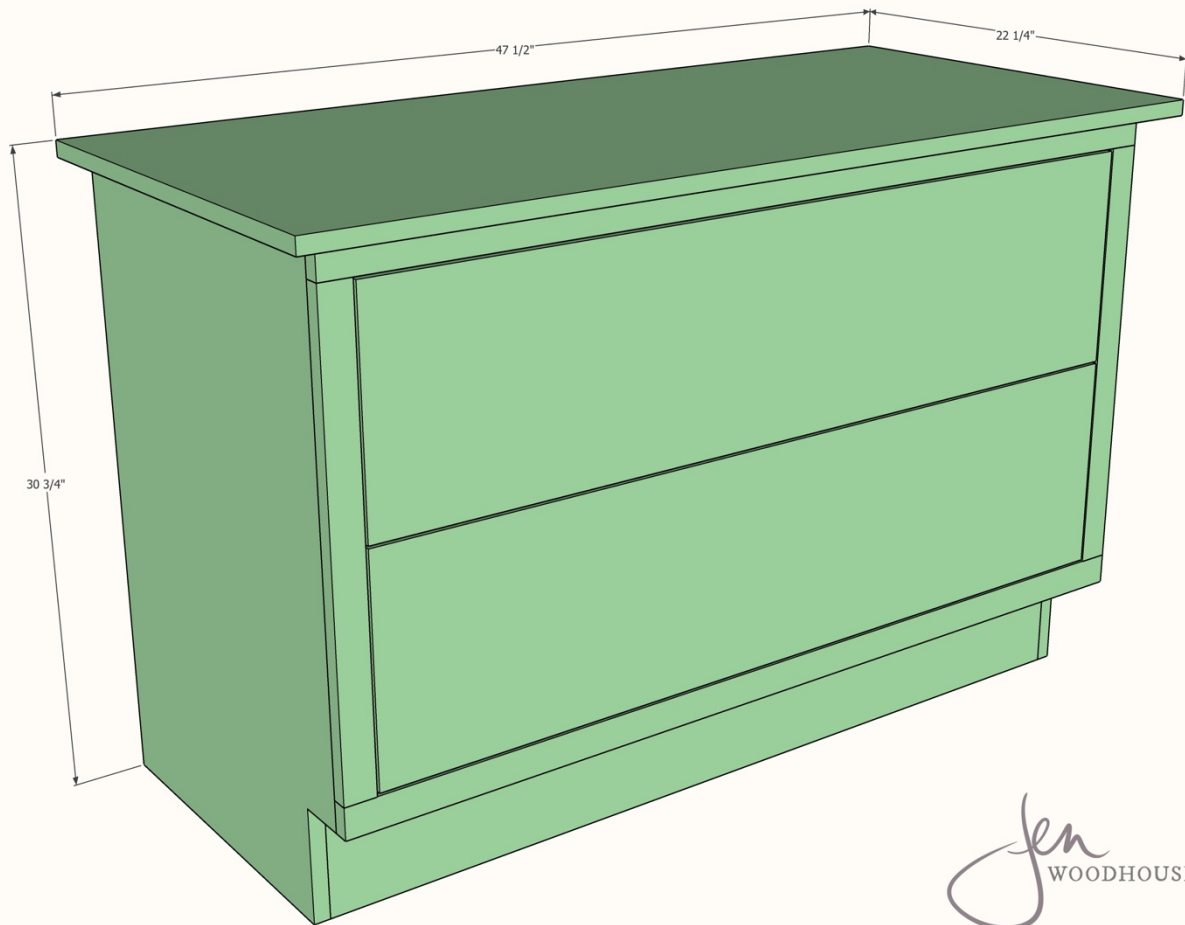


DIY BUILT-IN FILE CABINET



MATERIALS

- ☐ (2) 4 x 8 Ft. Sheets of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch Hardwood Plywood
- ☐ (2) 1 x 3 x 8 Ft. Boards
- ☐ (2) 1 x 2 x 8 Ft. Boards
- ☐ (4) 36-inch Long $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch Square Dowels
- ☐ (2) Sets of Heavy Duty Full Extension 18-inch Drawer Slides
- ☐ (4) Cabinet Pulls
- ☐ 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch Pocket Screws
- ☐ 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch Wood Screws
- ☐ 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch Brad Nails
- ☐ 1-inch Staples (optional)
- ☐ Wood Glue

TOOLS:

- Tape Measure
- Pencil
- Carpenter's Square
- Cordless Drill/Driver
- Table Saw or Circular Saw
- Jig Saw
- Pocket Hole Jig
- Brad Nailer
- Stapler (optional)
- Clamps

CUT LIST

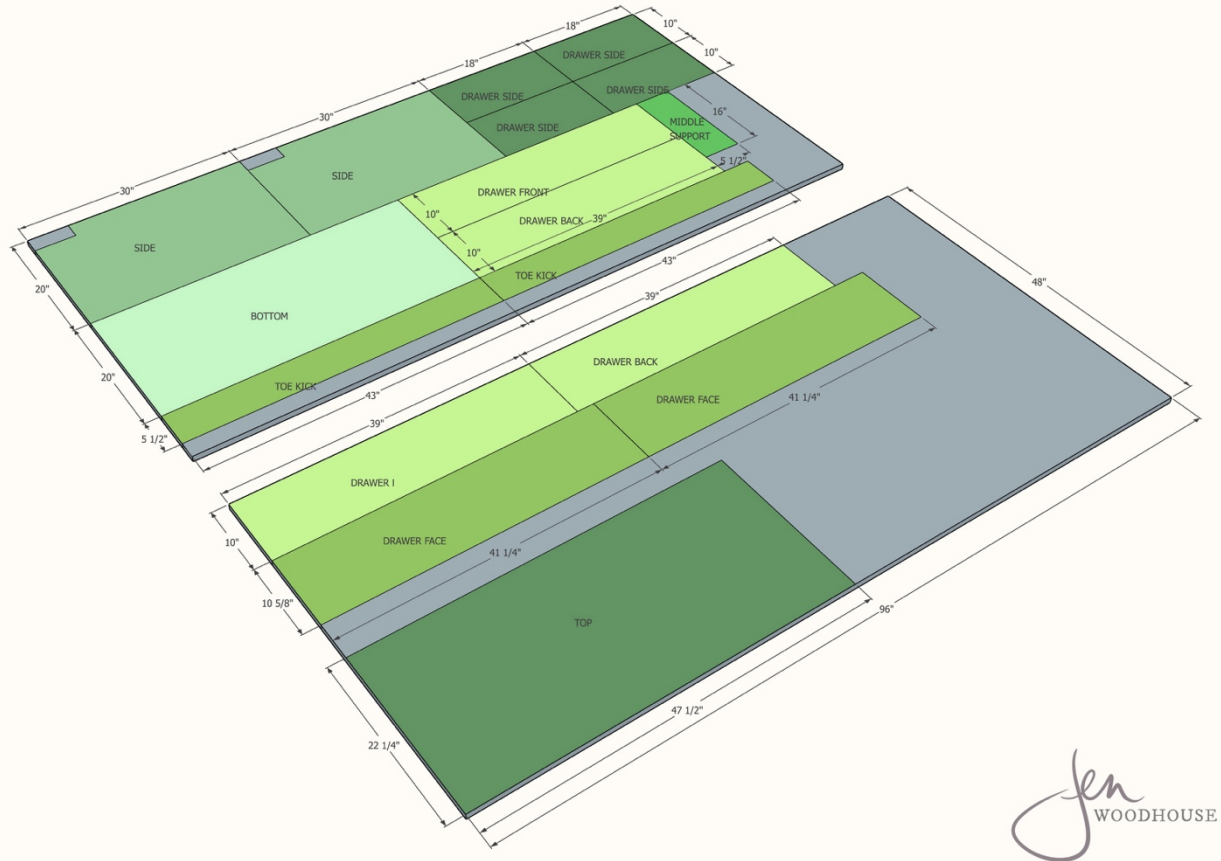
- ☐ (2) ¾-inch plywood @ 30 inches x 20 inches (sides)
- ☐ (2) ¾-inch plywood @ 43 inches x 5 ½ inches (toe kicks)
- ☐ (1) ¾-inch plywood @ 16 inches x 5 ½ inches (middle support)
- ☐ (1) ¾-inch plywood @ 43 inches x 20 inches (bottom)
- ☐ (3) 1x3 @ 43 inches (supports)
- ☐ (4) 1x2 @ 20 inches (drawer slide supports)
- ☐ (2) 1x2 @ 44 ½ inches (face frame rails)
- ☐ (2) 1x2 @ 21 ½ inches (face frame stiles)
- ☐ (1) ¾-inch plywood @ 47 ½ inches x 22 ¼ inches (top)

DRAWERS

- ☐ (4) ¾-inch plywood @ 39 inches x 10 inches (fronts/back)
- ☐ (4) ¾-inch plywood @ 18 inches x 10 inches (sides)
- ☐ (2) ¾-inch plywood @ 40 ½ inches x 18 inches (bottoms)
- ☐ (2) ¾-inch plywood @ 41 ¼ inches x 10 5/8 inches (faces)
- ☐ (4) ¾-inch plywood @ 17 ¼ inches x 9 ¼ inches (*dividers)
- ☐ (8) ¼-inch square dowels @ 16 ½ inches (*file folder rails)
- ☐ (4) 1x2 @ 16 ½ inches (*outer file folder supports)

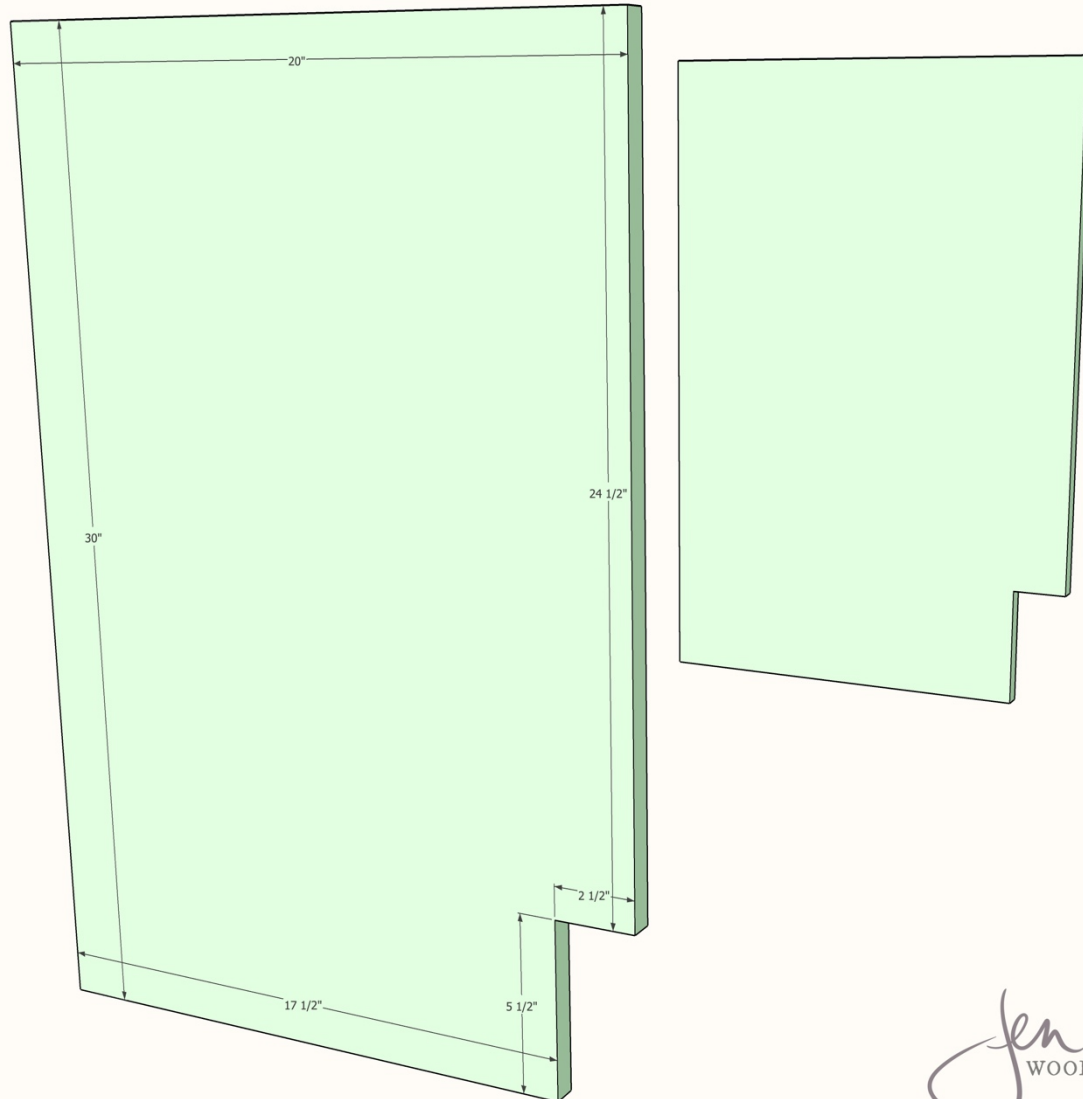
**See my notes regarding the drawer dividers. I've included an easy and intermediate version. Your measurements may vary depending on which route you choose.*

PLYWOOD CUT LAYOUT



**Drawer dividers are optional and are not included in the plywood cut layout above. However, should you choose to make them, you should have enough scrap plywood left to do so.*

FIG.1



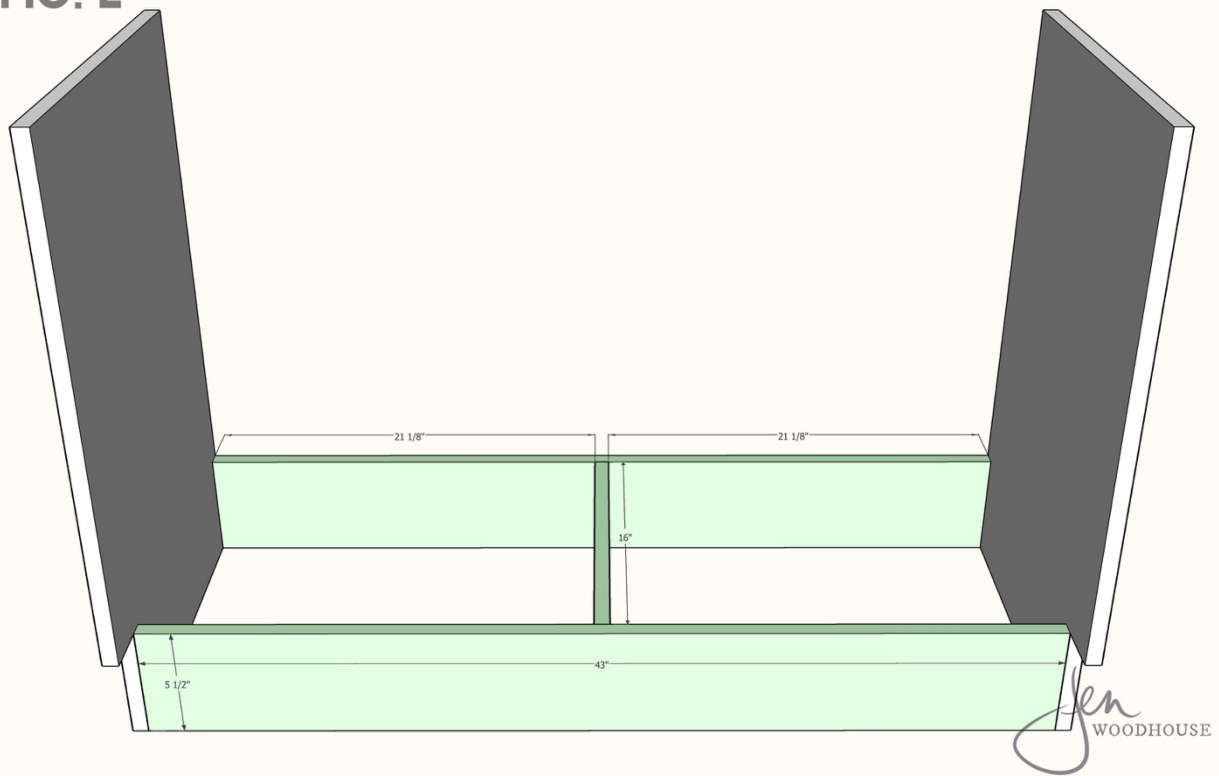
jen
WOODHOUSE

STEP 1 – CUT AND NOTCH THE SIDE PANELS

Measure, mark, and cut the side panels to size. Use a jigsaw to cut out notches for the toe kick. Our baseboards are 5 ½ inches tall, so this is the measurement I included in the plan. Be sure to notch out your toe kicks accordingly, so that they are able to accommodate your baseboards.

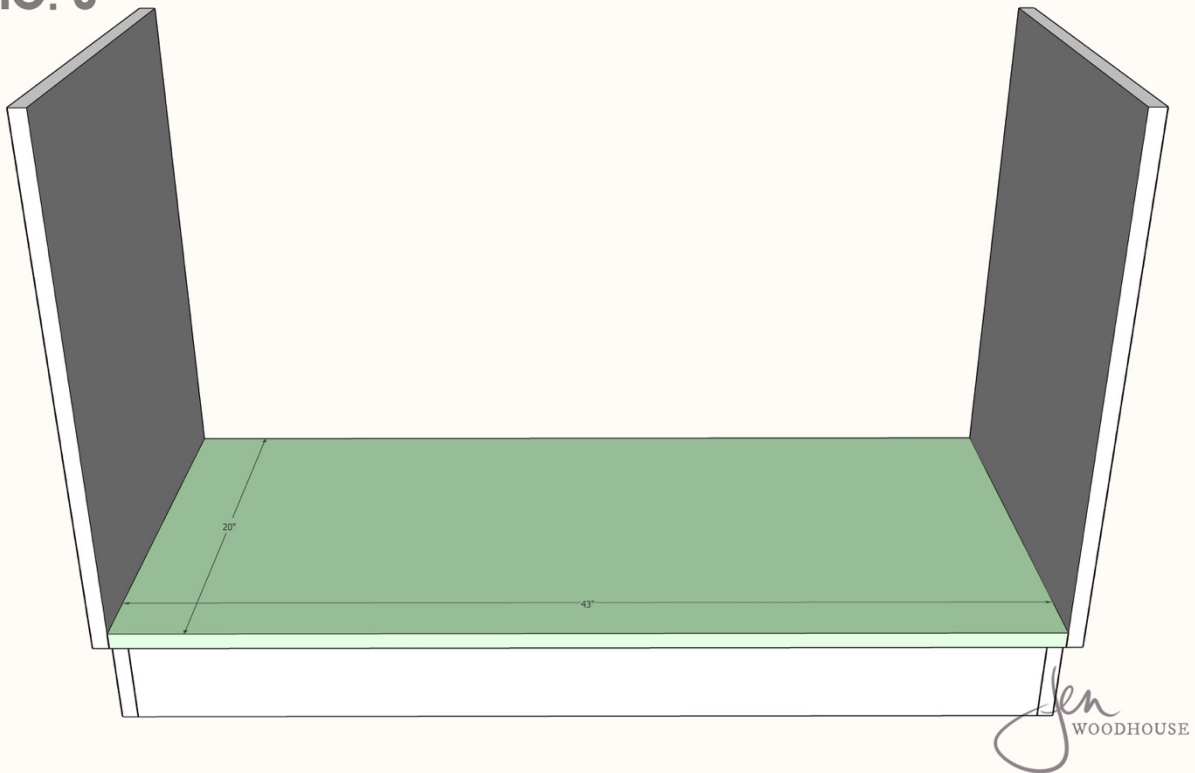
**Pro Tip: clamp both panels together and cut as one to ensure they're identical.*

FIG. 2

**STEP 2 – ADD THE TOE KICKS**

Measure, mark, and cut toe kicks and middle support board to size. Drill $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pocket holes into the ends of these boards and attach as shown with 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch pocket screws and wood glue.

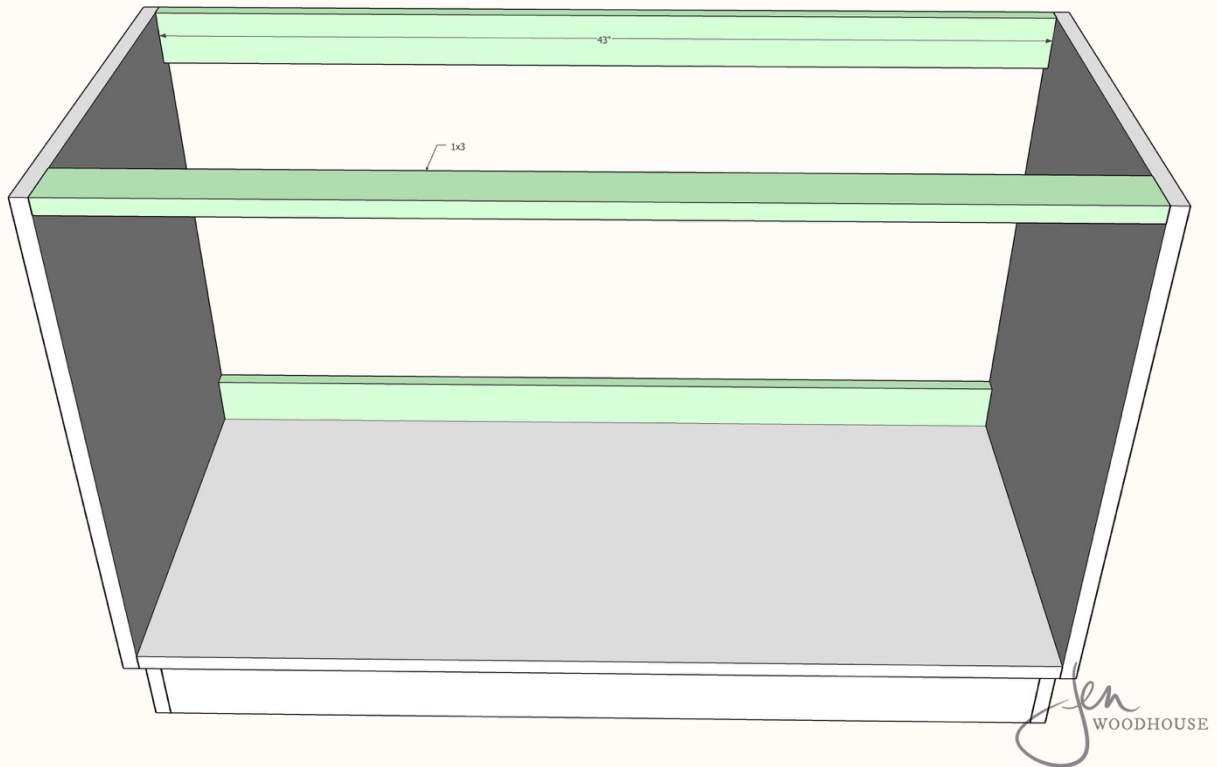
FIG. 3



STEP 3 – ADD THE BOTTOM

Measure, mark, and cut bottom panel to size. Attach to the base with 1 ¼-inch brad nails and wood glue.

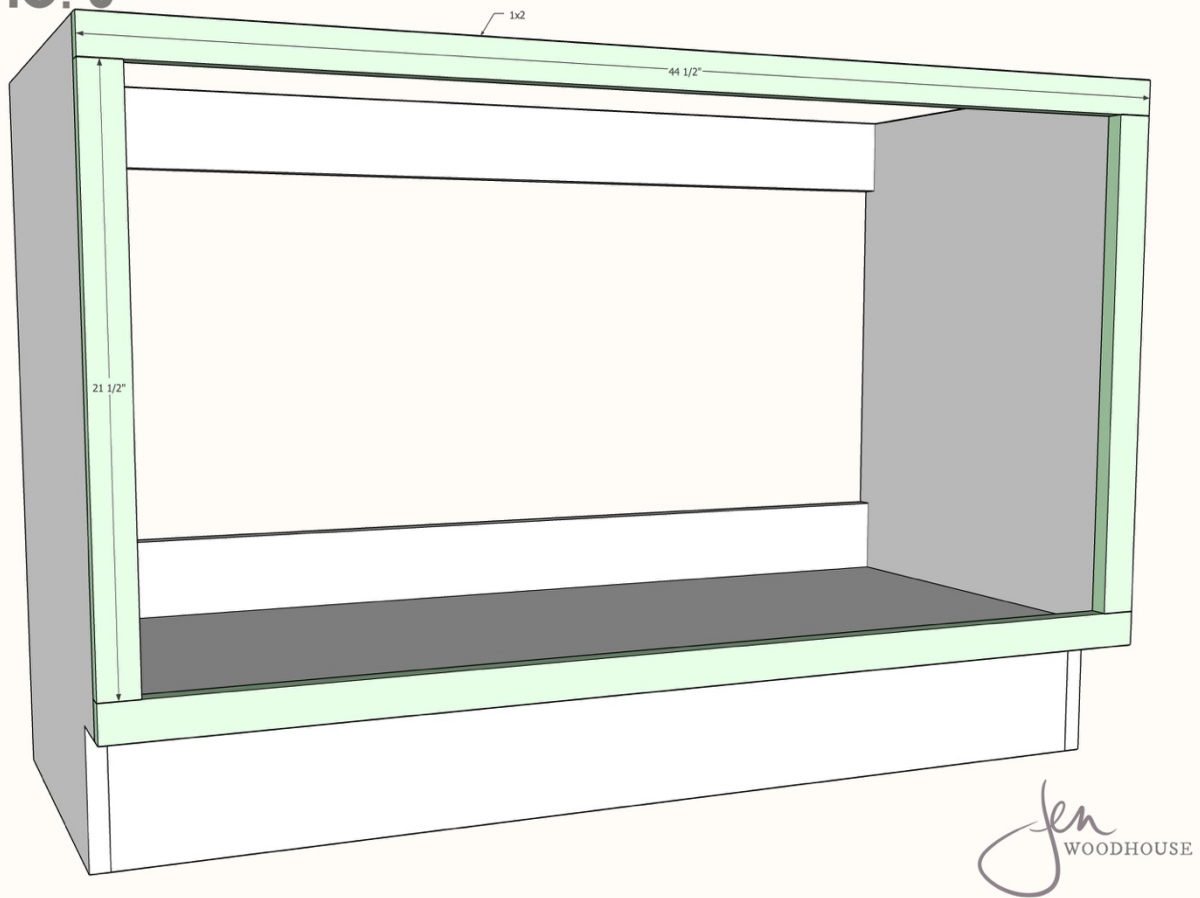
FIG. 4



STEP 4 – ADD THE SUPPORT RAILS

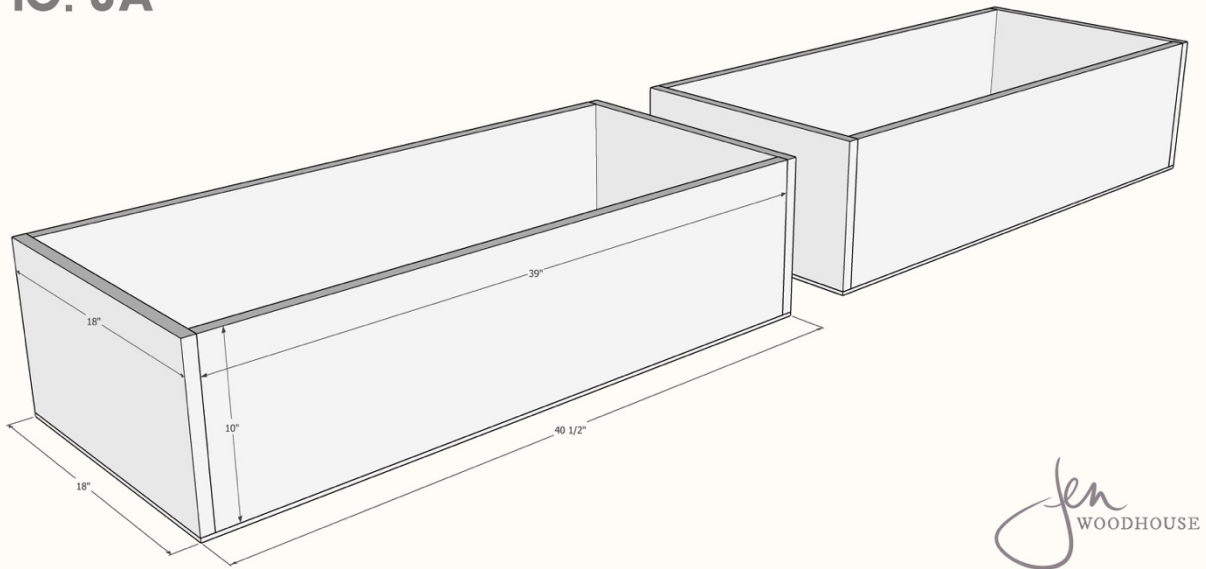
Measure, mark, and cut 1x3 supports to length. Drill $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pocket holes into the ends and attach as shown with 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch pocket screws and wood glue.

FIG. 5

**STEP 5 – ADD THE FACE FRAME**

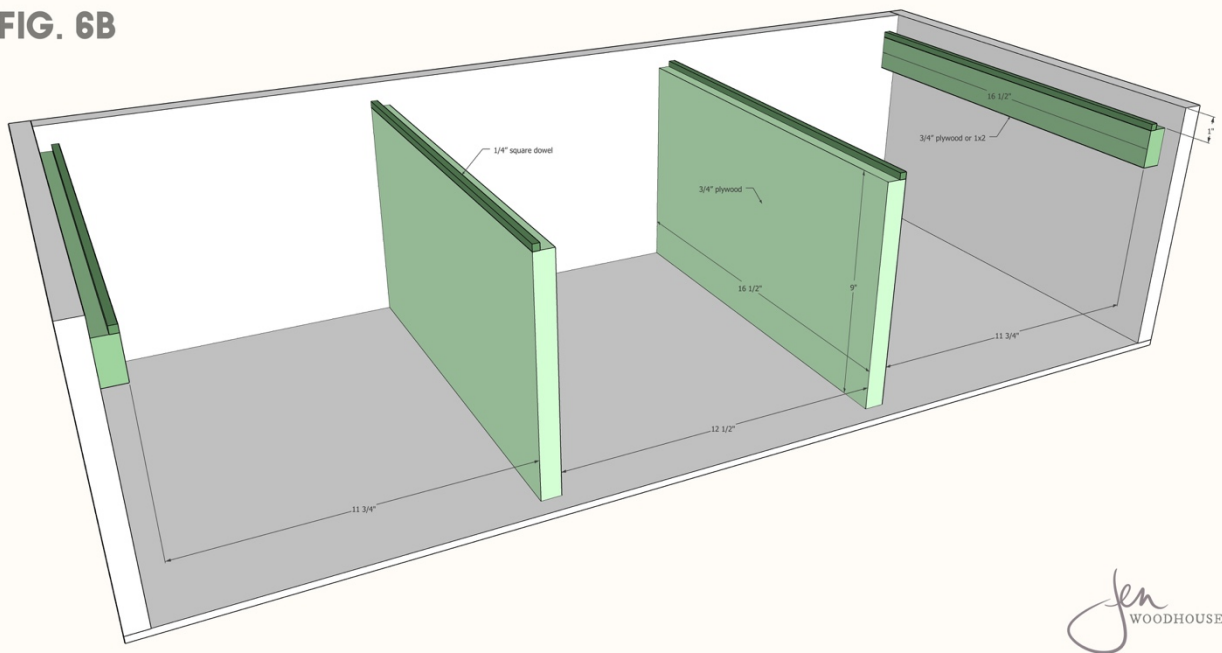
Measure, mark, and cut 1x2 boards to length. Drill $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pocket holes into the ends of the stiles and construct the frame with $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch pocket screws and wood glue. Check for square and adjust as needed. Attach the constructed face frame to the cabinet with $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch brad nails and wood glue.

FIG. 6A

**STEP 6a – BUILD THE DRAWER BOXES (easy version)**

Measure, mark, and cut drawer parts to size. Drill $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pocket holes into the ends of the front and back boards. Construct the box as shown with 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch pocket screws and wood glue. Check for square and adjust as necessary. Attach the bottom panel with wood glue and staples or brad nails.

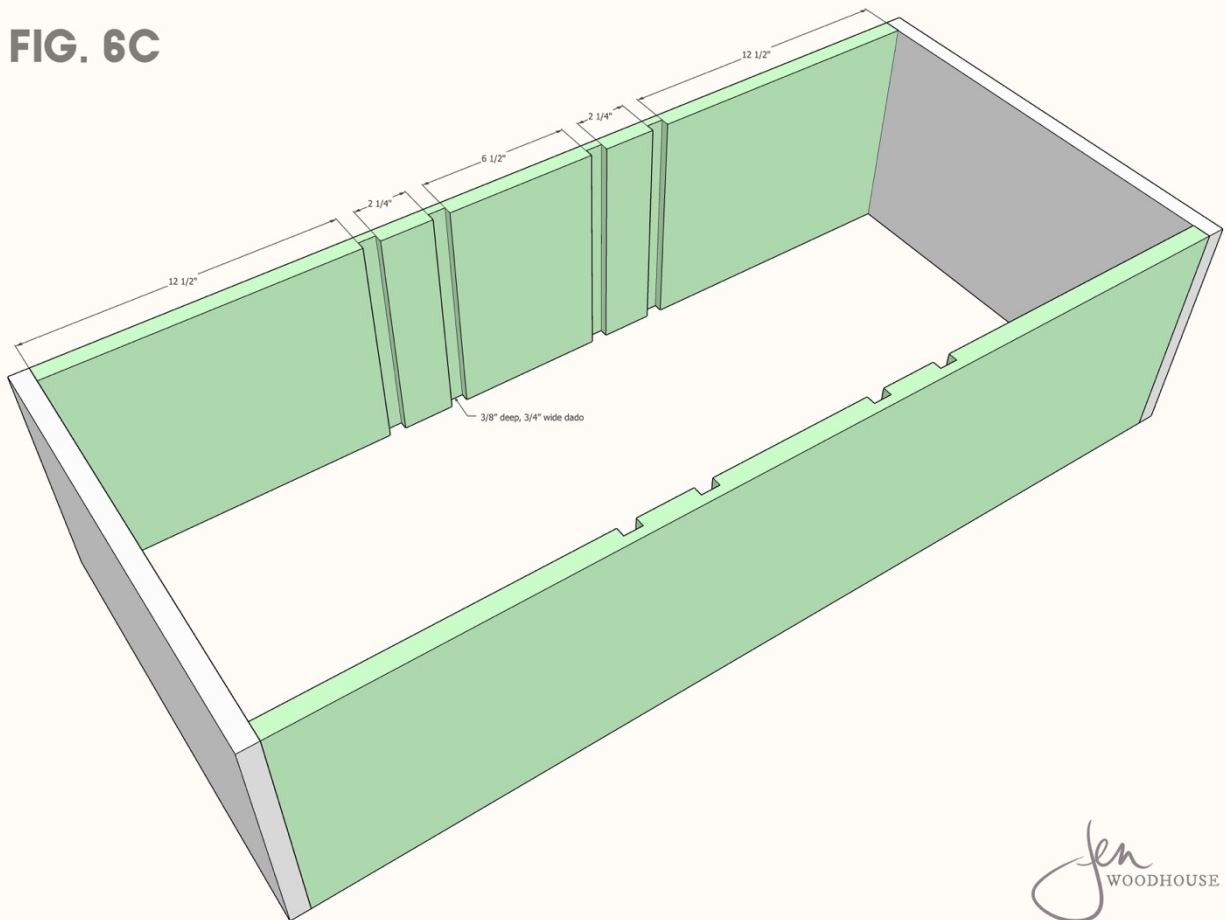
FIG. 6B

**STEP 6b – INSTALL DRAWER DIVIDERS (easy version)**

Cut $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood dividers to size and cut square dowels to length. Drill $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pocket holes into the front and back edges of the dividers. Glue dowels to the dividers as shown. Clamp and

allow glue to dry. Slide the dividers into place and secure them to the drawer box with 1 ¼-inch pocket screws (*Fig. 6b shows the drawer box without the front, for better viewing purposes*).

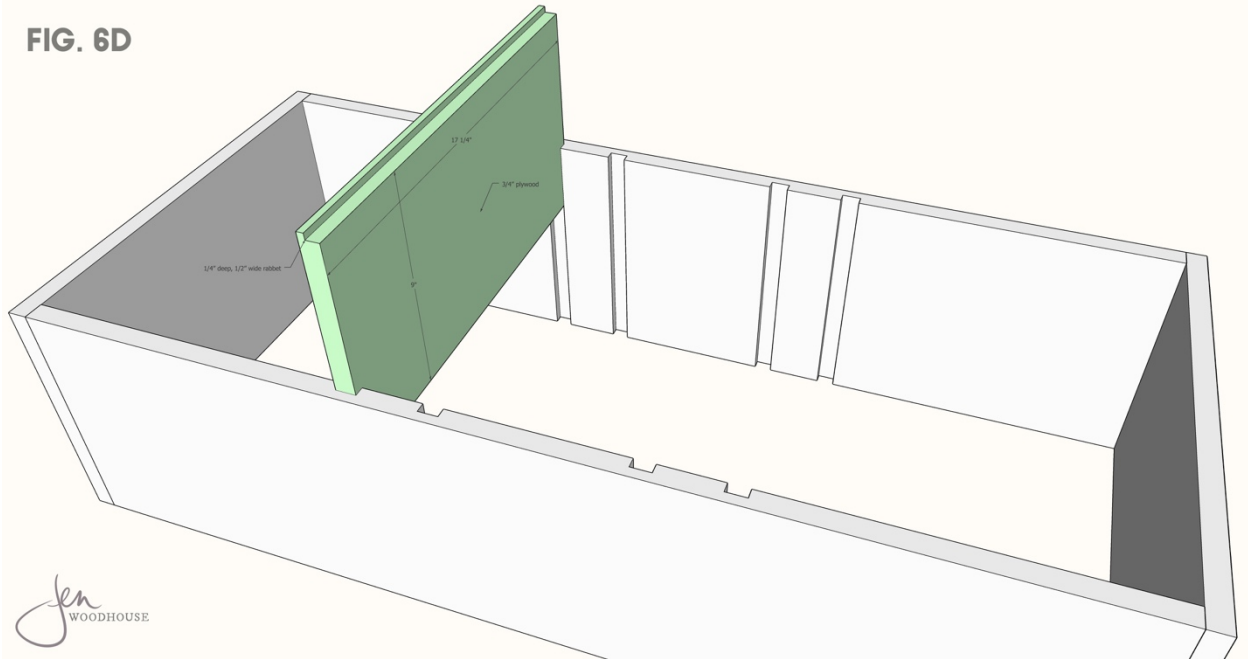
FIG. 6C



STEP 6C – BUILD THE DRAWER BOXES (intermediate version)

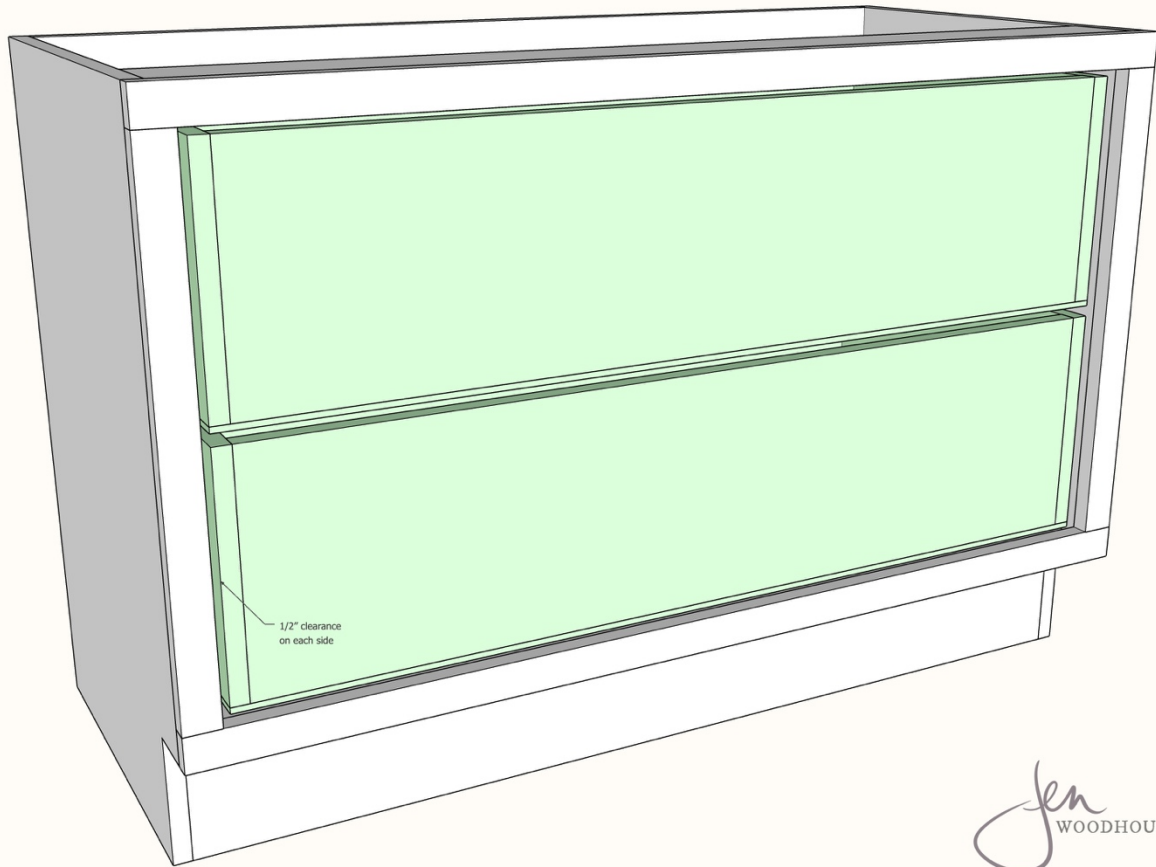
Measure, mark, and cut drawer parts to size. Drill ¾-inch pocket holes into the ends of the front and back boards. Cut 3/8-inch deep, ¼-inch wide dadoes into the front and back parts as shown. This will be so that you can slide the dividers in for letter and legal size hanging file folders. Construct the drawer box with 1 ¼-inch pocket screws and wood glue. Check for square and adjust as necessary. Add the bottom panel with wood glue and staples or brad nails.

FIG. 6D

**STEP 6D – MAKE THE DRAWER DIVIDERS (intermediate version)**

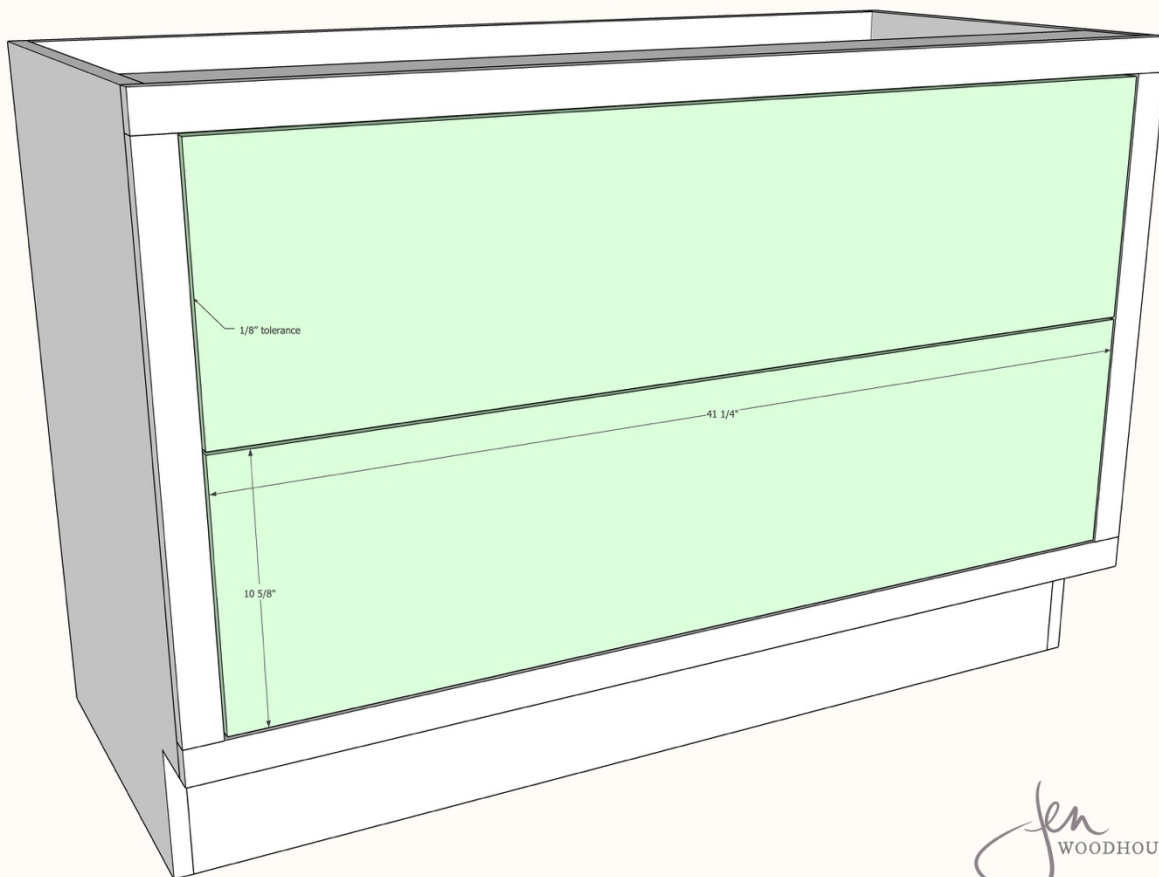
Measure, mark, and cut plywood drawer dividers to size. Cut $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch deep, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide rabbets into the top edges as shown. This will be so that the hanging file folders have a rail to slide along.

FIG. 7

**STEP 7 – INSTALL DRAWER SLIDES**

Measure, mark, and cut 1x2 drawer slide supports to length. Determine the height you'll install the drawer slides (I typically position the drawer slides towards the middle of the drawer box) and glue and nail the 1x2s onto the side panels. These boards serve as a spacer so that the drawer slides are able to clear the face frame.

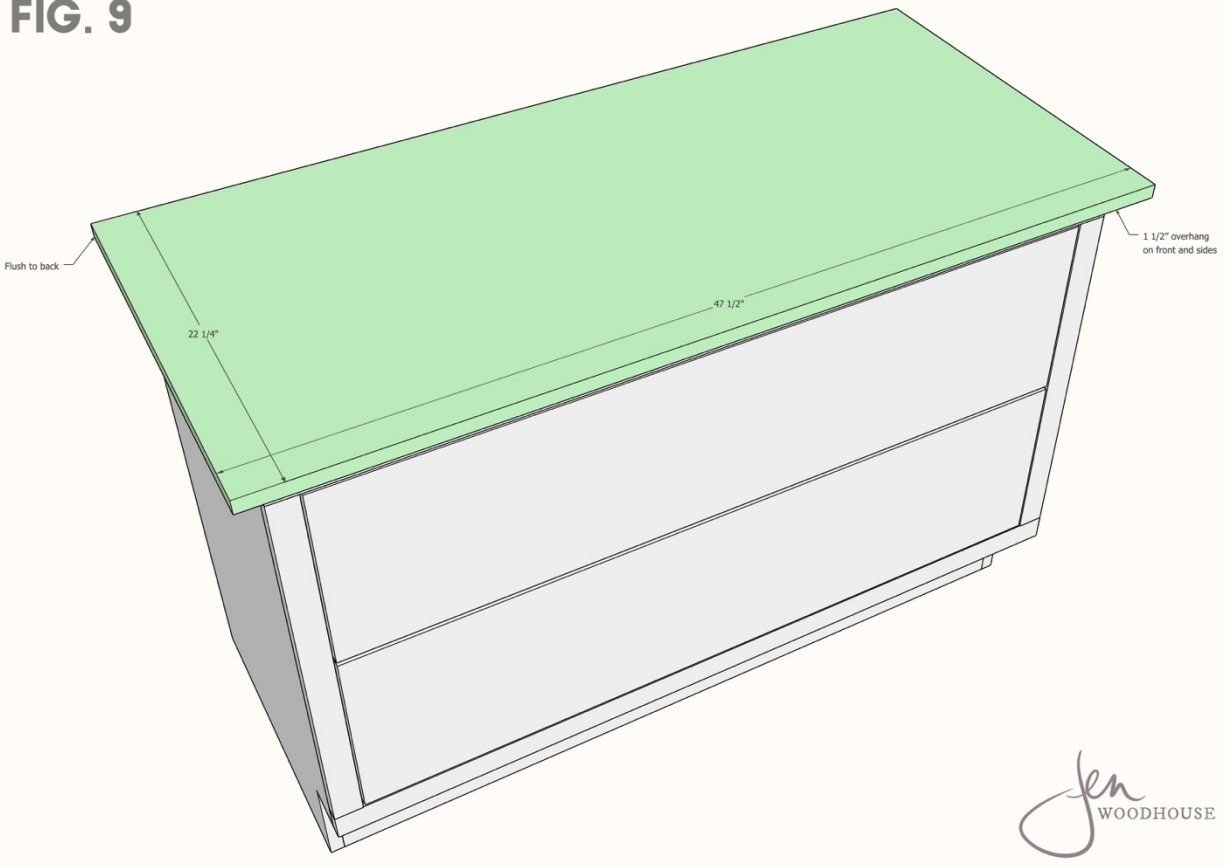
Install the drawer slides according to the manufacturer's directions. I share how I install drawer slides the easy way in my YouTube video!

FIG. 8**STEP 8 – ATTACH DRAWER FACE**

Measure, mark, and cut drawer face to size. Position face with 1/8-inch gap around all the sides and clamp in place. Pre-drill holes from the inside of the drawer box and screw the drawer face on with 1 ¼-inch wood screws.

Install drawer pulls.

FIG. 9

**STEP 9 – ATTACH THE TOP**

Measure, mark, and cut top to size. Position the top so that it's flush to the back, with a 1 ½-inch overhang on the front and sides. Attach the top to the cabinet base with 1 ¼-inch wood screws and wood glue.

Sand, paint and/or stain, and finish as desired.

When installing the cabinet in the room, be sure to screw the 1x3 supports and side panels to the studs in the wall, to ensure the cabinet doesn't tip forward when the drawers are open.

Be safe, take your time, have fun, and message me with any questions you might have! Happy building!

MORE HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- Blog post: <https://jenwoodhouse.com/diy-built-in-cabinets/>
- YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul75WOprOGk>
- Follow [@jenwoodhouse](https://www.instagram.com/jenwoodhouse) on Instagram
- Find more premium project plans on www.sprucedmarket.com