

Drawer Base Cabinet

Three-Drawer, No Doors — Full Assembly Guide

15 steps • a second pair of hands helps for Steps 4–5 and 13

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 with three drawer openings stacked top to bottom.
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		Drawer front panels (3) Shaker-style drawer faces; each attaches to its own drawer box.
G		Drawer box sides, front & back (3 sets) Dovetailed solid-wood walls, glued into each drawer box.
H		Drawer box bottom panels (3) Thin panels that slide into each drawer box's grooves.

Hardware Reference



L-bracket (I)



Corner support (J)



Drawer-slide support (K)



Drawer slide clip (M)



Screw — brackets & supports (N)



Screw, brass — drawer box (O)

Assembly Steps

1 Build the Cabinet Box

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 (G, H) 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 (I) into the holes (four L-brackets are used in total, two per side) using the 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 (I) at the front, using the 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 (I) where the bottom panel meets the back panel, using the 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.

2 Install the Drawer Slides

6 Install the corner supports

Screw a corner support (J) 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 of the three drawer openings, screw a pair of drawer-slide supports (K) into the pre-drilled holes on the back panel, one per side. Work top to bottom, spacing each pair evenly so the drawers stack with even gaps. Each support's arm should project forward — this is what the drawer slides ride on.

Tip: Keep each pair level with each other so that drawer sits flat.

8 Attach the drawer slide rails to the supports

For each drawer, angle its two slide rails (L) in through the front opening, clip them onto the support arms, then slide back until they lock into place, flush with the face-₃ frame opening.

3 Build the Drawers

9 Attach the drawer box fronts to the sides

For each of the three drawer boxes, apply wood glue into the dovetail joints where the drawer box front meets each side (G). 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.

10 Slide in the drawer bottoms

Slide a plywood bottom panel (H) into the grooves in each drawer box's front and sides.

11 Attach the drawer box backs to the sides

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

12 Attach the drawer slide clips to the drawer boxes

On each drawer box, screw a drawer slide clip (M) to the lower outside edge of each side using the brass countersunk screws (O) 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 of each box.

4 Install the Drawers & Final Check

13 Install the drawers in the cabinet

For each drawer, pull its 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. Work top to bottom so you have clear access to each opening.

14 Fine-tune the drawer fronts

With each drawer closed, check that its gap around the drawer front is even, top to bottom and side to side, and consistent with the other two drawers. Loosen the mounting clips inside the drawer box and nudge the front as needed, then retighten.

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

15 Final check

Open and close all three drawers several times to confirm each one glides smoothly and closes flush with an even reveal. Snug up any hardware that has worked loose.

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