

Hanging Corner Cupboard

BY MARK ARNOLD

Scrollwork and a tombstone panel door add a stylish challenge.

A 7'-tall corner cabinet is an impressive piece in any room, but can be a daunting project for someone with little shop time. Traditional corner cupboards require a commitment – not just of time and resources, but of space in one's home.

Because the eye is drawn to the intersection of two planes (walls), however, the corner of a room is the perfect location to show off a prize piece of furniture. A small hanging cupboard is a logical compromise and has several advantages: It can be just as dramatic as its larger cousin and its dimensions are easily changed to fit in just about any corner.

While the project shown here is my own design, variations of this form were built during the 18th century, some having one, two or three pendant shelves, a door with multiple panels and sometimes even a drawer below the door.

This is a good beginner project because it presents angles other than 90° and can be built in a relatively short period of time, and usually of scrap material at hand. It also provides experience in tombstone panel door construction, multiple-piece crown moulding fabrication, vector clamping and cutting and fairing of scrolled edges. The scrollwork on the apron, back and shelves is easily altered to allow for changes in dimensions and artistic expression.

Although this cabinet is an amalgam of details seen on other similar pieces, I borrowed some of the scroll elements from the aprons of tables and case pieces.



Handsome corner storage. This hanging corner cupboard marries design features from a number of 18th-century examples – and it's easier to build than it appears.