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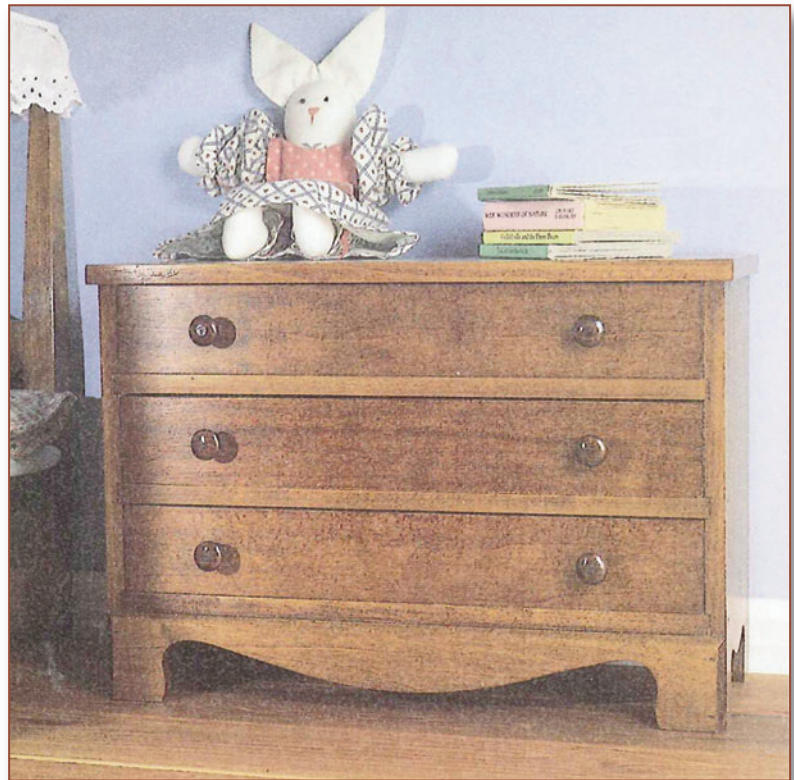


Classic Project

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.

Sample Chest



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Years ago, salesmen for the big furniture companies didn't have the luxury of a big fancy color catalog to help sell their products. Instead, they brought along actual samples of the furniture to show prospective buyers. Those scaled down pieces were often quite detailed, and no doubt made the salesman's job a lot easier. We can only imagine that hauling a trunk full of samples from town to town, probably by railroad, must have tested the mettle of even the most enthusiastic peddler.

You can put this charming project to use in any number of ways. We like it as a storage chest for organizing odds and ends, but it will also make a nice jewelry chest, particularly if you line the drawers with felt. And, small pieces like these are perfect as doll furniture.

Prepare Your Stock

Except for the back, drawer bottoms and drawer knobs, the entire project is made from 1/2 in. thick pine stock. Generally, a project like this will look best if clear stock is used. However, if knots are unavoidable, look for ones that are small and tight.

We used a thickness planer to plane

Sample Chest

Handy catchall for sewing notions, jewelry . . .

down 3/4 in. stock to 1/2 in. thick. If your shop doesn't include a thickness planer, check to see if 1/2 in. stock is available locally. If not, a nearby lumberyard or millwork shop may be willing to plane down your stock for a small charge. Another option, of course, is to sharpen up your hand plane and go to work at the workbench. It won't take a lot of time to hand-plane stock for this small project.

Make the Sides

Begin by cutting the two sides (A) to the length and width dimensions shown in the Bill of Materials. Once cut, use the table saw and dado head cutter to plow the 1/4 in. by 1/4 in. rabbet along the inside back edge of each side.

The 1/8 in. deep by 1/2 in. wide dados are next. Note that there are three in each side. Lay out the dado locations, then cut them, again using the table saw and dado head cutter. Guide the stock through the

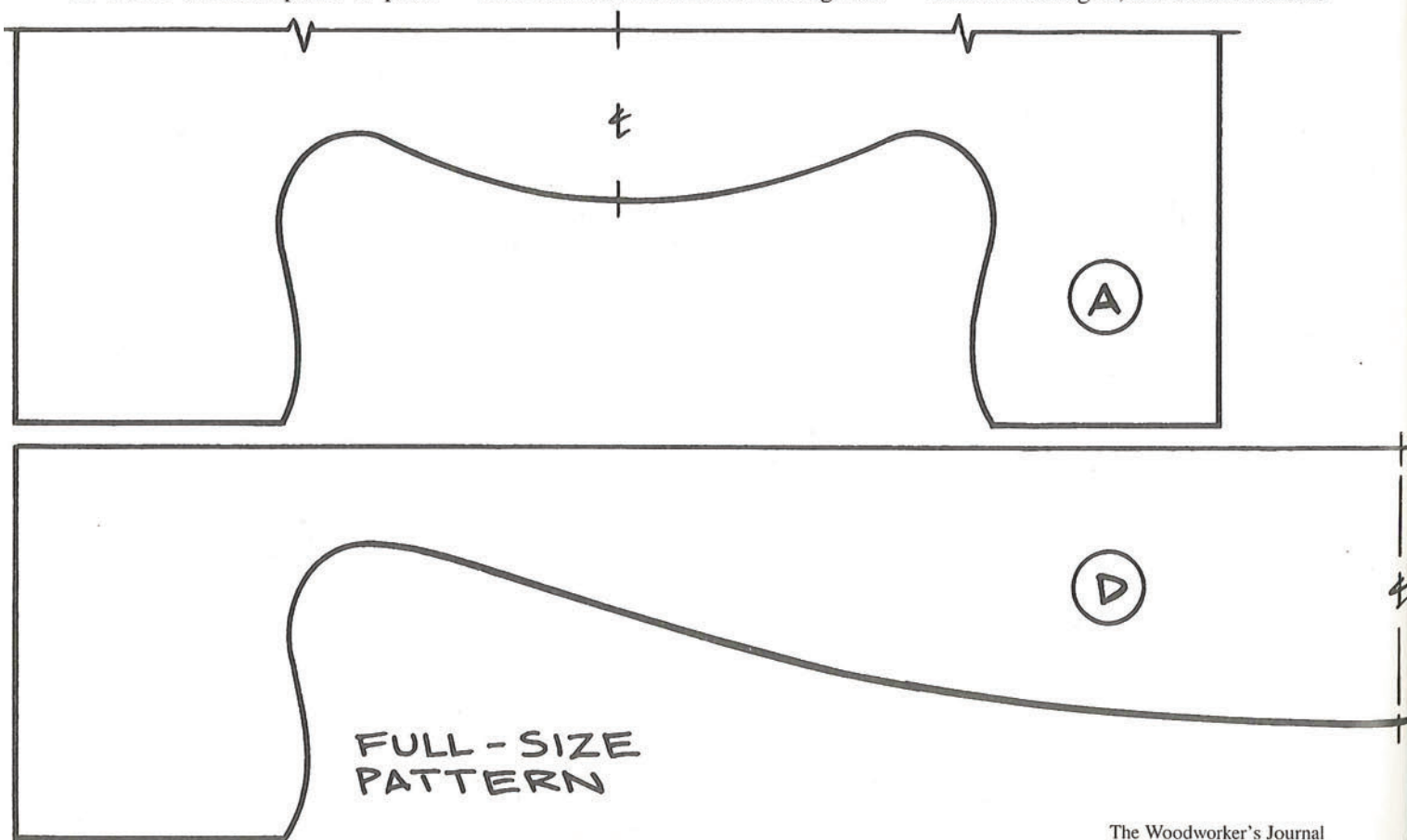
cutter with the miter gauge.

Next, transfer the full-size cutout pattern from the drawing to the sides. Use a band saw, jig saw or scroll saw to cut each shape, then file and sand the sawn edges until they are smooth.

Make the Rails and Runners

The three rails (B) and six runners (C) can be made next. Cut each one to length and width, then dry assemble them to the sides to check for a good fit. The front edges of the rails should be flush with the front edges of the sides, while the runners should butt up against the back edges of the rails.

As shown in the side view, the runners do not extend all the way back to the 1/4 in. by 1/4 in. rabbet in the sides. Instead, they are cut 1/8 in. short, to allow room for any shrinkage of the sides that might occur due to changes in humidity. If you make this a snug fit, and the sides should





shrink, the resulting force could split the sides, or push out the rails or back.

Assemble the Sides, Rails and Runners

Once the dry assembly looks okay, the rails and runners can be assembled to the sides. Give the parts a good sanding, particularly the inside surfaces that will be difficult to sand after assembly.

Assemble the rails first. At a point $\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the front edge of the sides, drill a $\frac{1}{8}$ in. deep counterbored hole to accept a $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long by no. 6 flathead wood

screw. As shown, one screw is driven into each rail end. Add a thin coat of glue to the joint before adding the screws. When dry, glue a wood plug in each of the counterbored holes and sand them flush with the surface.

Next, assemble the runners. If glued in place along their entire length, the runners will prevent the sides from expanding and contracting with changes in humidity, and that could cause the sides to crack. To allow the necessary movement, secure each runner with three, 1 in. long brads (front, back and

center), adding glue only to the frontmost 1 in. length of each one (see Exploded View). To lessen the chance of splitting the runners, you'll first want to bore pilot holes for the brads. Note that the brads are driven through the runners and into the sides. Brads work nicely here, not only because they hold the parts securely, but also because they are able to flex a little, thereby enabling the sides to expand and contract without much danger of splitting.

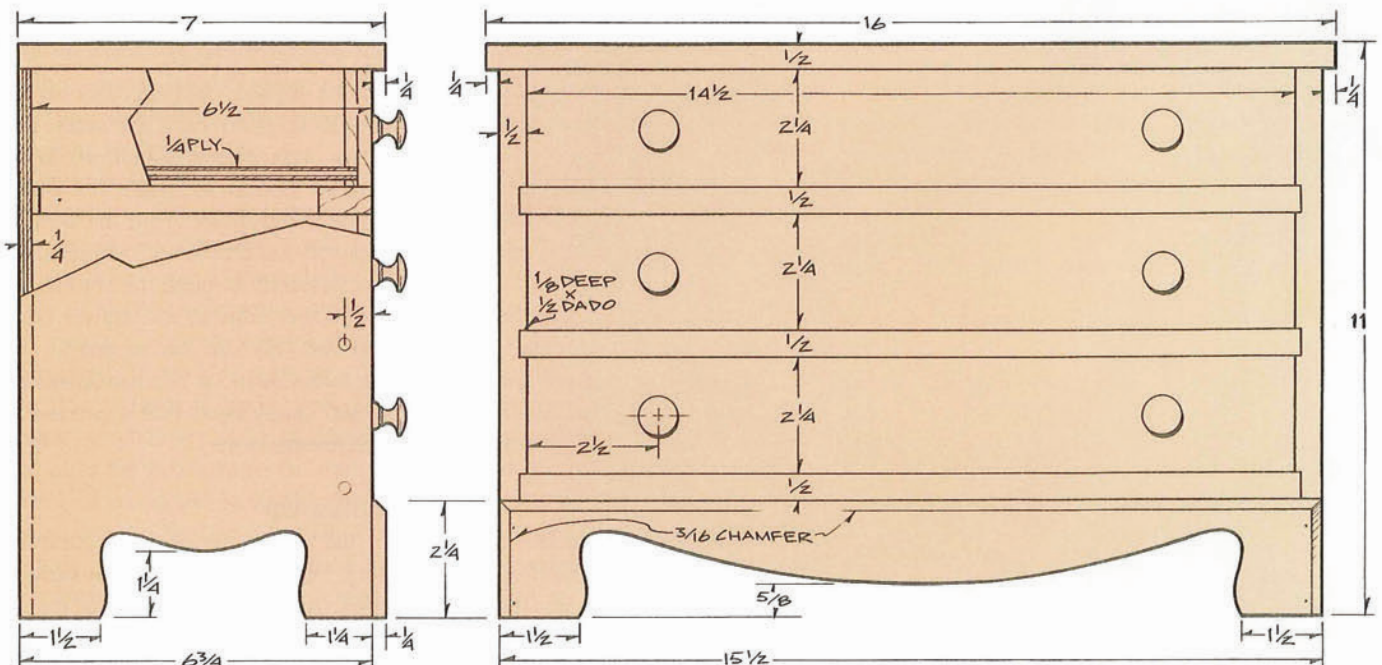
Make the Apron, Back and Top

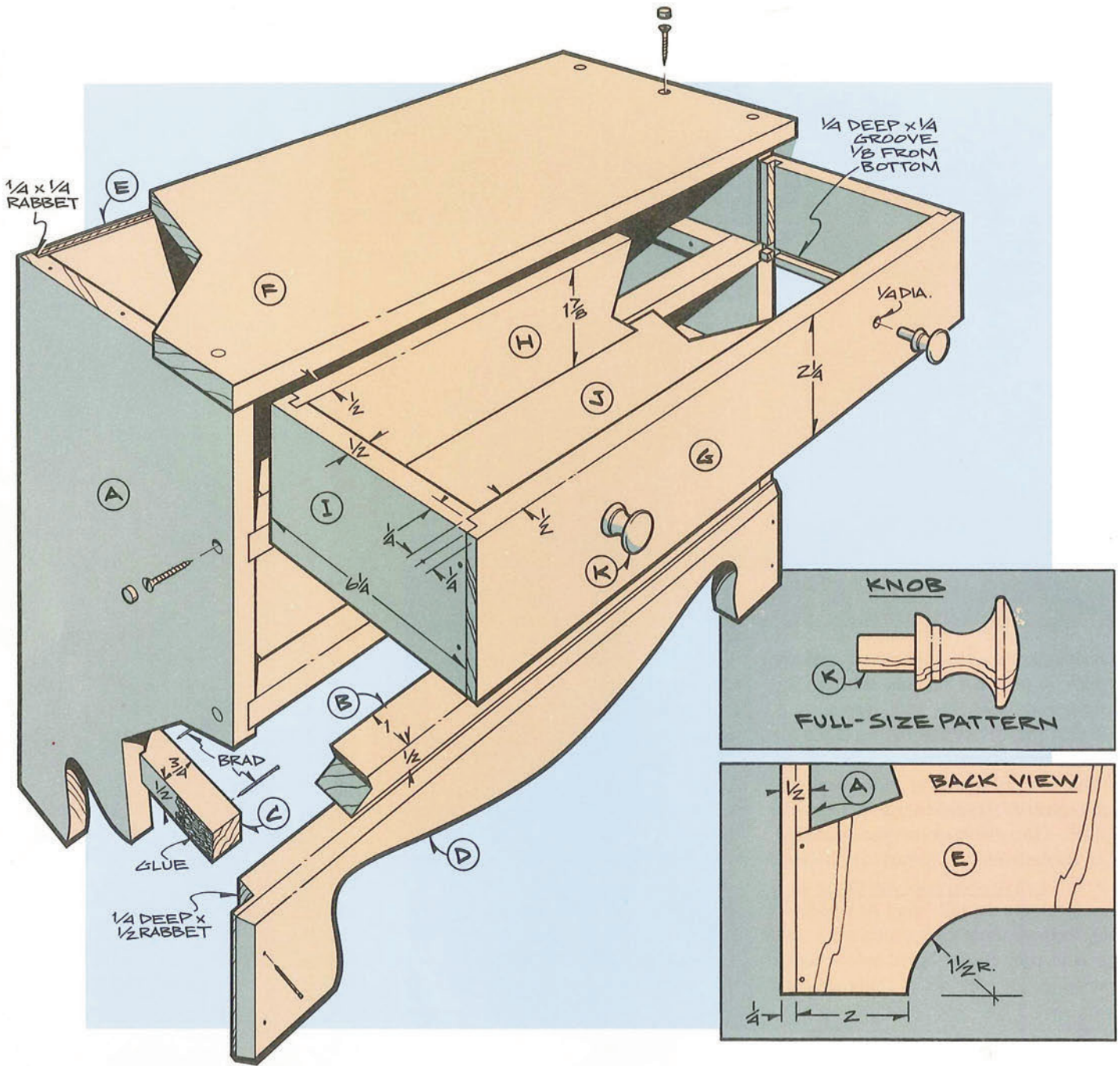
The apron (D), back (E) and top (F) can now be cut to size. At this point you'll want to take your length and width dimensions from the assembled project. We used $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick birch plywood for the back. Use a compass to scribe the $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. radius on each end of the cutout (see Back View), and cut it out with the band saw, jig saw or scroll saw.

Now, use the table saw and dado head cutter to cut the $\frac{1}{4}$ in. deep by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide rabbet on each end of the apron. The miter gauge supports the stock while making the cut. The $\frac{3}{16}$ in. chamfer on the top and ends can be applied using the router table and a 45 degree chamfer bit. After the edges are chamfered, transfer the full-size cutout pattern from the drawing to the apron, then cut it out with the band saw. File and sand the edges smooth.

Final Assembly

Give the apron, back and top a thorough





sanding, finishing with 220-grit. Add a thin coat of glue to the rabbets that were cut earlier in the back edge of each side, then assemble the back, securing it in the

rabbets with four or five brads along each side. Check to make sure everything looks square.

Now, glue the apron in place, and secure it with a pair of brads on each end. Countersink the brads, fill the holes with wood putty, and sand smooth.

The top is attached with 1 1/4 in. long by no. 6 flathead wood screws, countersunk and plugged. We used three screws at each end. Note that the top overhangs the chest by 1/4 in. at the front.

Cut the various rabbets, dados and grooves in the front, back and sides, then assemble with glue and clamps. When dry, cut the bottom to length and width, and slide it into place from the back of the drawer. Secure it with three small screws driven up through the bottom and into the lower edge of the drawer back. The knobs (K) can be turned to the dimensions shown, or you can substitute most any small knob that's carried by your hardware store.

Bill of Materials (all dimensions actual)			
Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Side	1/2 x 6 3/4 x 10 1/2	2
B	Rail	1/2 x 1 x 14 3/4	3
C	Runner	1/2 x 3/4 x 5 3/8	6
D	Apron	1/2 x 2 1/4 x 15 1/2	1
E	Back	1/4 x 15 x 10 1/2	1
F	Top	1/2 x 7 x 16	1
G	Drawer Front	1/2 x 2 1/4 x 14 1/2	3
H	Drawer Back	1/2 x 17 3/8 x 14	3
I	Drawer Side	1/2 x 2 1/4 x 6 1/4	6
J	Drawer Bottom	1/4 x 6 1/4 x 14	3
K	Drawer Knob	see detail	6

Make the Drawers

The three drawers, all identical, are made next. The fronts (G), backs (H) and sides (I) are made from 1/2 in. thick stock. The bottoms (J) are 1/4 in. thick birch plywood.

Finishing Up

Give the entire project a complete sanding, finishing with 220-grit sandpaper. We used a walnut stain on all surfaces, then two coats of a water-based satin polyurethane clear finish.



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Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

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