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Dave Campbell
Editorial Content Chief, WOOD magazine



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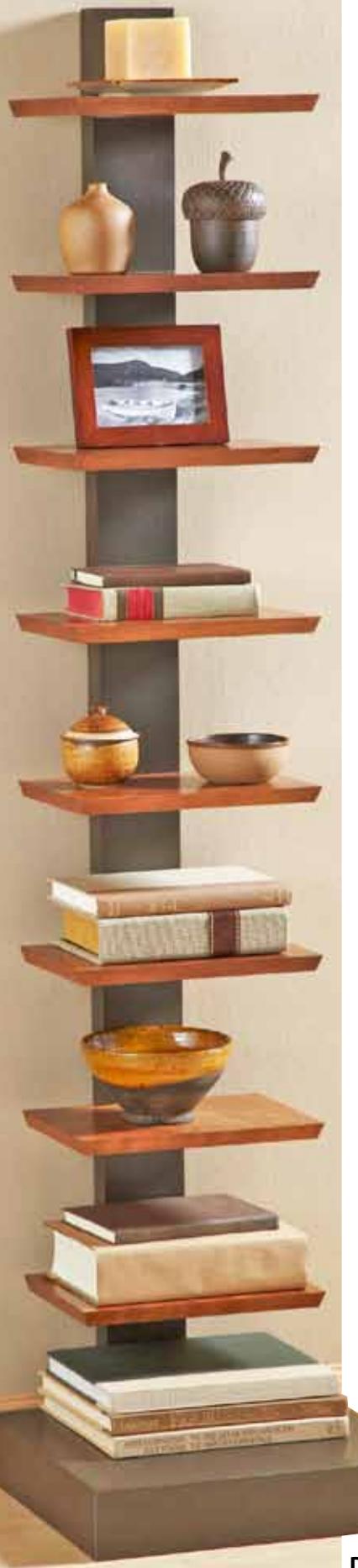


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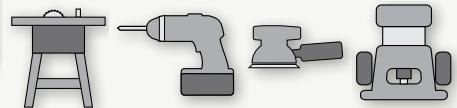
Floating Shelves

This gravity-defying display focuses attention on your favorite keepsakes.

BASIC-BUILT

GREAT PROJECTS MADE SIMPLE.

TOOLS NEEDED



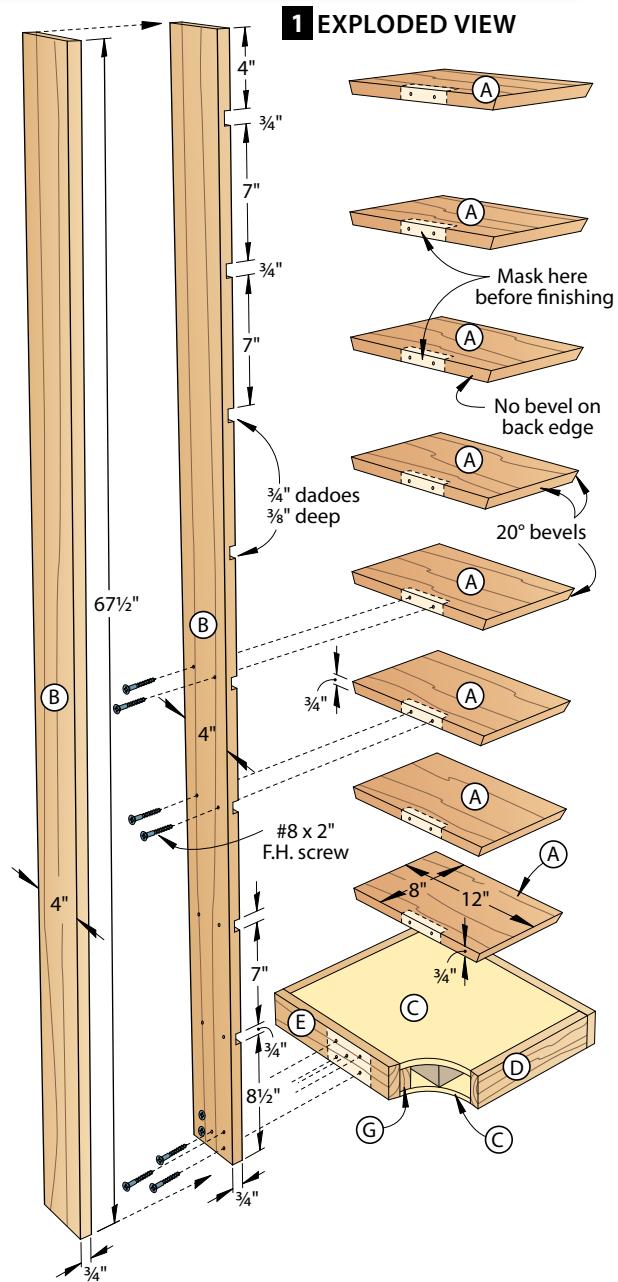
Approximate materials cost: \$86
Dimensions: 67½'H x 16"W x 14¼'D

A weighted base and cantilevered shelves ensure that your collectibles sit on a secure foundation. And the simple joinery (made possible by an easy dado jig) makes this a weekend project that's sure to please.

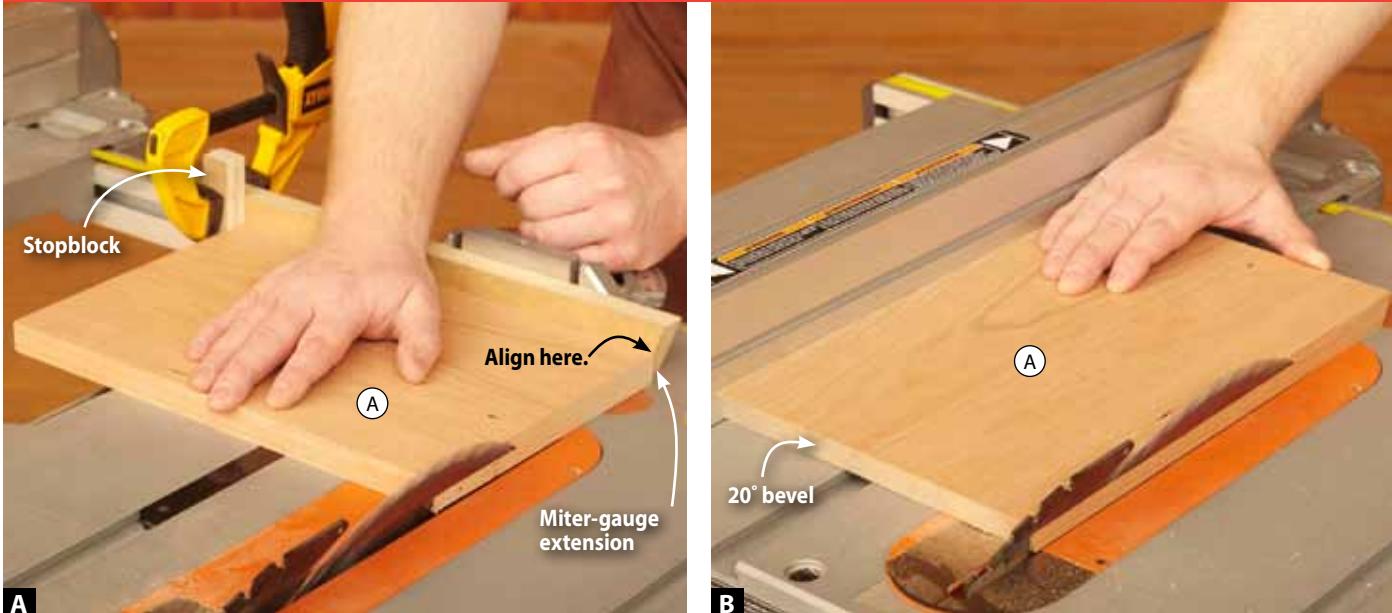
Whatever floats your boards

1 From $\frac{3}{4}$ " cherry stock edge-glued to make slightly overwidth blanks, cut the shelves (A) to the size listed [Materials List, page 33]. Tilt the tablesaw blade 20°, double-faced-tape a sacrificial extension to your miter gauge, and cut through the extension to mark the blade location. Align the top edge of a shelf with the cut end of the extension, and clamp a stopblock against the opposite end [Photo A]. Then bevel both ends of all shelves [Drawing 1] before beveling the front edges [Photo B].

2 Sand the shelves to 220 grit. Then, mask off a 3" section, centered, on the back edge of each shelf (A) for gluing into the dadoed upright later. Stain and topcoat



FASHION A BEVY OF BEVELS



- A** Bevel the underside of each end of the shelves (A) at 20° without repositioning the stopblock between cuts.
- B** Align the shelf (A) to bevel-rip the front edge of the shelf; then, butt the fence against the shelf. Now, bevel the front edge of each shelf.

the shelves. (We used General Finishes Antique Cherry stain followed by three coats of General Finishes water-based satin polyurethane.) Remove the masking tape and set aside the shelves.

3 From $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock, cut two spines (B) to size. Set aside one spine and one offcut the same width as the spine. Using a square, lay out the shelf locations on the other spine [Drawing 1].

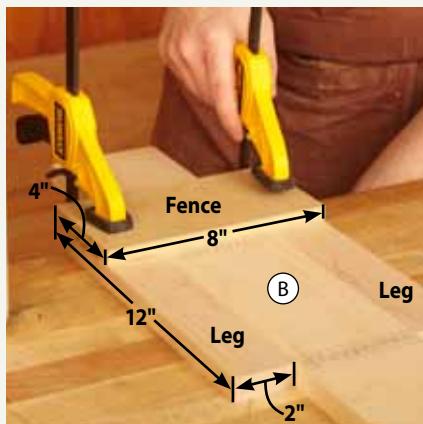
4 Create the dado jig and cut the dadoes in the spine (B), as shown in the **Shop Tip**, below.

5 Use a square to transfer the centerline of the dadoes to the back of the

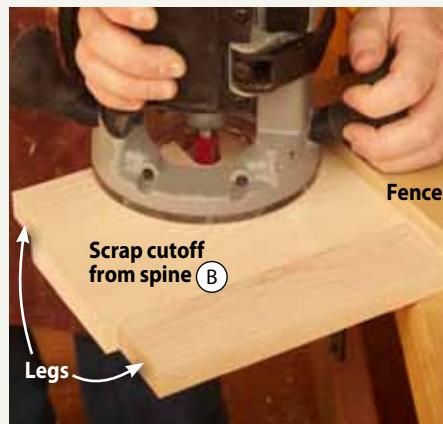
SHOP TIP

Zippity dadoes

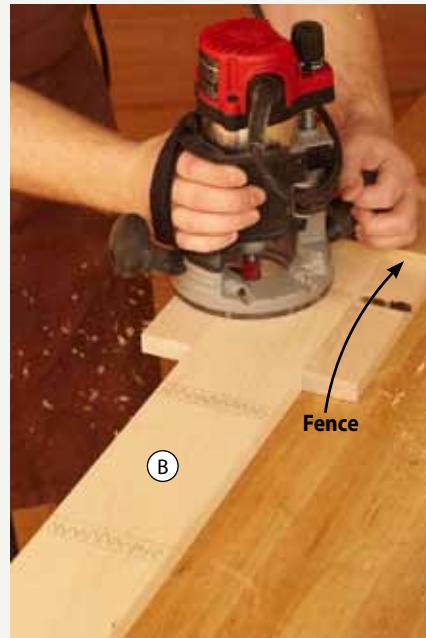
This speedy scrapwood dado jig is incredibly accurate and adapts to almost any project that requires dadoes. You'll need a scrap the same width as the part to be dadoed (a cutoff works perfectly) and some scrap stock of the same thickness ($\frac{3}{4}$ " in this case). Assemble the jig as shown *below left*; then, use it to rout the dadoes in the marked spine (B).



For a snug fit, glue up and clamp the dado jig parts using the spine (B) as a guide. Take care to avoid gluing the jig to the spine.

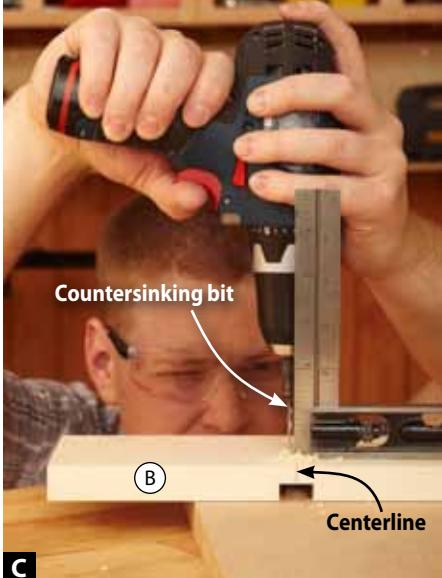


With a $\frac{3}{4}$ " straight bit set to $\frac{3}{8}$ " depth, rout a dado through the jig's legs and the scrap, using the jig's fence to guide the router.



Line up the grooves in the jig with the marked dadoes on the spine (B), clamp both to a worksurface, and cut the dadoes.

KEEP THE SCREWS ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW



To ensure that the long screws drive straight into the shelves, use a square to line up the bit as you drill shank holes through the spine (B).

spine (B). Then, drill and countersink screw holes on the centerlines [Drawing 1, Photo C]. Fit a shelf (A) into its dado and drill pilot holes into the shelf [Photo D]. Glue and screw the shelf in place and repeat with the remaining shelves. Set the shelf assembly (A/B) aside.

Build a beefy base

1 From $\frac{1}{2}$ " MDF, cut the top and bottom (C) to size. From $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock, cut the sides (D), front and back (E), cleats (F), and spacer (G) to size.

2 Glue and clamp the sides (D) to the bottom (C) flush at their bottom edges [Drawing 2]. After the glue sets, glue and clamp the front (E) to the bottom.

3 Place a $2\frac{1}{8} \times 12 \times 12$ " patio paver block in the base assembly (C/D/E) resting against the front (E) and centered side-to-side. Glue and clamp the cleats (F) and the spacer (G) in place, snug against the paver [Drawing 2, Photo E].

4 Spread glue on the top edge of the spacer (G) and the front and side edges of the top (C) and set it in place. Mark the back face of the back (E) with an X; then, glue and clamp it in place [Photo F]. When the glue has dried, sand the base to 220 grit, removing any uneven joint lines in the process.

Note: As you sand, be sure to replace the marked X on the back (E) to serve as a reminder of the spine location later.

Add shelves to base

1 To ensure that the spine (B) is plumb and the shelves (A) level, first level



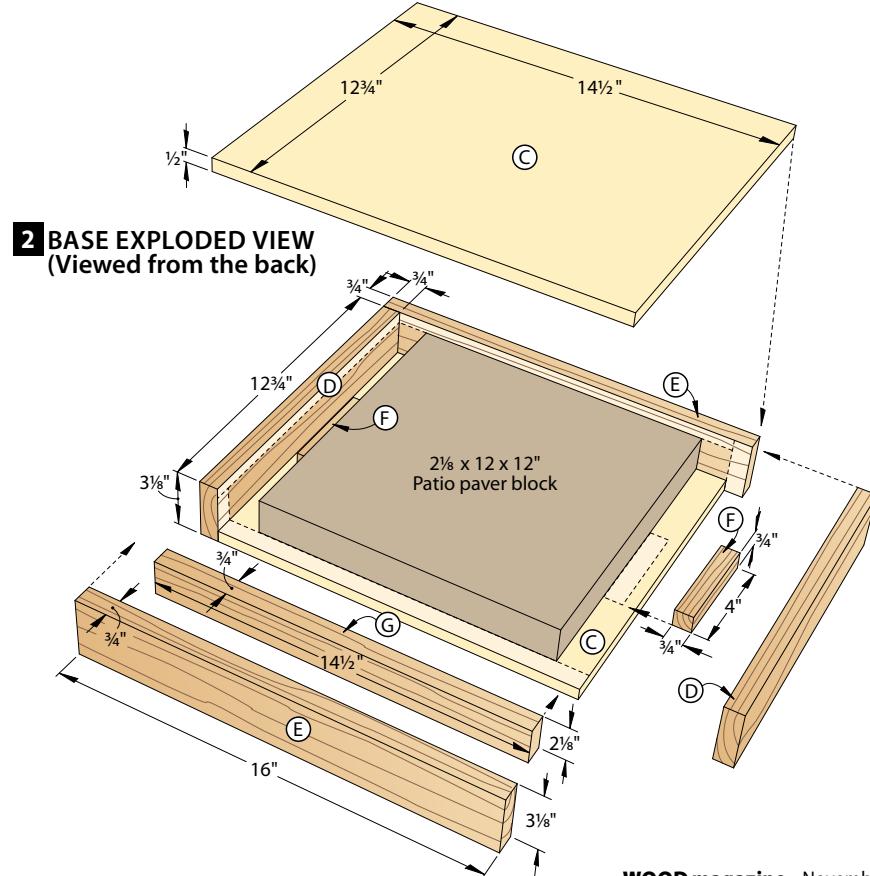
Use the shank holes in the spine (B) to guide the bit as you drill pilot holes into the edge of each shelf (A). Then, glue and screw the shelves into place.

the base (C-G) on your worksurface, shimming where necessary. Use a helper to stand the shelf assembly in place, centered on the marked base back (E). Drill and countersink a screw hole, centered, in the spine. Attach the spine as shown [Drawing 1, Photo G].

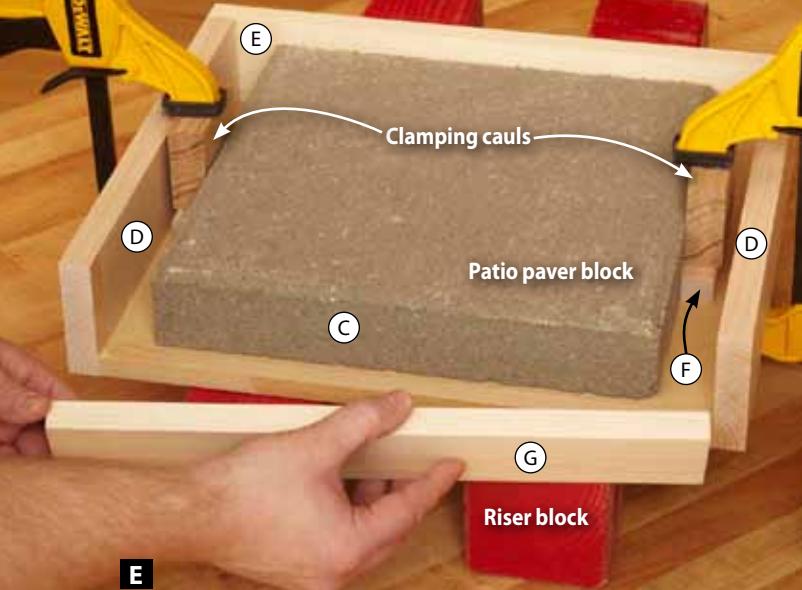
2 Retrieve the other spine (B) and glue and clamp it over the spine assembly

(A/B) [Drawing 1] to hide the screwheads and stiffen the assembly. When the glue has dried, remove the clamps and finish-sand any remaining parts.

3 To apply a painted finish to the spine (B) and base (C-G), first mask off the shelves with paper and painter's tape [Photo H]. Then, spray on a finish using aerosol paint. (We sprayed three coats of



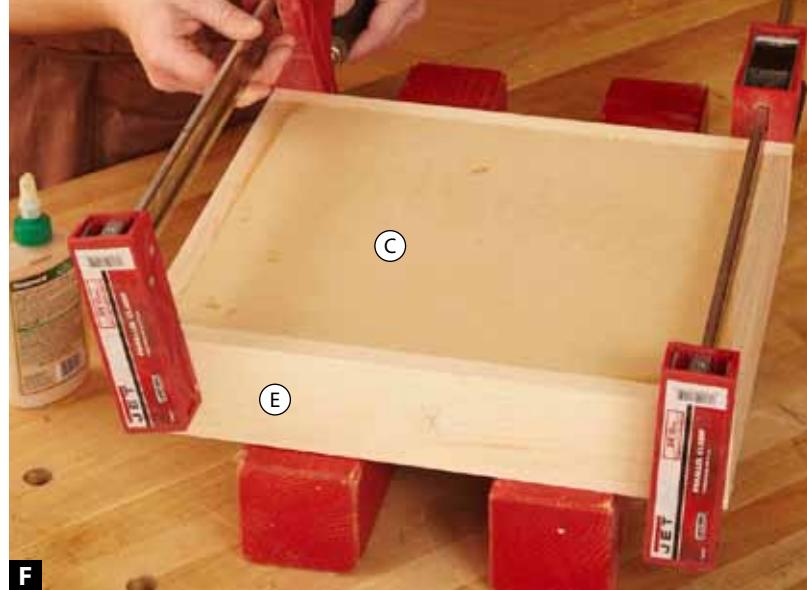
EMPLOY A COUPLE CLAMPING TRICKS



E

Riser blocks provide clearance for clamps, and cauls extend their reach to the cleats (F). While the glue sets, attach the spacer (G).

X MARKS THE SPINE SPOT



F

The X on the back (E) marks the side with the spacer (G), which will receive the long screws that secure the spine in place.

Rust-Oleum Bright Coat Metallic Finish.) Now just unwrap, fill it with your favorite collectibles, and bask in the compliments! 🌟

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Project design: **Kevin Boyle**

Illustrations: **Lorna Johnson**

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STRAIGHTEN YOUR SPINE



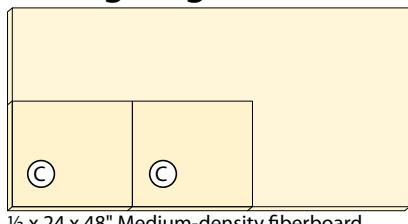
G
Using the single screw as a pivot point, plumb the spine. Then drill and drive four more screws to secure the spine in position.

BECOME A WRAP STAR

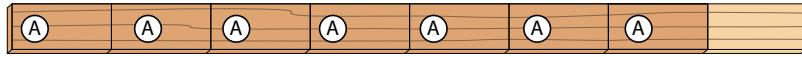


H
Carefully mask each shelf near the spine, before wrapping the entire shelf with kraft paper, overlapping the masking tape.

Cutting Diagram



1/2 x 24 x 48" Medium-density fiberboard



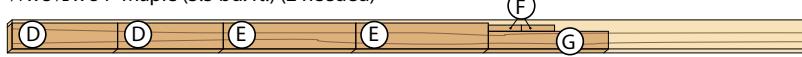
3/4 x 5 1/2 x 96" Cherry (4 bd. ft.) (2 needed)



3/4 x 5 1/2 x 36" Cherry (1.5 bd. ft.)



3/4 x 5 1/2 x 84" Maple (3.5 bd. ft.) (2 needed)



3/4 x 3 1/2 x 96" Maple (2.7 bd. ft.)

Materials List

Part	FINISHED SIZE			Matl.	Qty.
	T	W	L		
A shelves	3/4"	8"	12"	C	8
B spines	3/4"	4"	67 1/2"	M	2
C top & bottom	1/2"	12 3/4"	14 1/2"	MDF	2
D sides	3/4"	3 1/8"	12 3/4"	M	2
E front & back	3/4"	3 1/8"	16"	M	2
F cleats	3/4"	3/4"	4"	M	2
G spacer	3/4"	2 1/8"	14 1/2"	M	1

Materials key: C-cherry; MDF-medium-density fiberboard; M-maple.

Supplies: #8x2" flathead screws, 2 1/8x12x12" patio paver block.

Bit: 3/4" straight router bit.

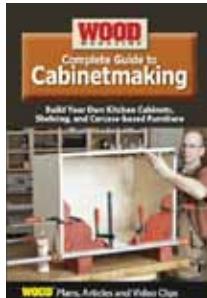
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