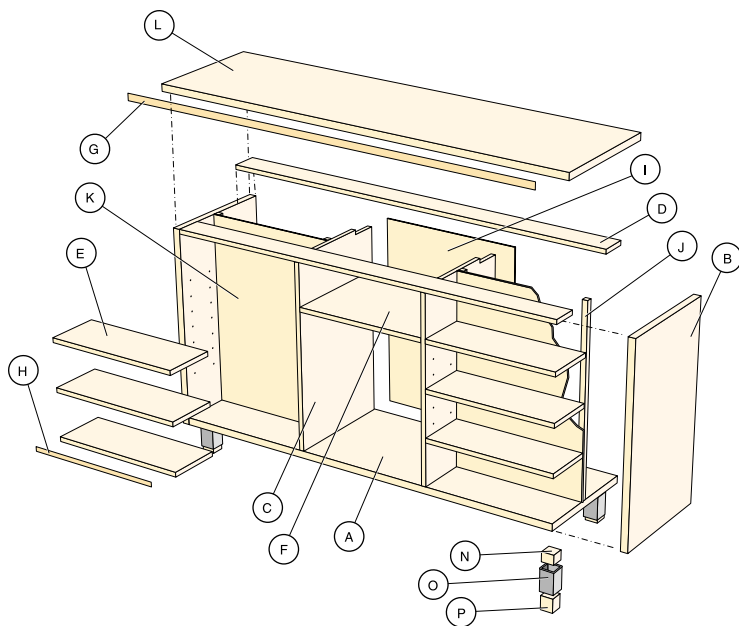


Entertainment central

Build our neat little entertainment unit

Enjoying your favourite music or TV program is one of life's simple pleasures. It's even better when everything is within reach and organised. By Dieter Mylius, Greg Fahey



WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Item	Part	Size	Material
A	Base	1410 x 400 x 25mm	Particleboard
B	Sides (2)	690 x 400 x 25mm	Particleboard
C	Dividers (2)	665 x 396 x 16mm	Particleboard
D	Top rails (2)	1410 x 90 x 16mm	Particleboard
E	Side shelves (6)	175 x 460 x 16mm	Particleboard
F	Central shelf	396 x 458 x 16mm	Particleboard
G	Wide edging (total)	40mm x 5.5m	Beech veneer
H	Narrow edging (total)	21mm x 7m	Beech veneer
I	Central back panel	649 x 490 x 4mm	Plywood
J	Cleats (4)	19 x 19 x 665mm	Maple
K	Side back panels (2)	460 x 665 x 4mm	Plywood
L	Top	1500 x 420 x 25mm	Particleboard
M	Hole template	645 x 175 x 3mm	MDF
N	Leg block (4)	44 x 44 x 35mm	Maple
O	Sleeve	50 x 50 x 3 x 80mm	Aluminium tube
P	Leg	44 x 44 x 50mm	Maple

The panels are cut from one 25mm and one 16mm sheet of veneered particleboard, with 4mm veneered plywood for the backs and joined with a biscuit joiner (about \$30 a day to hire). This joins panels like dowelling, but allows some leeway in setting out. You will also need 1800mm long sash cramps, no. 20 biscuits, assorted screws, wood glue, 28 x 5mm shelf pins; cartridge of construction adhesive.

Here's how

1 Cut base and side panels (A, B). Cut panels with face side down. Run the power saw with sharp fine toothed blade along straight timber batten spaced and clamped to allow for distance between saw blade and edge of base plate of saw.

2 Cut out dividers (C) and top rails (D) as well as side and central shelves (E, F). Pre-cutting most of the materials allows you to edge-veneer all components in one process.

3 Cut slightly long lengths of edge veneer (G, H) to suit the thickness of the boards. Run a household iron over veneer as you hold it in place to soften glue and, when soft, press in place by rubbing with a cork block. Trim overhanging edges with a file, sand smooth. Edge-veneer all visible edges of base, top, sides, front top rail and shelves.

4 Join boards with a biscuit joiner, making sure joints are not misaligned. To join a bottom corner, stand a side on the base. With a pencil, mark joints on both pieces. Extend the marks to outside edge of base as all biscuit cutting is done from outside corners. Set biscuit cutter to cut slots for no. 20 biscuits spaced 11mm from edge for 25mm boards (7mm for 16mm boards). Align mark on cutter with pencil marks and cut slots. We used three biscuits along bottom joints and one for each end of top rails.

5 Apply glue to biscuits and push into slots in the sides. Set base on sash cramps then bring sides to base. Push together, then tighten cramps. Set top rails in place and hold with sash cramps.

6 To fit dividers, cut a 90 x 16mm recess at front of panels and 86 x 16mm recess at back. Insert dividers between top and bottom, flush with front and

spaced exactly 460mm from each side (use a side shelf as a spacer). Pre-drill, countersink and screw in place from top and underside.

7 Glue and pin on central back panel (I) in the recess left by the dividers.

8 Screw cleats (J) to inside of side bays 179mm from front, using screws short enough so they don't protrude into centre. Countersink for heads. Glue and pin on side back panels (K).

9 Cut top (L) and apply wide veneer to front and side edges. If your room has skirting boards and you want the top to sit flush against a wall, add thickness of skirting to top width to make this possible. Centre top over unit with 20mm front overhang, then screw on from the underside through the rails.

10 To drill holes for shelf pins, make a template (M): clearly mark the top and draw a line 40mm in from each long edge. From the bottom measure 150, 205, 260, 315, 370, 425 and 480mm up both lines for the position of the top of each hole. Place template inside sides and dividers and drill a 5mm hole at each mark to a depth of 10mm. In the central section only drill the top holes.

11 Tip the unit on its back and mark 45mm in from each edge for the centre of each leg. Glue and screw leg blocks (N) to these positions, apply construction adhesive to the block and fit sleeve (O) over block. Glue the leg (P) inside the sleeve – it should protrude about 5mm from aluminium sleeve.

12 Finish unit with two or three coats of Danish Oil or similar for a low sheen finish.