

Reading Alcove

Hardwood Plywood



Georgia-Pacific



Reading Alcove

This alcove not only provides a terrific space for reading or just relaxing, it adds an attractive dimension to most any room. And it's really quite easy to build. It's most easily installed into an existing closet, maybe in a spare bedroom or den. Or you can bump out a wall in a family room or basement area.

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Materials Needed

- One (1)—roll of edging tape
- Three (3)—4' x 8' sheets, 3/4" sanded hardwood plywood
- One (1)—4' x 8' sheet, 1/4" hardwood plywood
- Four (4)—1 x 2s, 6' long
- Three (3)—2 x 4s, 6' long
- Four (4)—drawer pulls
- Bench cushions to suit
- Glue, 4d and 10d finishing nails, 1/2" brads, wood putty, paintbrush, sandpaper and paint

Tools

- Power circular saw
- Hammer
- Nail set
- Tape measure and carpenter's square
- Putty Knife
- Screwdriver
- Level
- Safety glasses

Instructions

1. The alcove features built-in drawers and an overhead shelf that mounts easily to the wall. Modify the plans to suit the space you have available. Then cut out all of the project parts.
2. One of the first considerations is the size and type of cushions you'll use. Buy the cushions first (the type used for replacement or outdoor furniture) and adjust the measurements accordingly.
3. Assemble the 2 x 4 base with 10d finishing nails and glue. Then build the cabinet as show in the diagram. Assemble the cabinet and the drawers with glue and 4d finishing nails.
4. The upper shelf unit consists of a rectangular frame of 1 x 2s with 1/4" plywood nailed to it. (Note that the 1 x 2s closest to the walls are actually wall cleats.) Glue and nail cleats to the wall.
5. Now glue and nail the 1 x 2s to the 1/4" plywood top with 1/2" brads. Countersink all nail holes and fill in the recesses with wood putty.
6. Mount the shelf assembly over the cleats and nail the 1/4" plywood bottom to the 1 x 2s with 1/2" brads. Sand at this point, cover all exposed plywood edges with edging tape and paint.
7. Install the 2 x 4 base, followed by the cabinet. Nail the cabinet with 10d finishing nails driven from inside the cabinet.
8. Install drawers and the cushions.

