

# WOODWORKING BASICS

## Build a Wall Cabinet with a Door

By WJ Staff

This is the “Graduation Project” of our “Learn to Woodwork” series. It uses all the previously learned skills and adds a couple more — most importantly, hanging a door.

SEE PAGE 5  
for a list of  
supplies and  
lumber



Rubicon has been crossed, and there is no looking back.

You will notice similarities between this wall cabinet and the wall shelf from our last issue. There are still vertical sides and horizontal crosspieces, but they are joined with differing techniques here.

Even so, this project is a true bit of cabinetry. It has a carcass and a door, plus some ornamental trim at the top. It's all there.

This simple wall cabinet marks the conclusion of our *Woodworking Basics* series. A new woodworker who has built the previous three projects and then completes this wall cabinet will have mastered sufficient skills to be considered a true woodworker. Of course, there is much more to learn, but a

### Square It Away

The very first technique taught in this series was how to cut pieces to length with square corners. And that is how to start this project. Cut the sides, top and bottom squarely to their proper lengths. With that done, we

## Preparing the Cabinet Sides



Boring pocket holes into the top and bottom pieces is the first step to assembling the carcass. Pocket-hole joinery is a fast and strong construction technique perfect for this sort of basic cabinetmaking.



Drilling holes for the shelf pins is accurately and easily done with this jig from Rockler. A special bit fits into the openings in the jig and registers the hole locations. Drilling multiple holes allow the shelf to be adjustable.

## Assembling the Carcass



Clamp-It Clips help hold the top and bottom pieces in their proper locations as the special pocket-hole screws are driven into the sides. The pocket holes are oriented to the outside of the cabinet to hide them.



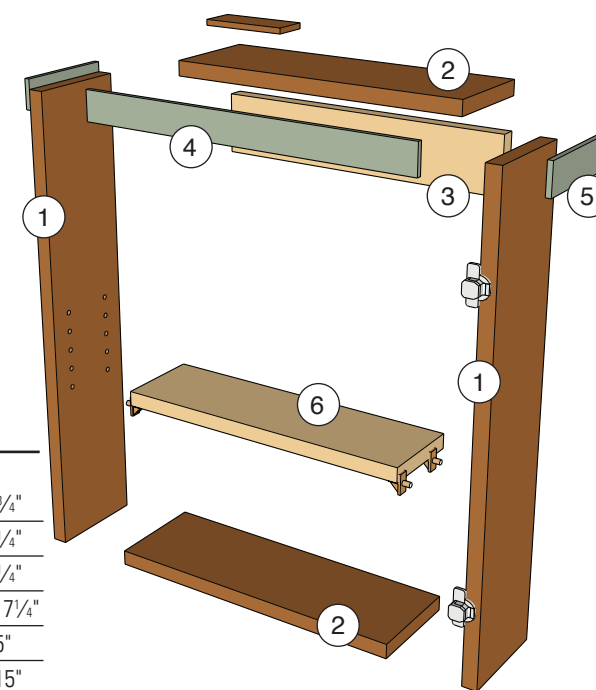
Cut the nailing or hanger strip to fit inside the carcass. Join it to the sides and top of the cabinet with standard and pocket-hole screws. The strip is used to mount the cabinet to the wall.

chose to put shelf pin holes on the inside face of the sides to allow for an adjustable shelf. You could lay those holes out and drill them freehand, or use a jig like Rockler's JIG IT® Shelving Jig to bore the holes. Then it's time to grab a pocket-hole jig and get busy.

Pocket-hole joinery is a fast and strong way to join end grain to face grain (we've done that a few ways in previous projects). The jig directs a specially-made drill bit at an angle. Pocket-hole screws and an extra-long driver bit let you create a tight mechanical joint. There are a variety of pocket-hole jig variations on the market, but Kreg basically invented the system. Use

## MATERIAL LIST

Cabinet	T x W x L
1 Sides (2)	3/4" x 5" x 23 3/4"
2 Top, Bottom (2)	3/4" x 5" x 15 1/4"
3 Hanger Strip (1)	3/4" x 5" x 15 1/4"
4 Top Front Molding (1)	1/4" x 1 1/2" x 17 1/4"
5 Top Side Moldings (2)	1/4" x 1 1/2" x 5"
6 Shelf (1)	3/4" x 4 1/4" x 15"



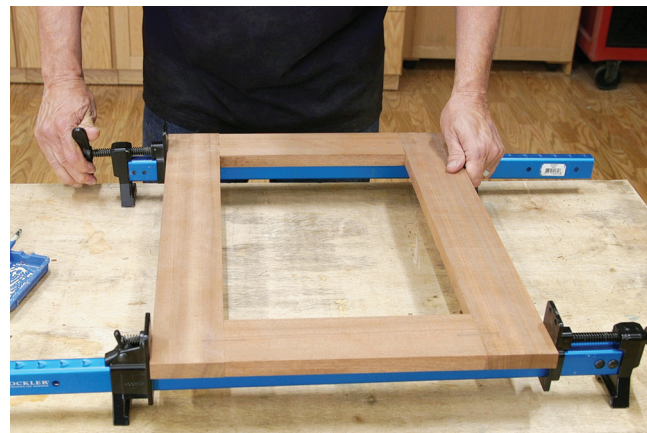
Kreg Pocket-Hole Jig 720



## Building the Door Frame

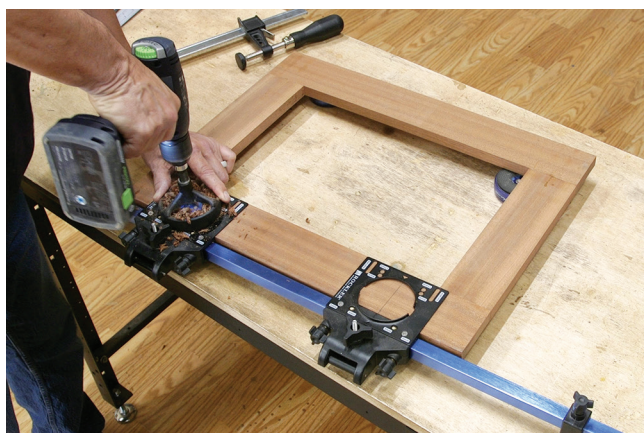


The stiles and rails of the door are joined together with 3/8"-diameter dowels. Square ends on each piece of the door frame are critical to its assembly. They form a frame on which the hinges will be mounted.



After a dry fit, glue the stiles and rails together. Stiles typically run the complete length of the door frame and the rails fit between them. Allow the glue to cure completely, then sand the door smooth.

## Mounting the Hinge Cups



Boring the 35 mm hinge cup holes is easy to do with this jig from Rockler. It locates the cup holes on the frame, and the shroud has a stop collar that limits how deeply they can be drilled without going too far.



With the holes bored, mount the hinge cups to the door frame with two screws. Check with a square to ensure that you have the hinge cups properly aligned. Use a self-centering drill bit to bore the screw pilot holes.

the screws to assemble the carcass, positioning the top 3/4" down from the top of the

sides. Cut the hanger strip to size and attach it at the top of the carcass.

### Adding the Door

Next comes making and hanging the door, a new process in this project article series.

Cut the door parts to size and with square ends. You will capture the rails – they're the crosspieces – between the stiles (the vertical parts) using 3/8" dowels. Bore the holes and test-fit the door frame. If all is good, glue and clamp it together. When the glue has cured, sand the door smooth.

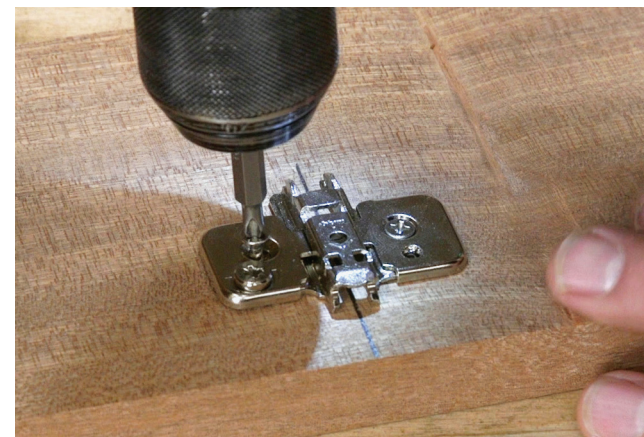
There are all types of hinges that would work well on this door, but we've chosen Euro-style cup hinges (specifically Blum 35 mm, designed for a full-overlay door). These

## Jigging up for Euro-style Cup Hinges



Rockler's JIG IT Deluxe Concealed Hinge Drilling System takes a complicated hinge installation process and makes it easy. Coupled with the template for locating the hinge plates, it is the best way to install cup hinges. And once you own this system, you will be able to use it for years to come.

## Mounting the Hinge Clips and Door



After using a template to pre-drill the screw holes with a self-centering bit, secure the hinge clips to the cabinet side. There is a small arrow on the clip indicating its correct orientation.



The door snaps easily into place on the hinge clips. Adjusting screws on the hinges will then allow you to fine-tune the position of the door frame relative to the carcass. That's a primary benefit of Euro-style cup hinges.

## Adding the Door Panel and Decorative Trim



Attach the door panel to the back of the door frame with eight screws. Sand the plywood smooth. Mount the panel, then remove it to apply your finish of choice.



The decorative trim is simply cut to length and glued to the outside top of the carcass. When the glue cures, sand the carcass smooth and apply your finish of choice.

hinges can be a little tricky to install, but making use of the jigs recommended here actually makes them some of the easiest to work with. And they are adjustable – very handy.

Put the carcass on-edge and align the door next to it, 7/8" down from the top of the carcass. Mark lines across the door and cabinet side, 4" in from the top and bottom.

Using the jig and drill guide shown in the sidebar on the opposite page, bore the 35 mm holes (you'll need a long-shank Forstner bit). Mount the cup hinges in the holes squarely to the door.

Then grab the JIG IT Hinge

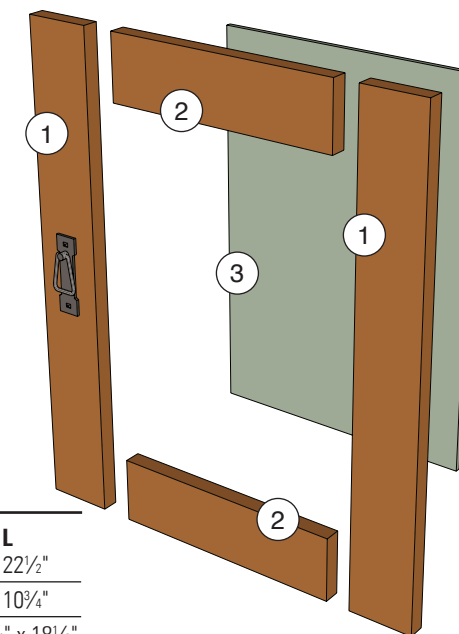
Plate Template A and use it to drill pilot holes for the hinge plates. Mount them in place. Your door will now clip onto the cabinet.

Lastly, you'll need to cut the door panel to size and mount it. Then glue the decorative trim in place. Sand everything smooth and apply the finish of your choice.

Great work! You've graduated to being a woodworker!

### MATERIAL LIST

Door	T x W x L
1 Door Stiles (2)	3/4" x 3" x 22 1/2"
2 Door Rails (2)	3/4" x 3" x 10 3/4"
3 Door Panel (1)	1/4" x 12 3/4" x 18 1/2"





*Here is a list of the tools and lumber used to build the Walnut Cabinet project.*

## **Wall Cabinet Supplies**

<b>Mahogany by the Piece, 3/4" x 5" x 24" (2) #35847</b> .....	<b>\$19.99 ea.</b>
<b>Mahogany by the Piece, 3/4" x 3" x 24" (2) #37166</b> .....	<b>\$9.99 ea.</b>
<b>Mahogany by the Piece, 1/4" x 1 1/2" x 48" (1) #64945</b> .....	<b>\$10.99 ea.</b>
<b>Blum® Full Overlay Soft Close Hinges (1) #32894</b> .....	<b>\$20.99 pr.</b>
<b>Tan Plastic Shelf Supports, 1/4" Peg, 16-Pack (1) #57575</b> .....	<b>\$6.99 pk.</b>
<b>JIG IT® Deluxe Concealed Hinge Drilling System (1) #53420</b> ...	<b>\$129.99 ea.</b>
<b>JIG IT® Hinge Plate Template A (1) #50375</b> .....	<b>\$16.99 ea.</b>
<b>Rockler JIG IT® Shelving Jig and 1/4" Bit Set (1) #32991</b> .....	<b>\$54.99 ea.</b>

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