

Kitchen Niches

Hardwood Plywood



Kitchen Niches

It's amazing how many things just accumulate in the kitchen. Grocery bags, cookbooks, paper goods, dishes, you name it. While these niches won't create a space for everything that accumulates, they will help you find a place for all kinds of things you need to store in a handy place.

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Materials Needed

- 1—half sheet ½" hardwood plywood
- 1—13" x 1" hardwood dowel
- 2d nails
- Wood filler
- Wood glue
- High gloss enamel or stain of your choice
- Sandpaper
- 2—porcelain or brass knobs
- 4—1½" x #6 round head wood screws (to attach paper niche to underside of wall cabinet)
- 2—hardboard scraps, 2" square

Tools Checklist

- Circular saw or handsaw
- Combination or tri-square
- Tape measure
- 1/8" drill bit
- Electric drill
- Finish sander

- Top quality paint brush (unless you select spray enamel)
- Hammer (16 ounce, curved claw)
- Nail set
- Safety glasses

Instructions

Paper Towel Holder

1. Start the paper products holder by measuring a standard roll of paper towels to get the inside width. An interior dimension of 12½" will probably allow enough room for the roll to turn freely.
2. Using ½" thick plywood gives an overall exterior dimension of 13½" so the top is cut to that width, with a 12" depth, so the front of the paper products holder should fit flush with your kitchen cabinet.
3. Regular aluminum foil and plastic wrap are normally in 12" long boxes. Cut the shelf to fit the interior dimensions of 12½" by 12". Set the shelf 2½" down from the top. Cut sides to 9" x 12" dimensions.
4. For the holes that hold the 1" dowel for paper towels, measure 3" from the front edge, and 2" up from the bottom edge of each side piece. Drill 1½" hole at this center point on both sides. Cap one side permanently with a hardboard disc 1½" in diameter. Using the same size disc on the other side, attach a round head brass screw (#6 x 5/8") through the top edge of the disc and then fasten to the outside of the holder. This lets the disc pivot over the hole, and makes it simple to remove the dowel when you run out of paper towels. The dowel is cut to 13".
5. Once all the parts are cut to size, sand parts that you won't be able to reach after everything's put together. Then assemble the pieces making sure all edges are square. Us 2d finishing nails and fill the nail holes with wood putty.
6. Sand and finish

Did you know?

Hardwood plywood is much like traditional softwood plywood. Both kinds are made from layers of wood veneers that are bonded together, with the grain of each layer running perpendicular to the next. This cross-grain construction makes hardwood plywood stable and increases its strength and durability.

The most noticeable difference between hardwood plywood and traditional plywood is in the two outer layers or veneers. The outer layers of traditional softwood plywood take paint well and are generally used for construction and structural purposes. Hardwood plywood allows the natural finish of the wood to be exposed and is usually used for decorative purposes. The most popular face veneers are oak, birch and maple. The veneer varies with the species, producing unique color and grain characteristics. This real wood veneer gives the appearance of solid wood without the cost. Hardwood plywood is a product well-suited for clear finish treatments which enhance the natural beauty of the wood grain. It is easily machined, is resistant to splitting and impact and can be scored and bent for special curved applications more readily than solid wood.

Cookbook and Recipe Holder

1. Start by cutting the back 14" wide x 15" high.
2. Next cut the bottom 14" wide x 10" deep. Sides are cut 10" deep x 14½" wide, with a taper from the 8" mark (on the top) to the 5¼" mark on the front side. The shelf is 10" deep.
3. Sand all pieces that won't be reachable after assembly. Assemble the base unit using 2d finishing nails and glue. Fill holes with wood putty.
4. For the drawers, cut two fronts 6¼" x 3⅞", four sides 9" x 3⅞", and two backs 5½" x 3⅞". The two bottoms are cut to 5½" x 8½".
5. Nail the drawers together with ¾" brads and sand.
6. Drill holes for your knobs. Paint or stain to suit your décor.

