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Classic Project

In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

Pine Vanity

GIFT SHOP

PINE VANITY

This small Country-style vanity is perfect for a dresser top. Ours is made from pine, but it will look good made from just about any wood.

You'll need ½ in. thick stock for much of this project. If you don't have a thickness planer, check with your local lumberyard or millwork shop as they will often plane down ¾ in. thick stock for a nominal charge.

Begin by cutting the top and bottom (A), sides (B), and divider (C) to the overall dimensions shown in the Bill of Materials, then set up the router table with a ¼ in. diameter straight bit to cut the various ¼ in. by ¼ in. dadoes, grooves and rabbets. As a general rule for all these router cuts, don't make the ¼ in. depth of cut in one pass. You'll get a smoother cut, with less strain on the motor, if it's done in two passes, with each pass removing ⅛ in. of stock.

The grooves and dadoes in the top and bottom are shown in Fig. 1. Make the groove for the case back (D) first. It is located ¼ in. from the back edge of the top, bottom and sides. You'll need to stop the groove ¼ in. from each end of the top and bottom. The dado for the sides is stopped ½ in. from the front edge, while the dado for the divider is stopped ½ in. from the front and back edges.

Next, lay out and mark the location of the ½ in. wide by ¾ in. long through mortises in the top for the upright (K) tenons. To cut them out, we used a drill press and a ½ in diameter bit to remove most of the waste stock. The remainder was cleaned up with a sharp chisel.

After cutting the case back to size, the top, bottom, sides, divider, and back can be dry assembled. If all looks okay, add glue, clamp firmly, and set aside to dry.

The molding (E) is cut to the profile shown (see Fig. 2) using the router and a ⅜ in. roundover bit. For safety's sake, it's best to mold the edge of a wide piece of stock, then rip it to the final width of ½ in.

The front molding need only be glued to the front edge of the bottom, as this is a good long-grain to long-grain joint. However, the side moldings are applied across the grain, so you'll need to allow for wood movement (see page 34 for more on this subject). Use glue at the miters and then only for an inch or two back from the front edge of the bottom. Now, add three finishing nails (one at the center and one at each end) countersunk and filled. This will hold the side moldings in place, yet allow the sides to expand and contract with changes in humidity.

The two uprights (K) can now be made. Cut the stock to the dimensions shown in the Bill of Materials, then lay out and mark the front profile using the grid pattern and the front view. We used the table saw and a dado head cutter to establish the tenon shoulders. The waste area between the double tenons can be cut out with a chisel. Once the tenons are completed, the remaining curved shapes can be cut with the band saw.

You'll need approximately five feet of stock for the frame stiles (L) and rails (M). The bevel is cut on the table saw using the setup shown in Fig. 3. For safety's sake, it's best to cut the bevel on wide stock (ours was about 3 in.) as shown. Use a featherboard and push stick, and keep hands well away from the saw blade. Once the bevel is cut, use the dado head to cut the ¼ in. by ⅜ in. rabbet (see cross-sectional detail for its location), then rip the stock to the final width of 1⅛ in. Next, miter the ends, then add glue and assemble as shown. A framing clamp, if you have one, will come in handy here.

To reinforce the miter joint, we added a spline to each corner using an old-fashioned hand-cut technique. With a dovetail saw, we made a 45 degree cut about ½ in. deep (see Fig 4), then we glued a ⅛ in. thick spline into the cut. When dry, the splines are trimmed flush with a chisel. Old-time cabinetmaker's found that it only took a few minutes to

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PINE VANITY

This small Country-style vanity is perfect for a dresser top. Ours is made from pine, but it will look good made from just about any wood.

You'll need 1/2 in. thick stock for much of this project. If you don't have a thickness planer, check with your local lumberyard or millwork shop as they will often plane down 3/4 in. thick stock for a nominal charge.

Begin by cutting the top and bottom (A), sides (B), and divider (C) to the overall dimensions shown in the Bill of Materials, then set up the router table with a 1/4 in. diameter straight bit to cut the various 1/4 in. by 1/4 in. dadoes, grooves and rabbets. As a general rule for all these router cuts, don't make the 1/4 in. depth of cut in one pass. You'll get a smoother cut, with less strain on the motor, if it's done in two passes, with each pass removing 1/8 in. of stock.

The grooves and dadoes in the top and bottom are shown in Fig. 1. Make the groove for the case back (D) first. It is located 1/4 in. from the back edge of the top, bottom and sides. You'll need to stop the groove 1/4 in. from each end of the top and bottom. The dado for the sides is stopped 1/2 in. from the front edge, while the dado for the divider is stopped 1/2 in. from the front and back edges.

Next, lay out and mark the location of the 1/2 in. wide by 3/4 in. long through mortises in the top for the upright (K) tenons. To cut them out, we used a drill press and a 1/2 in diameter bit to remove most of the waste stock. The remainder was cleaned up with a sharp chisel.

After cutting the case back to size, the top, bottom, sides, divider, and back can be dry assembled. If all looks okay, add glue, clamp firmly, and set aside to dry.

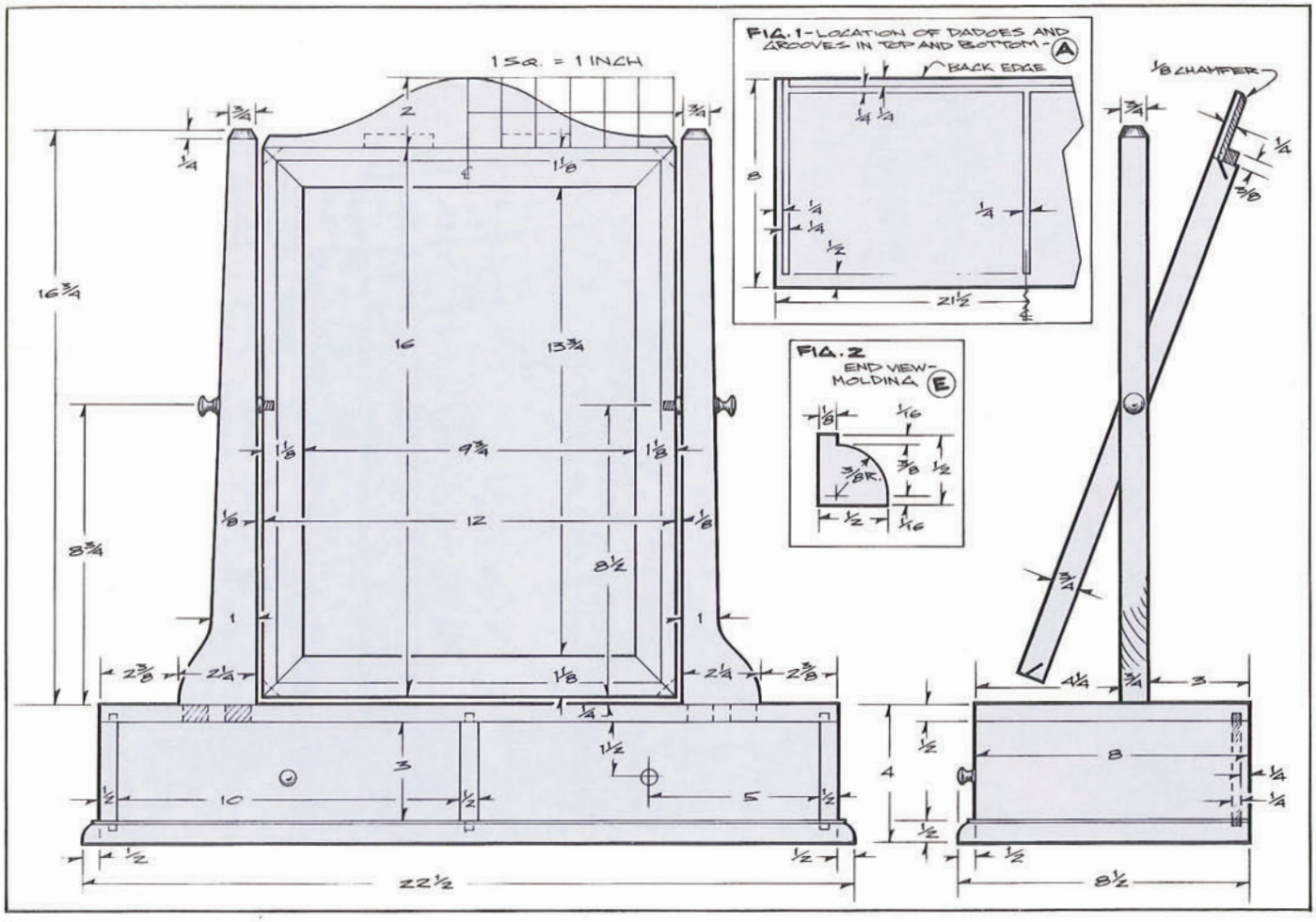
The molding (E) is cut to the profile shown (see Fig. 2) using the router and a 3/8 in. roundover bit. For safety's sake, it's best to mold the edge of a wide piece of stock, then rip it to the final width of 1/2 in.

The front molding need only be glued to the front edge of the bottom, as this is a good long-grain to long-grain joint. However, the side moldings are applied across the grain, so you'll need to allow for wood movement (see page 34 for more on this subject). Use glue at the miters and then only for an inch or two back from the front edge of the bottom. Now, add three finishing nails (one at the center and one at each end) countersunk and filled. This will hold the side moldings in place, yet allow the sides to expand and contract with changes in humidity.

The two uprights (K) can now be made. Cut the stock to the dimensions shown in the Bill of Materials, then lay out and mark the front profile using the grid pattern and the front view. We used the table saw and a dado head cutter to establish the tenon shoulders. The waste area between the double tenons can be cut out with a chisel. Once the tenons are completed, the remaining curved shapes can be cut with the band saw.

You'll need approximately five feet of stock for the frame stiles (L) and rails (M). The bevel is cut on the table saw using the setup shown in Fig. 3. For safety's sake, it's best to cut the bevel on wide stock (ours was about 3 in.) as shown. Use a featherboard and push stick, and keep hands well away from the saw blade. Once the bevel is cut, use the dado head to cut the 1/4 in. by 3/8 in. rabbet (see cross-sectional detail for its location), then rip the stock to the final width of 1 1/8 in. Next, miter the ends, then add glue and assemble as shown. A framing clamp, if you have one, will come in handy here.

To reinforce the miter joint, we added a spline to each corner using an old-fashioned hand-cut technique. With a dovetail saw, we made a 45 degree cut about 1/2 in. deep (see Fig 4), then we glued a 1/16 in. thick spline into the cut. When dry, the splines are trimmed flush with a chisel. Old-time cabinetmaker's found that it only took a few minutes to



add a spline this way, yet it added considerable strength to their miter joints.

We hand planed 1/2 in. thick material down to 1/4 in. in order to get stock for the scroll (N). Its curved profile is shown on the grid pattern. After cutting it out on the band saw, we added a pair of glueblocks (O) to the scroll, then the glueblocks and scroll were glued to the upper frame rail.

The mirror screws (S) are made up of three parts: a threaded insert, a brass washer, and a threaded stem with a brass knob. A source for the mirror screws is listed in the Bill of Materials. As shown in the front view, the threaded insert is located 8 1/2 in. from the bottom edge of the mirror frame. Mark the location of the insert, then bore a 1/4 in. diameter hole to accept it. Next, at a point 8 3/4 in. from the base of the upright (see front view) bore a 3/16 in. diameter through hole to accept the stem of the mirror screw. Add the insert, then test assemble the parts (the washer goes between the knob and the upright). If all looks okay, glue the uprights in place, then add the mirror frame. Fully tightening the knobs will permit you to hold the mirror at any angle.

Bill of Materials
(all dimensions actual)

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Top/Bottom	1/2 x 8 x 21 1/2	2
B	Side	1/2 x 8 x 3 1/2 *	2
C	Divider	1/2 x 7 1/2 x 3 1/2*	1
D	Case Back	1/4 x 3 1/2 x 21	1
E	Molding	See Detail	As Req'd
F	Drawer Front	3/4 x 3 x 10	2
G	Drawer Side	1/2 x 3 x 7 1/4	4
H	Drawer Back	1/2 x 2 1/2 x 9 1/2	2
I	Drawer Bottom	1/4 x 7 x 9 1/2	2
J	Drawer Knob**	1/2 dia.	2
K	Upright	3/4 x 2 1/4 x 17 1/4*	2
L	Frame Stile	3/4 x 1 1/8 x 16	2
M	Frame Rail	3/4 x 1 1/8 x 12	2
N	Scroll	1/4 x 2 x 12	1
O	Glueblock	3/8 x 3/8 x 2	2
P	Frame Back	1/4 x 10 1/4 x 14 1/4	1
Q	Mirror	1/8 x 10 1/4 x 14 1/4	1
R	Turnbutton**	7/8 in. long	4
S	Mirror Screw**	1 3/4 in. stem length	2

* Length includes tenon(s)

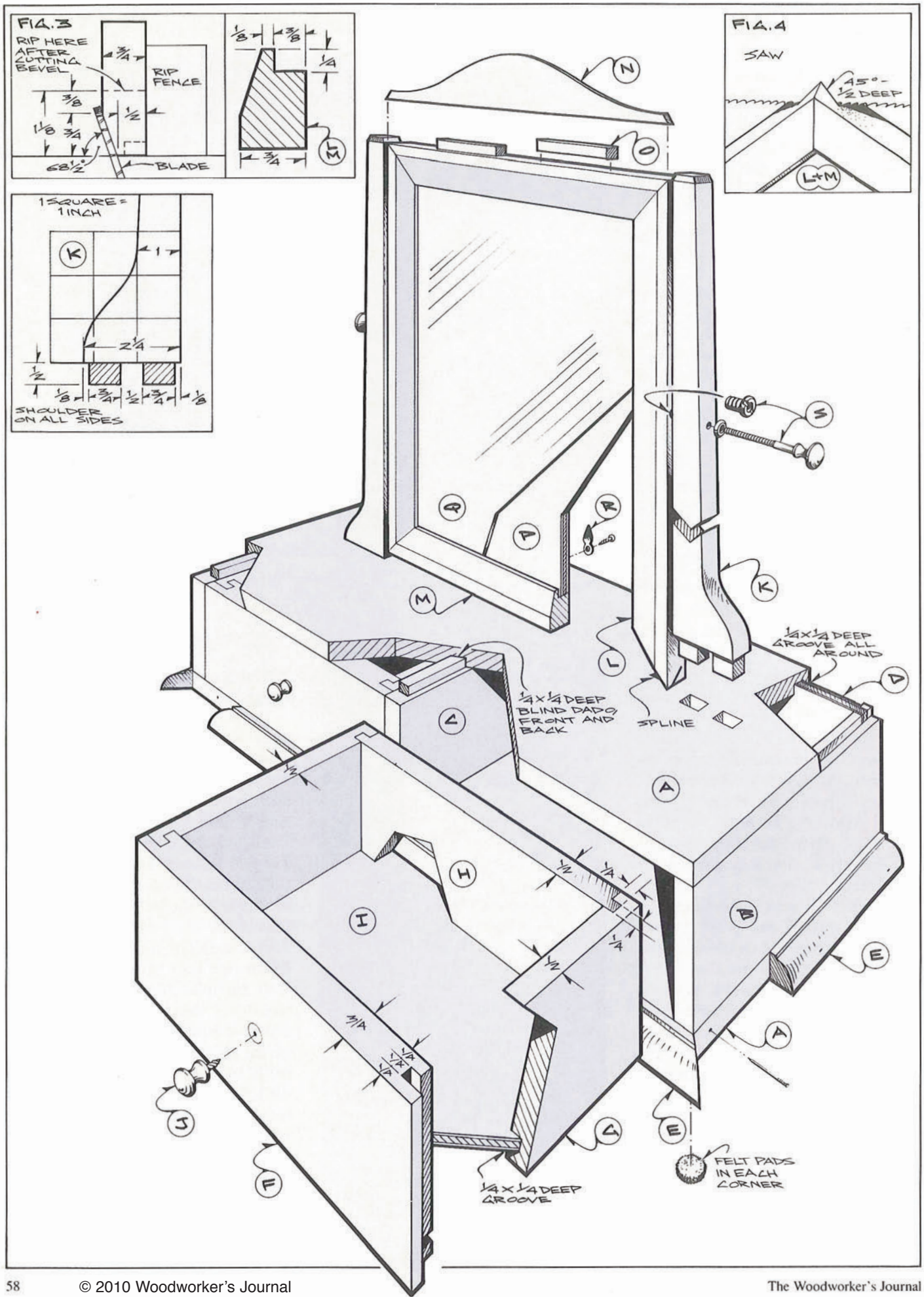
** Available from Paxton Hardware, 7818 Bradshaw Road, Upper Falls, MD 21156; tel. (301) 592-8505. For the antique finish brass drawer knob order p/n 906 ($1.32 each), for the brass-plated turnbutton order p/n 6048 (12¢ each), and for the mirror screw order p/n 6050 ($4.13 each). Add $2.50 for shipping and handling.

The drawer (parts F, G, H, I, and J) is made as shown. Measure your actual drawer opening and cut the parts to fit. The drawer bottom is made from 1/4 in. thick plywood. A source for the brass knob is listed in the Bill of Materials.

After final sanding all parts through 220-grit, we added two coats of Minwax Golden Oak Wood Finish. When dry, two coats of shellac were applied as a final finish.

Now, measure your opening for the mirror (Q), then have your local glass shop cut it to size. It should be cut slightly less than the opening in order to allow for expansion of the mirror frame during humid weather. The frame back (P) is made from 1/4 in. thick plywood, cut to the same size as the mirror. It's held in place with 7/8 in. long brass-plated turnbuttons (R). A source for the turnbuttons can be found in the Bill of Materials.

To complete the project, add 1/2 in. diameter felt pads (available at most hardware stores) to each corner of the bottom as shown.



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Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

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