

# how they did it

## Tradition with a twist

BY JONATHAN BINZEN

### FRAMEWORK FITTED TO CURVY CASE

The **carcase**, made of white oak, is joined with biscuited miters.

TOP VIEW

Top of case

Bottom of case

In John Lee's chest of drawers (see the back cover), every rule of joinery and wood movement is carefully observed—even as traditional notions of design are cast aside. Lee joined the case with miters and fitted a framework of drawer dividers into it with sliding dovetails. The drawers have hand-dovetailed boxes and applied solid white-oak fronts that are individually shaped to fit the contours of the case. To see more of Lee's rule-bending work, go to [johnleefurniture.com](http://johnleefurniture.com).

The **vertical dividers**, dovetailed into the case, are cut on an angle to match the offset curves of the top and bottom of the case.

The snaking **horizontal dividers** are notched into the vertical dividers and dovetailed into the case sides.

### FALSE DRAWERS HELP WITH SHAPING

**Faux MDF drawers** support the drawer fronts for marking and texturing.

**Solid-oak blanks** are set in place against the faux drawers and the case contours are marked around their edges.

Drawer fronts are removed and **rough-shaped** to the perimeter lines with an Arbortech grinding tool.

**After rough shaping**, drawer fronts go back in the case for texturing and sandblasting (see p. 90).

TOP VIEW

Solid-oak drawer front

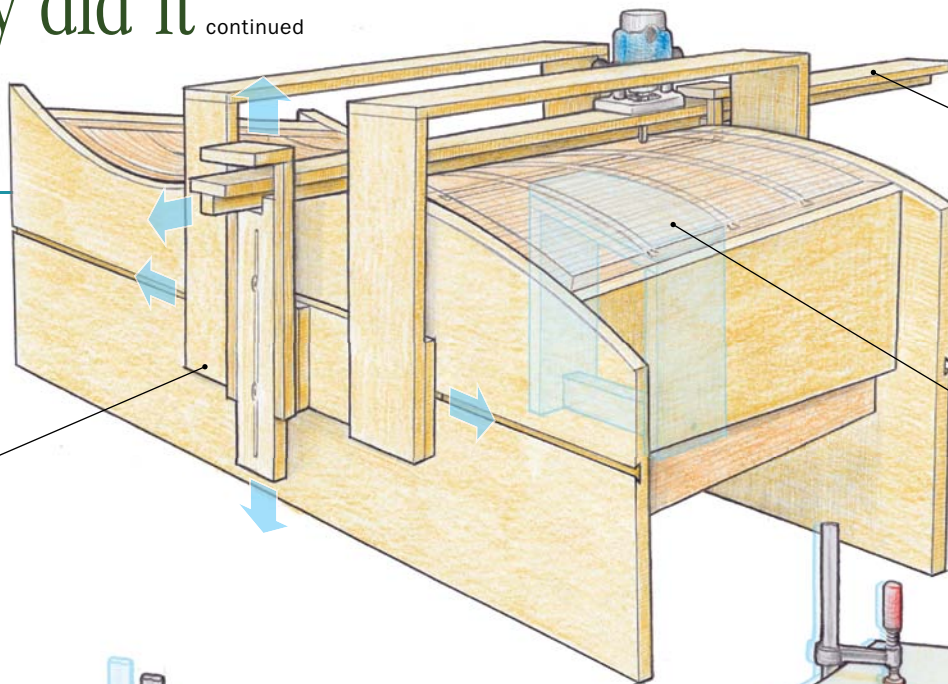
Faux drawer



# how they did it continued

## BIG JIG FOR TEXTURING

**Sliding trammel jig** guides the router. Texturing is done using a core-box bit. The case is supported by wooden boxes on the floor.

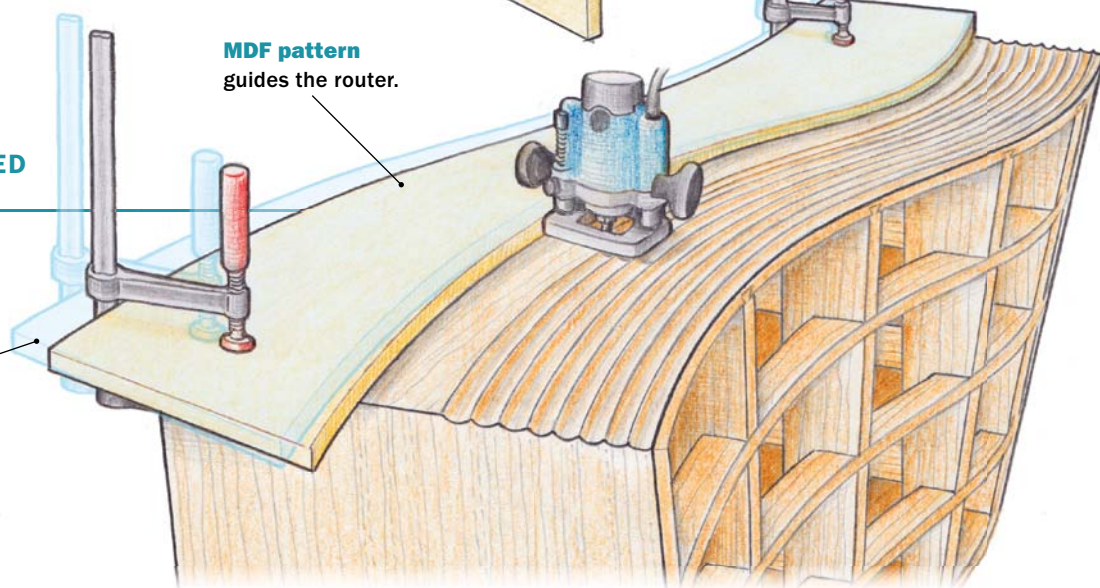


The **horizontal beam** slides back and forth and also travels up and down to follow the curved sides of the jig, which are cut to match the case curves.

For texturing and sandblasting, the **drawer fronts** are shimmed tightly in place and spot-glued to the faux drawers.

## CURVED AND TAPERED COVES ON TOP

Because the carcass is wider at one end, the coves must taper, too. Each **cove is cut in two passes**, using a core-box bit. The pattern is rotated slightly for the second cut.

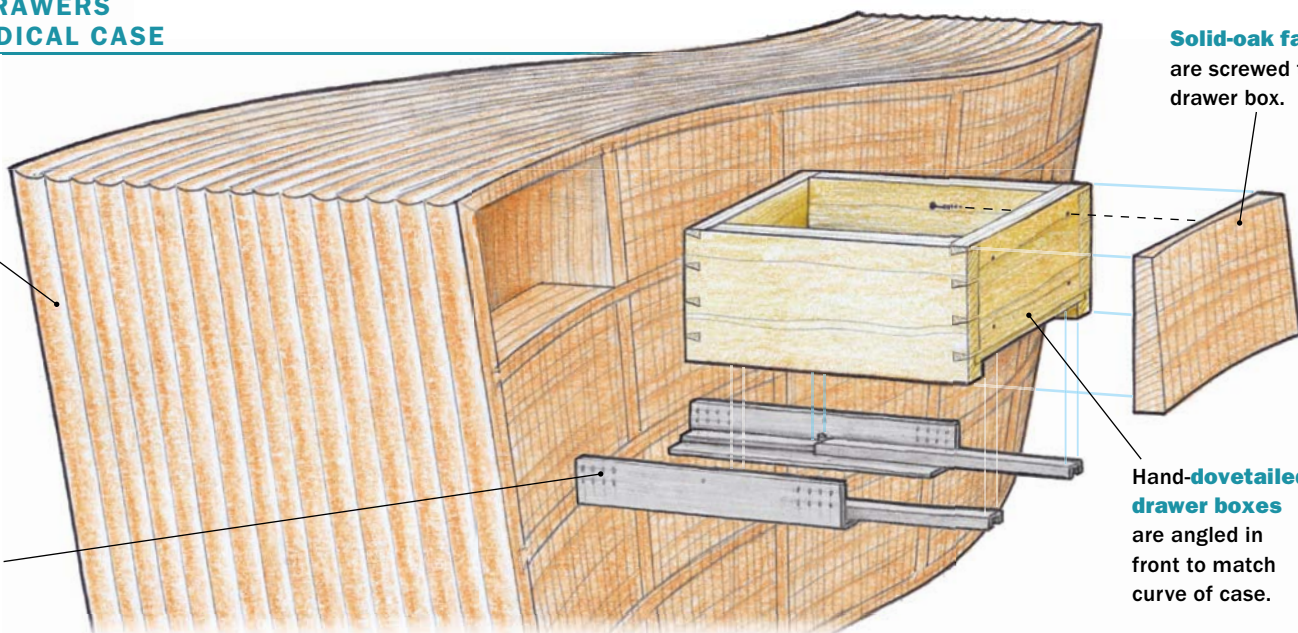


**MDF pattern** guides the router.

## FITTING DRAWERS INTO A RADICAL CASE

The **coves** in the case sides are not tapered.

Commercial undermount **drawer slides with push-latch feature** eliminate the need for pulls.



**Solid-oak faces** are screwed to drawer box.

**Hand-dovetailed drawer boxes** are angled in front to match curve of case.