

two-tiered Chest

As you can see in the photo at right, the elegant shelf added to the top of the chest looks right at home. The secret is that all of the design elements used on the shelf mirror those on the chest below. The result is a shelf that's a perfect complement.

A QUICK LOOK. You won't need to worry about making any modifications to the chest in order to add the shelf. It's built separately and then simply fastened to the top of the chest with woodscrews.

If you take a look at the exploded drawing, you'll see how it works. The narrow shelf is supported by a three-sided frame that rests on a simple base of cove moulding.

THE FRAME. You'll want to start by building the three-piece frame. As you can see in detail 'b,' a simple



but solid tongue and dado joins the side pieces to the frame back.

The focal point of the frame is the graceful ogee curve cut into the front of each side piece. This detail is borrowed from the chest base.

Since the profile will be so prominent, you'll want the curves to be smooth and consistent. An

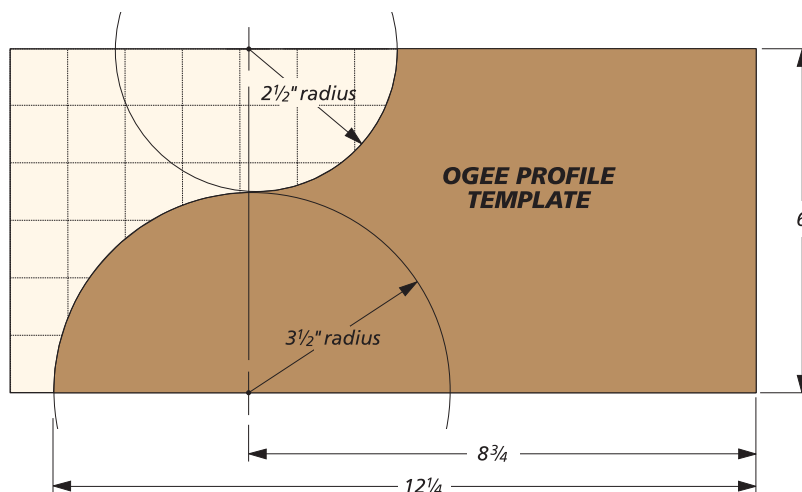
accurate hardboard template will help you with the layout. A trip to the band saw and a little sanding will complete the frame sides.

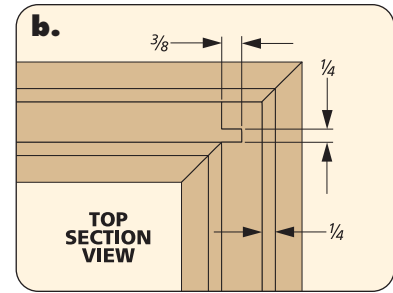
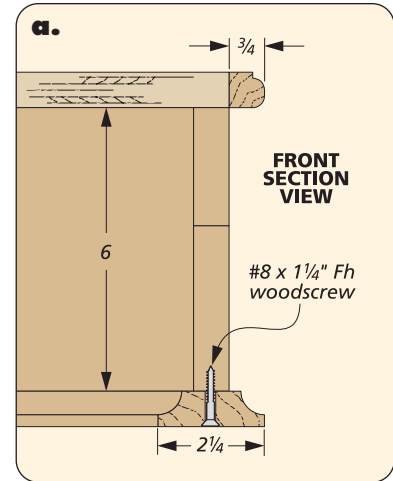
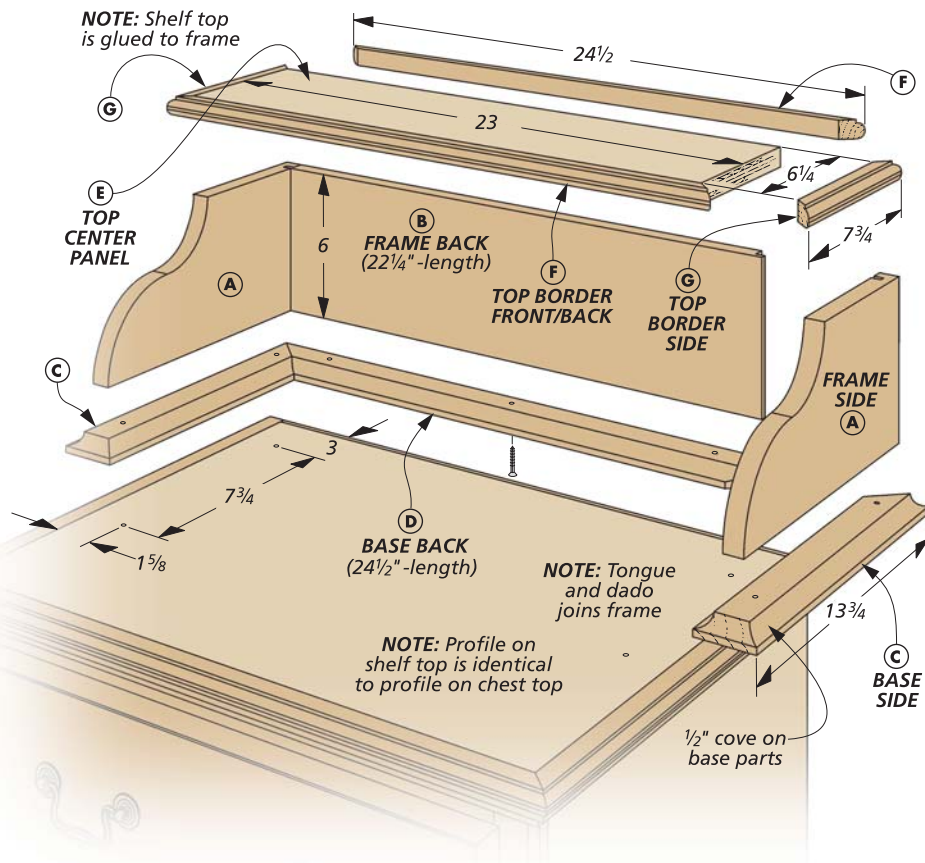
THE COVE BASE. Once the three pieces of the frame are assembled, the next task is to add the cove base to the bottom of the frame. And the only trick here is to do everything in the right order.

First I cut the three pieces of the cove base to width and rough length. One end of each side piece will have a cove routed across it, so make sure each piece has one clean, square end.

The next step takes place at the router table. Using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " cove bit, I routed a cove across the squared end of the side pieces and both long edges of all three pieces.

Now the pieces are ready to miter to length and add to the frame. It worked well for me to glue and screw the pieces in place one at a time. Start with the base





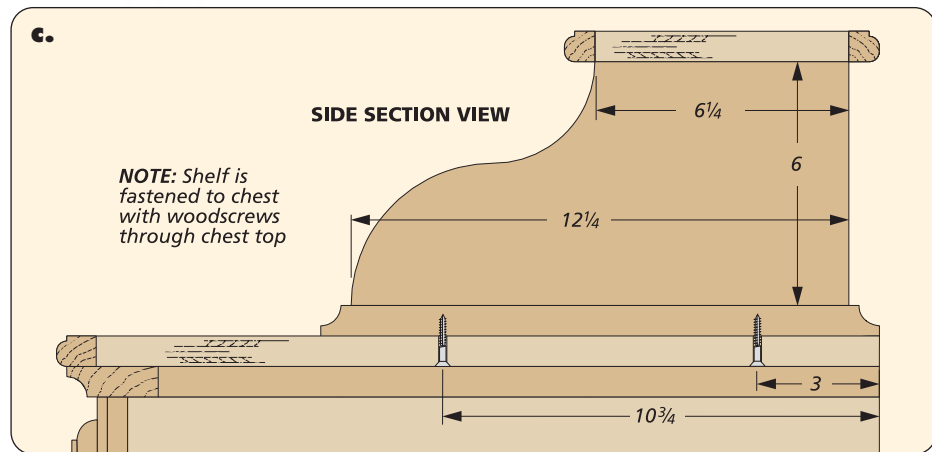
back, being careful to center it on the frame, both end to end and across its width (detail 'a'). Finish up with the two side pieces.

THE TOP. Making and attaching the shelf top will wrap up the building. As you can see, the top consists of a 3/4" plywood panel with a solid-wood border. This allows you to glue the shelf directly to the frame without concern about wood movement.

Once the center panel is cut to size, the 3/4"-wide border pieces can be mitered to fit around the panel and glued in place. A stop at the router table will complete the top.

All four edges of the top have a profile identical to that on the edges of the chest top. A 1/4" roundover bit used at two different height settings does the job. When the shelf is complete, simply glue it to the frame as shown in detail 'a' and the side section view.

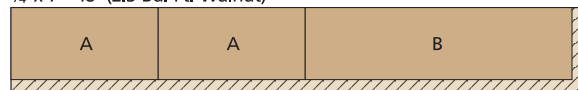
IN PLACE. It's a good idea to apply the finish to the chest and shelf separately before assembling the two. Once both pieces are ready, a couple of woodscrews through the top of the chest along each side will anchor the shelf to the chest. **W**



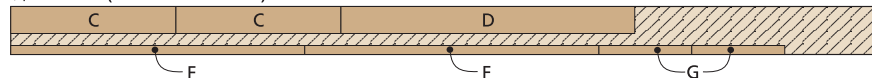
Materials & Cutting Diagram for Shelf

- | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| A | Frame Sides (2) | 3/4 x 6 - 12 1/4 |
| B | Frame Back (1) | 3/4 x 6 - 22 1/4 |
| C | Base Sides (2) | 3/4 x 2 1/4 - 13 3/4 |
| D | Base Back (1) | 3/4 x 2 1/4 - 24 1/2 |
| E | Top Center Panel (1) | 3/4 ply. - 6 1/4 x 23 |
| F | Top Border Front/Back (2) | 3/4 x 3/4 - 24 1/2 |
| G | Top Border Sides (2) | 3/4 x 3/4 - 7 3/4 |

3/4 x 7 - 48 (2.3 Bd. Ft. Walnut)



3/4 x 4 - 72 (2.0 Bd. Ft. Walnut)



ALSO NEEDED:
3/4" walnut plywood for shelf top