

# The Murphy Life

Three Foldaway Projects

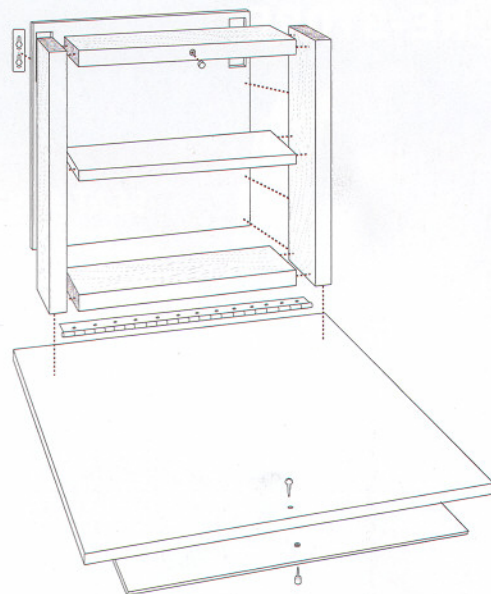




## BEDSIDE PLANNER

by Steven Dodds

If you're the kind of person who makes the bed immediately upon vacating it, you're ready to take your tidiness to the next level. By day, these little drop-front cabinets appear to be simple art or photo frames. But at night, presto-change-o! They open to serve as bedside tables. Come morning, your tissues, alarm clock, book, and other nighttime necessities get tucked away again.



## FOLDAWAY SIDE TABLE



\$40



### INGREDIENTS:

- ☐ 4' x 1" x 3 1/2" piece of wood or 4 12" wood scraps
- ☐ 4 shelf pins
- ☐ 10 1 1/2" screws
- ☐ 2 keyhole hooks
- ☐ 12" piano hinge with screws
- ☐ 12" x 12" mat board
- ☐ 14" x 16" x 3/8" plastic cutting board
- ☐ 13" x 15" x 1/8" clear Plexiglas
- ☐ 2 self-adhesive rubber furniture pads, 1/8" thick
- ☐ 2 high-strength magnets
- ☐ Wood glue
- ☐ 4 3/8" sheet metal screws
- ☐ Wall anchors
- ☐ Paint or varnish (optional)

### TOOLS:

- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Table saw
- ☐ Drill and drill bits
- ☐ Utility knife
- ☐ Fine file
- ☐ Plexiglas knife
- ☐ Sandpaper
- ☐ Hacksaw
- ☐ Straightedge
- ☐ Tape measure
- ☐ Screwdriver

## MAKE IT

**{ TIP }** The lumber used here will make a cabinet deep enough to hold a Kleenex tissue box lying on its side. Adapt as you wish, but 16" x 16" is about a big as you want to go to avoid over-stressing the hinge. When purchasing either the Plexiglas or the cutting board, buy a little extra to use for the internal shelf.

1. Cut two 9 1/2" pieces of wood for the top and bottom and two 12" pieces for the sides. 2. Drill a pair of holes partway through each side piece to accommodate the shelf pins, 6" from their bottom edge. 3. Arrange the top and bottom

pieces between the sides to form a rectangular box. 4. Use a pair of screws to join each corner. Remember to pre-drill the screw hole to prevent the wood from splitting. 5. Install the keyhole hooks into the side pieces (each slides over the head of a screw in the wall), to securely hold the cabinet in place. Before you attach the hook plate to the cabinet, drill out some wood beneath it to provide clearance for the screw head. Then place the plate about 1/4 of the way from the top of the cabinet. 6. If you plan to paint or varnish the cabinet, now's the time. 7. Cut the mat board large enough to cover the back of the cabinet. The hooks will prevent the mat from lying flat on the wood, so cut notches in the sides of the mat to clear them, then glue the mat into place. 8. If necessary, trim the cutting board to size. (A circular saw or table saw makes a nice clean cut.) Ideally, it should overlap the cabinet by 1" on the top and sides and 3" at the bottom. (The 3" overlap supports the tabletop when it's open.) Use a file to smooth the cut edges. 9. Cut the Plexiglas to a size slightly smaller than the final dimensions of the cutting board. 10. While your tools are out, cut a piece of Plexi or one of the cutting board scraps to use as an interior shelf. 11. On the cutting board, draw a horizontal line 3" from what will be the bottom edge. Line the barrel of the hinge up with this mark, with the leaves pointing toward the edge you measured from. Screw the hinge into place using all of the screw holes available. (You may have to use a hacksaw to cut a longer hinge down to size.) 12. Place the cutting board over the face of the cabinet and unfold the hinge so that the free leaf sits against the bottom of the cabinet. Screw that leaf in place. 13. Stick two

rubber furniture pads to the bottom of the cabinet. These will keep the tabletop level when open. 14. With the cutting board-tabletop in the closed position, center the Plexiglas on the surface (it will be the underside of the table). Drill four holes 2" from the edges through the Plexi into the cutting board. Slide your photo under the Plexi and screw it in place using the holes you just drilled. 15. Use your magnets to make a catch that holds the cutting board closed by flipping the tabletop open and drilling a hole in the face of the top of the cabinet. Glue the magnet into the hole. Mark the matching spot on the tabletop and do the same for the second magnet. (Make sure the magnet's polarity is facing the right way before you glue it in!) 16. To hang the nightstand, measure the distance between the centers of the keyhole hooks and mark those locations on the wall. Install two screws in the wall that have heads small enough to fit into the hooks. Use wall anchors to make sure the cabinet is secure. 17. When your project is mounted, set the shelf inside. 18. Take a nap.

