Under-Shelf Storage Trunk

Step 1 – Gather and Precut Materials

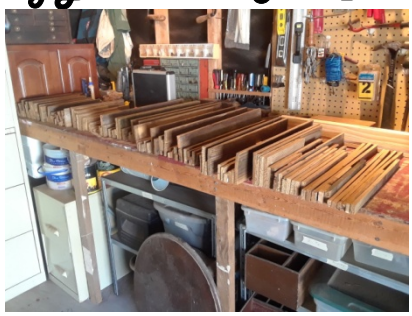


The customer who ordered this custom build was well able to explain what she envisioned the finished product to be. That made choosing materials much easier. The barn wood I had, and the 2×2 stock I purchased matched the shelving. I precut enough pieces to get the basic frame together and at least one basic panel.

Step 2 – Create the Basic Frame and Double Check the Dimensions.

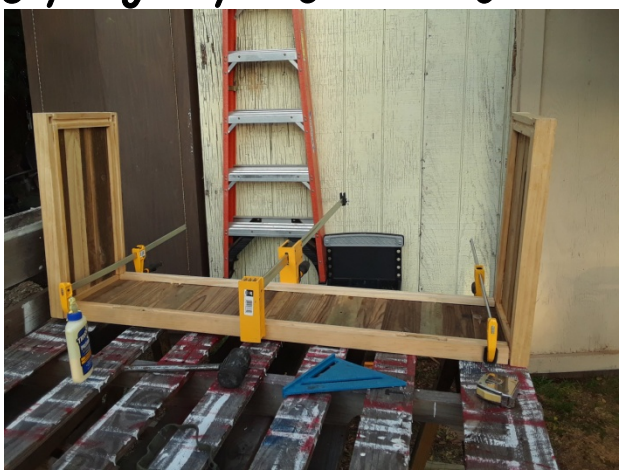
This project was designed to use mortise-and-tenon joinery for the frame and employ rabbets (grooves) into which the barn wood panels would slide. In other words, the only fasteners used in the project would affix the handles, hinges, and casters. Because this was a "dry-fit," I needed the rope and string to hold the piece together. The casters were temporarily attached at this point so I could take it to the customer's home to make sure the dimensions were correct before I began gluing panels in and permanently adjoining the frame.

Step 3 – Precut the Remaining Barn Wood For Quicker Assembly.


There were a total of eight panels, one of which included the access for the electrical outlet. The aesthetics of the piece meant that the width of the boards that comprised each panel had to be somewhat random. Hence, you must cut boards with varying lengths and widths, lay them out, and organized them *before* you start gluing anything together.

Step 4 –Glue up the Panels and Assemble.




The sub-steps of this step had to be done in order. The end panels had to be completed first because they would ultimately become the ends for almost every other panel. Likewise, the front panel had to be in place before the top because the top uses the front as one of its ends. In the photo on the left you can see the end panels finished and in place while the bottom is clamped while the glue dries.

Step 5 – Apply the "Hardware and Deliver

This piece may not be your cup of tea, but my customer was thrilled . . . and that is what original design and custom woodworking is all about. So, let's look at the numbers:

Materials:	2×2 stock, hardware, sandpaper, glue, polyurethane, etc.	=	$122.81
Time Spent:	A little over 20 hours not including time outside the shop.	=	$315.00
Price:	Uncle Sam always gets his take. Tax (7%) $30.65	=	$468.46
Value:	To the average person -	Similar items go for $330-$900	
	To me -	A very satisfying project	
	To my customer -	Priceless	