

# the cabinet bar

## Cabinet Assembly Instructions

**IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER:** These instructions demonstrate the generally recommended process for assembling cabinets purchased from **the cabinet bar**. The instructions demonstrate the basic parts and processes for several types of cabinets, but we do not provide specific instructions for each of the hundreds of possible choices. You, as the assembler, must identify the set of instructions that most closely applies.

Assembly is not complicated, but common sense and thoughtful planning is required before getting started. Familiarize yourself with the parts and your tools before beginning assembly. Check each piece for shipping damage or manufacturing errors before attaching it. Check each finished piece for color match (with other finished pieces in the order) before attaching it.

We take pains to produce and package these products in a way that minimizes warping, twisting or other damage, but there is no way to guarantee that it will not happen. Small amounts of warpage can typically be managed in the assembly process with the assistance of clamps and/or other tools. If you find pieces that have become more severely warped or twisted in transit, please photograph them and report this to Customer Service before beginning assembly of that cabinet.

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN:** We have video(s) available on **thecabinetbar.com** which serve as a good overview of the assembly process. We strongly recommend that you start there before reading these instructions.

### **INTRODUCTION – Guidelines for Assembly**

These cabinets are assembled using pre-inserted splines along with glue (not provided) and pins or staples (not provided). Clamping is optional.

#### **Required Tools and Materials:**

- Clean, flat, covered workspace
- Woodworking glue (A good-quality yellow wood glue is suggested. We do not recommend a particular brand.)
- Rubber mallet
- Pin/Staple gun\*
- 1" pins/staples\*
- Clean rag
- Phillips screwdriver (for mounting hinges, drawer slides, etc.)
- Drill (for pre-drilling hardware mounting screws)
- Screws for mounting drawer fronts to drawer boxes (not included). The length will depend on the type of drawer box, drawer front style and the method you use to attach them.

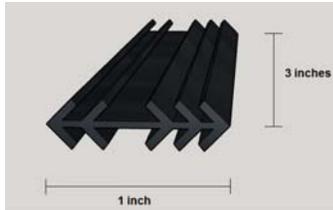
*\* For small projects, you can use a hammer and 1" brads. However, a pin/staple gun will save time.*

#### **Optional Tools and Materials:**

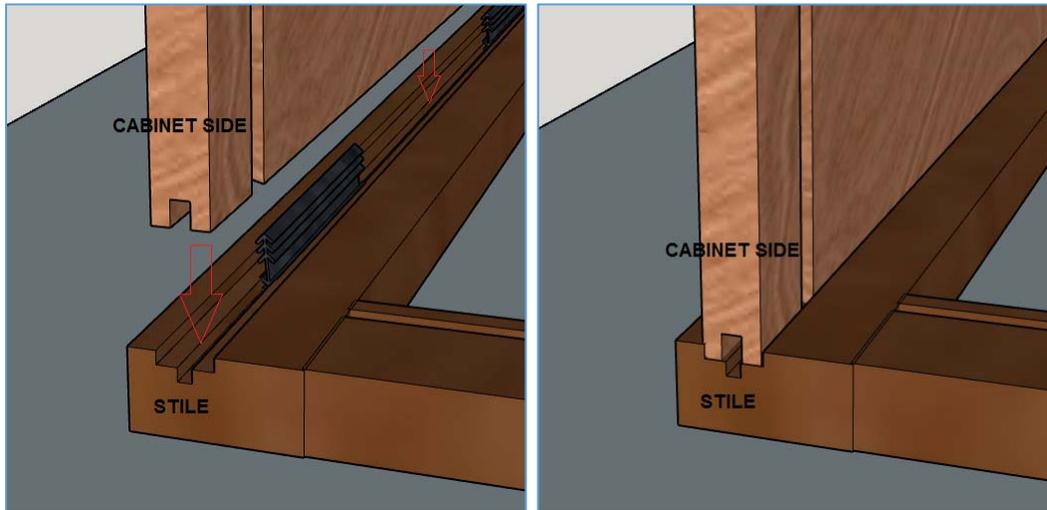
- Double-sided tape (for use in mounting drawer fronts)
- Painter's masking tape (for use in marking drill locations on doors, drawer fronts)
- Clamps
- Rubber door/drawer "bumpers" (not included)

## ABOUT SPLINES

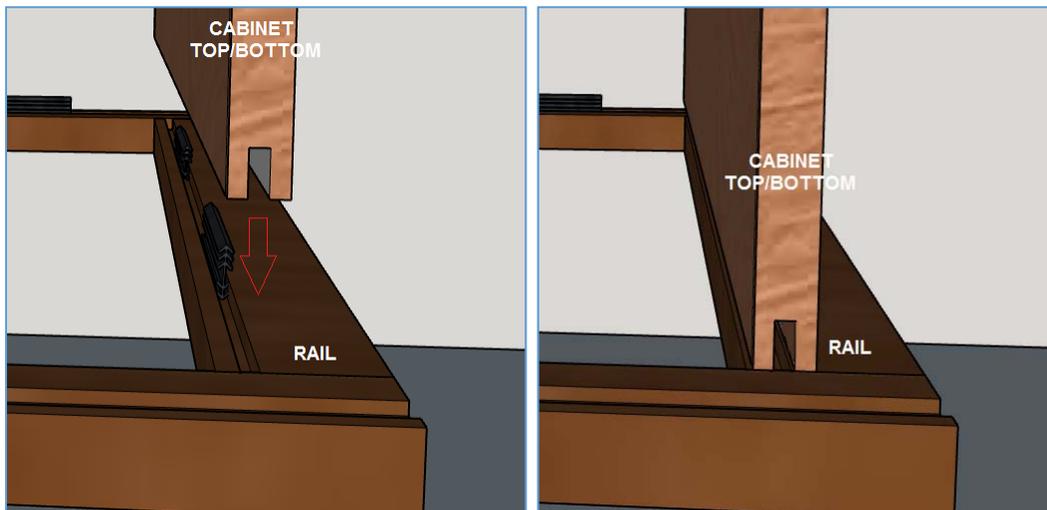
Splines are pre-inserted into SIDES, TOPS and BOTTOMS and are used for fastening these parts to FACE FRAMES (aka FRONT FRAMES).



Splines are intended to hold parts together until the glue dries. Splines are not a substitute for glue. Glue must be applied to all joints as specified. On FACE FRAME stiles (vertical), the SIDE is recessed in the spline groove:

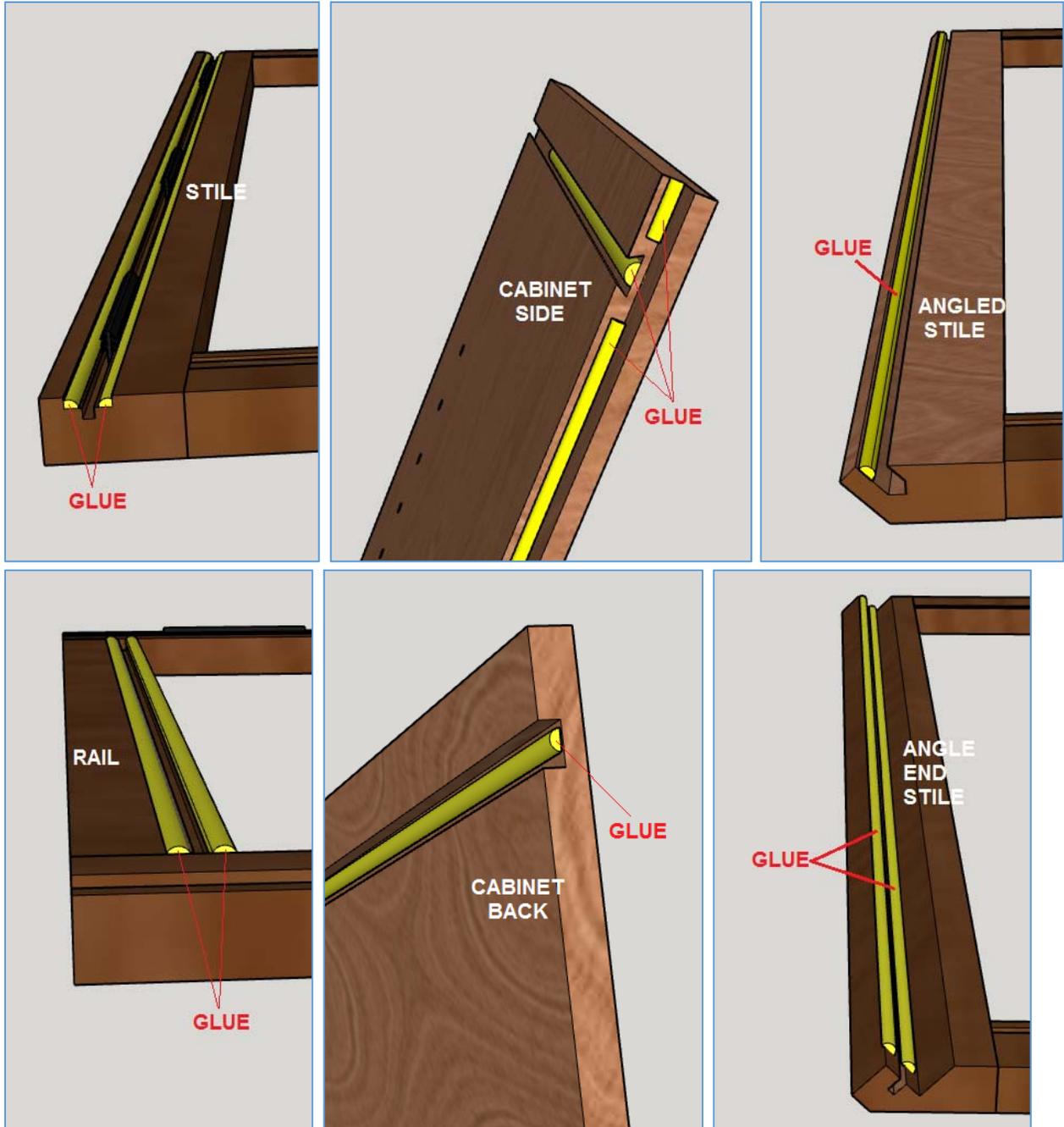


On FACE FRAME rails (horizontal), the TOP and BOTTOM butts against the rails:



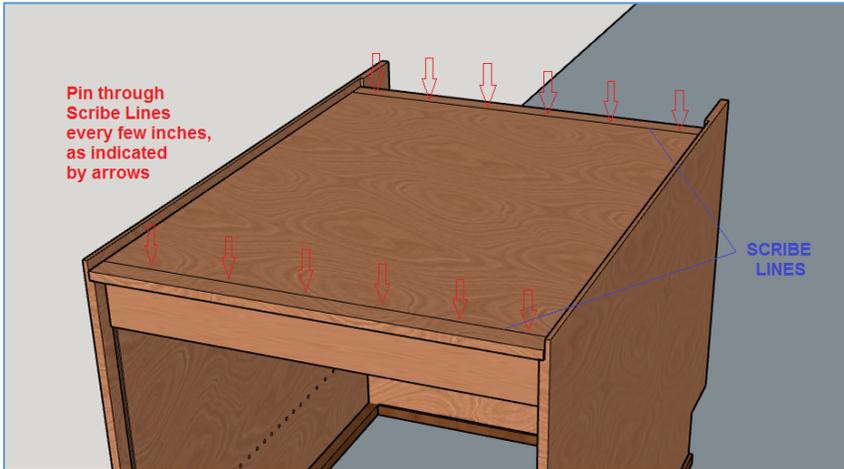
## WHERE TO GLUE

Throughout the assembly of cabinets, woodworking glue must be applied any place two parts are joined. It is critical to the structural integrity of each cabinet that glue be applied to FACE FRAME stiles and rails, in female dovetails, and back rabbets of SIDES and in grooves of BACKS. Immediately after cabinet assembly is completed, use a damp cloth to wipe away any excess glue.



## WHERE TO USE PINS/STAPLES (OR BRADS)

Pins (aka brads) or staples must be used to fasten the BACK to the SIDES and TOP and BOTTOM.



If a SIDE will be unexposed on the finished cabinet, pin through the SIDE into the BACK.



If the SIDE is exposed, toenail BACK to SIDE:



## **TIPS AND TRICKS TO SIMPLIFY ASSEMBLY AND MOUNTING**

### **INSET CABINET HARDWARE:**

#### 1) Attaching hinges:

It is typically easiest to align the hinges for inset doors prior to assembling the cabinets. When using concealed hinges, lie the frame and door face down on a clean, flat, padded surface and align the door correctly within the frame. Place the hinges in the pre-bored cup holes in the back of the door, then align, mark, and pre-drill the holes for the screws. Attach the mounting plates to the back of the frame. Once aligned, carefully re-wrap the doors in their packaging and set them aside until the cabinets are installed.

#### 2) Attaching Blum Tandem drawer slides:

a) If your order included the Inset Mounting Brackets, then follow the instructions included with those brackets. Otherwise...

b) If the brackets were not included, small blocks of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick wood or plywood can be substituted. The use of 2" x 2" blocks is suitable for a standalone drawer box (as in, a drawer above a door), but a longer block can be used for cabinets with a stack of drawers.

- Mount the rear brackets of the slides as instructed.
- Align the block on the interior wall of the cabinet, pushed up against the back of the face frame. The top of the block should be at least 1-1/2" above the bottom of the drawer opening in the frame. Use glue and/or screws to mount the block to the cabinet side. (Repeat for both sides.)
- Follow the instructions for mounting the Blum Tandem drawer slides EXCEPT that the front edge of the drawer slide should be set back  $\frac{3}{4}$ " further than specified. (If using 1" thick face frames, then set the drawer slide back by 1".)

### **ATTACHING DRAWER FRONTS:**

1) Stick a piece of painter's masking tape on the front of the drawer face approximately where you will want the knob or pull to be positioned. Measure and mark the position of the hole(s) for the knob or pull. (If you are certain of the position, you may drill the hole(s) at this time.)

2) Complete the assembly of the cabinet and install the drawer slides and drawer box.

3) Use double-sided tape to temporarily mount the drawer front to the drawer box. Check the alignment carefully.

4) Drill the knob/pull hole(s) through the drawer front and the drawer box. Attach the knob/pull.

5) Carefully open the drawer without altering the position of the drawer front.

6) Pre-drill through the interior corners of the drawer box diagonally into the frame of the drawer front. (On one piece slab fronts, diagonal drilling is not necessary.) Be careful not to drill too far. Insert screws into the pre-drilled holes.

**FALSE DRAWER FRONTS (i.e., FOR SINK BASES):**

Most sink base cabinets come with small blocks of plywood that can be used for mounting the drawer front to the face frame. On overlay cabinets, mount one set of blocks to the back of the drawer front using glue and/or screws. Use a second set of blocks behind the face frame to “sandwich” the face frame between the blocks and the drawer front. Alternatively, many hardware stores sell mounting brackets for attaching these fronts.

**TOP SLATS FOR SINK BASES:**

Sink bases do not come with the standard side-to-side top slats as shown in the instructions for other base cabinets. Instead, they come with arched slats that install front-to-back. Insert the long, flat edge of each slat into the dovetail slots on the cabinet sides so that the spline fits into the back of the face frame.

**MOUNTING WALL-HUNG VANITIES:**

Wall-hung vanity cabinets are designed to support a countertop and/or sink and thus require more support than a standard wall cabinet. Wall-hung vanity cabinets are shipped with two 2x4 “hanger cleats” that each must be secured to at least two studs in the supporting wall using at least two 3-1/2” screws per stud. The cabinet is to be mounted to the cleats using a minimum of one 2” screw every 6”.

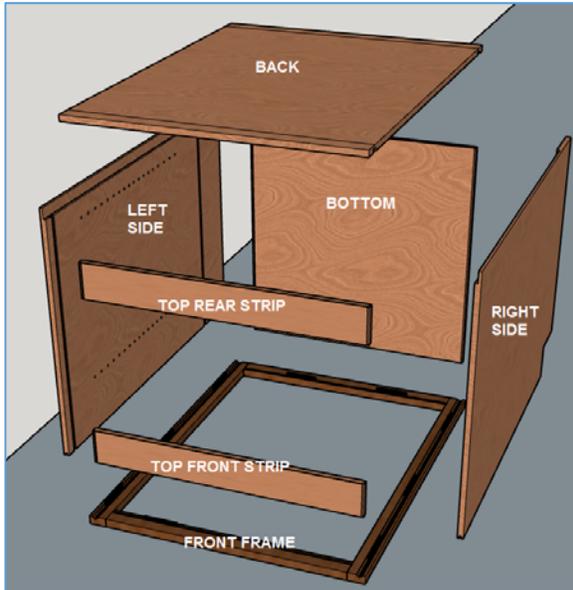
Failure to follow proper assembly and installation procedures could lead to product failure, personal injury, or property damage.

**MOUNTING ALL OTHER CABINETS:**

If you are not experienced with cabinet installation and you plan to install these cabinets yourself, there are dozens of videos available on YouTube and elsewhere that provide instructions and hints for installing cabinets. We recommend looking at videos from popular do-it-yourself instructors, like This Old House, DIY Network, HGTV and others. Each video provides different approaches and tips that may be useful. Videos from other manufacturers or distributors may also be useful, but be aware of tips that are specific to their own cabinets which may not apply to yours.

## STANDARD BASE CABINET ASSEMBLY

(Note: Please watch video before beginning your first assembly.)



1. PLACE FACE FRAME FACE DOWN ON A FLAT CLEAN ASSEMBLY TABLE.

2. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME STILES AS SHOWN IN FIG 1.

3. INSERT SIDES INTO FACE FRAME GROOVES. TAP THE SIDES DOWN SO THAT THEY ARE SECURELY IN PLACE. (SPLINES ARE PRE-INSTALLED ON THE FRONT EDGE OF THE CABINET SIDES.)

4. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME RAILS AS SHOWN IN FIG 2 AND FEMALE DOVETAIL ON SIDES AS SHOWN IN FIG 3.

5. SLIDE TOP FRONT STRIP, TOP BACK STRIP AND BOTTOM INTO FEMALE DOVETAILS. TAP BOTTOM AND FRONT TOP STRIP DOWN SO THE SPLINES ARE SECURE. (SPLINES ARE PRE-INSTALLED ON THE FRONT EDGE OF THE TOP FRONT STRIP.)

6. APPLY GLUE TO SIDE RABBET AND BACK DADO AS SHOWN IN FIGS 3 AND 4.

7. INSERT BACK BETWEEN RABBETS IN THE SIDES MAKING SURE THE BACK TOP STRIP AND BOTTOM ARE CAPTURED IN THE BACK DADO.

8. PIN OR STAPLE BACK TO BACK TOP STRIP & BOTTOM USING SCRIBE LINE TO LOCATE FASTENERS. PINS OR STAPLES SHOULD BE SPACED A MINIMUM OF 3" APART. PIN OR STAPLE SIDES TO BACK.



Fig 1. Stile

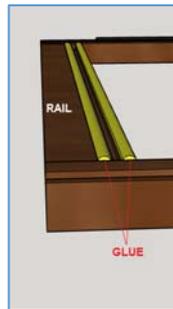


Fig 2. Rail

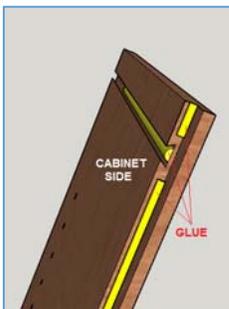


Fig 3. Side

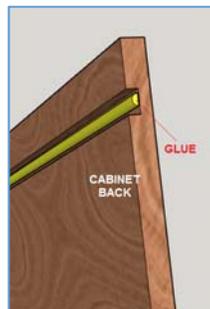
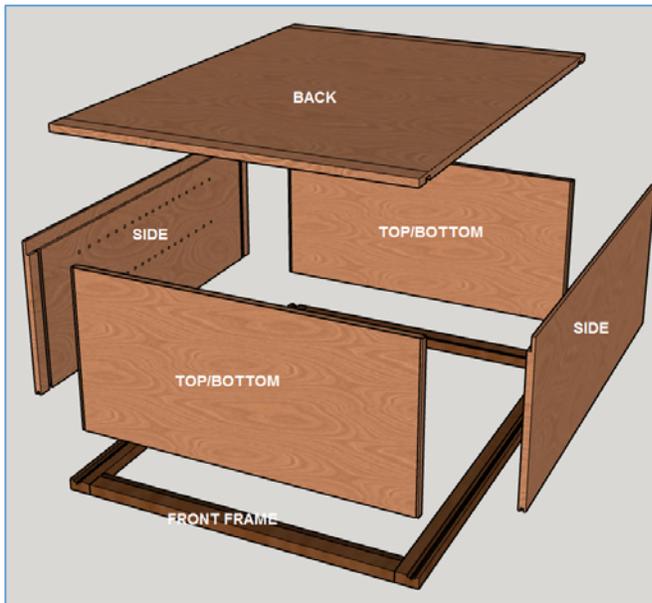


Fig 4. Back

## STANDARD WALL CABINET ASSEMBLY

(Note: Please watch video before beginning your first assembly.)



1. PLACE FACE FRAME FACE DOWN ON A FLAT CLEAN ASSEMBLY TABLE.

2. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME STILES AS SHOWN IN FIG 1.

3. INSERT SIDES INTO FACE FRAME GROOVES. TAP THE SIDES DOWN SO THAT THEY ARE SECURELY IN PLACE.

4. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME RAILS AS SHOWN IN FIG 2 AND FEMALE DOVETAILS ON SIDES AS SHOWN IN FIG 3.

5. INSERT TOP AND BOTTOM INTO FEMALE DOVETAILS. TAP TOP & BOTTOM DOWN SO THE SPLINES ARE SECURE.



Fig 1. Stile

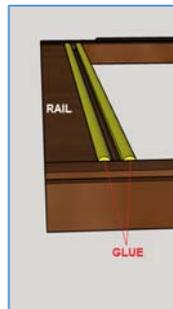


Fig 2. Rail

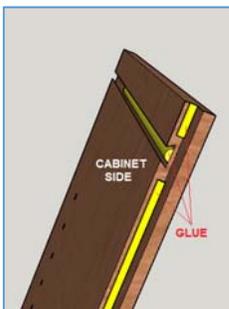


Fig 3. Side

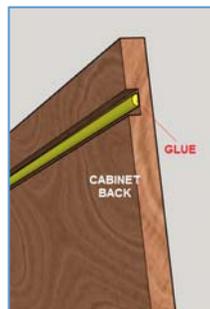


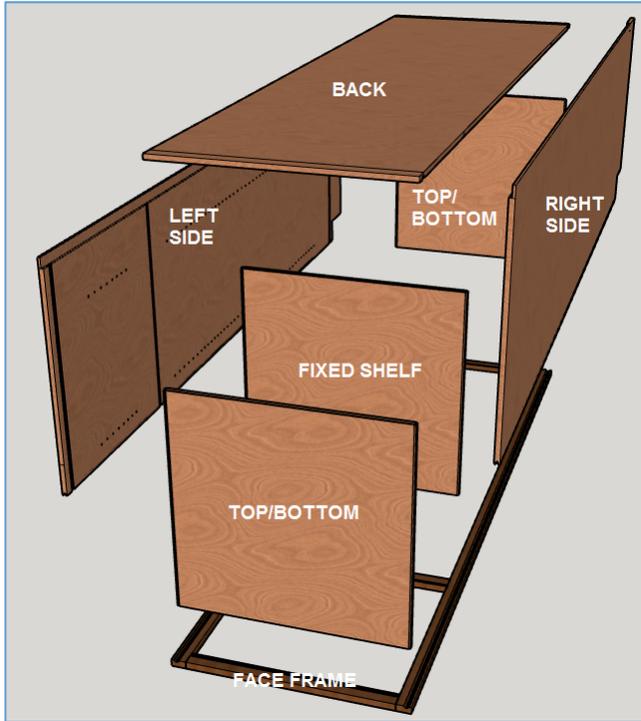
Fig 4. Back

6. APPLY GLUE TO SIDE RABBETS AND BACK DADOS AS SHOWN IN FIGS 3 AND 4.

7. INSERT BACK BETWEEN RABBETS IN THE SIDES MAKING SURE THE TOP AND BOTTOM ARE CAPTURED IN THE BACK DADOS.

8. PIN OR STAPLE BACK TO TOP & BOTTOM USING SCRIBE LINE TO LOCATE FASTENERS. PINS OR STAPLES SHOULD BE SPACED A MINIMUM OF 3" APART. PIN OR STAPLE SIDES TO BACK.

# TALL CABINET / CABINET WITH FIXED SHELF ASSEMBLY



(Note: Please watch video before beginning your first assembly.)

1. PLACE FACE FRAME FACE DOWN ON A FLAT CLEAN ASSEMBLY TABLE.
2. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME STILES AS SHOWN IN FIG 1.
3. INSERT SIDES INTO FACE FRAME GROOVES. TAP SIDES DOWN SO THAT THEY ARE SECURELY IN PLACE.
4. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME RAILS AS SHOWN IN FIG 2 AND TO FEMALE DOVETAIL ON SIDES AS SHOWN IN FIG 3.
5. SLIDE TOP/BOTTOM AND MIDFLOOR INTO FEMALE DOVETAILS. TAP TOP/BOTTOM AND MIDFLOOR DOWN SO THE SPLINES ARE SECURE.
6. APPLY GLUE TO SIDE RABBET AND BACK DADO AS SHOWN IN FIGS 3 AND 4.
7. INSERT BACK BETWEEN RABBETS IN THE SIDES MAKING SURE THE TOP/BOTTOM AND MIDFLOOR ARE CAPTURED IN THE BACK DADO.

## VARIATIONS:

- Some cabinets (such as oven cabinets) have more than one fixed shelf. The process is the same for each shelf.
- Some cabinets may have a partial back (such as refrigerator cabinet) or multiple partial backs (such as an oven cabinet). Align the dadoes and scribe lines with the top/bottoms and the fixed shelves.

8. PIN OR STAPLE BACK TO TOP/BOTTOM AND MIDFLOOR USING SCRIBE LINE TO LOCATE FASTENERS. PINS OR STAPLES SHOULD BE SPACED A MINIMUM OF 3" APART. PIN OR STAPLE SIDES TO BACK.



Fig 1. Stile

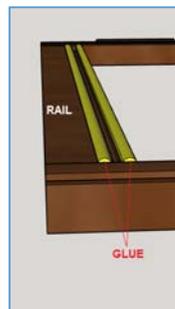


Fig 2. Rail

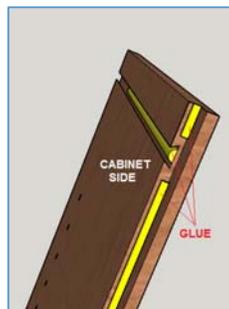


Fig 3. Side

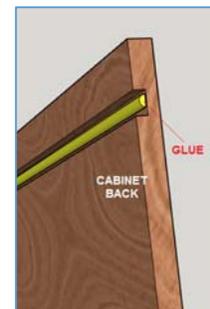
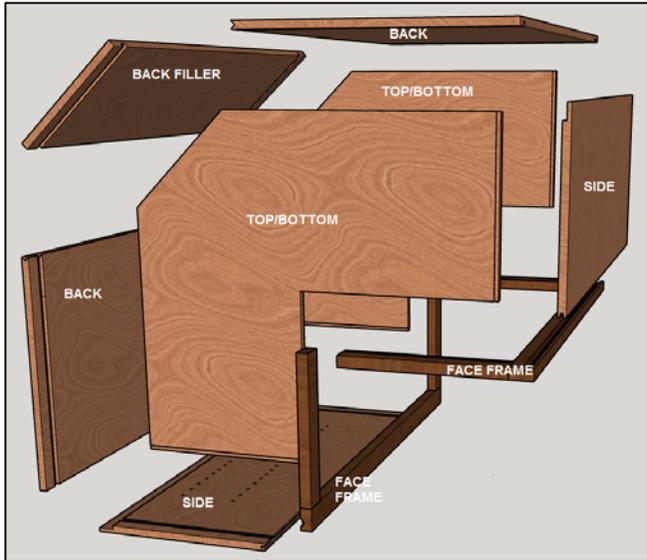


Fig 4. Back

## PIE-CUT CORNER CABINET ASSEMBLY



**IMPORTANT!** INSERT SHELVES OR INSTALL LAZY SUZAN INTO CABINET BEFORE COMPLETING BACK ASSEMBLY.



Fig 1. Stile

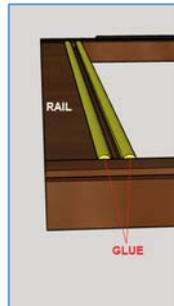


Fig 2. Rail

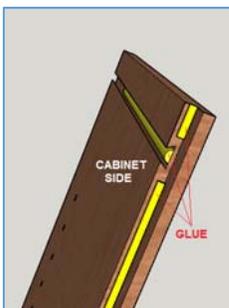


Fig 3. Side

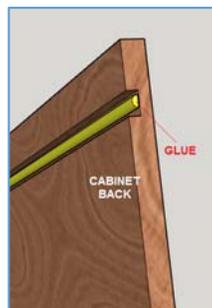


Fig 4. Back

(Note: Please watch video before beginning your first assembly.)

1. ASSEMBLE TWO FACE FRAMES TO FORM THE "PIE CUT".
  - FOR OVERLAY AND NON-BEADED FRAMES, ONE FRAME IS 3/4" WIDER THAN THE OTHER. WHEN ASSEMBLING ATTACHED THE NARROWER FRAME TO THE WIDER FRAME.
  - FOR INSET, FRAMES ARE EQUAL IN WIDTH AND MUST BE CUT WITH A 45° MITER ON BOTH FRAMES PRIOR TO ASSEMBLY.

2. USING GLUE, PINS OR A COUNTER SUNK WOOD SCREW (NOT INCLUDED), INSERTED FROM THE BACK OF THE LONGER FRAME, FASTEN THE TWO FRAME PIECES TOGETHER. IF WOOD SCREWS ARE USED, BE SURE TO PRE-DRILL BEFORE INSERTING SCREW.

3. PLACE ASSEMBLED FACE FRAMES FACE DOWN ON A FLAT CLEAN ASSEMBLY TABLE.

4. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME STILES AS SHOWN IN FIG 1.

5. ATTACH FACE FRAME TO TOP AND BOTTOM USING PRE-INSERTED SPLINES. NOTE THAT LONGER FACE FRAME PIECE SHOULD BE ATTACHED FIRST.

6. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME RAILS AS SHOWN IN FIG 2 AND FEMALE DOVETAIL ON SIDES AS SHOWN IN FIG 3.

7. SLIDE SIDES ON TO TOP AND BOTTOM DOVETAIL. ENSURE THE SIDES FIRMLY SEAT IN THE FACE FRAME GROOVES.

8. APPLY GLUE TO BACK DOVETAIL SHOWN IN FIG 4.

9. SLIDE BACK ON TO TOP AND BOTTOM DOVETAIL MAKING SURE THE BACK IS CAPTURED IN THE SIDE DADO.

10. **IMPORTANT!** INSERT SHELVES OR INSTALL LAZY SUZAN INTO CABINET BEFORE COMPLETING BACK ASSEMBLY.

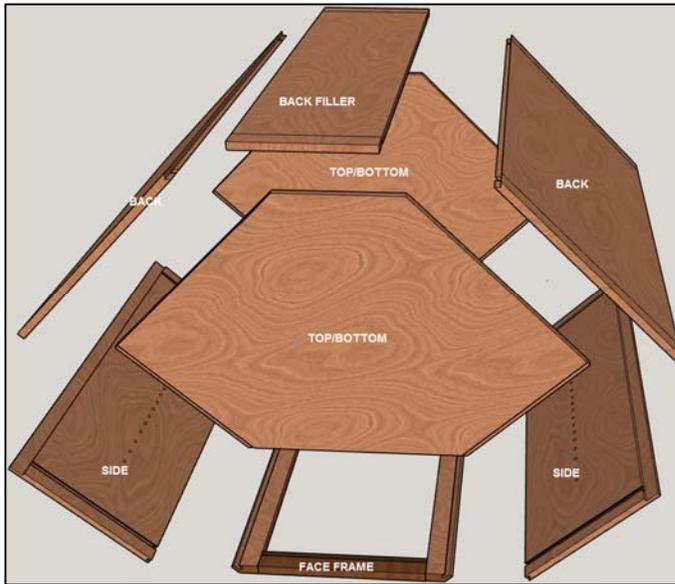
11. SLIDE BACK ON TO TOP AND BOTTOM DOVETAIL MAKING SURE THE BACK IS CAPTURED IN THE SIDE DADO.

12. APPLY GLUE TO BACK FILLER STRIP AND INSERT ON TO TOP AND BOTTOM.

13. PIN OR STAPLE BACK TO TOP & BOTTOM USING SCRIBE LINE TO LOCATE FASTENERS. PINS OR STAPLES SHOULD BE SPACED A MINIMUM OF 3" APART.

14. PIN OR STAPLE SIDES TO BACK.

## DIAGONAL CORNER CABINET ASSEMBLY



**IMPORTANT!** INSERT SHELVES OR INSTALL LAZY SUZAN INTO CABINET BEFORE ADDING THE SECOND BACK.



Fig 1. Stile

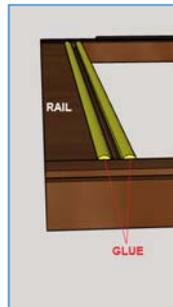


Fig 2. Rail

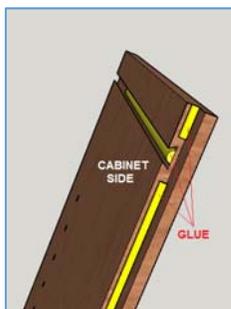


Fig 3. Side

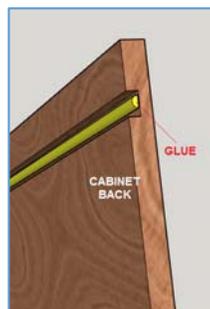


Fig 4. Back Filler

(Note: Please watch video before beginning your first assembly.)

1. PLACE FACE FRAME FACE DOWN ON A FLAT CLEAN ASSEMBLY TABLE.

2. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME STILES AS SHOWN IN FIG 1.

3. INSERT TOP & BOTTOM INTO FACE FRAME SPLINE GROOVES. TAP THE TOP & BOTTOM DOWN SO THAT THEY ARE SECURELY IN PLACE. MAKE SURE TOP & BOTTOM ARE CENTER ON THE FACE FRAME

4. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME RAILS AS SHOWN IN FIG 2 AND FEMALE DOVETAIL ON SIDES AS SHOWN IN FIG 3.

5. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME RAILS AS SHOWN IN FIG 2 AND FEMALE DOVETAILS ON THE SIDES AS SHOWN IN FIG 3. SLIDE THE SIDES ONTO THE MALE DOVETAILS OF THE TOP & BOTTOM. MAKE SURE THE SIDES SEAT INTO THE FACE FRAME GROOVE.

6. APPLY GLUE TO BACK DOVETAILS AS SHOWN ABOVE.

7. SLIDE BACK ONTO THE FEMALE DOVETAILS OF THE TOP & BOTTOM. INSERT SHELVES OR LAZY SUSAN UNIT INTO CABINET BEFORE SLIDING SECOND BACK ONTO FEMALE DOVETAILS OF TOP & BOTTOM.

8. GLUE DADOS ON BACK STRIP AS SHOWN ABOVE. INSERT BACK STRIP MAKING SURE THE TOP & BOTTOM ARE CAPTURED IN THE BACK STRIP DADO.

9. PIN OR STAPLE BACKS TO TOP/BOTTOM USING SCRIBE LINE TO LOCATE FASTENERS. PINS OR STAPLES SHOULD BE SPACED A MINIMUM OF 3" APART.

10. PIN OR STAPLE SIDES TO BACK.

## WALL ANGLE END CABINET ASSEMBLY

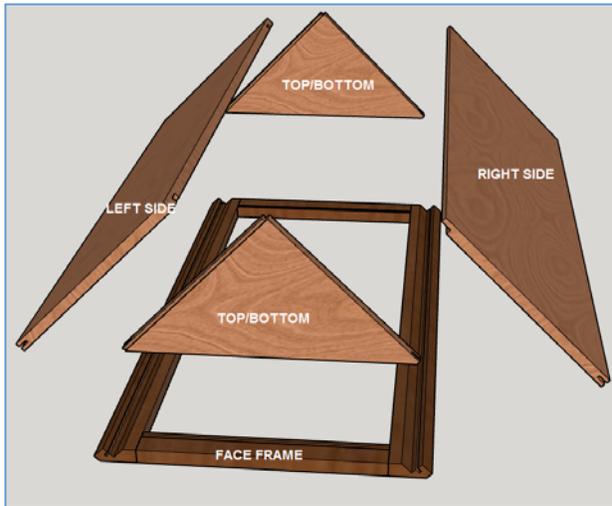


Fig 1. Stile

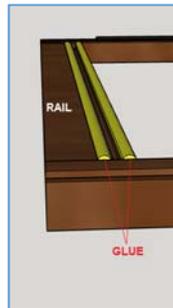


Fig 2. Rail

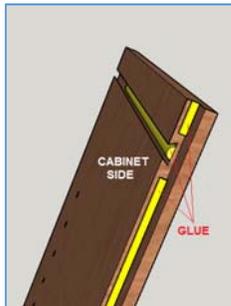


Fig 3. Left Side

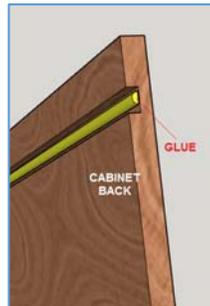


Fig 4. Right Side

(Note: Please watch video before beginning your first assembly.)

1. PLACE FACE FRAME FACE DOWN ON A FLAT CLEAN ASSEMBLY TABLE.

2. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME AS SHOWN ON FIG 1.

3. INSERT LEFT SIDE INTO FACE FRAME GROOVES. (SIDE THAT HAS THE FEMALE DOVETAIL) TAP THE SIDE DOWN SO THAT IS SECURELY IN PLACE.

4. APPLY GLUE TO FACE FRAME RAILS AS SHOWN ON FIG 2 FEMALE DOVETAILS ON LEFT SIDE AS SHOWN ON FIG 3.

5. SLIDE TOP AND BOTTOM INTO FEMALE DOVETAILS. TAP TOP AND BOTTOM SO SPLINES ARE SECURE.

6. APPLY GLUE TO SIDE RABBETS AND DADOS OF THE RIGHT SIDE AS SHOWN IN FIGS 3 AND 4.

7. INSERT RIGHT SIDE MAKING SURE THE TOP AND BOTTOM ARE CAPTURED IN THE RIGHT SIDE DADOS.

8. PIN OR STAPLE RIGHT SIDE TO THE TOP, BOTTOM AND LEFT SIDE. STAPLES SHOULD BE SPACED A MINIMUM OF 3" APART.