Installing a bullet catch

A bullet catch is an elegant and unobtrusive way to keep a cabinet door closed. It consists of two parts—a sleeve with a spring-loaded ball, and a cup that the ball fits into. The trick in installing the catch is to align both parts so that the door closes in the correct position. Here's a simple method.

Drill from the outside in

Start by drilling a hole through the case from the outside. Then wedge the door in place to drill the hole for the cup. This ensures a perfectly aligned door once the catch is installed. Give it a try! □

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1 DRILL THE CASE FOR THE BALL CATCH

Start by marking the case for the catch location. Center the catch along the width and thickness of the door stile in its closed position. Apply a piece of blue tape first to avoid marks on the case. To prevent blowout on the inside of the case, clamp a scrap block to the case when drilling. Keep the drill as vertical as possible.

2 DRILL THE DOOR FOR THE CUP

Wedge the door in its closed position. Use a square to determine the proper inset and slip some shims between the case and door to hold it in place for drilling. Use a stop block on the drill to prevent drilling too deep.

3 INSTALL THE CATCH

Use a dab of five-minute epoxy to ensure the parts don't shift. Insert the cup in the door with its slot parallel to the door front. Then insert the catch through the top of the case. The hole will be plugged with a dowel, but leave it long and use it to adjust the depth of the catch. The door should close with a nice click. Trim the dowel flush or round it and leave it slightly proud of the surface.