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CHINA HUNT



ARE YOU LOOKING for a showpiece china hutch to display your elegant chinaware, antique vase, or collectibles? Here's the perfect cabinet for you, with lots of transparent glass to show off your treasures. It even has an elegantly wallpapered hatching that can be changed at will. Select the decorative hardware to match the decor of your room—bright, brassy and modern or dark and intricate Mediterranean, or even sleek Oriental. You'll find a wide variety of handles and drawer pulls in all styles at any good hardware shop.

Choose flat defect-free boards in the wood of your choice for the frame. Rip them on the table saw into strips 13/4" wide. Remove all saw marks with a plane or jointer. Do not remove too much stock, just enough to clean the edges. Cut the strips to the various lengths. For the front, you will need three strips cut to 28 1/2". These are for the crosspieces. You will also need one piece 5 3/4" x 28 1/2" to be used for the lower section.

Drill dowel holes as indicated; the use of a doweling jig and dowel centers is recommended. Mark off the hole locations and drill into the ends of the crosspieces. Make the holes 3/8" in diameter and 1 1/16" deep. Because of the narrow width (1 3/4") use only one dowel per joint. The jig will automatically center the hole. After drilling the crosspieces, use dowel centers to transfer the hole locations to the uprights. Use two dowels for the wide bottom piece.

Before assembling the parts to make up the frame section, prepare the clamps by opening them up to size; also have some scrap strips of wood at hand for protecting the work surface from the clamp jaws. Bar clamps are ideal for this operation. Dab some glue on the dowels, insert into the drilled holes, then coat the mating surfaces with glue and join. Use adequate pressure on the clamps to force glue from the joint, but do not overtighten. Check the frame to be certain that it is square, then set aside while the glue dries.

Prepare the side crosspieces and the rear uprights. These are drilled and assembled much like the front frame, the only difference being that the depth of the dowel holes differs. The holes are drilled 1 1/2" deep into the 9 1/4" crosspieces and 1/2" deep into the uprights.

After drilling the necessary holes into the rear uprights, rabbet the edge to take the rear panel. Because the uprights are only 3/4" X 3/4" in cross section, a double pass on the table saw is recommended rather than using the router.

The side frames are assembled by gluing the crosspieces to the rear uprights. These are then glued to the front frame. Again, use the dowel centers to locate the holes for the dowels from the crosspieces to the front frame.

The frame at this stage will be somewhat flimsy, so handle with care. The addition of the shelves is the next step. This will make the frame rigid and strong. Cut the frames to size, then drill diagonal holes through the bottom of the three lower shelves. The top piece is drilled from the top side. Use 1 1/2" round head (RH) screws to attach the shelves.

The frames for the doors and side panels are made next. Cut the necessary pieces and assemble them with 3" finishing nails. Pilot holes for the nails must be drilled to simplify nailing and to prevent splitting. Note: Space the nails so they won't be cut with the router later on when making the rabbets for the glass.

The side panels will be held in place with screws which must not show in the finished cabinet. This is accomplished by drilling screw holes in the rabbeted area where the glass molding will conceal them. Drill the holes before assembling the panels.

When all the panels are assembled, rabbet them for the glass and cut the decorative bead using the router. Sand all edges and surfaces, then install into the frame. The nose and cove molding is added using glue and spring clamps to hold them in place. Miter all corners and use care not to mar the molding surface. A piece of felt glued under the clamp jaws is recommended.

Door panels are made with sufficient allowance for the strip hinges. The left-hand doors have a door stop added. The right-hand doors are beveled at the left edge to clear the other door. When installing the strip hinges, use only the end holes until you have checked fit. If fit is okay, you can then add the balance of the screws.

The bottom door which opens horizontally is treated in the same manner. Instead of glass, it has a 1/4" back panel. In addition, it has an insert to improve its appearance. This insert is simply a piece of 3/8" solid lumber which drops into the panel opening.

Add the plywood inserts to the bottom panels of the side pieces. These are glued into place.

Next add the decorative strips around the top of the cabinet. This is made by rabbeting a long strip of 1 1/4" stock which is then cut apart and mitered. Hold it in place with screws and glue.

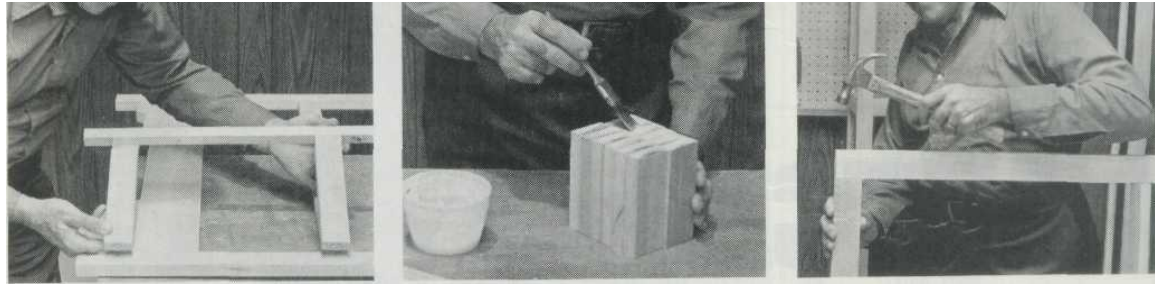
The rear panel of 1/4" plywood is *not* nailed to the cabinet. Instead it is screwed so that it can be removed as desired to change the decorative paper background. Use round head screws.

Drill the holes for the various pieces of hardware. Mount and check fit. Remove hardware when applying finish, then replace.

Finish the cabinet as desired. You can stain the wood and top with several coats of varnish for an antique look.



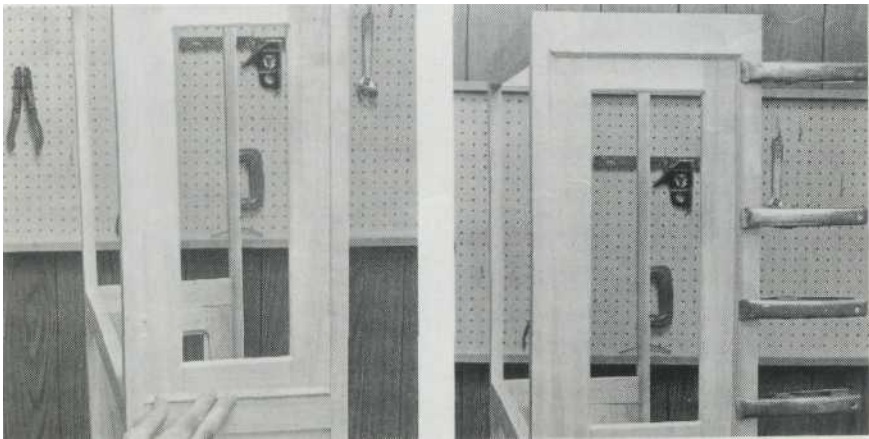
The frame sections of the china hutch are assembled with the aid of glue and spiral dowels. Dowel centers are recommended to



This photo more clearly shows how locating pins are used to transfer the dowel holes from the edge to front of frame. Use bar clamps till glue dries

Shown here is how the end grain of the crosspieces are given a sizing coat of glue. Sized glue is made by mixing equal measurements of

The upper, center, and lower panels are assembled with glue and nails. Pilot holes are drilled before nailing to prevent the thin wood from



The edges of the panels are dressed up with the application of nose and cove molding. This molding can be bought at lumber yards, home decorating centers.

You won't need to use nails to apply the molding if you follow the technique shown here. The molding is simply glued into place, held by clamps until dry



The inside edges of the panels must be rabbeted to accept the glass; they are re-moveable so that glass can easily be replaced in the event they are broken.

