

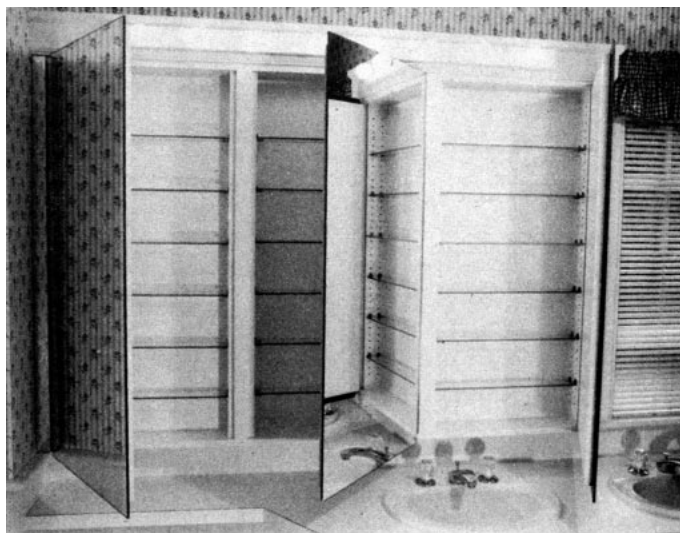
Site-Built Medicine Cabinet

by Greg Gossens

One of the most essential storage components in a bathroom is the medicine cabinet. Manufactured units can be expensive and don't always match the room's size or fixture arrangement. Often, the owner's taste and storage needs are such that only a custom cabinet will do.

We have used designs similar to this one on several projects. It's made of inexpensive materials that can be assembled on site, and is versatile enough to be used with many different interior finish schemes.

In this case, the medicine cabinet solved several design problems in a second floor bathroom renovation. The cabinet was surface mounted because the fixtures are on an exterior wall. It had to be shallow because the room is small and



The cabinet's large mirror surface area makes the room look and feel larger. Adjustable glass shelving provides lots of storage space for small items.



narrow. We made it as wide as we could to satisfy the owner's need for plenty of storage space for small items. And the tall, mirrored doors are close enough to the countertop for the owner's young children to use.

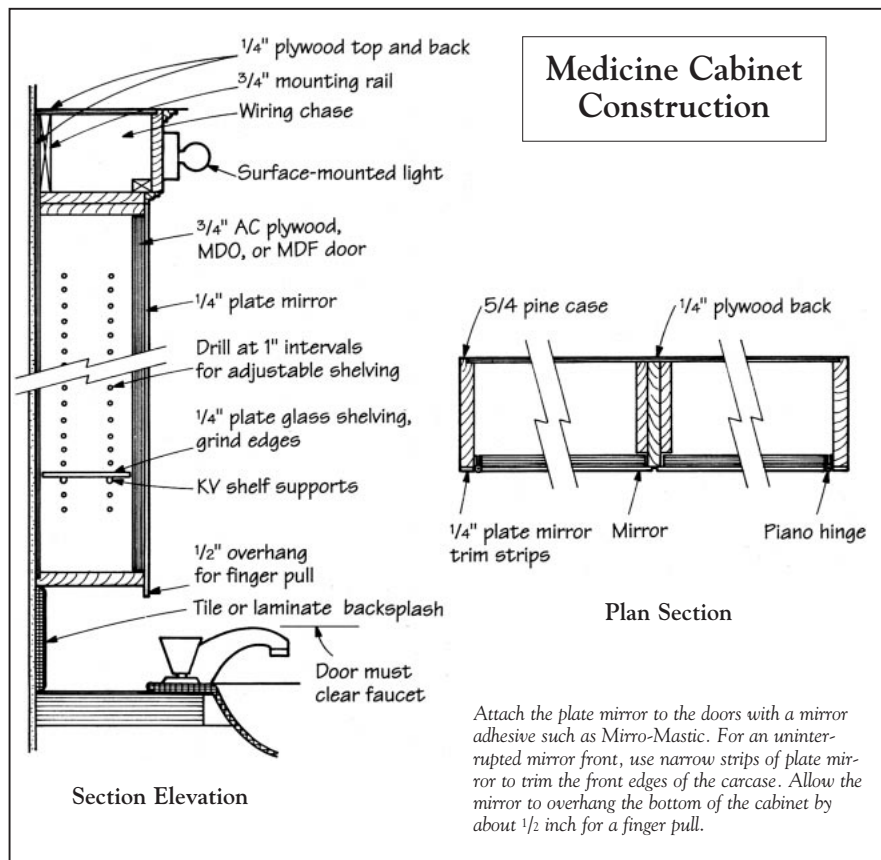
The cabinet was built and finished entirely

on site by one person in about ten hours. The frame is painted pine with a 1/4-inch plywood back. The painted AC plywood doors are fastened to the cabinet body with piano hinges, which provide strength and stability. (Concealed cup hinges haven't worked as well with the heavy doors.) The shelf system uses KV shelf clips (Knap & Vogt, 1700 Oak Industries Dr., Grand Rapids, MI 49505; 616/459-3311) adjustable in 1-inch increments, with 1/4-inch plate-glass shelving.

Once the cabinet was mounted to the wall, the plywood doors were hung in place. Then the mirrors were glued on with Mirro-Mastic adhesive (Summer and Maca, 345 Lodi St., Hackensack, NJ 07501; 800/631-1321). In previous installations, J-channel was used at the perimeter of the mirrors, but here the builder found a supplier who would guarantee the mirrors without it.

The overall effect of this kind of cabinet is to make small bathrooms look and feel larger. Where deeper wall cabinets are possible, we have eliminated base cabinets altogether. This gives the countertop a "free-floating" appearance. ■

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Building Details Wanted

Do you have a building detail—rough or finish, interior or exterior—that works well for you and might be a help to others? If so, please send us a readable drawing with a brief written description of the technique. Send your ideas, along with name, address, and phone number, to JLC Details, RR#2, Box 146, Richmond, VT 05477. We will pay for any ideas that we publish.