

PART 2: DUST & DISRUPTION

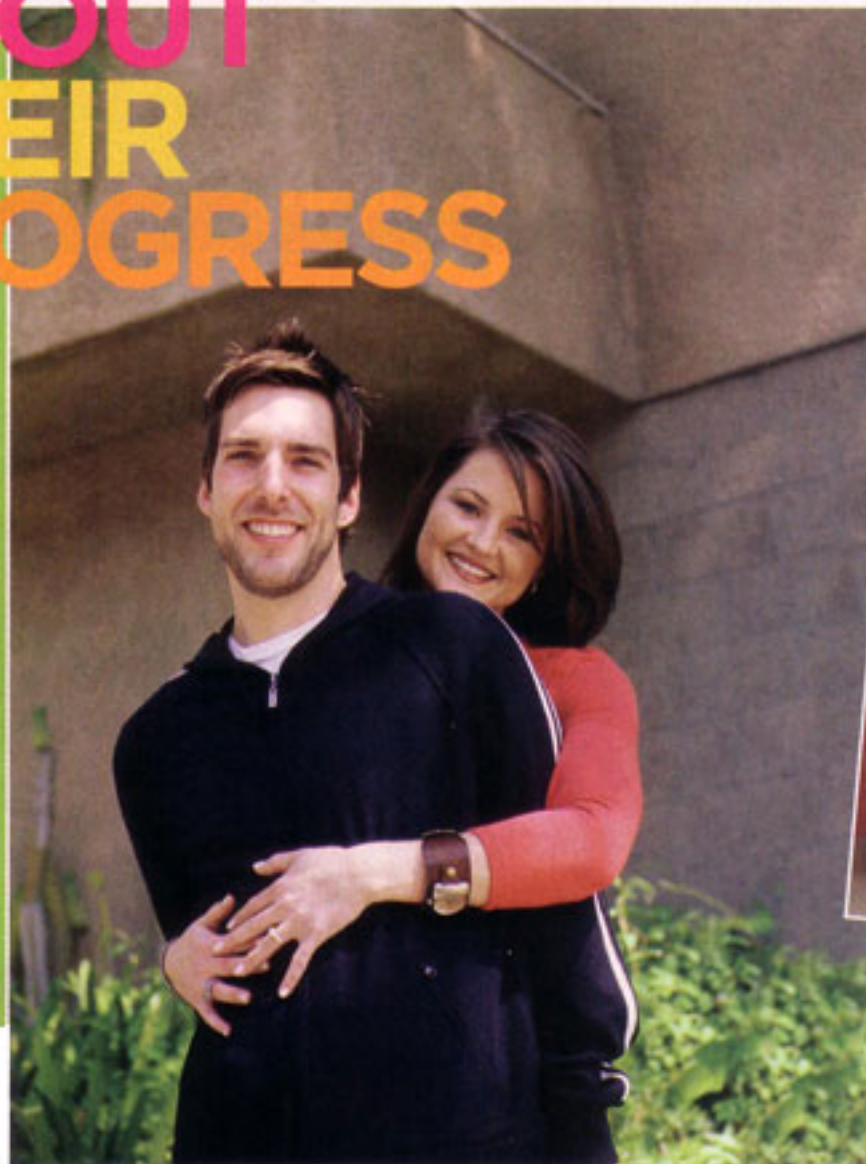


Style

EVEN IF YOU'RE A HOST AND DESIGNER ON HGTV'S POPULAR *DECORATING PROGRAM DESIGN ON A DIME*, REMODELING HAPPENS! FOR THE SECOND STORY IN OUR FIVE-PART SERIES, *DO IT YOURSELF*® CHECKS BACK IN ON KRISTAN CUNNINGHAM AND SCOTT JARRELL'S REMODELING PROGRESS. SIX MONTHS INTO THE OVERHAUL OF THEIR PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, HOME, THE COUPLE SHARE HOW THEY'VE ADJUSTED THEIR GOALS, TWEAKED THEIR DESIGNS, AND DEALT WITH DELAYS AND A WHOLE LOT OF DUST.

BY CYNTHIA PEARSON, PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHAEL GARLAND, ILLUSTRATOR: KENNETH BATELMAN,
STYLING: ROBIN TUCKER.

ABOUT THEIR PROGRESS



LEFT: Scott and Kristan approach stretches of remodeling downtime with good humor, reassuring each other it will all make a good tale to tell later. **ABOVE:** The couple measures a guest bedroom as a location for a potential headboard project.

Six months into remodeling their Pasadena, California, home, Kristan Cunningham and Scott Jarrell are at the point where theory meets real life. Although Kristan, a host and designer on the popular HGTV program *Design on a Dime*, and her fiancé meticulously planned each step of their 18-month project, they've found that critical building materials can take months to arrive, "simple" installation instructions may require professional assistance, and dealing with remodeling dust is an almost constant battle.

When materials don't show on time, the ripple effect is significant. The carefully coordinated sessions that Kristan and Scott scheduled with stone installers, electricians, and plumbers have been derailed as the tradespeople moved on to their next obligations. Kristan and Scott have done what everyone must to get all those folks back in the right order: Jump back in line and wait.

The couple have stuck to their plan to focus first on their third-story loft, which includes a master bedroom and bath. Their rationale is that they'll have one finished place to retreat while the rest of the house is updated. After a slow start, the transformation is underway.

"Having a completed area inspires us every day," Kristan says. "It helps us see the light at the end of the tunnel, knowing that soon the rest of our house will be finished at this level." Now she and Scott are moving furniture into the loft space and rearranging their personal items once again so that they can essentially live in the loft while work takes place on the lower levels. "I'm sure we made the right decision to do this," Kristan says.

Kristan and Scott are also learning that remodeling projects will swallow every minute of your day, not to mention every word of conversation. To keep things in perspective and stay in touch with each other, they take noncancelable "time-outs" together. "There's no such thing as *when we have the time, we'll relax*," Kristan explains. "Friday nights are now our movie-couch nights, and don't mess with that!" The pair also insists on a weekday date night: Tuesday. "We go out for dinner or just coffee," Kristan says. "Date night can be just an hour. Maybe we go to the grocery for milk and cookies. The point is we're together and we're out of the house and not talking about it."



LEFT: Clean lines attracted Scott and then Kristan to contemporary style; now they've embraced it. For their bath, they chose wet-surface-and-channel sinks and mirror-fronted medicine cabinets with integral spout-through faucets. **ABOVE:** Faucet control is on the cabinet's underside. The cabinets offer storage space through full-height side slide-outs, which include electrical outlets.

KRISTAN & SCOTT'S STRATEGIES

When it comes to pulling off a successful remodeling project, experience is a great teacher, whether it's your own or fellow enthusiasts'. Take a look at the key strategies Kristan and Scott are using to keep their project, and themselves, on track.

Get project management help. Homeowner-remodelers once had just two options: hire a general contractor to oversee the job, or take on the job themselves. The latter is often a full-time job with long hours that calls for people, detail, and managerial skills. Kristan and Scott chose an alternative that's gaining popularity: hiring a project manager. Project managers often are general contractors, but their role is limited to ordering product and supplies, hiring tradespeople, and introducing them to a project. "From that point, Scott and I work directly with everyone," Kristan explains. The approach works for homeowners who have strong design ideas and want to direct the work—but don't have the time or the promise of repeat business to locate skilled tradespeople. Project managers charge a

fee for project phases and generally mark up their tradespeople's work and purchases. Don't call your project manager to the site every day: He or she will charge for time spent on your job beyond the agreement.

Get comfy before reacting or responding. "When you've just come home and see what's happened on the project, that is not the time to respond, make decisions, or start calling people," Kristan says. When you're exhausted and hungry, it's too easy to accept a situation that you're unhappy with, or not see the opportunity in a surprise development. Taking hints from others to heart, Kristan and Scott withhold judgment and even comment until they unwind a bit. That means comfy clothes and dinner before assessing the day's progress and plotting the next course of action.

**“HAVING A COMPLETED AREA
THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE**



ABOVE: Kristan and Scott claimed their home's third-floor loft, originally built as a cabinet-lined home office and bathroom, as their master bedroom suite.

RIGHT: The luxury makeover of the sleeping space meant new low-profile furniture, such as the sleek nightstands that Kristan designed to bookend their bed.

BELOW: Kristan and Scott assemble one of the new nightstands. For details on how to build a similar design, turn to "Build It Yourself" on page 96.



INSPIRES US EVERY DAY. IT HELPS US TO SEE
TUNNEL.”—homeowner and designer Kristan Cunningham



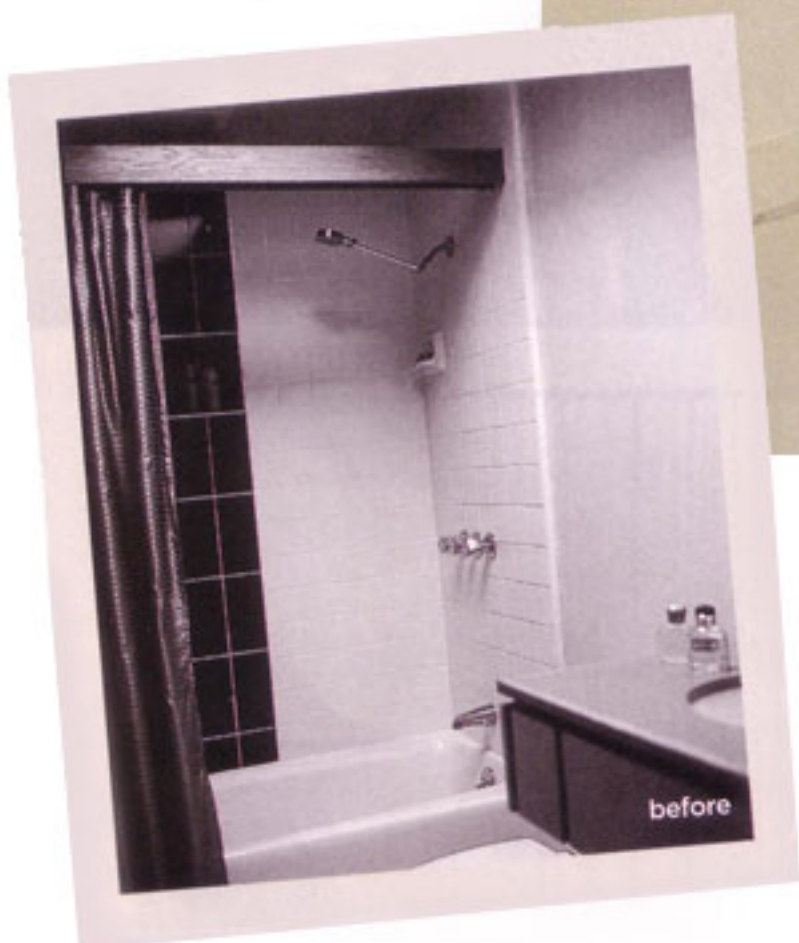
ABOVE: Kristan reconfigured the bathroom, replacing a wall of cabinetry with a wall of storage closets. The new center entry to the bath offers symmetry and a clear delineation between Kristan's and Scott's storage. "We drywalled the closets so that the doorway to the bathroom would feel like a short hallway rather than walking between banks of cabinetry," Kristan says. "The drywall also gives the suite a crisp new edge."

RIGHT: Kristan replaced the bedroom's vertical blinds with a soft treatment she designed and sewed herself using affordable white gabardine. The new cornice is a 6-inch wood underframe, mounted to the wall then drywalled and finished for a seamless, architectural look. The pinch-pleat panels attach to hidden hospital-style tracks, which can easily accommodate the weight of 15 feet of lined fabric.



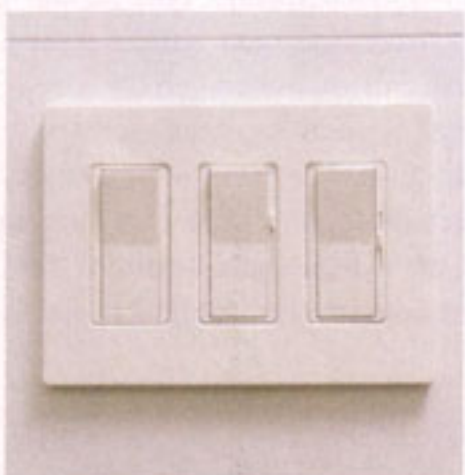
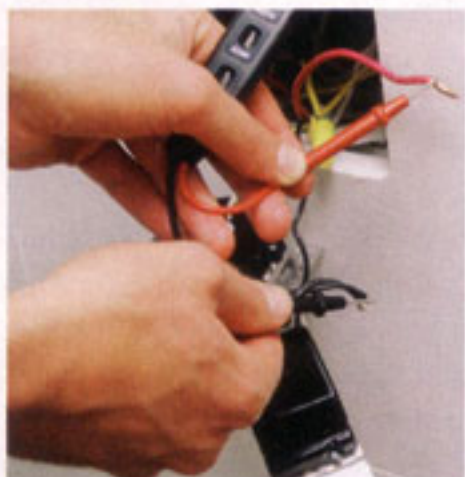
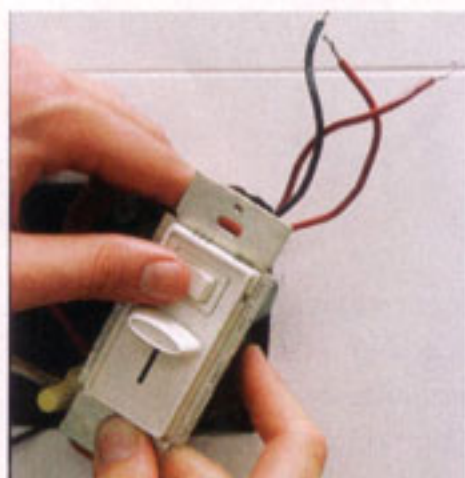
“FIGURE OUT ONE PLACE OR TIME THAT YOU CAN HASH THINGS OUT AND MAKE SURE EVERYONE’S ON THE SAME PAGE.” —Kristan Cunningham

RIGHT: “Scott’s brilliant solution of putting a window in our shower saved us from closing in this very open room,” Kristan says. “The view is centered on an art wall, so when we hang a painting there, it will bring a wonderful splash of color into the otherwise very clean bath space.” The window also lets light from the skylight beyond spill into the shower and bath. “Incidentally,” Kristan says with a laugh, “the window—unless pressed against—offers no views of the showering person from any angle in the house. We spent a lot of time—and laughs—researching this!” **BELOW:** The master bath originally lacked any natural light.



PROJECT SPONSORS: SHOWER FIXTURES, FAUCETS, MEDICINE CABINETS, LAVATORIES—KOHLER CO. BRAZILIAN WALNUT HARDWOOD FLOORING—LUMBER LIQUIDATORS. WOOD AND PLASTIC LAMINATES—FORMICA. DIMMERS, SWITCHES—LUTRON. NATURAL SOLID-SURFACING—CAESARSTONE. SLEEP NUMBER BED AND MATTRESS—SELECT COMFORT. FOR PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS, SEE RESOURCES ON PAGE 102.

Read Kristan's entire Remodeling Journal online at www.bhg.com/sipDIYcunninghamjournal



ABOVE: Scott swapped basic on-off switches in the master suite with Lutron dimmer switches. Upgrading is easy: Turn off electricity at circuit breaker box; unscrew the face plate; remove screws from switch's wall bracket; pull out the old switch to expose wires. Disconnect red and black wires—use a voltage meter to ensure that no electrical current is in the wires. Connect the new switch wires to those coming from the wall bracket: red to red, black to black. Reattach the switch to bracket and then the face plate.

MAKING CHOICES

Remodeling is a scale-up, scale-down process, and Kristan Cunningham and Scott Jarrell's material choices reflect this truth. Here's an update on the couple's recent material choices:

SWITCH SOLUTIONS

To simplify light and fan control in their master suite, Scott swapped a single switch plate for a Lutron three-switch plate that controls the suite's overhead halogen lighting, ceiling fan, and the center vanity's incandescent fixture (not yet installed).

Simple dimmers have gone high-tech, with high capability too. Fortunately the installation is still doable by a DIYer; see *below, at left*, for more information. The couple is planning to use dimmers that control various zones of a room and can be preset for a variety of lighting levels. They'll also use a nifty switch feature that automatically turns lighting on at the level where it was last turned off.

FRESH FACE FRAMES IN CREAM

Clean-lined, laminate cabinets were architect Conrad Buff's original choice for his house—now owned by Kristan and Scott. Buff's cabinets featured navy laminate face frames and lavender laminate door fronts. Though the couple is refreshing Buff's color choices (the materials had become timeworn), they're seconding his material choice, laminate, by choosing it again for cabinetry face frames throughout the house.

"We considered sanding and painting the navy laminate; we also thought about laminating the frames with aluminum," Kristan explains. "The aluminum would have been very expected and looked too done. Ultimately our goal is a classic, sexy, and understated modern look. So we're replacing laminate with laminate—only this time in cream."

While replacing face frames throughout the house can be expensive, laminate is a durable choice, and more affordable than many other materials. The formerly lavender cabinet fronts will be replaced with a walnut veneer that has gray undertones from Formica that complement the new walnut floors.

STONE FOR THE BATH

Cream leather and chrome on walnut floors—that's Kristan and Scott's vision for a timeless bathroom look. Kristan started drafting a bathroom design that included a clad wall and a shower surround as well as some counters before choosing the material. Her plan revolves around 12x36- or 12x18-inch planes of material laid out in a grid, to invigorate the room with dimensional lines. The couple researched glass, tile, and all sorts of stone for the plan, finally selecting Caesarstone in white. Engineered solid-surfacing quartz material was one of the few material options that could be cut to the sizes Kristan needed. She felt strongly about using these dimensions: Not only is the bathroom laid out in 3-foot sections, larger-pieced patterns are also better at fooling the eye (in spots that don't cooperate with the 12-18-36 math).

Quartz surfacing is a pricier choice than some, but it is exceptionally durable and impervious to stains and scratches, making it a low-maintenance choice that will look like new for years to come.



KRISTAN'S REMODELING JOURNAL

April 5

Bad news today. We found out that our foreman, Sean (whom I was crazy about), has moved back north to be near his family. Luckily we're at a bit of a lull as some of our key materials have not arrived and **all progress is hinging on them.** This is a medium-size bump in the road that we did not necessarily foresee, so there's a bit of scrambling happening to find work outside of the loft in order to keep things moving. In the meantime, however, the change is also affording Scott and me some time to catch up on decision-making and sourcing products so that, ideally, when the held-up materials arrive, the pace can shoot back up to high speed. So for now: **Breathe, make decisions, and repeat.**

April 21

Today **I have conquered a fierce battle:** that of the exterior paint color. After all of this thinking and overthinking and second-guessing, the exterior color will be...da da daaaaa...off-white. I know, it sounds like **an obvious choice** now, but getting my head around anything but the existing color was nearly impossible. I understand the reasons for which Conrad chose the existing color—to recede into the landscape, to make it less imposing, yada yada, yada—and I felt in my gut that going too light would do the exact opposite. However, my approach in this remodeling project has been to **make the house fresher, crisper, and a little more Scott and Kristan**—and we aren't recede-into-the-landscape, quiet kind of people! But with that said, a cream was still going to feel a smidge harsh and imposing given the scale of our exterior in relation to the ones surrounding it. The off-white seems to be the perfect tone to achieve a **fresh, clean look** with just a hint of gray to tone it down. The trim will be a taupe gray with a darker version on the doors. Now, I made this decision at about noon today, and lo and behold, after all of our inspirational drives throughout the neighborhood **trying to find color inspiration,** I noticed a restaurant not 2 miles from our house for the first time in almost identical tones! I guess they have good taste.

April 29

The cloud of dust that continues to coat **every solitary item in our home** is, to say the least, getting old. But seeing the loft continue to take shape makes it all worthwhile.

This week has been all about placing lighting. There are indeed formulas for proper light placement, and when it comes to large spaces—especially commercial ones—the guidelines are much stricter.

For us, however, **the focus is creating subtle mood lighting** (via our nifty dimmers) and having overall just enough of it to get by. Scott and I are pretty sure **we were bats in a former life** as we seem to get irritated and unable to function when exposed to bright lights. OK, maybe that's pushing it, but only by a little. We live primarily with the lights dimmed almost to nothing unless we're performing some kind of task, such as the rare occasion that we—or shall I say *he*—cooks. With that in mind, I persisted with our electrician, Luis, that our incandescent fixtures were the way to go as the light is so warm whether dimmed or not. But he pushed for low-voltage halogens, and I have to say **it was a good choice.** The light is definitely cleaner and whiter, which has always been my aversion to it, but in our space I think it's created a **necessary change in the overall tone.** When dimmed, it's still very warm, just not as yellow as the incandescents were. And for the times that we do need good task lighting, the clearer light makes such a difference. Plus, they're more energy-efficient.

May 6

The stone installation is officially done, and **all I can say is wow!** The overall effect is so subtle and rich—exactly what I pictured and then some. I specified a $\frac{1}{32}$ -inch bevel around the edges of each stone brick to emphasize the grout line and provide some depth. This choice did increase the amount of labor, thus increasing the cost of fabrication. Now that the grout is in place and **I can finally see the overall pattern**, I'm convinced that this small detail was worth every penny.

May 10

Still at a holding stage—waiting for product is slowing things down a bit. Patching and dry-walling and such continue to take place, all of which increase the powder coating on the rest of the house. **Slowly but surely** we're inching toward having the shell of the loft intact.

May 18

Yea! The floors were delivered today, and though we've been getting squeezed out little by little, **it became official: Scott and I can no longer park in the garage.** We'd better get used to it because pretty soon the crew will need to set up shop down there. For the most part, all work up until this point has happened in the loft or at the shop of the fabricator. Now that the stone is installed—and looking beautiful, **I might add**—the bulk of what's left is carpentry-related, cabinets, and finish carpentry.

May 24

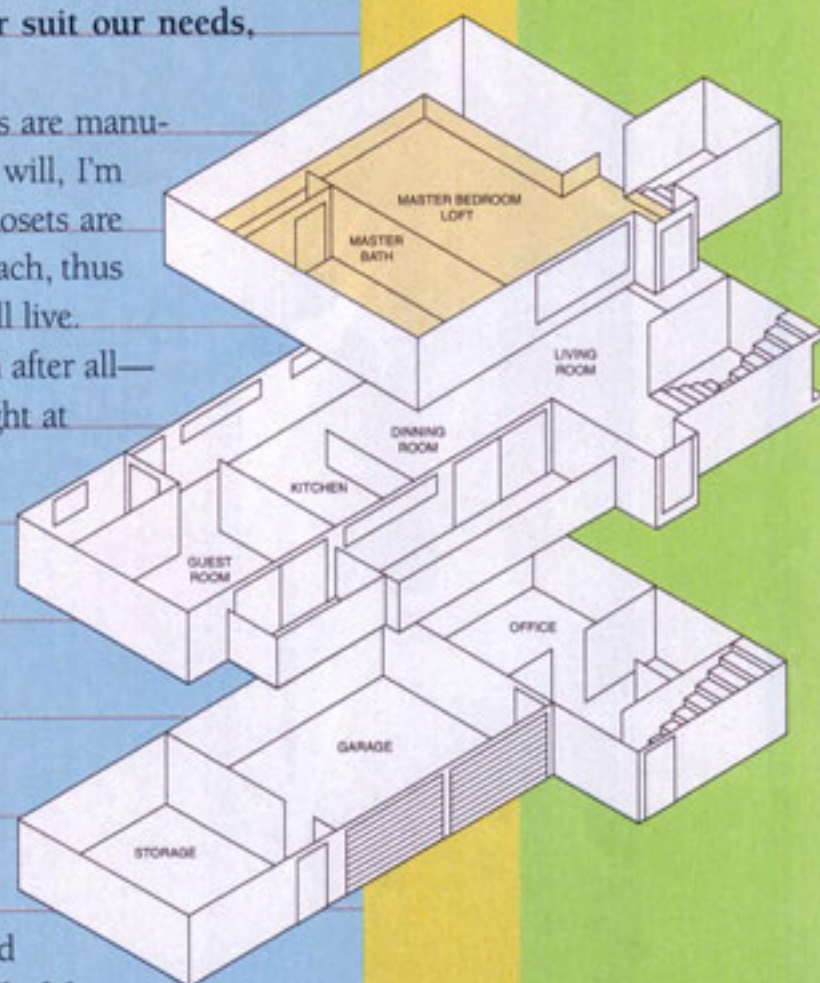
In anticipation of the wood veneer arriving, our cabinetmaker, Eddie, and I have been finalizing the plans for the bathroom vanities and closets. I've designed the latter to match the existing ones in the guest bedroom on the outside, but **I tweaked the interior to better suit our needs**, incorporating drawers and staggering rod heights.

Additionally, I've specified toe-kick ladders and interior lights. The ladders are manufactured for this purpose, designed to fit in a standard 4-inch toe-kick, and will, I'm sure, prove to be **one of the most useful elements** in our bedroom. The closets are designed to end at ceiling height, which puts the upper shelf well out of my reach, thus making the ladders a downright necessity since that's where my handbags will live.

The new closet lights may be a little extravagant—it is the *master* bedroom after all—though **surprisingly affordable** if planned well. I sacrificed 2 inches of height at the top of the closets to house the units, and installing them just means cutting a hole at the top of the unit. Doing this is easier than installing a typical recessed fixture. A latch on the back of the door will turn the light on and off—no switch. (Definitely a **good thing** in my book. I've been known to leave irons on!)

June 8

I've been on the hunt for a wall-mount magnifying mirror to place on the regular mirror, which will be mounted between the two medicine cabinets in the master bathroom. I know, sounds like a lot of mirrors. But it will serve two purposes: 1) to aid in proper makeup application—and **trust me**, I need all the help I can get!—and 2) to provide one soft-edge element to break up all of the



straight lines in the room. The vanity is centered on the door to the bathroom, which is one of the first places your eye goes when reaching the top of the stairs. While the stone walls and cabinet are pretty enough to look at, I think this unexpected circle will make the vignette even more interesting.

The tricky part has been finding a mirror that has a collapsible arm so no hinging shows on either side. This detail is important because I want the magnifier to appear to float on top of the regular mirror, making for a truly cool custom look. Well, good news: The search ended today. I can't wait to see the little details like this in place.

June 14

I saw a light at the end of the tunnel today, and his name is Romas, the finish carpenter. OK, that's a little silly, but his arrival does mean that the end of the loft portion of this remodeling project is near.

Scott and I met Romas on a work site being overseen by our project managers, Steve and Jack, a couple of months before we began our project. (By the way, hiring general contractors or project managers is serious business. I definitely recommend checking out their work prior to hiring them.) When we first met Romas, he was in the last few days of work on another house. Even though he was in a crunch to get finished for the homeowner, he walked us through each and every detail of the house. We left feeling completely secure in the quality of work and excited to work with him.

All of the details of the space are in his hands; he's the guy who dots all of the i's and crosses all of the t's. The plan has been to begin demolition of the downstairs as soon as the loft is completed, so Romas will start getting everything ready to receive cabinets, glass, and so on and then start the face frames of the cabinetry downstairs, which will be the longest and most tedious part of his job. Now that things are moving so fast, it's a relief to know that he's here.

June 18

A good portion of the wood floors went in today. This is the first time we've been able to see another material with the stone walls, and the effect is beautiful. We went with walnut floors in a varied color range—a small percentage of boards have golden highlights to pick up all of the oak cabinetry, a small percentage have darker tones to pick up the deeper walnut cabinetry, and a lot of something in between. The main reason we chose the walnut, though, was its gray undertone. Even after we've made all of our changes to this house, the one dominant element that will remain is the stained-glass window. The deep purple and navy it's made up of demand cooler hues. The taupe-gray stone that will be used on the countertops and hearth will play into this feeling as well.

June 25

Today was by a landslide the most exciting, rewarding, gratifying day thus far. All of the glass, the mirrors, the cabinets—the whole shebang—was installed. I could make this entry longer, but that would take away from the precious little time I have to sit upstairs and stare at my bathroom.

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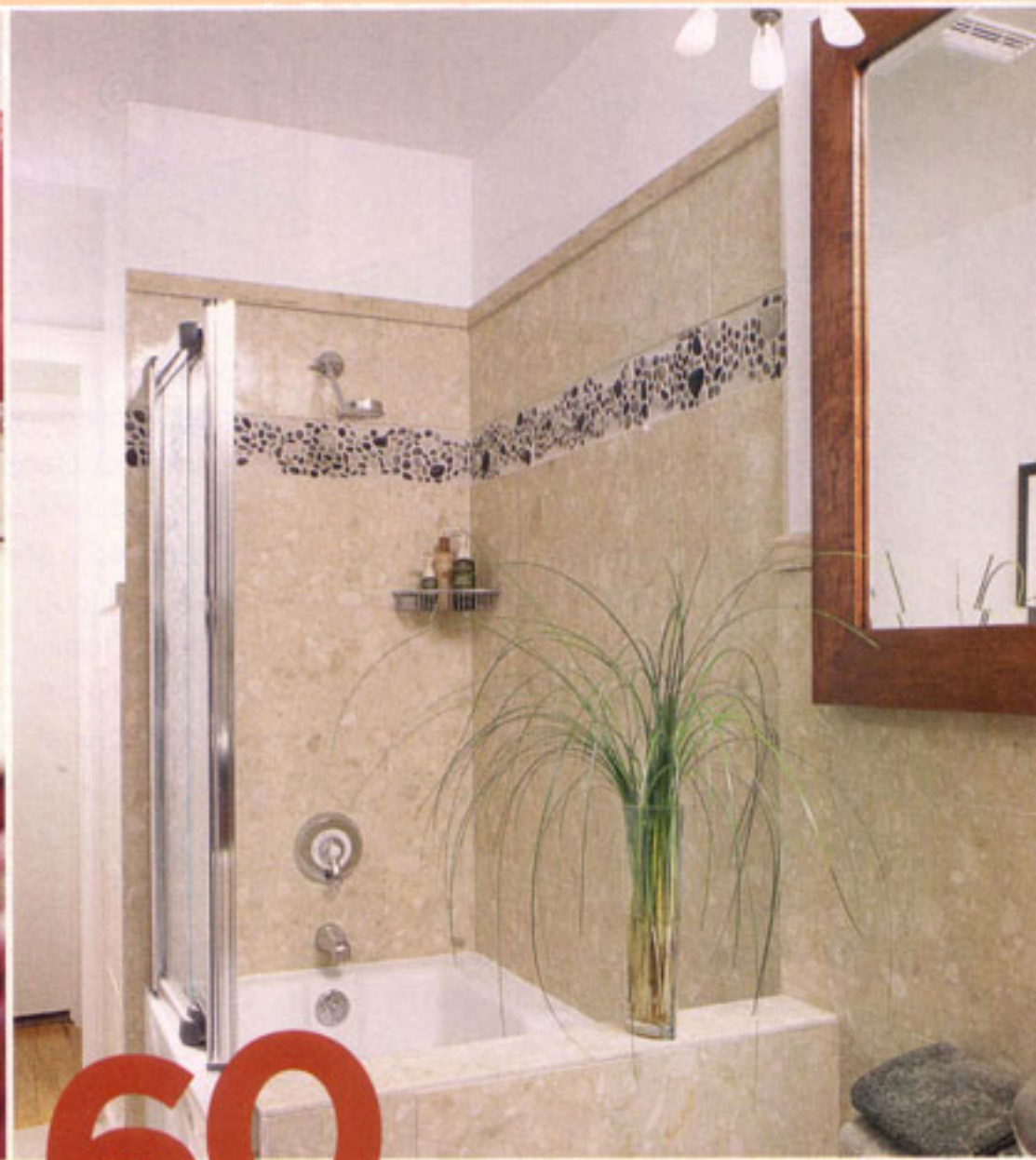
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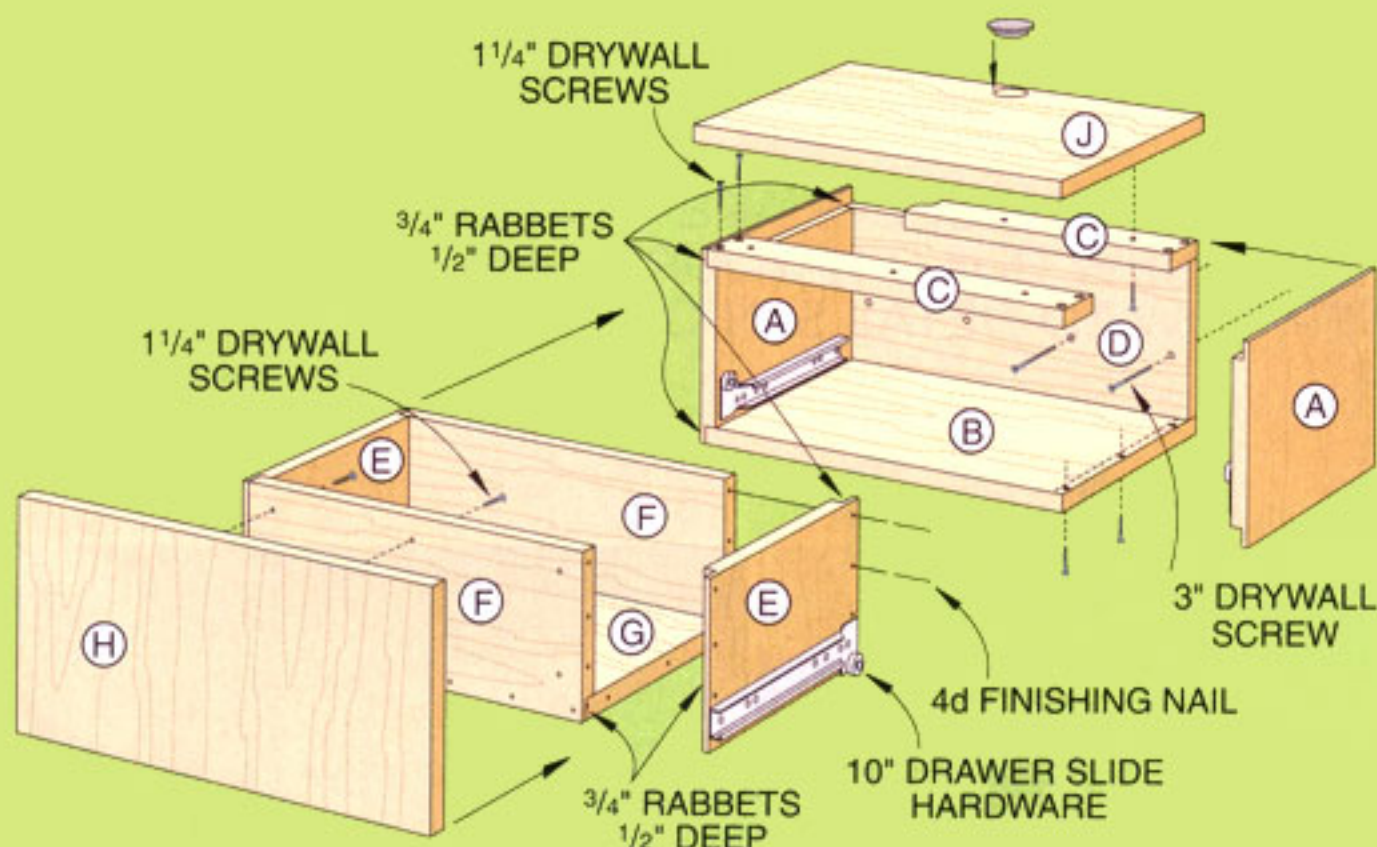


FURNITURE AS FUNCTIONAL AS IT IS BEAUTIFUL CAN BE YOURS—WITHOUT VISITING A HIGH-PRICED BOUTIQUE OR HIRING A TOP-FLIGHT DESIGNER. TAKE A CUE FROM THE HOMEOWNERS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE OF *DO IT YOURSELF*, AND FIND OUT HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN NIGHTSTAND, SINK CONSOLE TABLE, MIRROR, OR RECESSED WALL CABINET. JUST TURN THE PAGE, AND YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET GOING.

By WILLIAM LAHAY, TECHNICAL ILLUSTRATOR ROXANNE LEMOINE.

WALL-MOUNT NIGHTSTAND

project details



This compact design provides support for a bedside lamp and other items, plus a drawer to offer discreet storage. The version shown here features an exterior of wood veneer and high-pressure laminate (Ligna, in American Walnut finish, from Formica) applied to a plywood substrate. Laminate fabrication involves special techniques—bonding materials with contact cement and using a router with a flush-trim bit, for example—that you should practice before tackling this project. Check out the next issue of *Do It Yourself*® to learn more about laminate fabrication.

As an alternative, have a local cabinet shop laminate, cut, and edge-band project parts for you. If this option isn't available, the following instructions outline a simple method using birch plywood, veneer edge tape, and conventional finishes.

Skill level: Intermediate woodworker

Time to complete: 1 weekend

Estimated cost: \$125 for two

TOOLS

- * Tape measure
- * Combination square
- * Table saw
- * Drill with 3/16-inch bit with countersink
- * Hole saw (1 9/16-inch diameter)
- * Bar or pipe clamps (24 inches long)
- * Hammer
- * Scissors or utility knife
- * Electric iron
- * Random-orbit finishing sander
- * Paintbrushes
- * Stud finder
- * Phillips No. 2 screwdriver (or driver bit)

MATERIALS

- * One sheet 3/4-inch birch plywood, 48x96 inches
 - * One roll iron-on 3/4-inch birch veneer tape
 - * One poplar board, 1x3 (nominal), 6 feet long
 - * Wood glue
 - * One box 4d finishing nails
 - * One box 1 1/4-inch drywall screws
 - * One package 3-inch drywall screws
 - * 1 quart wood stain (not required with laminate)
 - * 1 quart clear wood finish (not required with laminate)
 - * Two sets 10-inch full-extension drawer slides*
 - * Two chrome cord grommets** (optional)
- (*Item #35669; **Item #91299; available through Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, 800/279-4441, www.rockler.com)

PARTS

(all dimensions are in inches)

| Part letter and name | Quantity | Dimensions |
|----------------------|----------|------------------|
| A End panel | 4 | 3/4x12x8 1/4 |
| B Bottom panel | 2 | 3/4x12x17 1/2 |
| C Top brace | 4 | 3/4x2 1/2x17 1/2 |
| D Back panel | 2 | 3/4x6 3/4x17 1/2 |
| E Drawer side | 4 | 3/4x6x10 |
| F Drawer front/back | 4 | 3/4x6x15 |
| G Drawer bottom | 2 | 3/4x9 1/2x15 |
| H Face panel | 2 | 3/4x18x8 1/4 |
| J Top panel | 2 | 3/4x12 3/4x18 |

GET STARTED

Start by ripping (cutting along the grain) a 12-inch-wide piece from the plywood. Cut this into the lengths required for the cabinet's end panels (A) and bottom panels (B). Then use the table saw to cut a rabbet along the upper, lower, and back edges of the end panels as shown. Glue the bottom panel to the lower edges of the end panels and fasten with finishing nails or drywall screws driven through bottom panel. Cut top braces (C) to length from the 1x3 stock and fasten to the upper edges of the end panels. Fit back panel (D) in place and secure with glue and finishing nails. Repeat assembly process for the second unit. Check all corners for square as you work and adjust alignment as necessary.

Set the cabinet assemblies aside and turn to the drawer parts. Cut the parts to size, then machine rabbets for the corner joints as shown. In addition, cut rabbets along the lower edges of all the drawer sides, fronts, and backs (E, F) to create a recess for the drawer bottom (G). Assemble the drawers, using glue and finishing nails to secure the corner joints and the bottom panel. Check assemblies for square.

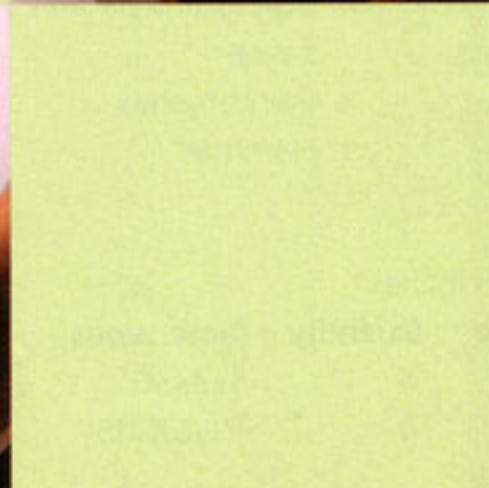
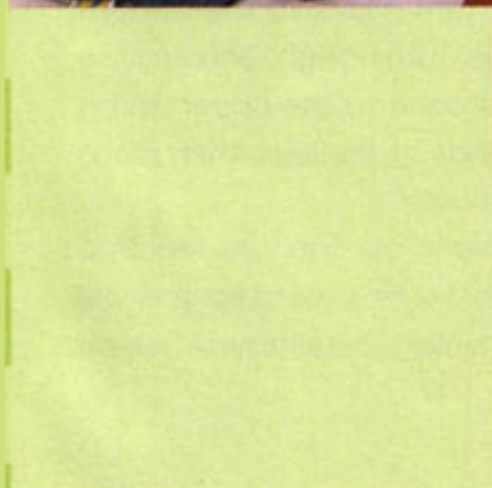
Cut the face panels (H) and top panels (J) from the remaining plywood, noting grain orientation (vertical on the face panels, side-to-side on the top panels). Cut and apply iron-on veneer tape to all edges of these parts and to the front edges of the end panels (A), bottom panels (B), and front top braces (C). Drill $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch holes through

the top braces and drive drywall screws from underneath to attach the top panel of the cabinet. Note that the top panel is flush with the cabinet back and extends $\frac{3}{4}$ inch on the front. Sand all edges and corners smooth. Apply stain per manufacturer's instructions. Let dry.

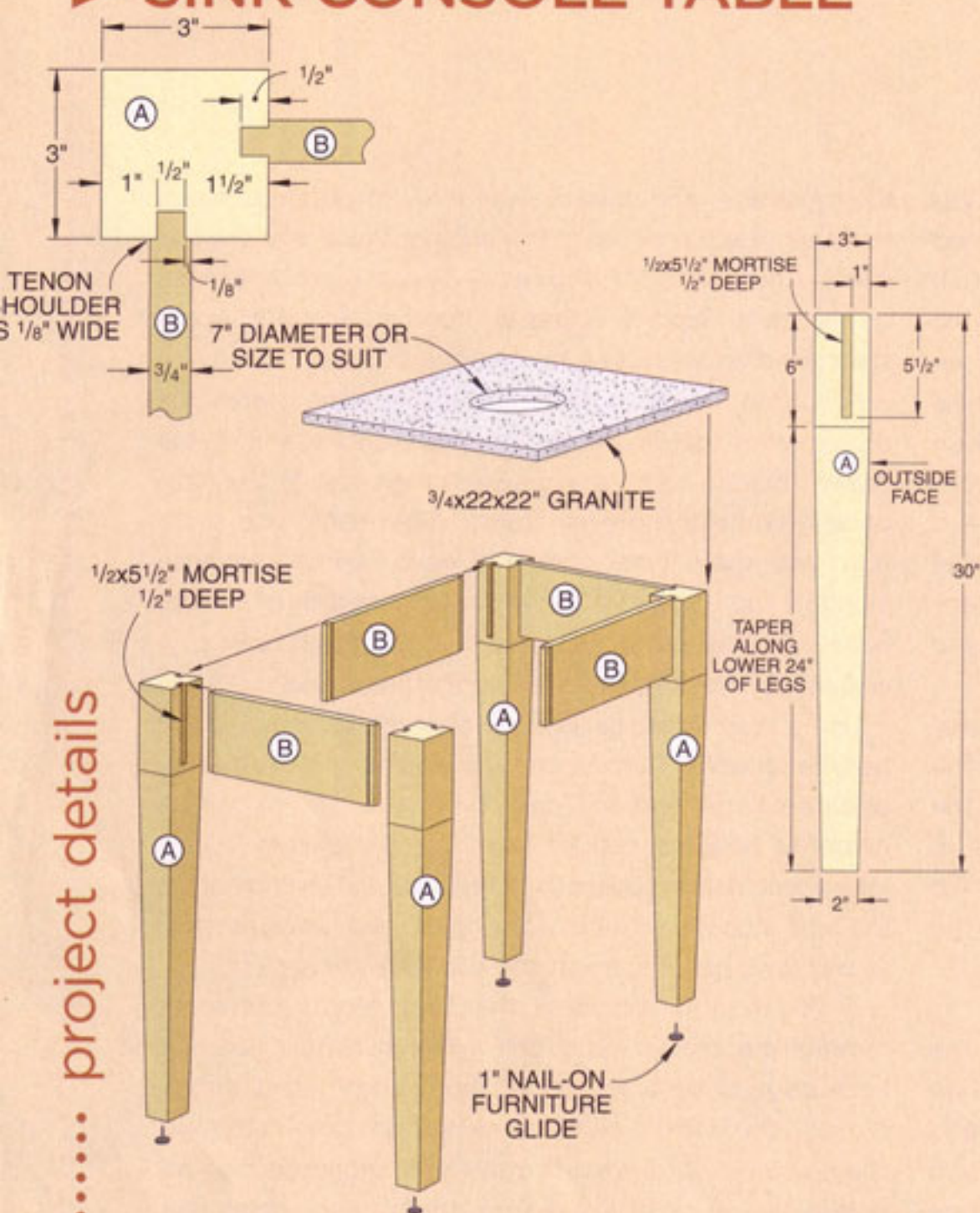
Following the manufacturer's instructions, install the drawer slide hardware to the main cabinets and the drawer boxes. Insert the drawers, then test-fit the face panels (H) to the drawer fronts. Align each face panel flush with the cabinet ends and leave $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch clearance along its top edge, just below the extended lip of the top panel. Mark location, then remove drawer and drive drywall screws from inside to fasten the face panel.

Use a stud finder to locate wall studs adjacent to the bed/headboard. Transfer those marks to the back panel of each cabinet and drill $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch holes for screws. With a helper to hold the cabinet level (use the built-in level in your combination square to check), fasten the cabinets to the wall studs with 3-inch drywall screws, using at least four screws per unit. Insert the drawer and check fit.

If you're also including the lamp cord grommets, remove the drawers and drill a $1\frac{9}{16}$ -inch hole near the back edge of each top panel. Drill a corresponding hole through the bottom panel (working from below) to route the electrical cord, then fit the metal grommet into the hole in the top panel. Route lamp cord through holes, then replace drawer.



SINK CONSOLE TABLE



Skill level: Intermediate woodworker

Time to complete: 1 weekend

Estimated cost: \$500 (\$50 lumber, \$450 granite top)

TOOLS

- * Tape measure
- * Combination square
- * Framing square
- * Table saw (10-inch)
- * Taper-cutting jig
- * Jointer (6-inch or wider)
- * Bench-top thickness planer (optional)
- * Router
- * Router edge guide
- * Router bits (1/4-inch slotting bit, 1/2- and 3/4-inch straight bits)
- * 1/2-inch wood chisel
- * Bar or pipe clamps (48 inches long)
- * Random-orbit finishing sander
- * Paintbrushes
- * Hammer

PARTS

(all dimensions are in inches)

| Part letter and name | Quantity | Dimensions |
|----------------------|----------|--------------|
| A Leg | 4 | 3x3x30 |
| B Apron | 4 | 3/4x5 1/2x15 |

MATERIALS

- * Two clear or select fir 4x4 (nominal) posts, 8 feet long (for part A)
- * One poplar board, 1x6 (nominal), 6 feet long (for part B)
- * One granite top, 3/4x22x22 inches, with 7-inch center hole
- * One tube clear silicone caulk
- * Four nail-on furniture glides, 1-inch diameter
- * Wood glue
- * 1 quart wood stain
- * 1 quart clear wood finish (wipe-on or satin polyurethane finish)
- * One 20-inch towel bar (optional)

GET STARTED

Begin by cutting the 4x4 fir posts into sections about 3 feet long and milling them to 3 inches square; cut to final length of 30 inches after milling. Use a 1/2-inch straight bit to rout mortises into the two inside faces of each leg (A) as shown in detail illustrations, *left*. Use a router with an edge guide and make at least two passes to full depth, then square up the bottom end of each mortise with a 1/2-inch wood chisel.

Next, use a taper-cutting jig on the table saw to rough out the leg tapers, cutting to within 1/16 inch of final size. (The bottom end of the leg is 2 inches square.) Remove the remaining material on the jointer, leading with the top (nontapered) end of the leg.

Cut the 1x6 poplar board to size for the four aprons (B), and use the slotting bit to cut the end tenons as shown. The tenons should be 1/2-inch thick, leaving a 1/8-inch shoulder on each side.

To assemble, start by gluing an apron between two legs, with the top edges and ends flush. Clamp tightly and set aside; assemble another set. When the glue has dried, scrape off squeeze-out with a sharp chisel, then glue and clamp the remaining aprons between the two leg-apron assemblies.

Follow manufacturers' instructions for applying stain and finish. When dry, turn table base upside down and nail the furniture glides to the bottom (2-inch) ends of the legs. Turn upright and apply a 1/4-inch bead of clear silicone to the upper apron edges and the upper ends of the legs, then place the granite top on the base.

NOTE: The center hole in our top was required for the stainless-steel vessel sink we used; this will vary with other vessel sinks.) Install towel bar on front apron if desired.