

# Outside *the* Box

Three clever ways to turn an inexpensive cabinet into fun, functional furniture.

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Take a standard Ikea upper kitchen cabinet, upgrade the hardware, add some paint — and suddenly you've got a stand-out piece of furniture that adds storage, looks great and cost you less than \$150.





A single whimsical handle makes a modern statement

1 CABINET, 3 WAYS

1.  
Floating Storage

This revamped kitchen cabinet is the perfect entryway piece — it hangs high enough to accommodate seating, but also offers storage and a surface up top to drop keys and mail. The sides of the cabinet are painted the same colour as the walls, which enhances its simple, floating look.

DIRECTIONS

**STEP ONE: ASSEMBLE THE CABINET**

Put cabinet together according to Ikea's instructions, but don't attach the door.

**STEP TWO: PREP AND PAINT**

Give all surfaces a light sanding, then wipe with a damp cloth to remove dust. Apply a coat of primer. When dry, using a roller for a smooth finish, paint the body of the cabinet in two to three coats of a neutral colour, letting each coat dry before

applying the next. Finally, paint the door with two to three coats of your accent colour, again giving each coat time to dry.

**STEP THREE: ATTACH THE HARDWARE**

Centre the drawer pull on the cabinet door and attach using the provided screws.

**STEP FOUR: HANG THE CABINET**

To attach the unit to the wall securely, affix a suspension rail (at Ikea) to the wall studs, then attach cabinet as directed.

SHOPPING LIST



Akurum horizontal cabinet. 14¾" h. x 30¼" w. x 12½" d. \$97. At Ikea.

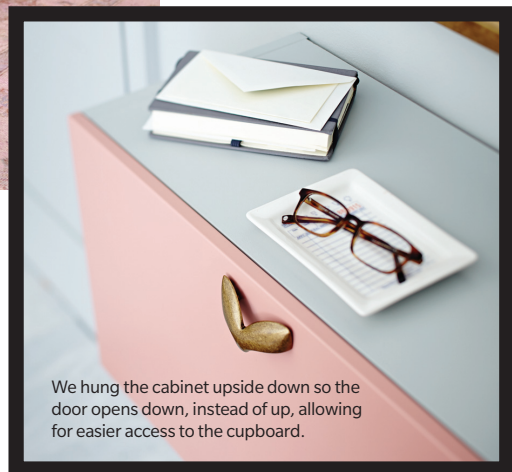


Natura Suite pull. \$7. At Lee Valley.



Rosedust (SW 0025), Sherwin-Williams.

LEFT: **Bench**, Kantelberg + Co.; **rug**, art, Elte; **door hardware**, The Door Store; **vase**, West Elm; **wall colour**, Chelsea Gray (SW 2850), Sherwin-Williams; **all cabinet painting**, Paint It Like New.



We hung the cabinet upside down so the door opens down, instead of up, allowing for easier access to the cupboard.



Inexpensive brass corner brackets give the cabinet a decorated look.

1 CABINET, 3 WAYS

# 2.

## Retro Bar

Inspired by campaign chests, with their metal trim and historical charm, this vintage-look bar is painted a vibrant green and accented with gold, which picks up on other hits of warm metals throughout the room. Set on a raised platform to give it extra height, it's the perfect spot to serve drinks during parties. Plus, the spacious interior has the right proportions for bottle storage.

### SHOPPING LIST



Akurum two-door cabinet. 30 $\frac{3}{4}$ " h. x 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ " w. x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " d. \$84. At Ikea.



4" utility handles. \$3 each. At Lee Valley. 1" x 5" x 8' poplar, \$19, corner brackets, \$4/4. At The Home Depot.

Shamrock (SW 6454), Sherwin-Williams.



A platform makes the cabinet tall enough to work as a bar

### DIRECTIONS

#### STEP ONE: BUILD A STURDY PLATFORM

This is really just a frame made out of one length of 1" x 5" x 8' poplar. To achieve the recessed base, make your box 2" smaller than the cabinet on all sides. The base of our cabinet was 30" x 12", so we made the platform 26" x 8".

#### STEP TWO: PREPARE AND PAINT

Assemble the cabinet according to Ikea's instructions, then paint the surfaces following the directions in Step Two on page 48.

#### STEP THREE: ATTACH THE HARDWARE

Attach the handles to the door, making sure they're

centred vertically. Screw the corner brackets onto the doors and on either side of the cabinet, aligning them as close to the edges of the wood as possible.

#### STEP FOUR: PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

Before attaching the doors, centre the cabinet on the platform, then predrill through the base of the cabinet into the platform and attach with standard wood screws. Once the platform is secured, attach the doors.

ABOVE: **Bench, chair, rug, Elte; lamp, West Elm; dish, tray, Absolutely North; pitcher, glasses, Cynthia Findlay Antiques; flooring, Karndean; wall colour, Potpourri Green (50GY 66/111), CIL.**



1 CABINET, 3 WAYS

# 3.

## Medicine Cabinet

Perk up your powder room with a bold splash of colour. A standard kitchen upper becomes an eye-catching medicine cabinet with the addition of a bevelled mirror. It's centred above the sink and picks up on the blues of the ikat wallpaper.

A pair of ornate sconces frame the cabinet, giving it a weightier effect.



*Check your proportions: A mirror that fills up the cabinet door looks luxe*



## DIRECTIONS

### STEP ONE: TRIM THE CABINET DOWN TO SIZE

The cabinet will be too deep for a powder room application, so you'll need to cut the top, bottom and side pieces and interior shelves down by 6" before assembling. Once you've cut off the excess wood with a circular saw, sand the rough edges smooth.

### STEP TWO: PREPARE AND PAINT

Assemble the cabinet, leaving the door off for now, then paint the surfaces following the directions in Step Two on page 48.

### STEP THREE: ATTACH THE MIRROR, THEN THE DOOR

Centre the mirror on the cabinet door, then affix — we used Liquid Nails Mirror Adhesives. Attach the door to the body of the cabinet.

### STEP FOUR: HANG THE CABINET

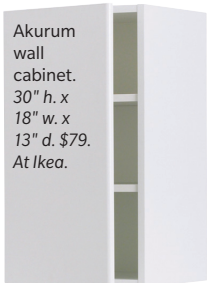
Hang the cabinet following the directions in Step Four on page 48.

BELOW: Hang the cabinet 14" from the top of the vanity so it doesn't crowd the sink. An oval mirror is another clever idea; it gives a traditional, cameo-like effect and doesn't cover up as much of the colour as a rectangular mirror would. **Wallpaper** by Thibaut, Kravet; **vanity, faucet, Taps; towel**, West Elm.

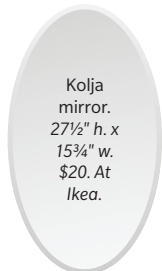


## SHOPPING LIST

Akurum wall cabinet. 30" h. x 18" w. x 13" d. \$79. At Ikea.



Kolja mirror. 27½" h. x 15¾" w. \$20. At Ikea.



Regatta (SW 6517). Sherwin-Williams.

