

Home Storage

made simple



Pull-Out Kitchen Pantry

On the following pages you'll find step-by-step instructions, photos, and illustrations that you can use to create this kitchen pantry. For more information about this project, see *Home Storage Made Simple*.



create pull-out trays

- Before you can install the pull-out trays, you might need to divide the cabinet so it will accommodate two sets of trays. To do this, cut a piece of ½"-thick plywood to size, and secure it to both the center mullion and the cabinet back with pocket screws (*illustration below*).
- Now it's time to install the shelf standards on the inside walls of your cabinet (or the divider panel). You might need to cut them to length first. Then clip the slide brackets to the standards. You can easily change their position later.
- Once the standards are installed, you can move on to building the trays. Three different materials make up each tray — ¼"-thick hardboard for the bottom, ½"-thick hardwood for the sides, and ¾"-thick hardwood for the front and back. Because the sides, front, and back are dimensional lumber, you just have to cut the pieces to length.
- Each tray bottom's dimensions are based on the dimensions of your

how it's made



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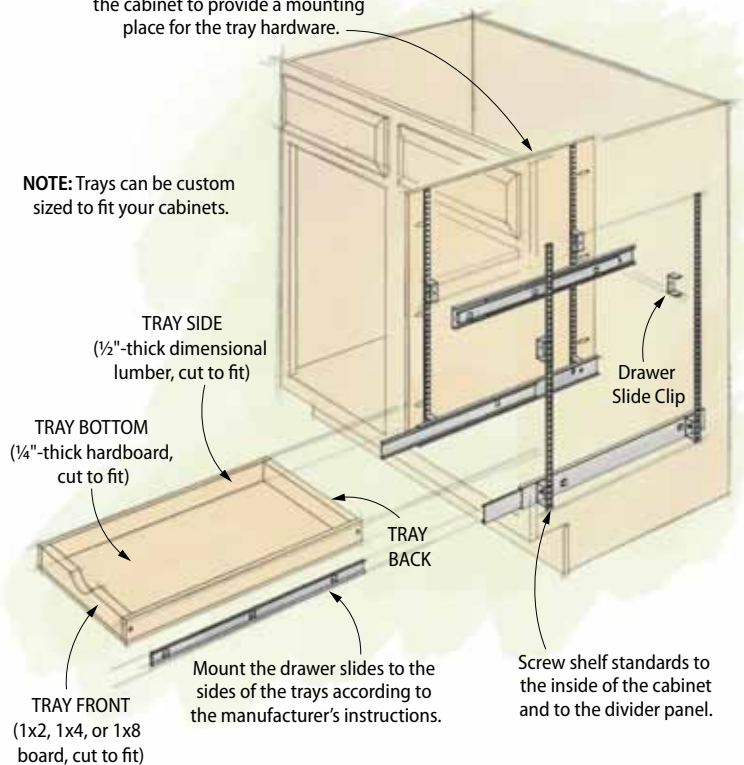
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cabinet. Just subtract 1" from the inside depth of your cabinet (for clearance) and 1" from the distance spanning between the mounting brackets (to accommodate the slides that will be attached later). Using those dimensions, go ahead and cut the bottoms to size. It's easy to do this yourself using a circular saw and a straightedge, or you can have it done for you at the home center.

- The front, back, and side pieces of each tray are sized to line up with the edges of the bottom. But you can choose the heights of those pieces to suit your storage needs.
- Consider the number of pull-outs you wish to arrange in each cabinet, as well as the objects you plan on storing on each one. For instance, shallow trays make it easy to read the labels on canned foods, while deeper pull-outs are better for holding bags of snacks and pots and pans. Our shallow trays are made with 1½"-wide boards. The others use 3½" and 7¼" boards.
- Select the dimensional lumber that suits your needs, and cut the pieces to length. Also cut out a hand pull on each tray front (*photo 1*). Then drill countersunk screw holes, and assemble all your trays.
- All that's left is to install the slides according to the manufacturer's directions. Separate the two halves of each slide and mount one half to the tray (*photo 2*). Mount the other half to the brackets on the shelf standards.
- With your trays assembled and the hardware attached, you can slide the trays in. Of course, it will be easy to rearrange them as your storage needs change.

Add a simple plywood divider inside the cabinet to provide a mounting place for the tray hardware.

NOTE: Trays can be customized to fit your cabinets.



easy organizer

- This custom organizer is just a piece of plywood with a grid of holes drilled in it. Pegs positioned in the holes allow you to prop large, flat items on edge.
- You'll start by cutting a sheet of ½" plywood to fit inside your tray using a circular saw and a straight-edge. Home centers will do this for you, if you prefer.
- Once that's done, you'll need to lay out the grid of holes. Spacing ½"-diameter holes 2" apart provides a good amount of freedom when it comes to placing pegs and loading the drawer (*photo 1*).
- It's important to drill perfectly straight holes in the workpiece so the wood pegs won't tilt. It's easy to do this with a portable drill guide (*photo 2*).
- It's best to use a special "Forstner" drill bit instead of a spade bit. A Forstner bit will drill holes with smooth sides that will hold the pegs securely, and won't tear out the plywood surface.
- After drilling the grid of holes, you're ready to make the pegs. Simply chop ½" dowels into pieces that suit the depth and contents of your drawer using a miter saw or a hacksaw (ours are 6"). Then soften the edges with sandpaper. You'll probably use more pegs than you expect, so make up some extras.



how it's made

Resources

Available In Home Centers:

- 1x2, 1x4, or 1x8 boards (varies by desired tray depth)
- ¼" hardboard
- ½" plywood
- ½" dowels
- ½" Forstner drill bit

Available at Rockler.com

- Shelf Standard Slide Brackets #35693 (1 set per tray)
- 24" Shelf Standard #33944 (4 per cabinet opening)
- Accuride 20" Drawer Slides #32508 (1 pair per tray)
- Portable Drill Guide #46441



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