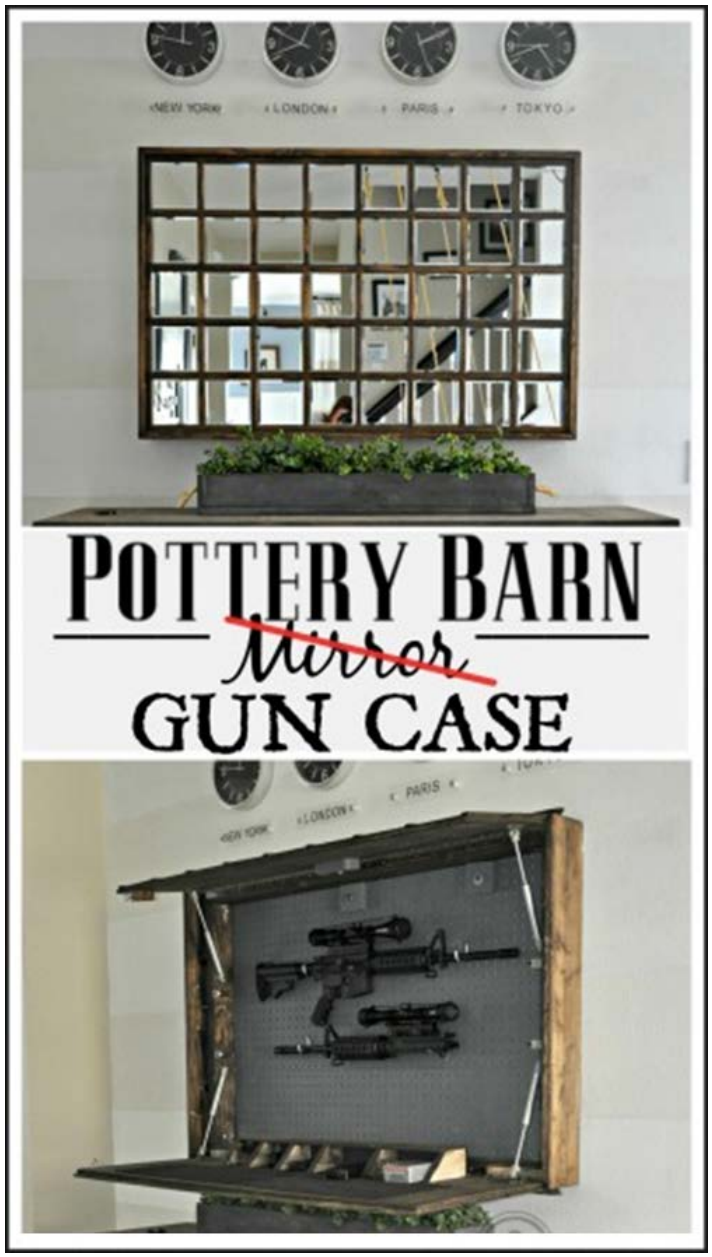
Secret Compartment

Gun Case



I have documented the process for building a gun case and I am super excited to share it with you today

One other thought to consider, this doesn't need to be strictly for guns. If guns aren't for you there are plenty of awesome options

When I made this, I had a couple of key criteria it had to meet:

– The kids would not be able to access them.

– My husband and I could readily access them.

– I did not want it to be an eye sore, because I did want to have easy access to them.

PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU START BUILDING:

This is not a beginner level build. I am not saying this is advanced, with artistic joints. However, I AM saying that if you have not worked with wood often, this may be frustrating! Sometimes the slightest bowing in a board can throw off everything! Another thing to consider when making this, these ARE NOT standard size boards. I custom made most of them to fit my needs. If you have access to a table saw this is do-able…

Supplies Used:

I ended up needing to buy a lot of my supplies online, because they were either A.) Significantly Cheaper or B.) The only place I could find them. That being said, this post does include affiliate links.

- Wood Glue
- Wood Filler
- 2×4″ (2)
- 1×6″ (1)

- 1×2″ (2)
- 1×4″ (2)
- 1/2″ plywood
- 4×8′ pegboard
- Hillman Group 1/4 x 3/8 x 1-Inch Spacer (3)
- 1/4″ x 3″ carriage bolts (2)
- 1/4 x 4″ threaded rod
- Eastland 5″ Square Beveled Mirror (40)
- Gas Strut Lift Support (4)
- 1.5″eyelet hooks (x2)
- Piano Hinge (2)
- Soft-Close Dampeners(Optional)
- 10-LED Wireless Motion Sensing LED Light(Optional)
- Hangman French Cleat with Hardware (2)(Optional)

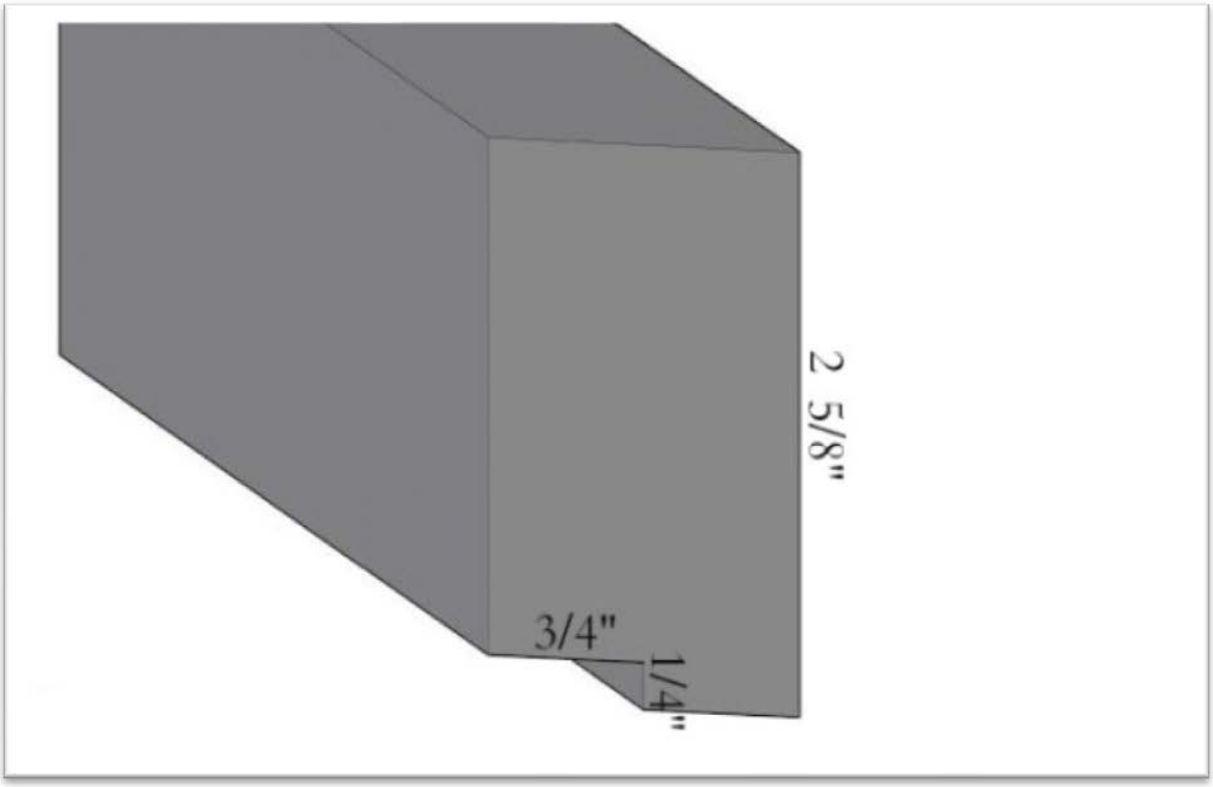
Tools Suggested :

- Miter Saw
- Router (Table Saw can work)
- Table Saw
- Drill
- 3/8″ Drill bit
- Forstner Bit 3/4-Inch
- Kreg Jig
- Drill Press (Would be IDEAL, but I managed without one.)
- Nailer and Compressor (Ideally, but do-able without if you are determined.)

Frame-

– I ripped 2×4's down so that their finished dimensions are 2 5/8′ x 1 1/2″.

Using a router or a table saw route out a lip on the inside/ back of the "2×4's" . This lip will serve as a recess that the peg board will sit in. See image below:

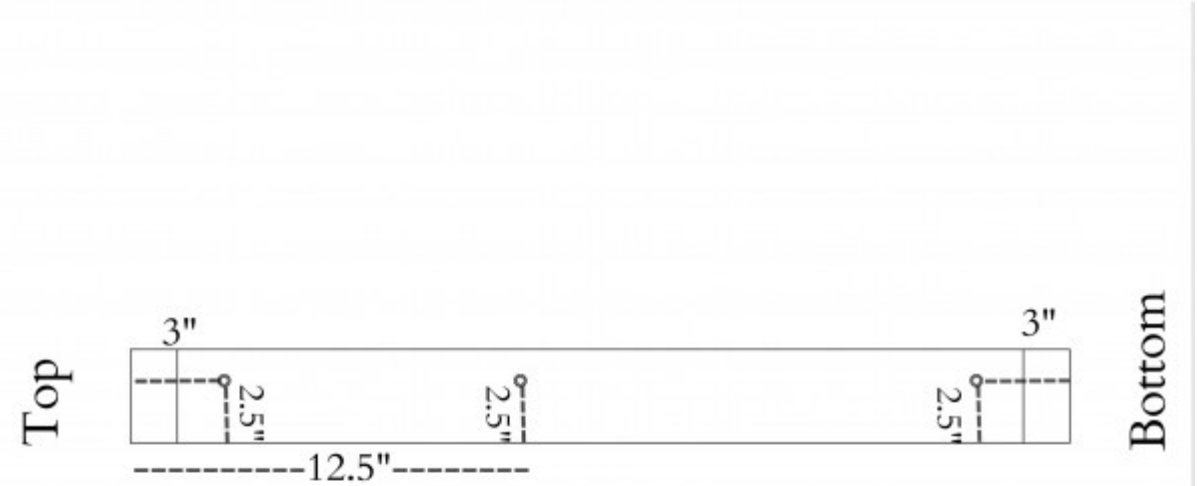


Cut List: (using the custom sized 2×4's)

(x2) 30 1/8″

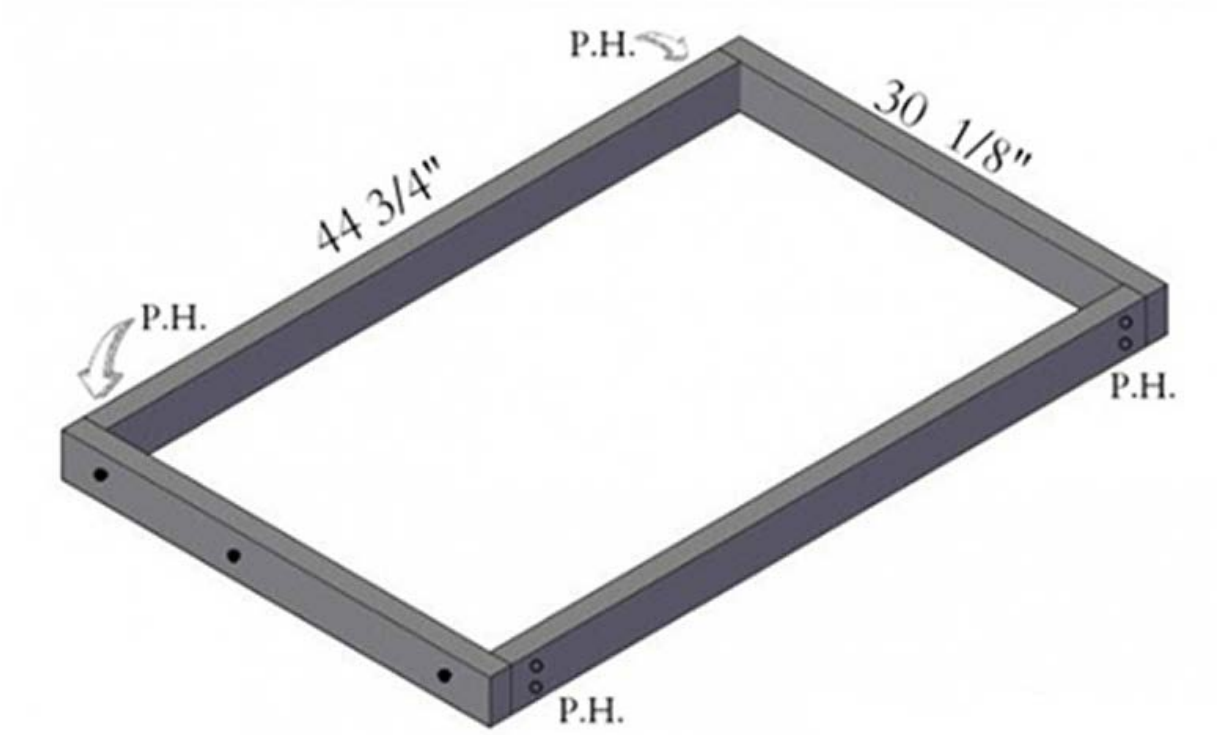
(x2) 44 3/4″

Take ONE of the 30 1/8″ boards and drill holes according to the below diagram. I would HIGHLY suggest using a drill press. If these are not straight holes, it will be difficult to shut/open.



Outside View
(Groove on the opposite bottom side.)

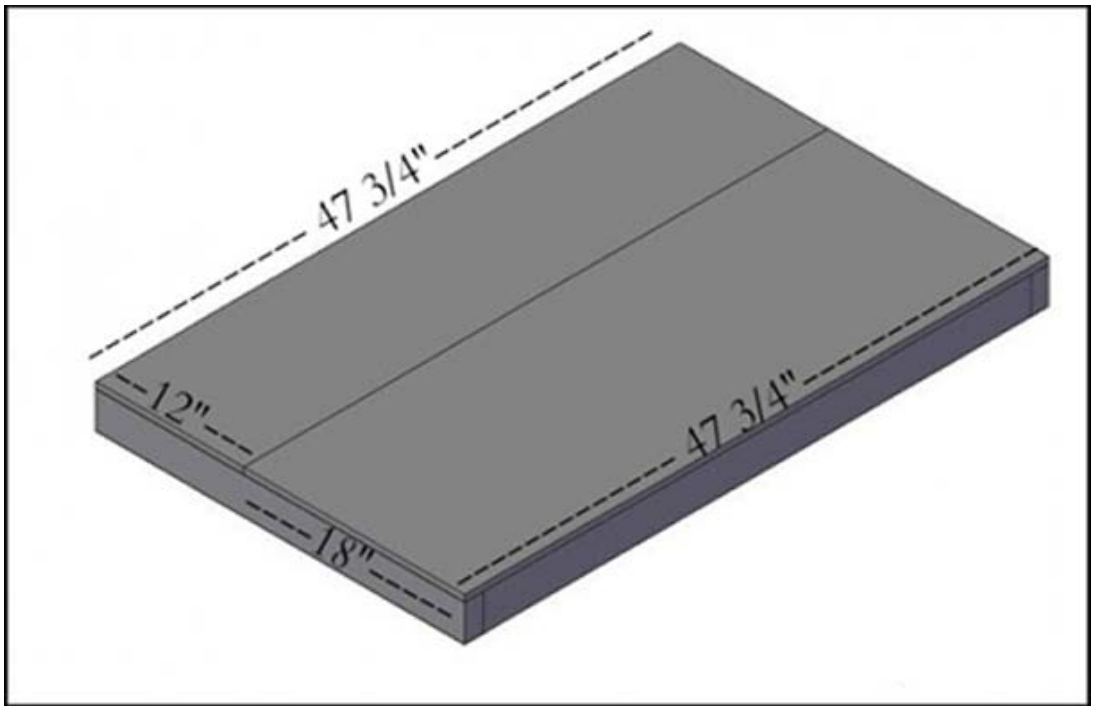
After holes are drilled , assemble the frame. Using a Kreg Jig make pocket holes on the exterior of the 44 3/4″ boards. (See the below diagram.)



Doors-

The doors were cut from 1/2″ plywood. There will be an 1/8″ gap where the two pieces meet .

- **Cut List :**
- 12″ x 47 3/4″
- 18″ x 47 3/4″

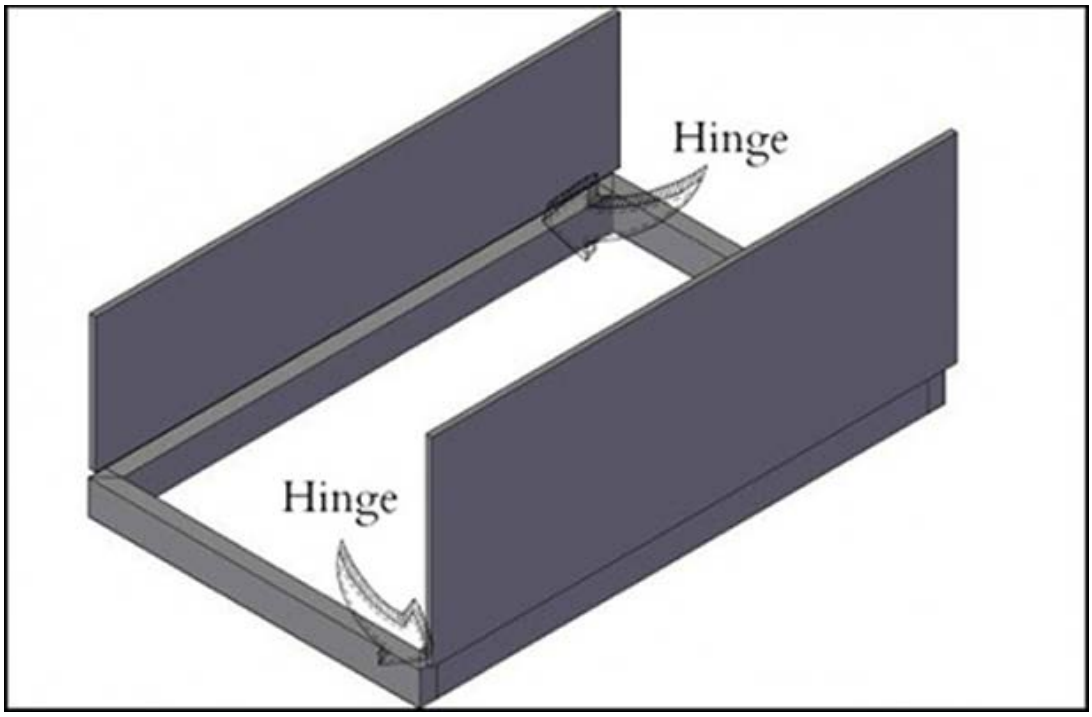


-Install Hinges

Piano Hinges come in a standard 48″ measurement. In order to make it fit, I cut both down to 47″.

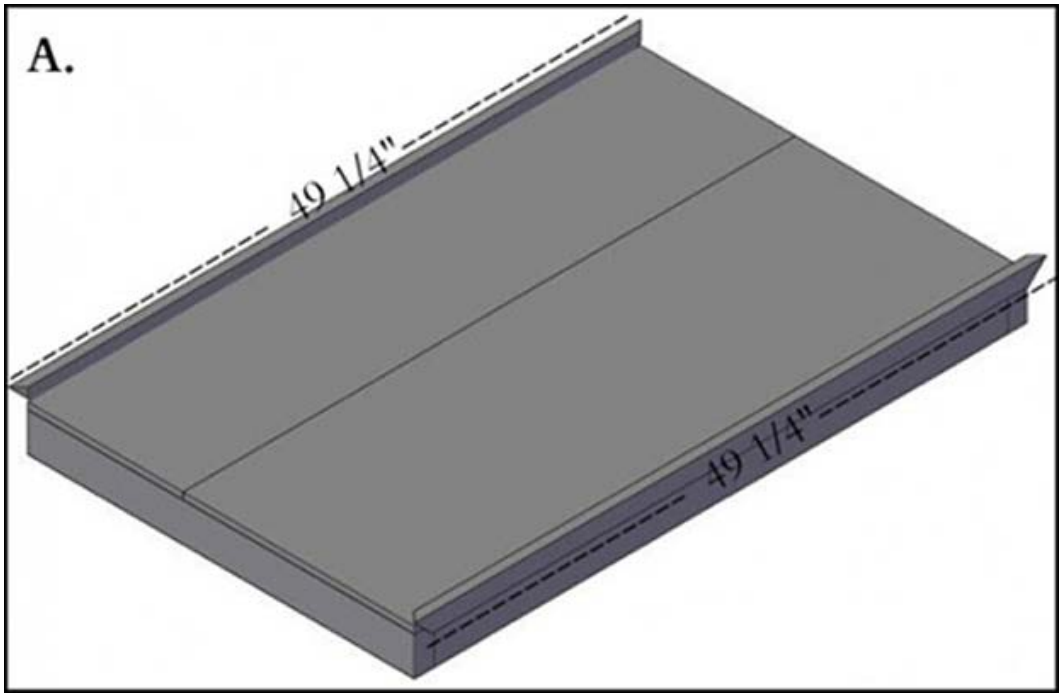
This can be down several ways:

- Hack saw
- Grinder
- Using an abrasive disk on circular saw

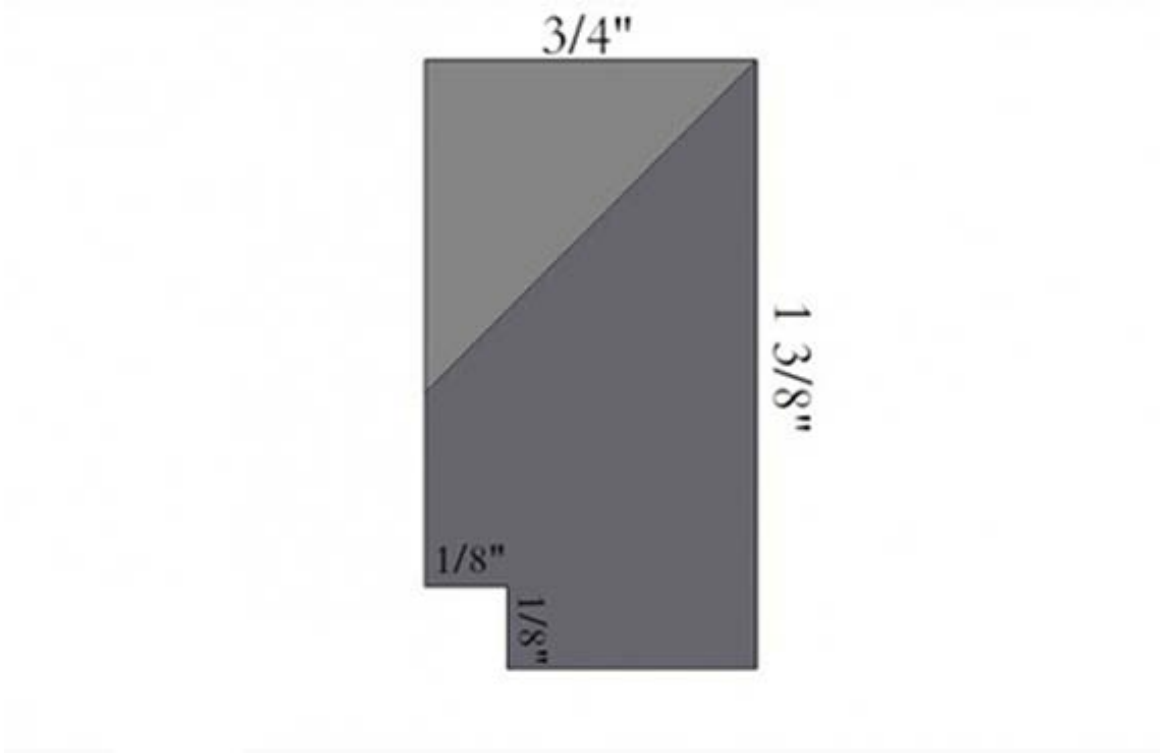


Trim-

A.)



To create the trim (seen in the above Diagram A.) You will need to cut down a 1×2″ board so that it's finished dimensions are 3/4″ x 1 3/8″. Once the board is resized, groove measuring 1/8″ x 1/8″ will need to be notched out. Either using a router, or a table saw. (See the image below.)



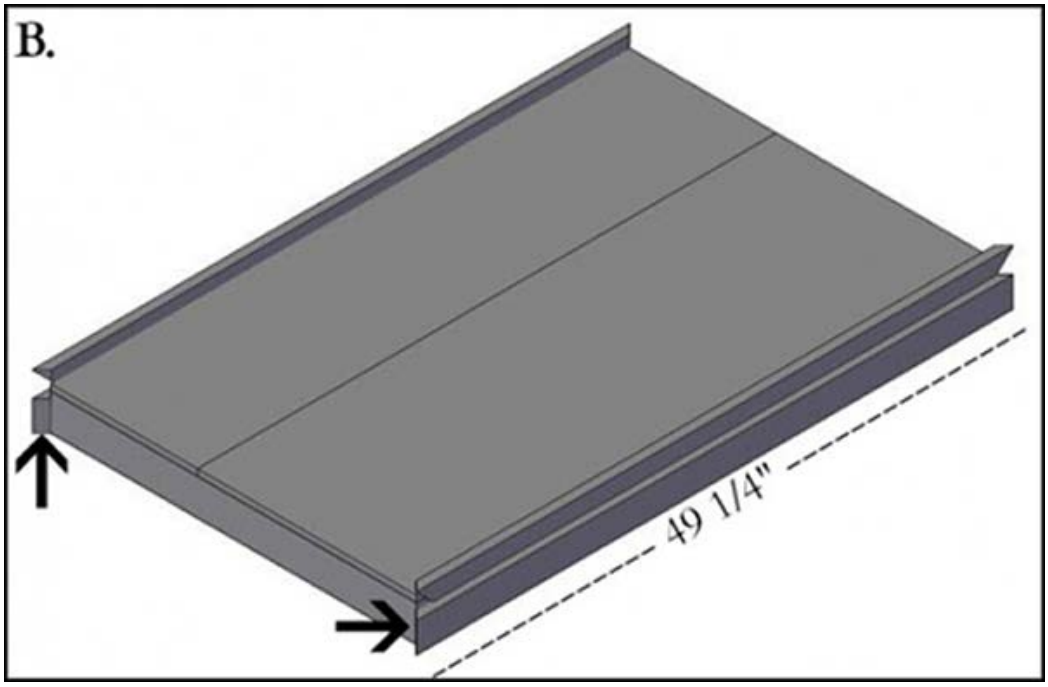
Once the "1×2" is cut to the specified dimension, it will need (2) 45 degree cuts on each of the ends. (I was getting confused simply writing how to make these cuts. So I am making it a little easier, here is a video on how to make the top and bottom trim pieces.)

Cut board so that it is 49 1/4″ long with 45 ° angles on both ends. (It will be 49 1/4″ long point to long point)

B.)

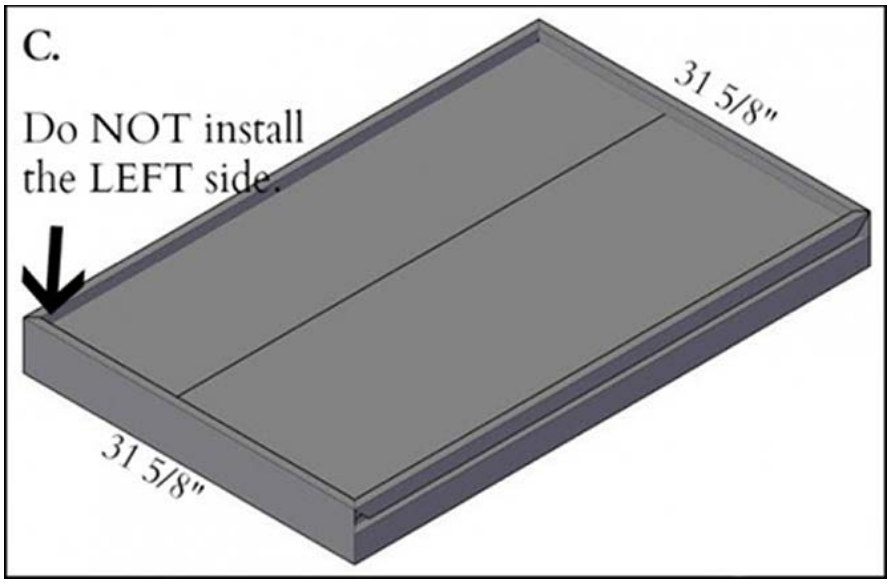
Rip down a 1×4″ so that its width is 2 7/16″ wide. Using the custom sized "1×4″ boards cut (2) boards so that they are 49 1/4"

long point to long point with 45 degree angles on end. (See Diagram B for clarification)



C.)

Rip down a 1×6″ so that its width is 4 1/2″ wide. Using the custom sized "1×6″ cut (2) boards so that they are 31 5/8" long point to long point with 45 degree angles on end. (See diagram C. for clarification.) Proceed to attach JUST the right side, leaving the left unattached.



– Left Trim Piece-

Before I show you how to install this, I want to show you what function this will be serving. As you can see in the image below, that the holes need to line up exactly! If they do not, they will bind up making it difficult/impossible to shut or open.

Because this step required precision, I would suggest using this method. (In the Images below the side frame piece (the stained piece) will already be attached to your frame.)

A.) Line up your left side trim piece that you cut earlier. (COMPLETE STEPS A, B, and C for the top hole first!)

B.) Place a bolt through the top hole, and then hit lightly with a mallet, this will leave an indent showing you the exact location of where the receiving end of the bolt should be placed.


C.) Using a 3/4″ Forstner bit, drill out a mere 1/8″. (This is not imperative, but there will be a 1/8″ gap between the trim and the frame if this recess is not created in the trim). This hole will hold a "T-Nut" so that it sits flush with with wood. I added a small amount of "Liquid Nails" to the base before screwing into place. Then add the 1/4″ x 3″ carriage bolt, so that it goes through the frame and into the "T-Nut".


Once steps A, B, and C, are completed for the top hole, proceed to

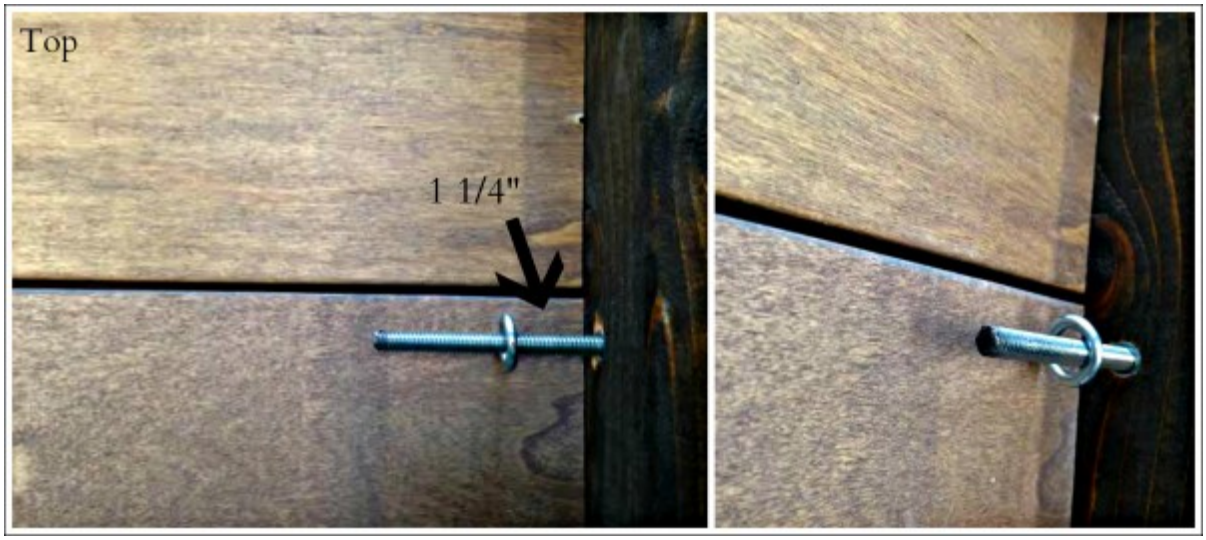
do the same process for the bottom hole, and then lastly do the middle.

Locking–

After the the moveable trim is in place, flip the entire case over so that you can easily see the inside of the case while it is closed.

At this point we will be placing 1 1/2 ” eyelet hooks on both the upper and lower lids. These eyelet hooks are intended to be placed so that the 4″ bolt *(1/4" threaded rod)* will pass through both “eyes”. I have included some measurements on the images below. However, I would make sure that the bolt will easily go in and out of the hooks, when the trim is pulled out and pushed in, before securing the hooks in place.

The first eyelet hook will be attached to the lower lid, approximately 1 1/4″ from the side.



The second eyelet hook is a little bit trickier. I had to screw it into a piece of 1×3″ and then place the block on the upper lid in order to get the correct placement. Again, make sure that it is placed so that the bolt (1/4″ threaded rod) will easily clear it when in motion.

Note: The eyelet on the upper lid (the second one featured above) is not entirely necessary. If the trim piece you attached to hid the gap is secured well, it will prevent the upper lid from opening until the lower lid is unlocked. When making this I did not realized that the trim would hold it in place as well as it does. However, if you are concerned about it being more secure, add the extra eyelet hook for peace of mind.

Grid-

For the grid I used a piece of trim that is 3/4″ wide and 1/4″ deep.

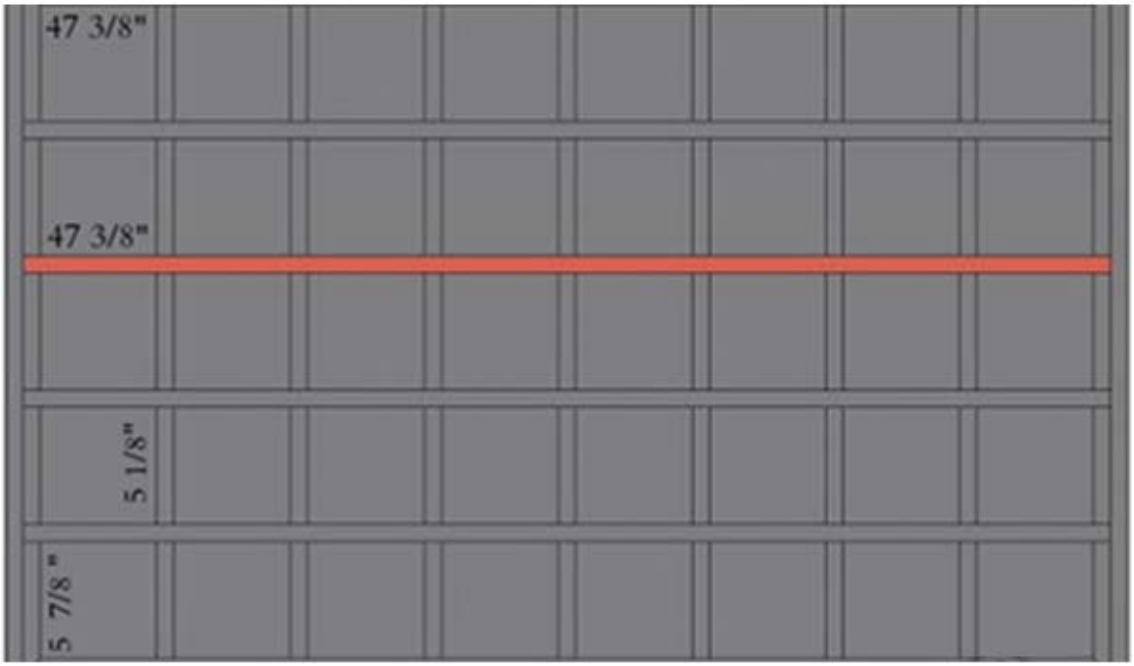
Cut List:

(2 x) – 47 3/8″ long point to long point with 45 degree angles on ends

(4 x) – 47 3/8″

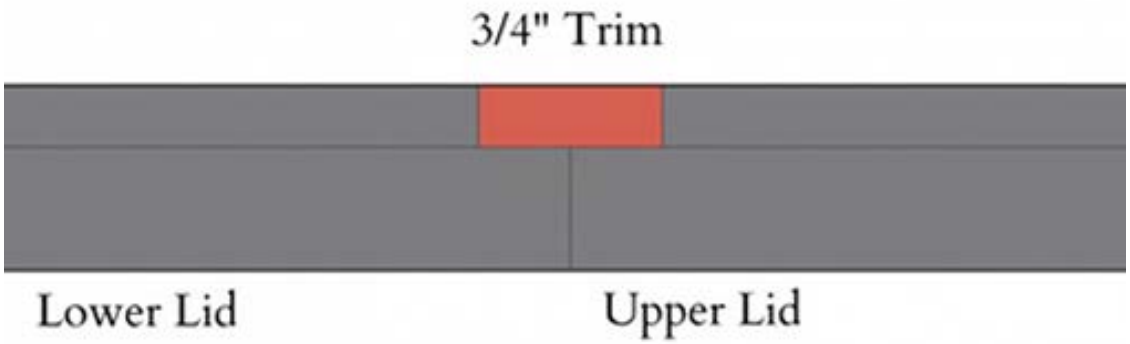
(41 x)- 5 1/8″

(4 x) – 5 7/8″ from the long point of a 45 to a straight cut



- Start with trim piece that will hide the gap between the 2 doors. It is the red piece in both the above and below images. It is important that this hide the gap and is attached to the LOWER lid NOT the upper lid. Make sure this is strongly secured using wood glue, and finishing nails if possible.

Section View



Once the (red) trim piece is placed proceed to layout the rest of the pieces. I would STRONGLY suggest laying out all the pieces AND mirrors before you start attaching. Just to be safe.

- Place all horizontal trim pieces
- Place all vertical trim pieces
- Place all Mirrors

Once all pieced are placed, and fitting correctly, proceed to glue all the components in place. If possible reinforce with 3/8″ finishing nails on the trim. I used liquid nails to place the mirrors without any incidents.

Mirrors– I made this around Christmas time, and during the Holidays I was able to find these mirrors at the Dollar Tree. (They are technically for candle placement.) Tracking down 40 was not an easy feat, I enlisted a few friends to help me track these down. (Thank you friends!) This is a large part a reason why I have put off this tutorial, I wanted to track down a new source. I still do see these at the Dollar Tree from time to time, but not steadily. After looking through MANY stores I found that the cheapest way to purchase the mirrors (other than dollar tree) was online.

Install Hardware-

I used Gas Struts on mine, this will allow it to have the slow open action. These are not entirely necessary. You can use a cheaper/easier method and use a basic support hinge. They are only a few dollars at your local hardware. I only used the Gas Struts because this was a gift for my husband, and he kind of geeks out about that kind of thing. (Follow the instructions included in your hardware when installing.)

I also installed a slow close dampeners, again not completely necessary, but again, my husband finds that stuff cool. These are also available at most home improvement stores. (Follow the instructions included in your hardware when installing.)

Another “extra” was a motion sensing light. I found one that is battery operated and flips on when the door opens. Again, not necessary, and in some cases not entirely ideal. But my husband thought it was awesome!

Installing:

The last thing to consider is how and where you are planning on mounting your case. There are two options: The easier being a cleat system, using a system like this: 18″ low profile French Cleat with Hardware. (2) cleats would be required for this project.

Or a more secure approach would be securing it to the wall with lag screws. When I originally made this, I was playing the whole thing by ear, and making it up as I went. As a result the approach to mounting it was a little interesting. As you can see in the image below.

I first decided where I wanted my case to be placed. I then determined where the studs where on the wall that I was mounting my case. As you can see my lag screws are not centered. This is because I placed the lag screws according to the stud placement.

I then cut 3″ blocks from a 2×3″ board. I then securely mounted these to the frame. I carefully pre-drilled with 1/4″ bit through the block. (This will prevent the board from splitting when securing the case to the wall.)

The only thing to keep in mind is that you cannot have anything in the top corners, because the supports/hydraulics will hit it.

Peg Board-

Cut List:

- 46 1/4″ x 28 5/8″

The last thing it will need is the peg board. It will require a piece of peg board that is approximately 46 1/4″ x 28 5/8″ This should fit in the notch that was cut out when first assembling the frame. Secure in place using wood glue and reinforce with finishing nails.

It is important that the peg board hooks are arranged prior to mounting to the wall. In an effort to make the case as low profile as possible there was no clearance allowed on the back side of the case. Again, the peg board hooks will gauge your wall if they are installed or moved after the case is mounted.

That is it!