

Bulletin Board



Everywhere we turn these days, we're confronted by computers. It's easy to see why. Nothing handles information and images the way a computer can. But no matter how useful computers are, we still need a bulletin board to display images and information printed on old-fashioned paper. The humble bulletin board is definitely low-tech, but it works, and it will still be useful long after you've replaced or upgraded your computer.

Construction

Begin by ripping the frame stock to width, then crosscut it to rough length. Edge joint the pieces to remove saw marks. Clamp each piece to the bench, and cut each piece's rabbet using a straight bit in a router.

Cut the 45 degree miter on each frame member with a miter saw or on a table saw. Lay out the joining-plate slots at each miter joint, clamp the workpiece to the bench and cut each slot with a plate joiner (Photo 1). Clamping is important because there is increased danger of kickback when cutting plate slots in endgrain. Apply glue to the slots, plates and mitered ends, and assemble the frame with clamps along the length and width of the frame (Photos 2 and 3). Apply clamping pressure as you bring the joints tight.

While the glue on the frame sets, rip and joint the edge trimpieces, and cut them to length with 45 degree miters. Use 4d finish nails and glue to attach the trim to the frame.

Carefully remove the glue that has squeezed out of the miter joint and hardened. Next, cut and apply the panel molding to the face of the frame (Photo 4). Keep the outside edges of the molding flush with the outside of the frame.

Rip and crosscut the Homasote panel to size. Use either the table saw or a circular saw and a straightedge guide to make the cuts. Cut your fabric 8 to 10 in. larger than the panel in length and width, then lay the fabric facedown on a table. Place the Homasote over the fabric, and adjust it so there is an even amount of fabric on all sides. Fold one fabric edge to the back of the panel, and secure it with staples placed 2 in. apart. Fold the fabric over the opposite edge, pull it taut and staple it. Repeat the procedure for the remaining two edges. Fold up the corners of the fabric and staple them flat to the panel's back.

Lay the face frame down on the workbench and place the panel in it (Photo 5). Cut the wall cleat and hanging cleat to size. Use the table saw or a circular saw to cut the 45 degree beveled edge on each piece. One of these strips is mounted to the back of the frame, while the other is screwed to the wall. The angled edges interlock and provide a secure mount that allows the bulletin board to be removed for wall painting.

Bore and counterbore pilot holes in the hanging cleat, and attach it to the back side of the frame with 1 1/4-in.-long screws. Don't drive the screws down too tightly because they will be removed in a few minutes.

Next, rip and crosscut the remaining three cleats. Again, bore and counterbore pilot holes, then mount the cleats to the frame (Photo 6). Test fit the wall cleat behind the hanging cleat. It should slide in underneath it easily and butt the hanging cleat smoothly along its length and width. Tip the bulletin board up, and press on the tack board—it should have no play.

Now remove the tack board. Set and fill the nail holes on the exposed parts of the frame, and finish sand the frame. Prime and paint the frame. Position the wall cleat where desired, check it for level and screw it to the wall. Reinstall the tack board and cleats, hang the bulletin board and then tack up those overdue Internet-access bills.



1--Clamp the frame pieces to the workbench, and cut the joining-plate slots in them using a plate joiner.



2--Apply glue not only to the plates, but also to the slots that receive them and the face of the miter.



3--Clamp the bulletin board's frame by applying even pressure across its width and along its length.



4--Fasten moldings to the bulletin board's frame with 4d finish nails. Set the nails and fill the holes.



5--After the fabric has been applied to the Homasote panel, place it in the rabbet cut in the back of the frame.



6--Temporarily attach the cleats to the back of the frame. Make sure the tack board panel fits snugly.