

SHOP NOTEBOOK



Cutting an Arch

The base of the cabinet on page 20 features a decorative arch on the lower edge. As you can see in the photo above, the arch is made up of a long, shallow curve that terminates in a tight arc at each end. To create this arch, I used a simple, three-step process.

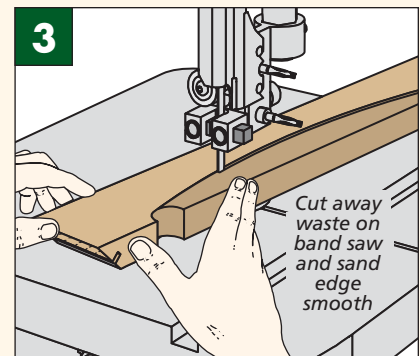
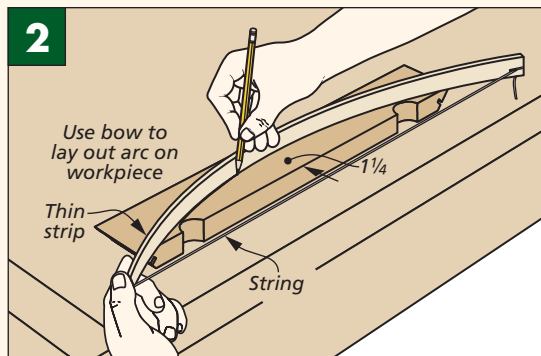
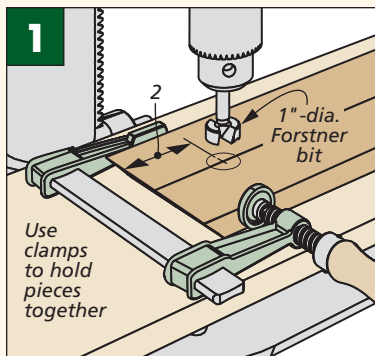
START AT THE ENDS. The tight curves at each end of the arch are 1"-dia. arcs. To make these, I drilled a hole

using a Forstner bit. By clamping the frame rails edge to edge, like you see in Figure 1, I was able to drill a semi-circular hole in both rails at the same time.

LAY OUT CURVE. After drilling a hole near each end of the rails, the next step is to lay out the main curve of the arch. To do this, I used a bow made out of a thin strip of hardwood and a piece of string.

The string fits into narrow kerfs cut at each end of the thin strip. By tying a knot at each end of the string, you can flex the hardwood strip just enough to create a smooth curve, as shown in Figure 2.

With the curve laid out, all you have to do is cut away the waste on the band saw (Figure 3). Then the profile can be sanded smooth using a sanding drum on the drill press.



Cove Sanding Block

The cove molding for the media center on page 30 is made at the table saw. But the saw blade leaves a series of rough ridges in the cove that have to be sanded out.

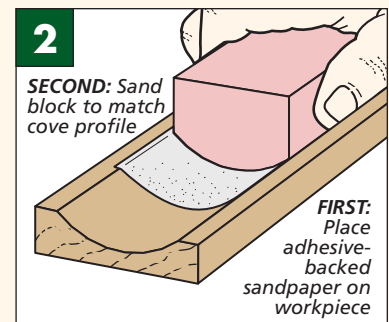
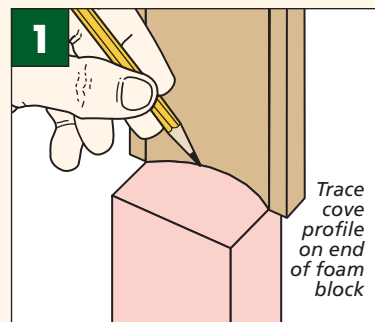
To do this, I made a custom-shaped sanding block out of a piece of 1½"-thick foam insulation board (photo at left). Start by tracing the

profile of the cove on the end of the block, as shown in Figure 1.

After cutting away most of the waste on the band saw, you can attach a piece of sandpaper to the cove molding and sand the block to match the profile (Figure 2). Then just attach a piece of sandpaper to the block to sand the cove.

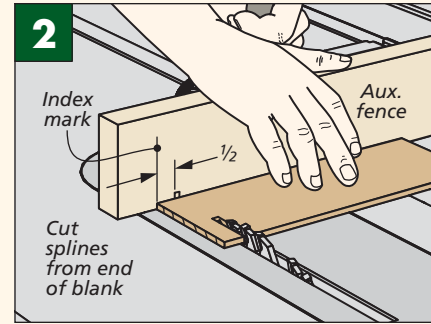
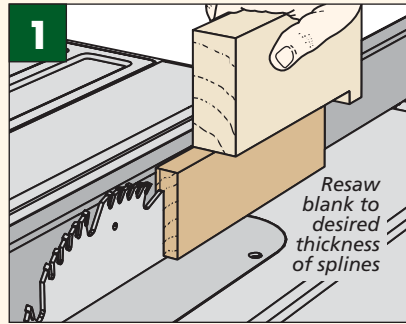


▲ A sanding block fashioned from a piece of foam insulation makes quick work of sanding the cove.



Cross-Grain Splines

The cabinet on page 20 and the wall shelf on page 16 both use miter joints reinforced with cross-grain splines. To make these splines, I started with a blank that matched the length (width) of the splines. Then I resawed an $\frac{1}{8}$ "-thick strip from the blank (Figure 1) and cut the splines off the end (Figure 2).

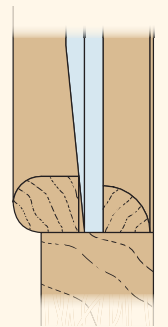
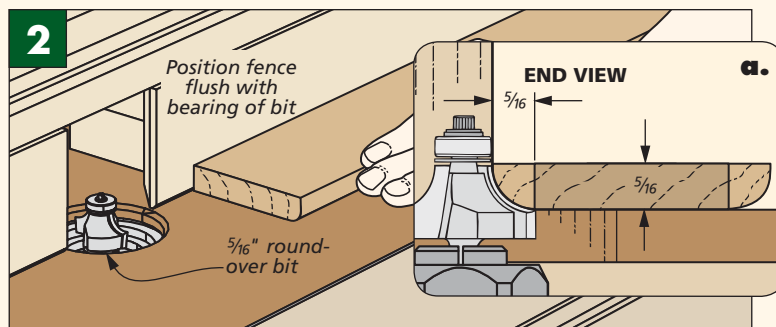
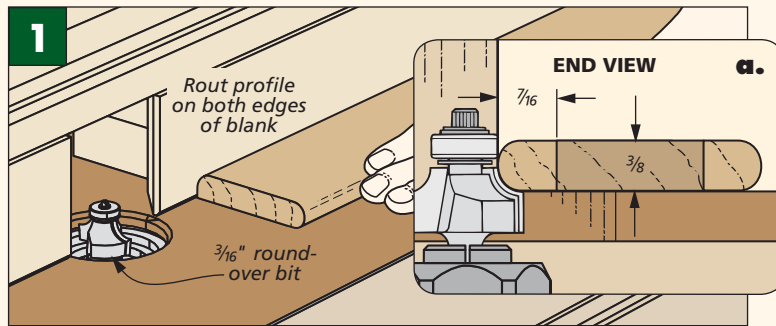


Glass Door Moldings

The glass panel doors on the media center feature a bead molding in front of the glass and a quarter-round stop behind the glass (drawing in margin). Although the profiles of the two moldings are different, I used the same technique to make both of them.

Start by planing a wide blank to thickness ($\frac{3}{8}$ " for the bead molding and $\frac{5}{16}$ " for the quarter round). Then, rout the profile on both edges of the blank. For the bead molding, you'll have to make the profile in two passes, flipping the blank over between passes (Figure 1). The quarter-round molding can be routed in one step (Figure 2).

Once you're done routing the profile, step over to the table saw and rip the moldings to width.



Glass Molding. Two styles of molding hold the glass panel in place.

Making Bullnose Moldings

The media center uses two sizes of bullnose moldings. Ordinarily, I would simply rout the profile on the edge of a board and rip the molding free. But the moldings I

needed are 1" and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide (tall). To avoid having to purchase thicker stock just for these pieces, I came up with a method for making the molding out of $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick stock.

I started by cutting a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide blank from $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick stock. Then I glued it to the edge of a carrier board (a common 2x4). Next, I planed the blank and carrier board down to the desired width of my molding (Figure 1).

Using a roundover bit, I routed the bullnose profile in two passes at the router table, as shown in Figure 2. The carrier board allows you to rout the profile while keeping your fingers a safe distance away from the bit. Then, I simply ripped the molding free from the edge of the carrier board (Figure 3). **W**

