

# Empire Dresser Plans



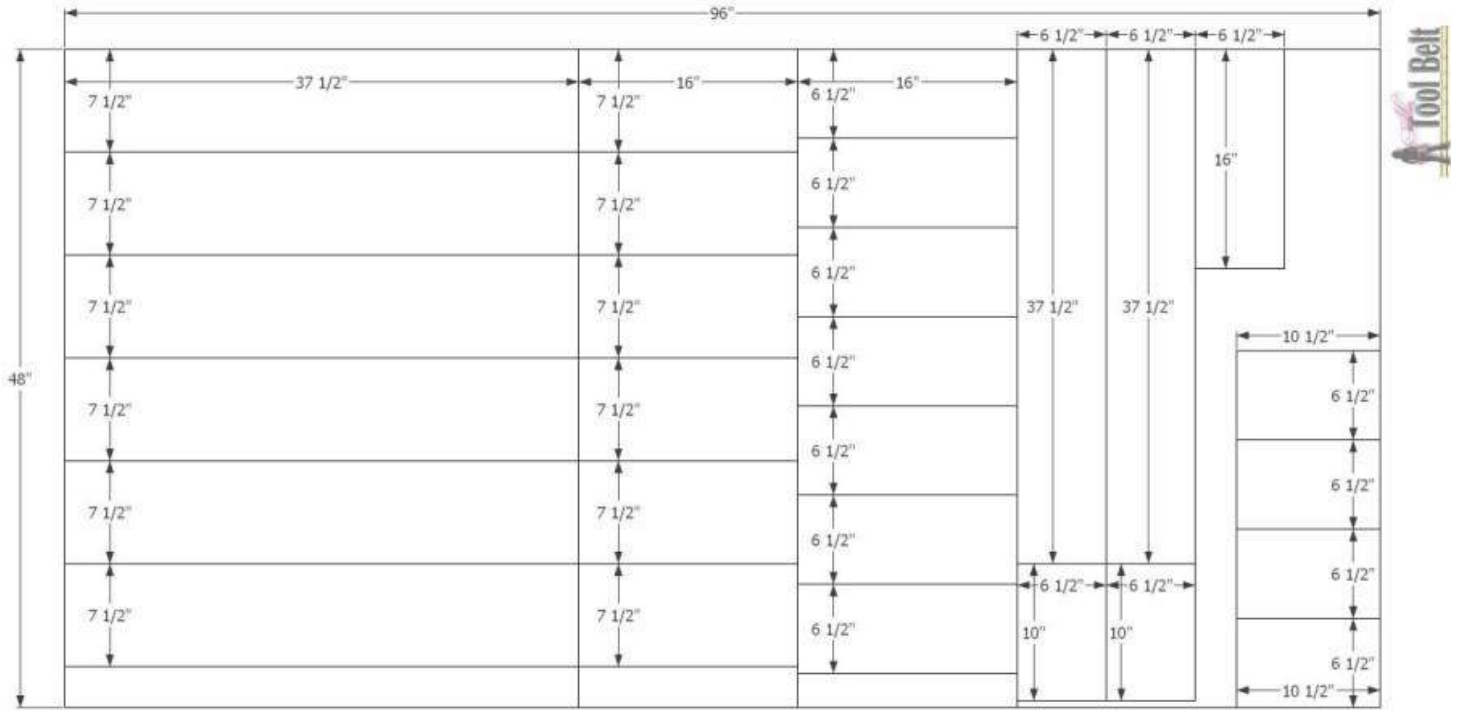
## Materials

- 1 sheet 3/4" plywood (cabinet grade 4' x 8')
- 1 sheet 5 mm (3/16") underlayment plywood 4'x 8', buy another 1/2 sheet if you want to put a back on the dresser.
- 1 - 2" x 4" x 10' or 2 - 2" x 4" x 8' (actual 1 1/2" x 3 1/2")
- 1 - 2" x 6" x 10' (actual 1 1/2" x 5 1/2")
- 1 - 2" x 12" x 8' (actual 1 1/2" x 11 1/4")
- 5 - 1" x 4" x 8' (actual 3/4" x 3 1/4")
- 3 - 1" x 10" x 8' (actual 3/4" x 9 1/4")
- 1 - 1" x 10" x 6' (actual 3/4" x 9 1/4")
- 11 - [Chrome and Victorian Clear glass knobs](#)
- 4 - [16" medium duty ball bearing slides](#)
- 3 - [16" bottom Side Mount drawer slides](#)
- [2 1/2" pocket hole screws\\*](#)
- [1 1/4" pocket hole screws\\*](#)
- [wood glue\\*](#)
- sand paper
- double stick tape
- Molding as desired and 1" brad nails - optional
- Primer/paint

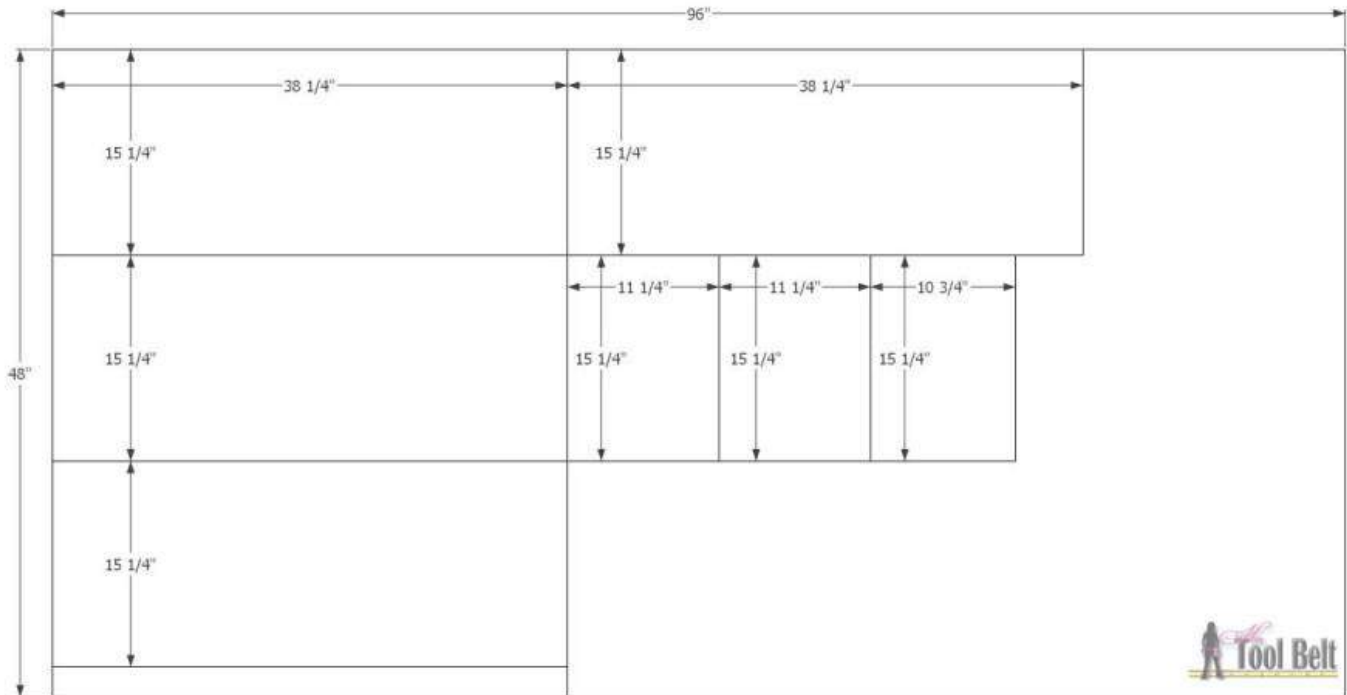
## Cut List

Quantity	Thickness	Width	Length	Material	Item
2	1 ½"	3"	52 ¼"	2x4	Side
2	1 ½"	5 ¼"	52 ¼"	2x6	Side
2	1 ½"	10 ¾"	47 ¼"	2x12	Side
9	¾"	3 ¼"	40"	1x4	Rails
2	¾"	9 ¼"	44"	1x10	Top
3	¾"	8 7/8"	43 7/8"	1x10	Drawer front
1	¾"	7 7/8"	43 7/8"	1x10	Drawer front
3	¾"	7 7/8"	13 ¼"	1x10	Drawer front
6	¾"	7 ½"	37 ½"	¾" plywood	Drawer
6	¾"	7 ½"	16"	¾" plywood	Drawer
8	¾"	6 ½"	16"	¾" plywood	Drawer
2	¾"	6 ½"	37 ½"	¾" plywood	Drawer
4	¾"	6 ½"	10 ½"	¾" plywood	Drawer
2	¾"	6 ½"	10"	¾" plywood	Drawer
4	5mm	15 ¼"	38 ¼"	5mm ply	Drawer bottom
2	5mm	15 ¼"	11 ¼"	5mm ply	Drawer bottom
1	5mm	15 ¼"	10 ¾"	5mm ply	Drawer bottom
1 optional	5mm	40"	48"	5mm ply	Back

3/4" plywood cut diagram



5mm plywood cut diagram

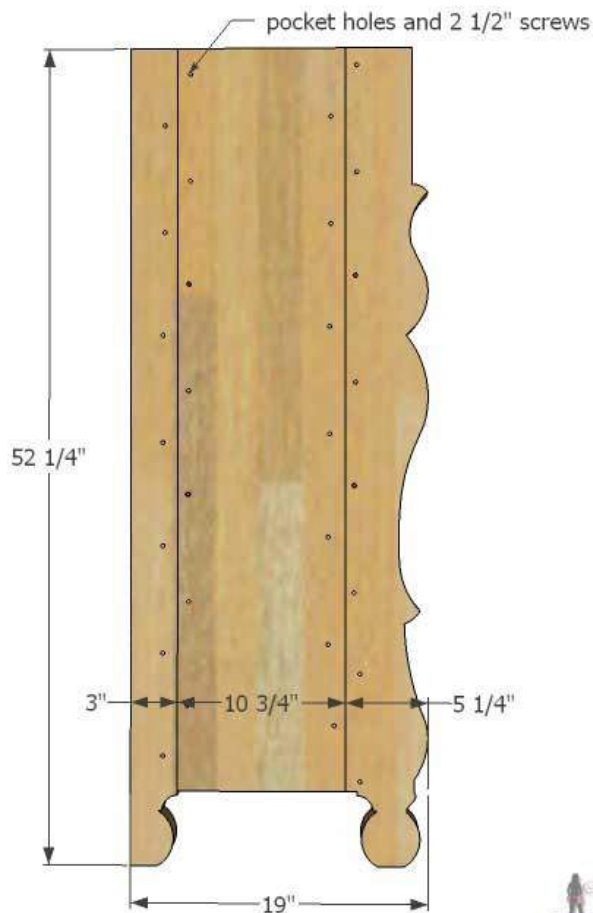


## Step 1

Download and print the dresser side scroll pattern, make sure your printer settings are on 100% and not 'fit to page'. [Empire dresser scroll pattern](#)

Line up the pattern lines and tape together. Cut out the scroll pattern.

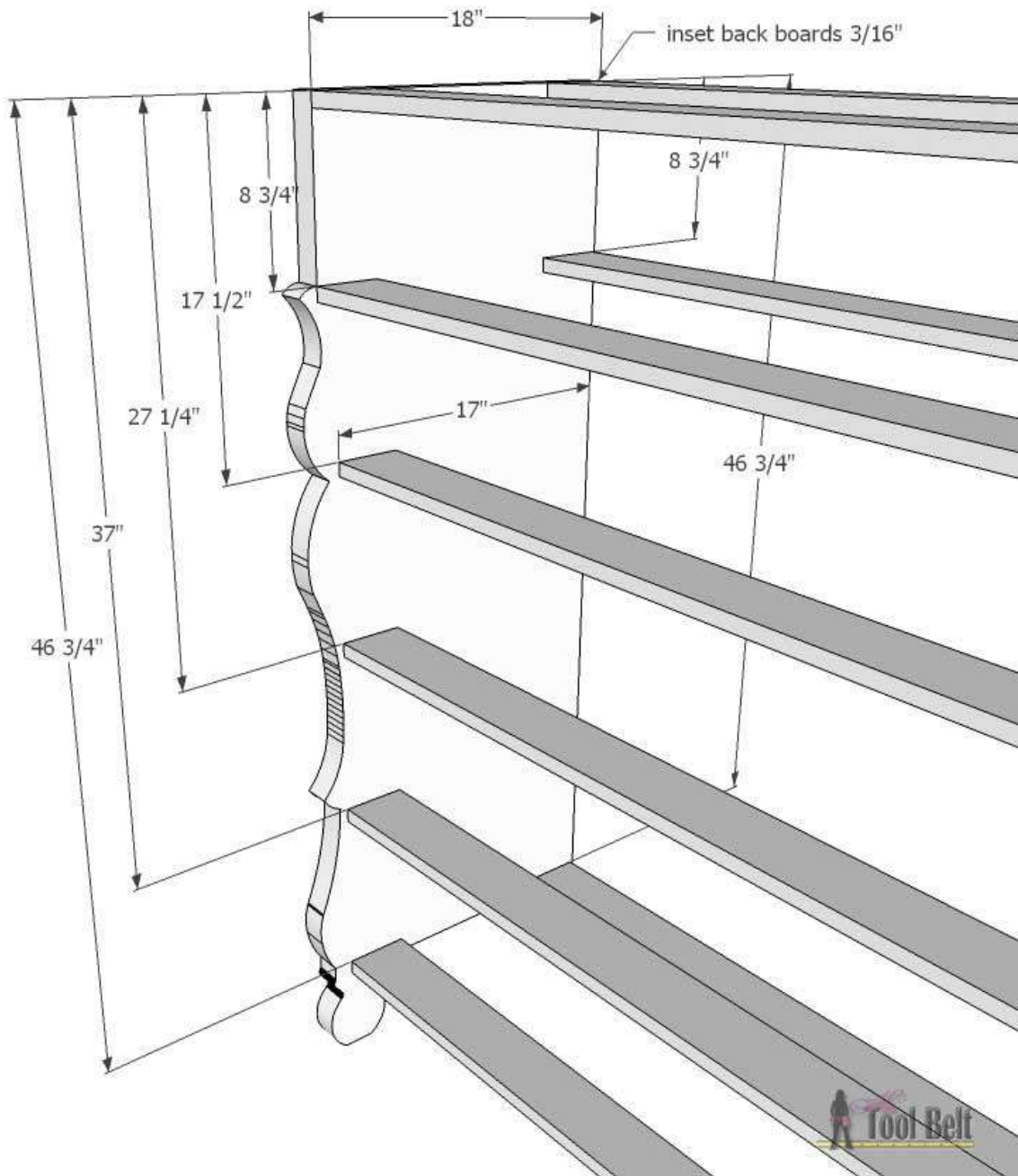
Cut the lengths of the 2x4, 2x6, and 2x12. Trim off the rounded edges from the 2x boards. The total width of all three boards after trimming needs to be about 19" Trace the pattern onto the 2 sets of side boards. Then use a band saw or jig saw to cut out the scroll pattern, I used a band saw. (If you use a jig saw, you may have a hard time making it cut straight through the board.)



Once you get the curves done for both sides, drill [pocket holes](#)\* for 1 1/2" material along the joints. Make sure you drill the holes on the inside faces of the dresser sides. Use wood glue and 2 1/2" pocket hole screws to join the boards together. You want the top as flush as can be. Once the glue has dried, sand sand sand. You want the inside face nice and smooth and hopefully flat. This will make installing the drawer runners easier later. You may also want to drill pocket holes for 3/4" material along the top edge to attach the top later.

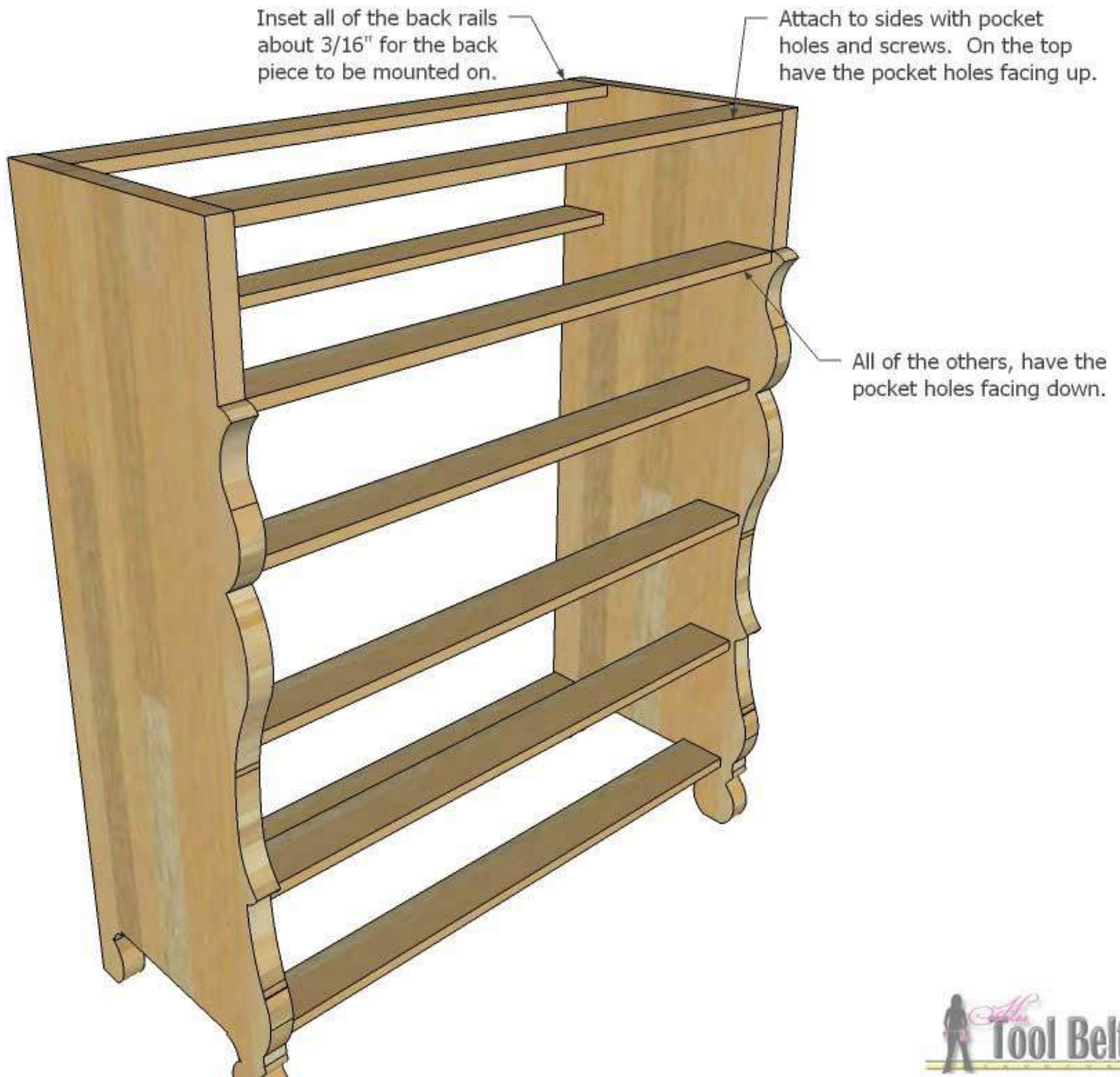
## Step 2

Cut all of the 1x4 pieces according to the cut list. Drill pocket holes for 3/4" material in each end of the 40" pieces. Measure and mark the locations for the 1x4's according to the diagram. Note: the top 3 drawers stick out farther than the 4 lower drawers.

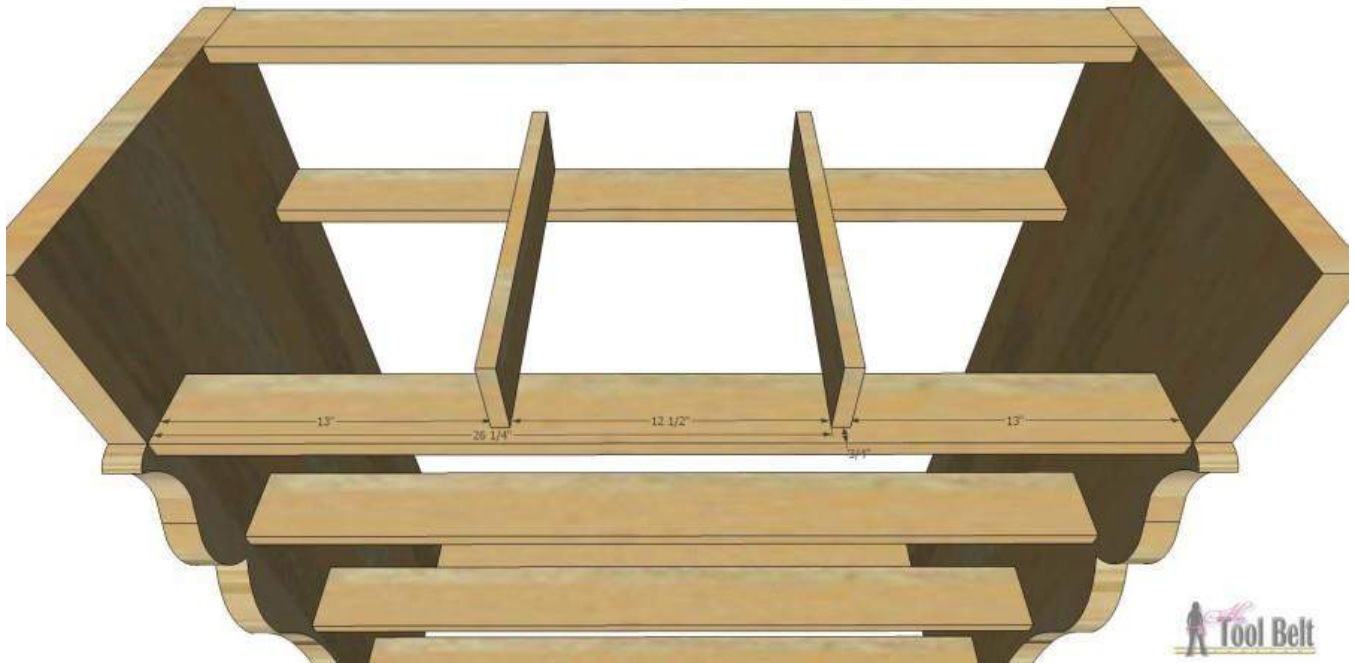


Use wood glue and 1 1/4" pocket hole screws to secure the rails on a side. Make the pocket holes face up on the top 1x4's, and down on all of the other 1x4's.

Then attach the rails to the other side.

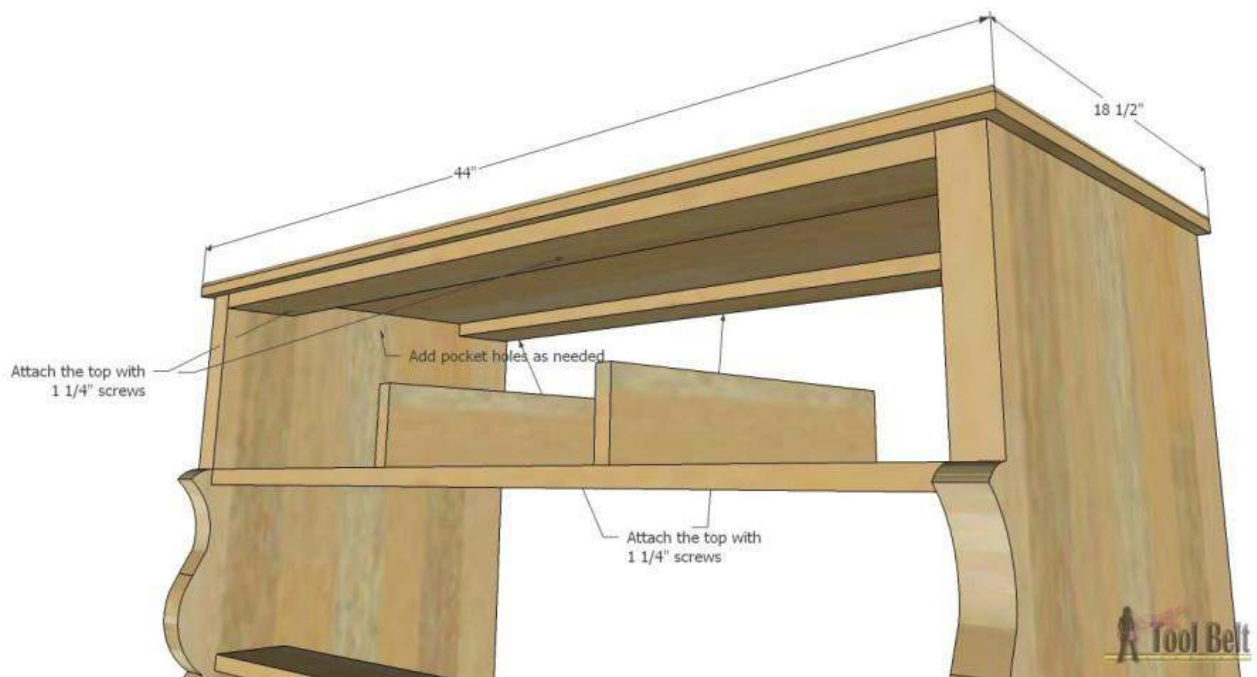


Measure and mark the location for the top drawer dividers. You can either attach the drawer dividers with pocket holes, or from underneath with screws. If you do secure from underneath make sure to set it far enough back that the lower drawer front will not hit your screw head.



### Step 3

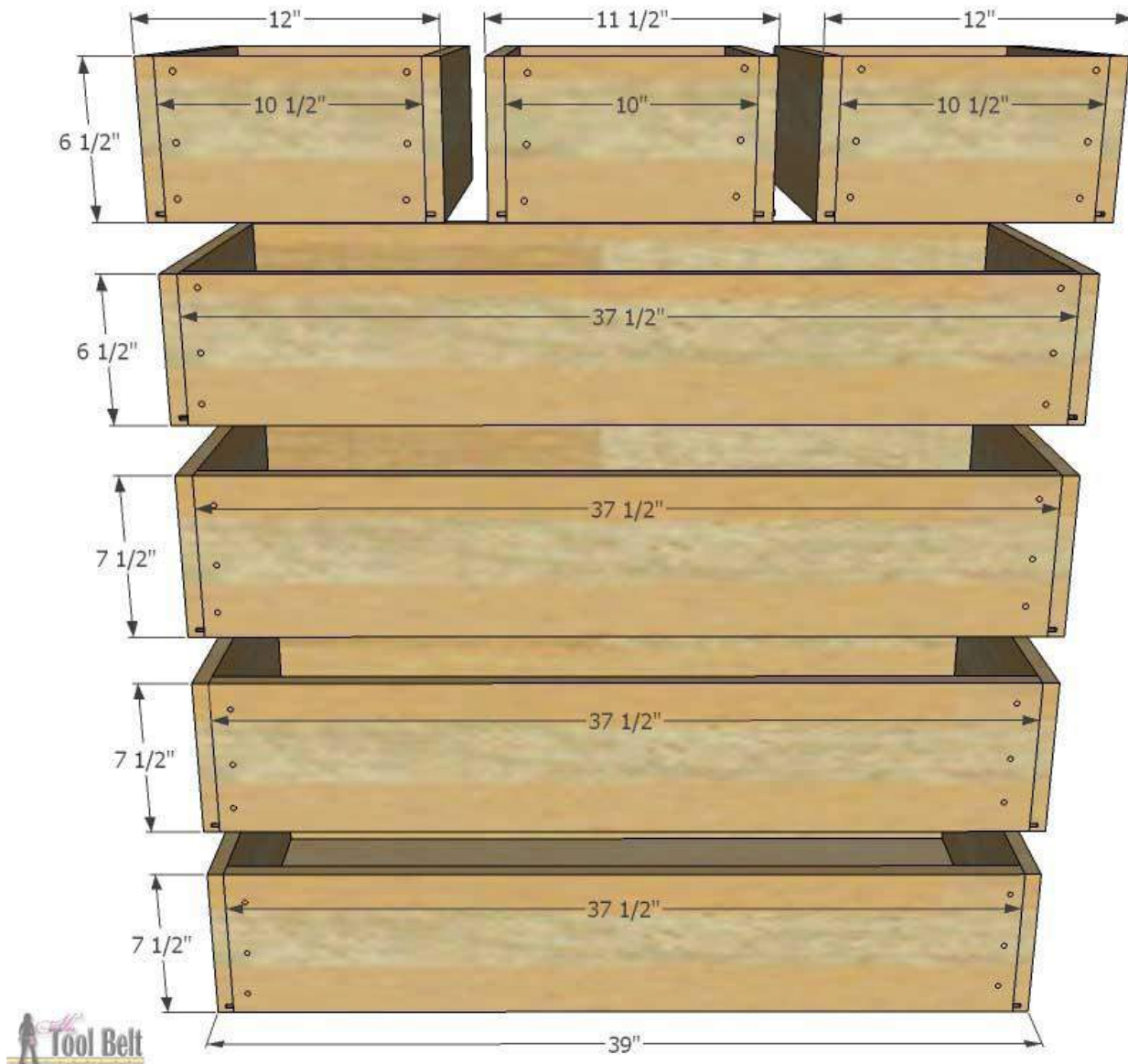
Cut the 1x10's for the top. You can make these longer if you want a larger overhang. Drill pocket holes for 3/4" material along a long edge to join the boards together. Use wood glue and 1 1/4" pocket hole screws to join the 2 top boards together. Once the glue has dried, sand the top smooth. I routed a round over edge on the front and side edges. Place the top on the dresser, centering it from side to side and make the back flush to the dresser back. Secure the top to the dresser with 1 1/4" screws.



## Step 4

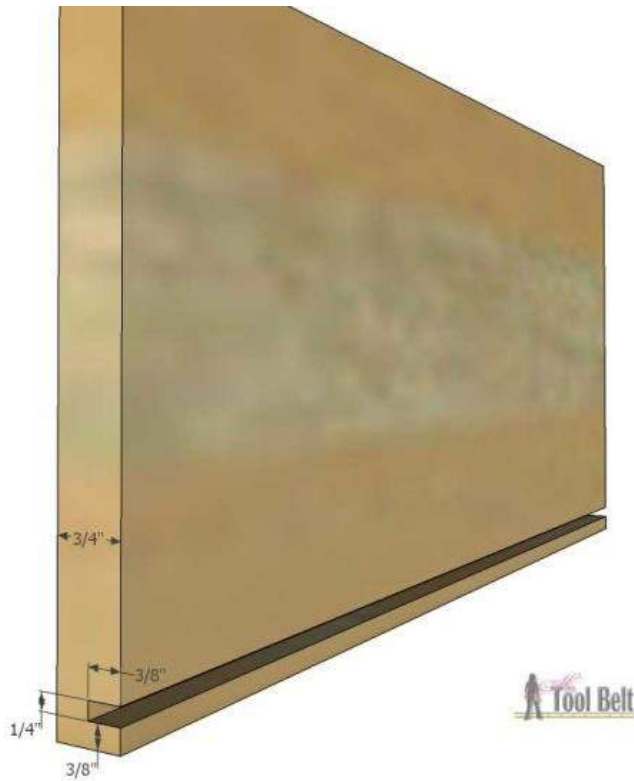
Cut out the drawer parts from the sheets of plywood. These drawer dimensions assume your plywood is 3/4". I bought some cheap 'cabinet grade' stuff from China that my HD started carrying for \$35. I didn't notice at first that the thickness is significantly thinner than I expected. Check your plywood thickness and adjust the cuts as necessary.

Overall drawer dimensions, the drawer runners have a little give and the width can be slightly less.

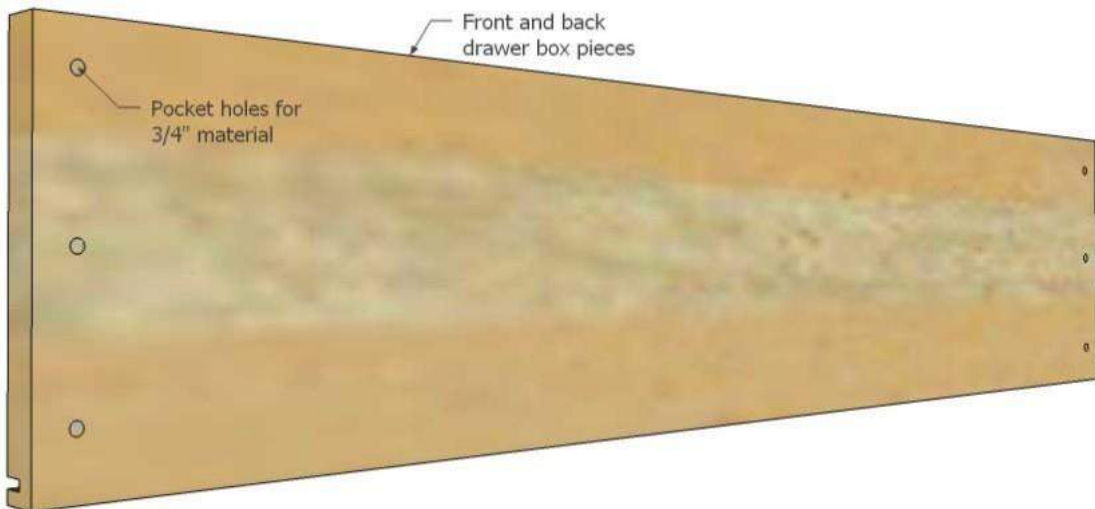




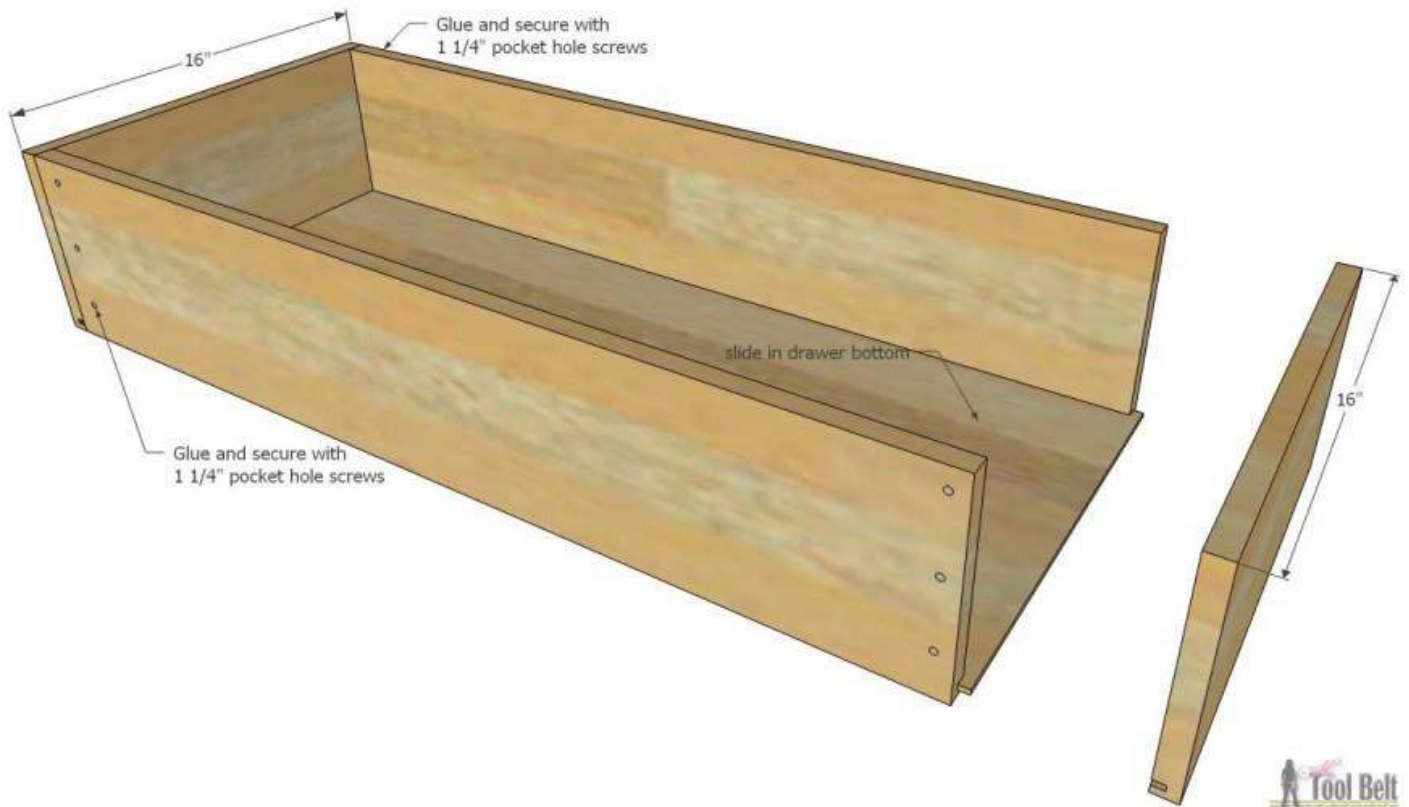
Cut a dado 3/8" from the bottom, 3/8" deep and 1/4" wide in each of the 3/4" drawer pieces. You can do this with multiple passes on the table saw, using a dado blade or a router with a 1/4" straight bit.



Set aside all of the 3/4" drawer pieces that are 16" long, these are the drawer sides. In all of the other 3/4" pieces, drill pocket holes for 3/4" material in the opposite face of the dado, avoid putting pocket holes by the dado.



Assemble the drawers. Use wood glue and 1 1/4" pocket holes to secure a front and back to a side. Slide in the drawer bottom. Then glue and secure the other side with 1 1/4" screws. Repeat this process for all 7 drawers.



Install the drawer runners to the inside of the dresser sides and to the drawers, inset the drawers about 3/4" in from the rails.

Once all of the drawers are installed, cut the drawer fronts, you'll want a small gap all around the drawer front. Dry fit all of the drawer fronts and trim as necessary. I routed a simple round over edge around my drawer fronts. Attach the drawer front to the drawers, put the drawer fronts in place then secure with a few screws from the inside of your drawer into the front. It is helpful to use heavy duty double stick tape to set it, then push your drawer out and secure with screws.

## Step 5

I added a little molding under the top, on the front faces of the rails and around the bottom-ish area (inline with the bottom rail). Drill holes for the drawer knobs. Fill gaps, cracks and blemishes with wood filler and let dry. Then sand the dresser really well, ending with 120 grit paper.

Finish the dresser as desired.