GRAINBENCH ORIGINAL | CONFIDENT BEGINNER

The Fresh Start Bathroom Shelf

A wall shelf with two shelves and a towel bar below, hung on two hidden rails screwed into the wall studs.



SIZE	SKILL	TIME	JOINERY
24 in wide, 7-3/4 in deep, 20 in tall	Confident beginner	About 4 hours, plus finish drying	Pocket screws, glue and screws

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01 / MATERIALS AND TOOLS

What to buy.

LUMBER AND SHEET GOODS

BUY	USED FOR
1 x 1x8 board, 8 ft	H shelves, S sides
1 x 1x3 board, 4 ft	R mounting rails
1 x 3/4 dowel, 3 ft (or an offcut at least 24-7/16 in long)	D towel bar
1 x 1/2 plywood, 2 ft x 2 ft panel	B back

Use a moisture-resistant finish on every face, including the back and cut ends. A hardwood dowel makes the stiffest towel bar.

HARDWARE AND SUPPLIES

ITEM	AMOUNT
1-1/4 in coarse-thread pocket-hole screws	20, plus a few spares
#6 x 1 in flathead wood screws	16, plus a few spares
#10 x 3-1/2 in cabinet screws	4 washer-head screws for wood studs behind 1/2 in drywall
Wood glue	Small bottle of interior wood glue
Sandpaper	120 and 180 grit
Finish	About 500 mL (1 pint) of semi-gloss paint or moisture-resistant clear finish

TOOLS

- Saw for straight crosscuts: mitre saw, or circular saw with a speed square
- Pocket-hole jig set for 3/4 in stock, with its stepped bit and a #2 square driver bit
- Drill/driver with a countersink bit
- 3/4 in Forstner bit with a depth stop
- Tape measure, pencil and a combination or speed square
- 2 clamps that open to at least 24 in
- Stud finder and a level
- Sander or sanding block
- Safety glasses and hearing protection

02 / CUT LIST

Cut the parts.

Cut the sides, shelves and rails square. Cut the back B to 24 x 20 in and the towel bar D to 23-7/16 in so it can turn in its sockets.

ID	PART	QTY	LENGTH	WIDTH	THICK	FROM
S	Sides	2	20 in	7-1/4 in	3/4 in	1x8
H	Shelves	2	22-1/2 in	7-1/4 in	3/4 in	1x8
R	Mounting rails	2	22-1/2 in	2-1/2 in	3/4 in	1x3
B	Back	1	24 in	20 in	1/2 in	1/2 plywood
D	Towel bar	1	23-7/16 in	3/4 in	3/4 in	3/4 dowel

CUTTING DIAGRAMS

1x8 x 8 ft

86-3/8 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



1x3 x 4 ft

46-1/8 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



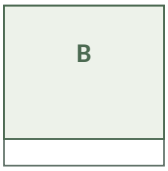
3/4 dowel x 3 ft

24-7/16 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



1/2 plywood, 2 ft x 2 ft

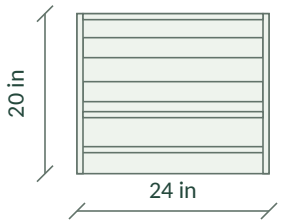
Long edge runs left to right. Allow 1/8 in between parts for the saw.



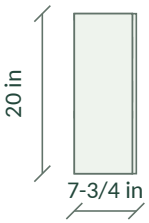
02 / CUT LIST, CONTINUED

FINISHED SIZE

FRONT



SIDE



The shelf undersides sit 7 and 19-1/4 in up, so the top shelf is flush with the tops of the sides. The rails sit against the back at 9 and 14-1/2 in up. The towel bar sits 3 in up and 3-5/8 in back from the front.

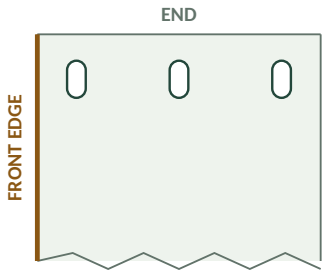
03 / BUILD

Put it together.

STEP 1 Drill the holes

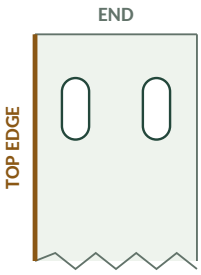
On the inside face of each **S**, mark the bar centre 3 in up and 3-5/8 in from the front, and drill a 3/4 in socket 1/2 in deep. Then drill the pocket holes: 3 at each end of both **H** on the underside and 2 at each end of both **R** on the back face.

H **Shelves**
Underside



Same at the other end
3 at each end | 12 total
1, 3-5/8, 6-1/4 in from front edge

R **Mounting rails**
Back face

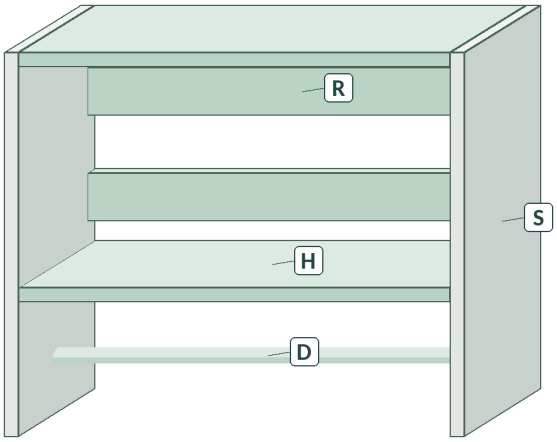


Same at the other end
2 at each end | 8 total
5/8, 1-7/8 in from top edge

Ovals = pocket-hole entries, enlarged. Not a drilling template.

STEP 2 Build the case

Glue and screw the shelves and rails to the first **S**: shelf undersides at 7 and 19-1/4 in, rail bottoms at 9 and 14-1/2 in, rails flush with the back edge. Drop **D** into its socket without glue, then fit the second side over the free ends and the bar and drive the rest of the screws.



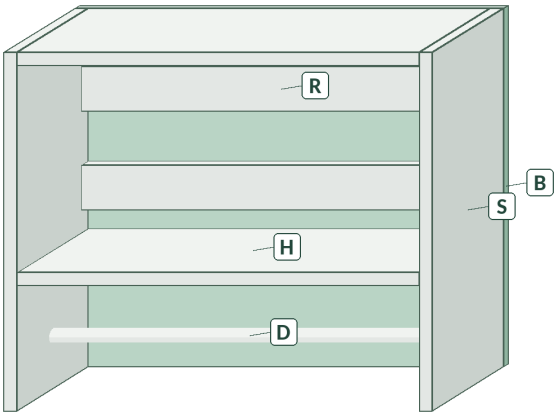
GREEN: added in this step | GREY: already in place

03 / BUILD, CONTINUED

STEP 3

Attach the back

Square the case and screw **B** onto the back edges with 16 screws, about every 6 in, keeping clear of the pocket screws.

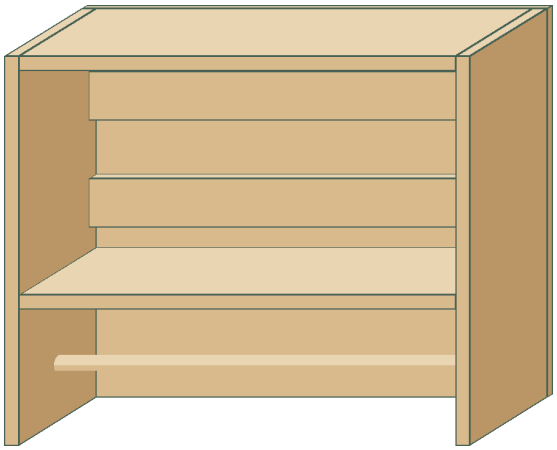


GREEN: added in this step | GREY: already in place

STEP 4

Finish

Sand and finish every surface to resist steam, including the back and the ends of the bar.



STEP 5

Hang it

Find two studs. Hold the shelf level and drill through the back and each rail at both studs, so you have 4 holes. Drive the 4 cabinet screws until snug.

CARE

For toiletries and a hand towel. The bar is not a grab bar. Wipe off standing water.

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Dimensions, part counts and cutting layouts were checked digitally. The plan has not been load-tested.