

# Jeffrey Cooper

*Art Furnishings For Artful Living*

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## Art Furnishings for Artful Living Newsletter

**Building the casework for Pam's CD cabinet.  
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Dear Friends

First things first. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a successful 2011. Pam's cabinet is coming along. It's a rather complicated design because several cabinets intersect in very unusual ways. That gives the design a layered effect that makes it interesting.



Here's the lumber for the project arriving at my shop. You can see a nice wide board for the cabinet doors to be made with one piece. I got some maple with a curl to make the finished product more interesting. Pam likes figured wood and this is not too showy. The darker wood is the bubinga for the legs.



Here you can see the progress I've made so far. The lumber has been milled to thickness, glued into the sides and tops, resurfaced, cut to width and length, all the joinery planned and cut, then fitted, and this is the first time I've assembled the result. So far the top is just setting in place, not joined. The horizontal space is for a drawer with a curved front. The tall openings will take four drawers each for the CD's and a door with the carved designs in on their fronts. The middle section will be fitted with some smaller drawers. I'm planning to soften these with gently curved drawer fronts and bubinga cross braces. You can see the model I made sitting by it. It's coming together nicely.



I've made this photo bigger so you can see the joinery. The bottoms of the side cabinets are with dovetails and you can see one setting in the middle. You can see the mortise and

tenons where the bubinga cross pieces fit in, and the mortises. The back will have frame and panel. Some of the carcass joinery is strengthened by the mortises and tenons of the bubinga cross pieces and the back frame allowing tongue and groove joinery, but other places it is not. Where it isn't I turned the tongue into a full mortise and tenon

which is stronger than the tongue and groove. If you study the picture you can figure it all out. Believe me it took me awhile to figure it out myself.



Here's a view of the dovetails on the bottom, which you won't be able to see when it's set up. So why bother? Because it's strong. I've drawn a small diagonal line on the corner at the top of the page. The door will be a full overlay door, but I have an idea to minimize how it is seen from the side by a sort of mitered configuration. I've got a hinge that I believe will work for this, and I'm making a test fit to make sure before cutting into the cabinet stock. More on this later.

Next steps are to do the test hinge installation then cut the carcass to fit the way I envision, clean up the surfaces, fit the support structure that the small drawers will slide on, and start assembling this portion. That will take several steps. Then make the drawers and doors and legs. I'll let you look in on that in upcoming letters.

As always, please forward this to anyone you think will enjoy it. I'll keep you posted as the calendar comes together for the 2011 Furniture Masters exhibitions. I'm planning to make a ladies vanity desk decorated with hummingbird and trumpet flower carvings. Something for you to dream about.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Jeffrey