

The Wall-Hung Curio Cabinet

A classic-styled, 4-shelf cabinet for any room in the house

Have you ever noticed that some projects require only a few hours of your time to complete, while others seem to go on for ever and ever? So, why is that? Part of the answer to this question can be found in the care with which the project is approached. If you start a project thinking about how many tedious steps are going to be involved in bringing it to completion, chances are, it is indeed going to seem like a tedious, drawn-out project.

On the other hand, if you try to think of each board as an individual project of its own, then everything will progress more quickly. By following this approach, the hours you spend on a project will, instead, represent the putting together of many smaller projects. As a result, you'll be finished before you know it, and your results will be far more appealing.

The Wall-Hung Cabinet shown here is the perfect project for teaching yourself this valuable lesson. While you could decide to spend a single evening building a simple cutting board or trivet, if you devote the same amount of time to carefully cutting out some of the pieces for a more complex project such as this Cabinet, when you've finished, you'll have a lot more to be proud of. So, slow down, enjoy the wood, measure everything very carefully ("Measure Twice – Cut Once"), don't get in a hurry, then reap the rewards of your efforts!

Important Design Note: Our cabinet features a Colonial style, dictated by the curved bottom face frame rail (F), the curves in the bottoms of the two sides (A) and the curves in the front and side top moldings (J & K). For a more contemporary or modified Mission style, leave the rail and side pieces straight and alter the top molding to create a series of stepped, 45-degree beveled edges.

1. Take whatever time you need to select high-quality, properly cured, straight wood for this project. Although we built our Cabinet using some highly figured cherry — oak, walnut, maple or even some of the more striking exotics will also provide some great-looking results. Just keep in mind that top-quality stock will result in a better appearance and fewer problems as you move step-by-step through the project.

Use the best pieces for the sides, face frame and door stiles and rails, making your selections on the basis of grain configuration, as well as the quality of the wood you're using. For example, if you've chosen to use cherry, you wouldn't want to make the left side face frame from a highly figured piece of stock and the right side from a straight-grained piece. Think carefully about how each component will look when the entire project is assembled.

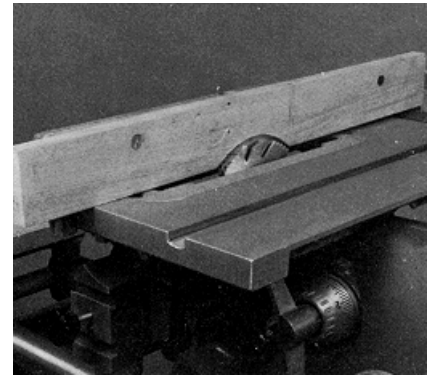
2. Start by ripping all stock to the proper widths, according to the List of Materials. Always remember to begin by using your Jointer to first smooth one edge of your stock....then rip it to width plus 1/32" on your table saw...then joint the opposing edge, removing the extra 1/32".

3. Crosscut all of your stock to length...**except** for the door stiles and rails (G & H) and the front and side moldings (J & K). You'll cut these in step 9. When crosscutting, be sure to allow an extra 1/8" of length for careful trimming later.

TIP: If you're working with extremely long pieces of stock, the Shopsmith Support Table or Roller Stand will help you achieve added support and improved results when ripping – while the Miter Gauge Extension Face or a Cross-Cut Sliding Table will be very helpful during crosscutting operations.

4. Next, crosscut the cabinet sides (A) to final length and mark the locations of the rabbets and dadoes. Transfer the contours for the bottoms of the sides to your stock.

5. To form the rabbets for the back, change to a Dado Blade set-up and attach a wooden auxiliary fence such as the one shown here to your Rip Fence to avoid cutting into the Rip Fence Face.



Using this set-up, cut the 3/8" x 3/8" rabbets on the sides (A) and top (B). Be sure to use a Push Block to keep your hands out of harm's way.

Remove the Fence and cut the dadoes in the sides (A) for the bottom and shelves (C), then form the rabbets on the ends of the sides for the top.

NOTE: If you don't have a Dado set-up, you could also cut the rabbets by making two passes with an ordinary blade on your Table Saw...or with the Shopsmith Router Package or Router Table Kit.

6. Use your Bandsaw, Scroll Saw or hand-held saber saw to cut the contours on the bottoms of the sides (A). **Tip:** When doing this, be sure to cut outside your marked line so you can sand your contours down to perfection using your Drum Sander.

7. Assemble the cabinet case (sides [A], top [B], bottom and shelves [C]) with woodworker's glue and #8 x 1" flathead wood screws or 6d finishing nails. If you're using nails, be sure to set and fill over the heads. If you're using screws, don't forget to drill counterbores for the heads and fill over them with glued-in screw plugs.

8. The face frame pieces (D, E & F) are cut to fit. Starting with the stiles (D), mark and cut them to length, leaving the lines...then disc sand them to exact length.

Next, measure the exact width of your assembled case and subtract the exact widths of your stiles (D) to calculate the correct length for the rails (E & F). Cut and sand the rails to length.

Now, use your Bandsaw or Scroll Saw to cut the curves in the bottom face frame rail (F). Again, be sure to cut outside your marked line so you can sand your contours using your Drum Sander.

Mark the locations for the dowel holes in the ends of the rails and the edges of the stiles and drill them using your MARK V in Horizontal Boring mode. Glue and assemble the face frame. Once the glue has dried completely, attach the frame to the assembled case with glue and #8 x 1-1/2" screws or 6d finishing nails. Set & fill the nail heads or counterbore and plug the screw heads as in step 7, above.

9. The door frames for this cabinet can be made with any of the following:

- Your Shopsmith Shaping Package with the Complete Cabinet Set cutters.
- Your Shopsmith Molding Package with the matching, mirror-image 3/16" Cove & Bead Cutter and 3/16" Bead & Cove Cutter.

The actual length of the rails will depend on the cutter you use. Whichever cutter you decide to use, be sure to form the ends of the rails first, then mold or shape the edges of the stiles and rails.

IMPORTANT: Be sure to use scrap pieces for testing your set-ups before cutting your actual pieces

Assemble the frames with glue and check carefully for absolute squareness before setting them aside to dry.

10. Sand the entire project. Start with 80-grit paper and work your way through progressively finer grits until you get to 220-grit paper. Round off all edges slightly to prevent any splintering.

11. Cut the 3/8" plywood back to exact size and apply a stain or matching hardwood veneer to its inside face. Attach the back to the assembled frame using 4d nails or small brads. **Do not glue.**

12. Use your Shopsmith Molding Package and the three cutters shown in the "MOLDING DETAIL" illustration to form the molding for the top on a single, long piece of stock. Since this molding projects 45-degrees from the cabinet surface, it can be mitered on the MARK V by setting your Miter Gauge at 56-1/2 degrees and tilting the Worktable to 30 degrees. Be sure to hold the trim flat to the table and cut all three pieces to length from your single long piece. Again, take the actual measurements from your assembled cabinet to ensure the proper fit.

13. Mark the locations of the hinges and mortise the face frame and door frames with a chisel.

14. Apply the finish of your choice. Once the final coat has dried, install the glass in the doors and mount the doors to the cabinet.

List of Materials

(finished dimensions in inches)

A	Sides (2)	3/4 x 6 x 36
B	Top	3/4 x 6 x 29-1/4
C	Bottom and Shelves (4)	3/4 x 5-5/8 x 29-1/4
D	Face Frame Stiles (2)	3/4 x 2 x 35
E	Top Face Frame Rail	3/4 x 3 x 26
F	Bottom Face Frame Rail	3/4 x 4-1/4 x 26
G	Door Stiles (4)	3/4 x 1-1/2 x 30
H	Door Rails (4)	3/4 x 1-1/2 x 11 (may vary with cutter used)
J	Front Molding	3/4 x 2-1/2 x 33
K	Side Molding (2)	3/4 x 2-1/2 x 8
L	Dowel Pins (8)	3/8 dia. x 2 long
M	Back	3/8 x 29-1/4 x 33-3/8

Hardware

Brass Door Hinges

Brass Door Knobs

#8 x 1-1/2" Wood Screws (or 6d Finishing Nails)

#8 x 1" Wood Screws (or 6d Finishing Nails)

Screw Hole Plugs

4d Finishing Nails (or Small Brads)