

Tallboy treasure



Tom Skeels completes his ornate 18th century reproduction veneered cabinet in rosewood and sycamore

Last month I showed how to make the legs and valance for this piece. Now it's on to the serious work of the cabinet.

Cabinet

This is framed in $\frac{3}{4}$ in pine with dovetailed corner joints, rebated all round at the rear to take the $\frac{1}{2}$ in plywood back. The cabinet is veneered all round internally in sycamore.

The drawers and internal doors are of serpentine section and the pieces with solid rosewood facings are backed with solid pine.

First to be cut is the lower shelf, where the rosewood has a rounded nosing profiled using Trend router cutter No 46/130. This section is screwed into place. Next cut shelf A which forms the lower drawer framer. Into the backing pine for this piece cut channels into which will slot the four vertical drawer dividers. These four pieces are cut, faced with rosewood and set in position.

The middle dividing strip is cut in a similar way to that of the lower drawer bearer, the pine backing of this piece being channelled to both its under and upper surfaces. Next is construction of the four upper dividing pieces. The drawer frame side pieces, into which the three drawer frames slot are made in $\frac{1}{2}$ in thick, rosewood faced and screwed in place.

The top shelf is next to be made, the underside being rebated to accept the dividing pieces and the top side left

plain. A 1in straight router bit is used for this. It's best to score with a knife along the marked edges of the rebate to prevent the router tearing out the edge.

Drawer divisions

The horizontal drawer divisions are made in oak with rosewood fronts profiled to match the shelves, then slotted into position. For the final assembly of the drawer framework, the

Drawer compartments & fluted columns



two lower shelves are screwed into the main casing, the two lower side pieces to the side of the main casing and the centre pieces slotted in. The central shelf is screwed down into the lower divisions, similarly, the upper dividing pieces are positioned, the side pieces being screwed to the frame and the top shelf screwed down. Above the upper division is a small display compartment with a mirror base. The sides and rear of this compartment are framed in sycamore veneer, mounted on $\frac{1}{2}$ in pine. The display compartment is illuminated by a strip of five 12 volt lamps recessed into the top of the frame and angled down at 45 degrees.

Making the columns

The front pieces to the main divisions are made of solid rosewood mounted to the fronts of the pine dividing pieces.



PROJECT



A router table set up for column shaping



Homemade routing jig makes the flutes for the cabinet columns

These are shaped by a $\frac{1}{8}$ in straight router cutter.

1 Stops are clamped to the router fence each end to ensure that the length of cut for each column is the same. Decorative $\frac{1}{8}$ in wide grooves are cut in each column with a round-nosed $\frac{1}{8}$ in straight router bit with the router being mounted on a especially made jig. This jig has two runners which give a channel of width to suit the particular model of router being used, with screw-down clamps at each end to hold the workpiece.

Detailed view of the routing jig used to flute the front columns

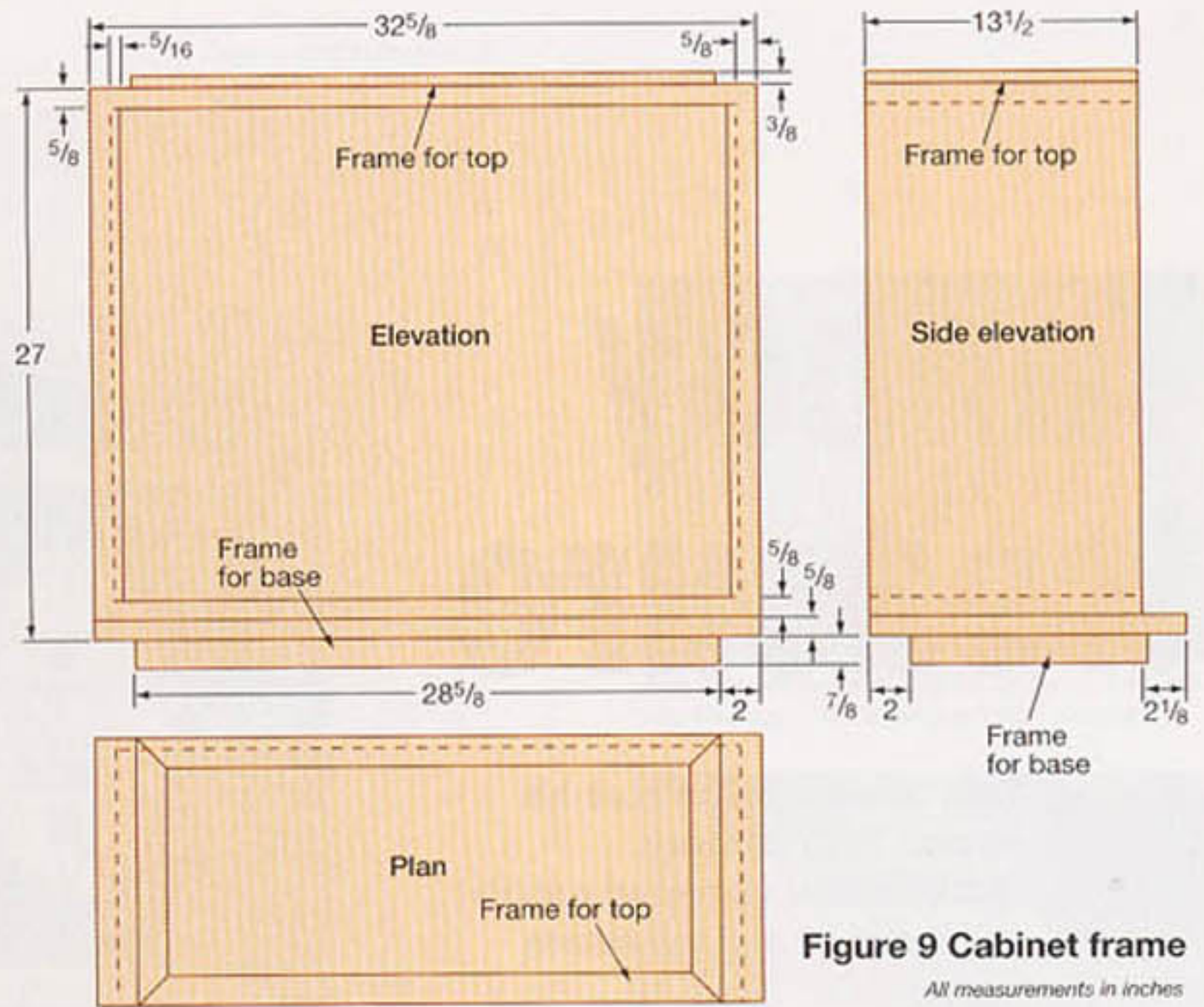
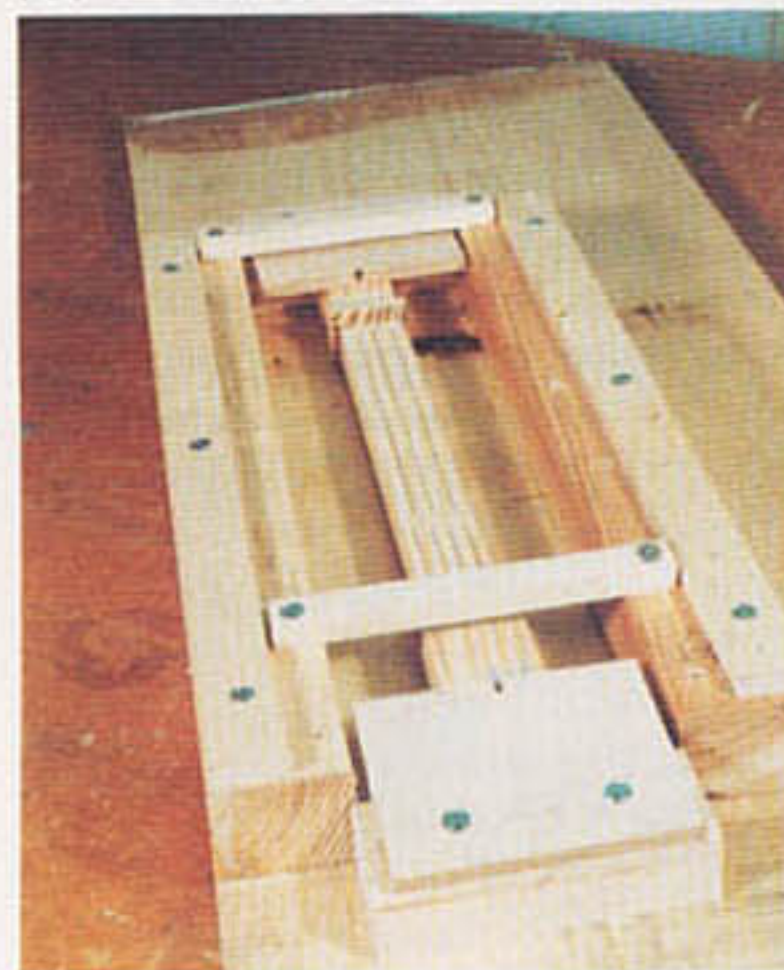
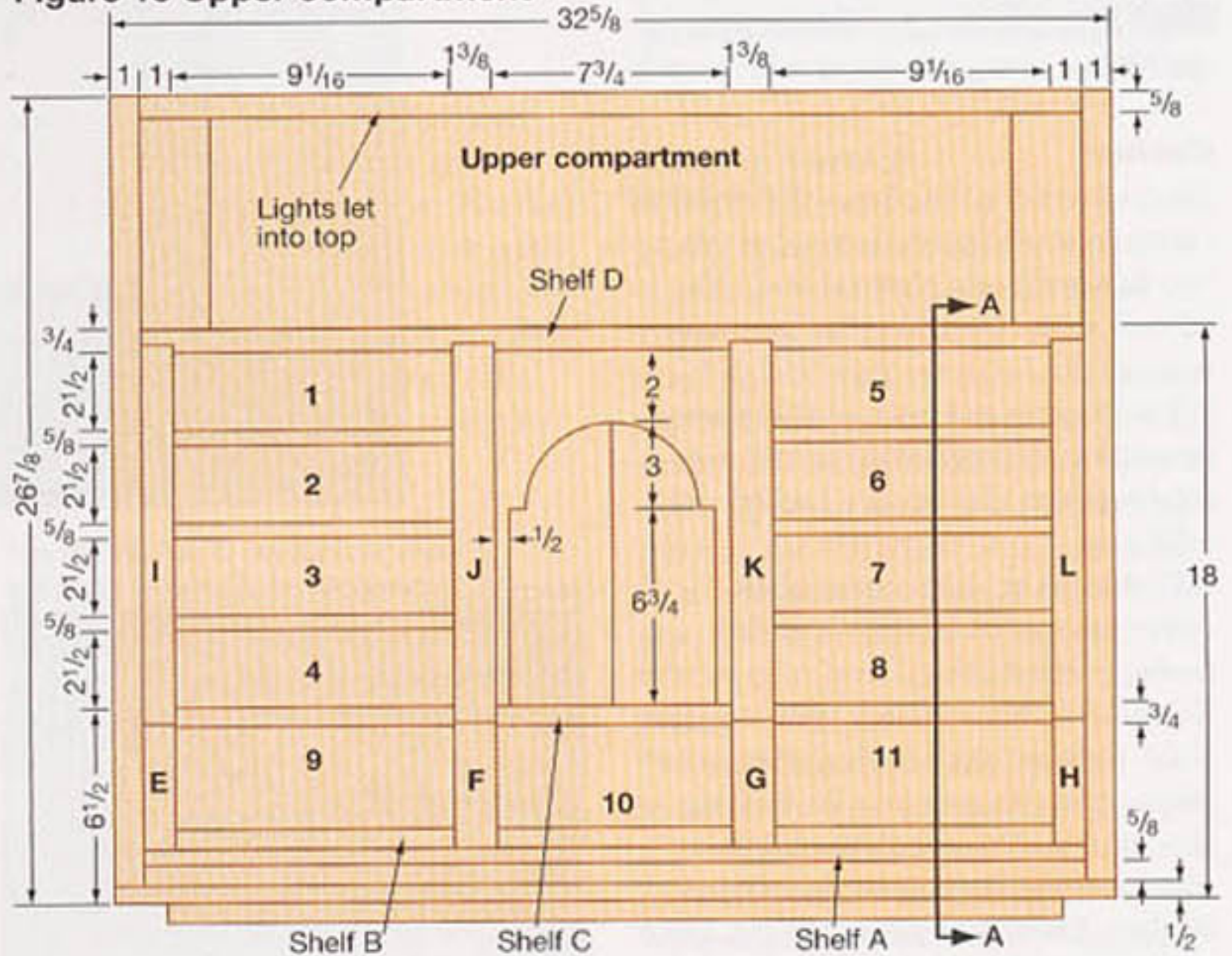


Figure 9 Cabinet frame

All measurements in inches

Figure 10 Upper compartment

All measurements in inches

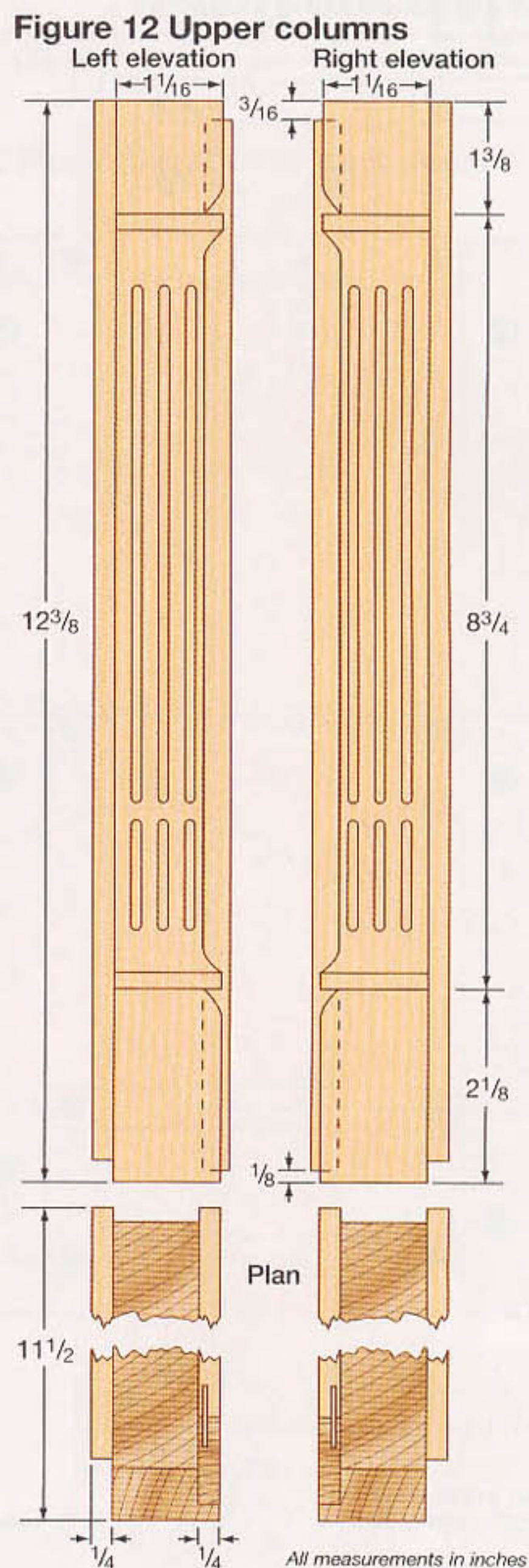
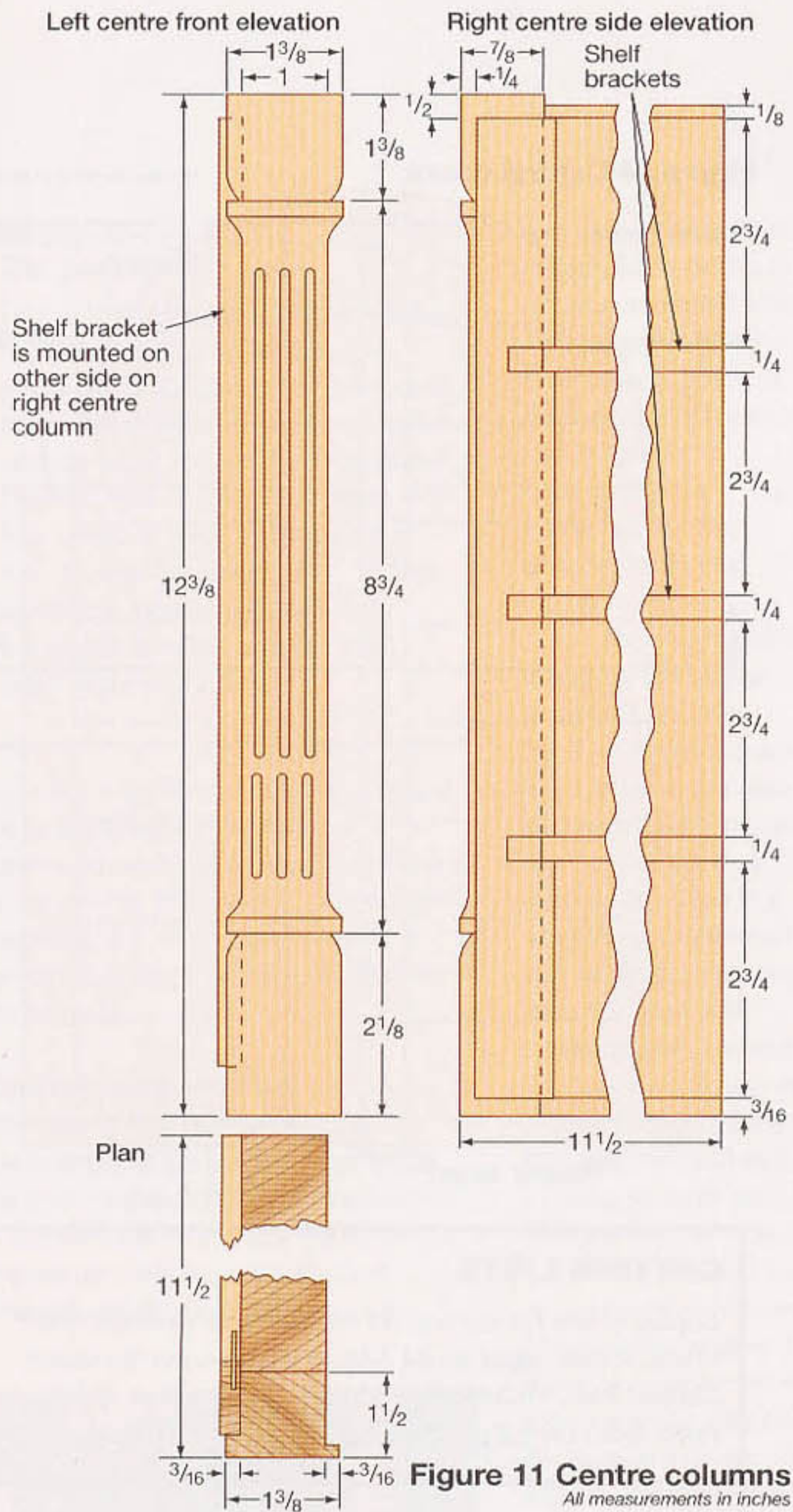


2 Moveable stops are screwed across the runners to limit the travel of the router when cutting the upper and lower grooves.

3 Before mounting the stops, the cutter is used to mark centre points on the two end clamps to give a reference mark for shifting the workpiece sideways. An extra 1in of waste wood is allowed at each end for

the clamping of the work, with masking tape placed round each end on which are marked lines that are to be linked up in turn with the centre points on the two end clamps.

4 The router is set so that the $\frac{1}{8}$ in cutter will produce grooves to a depth so as to make a semicircular cut. Great care needs to be taken in spacing the grooves so that they look right.



Before the columns are glued to the main divisions they are sealed, varnished and gild painted in the grooves. The lower columns are made with plain fronts.

Central double doors

The two doors are convex in profile, following the shape of the main shelves, and are framed and veneered in sycamore.

The over door valance and the doors are constructed in one piece in 'brick' fashion from 1/2in thick sycamore.

Trace the profile of the central front openings of the cabinet and transfer to the pieces of sycamore, cut out to form the brick sections.

A mould to the same contour is made, upon which the bricks are assembled.

The bricks are glued together and clamped whilst setting on the mould. The outline of the curved door top valance is marked, a cutting jig set up and the radii cut on the scroll saw. Two cuts are made, spaced approx 1/8in apart.

Next, the meeting stiles of the two doors are cut and rebated so that the right door stile will overlap the left. The two doors are cut and the stiles glued on, these joints being reinforced by inserting lengthwise strips of 1/8in ply.

Next, outer stiles to the two doors are cut and jointed. A keeper of 1/2in sycamore is cut and dowelled to the underside of each door. The doors are veneered and tops and rebates cut for the hinges.

Side cheeks for mounting the doors

The central display section



Figure 13 Jig for slotting columns

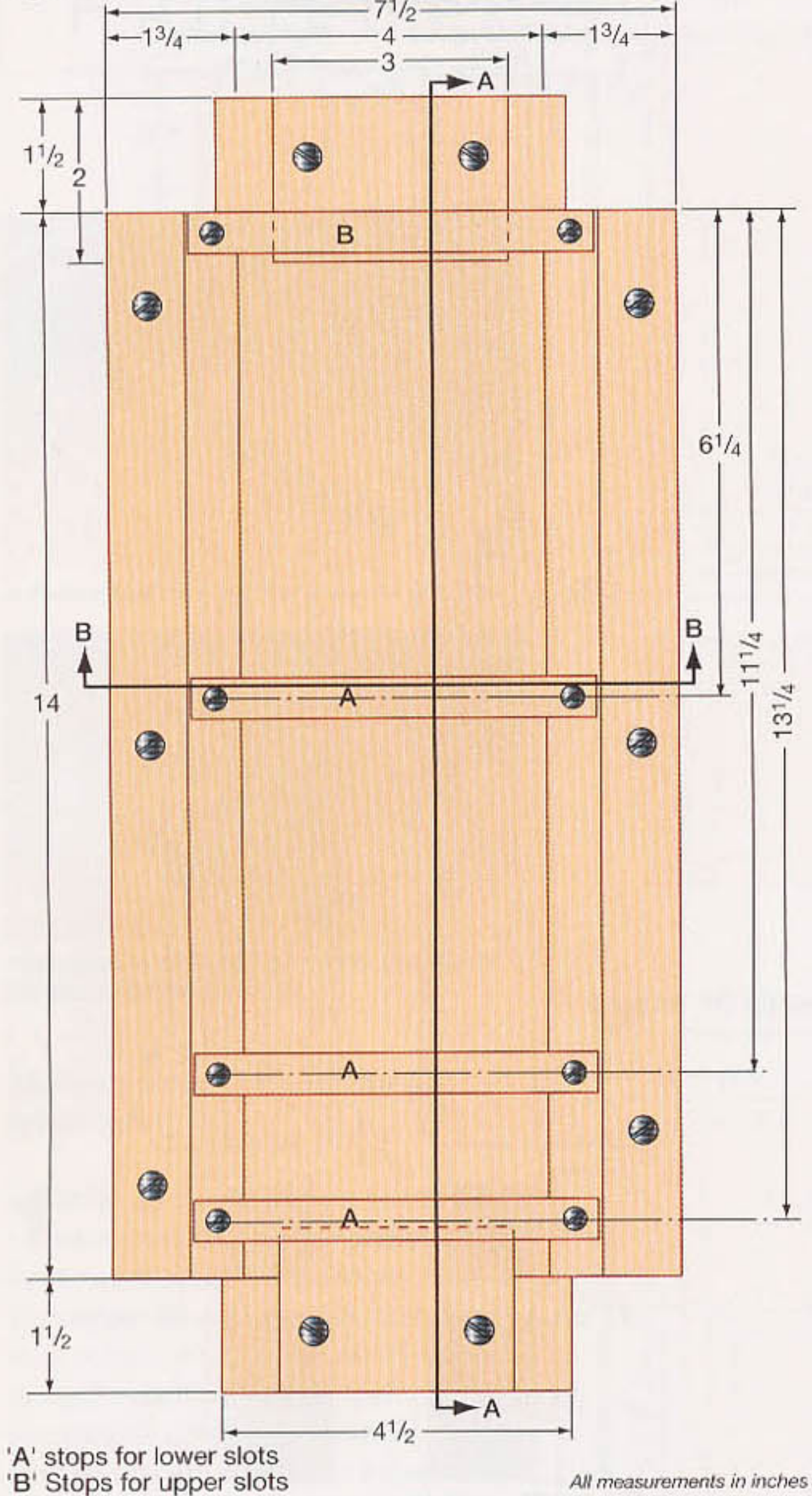
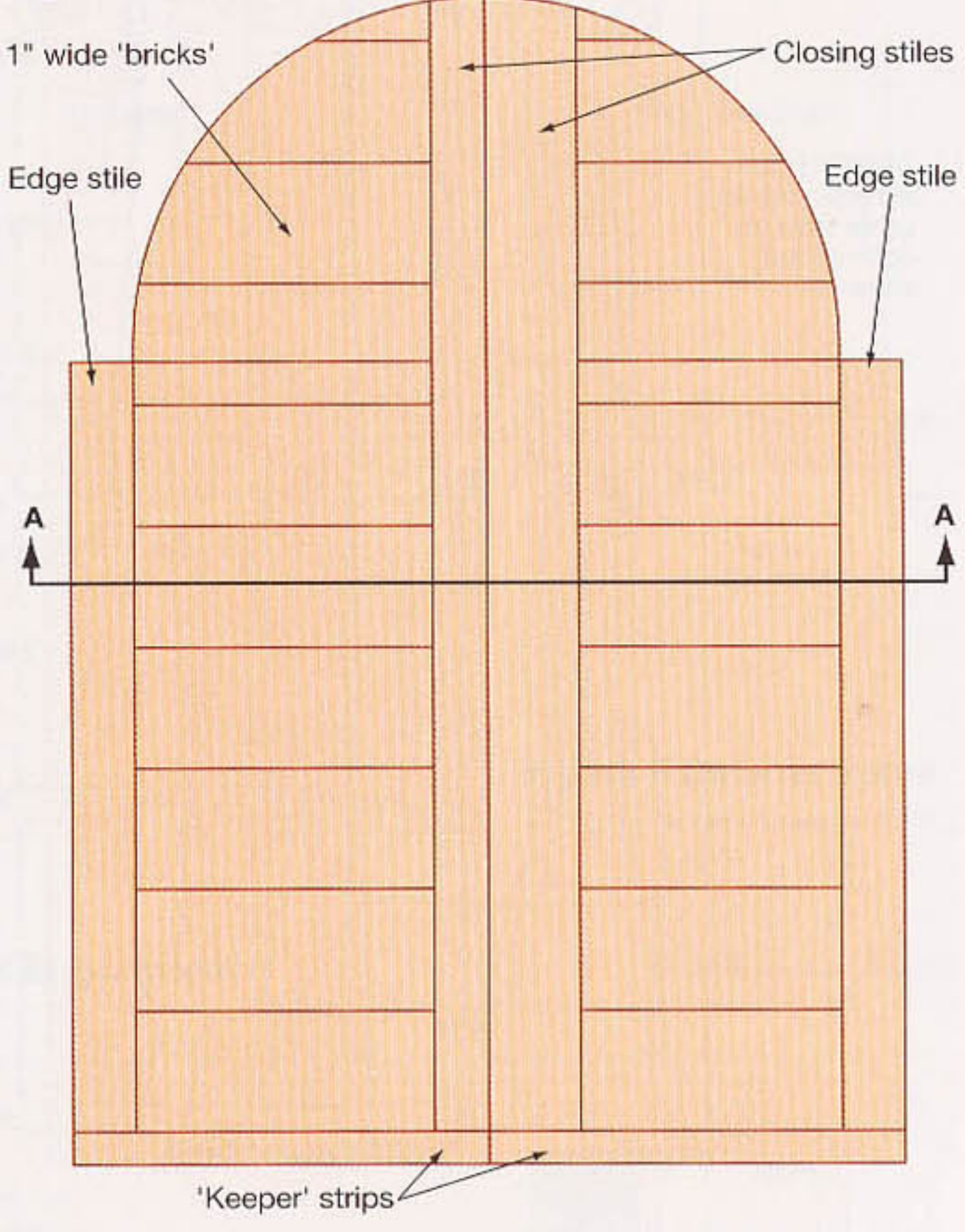


Figure 14 Central doors



CUTTING LISTS

Copies of the full cutting list are available from the WW office. Please send an A4 SAE to Woodworker Veneered Cabinet Plan, Highbury Leisure, Berwick Hse, 8-10 Knoll Rise, Orpington, Kent BR6 OPS

into the cabinet aperture are cut from oak, rebated for the door hinges, drilled for screwing to the inner sides of the cabinet opening and facing surfaces veneered in sycamore. The doors are hinged together with the side cheeks and offered into the opening. When you are happy that they are satisfactorily hung and that the doors close neatly together, then the side cheeks are screwed through into the opening.

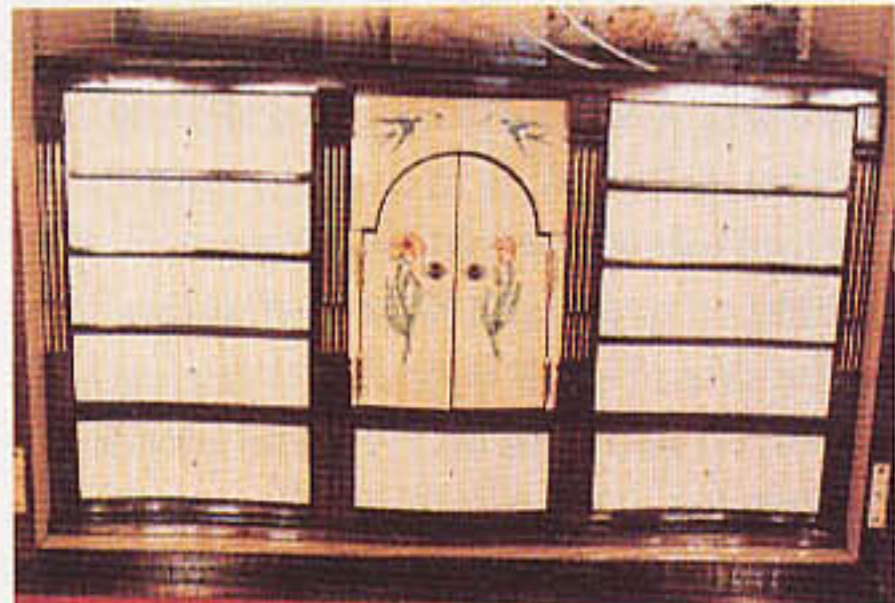
The valance is provided with a mounting bracket screwed to its top and then veneered to front and inside the curved surface.

Making the Drawers

There are 13 drawers in total, the 11 in the cabinet having serpentine fronts plus two in the lower frame with flat fronts.

These are made in the traditional way with dovetail joints.

The components are glued together, checked for squareness, and the bottom cut and slid into the rebated groove. Next the drawer is inserted into its opening and the contour of the front marked. The bases are reinforced by gluing in strips of pine and the fronts are veneered in sycamore and then sealed and varnished.



The curved door tops and valance, cut on a scroll saw with cutting jig

Main doors

These are of 1/4in birch ply which is framed in pine and rosewood, veneered all over, the corners being edged with 1/4in sq boxwood strings.

The oval is made from a laminate of two 1/4in pine strips. The two laminates are glued together and the inner and outer of the oval is cut on the scroll saw,

Figure 15 Floral decoration to front doors

The pediment

This is framed in pine and veneered in rosewood and sycamore. The pediment is capped to the front and two sides in lime, the middle curved section being formed from laminate. The laminate top is constructed with four strips of pine, thickened to $\frac{1}{8}$ in. I used Cascamite glue for this assembly. When hardened, it is bandsawn to width and the front edge slightly rounded.

the outer edge being rounded over and the inner rebated to accept the hardboard oval. The inside floral designs are on $\frac{1}{8}$ in ply, held in by concave section moulding, which was gold painted, a cabinet lock fitted, with escutcheon for the keyhole.

Central compartment

The base of this compartment is constructed of $\frac{1}{8}$ in birch ply, curved at the front to match the drawer profiles. It is mounted on three 1in x $\frac{1}{8}$ in strips and fronted by a laminate of $\frac{1}{8}$ in ply. A magnetic catch is mounted so as to

operate on the right-side door, and a low voltage push switch to control the light which is mounted within the compartment.

A chequer board in rosewood and sycamore is laid and the platform framed to accommodate the trapezoidal shaped mirror.

The chequerboard is designed so that the pattern of squares 'sweeps' inwards from front to back, and also curves laterally to match the front of the base. To achieve this I made a sandwich of rosewood and sycamore veneers, each laid over with masking tape, and traced the pattern onto the top one of the sandwich. I then cut through the sandwich forming squares and placed alternate pieces onto the base.

The five side and back mirrors are mounted on frames, the side frames being angled. Each mirror frame is constructed of oak and rosewood. The side mirror frames are mounted on hardboard with angled oak frame pieces to which they are attached.

Electricals

A mains push switch is mounted in the frame and is operated by a block when the front doors are opened. The switch is enclosed in a framework of rosewood. The low volt push switch in the central compartment is mounted in the front of the base. The five bulbs which light the upper area of the main cabinet are

mounted on a strip of oak and aluminium, set at an angle of 45 degrees. A 12v transformer is mounted on the top of the cabinet.



Note: Picture reversed for left and right doors



Material suppliers

Veneers:	Art Veneers	01638 712550
Fittings:	Martin & Co	0121 233 2111
12V lighting system:	Lucina Lighting	01223 847202
Mains switch:	Electrovale	01784 433604
Catches and bolts:	Woodfit	01257 266421
Brass finials:	Timecraft	0151 526 2516