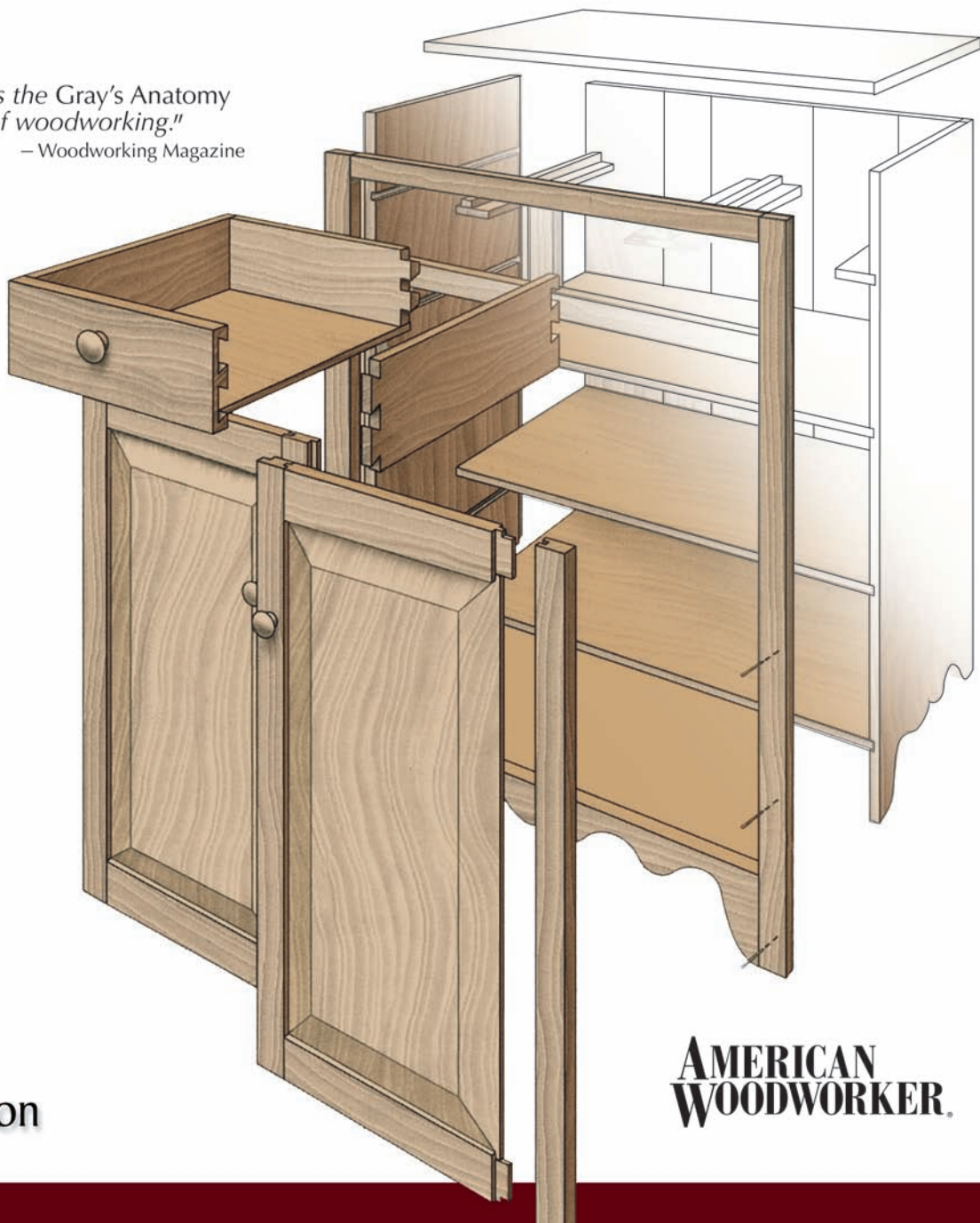


ILLUSTRATED CABINETMAKING

How to Design and Construct Furniture That Works

*"This is the Gray's Anatomy
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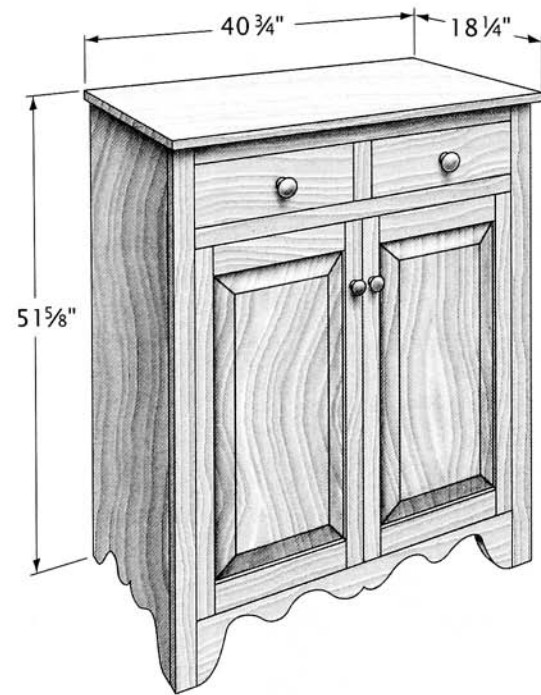


Bill Hylton

**AMERICAN
WOODWORKER.**

JELLY CUPBOARD

Storage Cupboard, Dish Cupboard,
Kitchen Sideboard



PLANS

Hylton, William. "New England Pine Cupboard," *The Weekend Woodworker: Quick-and-Easy Projects*. Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press, 1992. A typical 42-inch-high cupboard with no drawer; good drawings and instructions.

Lyons, Richard A. "Jelly Cupboard," *Making Country Furniture*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1987. 3 drawers over 2 doors, 5 feet high; adequate drawings, outline of procedure.

and vermin out, so the shelves got doors. Then convenience of use introduced drawers—think of them as a stack of boxes that don't have to be unstacked to gain access to any one of them.

With its roots in the average household, the typical jelly cupboard is assembled with simple, robust joints, including nails, mortise-and-tenon, shiplap, tongue-and-groove, and dovetail—joints requiring few tools.

The jelly cupboard shown is a later example of the genre, displaying a modest sense of style, along with greater skill on the part of the maker. It has two drawers above a pair of doors that close over three fixed shelves.

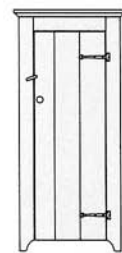
The jelly cupboard wasn't just a rural piece, although we think of it as such today. Urbanites, rich and poor alike, had kitchen cupboards for foodstuffs, just as country folk did. And a general-purpose kitchen cupboard is what a jelly cupboard really was.

The earliest jelly cupboards were primitive open shelves. The form's evolution was driven initially by necessity. One was to keep dust, dirt,

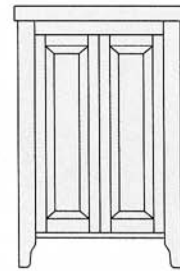
DESIGN VARIATIONS

The evolution of the jelly cupboard is evident in the variations shown here. It's likely the earliest cupboards had primitive batten doors. Less valued, they were less likely to survive.

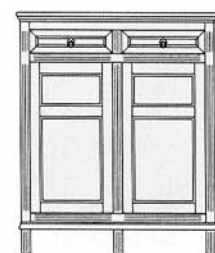
Interestingly, the major difference between the primitive cupboard shown and the dish cupboard is the doors. The raised panels do make a statement about the relative prosperity and sophistication of the dish cupboard's owner. Drawers are found only in the less primitive examples, such as the form called a buffet by the French-Canadians. Decorative touches are seldom more extensive than a scroll cut at the bottom and perhaps a bit of molding.



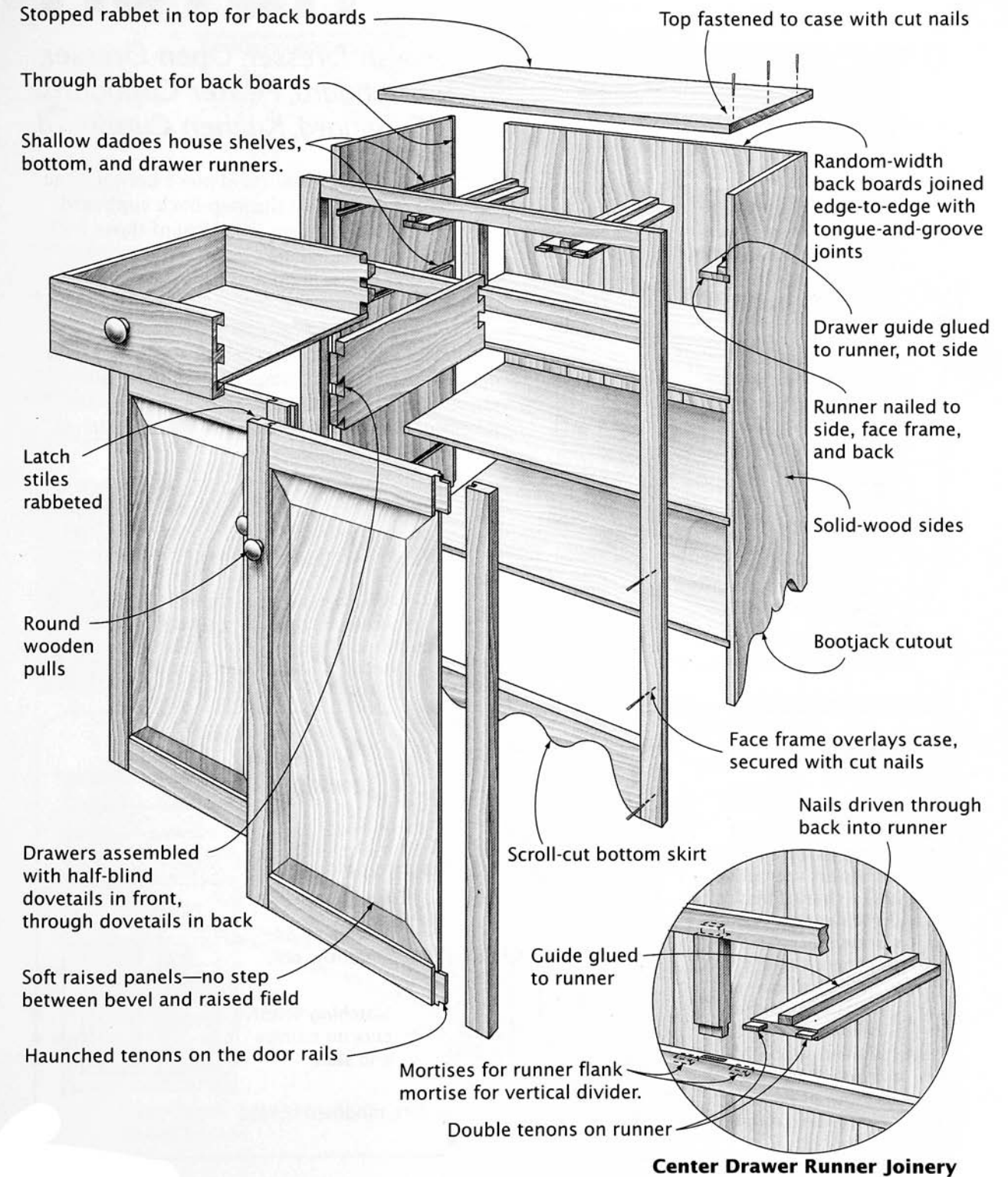
Primitive
Jelly Cupboard



Dish
Cupboard



French-Canadian
Buffet



Center Drawer Runner Joinery

HUTCH

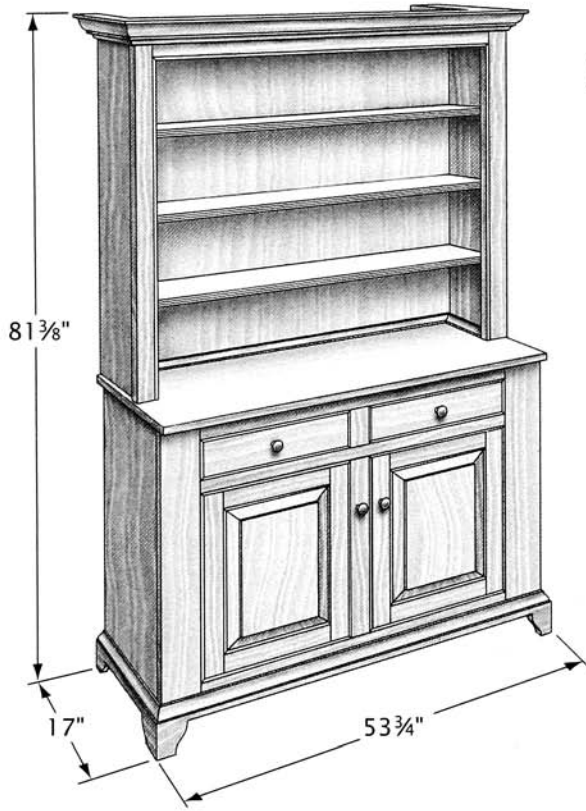
Welsh Dresser, Open Dresser, Hutch Cupboard, Pewter Cupboard, Open Cupboard, Kitchen Cupboard

The hutch is a transitional piece between the bucket bench and the step-back cupboard. The example shown is typical of those built in northern New England in the 18th century. Though low-key, it is nonetheless nicely proportioned and trimmed out. The joinery used is typical for case construction. The sides and shelves are joined with dadoes, the various frames with mortise-and-tenon joints. The drawer frame is glued to the face frame, rather than the case sides, which is an unusual approach.

PLANS

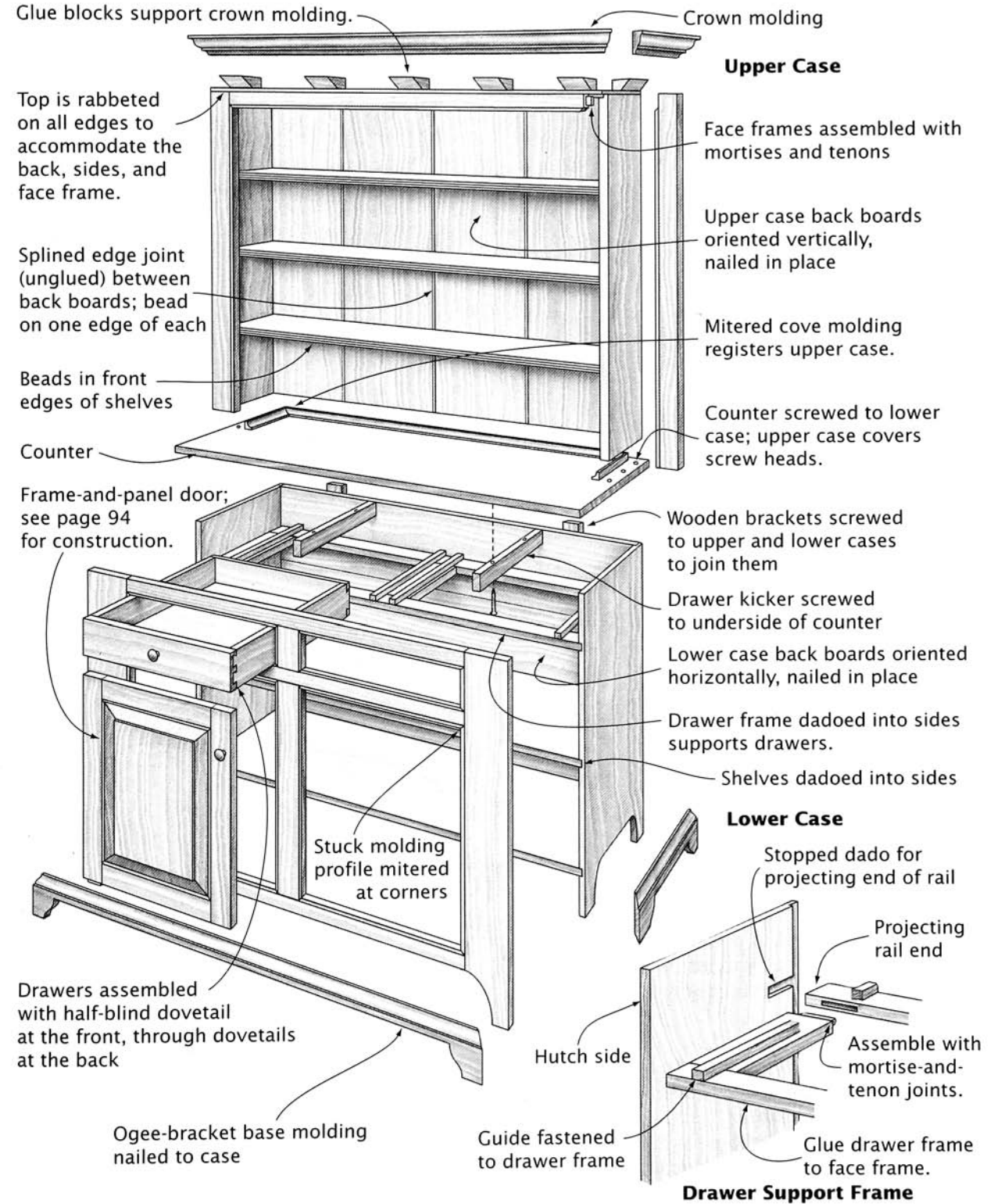
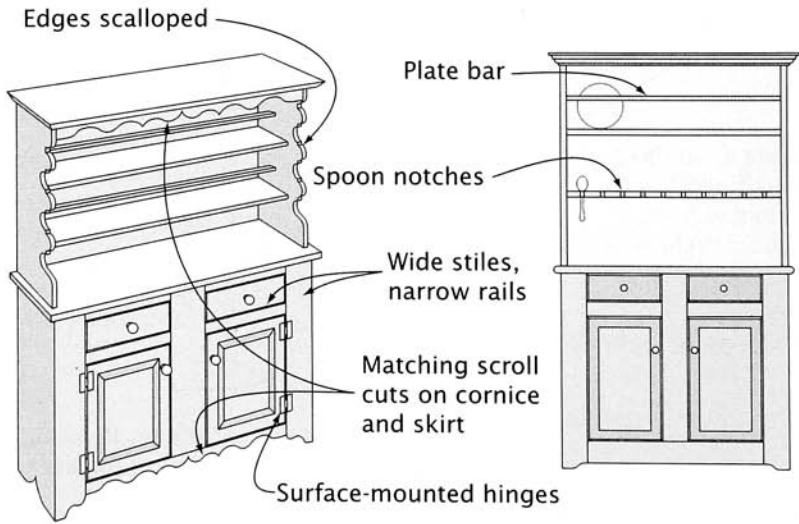
Burak, Matthew. "Colonial Hutch," *American Woodworker*, No. 54 (October 1996), pp. 34-40. A reproduction in the style of the 18th century.

Margon, Lester. "Pennsylvania German Cupboard," *Construction of American Furniture Treasures*. New York: Dover Publications, 1975. A Pennsylvania Dutch hutch built in 1765.



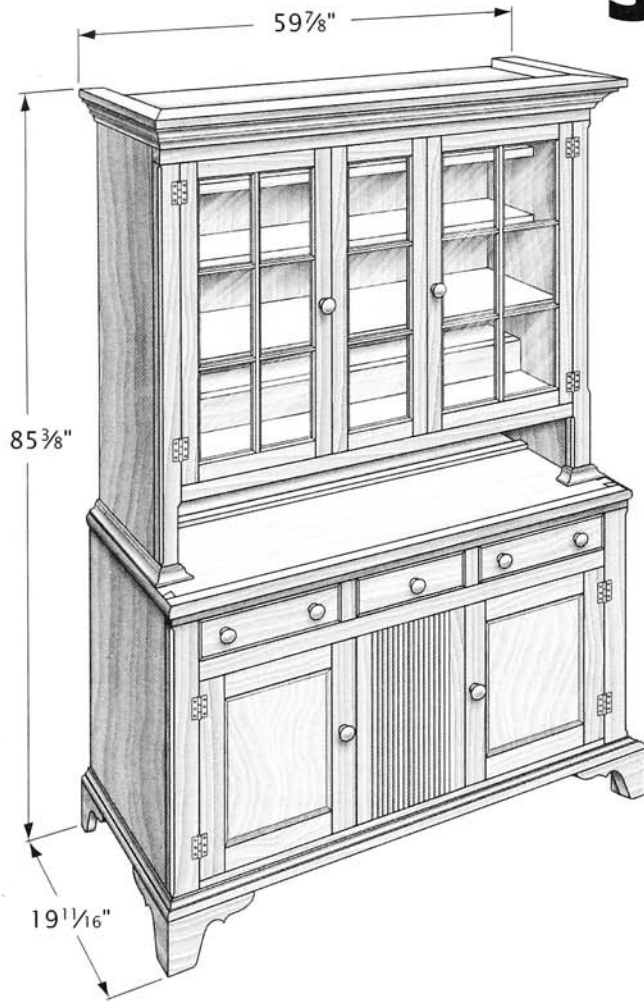
DESIGN VARIATIONS

The archetype shown displays little of the "primitive" ornamentation and bald utility often associated with hutches. As an alternative, look at the characteristics of the hutches at right. Some of us are drawn more to their odd proportions and flamboyant scroll-cut surfaces than to another piece's refined elegance. Plate bars and spoon notches not only put dishes and utensils close at hand but add them to the exhibition.



STEP-BACK CUPBOARD

Dutch Cupboard, China Press, Dish Dresser

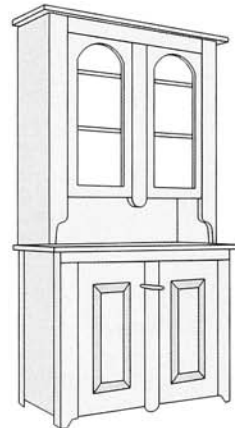


DESIGN VARIATIONS

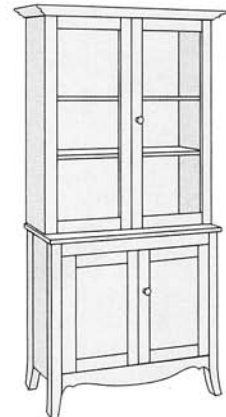
While the Dutch cupboard may be the largest and best-known style of step-backs, it is not the only one.

The primitive cupboard is strictly functional and lacks the ostentatious folk ornamentation typical of the Dutch cupboards. Its construction is as primitive as its appearance. The cases are made of wide boards nailed together. The rails and stiles forming the face frame aren't even joined to each other, only to the case.

The Kentucky cupboard, on the other hand, displays design sophistication in its proportions.



Primitive Cupboard



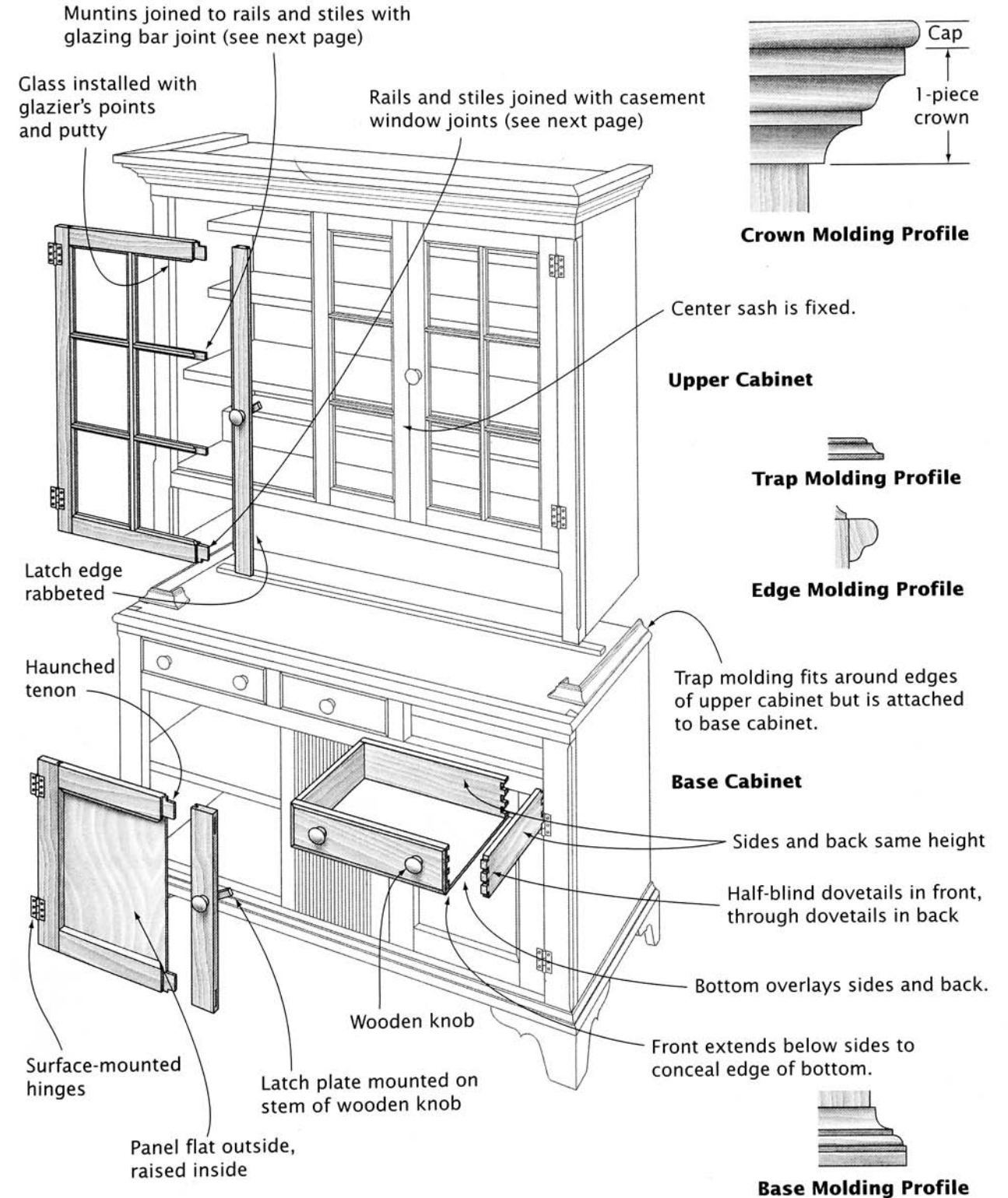
Kentucky Cupboard

The step-back is a large cupboard consisting of a base cupboard with so-called blind doors (those having wooden panels) and an upper cupboard with glazed doors. It is called a step-back because of a difference in depth between the lower and upper sections.

The step-back shown here is a variant of the form known as a Dutch cupboard. It is a kitchen piece that originated with the Germans who settled in North America in the 18th and early 19th centuries. It functioned exactly like a hutch (see page 278). The lower section furnished storage for crocks, pots, and food, while the upper provided a stage for displaying the family's dishes and eating utensils.

PLANS

Gottshall, Franklin H. "Dutch Cupboard of Pine," "Cherry Dutch Cupboard," and "Large Cherry Dutch Cupboard," *Making Early American and Country Furniture*. New York: Dover Publications, 1983. In 1 book, plans and construction directions for 3 different Pennsylvania Dutch step-back cupboards.



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