

CUSTOM CLOSET CABINET

Part of The Build Basic Custom Closet Series



Welcome to Part One of The Build Basic Custom Closet System! In this Series, I'm showing how to make a handful of simple DIY components that come together to create a functional, beautiful custom closet space. Even better is that ALL of the cut lists are adjustable so you can quickly and easily pick and choose the type of storage you need, and size it to fit your space! In this first tutorial, I'm showing how to make a basic "cubby" that can be used to house hanging clothes, adjustable shelves, a tilt-out hamper, pullout shoe storage, an ironing station, or even my easy DIY Drawers (that don't require a table saw or router)! Tutorials for each of the easy customization options will be posted in coming weeks, followed by a full reveal of my dream closet!

This post is sponsored by PureBond Hardwood Plywood, the makers of the beautiful formaldehyde-free plywood I'm using to build this project. To learn more about their great products and how this series came about, click [HERE](#).

OVERVIEW

Cost: About \$60 per Cubby, Depending on Size

Time: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy. If you have the plywood sheet cut into strips at the store, then it's all about drill holes and screwing together the pieces.

TOOLS

- Speed Square
- Framing Square
- Miter Saw
- Circular Saw
- Kreg Jig
- Kreg Right Angle Clamp
- Drill/Driver
- Pneumatic Nail Gun
- Random Orbital Sander

MATERIALS

- $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4' x 8' Plywood (I'm using PureBond Plywood in Birch)
- 1 x 2 x 8' Boards to make the Face Frames and Supports
- 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch Baseboard
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch Coarse Thread Pocket Hole Screws
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch Finish Nails
- 1-inch Finish Nails to secure the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch Plywood Backing
- 2-inch Screws to anchor the Cubby to the studs in the closet wall
- Wood Filler

THIS PROJECT IS SPONSORED BY



BUILD-BASIC.COM

CUSTOM CLOSET CABINET

Part of The Build Basic Custom Closet Series

PART	MATERIAL	BUILD BASIC SIZE	ADJUST IT	MY MEASUREMENT
WALLS	¾-INCH PLYWOOD	2 @ 92"H X 16"D	2 INCHES LESS THAN HEIGHT OF CLOSET (SO YOU CAN TIP THE UNIT INTO PLACE)	
SHELVES	¾-INCH PLYWOOD	3 @ 10½"W X 16"D	INTERIOR WIDTH -BY- DEPTH OF CUBBY	
SUPPORTS	1 X2 BOARD	2 @ 10½ INCHES	INTERIOR WIDTH OF CUBBY	
FACE FRAME (STILES)	1 X2 BOARD	2 @ 92 INCHES	HEIGHT OF WALLS	
FACE FRAME (RAILS)	1 X2 BOARD	3 @ 9 INCHES	WIDTH BETWEEN FACE FRAME STILES	
PADDING	1 X2 BOARD	2 @ 12 INCHES	TOTAL WIDTH OF CUBBY WITH FACE FRAME	
BASEBOARD	5½-INCH BASEBOARD	1 @ 12 INCHES	TOTAL WIDTH OF CUBBY WITH FACE FRAME	

THIS PROJECT IS SPONSORED BY



BUILD-BASIC.COM

CUSTOM CLOSET CABINET

Part of The Build Basic Custom Closet Series



STEP ONE LAYOUT THE CUBBIES

Measure the width of the closet and then separate it into usable "openings" that will set between the Walls of each Cubby. HERE is a layout of my closet, for reference. Now "cap" the front edge of each Wall with a 1 x 2 --these are the Face Frame Stiles seen in the opening image. Typically these boards are centered on the thickness of each Wall, but in my design, I made a few adjustments to account for the bump out in the center of the closet, and to gain maximum usable space in the Cubbies that set against the ends of the closet.



STEP TWO CUT THE HEIGHT OF THE CUBBY WALLS

To mark the height of the Cubby Walls, measure from the bottom edge of the plywood to the height of the Wall at both the front and the back of the panel. Using a framing square, mark a line across the two measurements, double-checking that the marked line runs perpendicular to the edges of the panel. I cut the height of my walls 2 inches shorter than the full height of the closet so I could tip the Cubby into place once assembled. If you don't have a table saw for this step, use my easy DIY Cutting Fence (shown) to cut a perfectly straight line across the panel.



STEP THREE PREP THE SHELVES

Each Cubby has three stationary "Shelves" to hold the Walls in place. Beyond the stationary pieces, adjustable shelves and other add-ons can be installed. To prep the shelves for installation, drill four pocket holes along the side edges of each Shelf. Wondering how to use a Kreg Jig like mine? Watch my video tutorial.



STEP FOUR MARK THE HEIGHT OF THE SHELVES

Mark the height of the Shelves on the inside face of each Wall, always measuring from the bottom edge of the Wall to stay consistent. These lines also act as a guide during installation to make sure the shelves stay level. For reference, my bottom Shelf is 7-inches from the base of my panel--This accounts for the height of my baseboard assembly and Face Frame. The middle Shelf can either be placed at 38-inches to accommodate my tilt-out hamper or adjustable shoe shelf design (coming soon), or centered between the top and bottom shelves to create a two-tier hanging rack. My top Shelf runs flush with the top edge of the panel, so there's no need to mark it in this step.

THIS PROJECT IS SPONSORED BY



BUILD-BASIC.COM

CUSTOM CLOSET CABINET

Part of The Build Basic Custom Closet Series

STEP FIVE INSTALL THE FIRST SHELF

Apply wood glue to one edge of the bottom Shelf, and then place it below its corresponding line. I'm using a Kreg Right Angle Clamp to hold the Shelf in place while I screw the 1¼-inch pocket hole screws through the Shelf and into the Wall to hold the Shelf securely in place.



STEP SIX INSTALL THE REMAINING SHELVES

Install the middle Shelf in the same way as the bottom Shelf, with the pocket holes facing downward. To install the top Shelf, flip the shelf over so that the pocket holes are facing upward, and then position the Shelf flush with the top edge of the Wall. Drive the pocket hole screws through the Shelf and into the Wall to secure the pieces in place.



STEP SEVEN ADD THE SECOND WALL

Apply wood glue to remaining side edge of each Shelf. Flip the assembly onto the remaining Wall. Align the Shelves with the lines on the Wall, and then screw them into place using pocket hole screws.



STEP EIGHT PREP THE 1 X 2'S

Cut the 1 x 2 Face Frame pieces and Supports to length. Using a pocket hole jig, drill two pocket holes at the ends of each of the Face Frame Rails, and both Supports.



THIS PROJECT IS SPONSORED BY



BUILD-BASIC.COM