

Quilt-Front Wall Cabinet

June/July 2012, Issue 47, Page 20

Optional Door Panel



More Colorful, Less Complicated Panels

Another approach to making a door panel is to cut the pattern into a solid panel with a router bit. Once you have established the pattern, you can use stains and/or dyes to color the wood to enhance the geometric beauty of the design.

For a relatively simple design such as that for the “krazy quilt” pattern pictured above, lay out the pattern with a pencil or a Sharpie marker. Then rout along the lines with a router equipped with a 60° V-groove router bit, as shown in **Photo A**.

After you have cut all the lines, sand them to remove the fuzzies and spray-paint the panel to make the lines dark, as shown in **Photo B**. (You may find it helpful to spray the panel with shellac first to help keep the paint from soaking into the raw wood.)

After the paint thoroughly dries, scrape, plane, and sand the panel to remove it from the flat areas. Once the panel has been finish-sanded, apply the stains and/or dyes to create the look you are after. (If you need inspiration for colors, try looking at photographs of actual quilts and other textiles.)

To create the vibrant colors shown, try using TransTint dyes. The vibrant colors they create can make for stunning cabinet panels. The dyes come in plastic squeeze bottles and are intended



A

To rout the lines, set the bit to make a V-cut about $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep, and then run the router against a fence.



B

Spray-paint the lines with a dark color to accentuate the pattern.



C

Paint the patches to make the colored quilt pattern. The routed lines keep the dyes from mixing along the edges.

to be mixed with denatured alcohol so you can concoct just the right amount of color intensity. A little bit of dye goes a long way. Try just a few drops in a couple of ounces of alcohol to start with. Apply the dyes with a cotton swab or the corner of a rag, as shown in **Photo C**.