

The Hanging Wall Desk



One of the most-often used “appliances” in a modern kitchen is the phone. And whether it's a corded or cordless model, many kitchens have limited counter space...making wall-mounting the best (or only) alternative. This solves the problem of where to place the phone, but it often leaves no convenient space for the phone book or for jotting down messages. That's where this handy, easy-to-build desk comes in. It not only gives you the space you need for jotting down phone messages...it can also be a terrific, out-of-the-way spot for laying an open cookbook (without fear of dribbling tomato sauce or gravy on it) while you're cooking, storing your recipe cards or a host of other applications. So, with all that said, let's get started.

We used maple for our desk, but any hardwood will do, keeping in mind that if you have some hard-pressing writers in the family, super-soft woods such as pine or poplar could take and hold a permanent impression of the messages written on their surfaces. **SIZING NOTE:** Check the size of your phone book before cutting your pieces to size. Some of the dimensions may have to be adjusted to accommodate the phone book from your area. Also, you may choose to adjust the depth and width of the small drawer to hold common 3" x 5" recipe cards. Doing this, of course, will affect the size of the phone book compartment, as well (and perhaps the overall size of the desk). Start by using your bandsaw to resaw the stock you'll need to make the 1/2" thick bottom, shelf and drawer components (G,H,J,K,L,M). Then, glue-up these pieces of stock, cut them to size and run them through your thickness planer to bring them to a consistent thickness. Next, glue up the wood you'll need to make the balance of the larger components (A,B,E) and cut them to size.

NOTE: For the two sides, we started with a single piece of stock, 3/4" x 10" x 20-3/4"...set our table saw's miter gauge to 65 degrees...and cut diagonally across the middle to create our two sides with minimum waste.

Now, set up your dado blades to cut the 1/2" wide x 3/8" deep dadoes in the sides (A) that will accept the bottom and shelf. Cut the same size (1/2" x 3/8") groove and rabbet in the back to accept the 1/2" thick shelf (H) and desk bottom (G). Using the same 1/2" dado set-up, re-adjust your table saw's depth-of-cut to 1/4" and cut the dadoes in the top surface of the bottom (G) and the bottom surface of the shelf (H) to accept the drawer partition (J).

Re-set your dado blade for a 3/4" wide cut and create a 3/8" deep stop rabbet in the sides (A) to accept the 3/4" thick back (E). This rabbet cut should stop at the bottom of the desk bottom (G). Use a chisel to square the end of your cut.

Using your bandsaw or scroll saw, cut the bottom profiles for the sides (A), then drum sand the edges smooth.

Tilt your saw table to 25 degrees and use your rip fence as a guide (see Fig 1.) to cut the beveled top edge of the back (E). Without changing your table tilt, re-set your rip fence to cut the same 25 degree bevels on the top edge of the front (F) -- and the front edge of the top strip (C).

Assemble and glue the partition (J) to the shelf (H) and bottom (G). Glue and clamp the sides (A) to the shelf and the bottom. Glue and assemble the back (E), front (F) and top strip (C) into position. Cut and assemble the stock for the drawer. Finish sand the entire project and apply the finish of your choice. Attach the top to the top strip with hinges and enjoy.

BILL OF MATERIALS
(finished dimensions in inches)

A	Sides (2)	3/4 x 10 x 12-5/8
B	Top	3/4 x 11 x 20
C	Top strip	3/4 x 2-1/2 x 20
D	Ledge	3/8 x 3/4 x 20
E	Back	3/4 x 10-3/8 x 18
F	Front	3/4 x 2-5/16 x 17-1/4
G	Bottom	1/2 x 9-5/8 x 18
H	Shelf	1/2 x 9-5/8 x 18
J	Partition	1/2 x 3-1/4 x 9-1/4
K	Drawer sides (2)	1/2 x 2-11/16 x 9-1/8
L	Drawer front	1/2 x 2-11/16 x 4-15/16
M	Drawer back	1/2 x 2-3/16 x 4-7/16
N	Drawer bottom	1/4 x 4-7/16 x 9

HARDWARE

P Butt hinges (2)