

Face-Frame Base Cabinet

Shaker-Style Door & Drawer — Full Assembly Guide

19 steps • a second pair of hands helps for Steps 4–8 and 16

Read all steps once before starting. Keep small hardware sorted by size.

SAFETY & BUILDING CODE: Take proper safety precautions and comply with all local laws and building codes throughout this project. This cabinet must always be appropriately anchored to the wall once installed — it should never be left freestanding, as an unanchored cabinet can tip over and pose a serious risk of injury or death.



Watch the video walkthrough

Scan this code to watch a helpful video of this cabinet's assembly.

Tools you'll need: Power drill/driver with Phillips bit, nail gun with finish nails, rubber mallet, wood glue, tape measure, pencil, torpedo level, safety glasses.

Before you start: Work on a clean, padded surface (moving blanket, carpet scrap, or cardboard) to protect the finished faces. Dry-fit each joint before adding glue or driving fasteners.

Note: Do not fully tighten any fastener until a step tells you the piece is square and aligned — leaving screws slightly loose lets you adjust panels into position.

Parts List

Cabinet components, with part shape for reference

A		Left side panel Side wall of the box; notched at the bottom-front corner for the toe kick.
B		Right side panel Mirrors part A; forms the right wall, with the same toe-kick notch.
C		Face frame Pre-assembled, pre-drilled frame — the front the door & drawer mount to.
D		Bottom panel Floor of the box; slides into grooves in both side panels.
E		Back panel Closes in the rear and squares the box; slides into the rear grooves.
F		Door panel Shaker-style door, hung on concealed hinges in the lower opening.
G		Drawer front panel Shaker-style drawer face, attached to the drawer box.
H		Drawer box sides, front & back Dovetailed solid-wood walls, glued into the drawer box.
I		Drawer box bottom panel Thin panel that slides into the drawer box's grooves.
P		Adjustable shelf Rests on shelf pins; height adjusts by moving the pins.

Hardware Reference

		
L-bracket (J)	Corner support (K)	Drawer-slide support (L)
		
Drawer slide clip (N)	Screw, chrome — brackets	Screw, brass — drawer box

Assembly Steps

1 Build the Box & Install Hardware

1 Unpack & sort the parts

Lay every part out on a flat, padded surface and check them against the Parts List. Set the drawer-box wood pieces (H, I) aside — they're assembled separately in Phase 3.

Tip: Work on a carpeted floor, moving blanket, or cardboard to protect the finished faces.

2 Glue & attach side panel A to the face frame

Run a thin, continuous bead of wood glue along the inside edge of the face frame (C) where side panel A will meet it. The frame has pre-drilled holes along this edge — screw two L-brackets (J) into the holes (four in total, two per side) using the chrome screws, then screw side panel A to the brackets to lock it in place flush with the frame.

Tip: Wipe away squeeze-out immediately with a damp cloth before it dries.

3 Attach side panel B to the opposite edge

Repeat the previous step on the other edge of the face frame with side panel B. With both sides attached you'll have an open, U-shaped box — face frame at the front, no back or bottom yet.

4 Install the bottom panel

Slide bottom panel D into the grooves cut into the inside faces of both side panels until it's flush with the face frame. Secure it with an L-bracket (J) at the front, using the chrome screws to attach the bracket to the face frame and to the bottom panel's edge so it locks the panel in place from below.

5 Install the back panel

Slide the back panel (E) down into the rear grooves of both side panels. This panel squares the whole box up, so check the front face frame is square to the sides first. Secure the back panel to the sides and bottom with a nail gun, spacing pins every few inches around the perimeter. Also screw an L-bracket (J) where the bottom panel meets the back panel, using the chrome screws to secure them together.

Tip: Measure corner-to-corner across the open front — equal diagonals mean the box is square — before you nail it in place.

6 Install the corner supports

Screw a corner support (K) into each of the four top corners of the box — two at the back, where the back panel meets the side panels, and two at the front, where the face frame meets the side panels. Together these four corner supports keep the box square and give you screw points for securing the cabinet later.

7 Install the drawer-slide supports on the back wall

For each side, screw a drawer-slide support (L) into the pre-drilled holes on the back panel using 2 screws. The arm on each support should project forward into the cabinet interior — this is what the drawer slide will ride on.

Tip: Keep both supports at the same height so the drawer will sit level.

8 Attach the drawer slide rails to the supports

Angle each drawer slide rail (M) in through the front opening and clip it onto the arm of the support you just installed, then slide it back until it locks into place. The front end of the rail should sit flush with the face-frame opening.

2 Hang the Door, Build & Install the Drawer

9 Install the hinge cups in the door

Snap the round hinge cup of each concealed hinge (O) into the two pre-bored holes on the inside back face of the door — one near the top, one near the bottom — and secure each with the small screws provided.

10 Hang the door on the cabinet

Hold the door in position in the face-frame opening. For each hinge, screw its mounting plate directly into the pre-existing holes on the face frame to secure the door in place.

11 Adjust the door for an even reveal

Use the three adjustment screws on each hinge (depth, height, and side-to-side) to center the door in the opening with an even gap all the way around, and so it sits flush when closed.

Tip: Adjust both hinges evenly — a small change on one hinge affects the whole door.

12 Attach the drawer box front to the sides

Apply wood glue into the dovetail joints where the drawer box front meets each side (H). Fit the joints together by hand and tap them fully home with a rubber mallet, then reinforce each joint with a few pins from a nail gun.

Tip: Never strike solid wood with a metal hammer — use a rubber or wood mallet to avoid crushing the joints.

13 Slide in the drawer bottom

Slide the plywood bottom panel (I) into the grooves in the drawer box front and sides.

14 Attach the back panel to the sides

Apply wood glue into the remaining dovetail joints where the drawer box back meets each side (H). Fit the joints together, tap them home with the mallet, and reinforce with the nail gun. Check the box for square before the glue sets.

15 Attach the drawer slide clips to the drawer box

Screw the drawer slide clip (N) to the lower outside edge of each drawer box side, using the brass screws in the pre-drilled pilot holes. Then press it forward until the front tab locks against the drawer box front, securing it firmly in place. Repeat on the other side.

16 Install the drawer in the cabinet

Pull the cabinet-mounted rails (from Step 8) fully forward, then lower the drawer box so its slide clips engage them. Push the drawer in and check that it glides smoothly with no binding.

17 Fine-tune the drawer front

With the drawer closed, check the gap around the drawer front matches the door reveal. Loosen the mounting clips inside the drawer box and nudge the front up/down or side-to-side as needed, then retighten.

Tip: Open and close the drawer a few times after adjusting to make sure it still glides freely.

18 Install the adjustable shelf

Push the four shelf pins (P) into matching pinholes on the inside of both side panels at the height you want, then tilt the shelf in through the door opening and lower it flat onto the pins.

19 Final check

Open and close the door and drawer several times. Confirm the door sits flush with an even reveal and the drawer glides smoothly and closes flush. Snug up any hardware that has worked loose.