

# Design and Build Your Own Home Office



**We wanted to add a home office and had already purchased some used cabinets to create a custom built in look.**

***By Ron Specht***

Instead of adding a desk that would not match, I decided to build my own out of stock parts. I already had some of the components, and then browsed thru the available accessories and chose the parts needed to accomplish the look we wanted.

Most people think that cabinets can only be used on walls or in the kitchen and bath, however with a little creativity you can make many functional furniture pieces and save money. I became aware of this option after working in the kitchen department and looking through all of the catalogs. I was most intrigued with the many creative uses of cabinets, moldings and accessories that can be used as furniture.

The KraftMaid Cabinet line offers the widest selection and greatest versatility to choose from. You can also view ideas on their web site [KraftMaid.com](http://KraftMaid.com) or have a catalog sent to your home. The wonderful thing about using these ready-made pieces and your imagination is that the average person with moderate skills can create custom looking furniture fairly easy.

You can also keep an eye out for used pieces or scratch & dent bargains. There are also cabinet outlet stores or factory outlets that are worth checking out. Once you decide on the area or furniture pieces you want to create, it's just a matter of selecting the right components.



**1. We had looked** at many desks in magazines and in stores to see what was available, collected photos and then decided on our design. This also gave us a chance to do a little measuring for the size needed.



**2. I had a desk drawer unit** and a couple of desk cabinets to work with for the main components. We also had a few finished panels and moldings left over from the office cabinets.



**3. After selecting the design,** I purchased a few decorative base rosette columns, rosette filler overlays, and some ogee moldings as decorative base moldings.

**4. I found some extra moldings** around the shop that worked out perfectly as inside corners to help dress up the look. Those were simply cut to fit.



**5. We attached all of the components** with screws or finish nails. The decorative doors and the side panels were glued and attached with finish nails. All of the decorative base moldings were cut precisely on a miter saw and nailed in place.



**6. It was then onto the final assembly** of all the components, and touch up of the nail holes. You can make a laminate top to match, or choose to have a top made. And there you have it... a new custom made desk with the pride and satisfaction that you made it yourself!

**Here are some other examples** that will give you an idea of how to use some off-the-shelf components to create a beautiful custom look:

- Use wall refrigerator cabinets on the floor to make window seats or bench seats for a breakfast nook.
- Use decorative doors and end panels to create a bedroom head board.
- Use doors as wainscoting that looks like it was all custom made.
- Create a complete entertainment center.

If you have any questions about this project or any other home improvement project, e-mail me at [ron.specht@yourhomecolumbus.com](mailto:ron.specht@yourhomecolumbus.com).