The workbench in Australian Woodsmith 80 (page 40) offers a lot of storage space on the shelf underneath. To make better use of that space for storing smaller items, you can build the drawer cabinet shown in the photo above.

**DRAWER CASE**

The drawer cabinet consists of an outer case that slips into the opening under the bench. You’re going to build the case from the inside out, starting with the drawer frames. These frames connect the sides and form the openings for the drawers. Figure 1 gives you a starting point for the dimensions, but you may need to make some minor adjustments so the case fits your workbench. I made my case about 4mm narrower and shorter than the opening.

**FRAMES.** The two side stiles and the centre stile of each frame are connected with front and back rails. I used radiata pine for all of the frame components except for the front rails. For these, I used Oregon to match the bench.

**FRONT & REAR RAILS.** To start on the frames, I cut the front and rear rails to size. The length of the rails and the ¾”-deep trenches and rebates in the case sides will determine the final width of the assembled cabinet. As I mentioned earlier, size the rails so that the cabinet will slide easily into the workbench opening (right photo, next page). To finish up the rails, cut a centred groove along one edge for the 10mm stub tenons on the stiles.

**SHORT STILES.** The only thing special about the side and centre stiles is the stub tenon on each end. A dado blade makes quick work of cutting all the tenons. At this point, you can glue up the four frames before adding the centre guides.
CENTRE GUIDES. After the glue dries, you can add the centre drawer guides. They’re centred and attached to the underside of the top three frames with screws, as shown in Figure 1.

CASE SIDES. With the frames assembled, the case sides come next. The sides have trenches and rebates to accept the frames. But before cutting these, I added an Oregon trim along the front edge to hide the plywood or MDF.

ASSEMBLY. At this point you’re ready to assemble the sides and frames. The key is to keep everything square while the glue dries.

I didn’t attach the back panel until later. Leaving it off makes it easier to add the drawer stops after the drawers are in place.

DRAWERS

The three large drawers are identical in size and construction. The sides are joined to the front with a locking rebate joint and to the back with a tongue and groove joint. Figure 2 gives you the details. You can cut these joints on the table saw. It just takes a few test cuts to get a perfect fit. The goal is to end up with an even gap at the top and sides of the drawer front. Once all of the basic joinery is done, there are a couple of things left to do.

GROOVES & NOTCHES. Cutting a groove for the plywood bottom is pretty simple. Just remember to cut the 6mm groove on the inside face of all the drawer parts. And before you can assemble the drawer, you need to cut a notch in the drawer back. Size the notch for a smooth, sliding fit along the centre drawer guide.

ASSEMBLY. Finally, you can assemble the drawers, making sure they’re square. While the glue dries, you can cut the stiffeners that are glued to the bottom. A little glue and a clamping caul are all you need to attach it.

GUIDES BLOCK. As shown in Figure 1, there are small guide blocks screwed to each side of the case. To size them, I fastened them with double-sided tape. I start out by making them a little thick. This way, you can sand them down later for a perfect fit of the drawer.

HARDWARE AND FITTING. Adding the drawer pulls now makes it easier to fine-tune the drawers for a smooth fit. I used a drilling jig to help locate all of the holes.

Like I said, you may need to sand or plane the guide blocks while fitting the drawers. And a little wax on the frames and drawer parts goes a long way to help the large drawers slide easily. Then you can permanently attach the blocks.

Now you can add the rear drawer stops to position the drawer fronts flush with the case. Finally, it’s time to attach the case back with glue. After that, simply slide the cabinet into the bench and fasten it in with screws. Then all you’re left with is the task of filling the drawers with your tools.
## Materials & Hardware

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Case Sides (2)</td>
<td>630 x 475 x 19 Ply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Edging (2)</td>
<td>475 x 19 x 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Front/Rear Rails (8)</td>
<td>880 x 65 x 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Stiles (12)</td>
<td>374 x 65 x 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Centre Guides (3)</td>
<td>475 x 25 x 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Guide Blocks (6)</td>
<td>90 x 19 x 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Case Back (1)</td>
<td>906 x 475 x 19 Ply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Drawer Stops (3)</td>
<td>75 x 19 x 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Drawer Fronts (3)</td>
<td>864 x 130 x 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Drawer Sides (6)</td>
<td>630 x 130 x 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Drawer Backs (3)</td>
<td>825 x 130 x 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Drawer Bottoms (3)</td>
<td>818 x 600 x 6 Ply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Stiffeners (3)</td>
<td>588 x 65 x 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### (6) Drawer Pulls

#### Cutting Diagram

1. **1800 x 140 x 19 Oregon**
   - C
   - C
   - C

2. **1800 x 140 x 19 Radiata Pine**
   - C
   - C
   - C

3. **2400 x 140 x 19 Radiata Pine (2 Boards)**
   - D
   - D
   - D
   - M

4. **1800 x 191 x 19 Oregon**
   - I
   - I

5. **1800 x 191 x 19 Oregon**
   - I
   - B
   - D
   - D
   - D

6. **2400 x 140 x 19 Radiata Pine (3 Boards)**
   - K
   - J
   - J

7. **2400 x 1200 x 6mm Ply or Masonite**
   - L
   - L

8. **2400 x 1200 x 19mm Ply**
   - A
   - A
   - G