IKEA RAST Nightstand Hack

Turn a basic IKEA RAST dresser into a high-end looking nightstand with a plywood base, short legs, black paint and new knobs.



Before (left) and after (right)

Final dimensions: 11 5/8" W x 30 1/4" H x 24 3/8" D

Tools

- [ ] Miter saw or circular saw
- [ ] Tape measure
- [ ] Cordless drill
- [ ] Drill bits: 5/16" and 7/64"
- [ ] Screwdriver
- [ ] Safety glasses
- [ ] Painting supplies

Supplies

- [ ] IKEA RAST 3-drawer chest (see note below)
- [ ] Wood glue
- [ ] Wood filler
- [ ] Wood screws: #8 1 1/2" flat head Phillips
- [ ] Sandpaper, including 320 grit
- [ ] Primer
- [ ] Paint: Satin Black, Behr
- [ ] Drawer knobs

Note: IKEA has discontinued the RAST in the US. The same steps work on any small solid wood 3-drawer chest.

Lumber list

Qty	Material
1	3/4" plywood project panel
1	2" x 2" x 8' board

Cut list

Qty	Material	Size	Used for
1	3/4" plywood	24 3/8" x 11 5/8"	Base
4	2" x 2"	3"	Legs

Cost

Item	Cost
IKEA RAST dresser	$40 each
Paint	$16
Drawer knobs	$4 each
2" x 2" lumber	$1.98
Project panel	$14

Prices from 2020. This plan contains affiliate links. If you buy through one, I earn a small commission at no extra cost to you.

Step 1: Assemble the RAST

Assemble the RAST following the IKEA directions, but leave off the bottom support piece. I also left out the third drawer for a more nightstand look.



Step 2: Cut the plywood base

Cut 3/4" plywood to the size of the bottom of the dresser, about 24 3/8" x 11 5/8". A small project panel is enough. You don't need a full sheet.



Step 3: Cut the legs

Cut a 2" x 2" into four 3" legs with a miter saw or circular saw.



Step 4: Attach the legs to the base

Drill a shallow hole in each corner of the plywood with a 5/16" bit so the screw heads sit below the surface. You'll fill these holes later. Then attach the legs with wood glue and wood screws, flush with each corner.

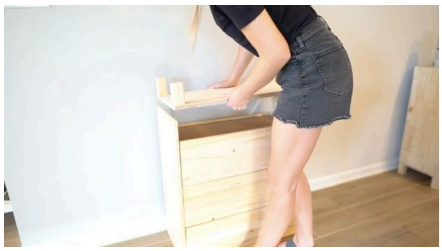




Step 5: Attach the base to the dresser

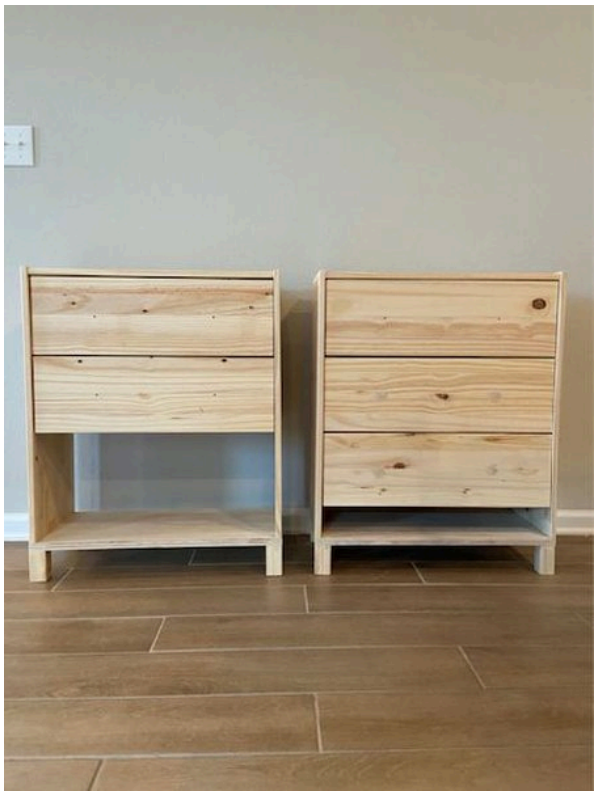
Flip the dresser over and run a line of wood glue along the bottom. Set the base on top and press down so the glue grabs.

Pre-drill through the base and into the dresser with a 7/64" bit so the wood doesn't split, then screw the base on. Drill straight down so the screws don't come out the side of the dresser.









Step 6: Fill the holes

Fill the screw holes and any seams in the base with wood filler.



Step 7: Sand

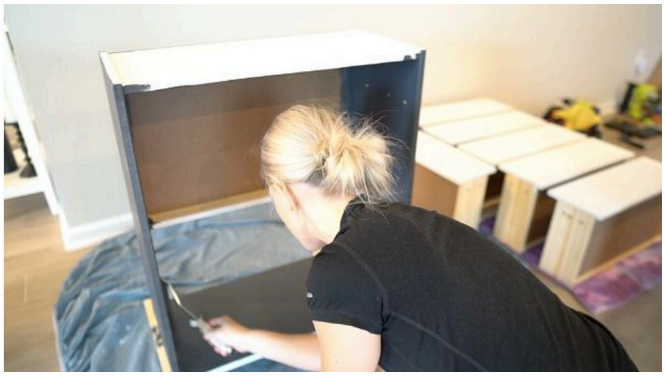
Sand off the extra wood filler. Then go over the whole nightstand with 320 grit sandpaper so it's smooth.



Step 8: Prime and paint

Prime the nightstand and let it dry. Sand the whole piece again with 320 grit, which gives the paint a smooth, professional finish. Then paint. I used Satin Black by Behr.





Step 9: Install the knobs

Install the drawer knobs.





More from this project

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- Board and batten accent wall tutorial