

optional Dresser top & base



This optional top and base give the dresser a slightly more traditional look. I added a few more “curves” and didn’t use the dark cherry dye on the knobs, base, and top.

BASE. I started with the base. When you take a look at Fig. 1 you’ll see how it goes together. It’s really nothing more than an apron, mitred at the front corners, that captures a plywood centre panel. With the four apron pieces cut to size, you’ll first need to rebate the top inside edges of the front and sides (Fig. 1b). This rebate holds the centre panel. And next a simple round-over will soften the outside edges. If you look close, you’ll see a short shoulder here (Fig. 1b). At

this point the front and side pieces can be mitred to length. Then cut the back piece to fit between the sides. Finally, you can lay out and cut the gentle, arching curves (Figs. 1 and 1a). I assembled the frame with a reinforcing block glued in each corner. And adding the 18mm plywood centre panel completes the base. The panel sits on top of the back apron piece.

TOP. For the optional top, I added a cove under the solid-wood top to create a pleasing, built-up look. As Fig. 2 shows, the cove pieces form a frame that supports the top. There’s nothing difficult about piecing the frame together. The only trick here is attaching the frame and solid top

to the case. And this is just a matter of a few holes in the right places. First, I cut the frame pieces from 18mm stock and routed the cove on the front and sides. Next, the front and sides are mitred and the back and centre fillers are cut to fit (Fig. 2). Now before attaching the frame pieces to the case, you need to drill some 9mm holes that will line up with the mounting holes in the top divider (Fig. 2). These holes allow your screws to pass through the frame and into the top (Fig. 2a). Once the cove frame is added, the 18m-thick solid-wood top can be made and installed. A roundover on the bottom of the front and sidesedges is all it needs (Fig. 2a).