GRAINBENCH ORIGINAL | CONFIDENT BEGINNER

# The Slim Utility Shelf

A tall, narrow shelf for a laundry room, pantry or bathroom corner, with four fixed shelves and a plywood back. It is anchored to the wall.



| SIZE | SKILL | TIME | JOINERY |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 18 in wide, 11-1/2 in deep, 60 in tall | Confident beginner | About 5 to 6 hours, plus finish drying | Pocket screws, glue and brads |

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01 / MATERIALS AND TOOLS

# What to buy.

## LUMBER AND SHEET GOODS

| BUY | USED FOR |
|---|---|
| **2 x 1x12 board, 8 ft** | H shelves, S sides, T top |
| **1 x 1x12 board, 4 ft (or an offcut at least 17-1/2 in long)** | H shelves |
| **1 x 1/4 plywood, 4 ft x 8 ft sheet (or an offcut at least 18 x 59-1/4 in)** | R back |

Pick straight 1x12s for the long sides. The back needs a full 4 x 8 sheet of 1/4 in plywood because it is 59-1/4 in tall; most stores will rip it to 18 in wide for you.

## HARDWARE AND SUPPLIES

| ITEM | AMOUNT |
|---|---|
| **1-1/4 in coarse-thread pocket-hole screws** | 30, plus a few spares |
| **3/4 in brads** | About 45, for the back |
| **Wood glue** | Small bottle of interior wood glue |
| **Sandpaper** | 120 and 180 grit |
| **Finish** | About 1 L (1 quart) of paint, stain or clear water-based polyurethane |
| **Anti-tip strap** | 1, with screws suited to your wall |

## 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
- Tape measure, pencil and a combination or speed square
- 2 clamps that open to at least 24 in
- Hammer and nail set, or a brad nailer
- Sander or sanding block
- Safety glasses and hearing protection

02 / CUT LIST

# Cut the parts.

Cut the two long sides first, one from each 8 ft board, then the top and shelves from what is left.

| ID | PART | QTY | LENGTH | WIDTH | THICK | FROM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | Sides | 2 | 59-1/4 in | 11-1/4 in | 3/4 in | 1x12 |
| T | Top | 1 | 18 in | 11-1/4 in | 3/4 in | 1x12 |
| H | Shelves | 4 | 16-1/2 in | 11-1/4 in | 3/4 in | 1x12 |
| R | Back | 1 | 59-1/4 in | 18 in | 1/4 in | 1/4 plywood |

## CUTTING DIAGRAMS

**1x12 x 8 ft**

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




**1x12 x 8 ft**

93-1/2 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



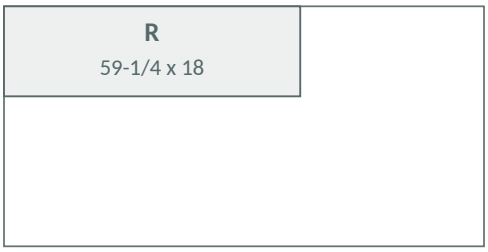

**1x12 x 4 ft**

17-1/2 in used, including 1 in to square the end and 1/8 in per cut



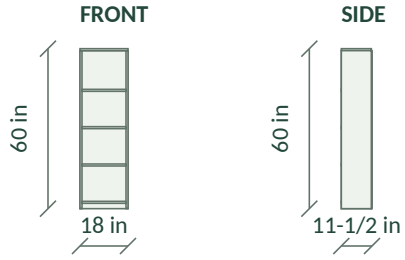

**1/4 plywood, 4 ft x 8 ft**

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



## 02 / CUT LIST, CONTINUED

### FINISHED SIZE




The shelf undersides sit 2, 16, 30 and 44 in above the floor, and the top sits on the sides, flush all round.

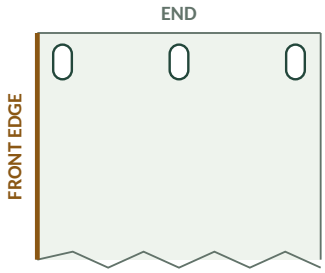
03 / BUILD

# Put it together.

## STEP 1 Drill the pocket holes

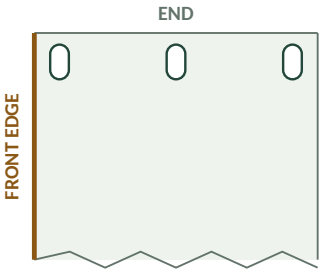
Drill 3 pocket holes at each end of every **H** on the underside, and 3 at the top end of each **S** on its inside face.

**H** **Shelves**
Underside




Same at the other end
**3 at each end | 24 total**
1, 5-5/8, 10-1/4 in from front edge

**S** **Sides**
Inside face, top end

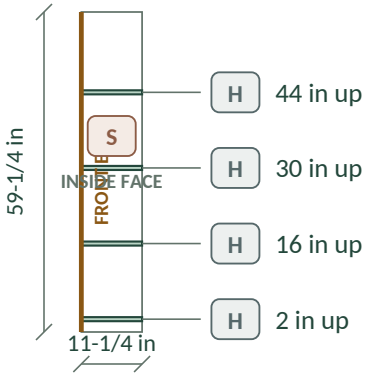



**3 per side | 6 total**
1, 5-5/8, 10-1/4 in from front edge

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

## STEP 2 Mark the sides

Lay both **S** together, inside faces up and bottom ends lined up, and draw lines across both at 2, 16, 30 and 44 in from the bottom.



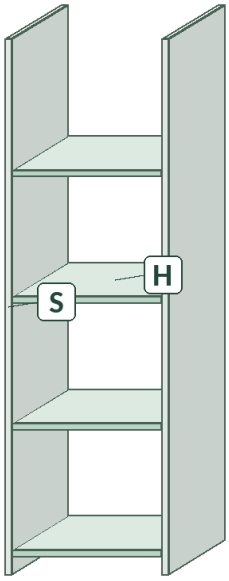

Bottom edge = floor

03 / BUILD, CONTINUED

STEP 3

## Fit the shelves

Lay one side down, glue and clamp each **H** on its line, pocket holes down, and drive 3 screws per end. Add the second side the same way and check the diagonals match.

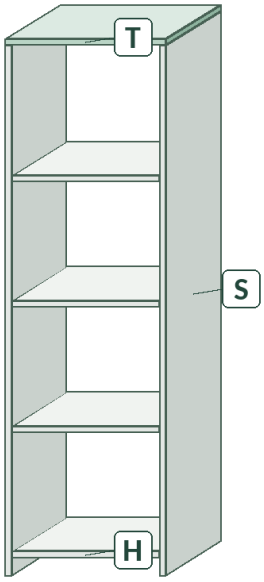



GREEN: added in this step | GREY: already in place

STEP 4

## Attach the top

Set **T** on the case flush at the sides and front, and drive the 6 screws from the sides up into it.



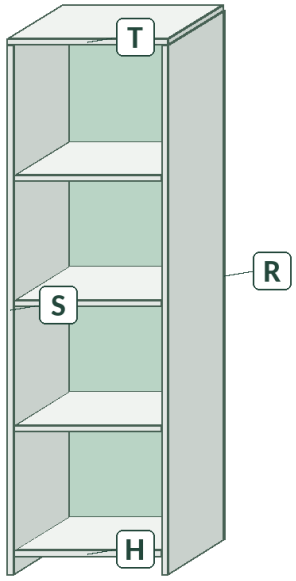

GREEN: added in this step | GREY: already in place

03 / BUILD, CONTINUED

STEP 5

## Back, finish and anchor

Square the case, cut **R** to fit below the top, and glue and nail it on about every 4 in. Sand, finish, and fasten the anti-tip strap into a wall stud before loading.




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

CARE

Keep the anti-tip strap fitted. Store heavier items on the lowest shelves.

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