



## *Welcome to the OTOW Woodshop Newsletter*

*Our goal is to provide pertinent and timely shop/equipment information, equipment demonstration schedules and highlight Woodshop members and/or their projects.*

*This issue highlights 2022 shop usage stats, woodcarver examples by Rich Aber, Night Stand project by Verns Bolte and a 18th Century Reproduction Spice Cabinet by John O'Brien.*

*We look forward to include, in future issues, your project(s) and/or suggestions. Please send them to [otowwoodshop15@gmail.com](mailto:otowwoodshop15@gmail.com).*

*Publishing Team: Ed Casper and Susan Yenne*

## ***Upcoming Shop Orientations & Equipment Demonstrations***

The orientation sessions will be held at 8am and the demonstration sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30.

Schedule :

- **April 4th - Orientation - 8am**
- **April 11th - Resawing Opportunities - 9:30am**
- **April 11th - Surface Planner & Drill Press - 6:30pm**
- **April 18th - Orientation - 8am**
- **April 18th - Miter Saw & Band Saw - 6:30pm**
- **April 25th - Resawing Opportunities - 9:30am**
- **May 9th - Resawing Opportunities - 9:30am**
- **May 23rd - Resawing Opportunities - 9:30am**

To attend these sessions, you must sign up on the shop calendar posted on the Woodshop website OTOWWOOD-SHOP.com. There is a limit of six participants for each demonstration session.

If you have any questions, email Dave Keitz at [keitzda70@gmail.com](mailto:keitzda70@gmail.com)

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New OTOW club forming

## ***OTOW Woodcarvers***

By Richard Aber

My name is Rich Aber. I have been carving all my life, not always wood and not always stone. I moved to OTOW with my wife in 2016 and I immediately became a member of the Art Club. There I met Bob Mctavish, who was also a carver. Bob and I would meet every Thursday and carve together in the art room at the Hobby building. Covid came and put the brakes on that and during that period Bob passed away. I miss him still and all the talks we had, along with some trips to Homosassa to get wood.

After Bob passed away, I decided to start a full fledged carving club. As a member of the woodshop, I asked several of the main members how to proceed. Arming me with the right information and passing the word around I found the interest was strong enough to proceed to the next level. One day early in February, I walked into the main Office in the Rec Center. Theresa and Maggie were wonderful. I walked in with low expectations and walked out with a Carving Club. Our first day was February ninth and we have been going strong ever since. Want to join the club? We meet every Thursday at 3 pm to 5:30pm in the Art room at the Hobby building (opposite end of the building from the woodshop). love to have you.

***If you are interested in carving  
stop by and bring a knife or a chisel  
and start carving with us.***

***Need more info contact:  
Rich @ 404-558-3855  
Tom @ 352-586-1171***

***See next page  
for a sample of my work***

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Here are a few examples of my work Since being in OTOW



Buffalo is  
alabaster on mahogany



Current project  
Shalom home



Ceremonial pipe is walnut and eagle feathers.

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians have this pipe and use it at swearing in ceremonies and is on display in their museum when not in use.

Rich Aber.

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New Committee forming  
***Donations Committee***

A new committee is being formed to handle all donations to the woodshop club.

This committee will be co-chaired by Vern Bolte and James Owens for the present time. However beginning immediately please forward all donation requests to Vern Bolte at 651.260.7807 or [vsbolte@gmail.com](mailto:vsbolte@gmail.com).

More information to come.



**Reminder**

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*When finished: Don't forget!*

## ***Night Stand Project*** by ***Vern Bolte***

The project is a nightstand that I built for my granddaughter at the request of my daughter. I am a novice woodworker and this is only the third piece of furniture that I have made. I try to increase the complexity as well as building new features into each piece so I can learn something new with each piece. I always grade myself after I have finished each piece as if I am a shop teacher by measuring and reviewing the finished product against the plans I created for it. This finished piece ended up the closest to the plans of any of the three pieces I have done so far. This piece was built from red oak and the new feature I included with this nightstand was building a drawer and using wood rails for the drawer instead of purchasing metal drawer rails. Dave Keitz helped me with the drawer and the dado cuts required for the drawer bottom and the wood rails. Without his help I do not think I would have been able to pull it off. As it turns out it ended up quite nice. I did not take a picture of it after it was completed so the picture you see is the nightstand in use in my granddaughters bedroom. As a novice woodworker it is very helpful for me when I can get assistance or advice from the experienced members. I know I am not the only novice member in the club so any help we can get from the experienced woodworkers is always very appreciated. As a note every piece I have built has cost me a lot more than it would have cost to go out and buy something workable. As I tell my wife I am not doing it to save money but the challenge to learn something new in my old age.



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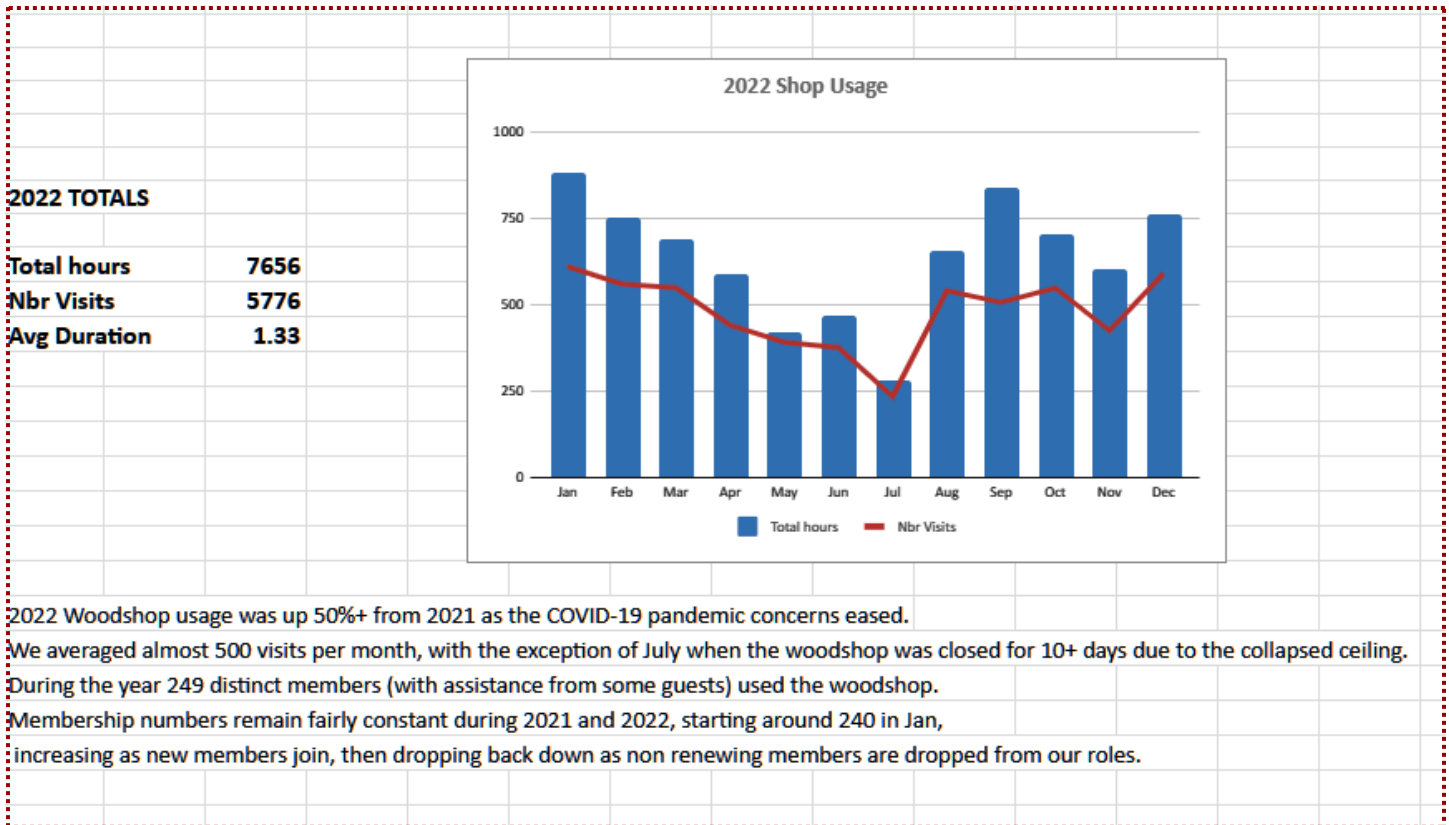
## *2022 Shop Usage Statistics*

The following statistics were posted in the March 2023 Board Meeting Minutes :

**“Member statistics from 2022 signin data:**

**Total hours logged = 7,656 hours, Avg. per member = 28 hours, Avg length of stay per visit = 80 minutes, 275 members logged in during the year, 21 members logged more than 100 hours “**

### Shop usage graph and comments reported by Board Member - Jim Nicholson

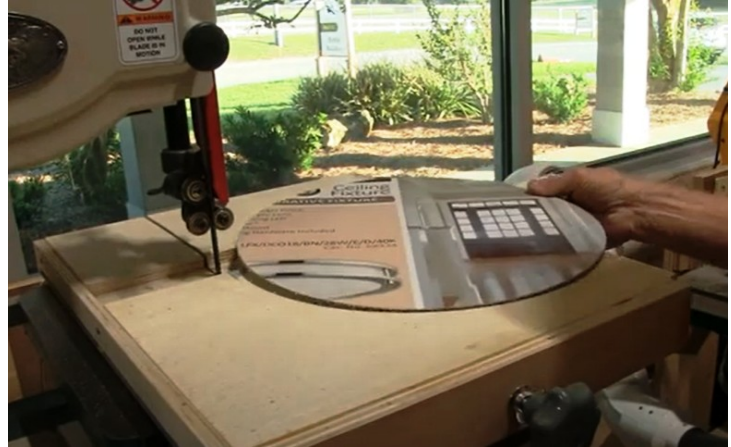


# WOODSHOP TIP FOR THE MONTH

## Circle Cutting Jig

*This is a brief overview:*

*for detailed instructions  
view the complete video  
posted on the shops website*



The Jig is stored on the shelf behind the drill press. It is assembled as a package and must be disassembled for installation to the band saw.

Install the disassembled jig to the band saw

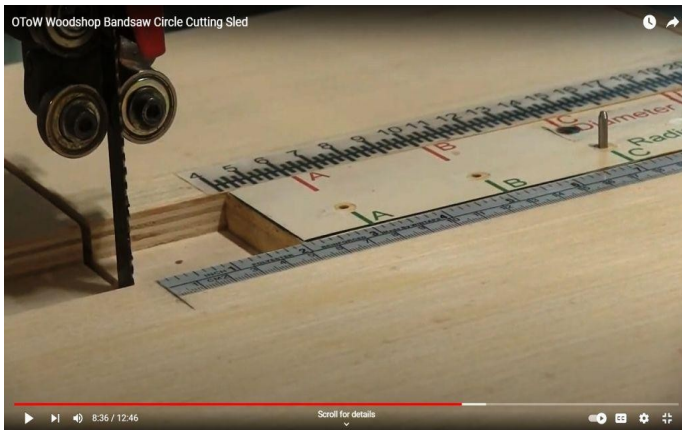


Lock the Jig in place

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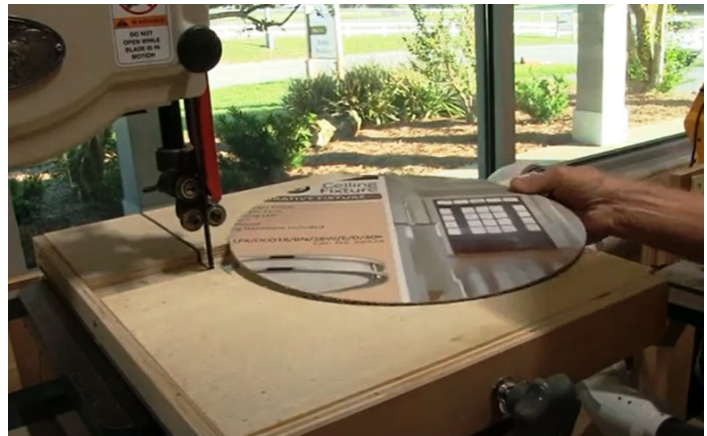
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Select radius to cut

The Jig will allow you to cut circles ranging from 5" to 36" in diameter



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When finished:  
Remove jig from band saw  
Reassemble for storage  
Replace on shelf behind Drill Press.  
Clean and vacuum work area

**Note:**

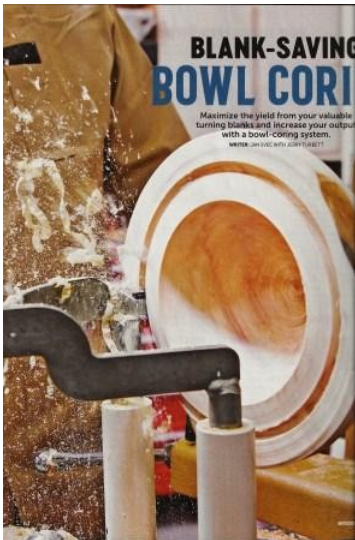
This overview is just a very brief summary for cutting circles  
View the **full** Circle Cutting video [BS-4 OTOW Circle Cutting Sled](#)  
posted on the woodshops website under Education

Pictures are snapshots from the video.



## MULTIPLE BOWLS FROM A SINGLE BLOCK OF WOOD

# BOWL CORING



An interesting article in the most recent copy of **WOOD** magazine (*issue 288 MAY 2023*) discusses a system that allows multiple bowls to be cored from one blank.

A *quote* from the article states:

“Though the Easy-Core system requires a sizeable investment, it yields multiple bowls with little waste from rare and expensive blanks”

### Additional information from the article

#### ONEWAY SYSTEM CUTS TO THE CORE

The few bowl-coring systems on the market differ slightly, but all operate on the same principle: A supported curved knife plunges into a blank to simultaneously form the interior and exterior of adjacent bowls. To turn these bowls, we used the Easy-Core System from Oneway ([oneway.ca](http://oneway.ca)), shown below. It's easy to master and provides excellent results.

The standard system consists of a knife handle and a base with two posts that hold the knives and support fingers. Four base sizes fit lathes with different swing capacities. You choose the one that fits your lathe's capacity.

Interchangeable knives are sold separately and come in four sizes (9", 11½", 13½", 16¼") representing the approximate bowl diameter each creates. Each knife comes with an accompanying support finger. Making bowls of three sizes from our blank required two different knives. The knives come with high-speed steel cutters, and Oneway offers carbide versions.

We used aftermarket Korpro cutters made by [huntertoolsystems.com](http://huntertoolsystems.com) that are reversible and stay sharp longer.

Though the Easy-Core system requires a sizeable investment, it yields multiple bowls with little waste from rare and expensive blanks. The system requires blanks with fairly flat faces, so it won't accommodate natural-edge blanks with large undulations.



*Interested?*

check it out — on YouTube

***Here's an opportunity to give back  
to the OTOW Woodshop***

*Join a cleaning and maintenance team today. It's easy and fun. Every Thursday a team will completely clean the shop from top to bottom (about 1-2 hours for a group of six).*

*Stop in the shop and add your name to the white board posted by the entry door and set yourself up to be a part of what makes this shop one of the best in this state. Or just show up at 6 pm on any Thursday.*



***All woodshop members  
are invited to attend Board Meetings  
meetings are held Monthly (except August)  
on the third Monday  
@ 3:00 pm***

***Location - meeting room adjacent to the woodshop***

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# 18<sup>th</sup> C. Chester County PA Reproduction Spice Cabinet

Submitted by John O'Brien  
3/27/23



Several folks in the woodshop have seen this in various phases and had asked that I post photos when it is completed, so here it is.

These “Spice Chests” as they have come to be called, were made mostly in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Many were made by Quakers and constructed of either walnut or mahogany. These were not used so much for spices, but rather used to secure valuables such as jewelry, coinage, gemstones, or important documents. They typically were made with

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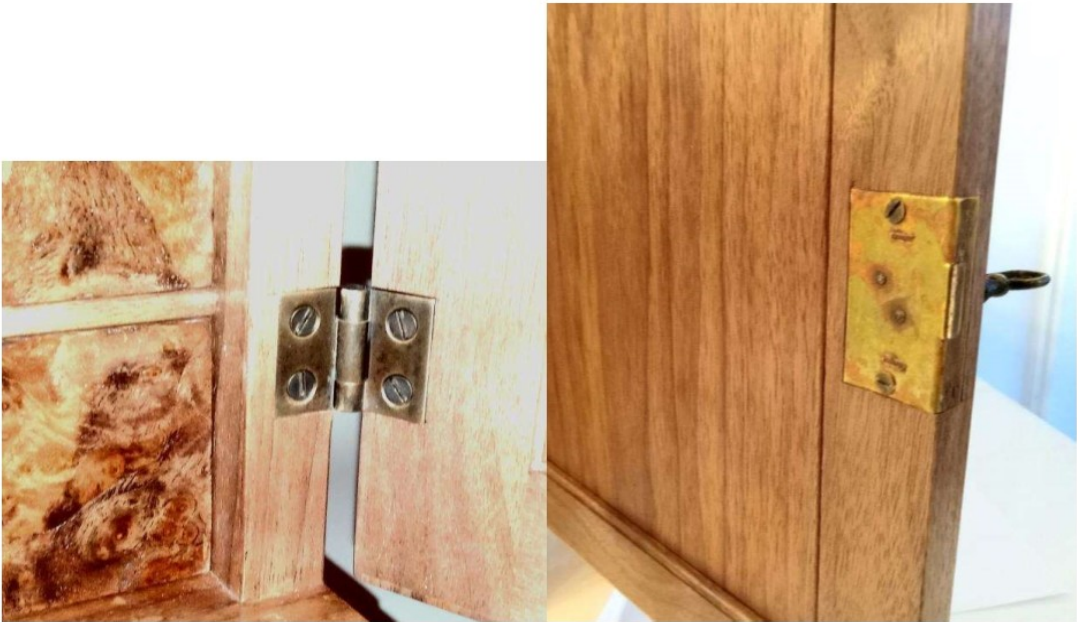
secret compartments and this example has 4 such compartments or drawers. The current-day value of a rare 18<sup>th</sup> C. Spice cabinet can easily exceed \$10,000 and if it is adorned with decorations on either side of the door it can bring much more at auction. Especially fine examples were intricately inlaid with woods such as holly, red cedar, and locust, further emphasizing the wealth and status of the individual with the key. They were displayed on tables, lowboys, or chests of drawers in prominent places in the home. As collectible objects they hold their value well, are rare, and are consistently in high demand. So much for the history of this cabinet, let's get on with the construction.

The case is dovetailed together at both the top and bottom. All the dovetails in the case and the drawers were cut by hand, a decision that later I came to regret.



The primary wood is walnut, and the secondary wood is poplar. Last year while visiting family in Western NY, I drove to [Irion Lumber](#) in Central PA to purchase lumber. Irion is known as one of the premier sources for quality walnut in the Northeast. They did not let me down.

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All of the hardware came from Horton Brasses and was ordered from their [website](#).

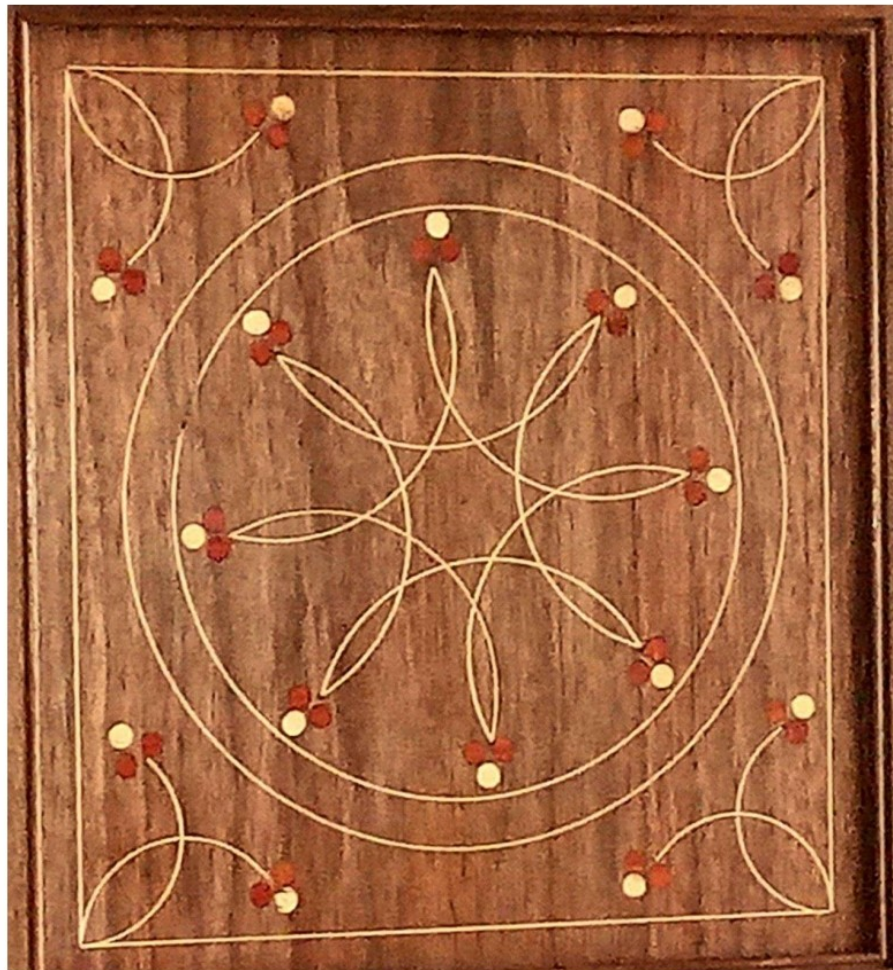
The feet had their shapes cut on the scroll saw and were mitered together with a spline in the joint for durability. They are simply glued onto the bottom of the case.



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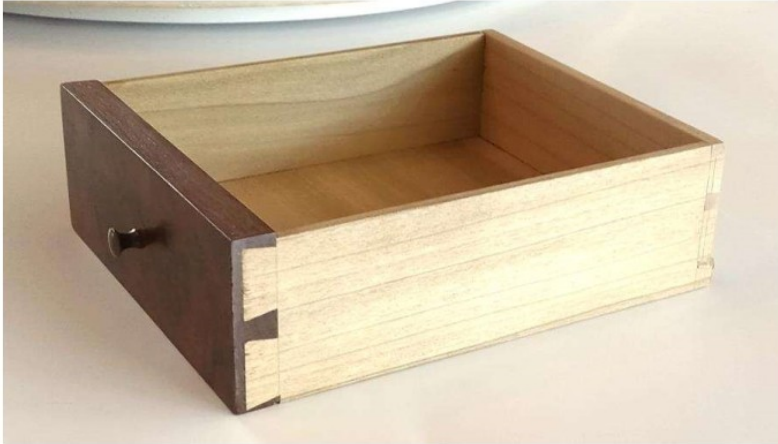
The striking appearance of the door panel is achieved by inlaying holly stringing along with holly and cedar berries. The pattern for the door panel came from one of the antique spice chests that were photographed and measured for this purpose (not by me). The curves and straight lines of the holly stringing were made from either a hand curve etching tool or a Dremel with a 1/32" end mill.



The drawer guides are a solid panel of poplar with a 1" strip of walnut glued on the front edge. Once the latus of drawer guides was made and fit into the carcass, the drawers could be made to fit with the smallest of a reveal.

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There are 9 drawers with solid poplar drawer bottoms inset into a groove cut into the sides and fronts. The drawer fronts were veneered on solid walnut with a walnut burl veneer and cut to fit the openings.



In order for the drawers to slide in and out easily with the slightest of a gap, the back of the drawer had to be made 1/16" narrower than the front. Also, so the sides would not rub, they were cut 1/16" narrower than the drawer front. Making these drawers would have been so much easier if they were simply just glued and nailed together. However, always up for a challenge, I decided to hand cut the dovetails. That entailed 9 drawers with half blind dovetails in the front and through dovetails in the back, with sides, backs and fronts that were all different sizes. So, alignment and layout are everything when performing this task. Luckily, I cut extra parts when milling the lumber for the drawers as they came in handy.



The walnut drawer front pins make a striking contrast to the poplar drawer sides. The brass drawer pulls are from Horton Brasses as well.

The back is made from 1/8" thick poplar pieces all glued together with 1/16" splines which gives it rigidity. I stained the poplar to match the walnut. Typically, the backs and other surfaces not seen were not made from the rare and expensive hardwoods back in the day. Although it appears the back is screwed into the carcass, it can be removed with a strong magnet revealing a few secret compartments.



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The cabinet was finished with several coats of shellac and then waxed. This was the typical finish used 300 years ago on these fine cabinets.



***For more information  
about the shop***

*Check out the website  
[www.otowwoodshop.com](http://www.otowwoodshop.com)*

***questions/comments/  
suggested topics/ projects etc  
send to  
otowwoodshop15@gmail.com***

*(Important—Please include your  
phone number along with your name)*

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