

Once all the cuts are made, test fit a few joints and clean up any rough spots with a file or sanding block.

Bottom Dado

The 1/4 x 3/8" dados for the drawer bottoms are done exactly same as the back grooves in the gables. To save setups, you could plan to cut the drawer dados at the same time as the gables.

Tandem Guides Thickness trim (for Tandem guides only)

Most Blum Tandem guides are designed to fit drawers made of 5/8" thick material so you need to trim 1/8" off the inside face of each side below the bottom dado. Just set your saw fence to 5/8" and raise the blade to 1/2". Run each drawer box side through with the dado facing the blade.

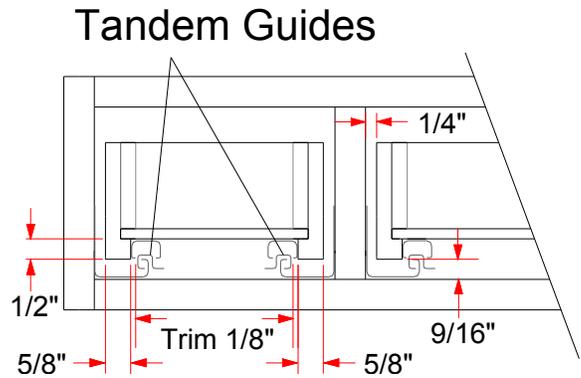


Fig. 13 - Details for Blum Tandem drawer guides.

Drawer Bottoms

The drawer bottoms are cut from 1/4" birch plywood and run the full length of the drawer box.

Once all the drawer components were cut, I gave them three coats of clear water-based poly finish with a foam brush, with a very light, #220 grit sanding between coats.

Drawer assembly

You'll need a few clamps and a brad nailer for the drawer assembly. I used just glue for the rabbet joints however you could shoot a few brads in to secure the ends as well.

- apply glue to the rabbets of two drawer sides
- assemble the components with clamps across each end (Fig. 12).
- flip the drawer box upside-down and add a long clamp running the length of the drawer to make sure the joints are tight.
- slide the 1/4" drawer bottom into the dado at one end and tack it to the bottom edge of the drawer box sub front
- line up the bottom with the other end of the box to ensure that it's square, and nail it to the bottom edge of the box back.
- flip the drawer over and reposition the long clamp close to the upper edge of the drawer ends. The lower edge is secured by the nailed-on bottom.

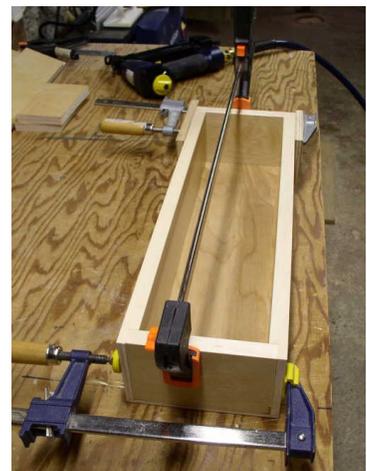


Fig. 14 - Clamp drawer box in both directions

Repeat this procedure for the other drawers.

Assembling the Face Frames

The face frame stiles (verticals) and rails (horizontal) are assembled using 1" pocket screws. See **Face Frame Dimensions** drawing (pg 25)

- sand all the pieces prior to assembly, but take care not to round over the ends, especially the edges that will butt against other frame members.
- lay out the frame face-down on a flat surface.
- mark the locations for drilling the pocket holes - the ends of all pieces except the end stiles.
- drill a test hole in a scrap of 3/4" material to determine exactly where to locate the jig for drilling so that the exit hole is centred on the end grain. Drill all the holes before assembling.
- assemble the frame perimeter, starting with one corner. Clamp the components to the workbench. Leave the clamp holding the drilled piece just loose enough that the screw can pull the joint tightly together without stripping the wood. Make sure the frame is square as you tighten the screws.
- once the perimeter is complete, add the midstiles.



Fig. 15 – Exit hole should be centred on end grain

Lower Cabinet

- measure and mark the openings for the double drawer faces and attach only the fixed midrail.
- Check that the frame and openings remain square when attaching the rail.



Fig. 16 - Back of a similar 13/16" face frame with pocket holes - ready for assembly

The frames are ready for a final sanding to prepare them for staining.

Drawer Fronts

The drawer boxes have solid pine inset drawer fronts. Ideally, the 4" high top drawers should be cut from a single piece of stock so the grain is consistent across the cabinet front. The four lower drawers are 7 9/16" high and can be made by gluing two pieces of narrower stock together and cutting them to final size with the grain running horizontally.

For the top drawers:

- select a 1 x 6 piece about 42" long with a pleasing grain pattern.
- rip the stock to 4" wide.
- measure and mark the drawer faces and cut them on the table saw or mitre saw.