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Larry Clayton  
Editor  
*WOOD*<sup>®</sup> magazine

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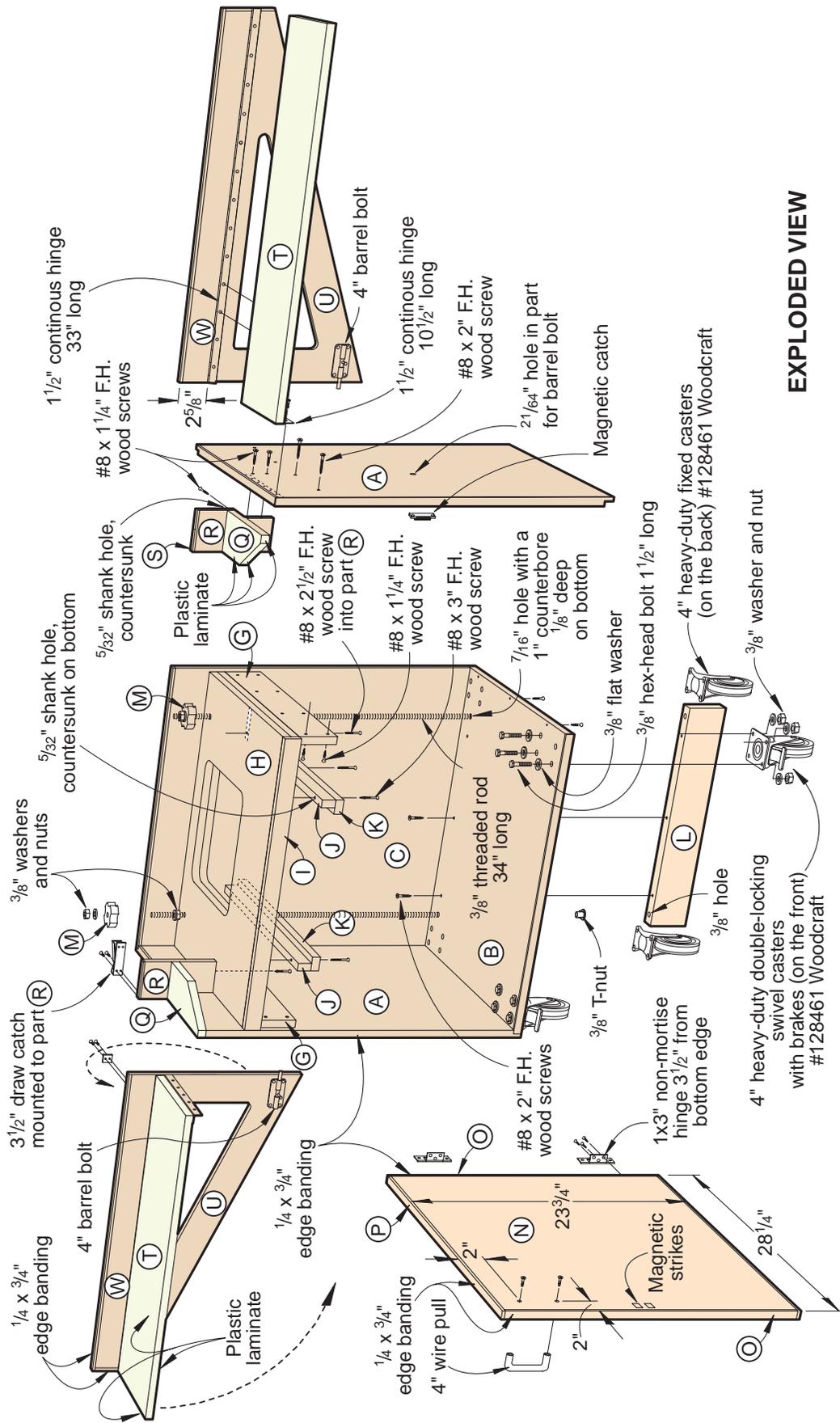
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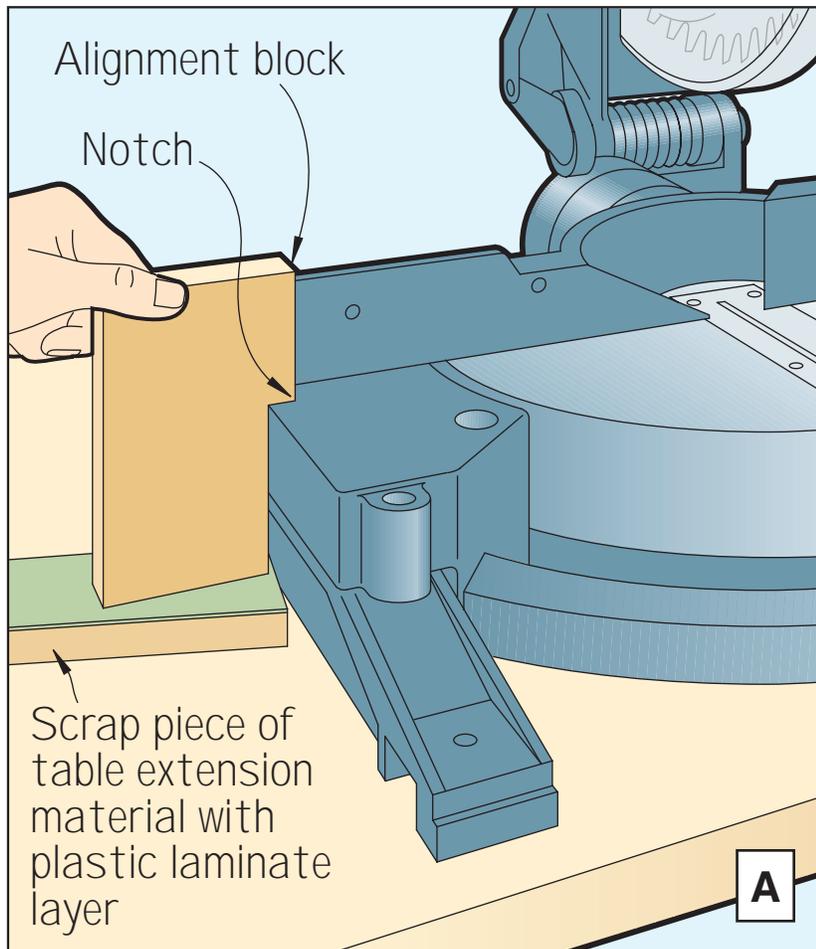
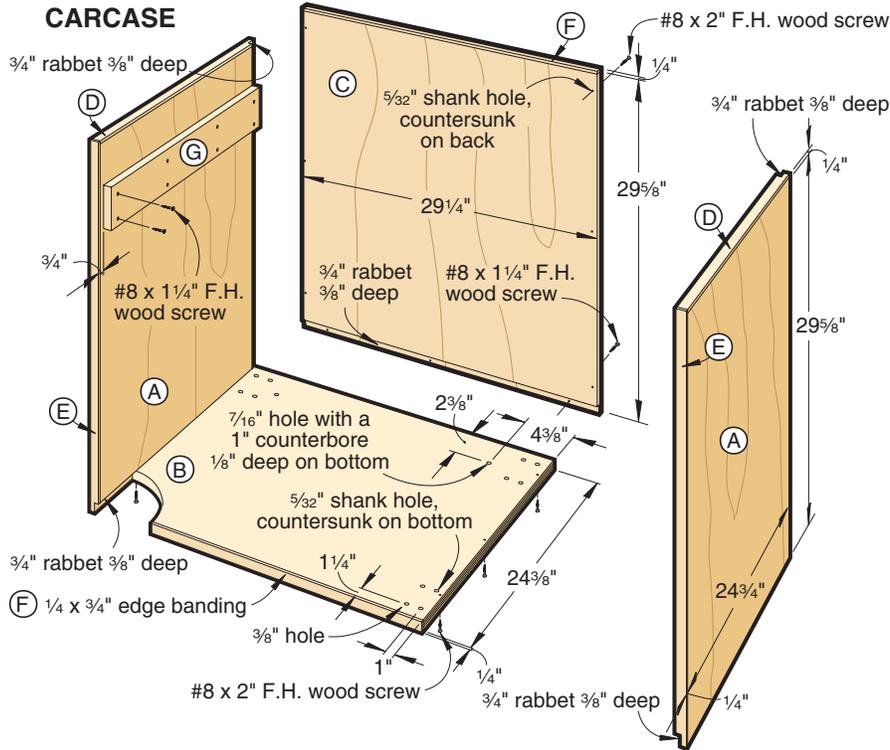
## Mobile Miter Saw Center

Fold-down tables make it easy to store

*Finally, the ultimate miter saw center has arrived. This sturdy plywood unit rolls around and locks in place where needed. Fold-down table extensions let you manage long pieces for crosscutting. And there's more, including built-in waste disposal for cutoffs and sawdust and a unique leveling system for parking the unit securely on an uneven floor.*



EXPLODED VIEW



Working off laminated scrap and the height of your miter saw table, mark the notch location in the alignment blocks needed to fix the top shelf height.

**Bill of Materials**

Part	Finished Size			Mati.	Qty.
	T	W	L		
A cabinet sides	3/4"	24 3/4"	29 5/8"	BP	2
B cabinet bottom	3/4"	24 3/8"	29 1/4"	BP	1
C cabinet back	3/4"	29 1/4"	29 5/8"	BP	1
D side top edge bandings	1/4"	3/4"	24 3/4"	B	2
E side front edge bandings	1/4"	3/4"	29 7/8"	B	2
F edge bandings for parts B, C	1/4"	3/4"	29 1/4"	B	2
G top shelf supports	3/4"	3 1/2"	23 1/2"	B	2
H* top shelf	1 1/2"	23 1/2"	28 1/2"	BP	1
I top shelf edge strip	3/4"	1 1/2"	28 1/2"	B	1
J vertical cleats	3/4"	1 1/4"	23 1/2"	B	2
K horizontal cleats	3/4"	1 1/4"	23 1/2"	B	2
L rod support	1 1/2"	3 1/2"	22 1/4"	P	1
M knobs	3/4"	2 1/2" dia.		B	2
N door	3/4"	27 3/4"	23 1/2"	BP	1
O door vertical edge bandings	1/4"	3/4"	23 1/2"	B	2
P door top edge banding	1/4"	3/4"	28 1/4"	B	1
Q** saw tables	3/16"	10 11/16"	3 13/16"	B/L	2
R** saw table fences	3/4"	6 7/8"	3 7/8"	BP	2
S saw table fence edge banding	1/4"	3/4"	3 7/8"	B	2
T folding tables	13/16"	10 9/16"	33"	B/L	2
U folding table supports	3/4"	15 1/2"	32 3/4"	BP	2
V folding table sup. side edge bands	1/4"	3/4"	4 3/8"	B	2
W folding table sup. top edge bands	1/4"	3/4"	33"	B	2

\* Cut parts marked with an \* oversized. Trim to finished size according to the how-to instructions.

\*\* Parts are cut slightly undersized and reach finished size when plastic laminate is applied.

\*\* Part dimensions subject to change due to miter saw model used. See Saw Table And Fence drawing.

**Materials Key:** BP-Baltic birch plywood, B-birch, P-pine or fir, B/L-Baltic birch plywood with plastic laminate

**Supplies:** 2 3/8" T-nuts; 2 lengths of 3/8" threaded rod, 34" long; #8x1 1/4" flathead wood screws; #8x2" flathead wood screws; #8x2 1/2" flathead wood screws; #8x3" flathead wood screws; 1 1/2" continuous hinge, 33" long (2); 1 1/2" continuous hinge, 10 1/2" long (2); 3/8x1 1/2" hex-head bolts; 3/8" washers and nuts; 4" barrel bolts (2); 3 1/2" draw catches (2); 1 pr. 1x3" non-mortise hinges; 4" wire pull; magnetic catch and catch plates; 18-gal. Rubbermaid storage box; clear finish.

**Buying Guide**

**Hardware:** 2 HD fixed casters and 2 HD double-locking (braking) swivel casters, 4", sold as set, #128461; 1 pr. 1x3" door hinges, #27G14; 4" wire pull, #130308; magnetic catch and strike, #27H04. Woodcraft, 210 Wood Country Industrial Park, P.O. Box 1686, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1686, call 800/225-1153 for current prices.

## Whip up a sturdy carcass

**1** Cut the cabinet sides (A), bottom (B), and back (C) to the dimensions found in the Bill of Materials.

*Note: We used birch plywood for this and other shop projects for several good reasons: Compared to fir plywood, it's flatter, contains fewer voids and patches, and paints and finishes better.*

**2** From solid stock (we used birch), cut enough  $\frac{1}{4}\times\frac{3}{4}$ " material for the sides' top and front edge banding pieces (D, E), the bottom's front edge banding (F), and the back edge banding (F). (See the Carcase drawing for reference. Then cut the parts to length.)

**3** Glue and clamp the side top edge bandings (D) on the sides first; then follow with the remaining bandings. Sand these applied pieces flush.

**4** Cut the rabbets on parts A and C where shown.

**5** Referring to the Exploded View and Carcase drawings, drill the  $\frac{7}{16}$ " counterbored holes for the threaded rod and the  $\frac{3}{8}$ " holes for the casters in the bottom (B). (We used the casters as hole guides.) Now hammer  $\frac{3}{8}$ " T-nuts in the holes for the threaded rods in the bottom side of the carcass bottom.

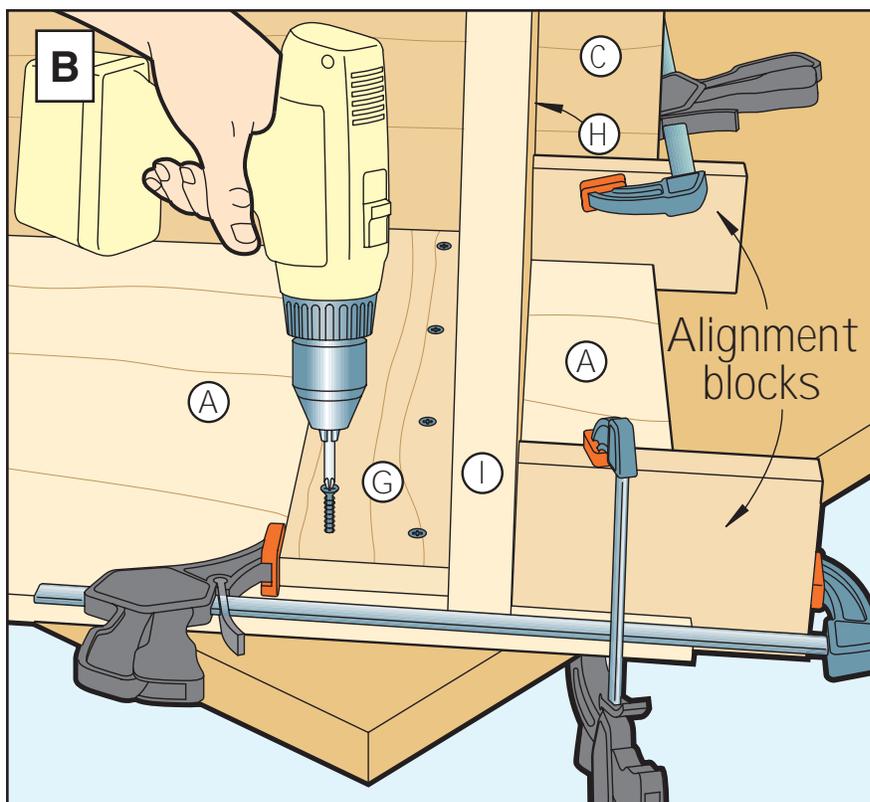
**6** Glue and assemble parts A, B, and C. Then, drill the countersunk holes in the bottom and back, and secure the joining parts with screws.

## Build and install a heavy-duty top shelf

*Note: The top shelf height shown is for a Delta 12" mitersaw, model no. 36-235. Depending on the mitersaw model you use, some dimensions and part sizes will change. These we've indicated in the Saw Table And Fence drawing.*

**1** Cut the top shelf supports (G) to size and drill the countersunk holes. We'll install these later.

**2** Cut two pieces of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " birch plywood to  $24\times 29$ " for the top shelf (H). Glue



**Using the alignment blocks, establish the locations of the top shelf (H) and top shelf support (G), as shown, and screw the support in place.**

and clamp these pieces together, keeping the edges and ends flush. Then cut the lamination to size. See the Top Shelf drawing.

**3** From  $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock, cut the top shelf edge strip (I) to size. Determine the width by measuring the thickness of the top shelf. (Ours measured  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ".)

**4** Glue and clamp the top shelf edge strip (I) to the front edge of the shelf top (H). Sand smooth.

**5** Place the top shelf face down and lay out the opening on the bottom surface. Also, mark the locations of the  $\frac{3}{8}$ " holes for the all-thread rod and the  $\frac{5}{32}$ " holes that are countersunk on the bottom. (See the Top Shelf drawing on page 9.)

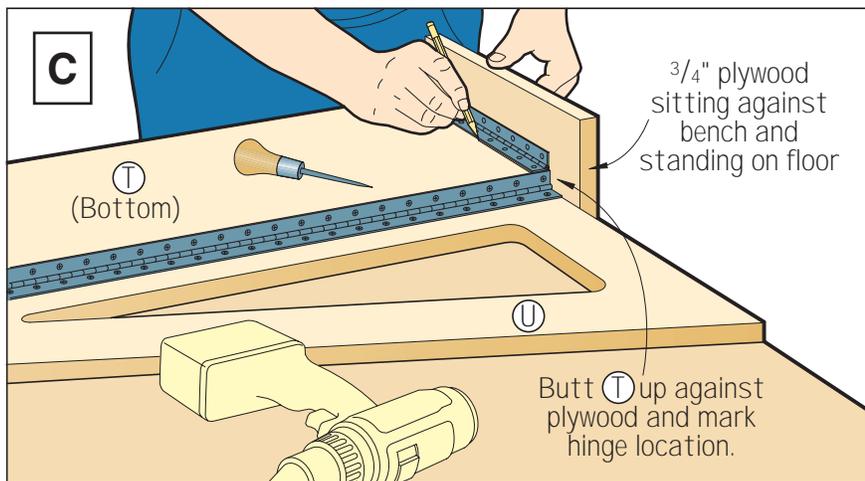
Next, drill blade start holes in the four corners of the layout. Jigsaw out the opening, cutting just inside the line. Sand to the line using a drum sander or oscillating spindle sander.

**6** To locate the shelf top at the exact height for your mitersaw, you'll need to cut two alignment blocks first. To make these, place your mitersaw on a flat surface. Then, take a 6" piece of

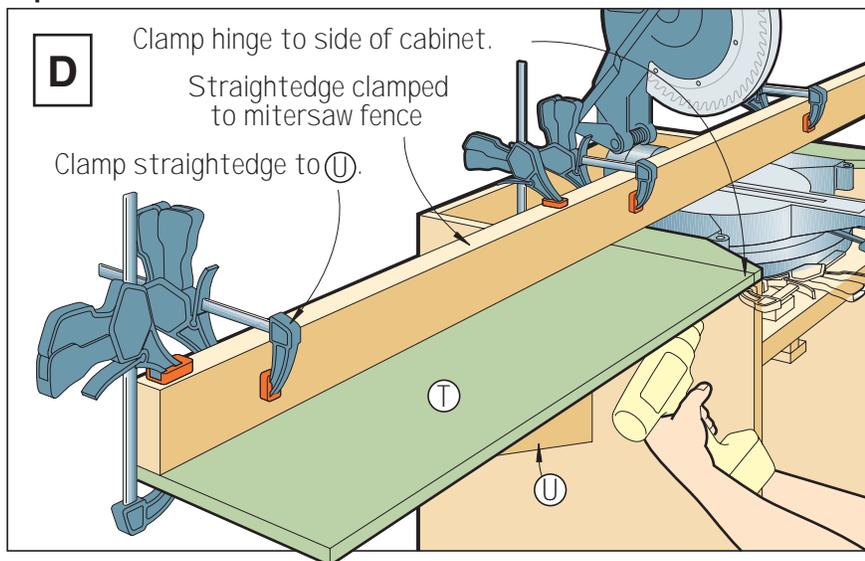
$\frac{3}{4}$ " birch plywood and glue a piece of scrap plastic laminate to it. This should be a scrap piece of the same plastic laminate you will later glue to the saw table surfaces.

Next, cut two pieces of scrap (ours measured  $\frac{3}{4}\times 4\times 6$ " ) and place one on top of the laminated scrap and alongside your mitersaw. Mark the precise location of the saw's table surface on the scrap and cut a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " notch at this location. Now, hold this "alignment block" against the saw, as shown in the Illustration A on page 3, to test the fit. Once satisfied, cut the second alignment block the same way.

**7** Lay the cabinet carcass down on its side; then gather the top shelf supports (G), top shelf (H), and the alignment blocks, as shown in Illustration B above, on the inside of the cabinet. Clamp these in place. With the shelf support flush to the cabinet back, screw (don't glue) the top shelf support in place. (By just screwing the supports in place, you later can adjust the top shelf height should you change mitersaws.) Lay the cabinet on



To install the hinge flush with the end of the folding table, we butted plywood against the table, marked the hinge location, then screwed it in place.



To ensure table and fence alignment, clamp a straightedge to the cabinet fences. Clamp the folding table to the straightedge, and secure it to the cabinet.

the opposite side and repeat the process, securing the other support.

**8** Stand the cabinet upright with the shelf top resting on the top shelf supports. Mark centered screw-hole locations on the sides and back for securing the top shelf. Drill the countersunk holes and screw the top shelf firmly in place.

### Let's add the cabinet's special touches

**1** Cut the vertical cleats (J) and horizontal cleats (K) to size. Glue and clamp parts (J) to (K), referring to the Exploded View drawing. (These glued-up runners support a waste tub.

We used an 18-gallon Rubbermaid storage box, no. 2215-87. Call 800/362-1000 for more information.)

Once dry, drill three countersunk holes through each runner. Turn the cabinet upside down and fasten the runners to the bottom of the top shelf (see the Front Section View), factoring in the waste tub dimensions.

**2** With the cabinet still upside down, install the casters, using the  $\frac{3}{8}$ " holes drilled earlier. Note that the braking swivel casters mount at the front and the fixed casters at the back.

**3** Cut the threaded rod support (L) to size. Mark the  $\frac{3}{8}$ " hole locations on (L), spaced the same as the threaded-

rod T-nut holes in the cabinet bottom (B). Drill  $\frac{3}{8}$ " holes across the width of part L at these locations.

**4** To secure (L) to the cabinet bottom, first establish its location by using 5"-long  $\frac{3}{8}$ " bolts (or threaded rod), and washers and nuts to temporarily hold (L) firmly to the cabinet bottom. Then drill three evenly spaced countersunk  $\frac{5}{32}$ " holes for #8x2" flathead wood screws. Glue and screw part L in place. Remove the extra hardware.

**5** To make the leveling system turn knobs (M), start with a  $\frac{3}{4}$ x4x8" piece of stock. Attach the knob pattern from the Turn Knob Full-Size Pattern to one half of the workpiece. Using a  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " Forstner bit, bore the  $\frac{5}{8}$ "-radiused holes. Next, drill the  $\frac{3}{8}$ " center hole, and bandsaw the knob to shape. Sand, and use this knob as your template for the other knob. Now, install the threaded rod and knob in the cabinet using washers and nuts. See the Side Section View and Exploded View drawings for reference.

### Give your cabinet a door

**1** From  $\frac{3}{4}$ " birch plywood, cut the door (N) to size. Cut the vertical edge-bandings (O) for the door and glue and clamp these in place. Now, cut and apply edge banding (P) for the door's top edge. Sand the parts flush and smooth.

**2** Lay out the locations of the non-mortise hinges, where shown on the Exploded View drawing. Drill the screw holes and attach the hinges to the door. Allowing for a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " reveal, attach the door to the cabinet.

**3** Locate and install the wire pull on the door. Next, screw on the magnetic catch and magnetic catch plates on the cabinet side and door back. See the Buying Guide for our source for the hinges, catches, and wire pull.

### Table talk, beginning with the cabinet

**1** Referring to the Saw Table And Fence drawing, cut left and right saw tables (Q) to size from  $\frac{3}{4}$ " birch plywood. Note that applying the  $\frac{1}{16}$ "-thick plastic laminate will result in the finished sizes in the Bill of Materials.

2 Cut enough plastic laminate to cover the surface and the exposed edges of saw tables (Q). Make the laminate pieces slightly oversized. (Do not laminate the back and long outside edges or bottom of these pieces.) Apply the edge pieces only, using contact cement. File or trim with a router and flush-trimming bit.

Next, glue and screw these pieces to the cabinet sides, as shown in the Assembly Detail drawing, keeping them flush to the sides and side front edges. Secure with #8x1½" flathead wood screws, and countersink the holes. Apply the top plastic laminate piece over the screws, and trim flush. Smooth any sharp edges with a file.

3 Cut the saw fences (R) to the needed dimensions, making left and right side parts. Cut the saw-table fence edge bandings (S), and glue and clamp the pieces in place. Sand flush. Finally, drill the countersunk holes on the back side where shown.

4 Clamp and screw the saw fences (R) to the saw tables (Q). Determine the countersunk screw-hole locations on the sides, and drill the holes. Now, screw the fences to the sides (A) and top shelf (H).

### Add the sturdy folding tables

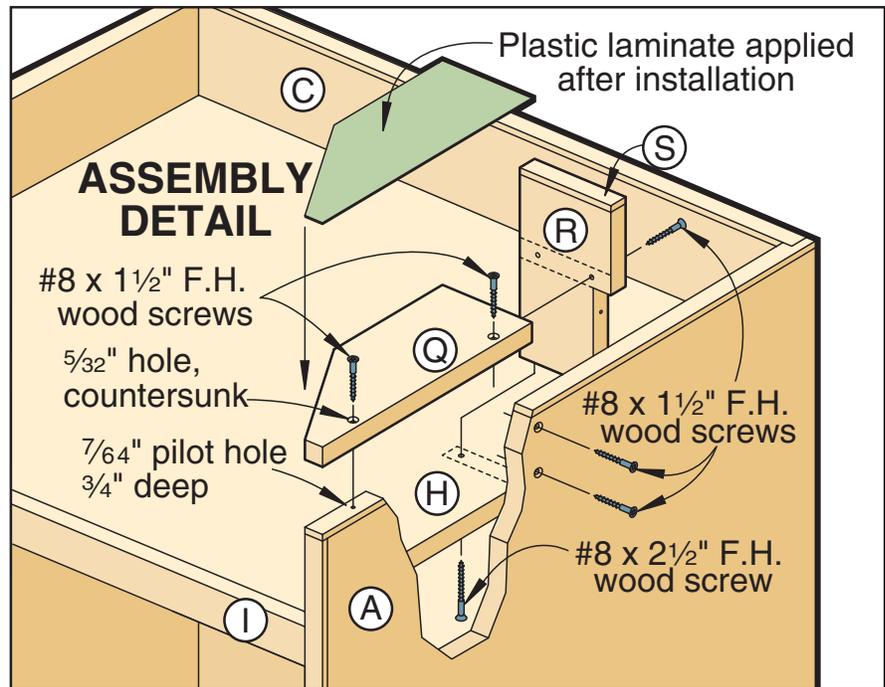
1 Cut the folding tables (T) to ¾x10½x32¹⁵⁄₁₆". Label one left and one right. Then glue plastic laminate to the outside end of each piece and trim. Laminate the front edge, and trim. Now, laminate the top surfaces, and trim.

2 Cut two lengths of 1½" continuous hinge to 33" long. Screw one to each back edge of the folding tables (T).

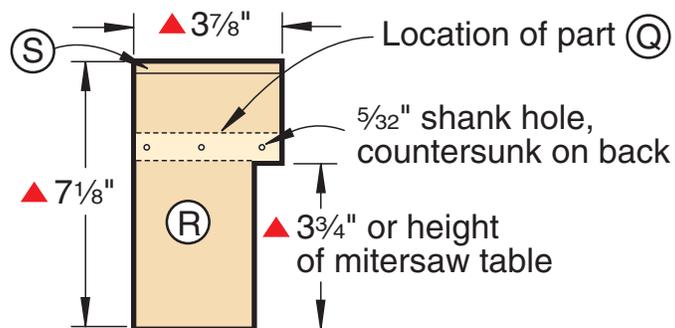
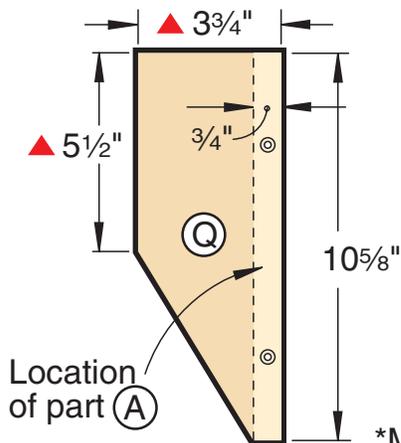
Make sure the hinge barrels are flush with the laminate surface.

3 Refer to the Folding Table Assembly drawing and cut out the left and right folding table supports (U) to shape.

4 Cut out the end and top edge banding pieces (V, W). Glue and clamp the end pieces to the folding table supports (U); then apply the top edge banding to these supports.



▲ Part dimensions could change depending on miter saw model you intend to use.



### SAW TABLE AND FENCE

\*Measurements of Q do not include plastic laminate.

**5** Lay the support flat on your workbench and clamp a folding table (T) on top of support (U) with the hinge edge at the location on the Folding Table Assembly drawing. Flush the ends, and screw the support to the folding table. Keep in mind that the support also serves as a saw fence; its height above the folding table should match the height of the miter saw cabinet fence (R) above saw table (Q). Make minor adjustments as needed. Then, repeat the process for the right folding table and support.

**6** Install the barrel bolts on the front faces of folding table supports (U). See the drawing *below, right*.

**7** Cut two more continuous hinges to fit. Now, screw these to the bottom of folding tables (T) and flush with

their unlaminated inside ends as shown in the Illustration C on *page 5*.

**8** To attach the folding tables, place your miter saw on the cabinet and align its fence with the saw fences (R). Bolt the miter saw to the cabinet.

Next, cut and place a straight, edge-jointed 2x4 on edge and against the aligned fences. Clamp it in position. Align one folding table assembly snugly beneath the 2x4 and clamp it in place. Screw it to the cabinet as shown Illustration D on *page 5*.

**9** Using a square, adjust the folding table support so it angles 90° to the folding table. Mark the hole location for the barrel bolt on the cabinet side (A) and drill the hole. Repeat *Steps 8 and 9* for the opposite folding table.

**10** Attach draw catches to the fences

to keep the tables from sagging.

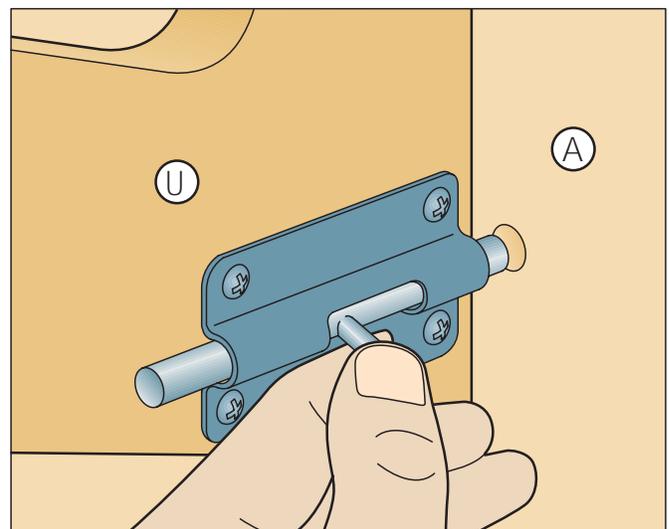
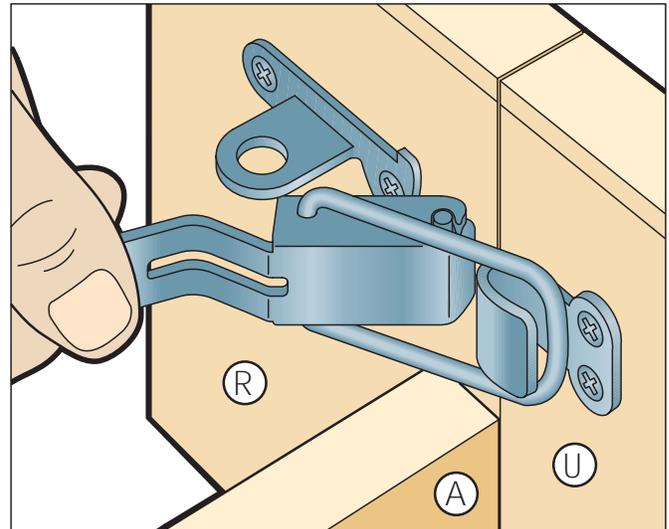
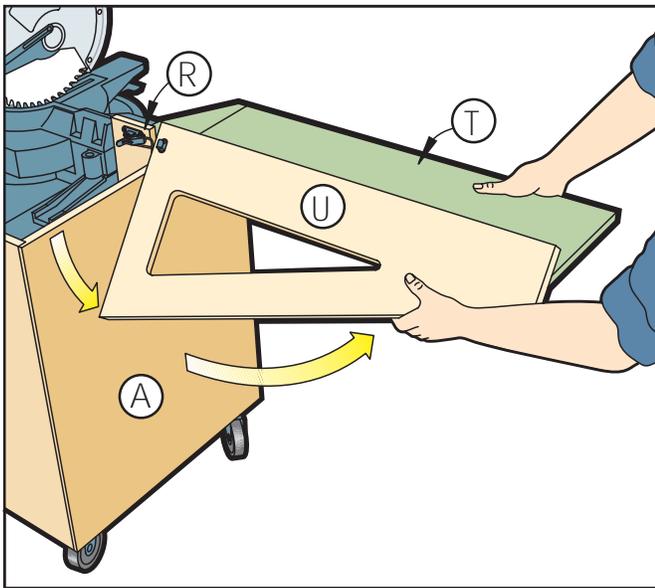
**11** Remove the hardware, then finish (we used polyurethane). Once dry, re-install the hardware.

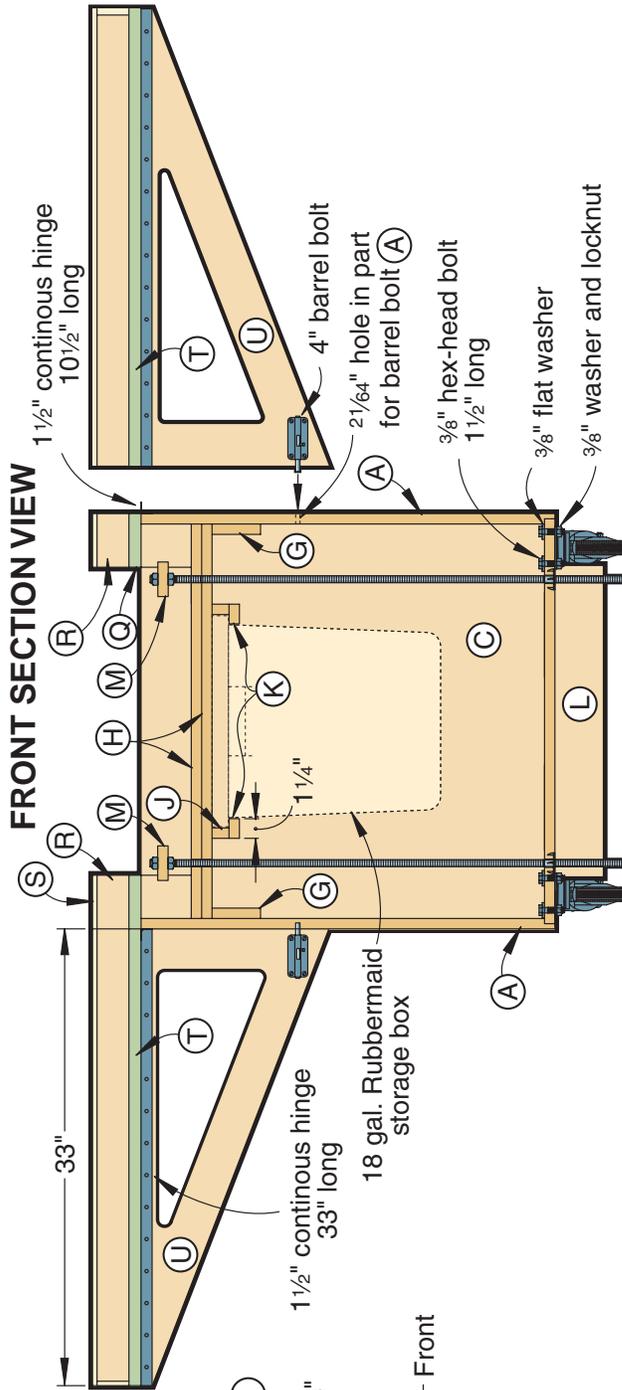
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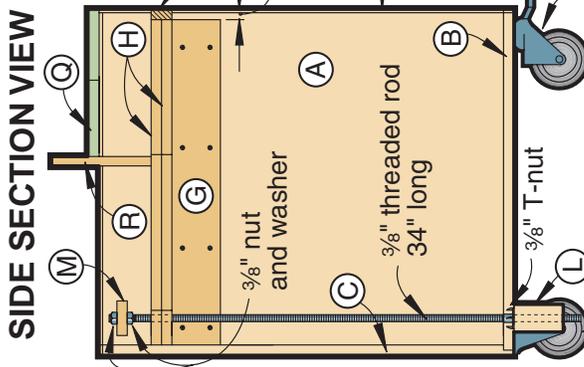
### Raising your folding tables for action

To use the folding tables, simply lift one table up, swing down the support until it's at a right angle to the table, and lock it in place using the barrel bolt and draw catch as shown.

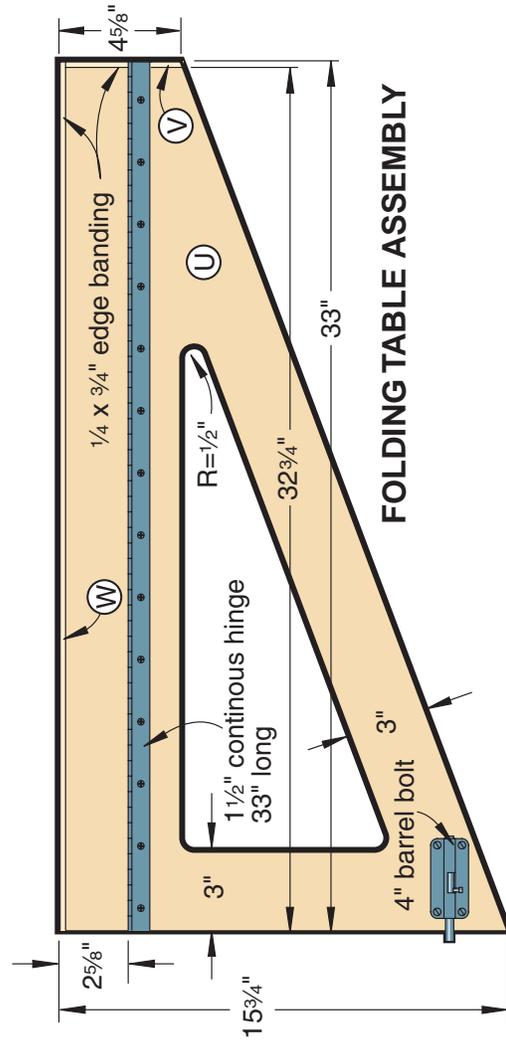




FRONT SECTION VIEW

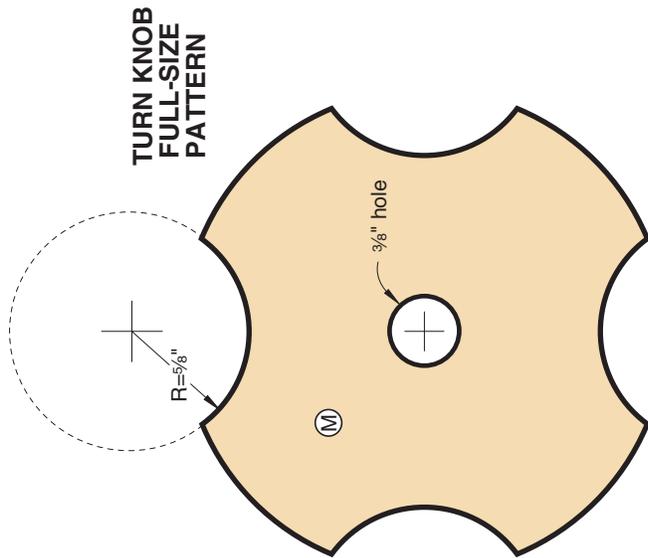


SIDE SECTION VIEW

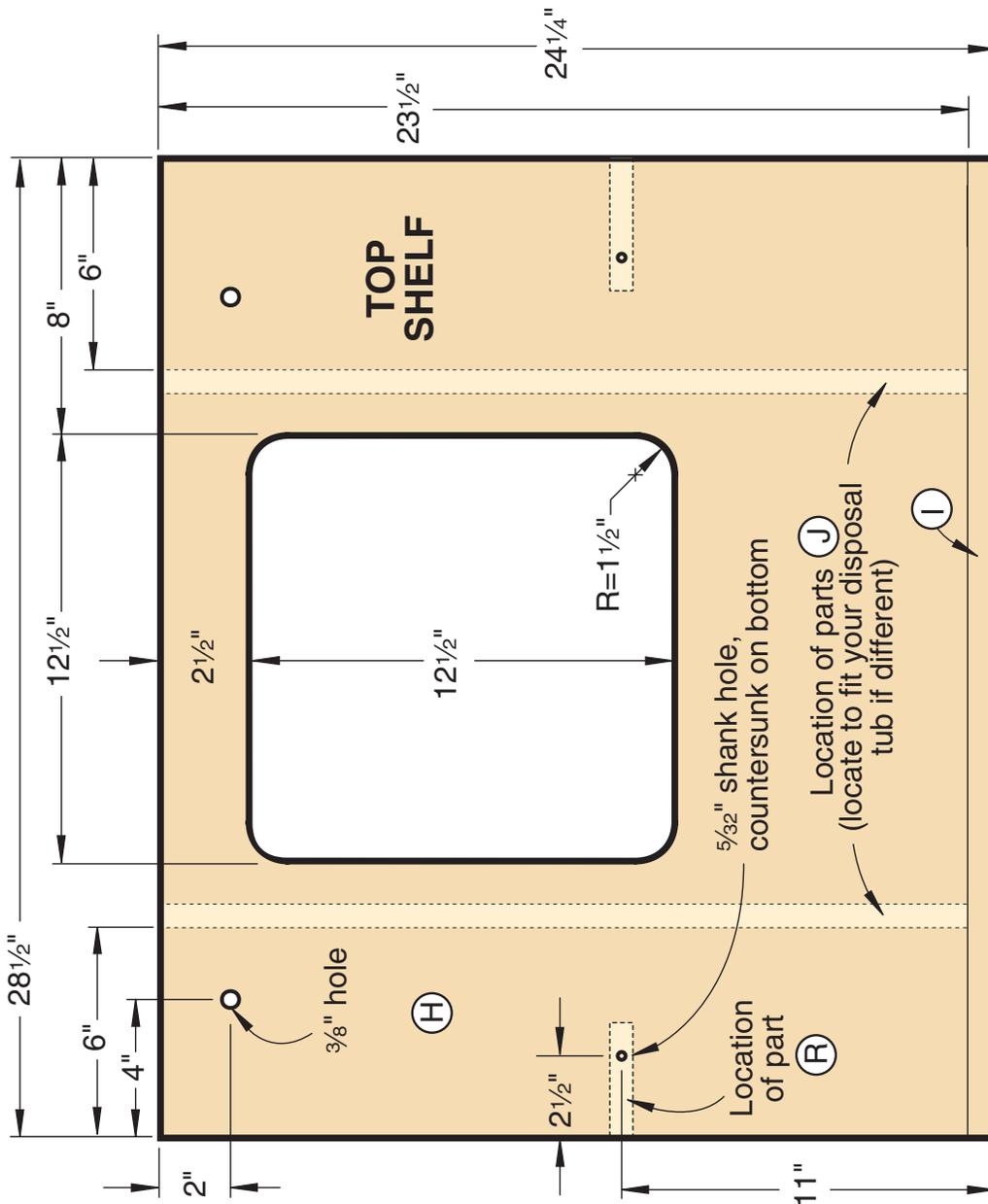
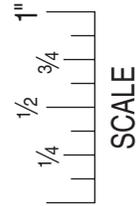


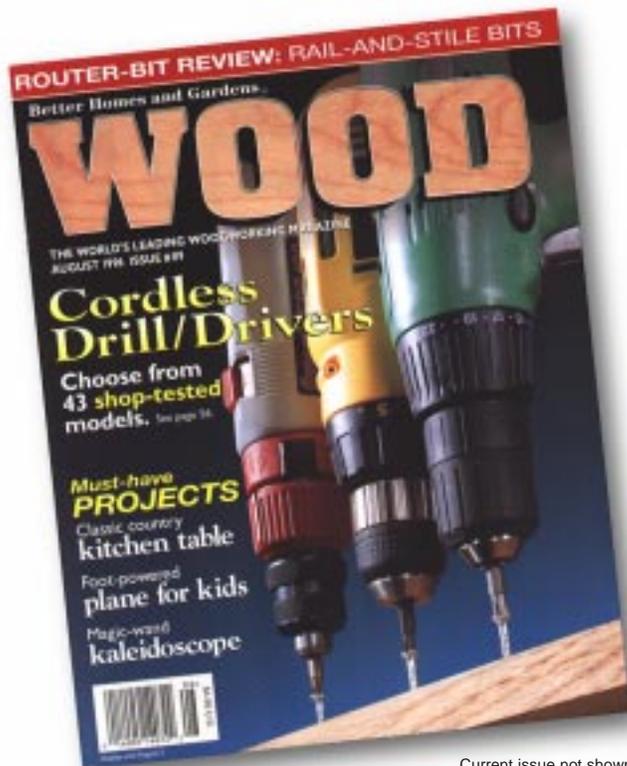
FOLDING TABLE ASSEMBLY

- 4" heavy duty swivel casters with brakes (on the front) #128461 Woodcraft
- 4" heavy duty fixed casters (on the back) #128461 Woodcraft



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