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In this plan you will be getting:

- Step by Step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Exploded view and elevation drawings.
- How-to photos with instructive captions.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.



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Modular Barrister's Bookcases



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Modular Barrister's Bookcases

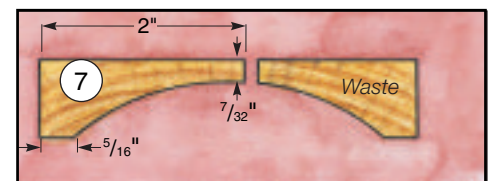
We'll forgive you if you have a burgeoning home library—it's tough to resist the urge to collect books, even in today's world of instant media and DVDs. If you're looking for a neat and attractive way to store your volumes, these modular bookcases just might be the ticket. Start with two or three and build more as the need arises.

We all have special books we'd like to hand down to the next generation. You may start out with a home library consisting mostly of paperbacks, but over the years you will accumulate a hardback collection that deserves a more protective environment than standard bookshelves can provide. And, that collection probably will continue to grow a little with each passing year. Here's a barrister bookcase system that will grow right along with it.

Starting With the Case Subassembly

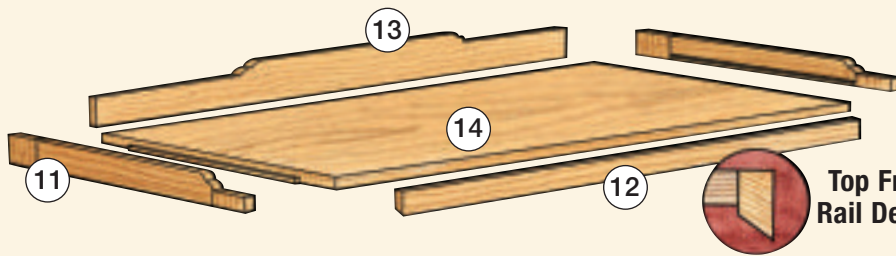
The *Material List* on page 67 provides the items you'll need to create one unit—a case, a top and a

base. Machine accordingly—we suggest starting with two or three cases, a top and a base. Get started by milling the case parts (pieces 1 through 9) to overall size. One exception is the top edging (piece 7), which is cut extra wide now and trimmed after some fancy machining (see *photo* right). Following the *Elevation Drawings* on the next two pages, use your table saw to mill the tenons and grooves on the rails and stiles to create frames for the side panels. Before gluing and clamping, there's one more groove to machine close to the edge of each rail (see *Drawings*). With that done, glue and clamp the panels, checking for squareness as you tighten your clamps. When the glue

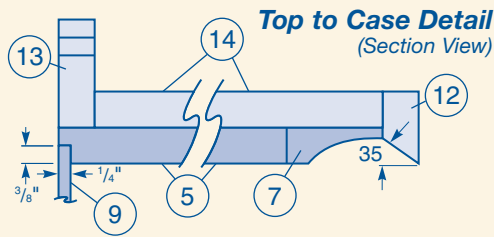


Here's an old trick used to form wide coves. For this project, the fences are set at 30° to the blade. Take multiple passes, raising the blade slightly after each cut to "sneak up" to the proper measurement. Ripping the stock after the cove is the right depth (above) leaves you with the trim for the case top.

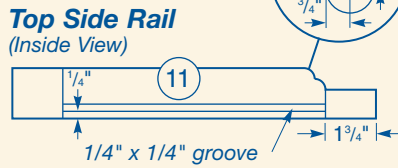
Bookcase Exploded View



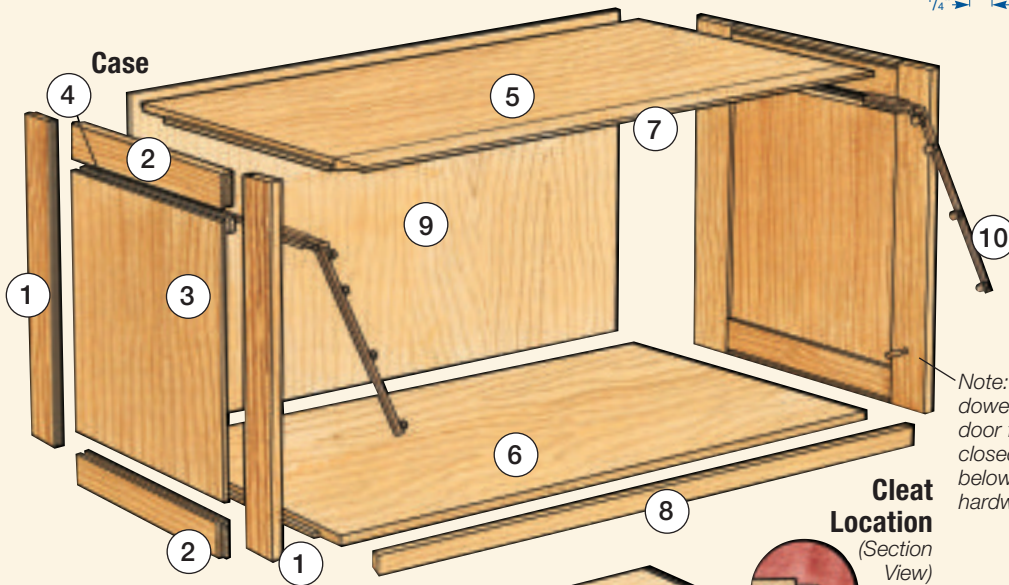
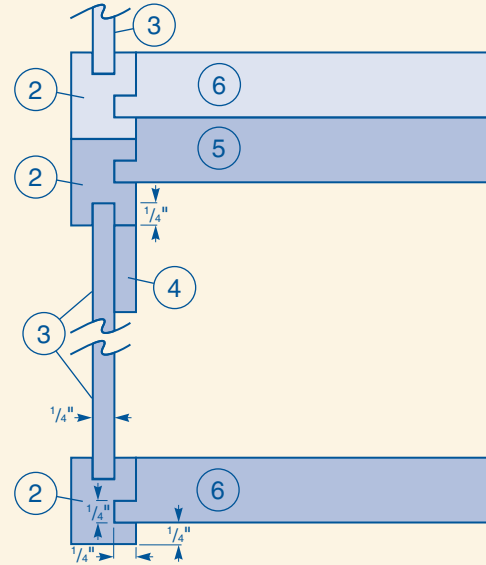
Top Front Rail Detail



Form template for cloud lift pattern.

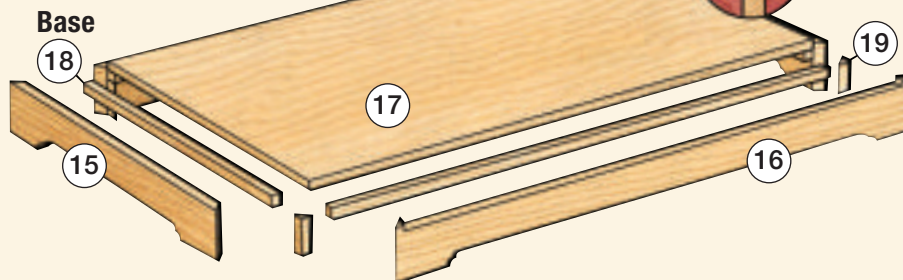


Case to Case Detail (Section View)

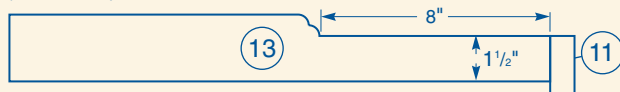


Note: Locate 1/4" dowel so it holds door flush when closed. Keep it below the slide hardware.

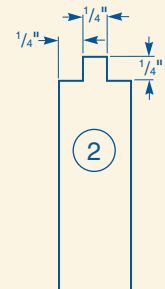
Cleat Location (Section View)



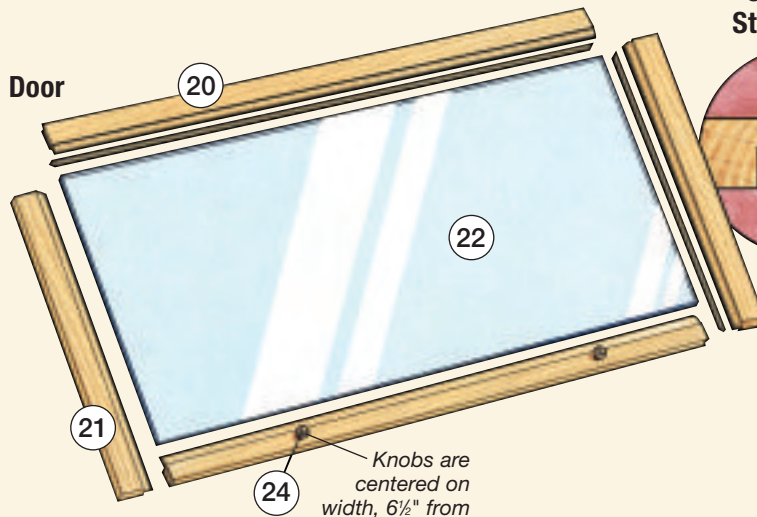
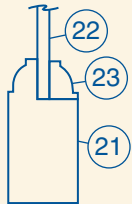
Top Back Rail (Back View)



Case Rail (Top View)



Door Rail/Stile
(Section View)

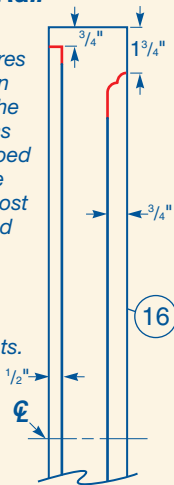


Cope and Stick Detail

In addition to creating instant glass retainer strips, this cope and stick bit set also creates perfect corners on your door frame.

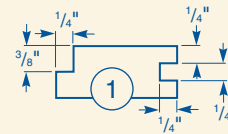
Base Front Rail
(Front View)

This piece requires two drop cuts on the table saw. The bottom cut forms most of the shaped cutout, while the top cut forms most of the notch. Red lines represent areas where a hand saw or drill is used to complete the cuts.

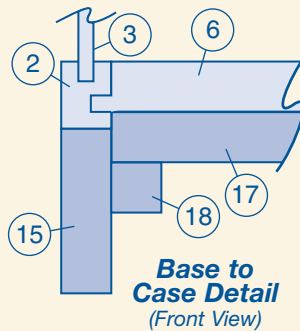


Knobs are centered on width, 6 1/2" from each end.

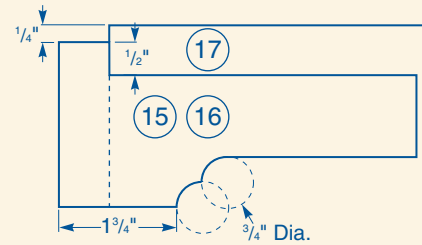
Case Stile
(Top View)



Note: Rabbet for back cut on back stiles only.



Base to Case Detail
(Front View)



Base Cutout
(Front View)

MATERIAL LIST – Bookcase

	T x W x L	T x W x L	
1 Case Stiles (4)	3/4" x 1 3/4" x 14 1/2"	14 Top Platform (1)	3/4" x 11 1/8" x 30 1/2"
2 Case Rails (4)	3/4" x 1" x 9 5/8"	15 Base Side Rails (2)	3/4" x 2 3/4" x 12 5/8"
3 Case Panels (2)	1/4" x 9 5/8" x 12 7/8"	16 Base Front & Back Rails (2)	3/4" x 2 3/4" x 31 1/2"
4 Slide Support Rails (2)	1/4" x 1" x 9 7/8"	17 Base Platform (1)	3/4" x 11 1/8" x 30"
5 Case Top (1)	3/4" x 9 7/8" x 30 1/2"	18 Base Cleats* (1)	1/2" x 1/2" x 85"
6 Case Bottom (1)	3/4" x 11 7/8" x 30 1/2"	19 Base Glue Blocks (4)	3/4" x 3/4" x 1 3/4"
7 Case Top Edging (1)	3/4" x 2" x 30"	20 Door Rails (2)	3/4" x 1 1/4" x 27 7/8"
8 Case Bottom Edging (1)	3/4" x 1 1/2" x 30"	21 Door Stiles (2)	3/4" x 1 1/4" x 12 13/16"
9 Case Back (1)	1/4" x 30 3/4" x 13 3/4"	22 Glass (1)	1/8" Measure opening
10 Door Slides (2)	Nylon	23 Retainer Strips* (4)	3/8" x 3/8" x 90"
11 Top Side Rails (2)	3/4" x 1 3/4" x 12 5/8"	24 Sash Knobs (2)	3/8" Dia. brass
12 Top Front Rail (1)	3/4" x 1 1/2" x 30"		
13 Top Back Rail (1)	3/4" x 2 1/4" x 30"		

*Trim cleat and retainer stock to fit.

dries, there is a rabbet to cut along the back edge of each glued-up panel (for the back). Glue the slide support rails (pieces 4) in place, but hold off on installing the door support hardware (pieces 10).

The bottom is next. Its sides have a tongue (trimmed to fit the stopped grooves you just made in the side rails), and its back edge has a rabbet to accommodate the back. The front edge is trimmed with a strip of hardwood edging (piece 8) that receives a 35° bevel along its inside bottom edge.

The top features two trimmed tongues on its sides, a back rabbet and some trim along its front edge. This trim (piece 7), shown on page 66, is milled oversized and a cove is formed on its bottom. After the cove is shaped, the edging is ripped to width, exposing a portion of the cove.

After the unit is assembled, the cove on the top edging and the bevel on the bottom edging meet to form an arc, which accommodates the opening and closing of the door. (Note: if you stack more than two cases, screw them together for safety.)

With the side panels assembled and milled and the edging added to the top and bottom, bring the cases together with clamps and glue. You can test-fit the back, but don't install it yet—that has to be done later.

Making the Top Subassembly

As with the case, start on the top by cutting your parts (pieces 11 through 14) to size. Once again, however, there's an exception: The top's side rails (pieces 11) are a glued-up subassembly designed to carry the appearance of stiles and rails all the way to the top.

To make these side rails, glue up a blank of horizontal pieces, trim and joint its edges and add two vertical “stiles,” one along each edge. When the glue dries, rip off each top side rail (with “stile-ized” ends). These pieces receive a stopped groove (see *Drawings*) for the top platform, which has a trimmed-off tongue along each edge, just like the case top.

Move on to making the top's front and back rails, which also require a little shaping (see *Drawings*).

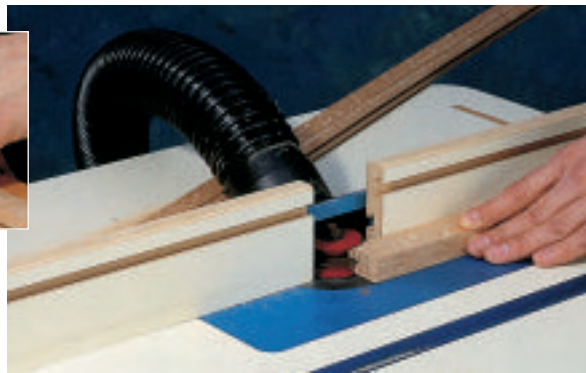
As you can see in the inset *photo* on the next page, a template is handy for drawing cloud lift shapes on the top's sides and back (as well as the base's sides and front). With all the pieces cut and machined, you can glue and clamp the top together.

Laser beams on miter saws! They only seem silly until you've completed your first cut. Then you wonder where they've been all your life!





A cope and stick router bit set makes fast work of the door frames. After sticking the rails and stiles (above), the ends of the rails are coped, as shown at right.



Then use your table saw to cut the glass retainer strips free.

Making the Base Subassembly

The base subassembly (pieces 15 through 19) is different from the case and top in that it has no rabbets or tongues. Use your miter saw to miter-cut the corners, then turn to your table saw to make two “drop” cuts on the front rail and one each on the other three rails. The upper drop cut on the front rail helps form the notch (see *Drawings*). The other three help form the shaped cutout on each piece. (Be sure to use a start and stop line on your fence for these cuts.) Use the template to draw the cloud lift shape, but this time you can turn to your drill press to actually mill their shape. As for the top notch, we recommend gluing up the base pieces (including the cleats and glue blocks) before you use your hand saw to finish cutting out the notch (see *Drawings*). It's a delicate part of the project, so take your time here. You'll notice that the base platform sits a little proud of its rails (just like the case top sits proud of its rails). This is how the pieces interlock.

Making the Door Subassembly

The doors are so easy to make it's a little scary. The secret is to use a cope and stick router bit set. With these two bits, you can make doors all day long! Get started by milling the rails and stiles (pieces 20 and 21) to overall size. (This would seem to be the right time to order your glass (piece 22), but it's a good idea to wait until your frames are

completed.) Now simply insert your “stick” bit and mill the inside edges of the frame pieces from end to end. Switch to the “cope” bit and mill the ends of the rails. Now turn back to the table saw and remove the retainer strips, which have magically appeared on the inside edge of each piece you've machined. The bits account for the kerf you're about to make, and the pieces you trim off become your perfectly sized glass retainer strips (pieces 23)—just miter them to length!

Now things move quickly. Measure for your glass, install it with the retainer



A handy template provides solid repeatability for the cloud lift shapes jigsawn on various pieces.

strips and brads and, with the case on its front, position your slides for installation. Cut 2" off the back of these nylon slides so they'll fit the boxes. Doing so will not present any problems for installation.

Once the doors are working in concert with the case, lay out and drill a 1/4" hole on the inside of the case (see *Drawings*). This hole is for a short length of dowel that serves as a doorstep. With the hardware and stop in place, install the back with small brads.

Finishing Up

Sand through 220 grit, add the sash knobs (pieces 24) and select your finish. We went with a coat of Watco® Medium Walnut Oil followed by a coat of wipe-on polyurethane for these white oak cabinets.

