Fine Tool Chest

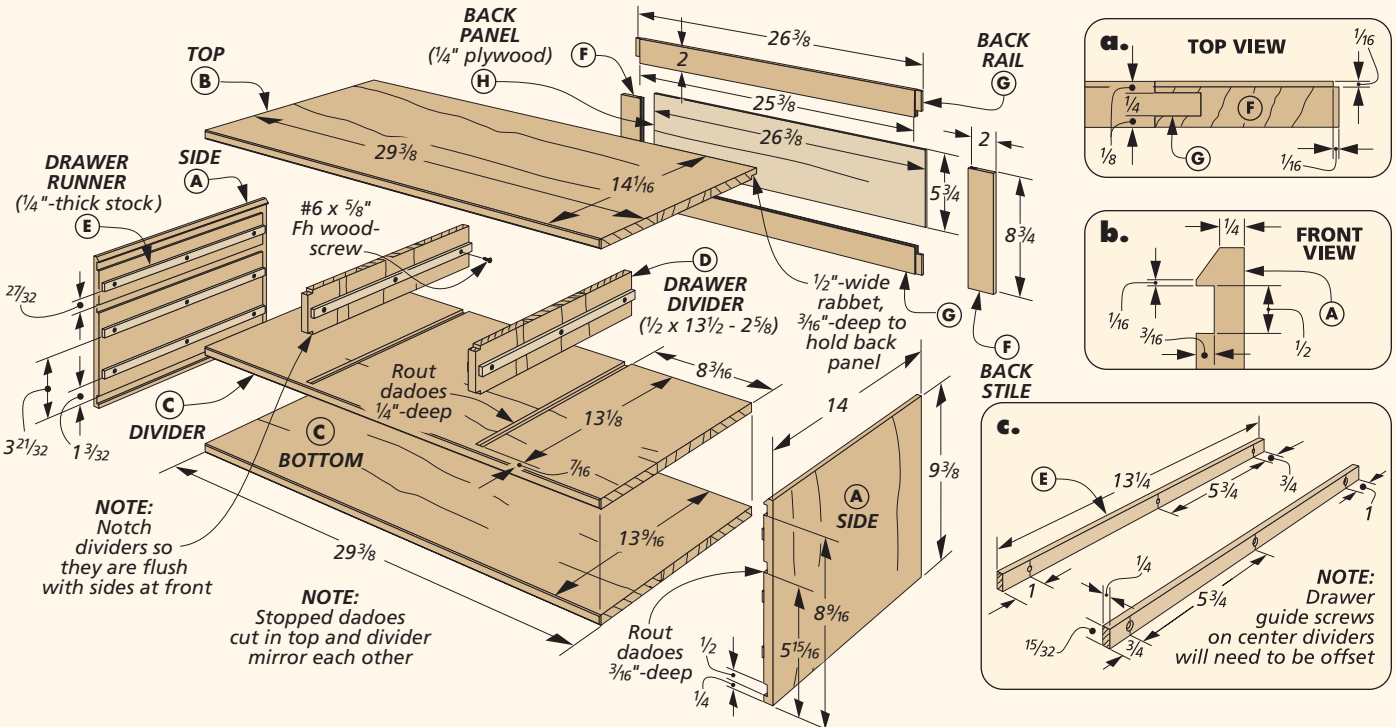
It's the perfect place for your best hand tools and works great alone or sitting on the tool cabinet.

When it comes to keeping and organizing my favorite hand tools, I wanted to make a special case for them. So I built this tool chest. You can build it to sit on top of the tool cabinet shown on page 34, or your workbench. The construction of this chest is very similar to the tool cabinet — just on a smaller scale, as in the exploded view below.

BUILDING THE CASE. To build the tool chest, I started by assembling the case. The ½"-thick top, bottom and divider are joined to the chest sides with 3/16"-deep dadoes.

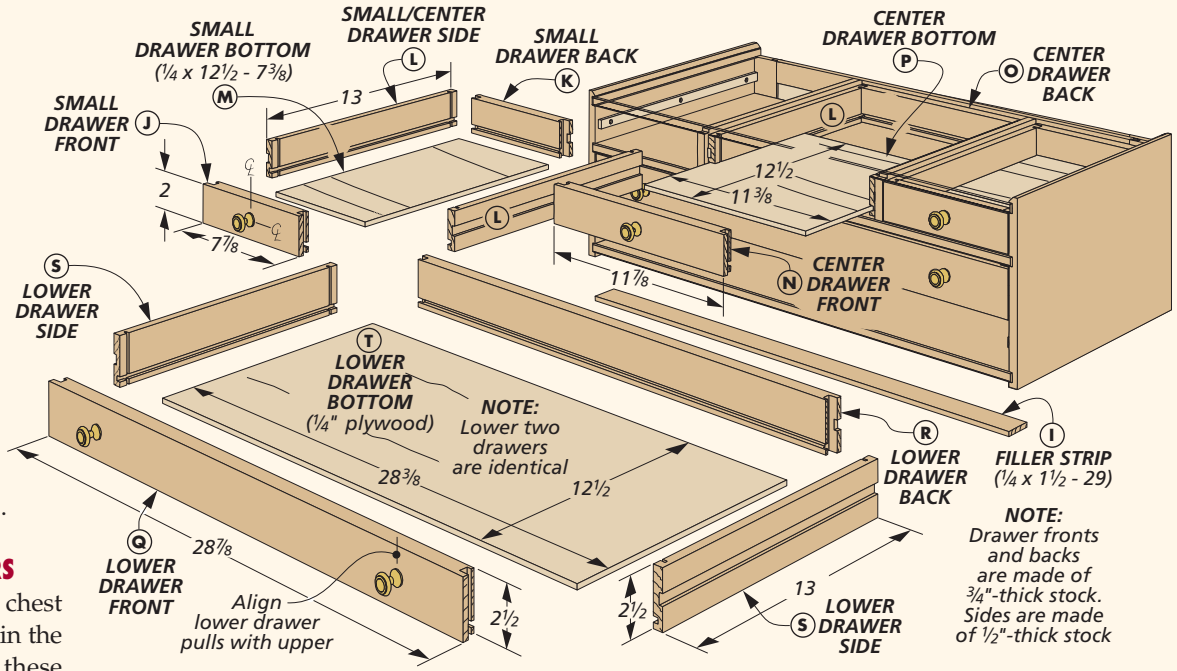
A pair of stopped dadoes in the top and divider hold drawer dividers for three narrow drawers. They're notched at the front so that they'll sit flush with the sides, as in the exploded view. The horizontal parts all have a small chamfer cut on the front edges to match the chamfer on the top of the sides.

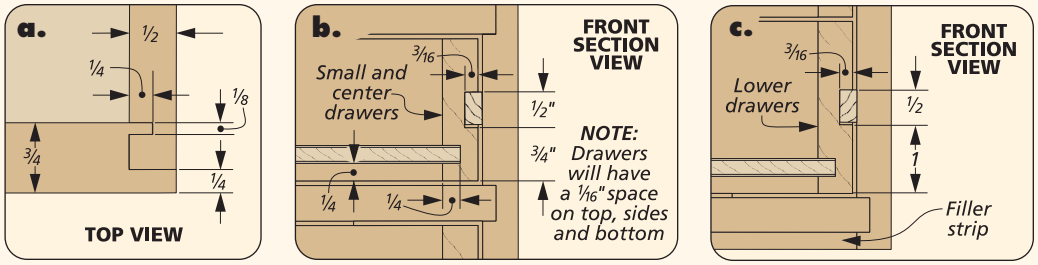
The frame and panel back of the tool chest is glued into a stopped



rabbet cut in the case sides. A small rabbet cut on the outside edges of the frame creates a shadow line, as in detail 'a' on page 42.

Before the case can be assembled the drawer runners should be installed, as in detail 'c' on the opposite page. The openings are too small to do this after the case is glued up. The last piece to install on the case is a small *filler strip (I)* under the bottom (drawing at right).





BUILDING THE DRAWERS

The five drawers in the tool chest are much smaller than those in the larger tool cabinet. Because these drawers are small, I didn't use false fronts. Here, the drawer fronts are made from oak and the sides and backs of the drawers are made from maple, since only the drawer front is visible when it's closed.

The drawers are shallow so that everything inside is in plain sight when I open a drawer. However, the drawers still need to be as strong as possible. So I used locking rabbets to join the parts.

SIMPLE JOINERY. Since the drawers are built with the same joinery, (only the drawer part sizes are different), it makes sense to cut the joinery for the drawers, as in detail 'a' above, all at once.

Before assembling the drawers, you'll need to cut some grooves. First I cut a groove on the inside face of all the parts. It's sized to hold a ¼" plywood bottom.

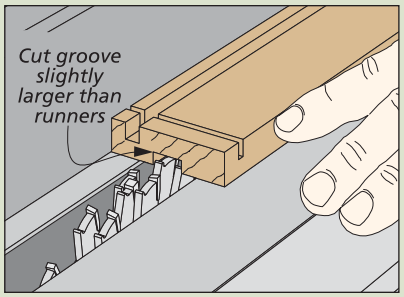
A second and larger groove is cut on the outside of drawer sides. This groove will fit over the drawer runners in the case. I positioned the groove so that there is an even gap at the top and bottom, as in detail 'b.' To do this, I cut a few test pieces so that I could check the setup.

Once the grooves are cut, you can go ahead and cut the drawer bottoms and glue up the drawers. There's just one more thing to do. You'll need to notch out the drawer back so that the drawers will fit over the runners. You can see how I did this in the drawing below.

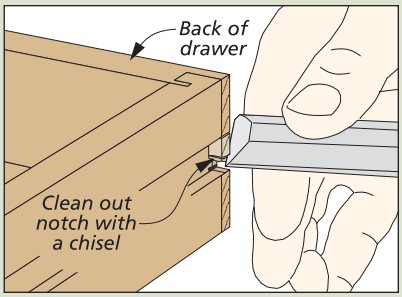
Finally, I added the brass pulls. They're a smaller version of the knobs I used on the tool cabinet.

How-To: Wood Drawer Guides

Drawer Guides. *The drawers in the tool chest slide on wood runners mounted in the case. The runners fit in grooves cut on the drawer sides. A little wax will make them slide even smoother.*



Groove. *After cutting the joinery for the drawer parts, I cut a groove in the drawer sides. The groove is sized slightly larger than the runner.*



Notch. *To allow the drawer to slide onto the runner, you'll need to cut a notch in the drawer back. I used a hand saw and a chisel to do this.*