and frame shops

are ideal because glass and a backer are not needed (*Resources, page 62*).

**Message Board.** You'll fill your picture frame with a message board for tacking up notes, lists, and photos. We decided to cover a cork panel with fabric and ribbon to step up the style. Other options include leaving the cork bare or swapping it out for a different type of panel, like a magnetic dry-erase board (*Photo, right*).

**Easy-to-Build Cabinet.** Once your cabinet door is complete, you'll turn to building a basic cabinet with an adjustable shelf. You'll just need some dimensional lumber, nails to hold the pieces together, and a hardboard back. Finally, you'll attach the picture frame to the cabinet with a pair of no-mortise hinges and add a magnetic catch.

Turn the page for complete step-by-step details.



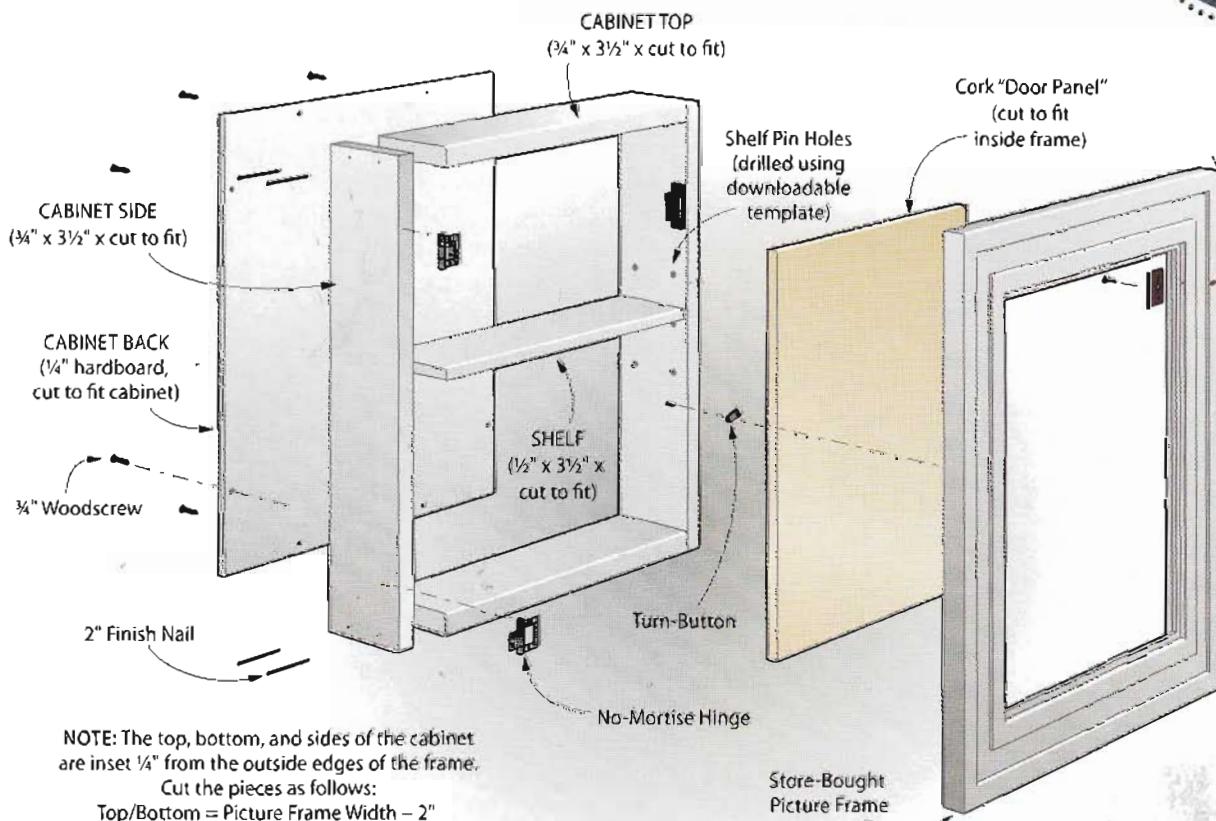
design the door with whatever frame, fabric, ribbon, and board coordinate with your decor!





## design the door panel

After selecting your frame, you'll need to make a "door panel" to place inside it. Cork covered with fabric is both functional and attractive. Start by covering the back side of a cork panel with fabric. Wrap the edges around to the front, and glue them down (*left*). Use a glue stick that's considered permanent on fabric. Then apply another piece of fabric over the front (*below left*). You can create a cool mat effect by gluing down strips of ribbon where the pieces of fabric meet (*below right*). Finally, secure the panel inside the frame with turn-buttons (*Inset Photo*).



## 2 prepare the cabinet pieces

Now you can make the cabinet. As you can see in the illustration, pieces of 1x4 are simply butted against each other to create a box that's  $\frac{1}{2}$ " smaller than the picture frame in both height and width (to accommodate the hinges). If you want to add shelves, cut them to size from a  $\frac{1}{2}$ "-thick board. Then use the template provided online to drill holes for shelf pins. Tape wrapped around the bit will help you drill "stopped" holes  $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep.

center this downloadable template on the length of the sides to drill shelf pin holes



## 3 assemble the cabinet

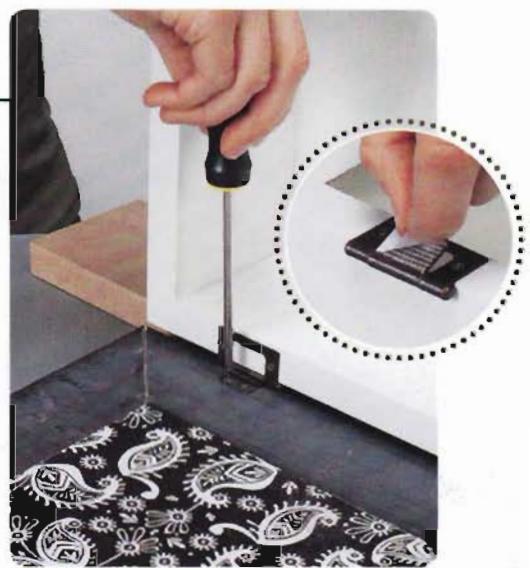
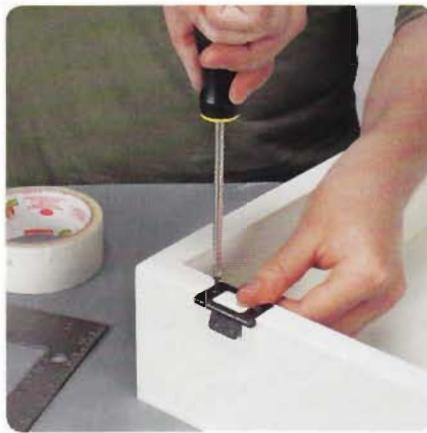
To assemble the pieces, wrap a band clamp around them, and make sure the edges and ends are flush. Pre-drill a couple of holes in each joint. (Tip: Drill using just a nail instead of a drill bit.) Then hammer in the nails.

Once that's done, attach a piece of hardboard to the back, flush with the edges of the box. Apply some filler over the nails and joint lines, and give the cabinet a few coats of paint.



## 4 attach hinges and hardware

At this point, you're ready to attach the door. Paying attention to the orientation shown in the Photo, screw two hinges to the side of the cabinet. From there, a good way to attach the hinges to the door is to use double-sided tape. Carefully center the door, and press down to "pick up" the hinge leaves that will hold it. Then drive in the screws. After adding a magnetic catch, your cabinet is ready to hang on the wall using wall anchors.



# Go Beyond the Curve with Your Jigsaw

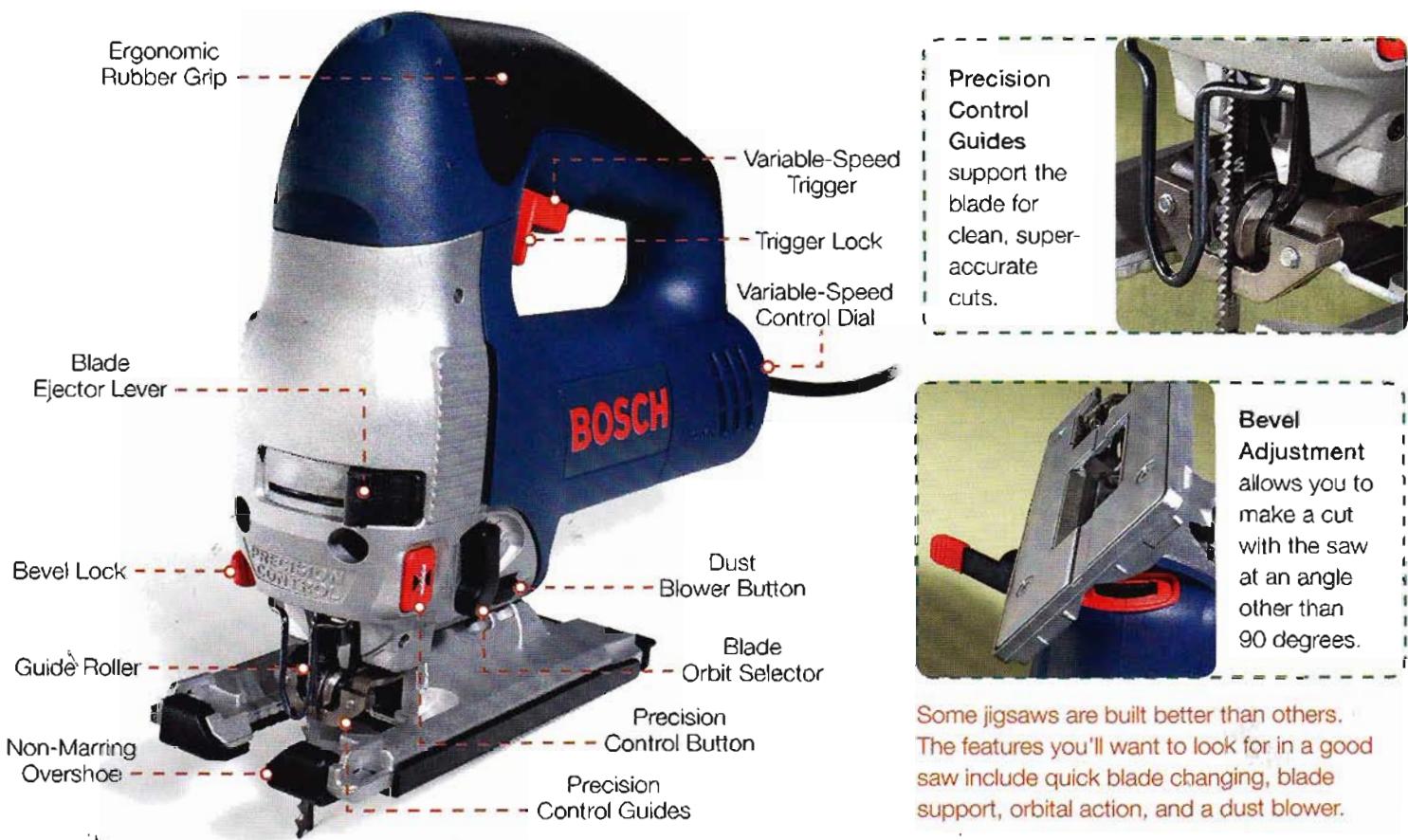
The jigsaw is great for cutting curves — but it can do so much more. Whether you want to take your wood projects to the next level or cut materials like metal, plastic, and ceramic, here's why you should get to know this versatile saw.

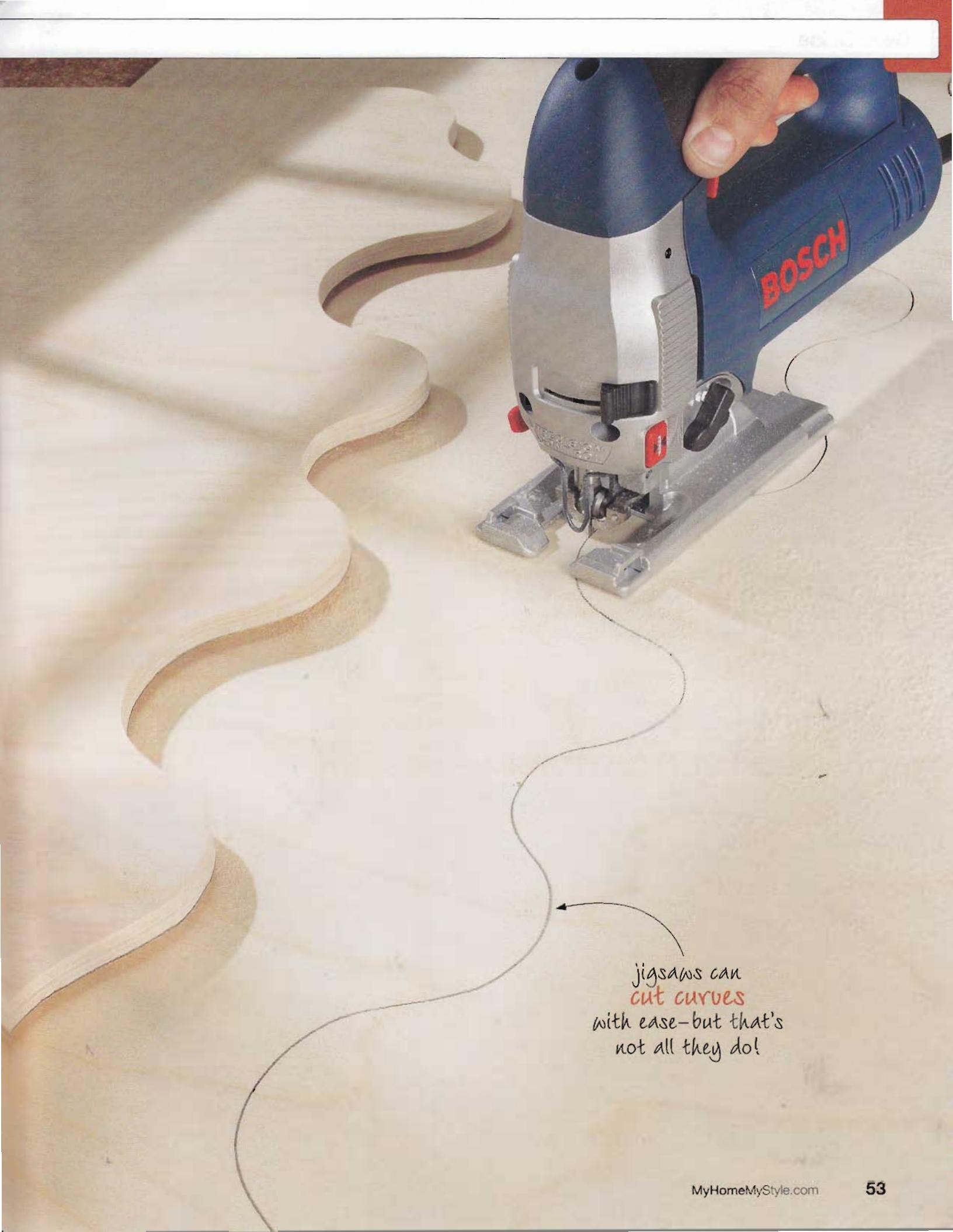
At some point in most homeowners' progression into DIY projects, they'll find that they want to cut a curved shape, whether it's the top of a gate, the edge of a table, or something totally whimsical (right). With its cutting action that moves the blade in a line straight up and down quickly, no tool is more proficient at cutting these curves than the jigsaw.

**The Jig Is Up.** Once most people buy their jigsaw and cut that first curve, though, a funny thing happens: They realize that this unique saw does a whole lot more. Whether you have to cut a circle or

notch or work with a material like metal or plastic, the jigsaw is the tool of choice. And when you see how smooth today's saws can cut, it may even become your go-to tool for cutting in a straight line, too!

**Buyer's Guide.** The key, of course, is selecting a saw that has all the features to pull off these tasks successfully. We have outlined those for you in the diagram below. Then, turn to page 54 for all the hands-on, how-to knowledge you'll need to make a variety of cuts with your jigsaw, as well as a guide to choosing the right blade for the job at hand.





jigsaws can  
**cut curves**  
with ease—but that's  
not all they do!

## Anatomy of a Curved Cut

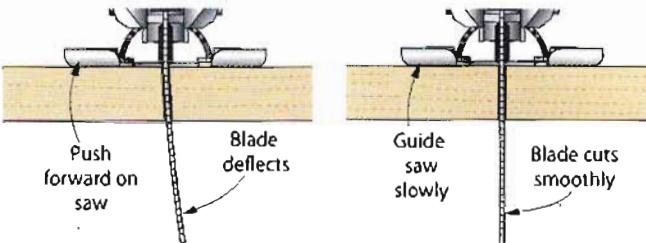
A jigsaw really shines when it comes to making curved cuts, but it still takes a little bit of technique to get it right. First of all, make sure you're cutting with "no orbit" when making a curved cut. It's also a good idea to practice on a scrap piece of wood until you get a feel for the saw. Finally, choose a blade that's made for cutting curves (see the Box on page 55).

**Follow the Lines.** Once you're ready to make the actual cut, start by laying out the shape carefully with a bold pencil line that's easy to see (Photo, right). Then, as you start cutting, stay on

the outside of the pencil line. This will allow you to clean up any slight imperfections with sandpaper once you complete the cut.

**Don't Force It.** As you cut with a jigsaw, resist the temptation to push forward on the saw to speed up the cut. This can create heat and stress on the saw and cause the blade to deflect (Illustration, near right).

Instead, gently guide the saw at its preferred rate of cut, and make curves by pivoting the back of the saw rather than pushing forward on it. This will result in a smooth, controlled cut (Illustration, far right).



## Straight Cuts Made Even Simpler

A jigsaw is usually not the first saw that comes to mind for cutting a straight line across a piece — but perhaps it should be! With the saws and blades that are available today, you can either cut super-fast or

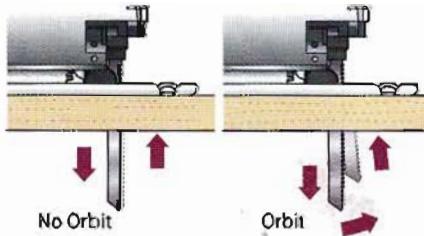
super-smooth in most materials using your jigsaw.

**Two Ways to Make Straight Cuts.** If you want your straight cut to end up smooth and clean (like the pegboard panel shown below), then you can use

the same fine-cutting wood blade you'd use for curved cuts, and set the saw for "no-orbit" mode. If a rough but fast cut is what you're after, choose a coarse-tooth blade, and use one of the saw's orbital settings to cut

quickly through the wood (Illustrations, below).

**Guide the Saw.** Regardless of what kind of cut you want, it's always a good idea to guide the base of the saw in a straight line with some form of straightedge.



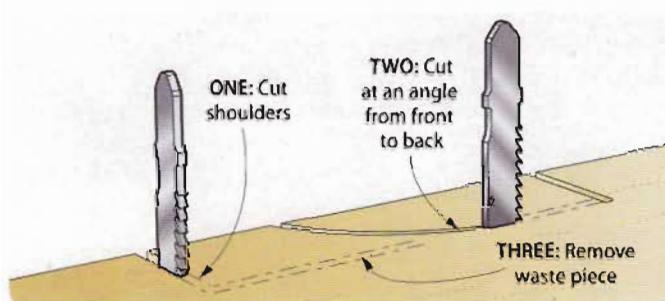
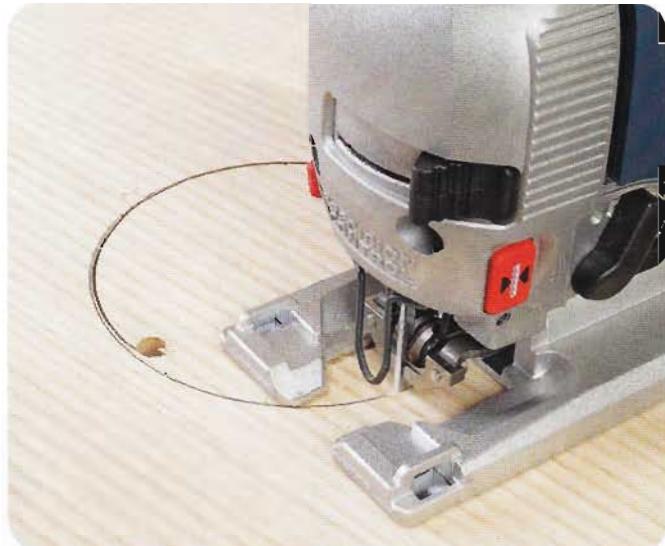
# Two Ways to Cut Openings or Notches

Many projects call for a hole or an opening in the middle of a piece, or a notch in the edge. Here again, no tool does this more efficiently than a jigsaw.

**Opening in the Middle.** If you have to cut a hole or opening in the middle of a board or panel, you just need an entry point for the jigsaw blade. That's easily accomplished by drilling a starter hole that's large enough to insert the blade into. If you're cutting a circle, you'll need one

starter hole (*Photo, right*). If you're cutting a rectangular opening, drill starter holes at opposite corners, and then cut all four sides.

**Notch on the Edge.** If you need to cut a notch on the edge of a piece, start by cutting the sides, or "shoulders," of the notch. Then make an angled cut that starts at the front of the notch on one side and ends at the back of the notch on the other side. Finally, cut out the leftover waste piece to complete the notch (*right*).



## Choosing the Right Blade



Just as important as the jigsaw you buy is the blade you select for the specific task at hand. Luckily, most manufacturers have made that process easy by marking the intended use clearly on the blade packaging and the blade itself. A variety of different types of jigsaw blades are available, but the four that we end up using the most for our projects are shown at right.



**Jigsaw Blade Basics.** Metal-cutting blades have very fine teeth, while blades for ceramics and plastics have a diamond grit on the edge. Wood blades range from fine teeth for smooth cuts to large teeth for fast cuts.



# Follow the Signs for a Fun, Funky Coffee Table

If you think making a table is tough, think again. This project is a sure sign that you can create a fun, functional coffee table in no time at all.

**M**ost of us think that building a table requires some serious woodworking skills and tools. Truth be known, you can create a table easily if you simply buy the hardest part to build: the legs.

These twin coffee tables use metal "hairpin" legs that are available online for just \$14 apiece (see page 62). All you have to do is screw them to the tabletop of your choice.

As far as the tabletop goes, use your imagination to come up with something unique. The old metal road signs we used came from an architectural salvage store. We decided to buy two and make a pair of tables.

Each sign sits on a base made of plywood that gets surrounded by a simple frame (illustration, page 59). Then the whole thing is capped with glass, which you can order in the size you need from any local glass supplier. The steps starting on page 58 show you how it's all done. Add a little paint, and you're ready to kick back and enjoy the usefulness and uniqueness of your new coffee table.

old signs are available in a bunch of styles that are packed with personality



## 1 create the plywood base

1

Start by cutting the plywood base to size. It should be about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " longer and wider than the sign you plan to use. While you're at it, cut four leg blocks from the leftover plywood.

Then use a pocket-hole jig (see page 62) to drill three pocket holes along each edge of the plywood base.



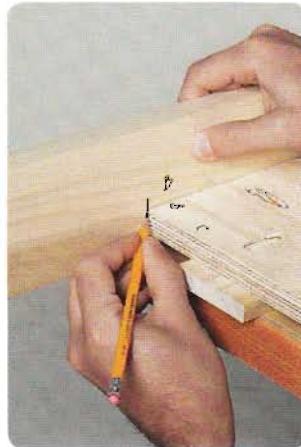
*a pocket-hole jig makes it simple to create connections*

## 2 mark the frame for a perfect fit

2

Cut the 1x4 frame to fit around the base. To do that, first prop the base up on some  $\frac{1}{8}$ "-thick spacers. Mark each side of every corner with "A," "B," "C," etc. This will help when fitting the frame.

Next, cut frame pieces a few inches longer than needed. Then miter-cut one end at 45°, and mark it with an "A." Hold that end against the corner of the base marked "A." Put a "B" near the other end, and mark the length for that frame piece. Now you can miter that end at 45°, as well. Work around the base this way until you have all four frame pieces cut to size.



## 3 get it all together

3

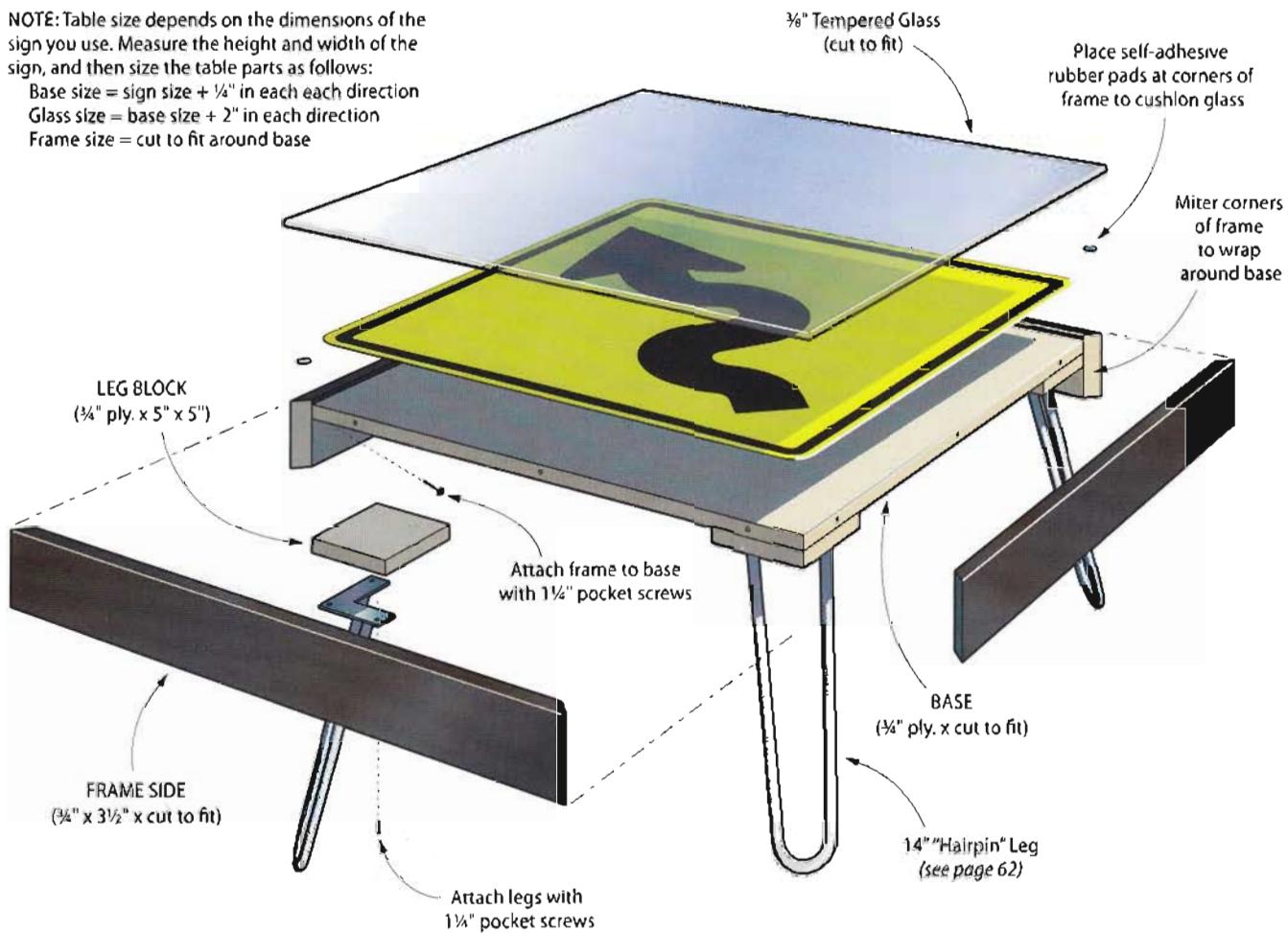
Once the frame is complete, you can attach it to the base. With the base still on spacers, spread glue on the edges of the plywood. Put a little glue on the mitered ends of the frame pieces, and then clamp them in place. Align the letters on the frame and base for the best fit. Then drive in the pocket screws to secure the frame. Next, glue a leg block into each corner (Inset Photo).

*a band clamp holds the frame as you drive screws*



**NOTE:** Table size depends on the dimensions of the sign you use. Measure the height and width of the sign, and then size the table parts as follows:

Base size = sign size +  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in each direction  
 Glass size = base size + 2" in each direction  
 Frame size = cut to fit around base



## add legs and send in the sign

4

After the glue dries, you can fill any gaps at the frame corners with putty, and then sand the frame smooth. Spray on a couple of coats of primer, and then paint. You don't have to paint the entire base, just the corners and any spots that will show through holes in the sign.

With the painting done, it's time to add the legs. You can attach them by driving leftover pocket screws into the leg blocks.

Then secure the sign. Ours were far from flat, so we put dabs of clear silicone in the corners, and then pressed each sign in. Add some rubber pads at the corners of the frame, set the glass in place, and your table is ready to use.



### 1 A Quicker Way to Get Clean Cuts

Making clean cuts in thin materials like paper, fabric, and vinyl sheet goods can be more time-consuming and difficult than you expect. There's a faster way to get the job done: the ZipSnip cutter. This cordless tool has a self-sharpening blade that can slice through materials up to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick — even tough-to-cut ones like clamshell packaging.

**PRICE:** \$30 **LEARN MORE:** [ZipSnipCutter.com](http://ZipSnipCutter.com) or 866-514-7625

the self-sharpening  
blade easily cuts thin  
materials



### 2 Sleek Wine Storage

Store your wine bottles in style by placing them in a Vynebar wine rack. The vertical, wall-mounted metal racks come in four- or eight-bottle versions and are available in 18 color and finish options. The racks can also be engraved, which makes them great holiday or housewarming gifts.

**PRICE:** \$40 (four bottles) or \$60 (eight bottles)  
**LEARN MORE:** [Vynebar.com](http://Vynebar.com) or 866-336-7042

a wall-mounted wine rack  
helps you clear your countertop



## 3 Easy-Cleanup Roller Frame

The Airglide paint roller frame comes loaded with convenient features. Perhaps most notable of these is its roller release, which lets you eject your roller into the trash with just the touch of a button. The roller frame is also center-balanced to provide better control as you paint.

**PRICE:** \$12 (6" roller frame) or \$10 (9" roller frame)

**LEARN MORE:** EnjoyZebra.com or 866-869-7544

## 4 Colorful Coasters

These Stay on Coasters can provide a fun tabletop accent for your next party. The felt coasters protect your furniture and help each guest identify his or her glass.

**PRICE:** \$24 (set of six)

**LEARN MORE:** Dimmalimm.us  
or shop@dimmalimm.co

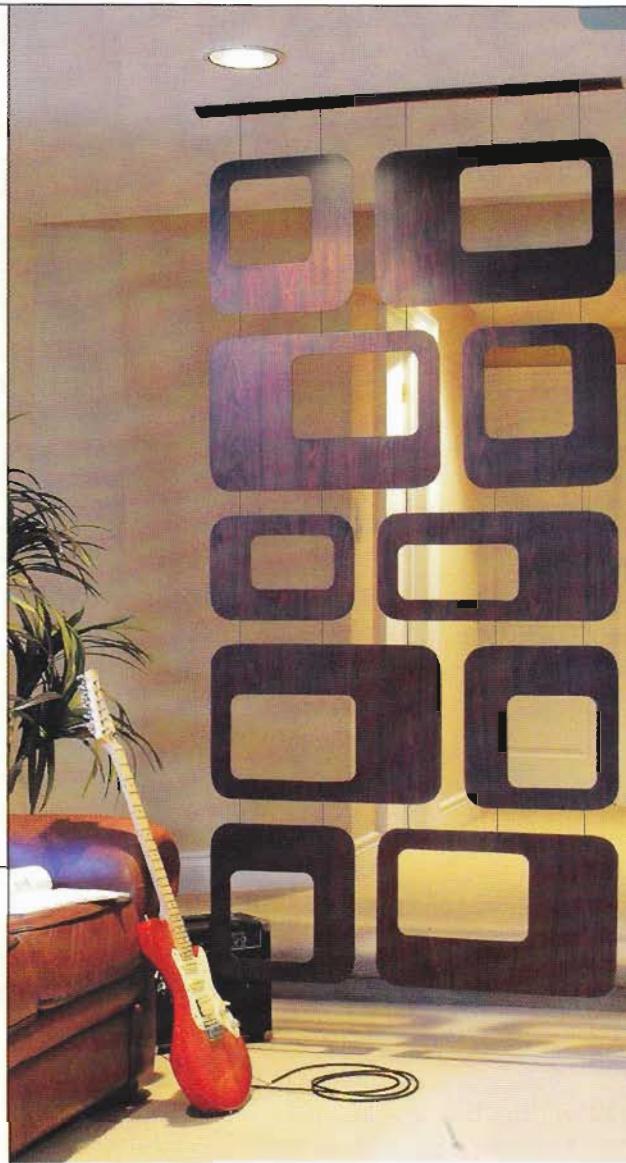


## 5 Adjustable Art Hanger

Hanging wall art doesn't have to involve misplaced nail holes and frustration. This picture hanger lets you make slight adjustments to the frame's position, ensuring the perfect placement every time.

**PRICE:** \$6

**LEARN MORE:**  
EasyPictureHanging.com  
or 800-778-4485



## 6 Unique and Useful Hanging Divider

The Retro-Chic Sotto Hanging Room Divider provides an attractive way to create separate areas within a larger space. The divider, which is made up of metal chains and sturdy veneered medium-density fiberboard, features sleek midcentury styling. In addition to this unique design, you can choose from a few other cool, contemporary hanging divider styles.

**PRICE:** \$275

**LEARN MORE:** Nexxt.com or 877-412-7467

charming accessories and furniture bring home the aesthetic of Tuscany

## Readers' Tips (page 6)

**8" x 10" Gift Bags**, available at Michaels stores  
**Dremel 4000 Rotary Tool; Cutting Wheel**,  
 Dremel.com, 800-437-3635

## Q&A (page 8)

**Cosmo 84"** Grommeted Window Panel in White; ReSolutions 1"-diameter Drapery Rod in Pewter; ReSolutions Holdback Arm in Pewter, BedBathandBeyond.com, 800-462-3966

**June Tailor, Inc.** Fray Block; Opaque Fabric, available at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft stores

## Painted Hardware (page 10)

"White" American Accents Primer Spray #7980830; "Black Night" Metallic Spray Paint #7250830, RustOleum.com, 800-323-3584

"Satin Nickel" Brushed Metallic Spray Paint #51255; Crystal Clear Satin Finish #51313, Krylon.com, 800-457-9566

"Copper" Metallic Spray Paint #17023, available at Ace Hardware stores

## Tuscan Style (page 12)

"Shelburne Buff" Paint #HC-28, BenjaminMoore.com, 800-344-0400

**Drop-Leaf Console Table** #978-50-001, HookerFurniture.com, 276-656-3335

**Verona Slat Dining Chair** #2264892, Pier1.com, 800-245-4595

**Alessandra Floral Pillow Covers in Gold; Lattice Rug**, PotteryBarn.com, 888-779-5176

**Large Woven Wine Jug; Hanging Basket**, available at Pottery Barn stores

**Decorative Containers with Lids; Candle Sconces; Wall Art**, available at Hobby Lobby stores

**White Vase with Medallion; Decorative Platter; Other Accessories**, purchased locally

## Faux-Stone Columns (page 18)

"Swiss Coffee" Paint #OC-45, BenjaminMoore.com, 800-344-0400

"Prairie Wheat" Gel Stain, GeneralFinishes.com, 800-783-6050

**Quikrete 8" x 48" Builders Tube; Quikrete 12" x 48" Builders Tube; 8" Azalea Pot; 12" Clay Saucer; 12" Standard Clay Pot; 16" Clay Saucer; Sheetrock All-Purpose Joint Compound**, available at Lowe's stores

**Loctite PL Premium Polyurethane Construction Adhesive**, available at The Home Depot stores



## Mudroom Pipe Projects (page 20)

"Graystone" Paint (walls) #1475; "Polished Slate" Paint (door) #7113, BenjaminMoore.com, 800-344-0400

"Flat Black" Indoor/Outdoor Spray Paint (pipes), Krylon.com, 800-457-9566

"American Oak" Gel Stain (pipe accents), GeneralFinishes.com, 800-783-6050

**Blue Floral Appliqued Throw** #2488277, Pier1.com, 800-245-4595

**Storage Box** #081080563, available at Target stores  
**Baskets**, available at Michaels stores

## Tone-on-Tone Paint (page 26)

"G.I. Green" Paint #2149-20; "Timothy Straw" Paint #2149-40; "Mellowed Ivory" Paint #2149-50; "Aegean Teal" Paint #2136-40; "Colorado Gray" #2136-50, BenjaminMoore.com, 888-344-0400

**Metal Flower Mirror; Wooden Bowls; Basket; Assorted Pillows**, available at Pier 1 Imports stores

**Shelf Brackets**, available at Anthropologie stores

**Vases; Candlesticks**, available at Ikea stores

**White Drum Lampshade**, available at Target stores

**Modern Masters Stencil**, ModernMastersInc.com, 800-942-3166

**Daybed**, available at World Market stores

**Coffee Table**, salvage piece purchased locally

## Kitchen Island (page 32)

(2) **Lateral File Cabinets** in Autumn Cherry/Black #11176468, Target.com, 800-591-3869

(2) **8'-long Poplar 1x4s**; (1) **3/4" x 24" x 72" Aspen Panel** #21786; Kreg R3 Pocket-Hole Jig #255535; (15) **Kreg 1" Pocket-Hole Screws** #205308, available at Lowe's stores

(6) **1 1/4" Connector Bolts** #31831, Rockler.com, 800-279-4441

## DESIGN OPTIONS

**600mm Steel Tube** #12K34.01; (2) **Square Tube Holders** #12K34.10; **Single S-Hooks** #12K34.22, LeeValley.com, 800-871-8158

(4) **Metal-Hooded Twin-Wheel Casters with Polyurethane Tires** #TWM-U50BC-PM, CasterCity.com, 800-501-3808

## Festive Lighting (page 38)

"**Frosted Glass**" Specialty Paint #1903830, RustOleum.com, 800-323-3584

**1" Diamond Drill Bit** #900-010, DiamondSure.com

**White LED Fantasia Fairy Lights** #FFL-40, LittleBrightLights.com, 866-285-5212

**Mini Indoor Light Set; Ultra LED Battery-Operated Lights; Green Hammered Glass Vases; Clear Cylindrical Glass Vases**, available at Hobby Lobby stores

# {resources}

**Clear Cylindrical Glass Vases**, available at Pier 1 Imports stores

**Green, Blue, and Clear Wine Bottle Vases**; [MuschiCrafts.com](http://MuschiCrafts.com), 512-968-2551

## Compact Craft Center (page 44)

(2) TPS White File Cabinets #630155, [CB2.com](http://CB2.com), 800-606-6252

(2) 40" Hang Tracks #212131; (4) 70" Double-Track Standards #107717; (4) 18" Double-Track Brackets #239969; (12) 11" Double-Track Brackets #107941; (3) 73" x 12" Shelf #108041, all by Real Organized, available at Lowe's stores

## Picture-Frame Cabinet (page 48)

Soho 11" x 14" Open Frame in White; Vintage Silver 10" x 20" Frame; Fabric; Ribbon, available at Hobby Lobby stores

Home Collection 11" x 14" Black Barnwood Wall Frame; Quartet 11" x 14" Cork Bulletin Board; The Board Dudes 11" x 14" Dry-Erase Board, available at Michaels stores

"Cream Cloak" Paint #OC-135, [BenjaminMoore.com](http://BenjaminMoore.com), 800-344-0400

Poplar 1x4 (length depends on frame); 1/4"-thick Hardboard (size depends on frame); (8 per cabinet) 2" Finish Nails; Double-Sided Carpet Tape, available at Lowe's stores

(2 per cabinet) 1 1/16" x 7/8" x 1 1/2" Bronze Non-Mortise Hinges #28670; (1 per cabinet) Magnetic Catch with Strike Plate #40332; (4 per cabinet) Flush Panel Retainers #92289; (4 per cabinet) Pin Supports #22955; (4 per cabinet) Pin Support Sleeves #22997, [Rockler.com](http://Rockler.com), 800-279-4441

## Gear Guide: Jigsaw (page 52)

Bosch Top Handle Jigsaw #1590EVSK; Assorted Blades, [BoschTools.com](http://BoschTools.com), 877-267-2499

## Coffee Table (page 56)

Signs, purchased at a local salvage store: [WestEndArchSalvage.com](http://WestEndArchSalvage.com), 515-243-0499

(4 per table) 14" Hairpin Legs in Raw Steel, [HairpinLegs.com](http://HairpinLegs.com), 614-949-6918

3/8" Tempered Glass with Polished Edges, purchased at local glass shop

(2 per table) 8"-long Poplar 1x4s; 3/4" Plywood (sized to fit sign); Kreg R3 Pocket-Hole Jig #255535; (28 per table) Kreg 1 1/4" Pocket-Hole Screws #205317, available at Lowe's stores

Sleeper Lounge Chair in Gray #12184770, [Target.com](http://Target.com), 800-591-3869

Taxi India 16" Pillow #636170, [CB2.com](http://CB2.com), 800-606-6252

start with ordinary office file cabinets;  
end with a high-style kitchen island!



### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3686)

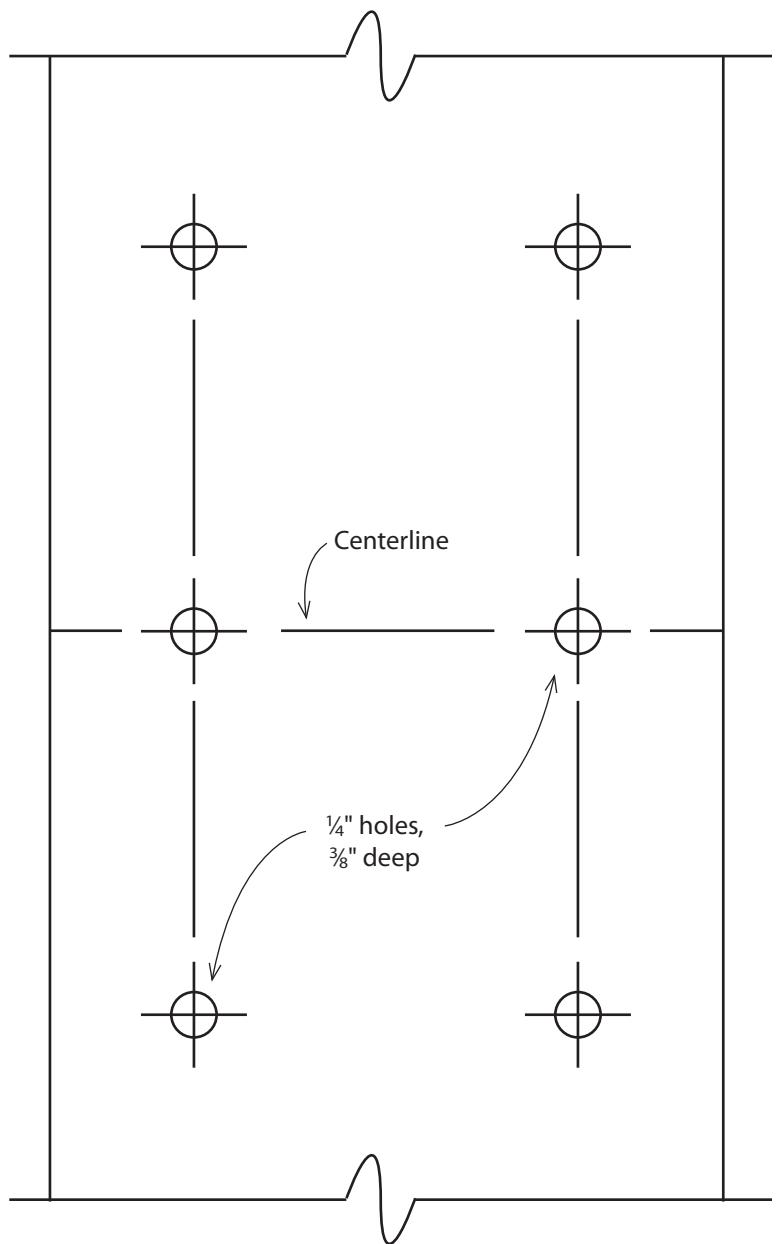
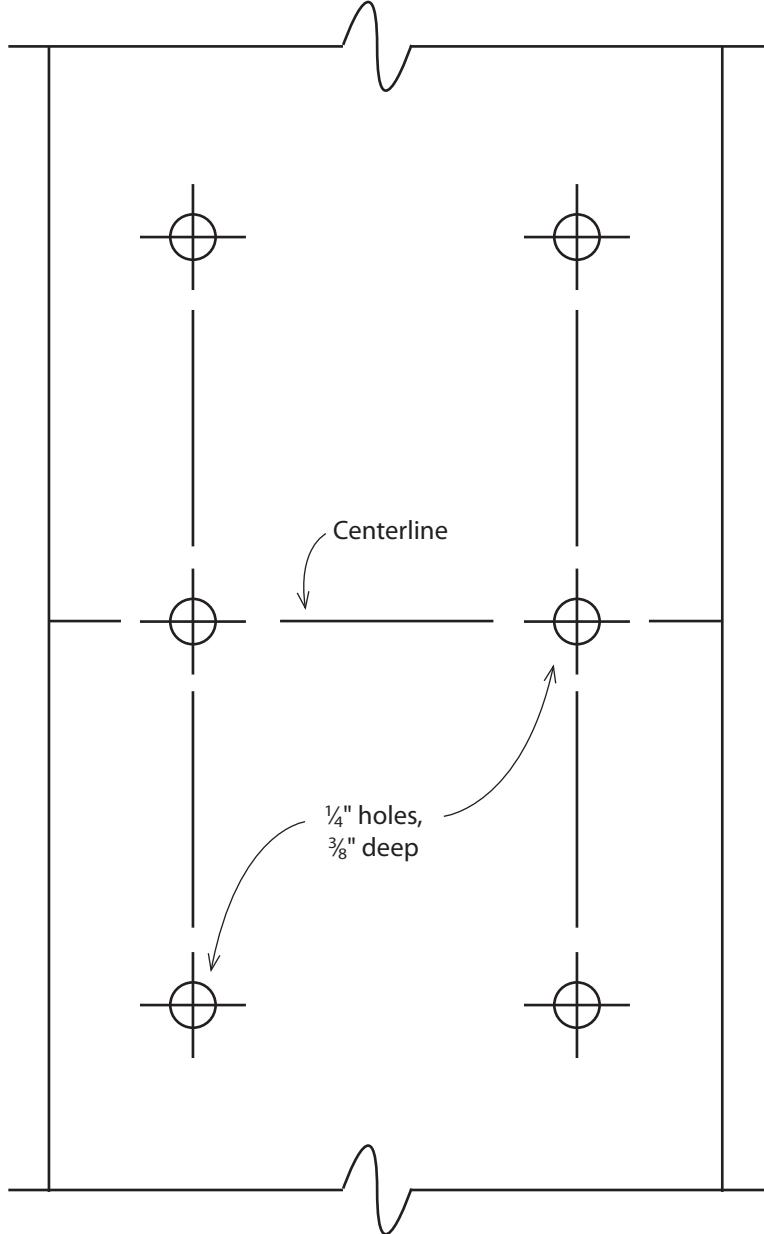
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A. Total no. copies (net press run)	256,668	214,744	
B. Paid and/or requested circulation			
1. Paid/requested outside-county mail subscriptions	195,977	167,234	
2. Paid in-county subscriptions	0	0	
3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales	11,007	9,516	
4. Other classes mailed	0	0	
C. Total paid and/or requested circulation	206,984	178,800	
D. Free distribution by mail (samples, complimentary, and other free)			
1. Outside county	86	88	
2. In-county	0	0	
3. Other classes mailed	0	0	
E. Free distribution outside the mail	0	0	
F. Total free distribution	86	88	
G. Total distribution	207,070	178,888	
H. Copies not distributed	49,598	35,856	
I. Total	256,668	214,744	
J. Percent paid and/or requested circulation	99.96%	99.95%	

16. Publication of statement of ownership: Publication required. Will appear in the November/December 2010 issue. 17. Signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner: (signed) David Stone, September 2, 2010. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

### FULL-SIZE HOLE PATTERN

This pattern will help you position the shelf-pin holes for the Picture-Frame Storage Cabinets shown in the Nov/Dec 2010 issue of *My Home My Style*. See pages 48-51 of that issue for more information.



#### Instructions:

- 1) Measure the length of the cabinet side piece to locate the centerline.
- 2) Cut out the paper pattern, apply a light coat of spray adhesive, and place it on the workpiece so the centerlines match up.
- 3) Wrap tape around a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " drill bit,  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the tip. This will indicate how deep you need to drill.
- 4) Drill through the paper pattern — being careful to center the bit on the crosshairs and hold the drill straight.
- 5) Repeat on the other side piece(s).

# {a look inside}

## 26] Create a No-Fail Color Scheme

Coordinate the color scheme in any room by painting mismatched accessories with a tone-on-tone theme. Our easy-to-follow techniques ensure your success.

## 32] Upgrade Your Kitchen Storage and Work Space—In One Weekend

Get custom-cabinet looks without the cost by putting together your own kitchen island. Start with a pair of file cabinets and a store-bought wood panel, and the process becomes surprisingly simple.

## 56] Craft a Clever Coffee Table

You'll be amazed by the unique items you can use to create a cool, custom coffee table. Ours starts with old road signs that give this project a one-of-a-kind look.



26



32



56