

The Story of a Woodworker Wanna Be

BY PETE PAGE

It all started when we went out to dinner with friends. During the course of the evening, the topic of our antiquated kitchen came up. This happens often because my wife, Martha, constantly reminds me that she wants to completely remodel our kitchen. Well, that's not going to happen ... at least not in this economy.

Our house in Charlotte was built in 1950 and is equipped with the original cabinets. Martha had frequently commented on wanting a better way to organize the stuff in our drawers. Upon further review, it was concluded that short of granting her wish and installing new cabinets, new drawers were in order.

Fortunately for us, one of our friends, Marte Yerkins, was a cabinet manufacturer in a previous life. He previously helped us upgrade our kitchen by building and installing new shelves that slide out of the cabinets giving us better access to pots, pans and other utensils.

Once again Marte stepped forward and offered to build the drawers that would better organize our "stuff." To my surprise, Martha would have nothing of it. She firmly stated her intention to build the drawers herself and asked Marte if he would be willing to guide her through the process. He agreed, thus beginning Martha's journey into cabinetmaking 101.

While Marte advised her that the project could be completed in one day, it took six months for them to get their schedules coordinated for her crash course. Marte bought the materials in advance so all was ready when Martha showed up at his shop. You can tell the level of a person's passion for something by the number of tools he owns. Well, let me tell ya, Marte's got a boatload and Martha got to work with them under Marte's expert tutelage. Me? I got to watch, take pictures and pitch in when necessary.

After briefing his student on the theory of the 32mm system of cabinet production and providing a step-by-step overview of the project, Professor Yerkins announced that it was time to get to work. Martha had a great time working with a table saw, an edgebander, a power nailer (her favorite) and much more. At the end of the day we had five new drawers. On the following day, Marte helped Martha install them. The accompanying pictures provide a brief glimpse of the project in action and the end result.

Two happy woodworkers: teacher and student. And of course, one happy husband and the new drawers to fill with stuff. ◀▶



Teacher and student celebrate a job well done.



Professor Yerkins observes student Martha Page's panel-sizing technique.



Martha puts a tabletop edgebander through the paces.



A steadied hand assembles the drawer boxes.



The drawers go into their new home.

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ISW Home Page Poll Results

Don't underestimate the importance of a fresh-brewed cup of java. Nearly half the readers in the October ISW Home Page Poll indicated that their coffeemaker is the most indispensable piece of equipment at their woodworking plant.

Which machine could your shop least live without?

Coffeemaker	47.2%	Panel Saws	11.1%
CNC Router	13.9%	Moulder	9.7%
Edgebander	11.1%	Widebelt Sander	6.9%

November ISW Poll Question:

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