

MAKE YOUR OWN PRESCHOOL FURNITURE

A good learning environment includes appropriate equipment, trained teachers, and adequate space. The furniture pictured in this packet is designed for use by Preschool teachers in church situations; however, parents may find some of the furniture diagrams valuable for the building of furniture for their child's room.

The equipment used in Preschool departments must be functional and well-designed. Equipment to be used with preschoolers should be built to precise specifications for the particular age group in which it will be used—this information is included with each diagram.

Who will build the furniture for your Preschool departments? Here are some possibilities:

- Men's Sunday School Class
- Older RA Groups
- Mission Action Groups
- Parents of Preschoolers

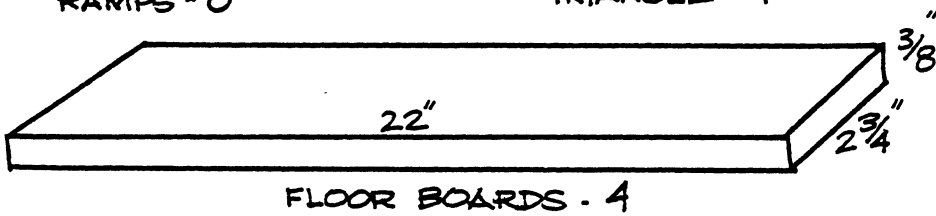
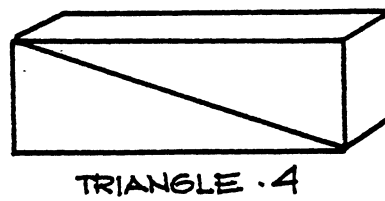
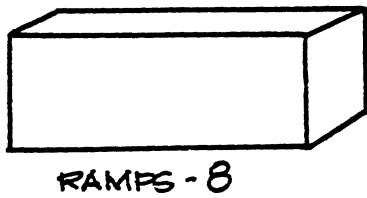
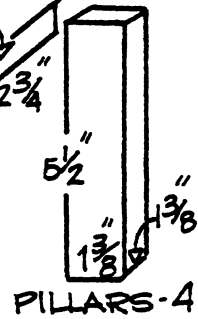
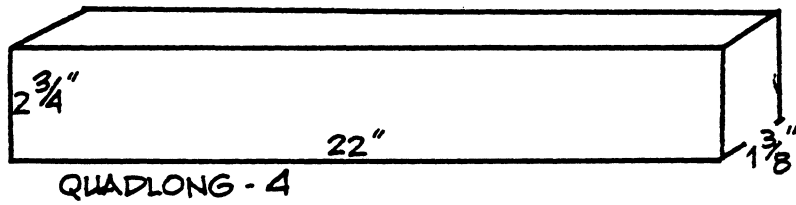
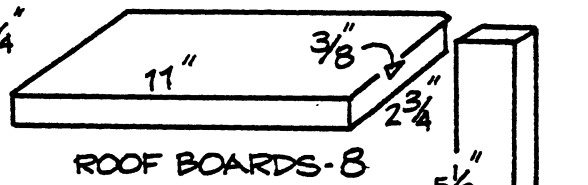
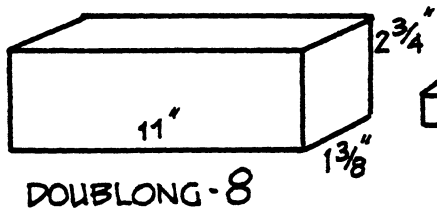
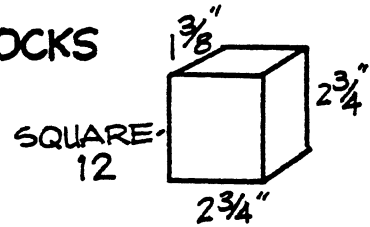
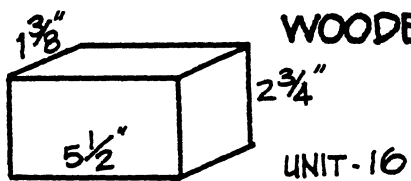
Careful organization will be needed to get the job done well. Recruit a Preschool teacher or parent to present your financial needs to the Finance Committee. You may need to

plan a project to raise the money.

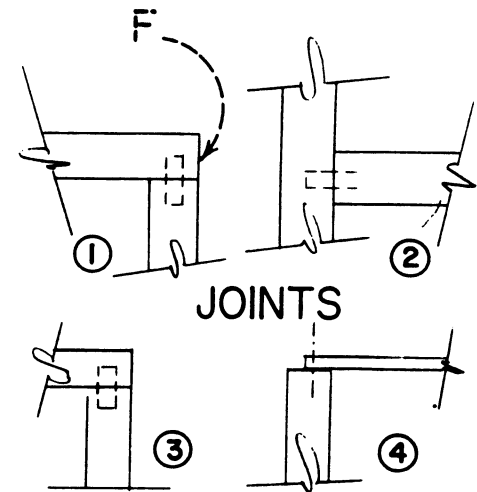
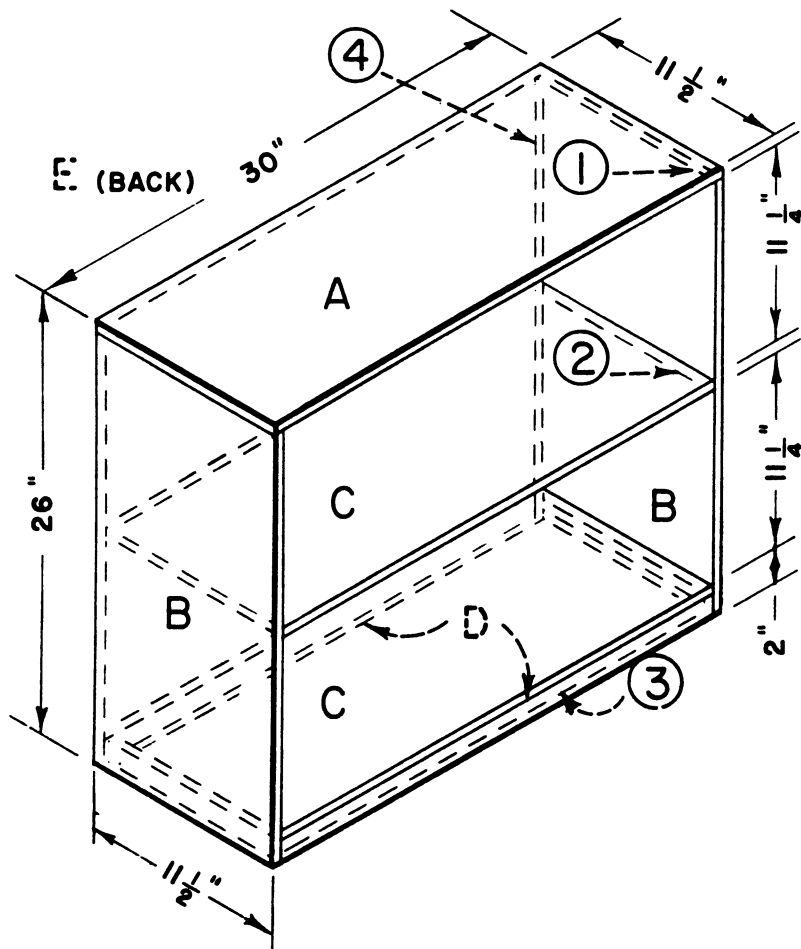
The chairman of the Construction Committee should be an experienced carpenter. He can guide his helpers in producing quality pieces of equipment. You may choose to have another committee paint the furniture. The chairman of this committee should determine the type finishing required after consultation with the teacher and observing the color scheme of the room(s) where the furniture will be used. If a painting room is set up, this will insure dust-free drying and reduce a fire hazard by providing proper storage for painting equipment.

When the furniture has been completed and installed, make a special point to express appreciation to the workmen. Share with them some of the good learning experiences which the children will have as a result of having a properly equipped room. Take advantage of this opportunity to inform your church about ways preschoolers learn and your appreciation for the new furniture.

WOODEN UNIT BLOCKS



Open Shelves



- Provide handy storage space in the Preschool room
- Are ideal for displaying toys, art materials, blocks, and nature items
- Can be used as room dividers for large department rooms (especially when several age groups are combined, as in the small church situation)
- Give a preschooler opportunities to select toys, art materials, or other materials by himself
- Are designed for the young child; easy-to-reach shelves are an invitation to the preschooler to "take a look"

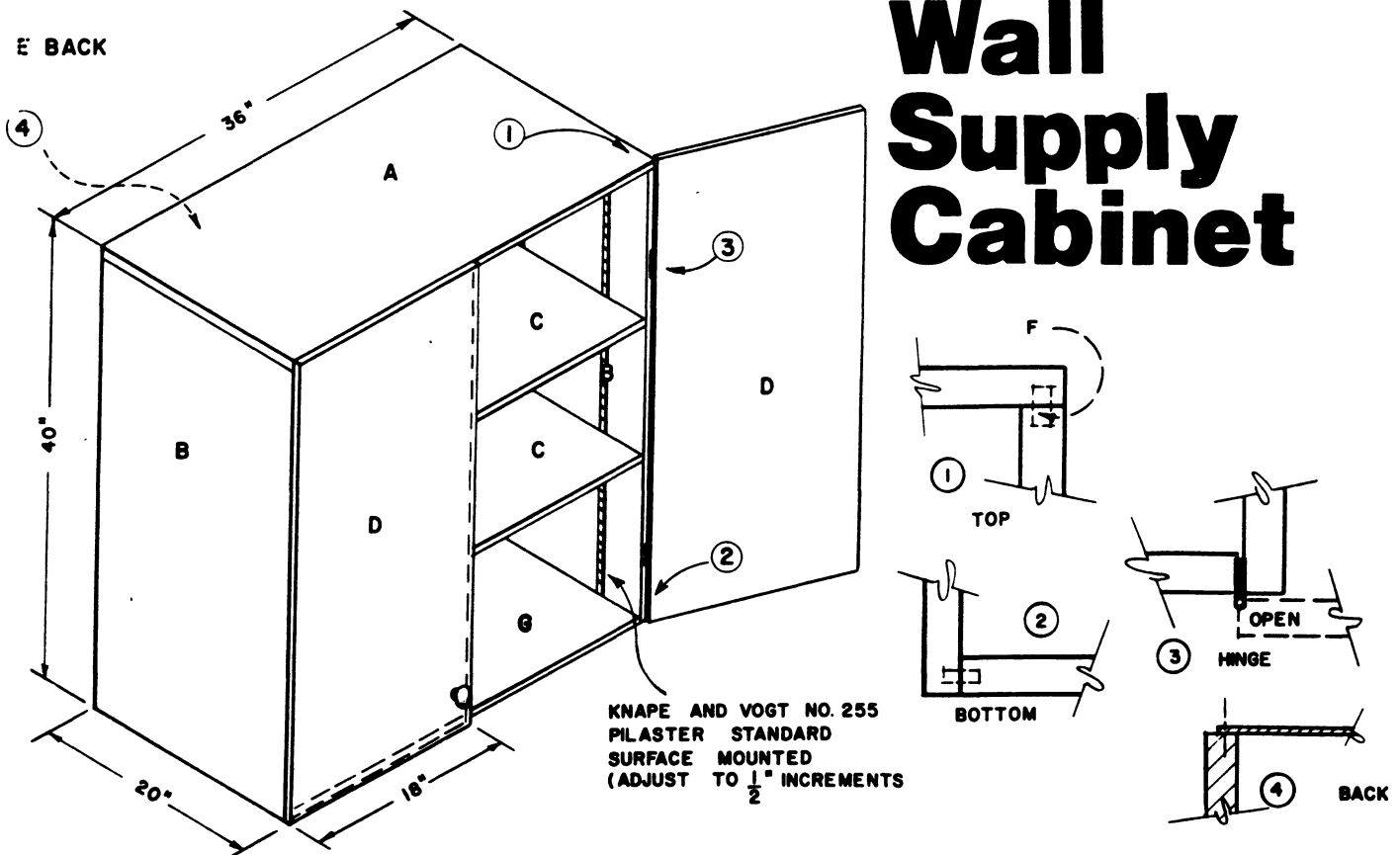
The open shelf unit is a practical and functional piece of equipment in the Preschool room, providing both storage space and display area for materials used in the department. (For more information see *Basic Preschool Work*.)

You can easily construct your own open shelf units using the simple line drawings provided here. If space is a problem, one open shelf unit may have to serve for holding nature items, toys, art materials, and smaller blocks. Larger blocks and Blockbusters could be stacked against the wall near the shelves.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A	1	Top	3/4"	11 1/2"	30"
B	2	Sides	3/4"	11 1/2"	25 1/4"
C	2	Shelves	3/4"	11 1/2"	28 1/2"
D	2	Base	3/4"	2"	28 1/2"
E	1	Back	1/4"	29 1/4"	25 1/4"
F	20	Dowels	1/4"	diameter x 1"	

Wall Supply Cabinet



The wall supply cabinet is a vital piece of equipment in a preschool room, providing necessary storage for frequently used supplies. Positioned 50 inches from the floor, the cabinet is convenient for the teacher, yet out of the reach of most five-year-olds. There is space underneath for a coatrack. The shelves can be adjusted to accommodate specific needs. The large double doors open from the center.

The wall supply cabinet can be adapted for many uses: storing extra books, recordings, pictures, puzzles,

and toys; masking tape, art supplies; sheets, blankets, bottle warmer (for baby and creeper departments); and other equipment frequently used.

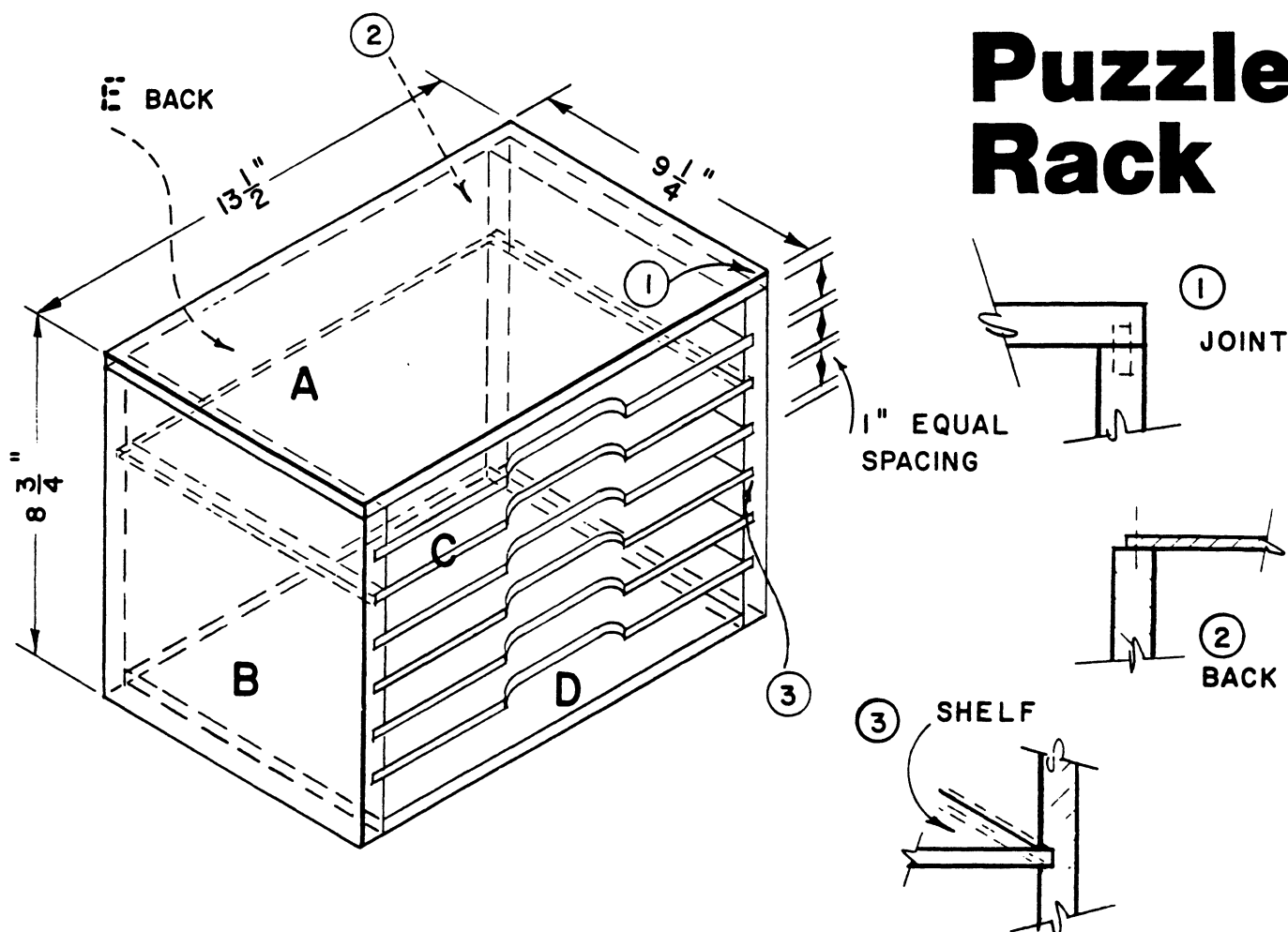
The wall supply cabinet can be constructed by using the simple line drawings provided here. Evaluate your needs when deciding how many supply cabinets to build for your department. Usually one cabinet in each room is sufficient, although two or more cabinets may be needed in four- and five-year departments.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A	1	Top	3/4"	19 1/4"	36"
B	2	Side	3/4"	19 1/4"	39 1/4"
C	2	Shelf	3/4"	19 1/4"	33 3/4"
D	2	Door	3/4"	18"	40"
E	1	Back	1/4"	39 1/2"	35 1/2"
F		Dowels	1/4"	diameter x 1"	
G	1	Bottom	3/4"	19 1/4"	34 1/2"
H	4	Hinge			
I	2	Knobs			

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Puzzle Rack



Puzzles present many challenges to preschoolers. As a child works to successfully complete a puzzle, he uses his hands (to pick up pieces and place them into the right places), his mind (to think about the color of a puzzle piece), and his eyes (to recognize shapes, sizes, and colors). Working alone or with some guidance, the young child can gain self-confidence and self-satisfaction as he finishes a puzzle. (For more information about the values of using puzzles, see *How to Guide Preschoolers*, chapter 11.)

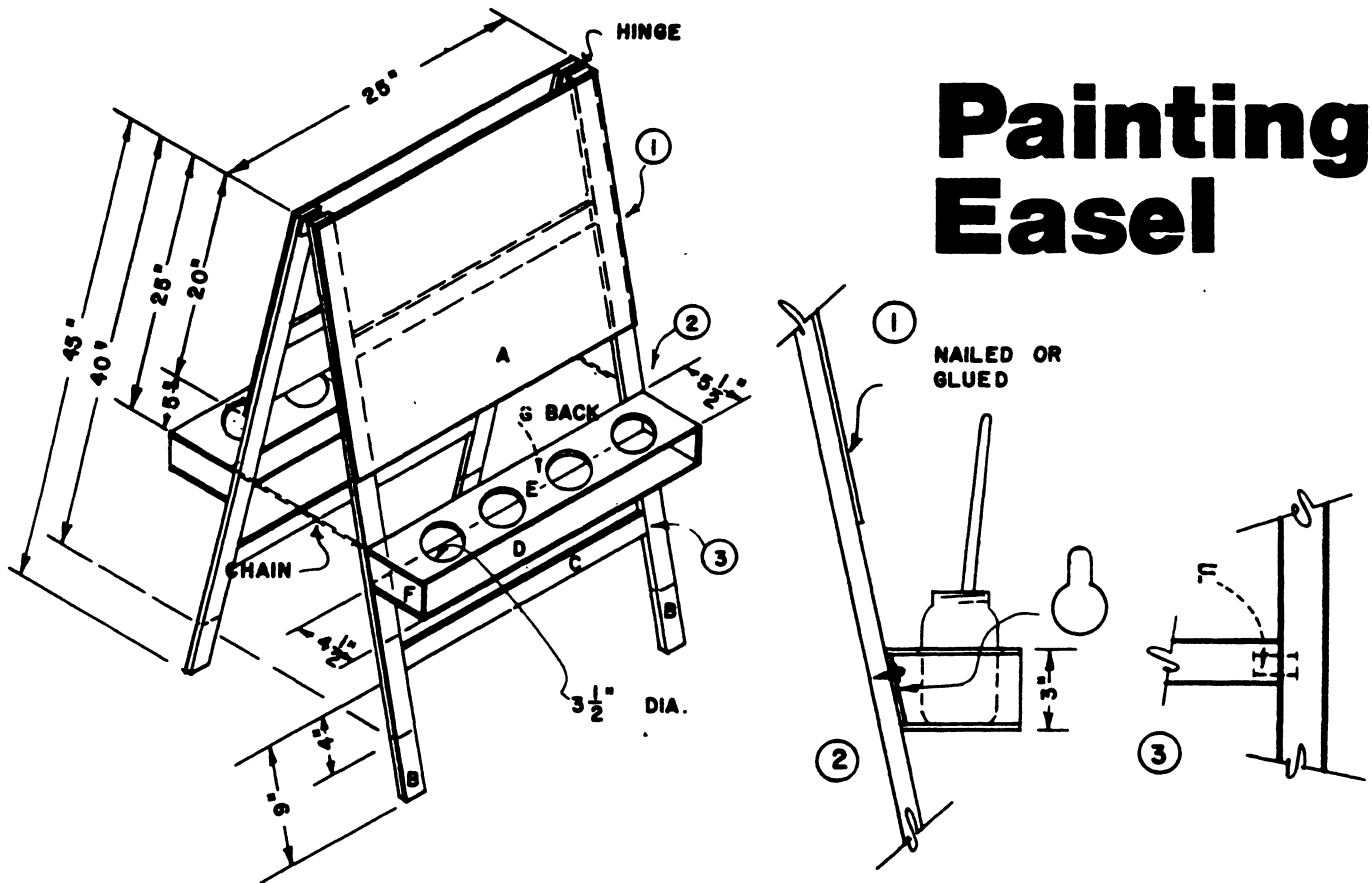
The wooden puzzle rack shown here is a convenient place to store puzzles neatly. Designed to hold seven wooden inlay puzzles (9" x 12"), the rack can be placed on a low shelf or on the floor where preschoolers can see it and get out puzzles easily.

Usually one puzzle rack for each room is recommended for Two-, Three-, Four-, and Five-Year departments. A puzzle rack in the wall supply cabinet is also convenient for teachers in Toddler departments.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	LENGTH X	WIDTH
A	1	Top	1/2"	9 1/4"	13 1/2"
B	2	Side	3/4"	8 1/4"	9 1/4"
C	6	Shelf	1/8"	9 1/4"	12 1/2"
D	1	Bottom	1/2"	9 1/4"	12"
E	1	Back	1/8"	8 1/4"	13"
F	12	Dowels	1/4" diameter x 1"		

Painting Easel



Easel painting has special appeal for two- through five-year-olds. Preschoolers paint and draw about the world they feel and know, sometimes expressing their innermost feelings through art activity. Easel painting should be available nearly every time children meet in their department. (See *How to Guide Preschoolers*, chapter 5 for values of easel painting.)

An easel is recommended for each room for twos, threes, fours, and fives. Place the easel near the rest room or most convenient water supply for easier clean-up.

The two-sided easel allows two children at a time

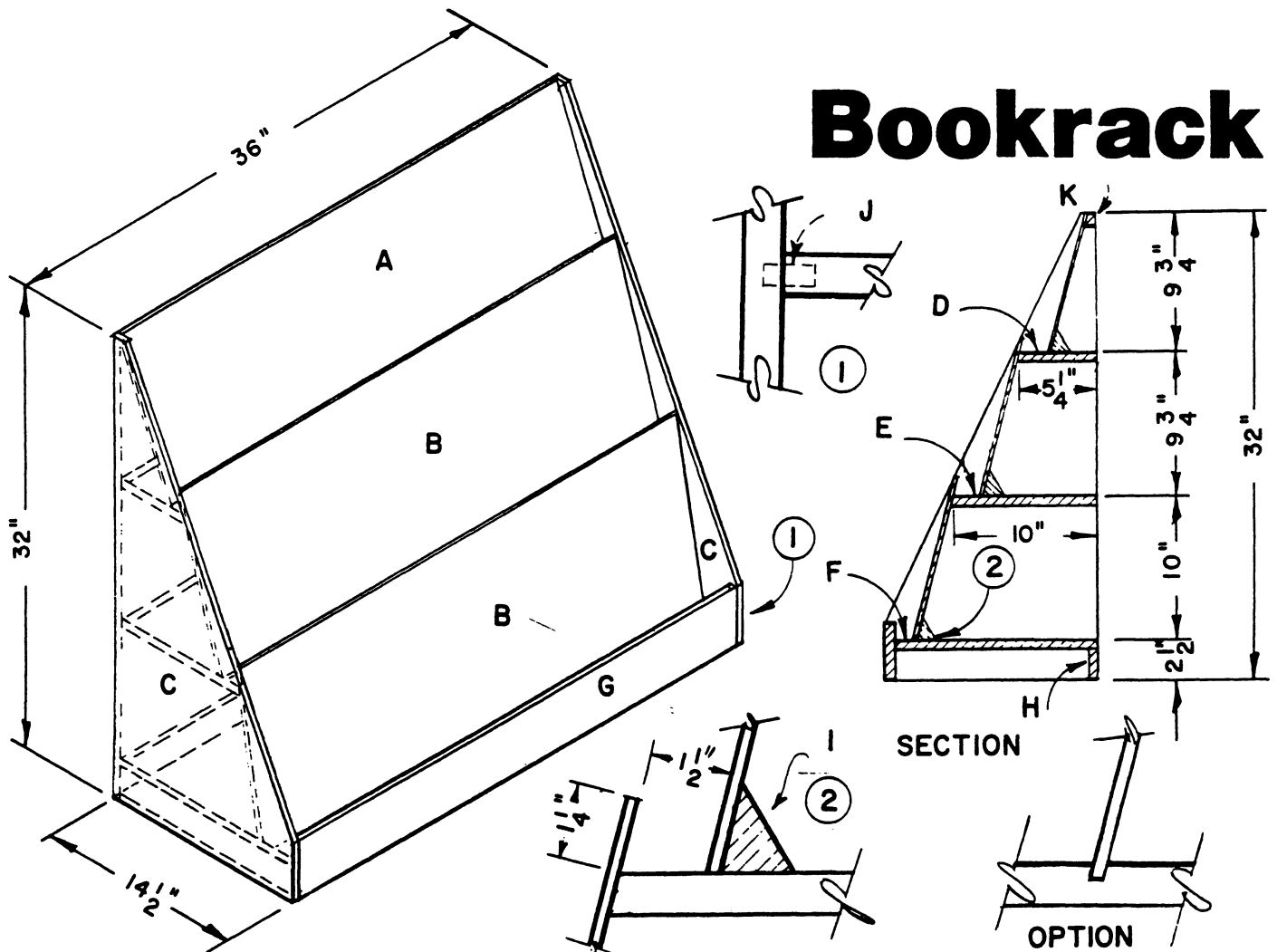
to paint and provides an excellent work area for other individual artwork. A tray below each painting surface is conveniently placed so that the preschooler can reach the brushes and paint easily. The removable tray holds the paint jars and prevents them from being tipped over.

The diagram shows the necessary height adjustments to make to legs when constructing the easel for two- and three-year-olds (40" overall height) and for four- and five-year-olds (45" overall height). Adapt specifications where needed.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A	2	Painting Board	1/4"	20"	25"
B	4	Legs	3/4"	1 3/4"	45"
C	4	Rails	3/4"	1 3/4"	21 1/2"
D	2	Paint Tray Bottoms	1/4"	4 1/2"	25"
E	2	Paint Tray Tops	1/4"	5 1/2"	25"
F	4	Paint Tray Ends	1/4"	2 1/2"	5 1/2"
G	2	Paint Tray Backs	1/4"	2 1/2"	24 1/2"
H	2	12" chain			
I	2	Hinges			
J	2	Screw and washer			

Bookrack



It is imperative that the Bible and books for preschoolers (even homemade books) are available for children to use every time they are at church. (For more guidance in selecting and using books, see *How to Guide Preschoolers*, chapter 7.)

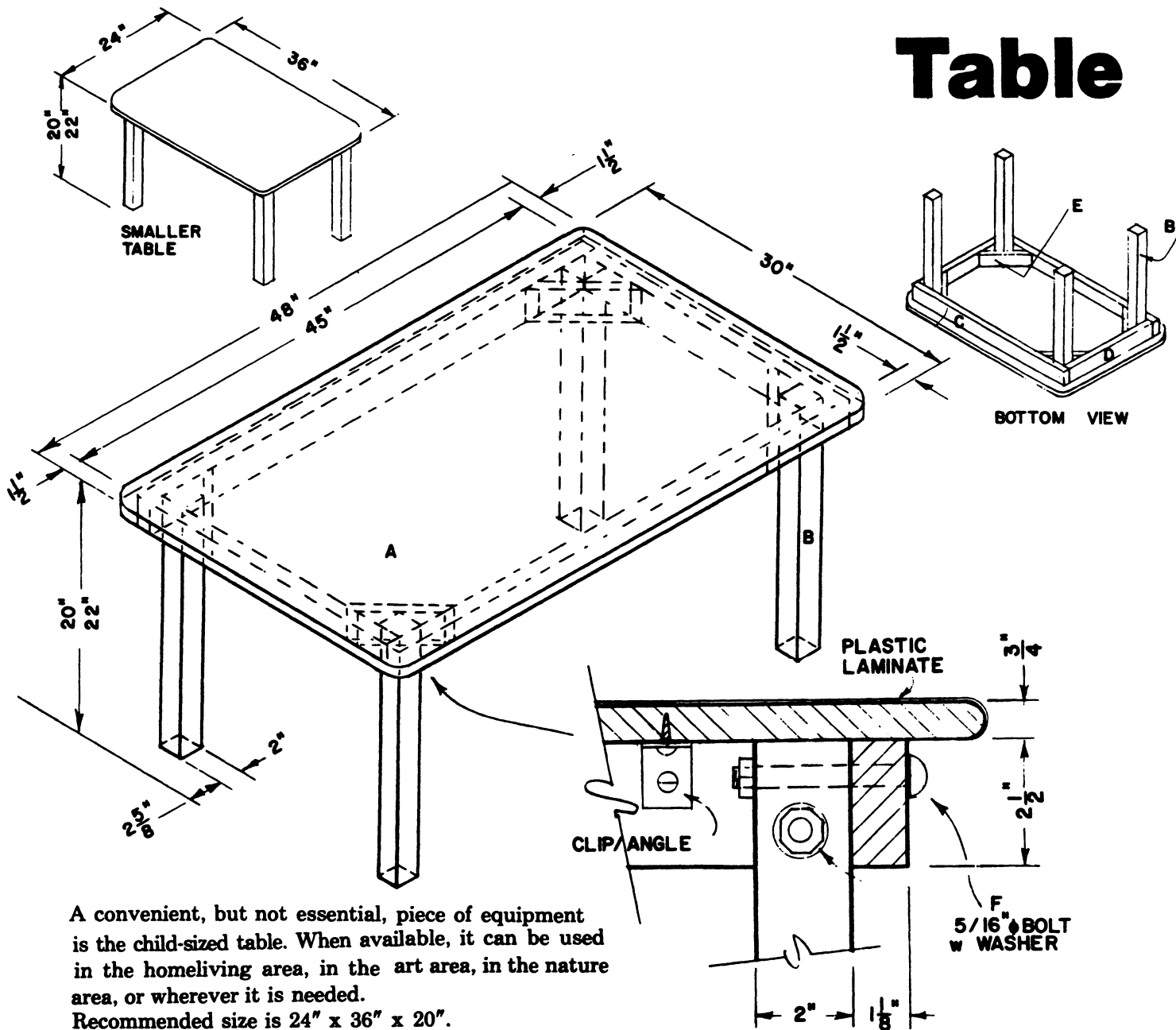
An attractive, space-saving bookrack to use in

two-, three-, four-, and five-year departments gives you room to display the suggested books for the session, as well as teaching pictures and other items you want preschoolers to see. The bookrack illustrated here has three slanted tiers that preschoolers can reach easily. The back is open for convenient storage.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A	1	Rack	1/4"	10"	34 1/2"
B	2	Rack	1/4"	11"	34 1/2"
C	2	Side	3/4"	14 1/2"	32"
D	1	Shelf	3/4"	5 1/4"	34 1/2"
E	1	Shelf	3/4"	10"	34 1/2"
F	1	Shelf	3/4"	13 3/4"	34 1/2"
G	1	Base	3/4"	4"	34 1/2"
H	1	Back Base	3/4"	13 3/4"	34 1/2"
I	3	Support	1 1/2"	1 1/2"	34 1/2"
J	—	Dowel	1/4"	1"	

Table

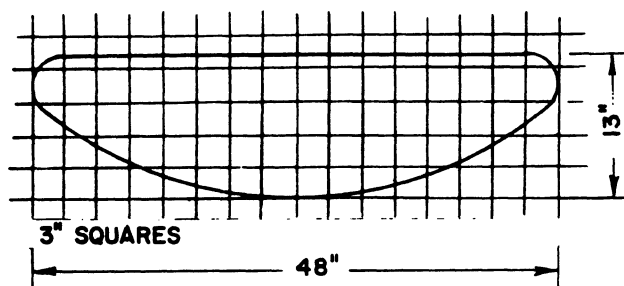


A convenient, but not essential, piece of equipment is the child-sized table. When available, it can be used in the homeliving area, in the art area, in the nature area, or wherever it is needed.

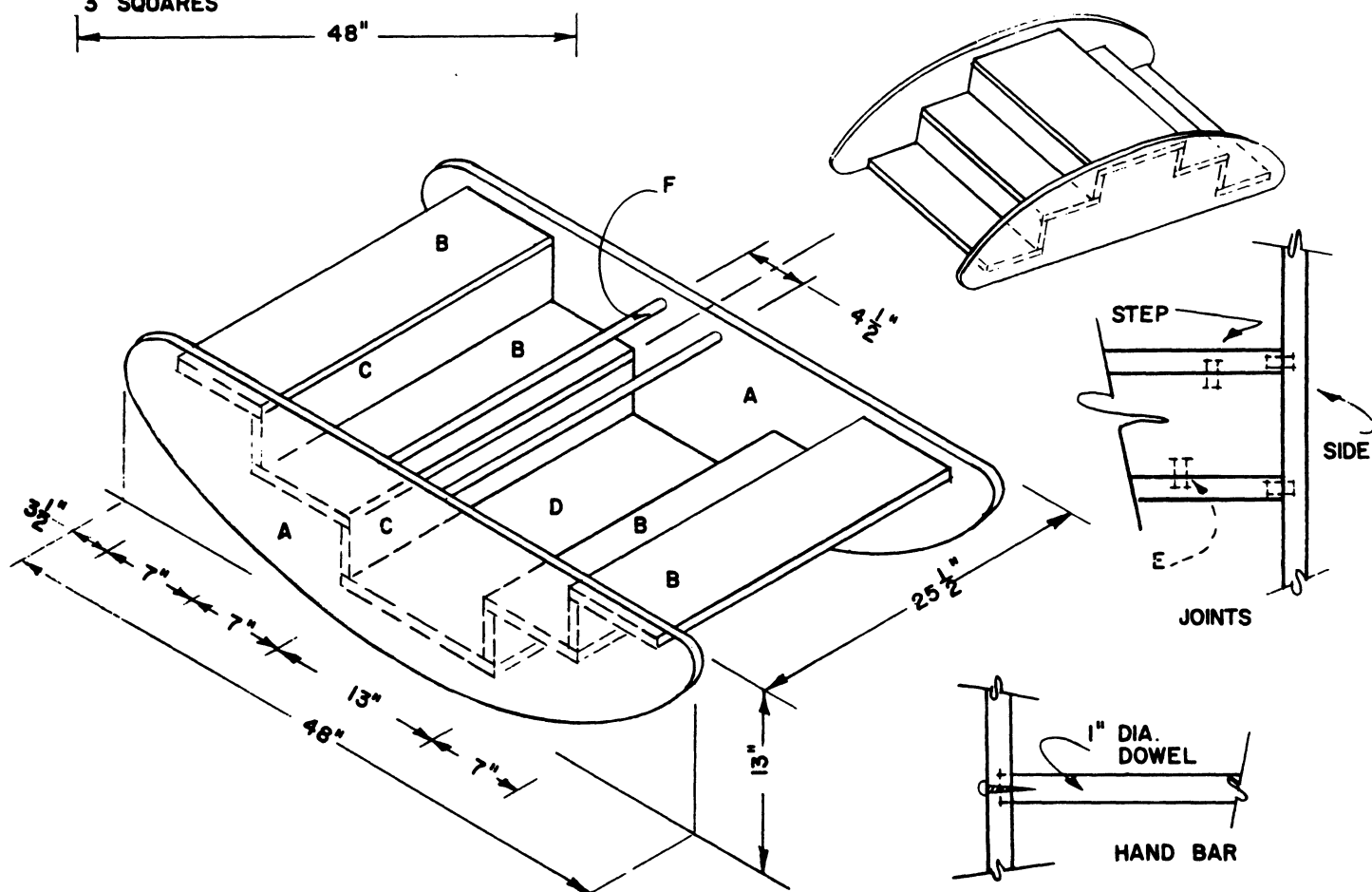
Recommended size is 24" x 36" x 20".

MATERIALS NEEDED

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A	1	Top	3/4"	30"	48"
B	4	Leg	2"	2"	22"
C	2	Side Frame	1 1/8"	2 1/2"	45"
D	2	End Frame	1 1/8"	2 1/2"	27"
E	4	Brace	3/4"	2 1/2"	10"
F	8	R.H. Bolt with Washers	5/16"	3 1/2"	
G	12	Clip Angles	1 1/4"	1 1/4"	3/32" x 1" long
	24	Screws	#6 x 5/8"		



Rocking Boat and Steps



A desirable piece of equipment in younger preschoolers' rooms is the combination rocking boat and steps. The versatility of the two-in-one construction allows teachers to provide two pieces of learning equipment in a limited amount of space. Upright it is a set of

steps—three up one side, three down the other—to satisfy the creeper's, toddler's, or two's desire to climb. Turned over, it is a rocking boat that can accommodate two to four preschoolers. Overall size is 48" x 25 1/2" x 13".

MATERIALS NEEDED

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A	2	Side	3/4"	13"	48"
B	4	Seat	3/4"	7"	24"
C	4		3/4"	3 3/4"	24"
D	1	Floor	3/4"	13"	24"
E		Dowels	1/4"		1"
F	2	Handbars	1"		24 3/4"
G	4	Screws	#8	1/2"	

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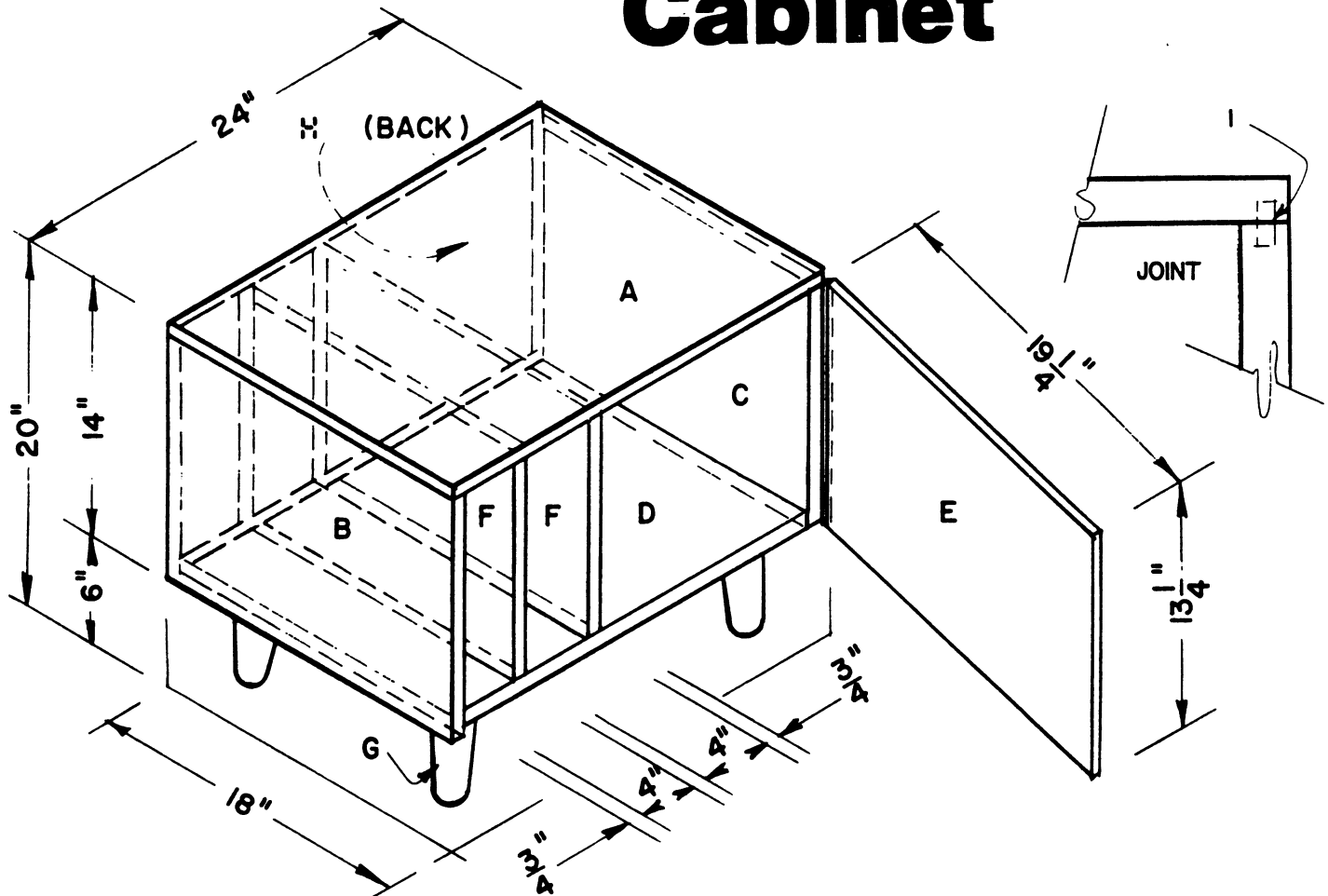
3 1/2" dia. BURNERS
(PAINTED ON TOP)

The stove illustrated here has realistic features

that will encourage the preschooler in dramatic play. The stove has four knobs that turn, four simulated burners, double doors that open from the center, and one shelf. The stove is 24 inches high, 18 inches wide, and 14 inches deep.

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A	1	Top	¾"	13¾"	18"
B	2	Side	¾"	13¾"	23¼"
C	2	Shelf	¾"	13"	16½"
D	2	Door	¾"	8⅞"	18"
E	1	Back	¼"	18"	28"
F	—	Dowel	¼" Ø	1"	
G	6	Knob	1½" Ø		
H	4	Hinge			
I	1	Base	¾"	2"	16½"
J	1	Control Panel	¾"	3¼"	16½"

Record Player Cabinet



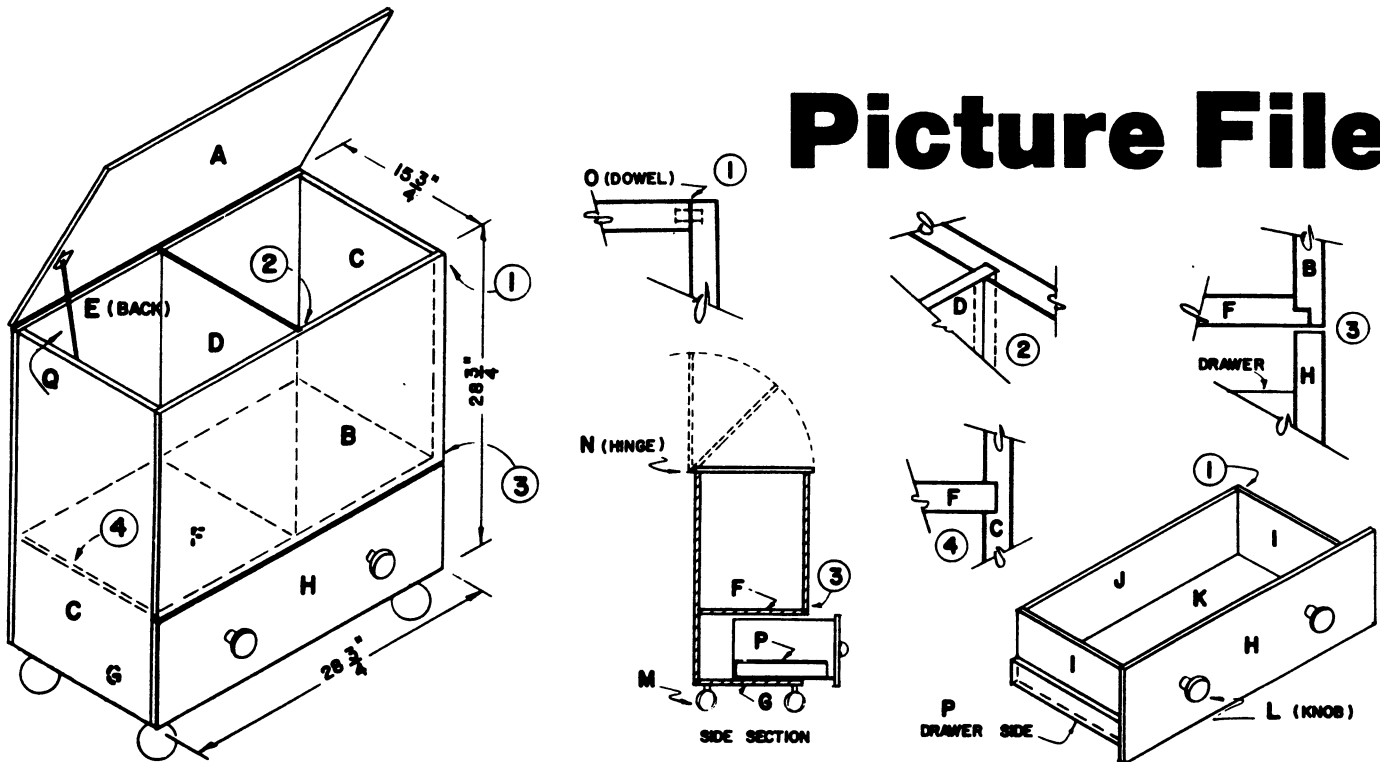
This handy record player cabinet provides storage for both record player and recordings. The record player is stored on the right and the recordings in

two compartments on the left. When in use, the record player can be placed on the top of the cabinet.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A	1	Top	3/4"	18"	24"
B	1	Left Side	3/4"	13 1/4"	18"
C	1	Right Side	3/4"	13 1/4"	17 1/4"
D	1	Bottom	3/4"	17 1/4"	22 1/2"
E	1	Door	3/4"	13 1/4"	19 1/4"
F	2	Divide	3/4"	12 1/2"	17 1/4"
G	4	Leg	1 1/2" Ø	6"	
H	1	Back	1/4"	13 1/2"	23 1/2"
I		Dowel	1/4" Ø x 1"		
J	1	Knob	1 1/2" Ø		
K	2	Hinges			

Picture File



The use of teaching pictures with preschoolers offers many opportunities for conversation and interaction between the teacher and child about God, Jesus, family, self, others, the natural world, church, and the Bible.

Preschool teaching picture sets, along with resource kit teaching pictures, are valuable teaching aids in every preschool department. Even a baby can be shown a colorful picture of things he has probably seen in his limited experience. Preschool picture sets are designed for continuous use through-

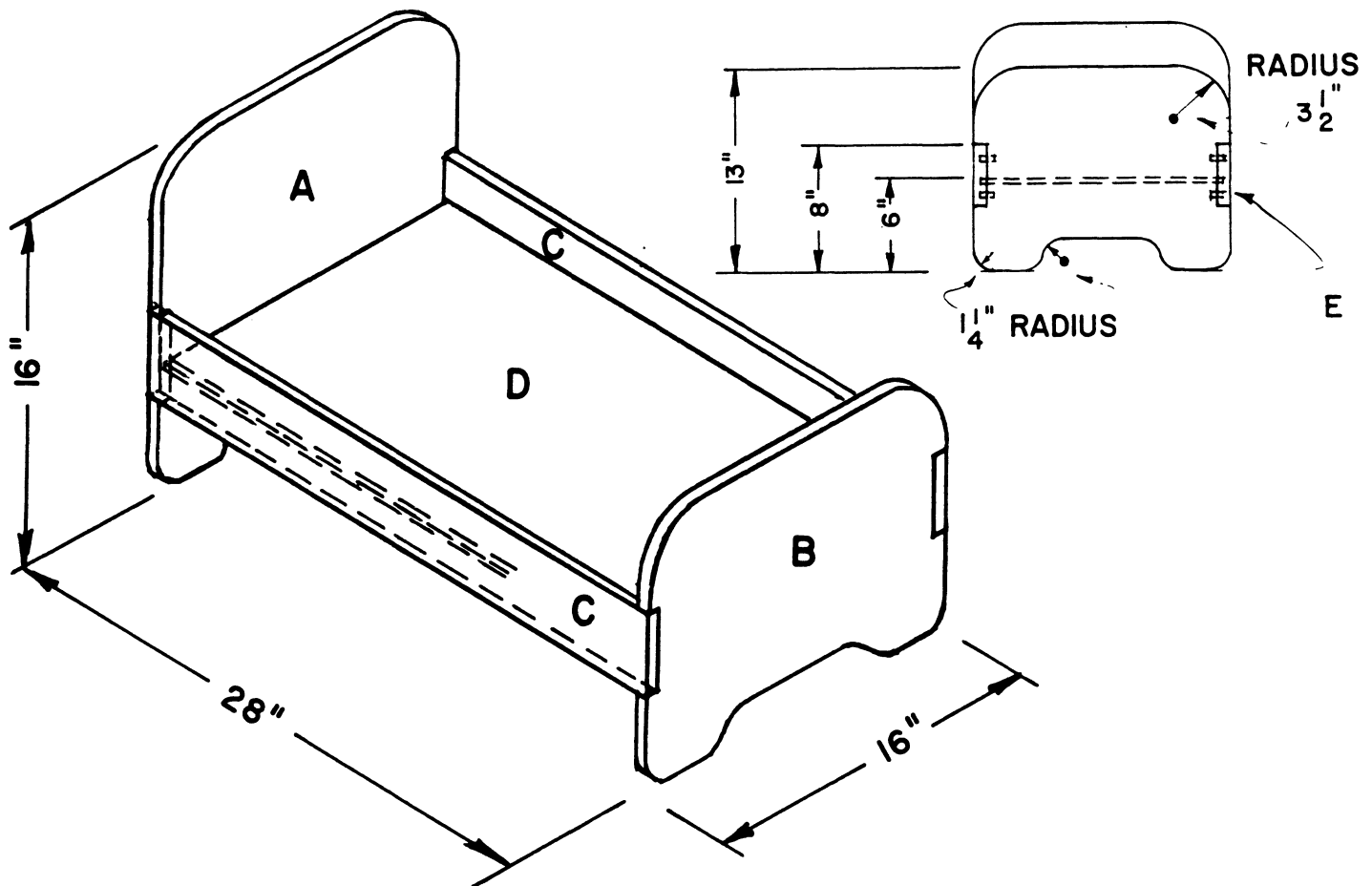
out the year, and may be used for several years. Therefore, teachers need a handy, convenient, safe place to store their pictures.

The portable picture file shown here is designed for that purpose and is ideal for use in four- and five-year departments. (It is not recommended for filing pictures for younger preschoolers, because these pictures are usually mounted on cardboard.) The bottom drawer can be used to store smaller pictures and other items.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A	1	Top	3/4"	15 3/4"	28 1/4"
B	1	Front	3/4"	18 3/4"	28 1/4"
C	2	Side	3/4"	13 1/2"	28 1/4"
D	1	Divide	3/8"	14"	18"
E	1	Back	3/4"	28 1/4"	28 1/4"
F	1	Shelf	3/4"	13 3/4"	26 1/4"
G	1	Bottom	3/4"	13 1/2"	26 1/4"
H	1	Drawer Front	3/4"	9 1/2"	28 1/4"
I	2	Drawer Side	3/8"	7 1/4"	13"
J	1	Drawer Back	3/8"	7 1/4"	25"
K	1	Drawer Bottom	3/8"	12 5/8"	25"
L	2	Knob	2 1/2" Ø		
M	4	Casters	3" Ø		
N	1	Piano Hinge	28"		
O		Dowel	1/4" Ø x 1"		
P	1 set	Drawer Slides	1/2" x 2 3/8"		
Q	1	Support Bracket			

Doll Bed



Preschoolers can enjoy playing out the experiences they have had at home when churches provide child-sized, homelike furnishings and materials. Teachers can detect the interests and experiences which children have had and can help enhance their learning at church.

A child-sized doll bed is recommended for toddler,

two-, three-, four-, and five-year departments. (See *How to Guide Preschoolers*, pp. 104-116 for additional information about using homeliving materials.)

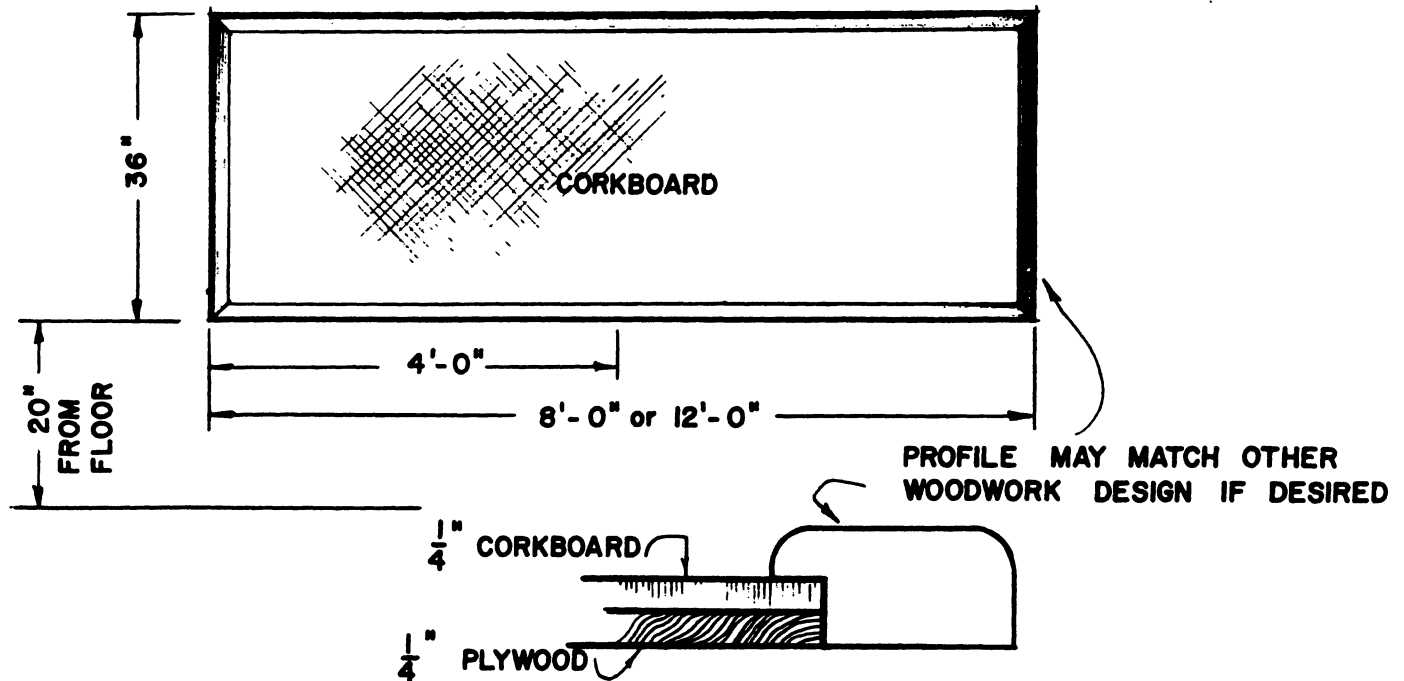
The diagram here will help in building a suitable doll bed with a minimum of time, energy, and materials.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A	1	Headboard	3/4"	16"	16"
B	1	Footboard	3/4"	16"	13"
C	2	Side	3/4"	4"	28"
D	1	Bottom	1/2"	15 1/4"	26 1/2"
E	8	Dowel	1/4"	1"	

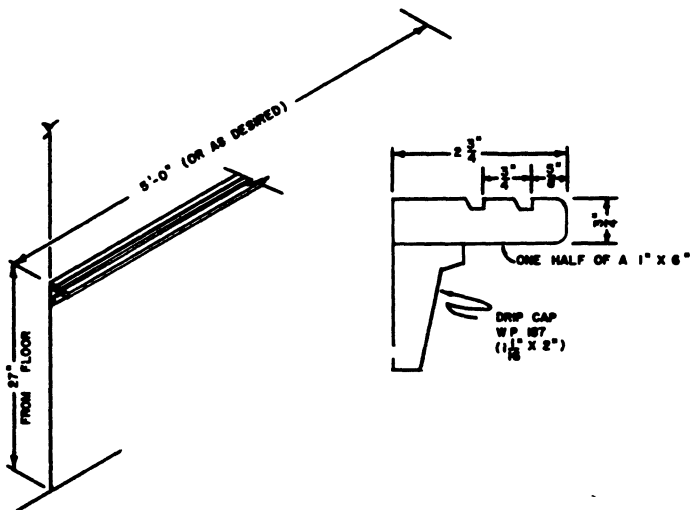
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Bulletin Board



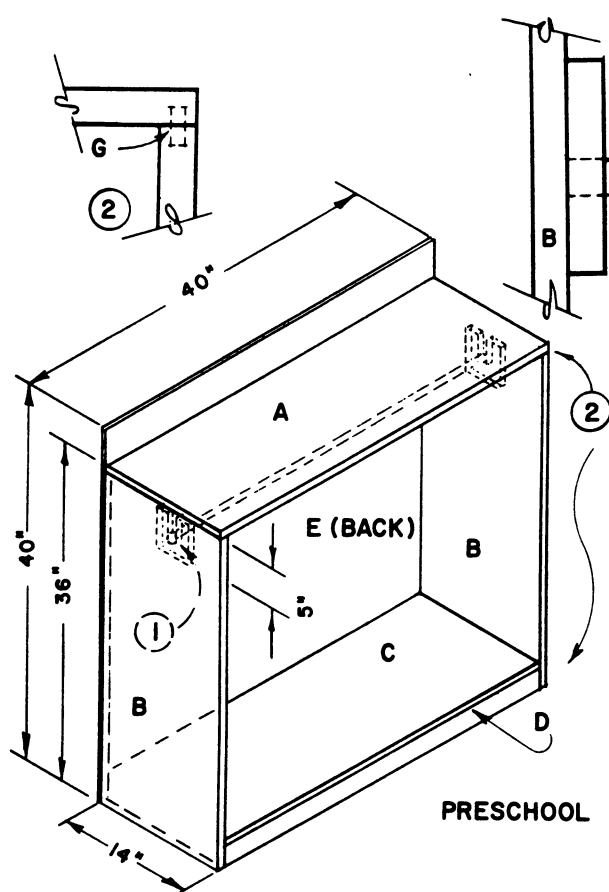
In four- and five-year departments, the bulletin board should be placed on some wall other than the front wall. It is usually used with art activities, so it needs to be positioned near the rest room, if possible.

The bulletin board shown here is 36 inches wide, 8 to 12 feet long, and is mounted 20 inches from the floor.

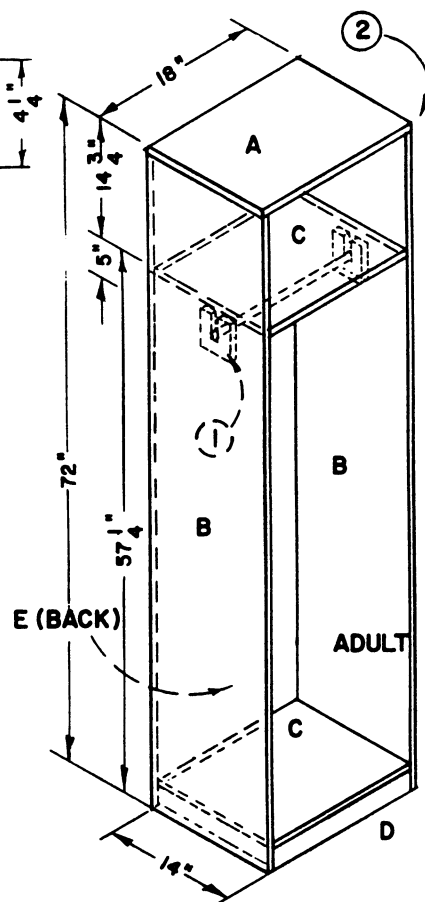


The picture rail is a piece of molding 5 feet long with two grooves for pictures to rest in. Mount the rail 27 inches from the floor on the longest wall unbroken by doors and windows. The picture rail should be mounted on the wall fours or fives will be facing during group time.

Child's Coatrack



Adult Coatrack



Providing an opportunity for twos, threes, fours, and fives to begin to learn how to take care of their belongings is one reason for having a coatrack in preschool departments. Placed near the door, incoming preschoolers can help put their coats and hats in the rack (with teacher assistance). Making this a habit

encourages preschoolers to be neat and to take care of their belongings.

The adult rack may be placed in the department if there is room, or in the outside hallway if department space is limited.

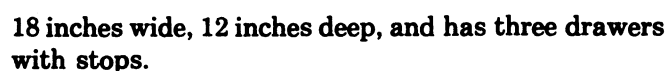
MATERIALS NEEDED

PARTNO.	ITEM	THICKNESS	X WIDTH	X LENGTH
A	1 Top	3/4"	14"	40"
B	2 Side	3/4"	14"	35 1/4"
C	1 Shelf	3/4"	14"	38 1/2"
D	1 Base	3/4"	2"	38 1/2"
E	1 Back	1/8"	40"	40"
F	1 Bar	3/4" Ø	39 1/2"	
	(Dowel)			
G	— Dowel	1/4" Ø	1"	
H	2 Holder	3/4"	3 3/4"	4 1/4"

MATERIALS NEEDED

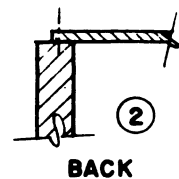
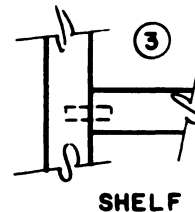
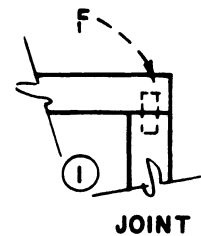
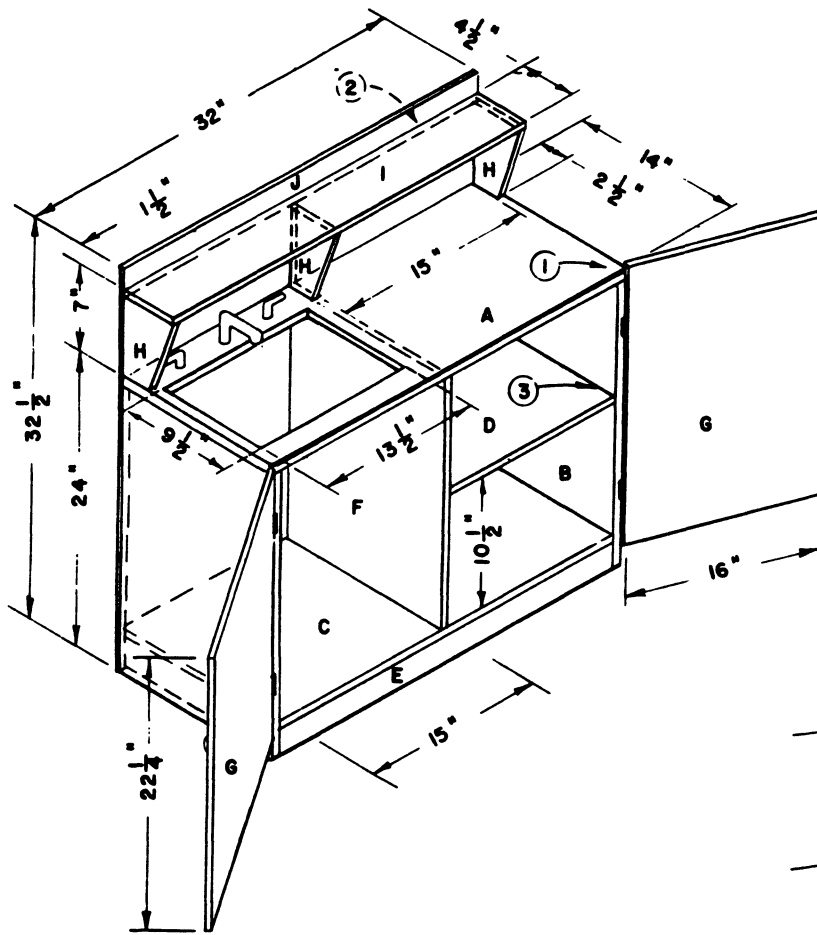
PARTNO.	ITEM	THICKNESS	X WIDTH	X LENGTH
A	1 Top	3/4"	14"	40"
B	2 Side	3/4"	14"	71 1/4"
C	2 Shelf	3/4"	14"	16 1/2"
D	1 Base	3/4"	2"	16 1/2"
E	1 Back	1/8"	18"	72"
F	1 Bar	3/4" Ø	39 1/2"	
	(Dowel)			
G	— Dowel	1/4" Ø	1"	
H	2 Holder	3/4"	3 3/4"	4 1/4"

E (DRAWER GUIDE)



PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A	1	Top	¾"	12"	18"
B	2	Side	¾"	11"	23¼"
C	1	Back	¼"	15¾"	23¼"
D	1	Base	¾"	2½"	16½"
E	6	Drawer Guide	½"	1½"	10½"
F	3	Frame	½"	1½"	15"
G	3	Drawer Front	¾"	6½"	16½"
H	3	Drawer Back	½"	5"	12¾"
I	6	Drawer Side	½"	5"	10"
J	3	Drawer Bottom	½"	9½"	12¾"
K	3	Drawer Knobs	1¾" Ø		
L	—	Dowel	¼" Ø	1"	

Cabinet Sink



A valuable furnishing in departments for twos through fives is the child-sized cabinet sink. Placed in the homeliving area, the cabinet sink provides opportunities for children to play out experiences they may have had at home. Washing dishes, preparing a meal, dusting, and related activities usually begin in the homeliving area around the cabinet sink. Cabinet sinks are recommended for use in Two-, Three-, Four-,

and Five-Year departments.

Scaled to the child's size, the cabinet sink has two doors with magnetic catches, one shelf, and a removable plastic sink. Movable chrome faucets are durable and safe.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PART	NO.	ITEM	THICKNESS X	WIDTH X	LENGTH
A ¹	1	Top	3/4"	14"	32"
B	2	Side	3/4"	13 1/2"	23 1/4"
C	1	Bottom Shelf	3/4"	13 1/2"	30 1/2"
D	1	Shelf	3/4"	13 1/2"	15"
E	1	Base	3/4"	2"	30 1/2"
F	1	Divider	3/4"	13 1/2"	20 1/2"
G	2	Door	1/2"	16"	22"
H	3	End	3/4"	2 1/2"-4 1/2"	7"
I	1	Upper Shelf	1/2"	4 1/2"	32"
J	1	Back	1/4"	32"	32 1/2"
K		Dowels ²	1/4" diameter x 1"		
	4	Hinges			
	1	Pan	Approximately 4 1/2" x 9 1/2" x 13 1/2"		
	2	Knobs			

¹Do not cut hole in top before knowing exact pan size.

²If nails or screws are substituted for the dowels, make sure the heads are recessed.