

Kitchen Cabinet Construction Sitrep – Assembly, Fitting, and Sanding

This week's work was about building the face frame for the upper cabinet; getting material; cutting out all the parts; and, assembling all of the raised panel doors, drawers, and finish panels for both base and upper cabinets.

Learned that Baltic birch 1/4" ply is just a little thicker than your big box birch ply, so easing or tapering the edges was needed to fit into the slot made by the [Whiteside Shaker Raised Panel Bit](#) set.



Tapering Panel Edge

With panel edges prepped, glue-up began with the rail assemblies. Next was fitting the stiles and clamping it all together. This is a 36" tall door, so midline clamps were needed for maintaining consistent door width, checked with a metal straight edge.



Glued and clamped



Panel Fitting

Now, the “fun” begins – sanding and finishing. Nice and easy, huh? Oh, remember the paint takes 8-10 hours to dry before recoating. That is three days! Just to get color on these pieces – and oh, they are two sided....work ahead.

Oh, I do catch a break – the end panels for the upper cabinet only need paint one side.

Yes, the stiles are deliberately made just a little long to give just a little fudging room to fit the panels. Because of the flex of plywood, fitting the long stiles can be a bit of a challenge. The extra length leaves room for error, and can easily be cut or sanded off when finishing.