DIY Floating Vanity

Build a 36" red oak floating vanity with a vessel sink, a shallow drawer and an open shelf, for under $400. The designer version that inspired it costs over $3,000. A double-layer plywood box makes it extra strong and gives it a chunky look.



Tools

- [ ] Table saw
- [ ] Miter saw or circular saw
- [ ] Brad nailer with brad nails
- [ ] Cordless drill with a countersink bit
- [ ] Kreg Jig with drill bit
- [ ] Clamps
- [ ] 1/2" chisel
- [ ] Hand sander with 220 grit sandpaper
- [ ] Tape measure

Supplies

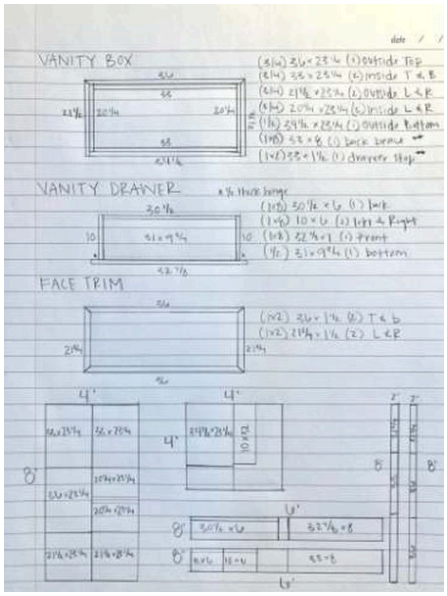
- [ ] Wood glue
- [ ] 1" and 1 1/4" wood screws
- [ ] 1 1/4" pocket screws
- [ ] Wood filler
- [ ] Soft close drawer slides, 10" if you can find them (I used 12")
- [ ] Vessel sink and faucet
- [ ] Whitewash stain
- [ ] Waterproof polyurethane

Lumber list

Qty	Material
1	3/4" x 4' x 8' red oak plywood
1	1/2" x 4' x 4' red oak plywood
2	1" x 8" x 6' red oak board
1	1" x 2" x 8' red oak board

Cut list

Qty	Material	Size	Used for
1	3/4" plywood	36" x 23 1/4"	Outside box, top
2	3/4" plywood	33" x 23 1/4"	Inside box, top and bottom
2	3/4" plywood	21 1/2" x 23 1/4"	Outside box, left and right
2	3/4" plywood	20 1/4" x 23 1/4"	Inside box, left and right
1	1/2" plywood	34 1/2" x 23 1/4"	Outside box, bottom
1	1" x 8"	33" x 8"	Back brace
1	1" x 2"	33" x 1/2"	Drawer stop
1	1" x 8"	30 1/2" x 6"	Drawer back
2	1" x 8"	10" x 6"	Drawer sides
1	1" x 8"	32 7/8" x 7"	Drawer front
1	1/2" plywood	31" x 9 3/4"	Drawer bottom
2	1" x 2"	36" x 1 1/2"	Face trim, top and bottom
2	1" x 2"	21 3/4" x 1 1/2"	Face trim, left and right



Cost and size

Cost	Under $400 (lumber, sink, stain and drawer slides)
Finished size	36" W x 21 1/2" H x 24" D

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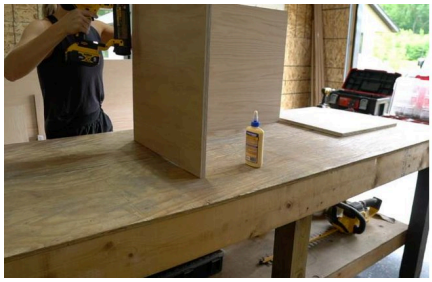
Step 1: Cut and prep the plywood

Cut all the plywood to size and lightly sand it with 220 grit so it's smooth and ready to assemble.



Step 2: Build the inside box

Assemble the inside box with wood glue and brad nails, then reinforce it with countersunk 1 1/4" screws. Keep the good side of every panel facing in, since this is the inside of the vanity. Screws on the outside don't matter because the outer box hides them.







Step 3: Add the drawer stop and back brace

Cut a 1×2 to fit inside the box as a drawer stop and attach it with wood glue and brad nails.

Then add a back brace. This is what you'll screw into the wall studs. I used scrap 1×4, but a 1×8 or 1×6 is better if you have one left over. Attach it inside the box with wood glue and countersunk 1 1/4" screws.





Step 4: Build the outside box

The outside box doubles up the plywood for strength and a bulkier look. I used 3/4" plywood for the top and sides and 1/2" for the bottom, which saved buying another 3/4" sheet.

1. Straight cut the 1/2" bottom piece to match the bottom of the inside box.
2. On the table saw, miter the top edge of each 3/4" side panel at 45 degrees. Leave the bottom edge straight since you won't see it.
3. Clamp the sides in place and measure for the top piece, then miter both ends at 45 degrees so the corners meet cleanly.
4. Dry fit everything. Attach the top first with wood glue and clamps, then drive 1" screws up from underneath where they won't show.
5. Glue and clamp the side panels. Add a few screws inside at the top, where the drawer hides them, and a few brad nails from the inside bottom. Fill the small holes with wood filler.
6. Attach the bottom panel with wood glue and 1" screws.













Step 5: Add the face trim

Miter the 1×2 face trim at 45 degrees and attach it with wood glue and a few brad nails.





Step 6: Fill and sand

Fill all the nail holes with wood filler and sand once it's dry.




Step 7: Build the drawer

The drawer is only about 10" deep to leave room for the plumbing under the sink.

1. For the drawer front, rip a 1×8 down to about 7" at an angle. The angled edge is your pull, so you don't need hardware.
2. Rip 1×8 down to 6" for the sides and back. Use 1/2" plywood for the bottom.
3. Cut a 1/2" dado 1/2" up from the bottom edge of the sides, back and front. Make 4 to 5 passes on the table saw, moving the fence 1/8" each time, until the groove fits the 1/2" bottom. Clean it out with a 1/2" chisel.
4. Drill pocket holes on the outside of each drawer side for attaching the drawer front later.
5. Assemble the drawer box with wood glue and brad nails. Wait to attach the front until the drawer is installed so you can center it.











Step 8: Sand and stain

Sand everything once more with 220 grit, slightly rounding all the edges of the vanity and drawer.

I tried a weathered oak stain first and didn't love it, so I sanded it back lightly and used a whitewash instead. Whitewash on red oak makes it look like white oak. Finish the whole vanity with a waterproof polyurethane.

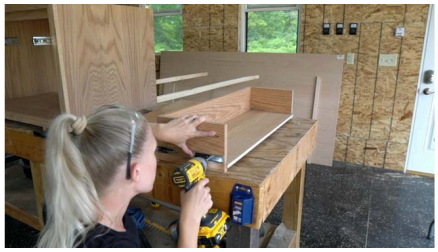





Step 9: Install the drawer

Install the drawer slides in the vanity and on the drawer sides. Set the drawer in, center the drawer front, and clamp it in place. Then attach the front with 1 1/4" pocket screws.










Step 10: Install the sink and faucet

Drill a hole in the top so the vessel sink sits flat and the plumbing can pass through. We ran our plumbing through the wall below the vanity so the drawer hides it.



Step 11: Hang the vanity

Screw through the back brace into the wall studs at a comfortable height. If you're framing or renovating the bathroom, add extra blocking in the wall to tie the vanity into so it's extra secure.



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