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Dave Campbell  
Editorial Content Chief, *WOOD* magazine



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# Slide-away Hideaway

*What's behind the mirror? This one hides a storage compartment.*



**D I M E N S I O N S :**  
62½" H x 5⅞" D x 20½" W

**16"**  
Typical  
mounting  
height.

DP-01162

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## EXPLODED VIEW

18" full-extension drawer slide

Adjustable shelves

18" full-extension drawer slide

In-wall box fits between 16" O.C. studs.

Mirror slides to reveal in-wall storage.

**Note:** Measure the distance between the studs and verify that they are plumb. If they are greater or less than 14½" apart, adjust the lengths of parts B, C, and I, and the width of part F to compensate, allowing space to shim the box plumb if necessary. You may want to have a professional builder open up the wall for the box.

## Build the hiding place first

**1** Locate a pair of wall studs on 16" centers where you want to install the box, making sure no plumbing, wiring, or HVAC ducting runs through the installation area. Cut away the finished wall flush with the inside of the studs.

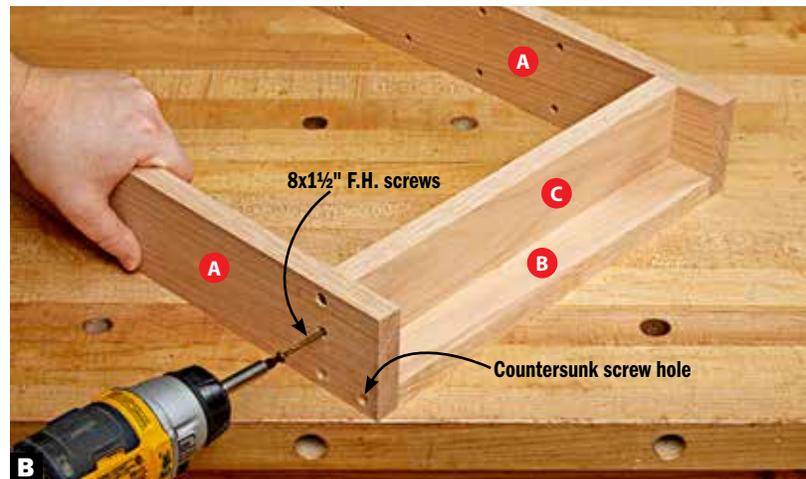
**2** Cut parts A–C to size [Materials List, Drawing 1]. Drill the shelf-pin holes and screw holes in both sides (A) [Drawing 2, Photo A].

**3** Glue a spacer (B) to each top/bottom (C). Glue and screw the B/C assemblies between the sides (A) [Drawing 1, Photo B].

**Tip!** Lay the sides flat next to each other with their ends flush. Then, lay out centerlines for the shelf-pin holes across both sides at once using a 12" square.



**A** Set your drill-press fence to position the shelf-pin holes uniformly from each edge. Layout lines on the part and an index mark on the fence keep spacing even.



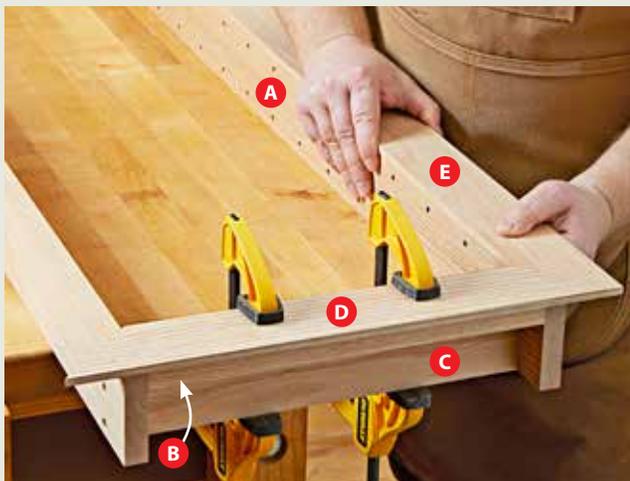
**B** Drive screws through the sides (A) into the B/C assemblies. Fully countersink the heads so the box slides easily between wall studs at installation time.

# SKILL BUILDER

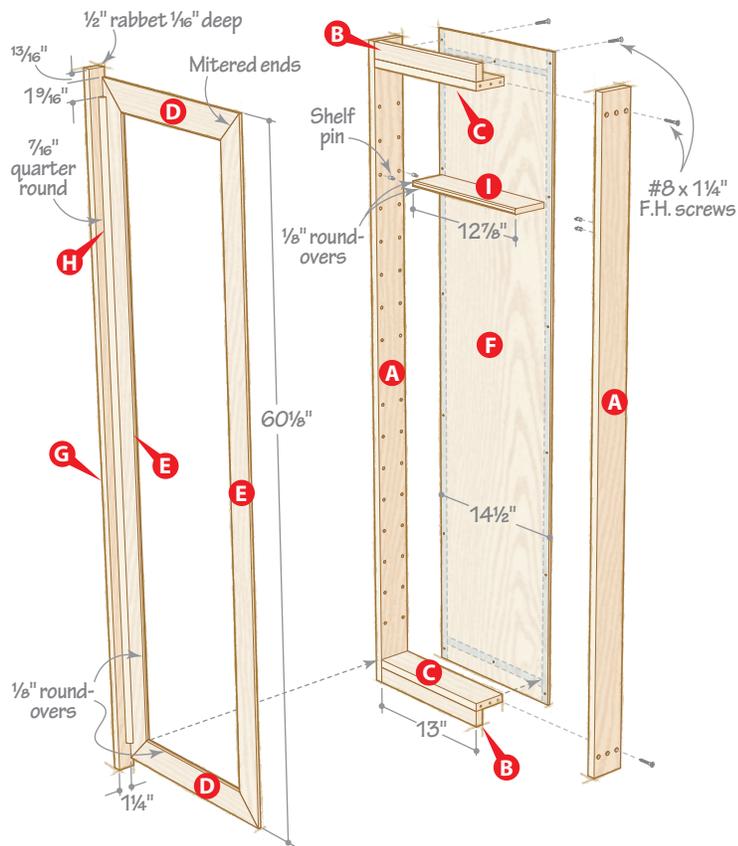
## Mark miters directly for superior cornering

For tight-fitting mitered corners on the rails and stiles, don't try to cut the parts to measurements. Instead, cut each one to fit. Start by miter-cutting one end of one rail. Lay that rail across the top of the box assembly (A–C) [top photo, below].

Then, scribe the second miter location directly from the box corner. A sharp pencil or marking knife ensures maximum accuracy. Cut the miter, test its fit, and glue the rail to the box. Next, cut one end of a stile and mate it to the rail [bottom photo]. Again, mark the bottom miter directly from the box. Miter-cut the stile to length and glue it on. Similarly, cut and attach the other stile followed by the bottom rail.

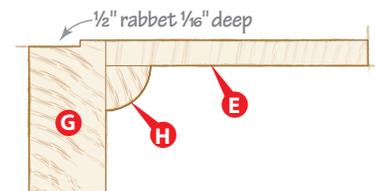


### 1 WALL BOX (viewed from front)



► See more about making miters. [woodmagazine.com/mastering-miters](http://woodmagazine.com/mastering-miters)

### 1a TOP SECTION VIEW



**Tip!** Without the back in place, you can clamp the stiles and rails with clamps inside the box for a firmer grip.

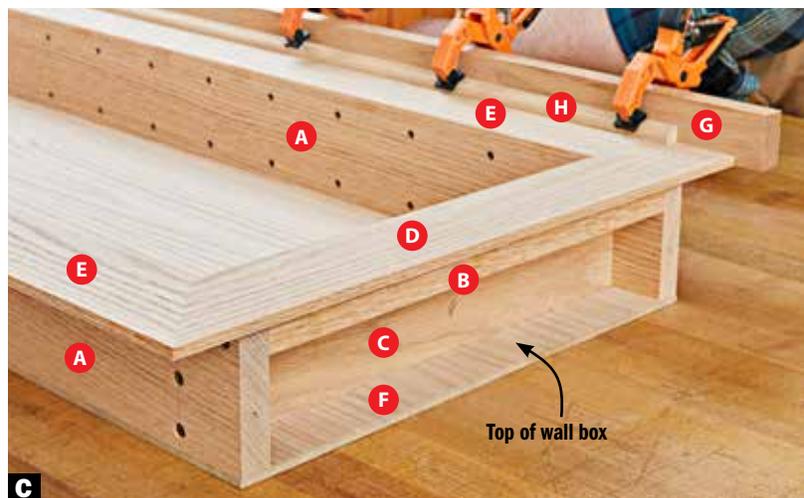
**Note:** The mirror slides open to the right. To make it open to the left, glue the stop (G) and trim (H) to the right-side stile (E) and the inner stile (M) to the left side of the mirror frame [Make the sliding mirror, Step 3, and Photo E].

**4** Cut the rails and stiles (D, E) a few inches longer than listed [Skill Builder], and glue the rails and stiles around the opening, flush on the inside. Round over the inside edges [Drawing 1].

**5** Cut parts F–I to size. Glue and screw the back (F) to the box [Drawing 1]. Round over the front edges of the shelves (I) and set them aside for now.

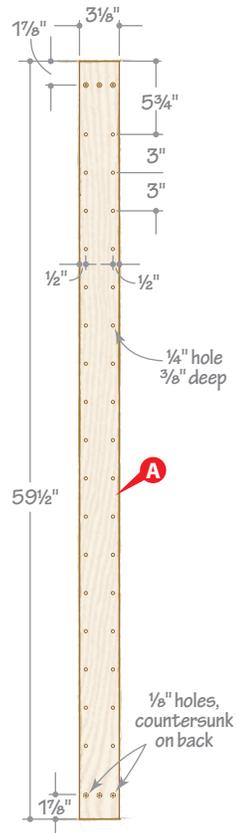
**6** Rabbet the stop (G) [Drawing 1a] to provide a shadow line when installed. Glue it to the edge of the left-side stile (E).

**7** To make the quarter-round molding (H), plane a 5' length of 2"-wide stock to 7/16" thick. Then, rout one edge with a 1/2" round-over bit and rip off that edge. Attach the quarter-round trim molding [Photo C].

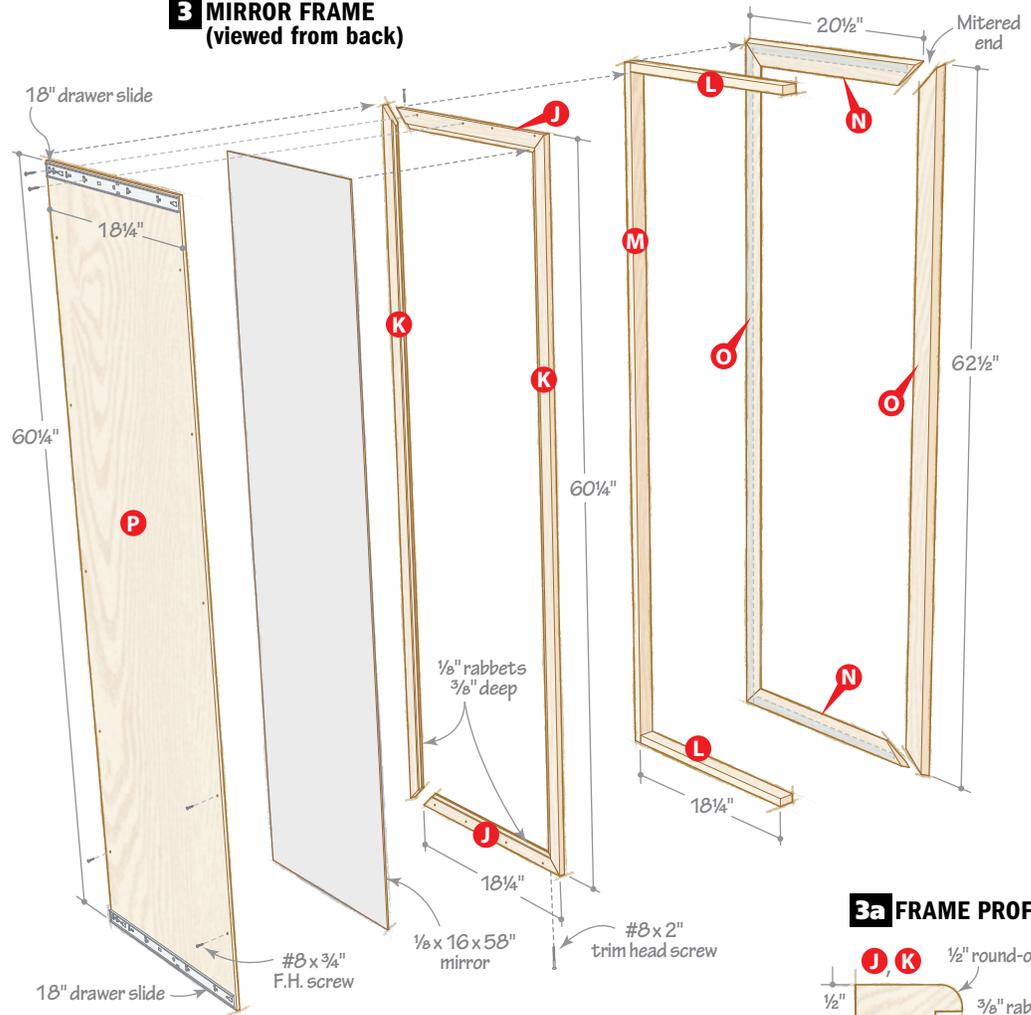


**C** Glue and clamp the trim (H) to the stile (E) and stop (G) to strengthen the stile/stop joint.

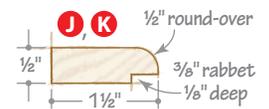
## 2 WALL BOX SIDE



## 3 MIRROR FRAME (viewed from back)



### 3a FRAME PROFILE



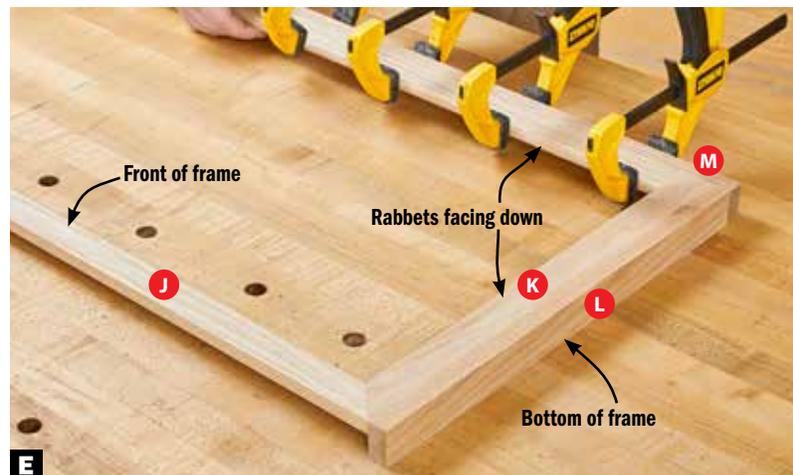
### Make the sliding mirror

- 1 Cut the frame rails and stiles (J, K) to size. Rabbet and round over the edges [Drawings 3 and 3a]. Then, miter-cut the ends.
- 2 Glue the frame together on a flat surface.

- 3 Cut the inner rails and stile (L, M) to size. Glue them to the mitered frame (J/K) [Drawings 3 and 4, Photo E].
- 4 Cut stock for the molding rails and stiles (N, O) 1/2" wider and 4" longer than indicated on the Materials List.



**D** Drill pilot holes in the miters and drive trimhead screws to reinforce the joints. Waxed paper laid on the bench before assembly prevents gluing the frame to the worksurface.



**E** Align the rail and stile edges (L, M) flush with the front (non-rabbeted) face of the frame. The stile (M) goes on the right side as you look at the front of the frame.



**F** With the tablesaw blade tilted to 20°, rip the molding face (left) and edge (right). Allow enough extra thickness and width to sand out saw marks as these moldings show prominently on the installed project.

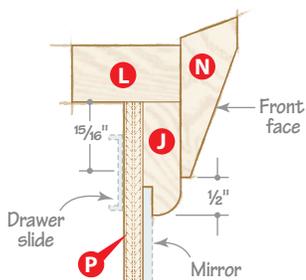


**H** Glue the moldings in place, maintaining a 1/2" reveal around the opening. **Tip!** Attach self-adhesive sandpaper to scraps of bevel-cut stock to make effective clamp blocks.

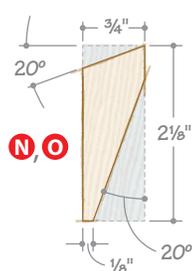


**I** Attach the slides to the wall box tight against the stop (G) and flush with the outer edges of the rails (D). Make sure the slides are parallel.

#### 4 SIDE SECTION VIEW



#### 4a MOLDING



**5** Install a zero-clearance insert in your tablesaw and rip the bevels on the moldings [Drawing 4a, Photos F and G].

**6** As you did with the wall-box rail and stiles, miter-cut and glue the moldings

around the frame assembly (J–M), starting with a rail [Drawings 3 and 4, Photo H].

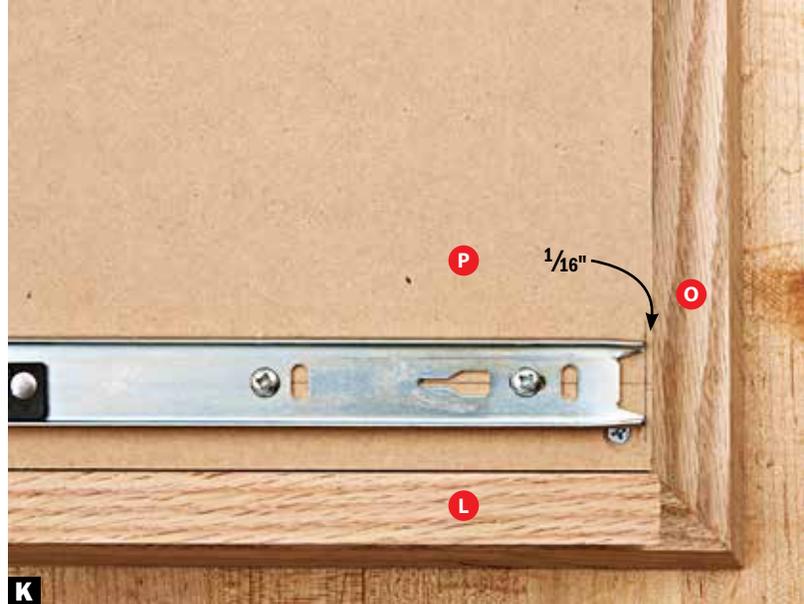
**7** Cut the mirror back (P) to size and screw it to the frame assembly (J–O). Leave the mirror out for now.

#### Add the sliding hardware

**1** Screw the main body (cabinet side) of an 18" drawer slide to the top and bottom of the wall box [Exploded View, Photo I].

**2** Attach the removable parts of the drawer slides to the back (P) of the mirror frame [Drawing 3, Photos J and K].

**3** Slide the two assemblies together (you may need a helper) and check for free motion. Then, remove the hardware and apply a finish of your choice. (We sprayed the box interior and frame with clear lacquer.)



**J** Mark a centerline  $\frac{15}{16}$ " from each inner rail (L) and drill pilot holes for the drawer-slide mounting screws (left). Set the slides a little over  $\frac{1}{16}$ " from the edge of the mirror back (P) to allow for slack (right).

**Tip!** You can fasten the box in place with screws through the stiles (E) into the studs if that makes installation easier.

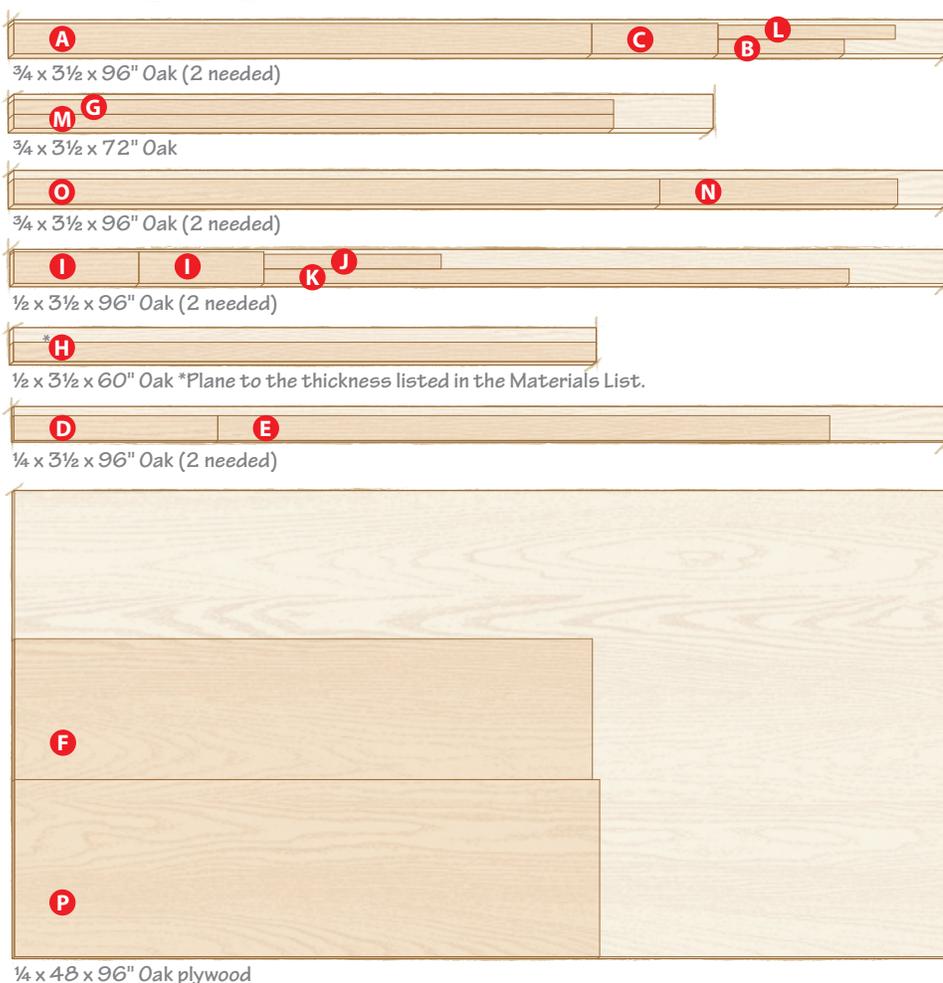
## Installing the secret wall box

**1** Slide the box into the cavity, pushing the rails and stiles (D, E) flush against the wall surface. Plumb the box, and secure it with screws driven through the sides (A) into the wall studs.

**2** Remove the mirror back (P), fit the mirror glass in the frame, and reinstall the drawer slides and join the frame to the box. Install the shelves. Then, reflect on your work as you hide some things away. 🌿

Produced by **Larry Johnston** with **John Olson**  
Project design: **John Olson**  
Illustrations: **Roxanne LeMoine, Lorna Johnson**

## Cutting Diagram



This project requires 12 board feet of 4/4 oak, 5 square feet of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " oak, and 5 square feet of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " oak.

## Materials List

Part	FINISHED SIZE			Matl.	Qty.
	T	W	L		
<b>Wall box</b>					
A sides	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	$3\frac{1}{8}$ "	$59\frac{1}{2}$ "	O	2
B spacer	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "	13"	O	2
C top/bottom	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	$3\frac{1}{8}$ "	13"	O	2
D* rails	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	$2\frac{1}{16}$ "	$18\frac{3}{8}$ "	O	2
E* stiles	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	$2\frac{1}{16}$ "	$60\frac{3}{8}$ "	O	2
F back	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	$14\frac{1}{2}$ "	$59\frac{1}{2}$ "	OP	1
G stop	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "	$61\frac{3}{4}$ "	O	1
H* trim	$\frac{7}{16}$ "	$\frac{7}{16}$ "	57"	O	1
I shelves	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	$3\frac{3}{4}$ "	$12\frac{7}{8}$ "	O	4
<b>Mirror</b>					
J frame rails	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "	$18\frac{3}{4}$ "	O	2
K frame stiles	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "	$60\frac{3}{4}$ "	O	2
L inner frame rails	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	$1\frac{1}{16}$ "	$18\frac{3}{4}$ "	O	2
M inner frame stile	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	$1\frac{1}{16}$ "	$61\frac{3}{4}$ "	O	1
N* molding rails	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	$2\frac{1}{8}$ "	$20\frac{1}{2}$ "	O	2
O* molding stiles	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	$2\frac{1}{8}$ "	$62\frac{1}{2}$ "	O	2
P back	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	$18\frac{3}{4}$ "	$60\frac{1}{4}$ "	OP	1

\*Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

**Materials key:** O-oak, OP-oak plywood.

**Supplies:** 18" full-extension drawer slides (1 pair),  $\frac{1}{8}$  x  $16$  x  $58$ " mirror (1), shelf pins (16), #8 x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " flathead screws, #8 x 2" trimhead screws, #16 x 1" brads.

**Bits:**  $\frac{1}{8}$ ",  $\frac{3}{8}$ ", and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " round-over bits.