



AN ORIGINAL YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN

The Bedside Open Nightstand

A small bedside companion with two open storage spaces, a raised lower shelf and a softly overhanging top.



21 in W x 11-1/2 in D x 24 in H

Common 1x12 boards, a plywood back and pocket-screw joinery.

Project visualization. Build to the [dimensioned drawings](#) and [cut list](#).

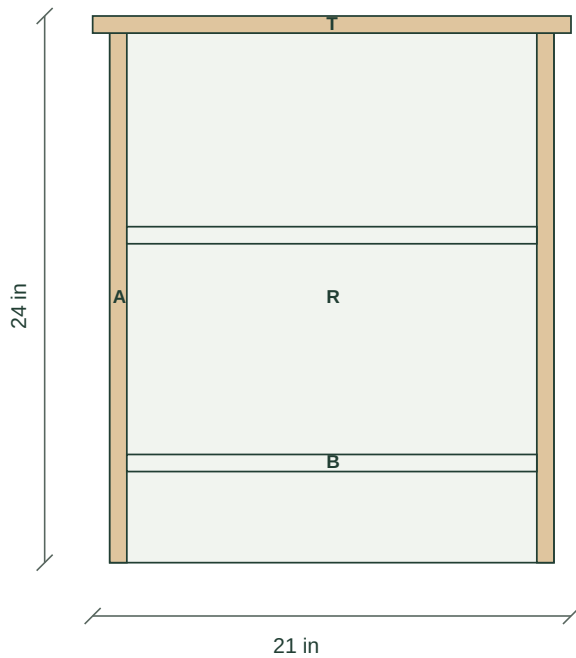


01 / DIMENSIONS

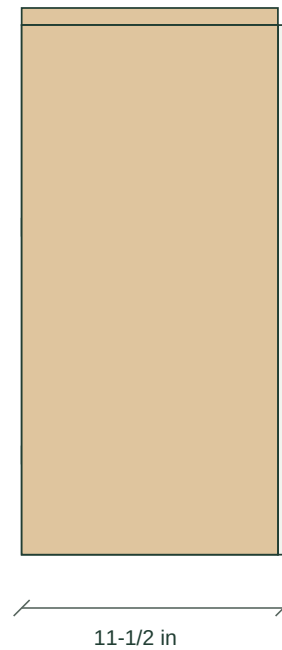
Know the shape. Keep the size.

Dimensioned views show the finished form. Use the cut list and part labels together; drawings are references, not full-size drilling or cutting templates.

FRONT / WIDTH



SIDE / DEPTH



Overall: 21 W x 11-1/2 D x 24 H in with a true 1/4 in back. Case width: 19-1/2 in; top side overhang: 3/4 in. B lower faces are 4 and 14 in above the floor. Clear openings: 18 W x 9-1/4 H below, 18 W x 8-1/2 H above.

Part key

A: Case sides / B: Fixed shelves / T: Overhanging top / R: Overlay back

Plan note: dimensions and stock layouts checked digitally; not physically built or load-tested. No weight capacity is specified.



02 / SHOPPING AND PARTS

Buy the stock. Label every part.

Choose straight, dry indoor stock. Ordinary pine or whitewood suits the solid parts; use flat, sound plywood where specified. Store names are nominal: measure actual thickness and width.

BUY	QUANTITY / NOTES
1x12 x 8 ft	1 board for both A sides and T.
1x12 x 4 ft	1 board for both B shelves.
1/4 in plywood	At least 19-1/2 x 23-1/4 in usable; a 2 x 2 ft project panel normally suffices.
Hardware	18 x 1-1/4 in pocket screws; about 30 x 3/4 in brads; compatible furniture restraint.
Supplies	Interior glue, sandpaper, finish and optional felt pads.

CUT LIST

FINISHED SIZES / INCHES

ID	PART	QTY	STOCK	LENGTH	WIDTH	THICKNESS
A	Case sides	2	1x12	23-1/4	11-1/4	3/4
B	Fixed shelves	2	1x12	18	11-1/4	3/4
T	Overhanging top	1	1x12	21	11-1/4	3/4
R	Overlay back	1	1/4 ply	19-1/2	23-1/4	1/4 nom.

Stock is the store label; **length, width and thickness** are the finished part sizes. Quantities are individual pieces. Allow for saw kerf and square the ends before measuring. Plywood thickness is nominal: measure the actual panel.

Tools

Tape, square, pencil, supported saw, drill/driver, clamps and sanding tools. Use eye, hearing and dust protection. Clamp small parts and keep hands clear of cutting and screw paths. Pocket-hole jig, brad nailer and guided saw for R.



03 / CUT AND PREPARE

A clear layout before the first cut.

Each strip is a stock board. Part labels and lengths are in inches. Allow a 1/8 in kerf, square an end first and measure every cut from its new end. Leave spare stock for defects.

1x12 x 96 in



1x12 x 48 in



R is separate plywood. Nominal back thickness changes overall depth.

1 Cut sides (A), shelves (B) and top (T)

Square-cut and label the solid parts. Keep both A pieces equal and mark common front edges. Reserve plywood R until the assembled case can be measured.

2 Mark shelf (B) levels on sides (A)

Measure from A lower ends. Mark B lower faces at 4 and 14 in, then the 3/4 in thickness above each line. Identify the inside faces of both A pieces.



04 / JOINERY AND LAYOUT

Check the joint before assembly.

Use the sketch and the named parts to understand the setup. Hole symbols are schematic; the written dimensions and actual hardware control drilling.

B / UNDERSIDE - THREE PER END

B receives six pockets per shelf.

A gets three upper-end pockets per side, on its INSIDE face.

R has no pockets.

3**Dry-fit the A/B case and top (T)**

B fits between A. Check the 19-1/2 in case width, shelf clearances and equal diagonals. Centre T with 3/4 in side overhangs; keep fronts and solid-board rears flush.

4**Drill shelves (B) and side (A) tops**

For measured 3/4 in stock use 1-1/4 in pocket screws with jig-approved heads, coarse thread for softwood or the maker's choice for your material. Set jig and collar to actual thickness, test matching scrap and use low clutch torque. Put three pockets per B end on its underside, 1, 5-5/8 and 10-1/4 in from front. Put three at each A upper end on its inside face: 18 total.



05 / ASSEMBLE

Keep it square as it comes together.

Support the work while clamping or turning it. Use the marked reference edges and the correct screw for each joint; do not swap hardware lengths.

5 Join both shelves (B) to sides (A)

Glue B ends lightly, clamp to the marked levels and fasten three screws per joint into A. Support the case and check fronts and rear diagonals before the glue cures.

6 Attach top (T) to sides (A)

Centre T, clamp both A upper ends against its underside and drive six screws upward. Use matching board stock; do not substitute a top with different movement behaviour without revising the joint.

7 Measure and fit back (R)

Cut R to the measured 19-1/2 x 23-1/4 in case outline. Square the case, glue rear solid edges and add brads about 4 in apart into A/B centre lines only. R stops below T.

Detail to keep in mind

The back squares the case but is not the restraint attachment by itself. Secure the restraint to solid A material and the wall, never only to thin R.

[Fixing reference and setup guidance](#)



06 / FINISH AND INSPECT

Ready for its place in the room.

Let glue and finish fully cure. Inspect the finished project and its installation before everyday use. Correct loose, split or sharp parts first.

8 Finish A, B, T and R

Ease exposed edges while leaving joining faces square. Sand 120 then 180 grit as appropriate, remove dust and test finish on an offcut. Follow finish ventilation and full cure directions. Fit pads evenly beneath A. Install a compatible furniture restraint into solid case material and the actual wall structure, following its directions.

9 Inspect the completed nightstand

Check rocking, splits, exposed brads and loose joints. Confirm level placement and a firm restraint. Keep the lower four-inch opening clear; neither the shelves nor top are climbing steps.

Use and care

Indoor bedside storage. Do not sit or stand on the top or shelves. Contain liquids and recheck joints and restraint periodically.

Made to keep making.

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