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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.

Pierced-Tin Spice Cabinet



top and bottom a little short of the dado end, so you can square the ends of the dado with the chisel.

Test-fit the joints you just cut and make any needed adjustments. Next apply the molded edge details to the top and bottom. Use the router table with a 1/2 in. radius quarter-round bit for the bottom edge and a 1/4 in. radius Roman ogee bit for the top. We recommend that you use the fence for these molded edges, since the narrow edge of material remaining—especially on the Roman ogee—may not provide sufficient support for the ball-bearings on some bits.

Also, make a simple template and bore a series of shelf pin holes on the inside of the two sides. The template is just a length of scrap identical in length to the sides, with a row of holes. Clamping the template so it's flush with the ends of the sides as each row of shelf pin holes is drilled will insure that all four rows are indexed the same. This may seem like a small point, but there's nothing quite so frustrating as putting the finishing touches on a piece only to find that you've got a shelf that rocks every time you take something off or put something on it. Note that the shelf pin holes are designed to locate the pins (E) both under and above the shelves (D). This helps prevent the shelves from tipping.

Now glue, assemble and clamp the sides, top and bottom. Check the cabinet with a framing square to insure that the four corners are all at 90 degrees, then set aside to dry. Once dry, mount a 1/8 in. bearing-guided rabbeting bit in your router table, set the bit to make a 1/4 in. deep cut, and establish the rabbet for the back (C). This rabbet can also be cut before assembly, though you'll need to make sure that the rabbet in the top and bottom parts is stopped on both ends.

Now fit the back. You can either round the corners of the 1/2 in. thick pine plywood back to match the radius of your rabbet, or square the corners of the rabbet to fit the plywood (see Back Detail). In either case, the back is glued and screwed in place, though that's not done until after all the parts have had a finish applied. On a simple project like this, the back adds an important measure of strength and rigidity to the carcass.

Next up are the doors. We used a basic slip joint (also called a bridle joint) to join the stiles (F) and rails (G). There are

The Woodworker's Journal

Pierced-Tin SPICE CABINET

This small but elegant cabinet can have many faces and a multitude of uses. The photo shows a combination of a painted cabinet, natural doors and pierced-tin panels, yielding a distinctly traditional spice cabinet look. But don't be limited by what you see. The piece can be just as at home in the living room, perhaps as a collector's display cabinet. Substitute clear glass for the tin, and use walnut, cherry, or perhaps a figured maple instead of the painted/natural pine. Should you opt for the cabinet as shown, we've included sources for the tin panels (either blank or pre-pierced) and all the hardware (see

Bill of Materials).

Whatever your intent for this cabinet, the construction will be the same. The carcass is just a pair of sides (A) joining a top and bottom (B). Start by cutting these four parts to the lengths and widths indicated. Note that the 23 1/4 in. length of the sides includes the 1/2 in. long tenons on each end. The router table and a 1/8 in. diameter straight cutter are used to cut the rabbet on the ends of the sides and the matching stopped dado in the top and bottom. Use at least three passes, with the first two passes removing most of the stock and the final pass cleaning up the cut. Be sure to stop the cuts in the

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Pierced-Tin

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Bill of Materials).

Whatever your intent for this cabinet, the construction will be the same. The carcass is just a pair of sides (A) joining a top and bottom (B). Start by cutting these four parts to the lengths and widths indicated. Note that the 23¹/₄ in. length of the sides includes the ³/₈ in. long tenons on each end. The router table and a ³/₈ in. diameter straight cutter are used to cut the rabbet on the ends of the sides and the matching stopped dado in the top and bottom. Use at least three passes, with the first two passes removing most of the stock and the final pass cleaning up the cut. Be sure to stop the cuts in the

top and bottom a little short of the dado end, so you can square the ends of the dado with the chisel.

Test-fit the joints you just cut and make any needed adjustments. Next apply the molded edge details to the top and bottom. Use the router table with a ¹/₂ in. radius quarter-round bit for the bottom edge and a ¹/₄ in. radius Roman ogee bit for the top. We recommend that you use the fence for these molded edges, since the narrow edge of material remaining—especially on the Roman ogee—may not provide sufficient support for the ball-bearings on some bits.

Also, make a simple template and bore a series of shelf pin holes on the inside of the two sides. The template is just a length of scrap identical in length to the sides, with a row of holes. Clamping the template so it's flush with the ends of the sides as each row of shelf pin holes is drilled will insure that all four rows are indexed the same. This may seem like a small point, but there's nothing quite so frustrating as putting the finishing touches on a piece only to find that you've got a shelf that rocks every time you take something off or put something on it. Note that the shelf pin holes are designed to locate the pins (E) both under and above the shelves (D). This helps prevent the shelves from tipping.

Now glue, assemble and clamp the sides, top and bottom. Check the cabinet with a framing square to insure that the four corners are all at 90 degrees, then set aside to dry. Once dry, mount a ³/₈ in. bearing-guided rabbeting bit in your router table, set the bit to make a ¹/₄ in. deep cut, and establish the rabbet for the back (C). This rabbet can also be cut before assembly, though you'll need to make sure that the rabbet in the top and bottom parts is stopped on both ends.

Now fit the back. You can either round the corners of the ¹/₄ in. thick pine plywood back to match the radius of your rabbet, or square the corners of the rabbet to fit the plywood (see Back Detail). In either case, the back is glued and screwed in place, though that's not done until after all the parts have had a finish applied. On a simple project like this, the back adds an important measure of strength and rigidity to the carcass.

Next up are the doors. We used a basic slip joint (also called a bridle joint) to join the stiles (F) and rails (G). There are

many ways to cut the slip joint, but the quickest and easiest is on the table saw using a dado head, with a tenon jig to safely support the stock on end. You'll probably need an 8 in. dado head to get the 1½ in. depth, since some 6 in. dado heads aren't capable of achieving this depth of cut. Add a backup block behind the stock being cut, to prevent chip-out as the dado head exits the cut. Be sure to mark all the outside faces on your stock, and cut each piece so the outside face is against the fence or tenon jig.

To start, set the dado head for a ¼ in. wide cut, locate the tenon jig ¼ in. from the dado head, and cut the ¼ in. wide by 1½ in. deep dado in the stile ends. If your saw isn't powerful enough to take out stock to a 1½ in. depth in a single pass, use several passes to achieve the full depth. Move the fence and tenon jig ¼ in. closer to the dado head, mark all the outside faces on the rails, orient the outside faces against the jig as before, and establish all the outside shoulders. Finally, reposition the tenon jig ½ in. away from the dado head, and with the rails still oriented so the outside faces are against the jig, establish the inside shoulders. As always, use a piece of

Bill of Materials (all dimensions actual)

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Side	¾ x 4¼ x 23¼*	2
B	Top/Bottom	¾ x 5⅝ x 19¼	2
C	Back	¼ x 17¼ x 23¼	1
D	Shelf	½ x 3⅞ x 16⅞	3
E	Shelf Pin	¼ dia. x ¾ long	24
F	Door Stile	¾ x 1½ x 22½	4
G	Door Rail	¾ x 1½ x 9*	4
H	Tin Panel**	6½ x 20	2
I	Retainer Molding	¼ x ½	9 ft.
J	Knob***	¾ dia.	2
K	Bullet Catch***	As Shown	2
L	Hinge***	1 wide x 2 long	2 pr.

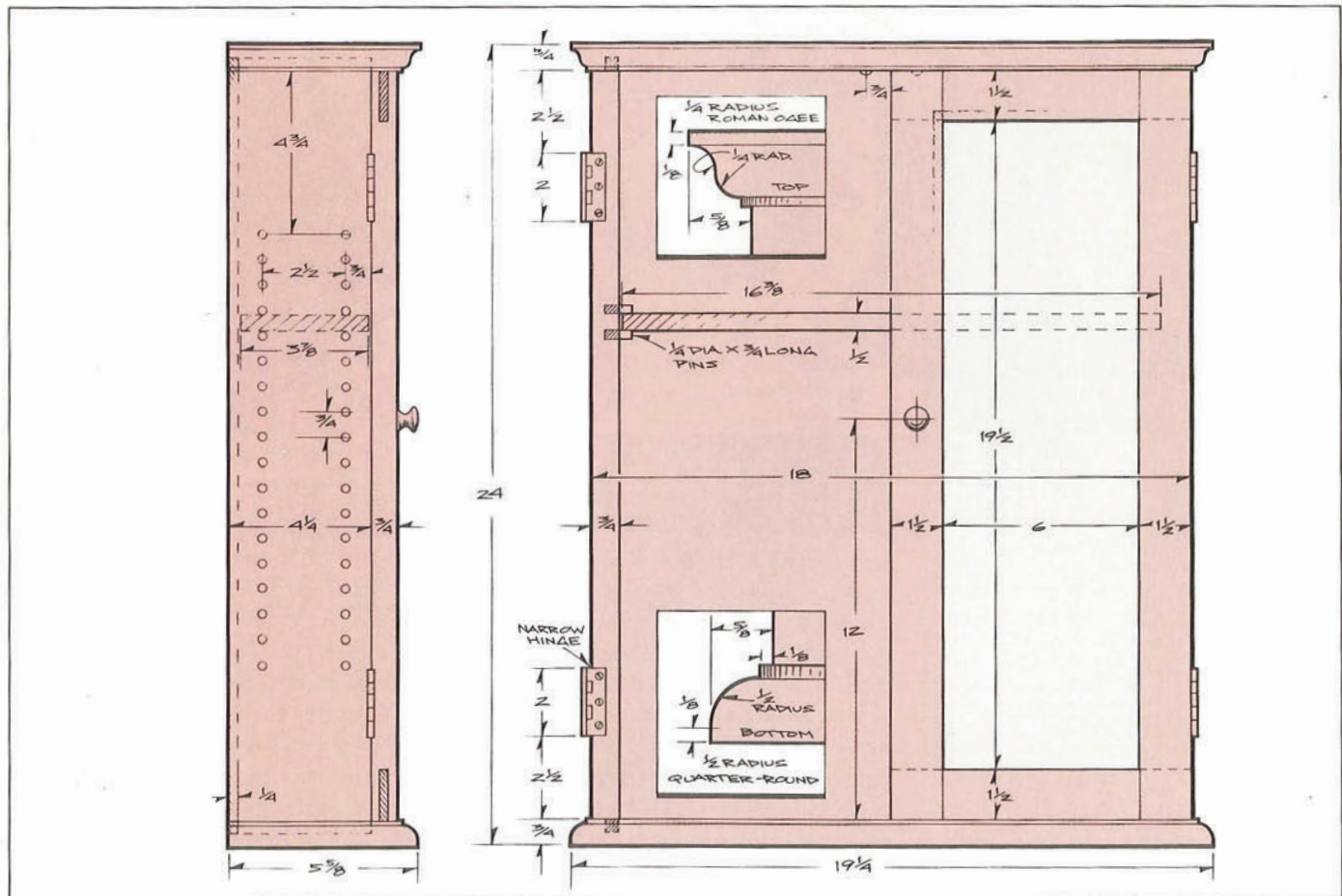
* Length includes tenons.

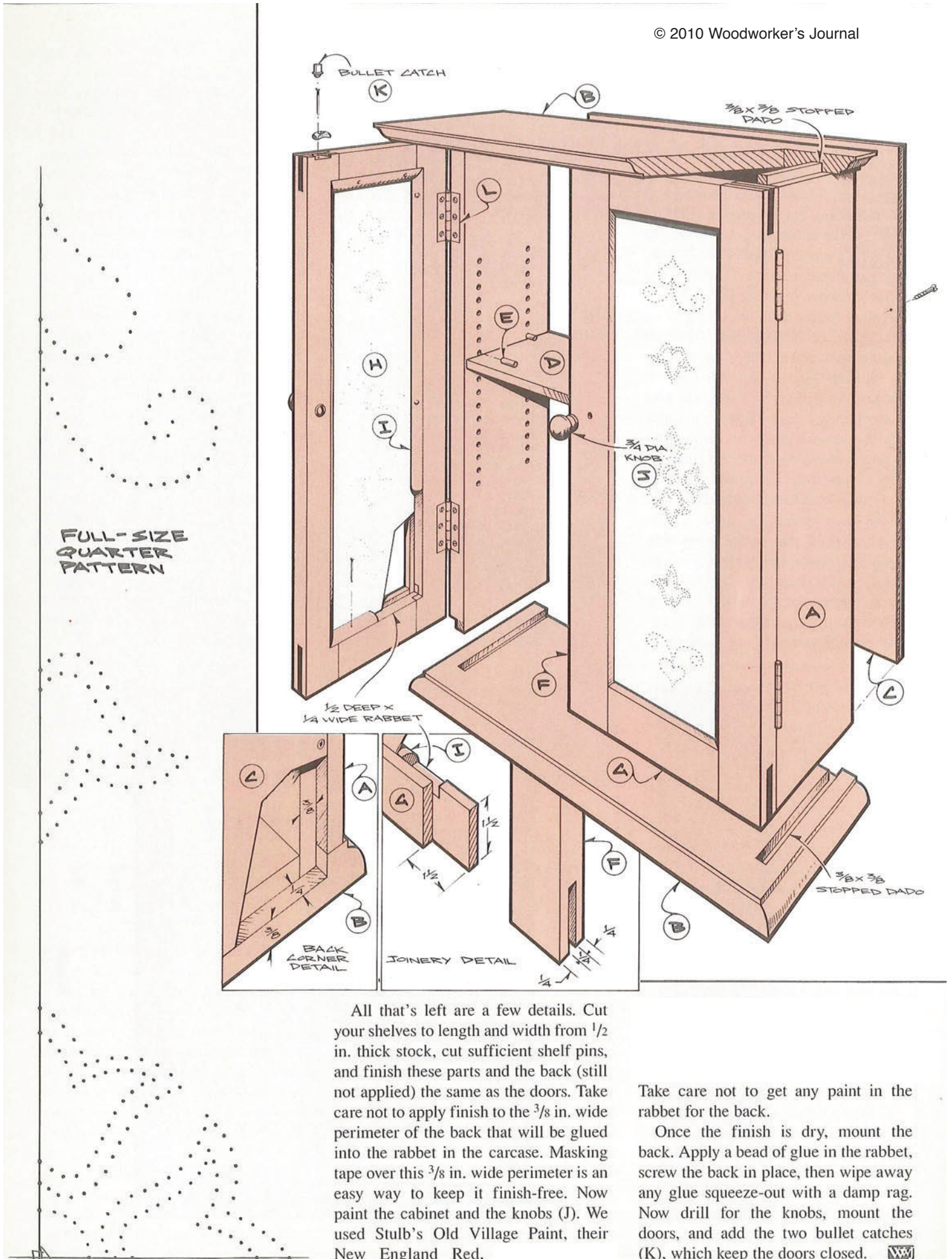
** and ***: Tin panels are available from Country Accents: piercedtin.com. A tin-piercing tool is also available.

scrap to check each new setting before committing your stock to the blade.

Glue, assemble and clamp the doors, again carefully checking for squareness. When dry, use a ¼ in. bearing-guided rabbeting bit to establish the ¼ in. wide by ½ in. deep rabbet for the tin panels. Square the corners of the rabbet with a chisel. Then test-fit the doors, trim them to final size if needed, and mortise for the hinges (L). Before mounting the pierced-tin panels (H) and hanging the doors, you'll need to cut and fit the retainer molding (I) and pre-finish the doors and retainer. We used Minwax Puritan Pine stain, followed by two coats of orange shellac and one coat of Minwax Antique Oil.

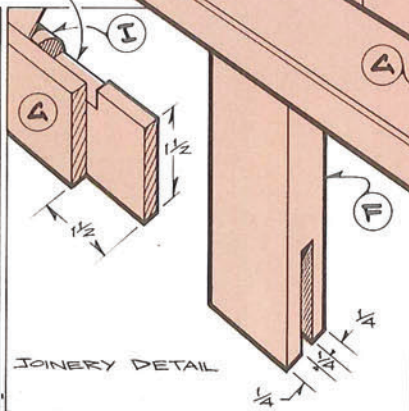
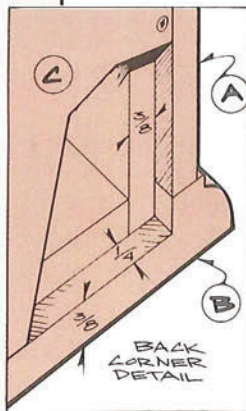
If you decide to do the tin piercing yourself, just make photocopies of the full-size pattern provided and tape them over the tin as a guide. Note that you'll need to pierce through and flip the copy of the quarter pattern to get the opposite side. Use either a nail or a professional tin-punching tool (see Bill of Materials) to make the holes. We suggest a scrap of plywood as a backup board under the tin unless you don't mind also perforating your bench top.






FULL-SIZE
QUARTER
PATTERN

1/2 DEEP X
1/4 WIDE RABBET



All that's left are a few details. Cut your shelves to length and width from 1/2 in. thick stock, cut sufficient shelf pins, and finish these parts and the back (still not applied) the same as the doors. Take care not to apply finish to the 3/8 in. wide perimeter of the back that will be glued into the rabbet in the carcass. Masking tape over this 3/8 in. wide perimeter is an easy way to keep it finish-free. Now paint the cabinet and the knobs (J). We used Stulb's Old Village Paint, their New England Red.

Take care not to get any paint in the rabbet for the back.

Once the finish is dry, mount the back. Apply a bead of glue in the rabbet, screw the back in place, then wipe away any glue squeeze-out with a damp rag. Now drill for the knobs, mount the doors, and add the two bullet catches (K), which keep the doors closed. 

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Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

Matt Becker
Internet Production Coordinator