

Trickery and Tribute

When he started out as a woodworker in the mid-1970s, Silas Kopf didn't know any experts in marquetry, so he taught himself the craft from a book. But he never stopped looking for teachers. A trip to Italy in 1984 opened his eyes to the secrets of intarsia—a combination of marquetry and inlay perfected by Italian craftsmen during the Renaissance. Their work often featured eye-fooling tricks of perspective, and the seemingly half-opened door on Kopf's recent cabinet is a direct tribute to the golden age of intarsia. Several years after his trip to Italy, Kopf began studying the work of Abraham and David Roentgen, 18th-century German makers whose cabinets for kings and tsars were not only embellished with superb marquetry but bursting with inventive mechanisms and secret compartments. Kopf's cabinet is an elaborate homage to the Roentgens as well, but the evidence is well hidden. To unlock the secrets within, turn to *How They Did It*, p. 90.

—Jonathan Binzen



Aha moment.
The left door of Kopf's cabinet is trapezoidal, and angled rabbets top and bottom allow it to lie flush to the case.

Photos: David Ryan (top), Jonathan Binzen (bottom)

How They Did It Turn to p. 90 for a tour of the secret compartments in Kopf's cabinet. 12 by The Taunton Press, Inc. Copying

Audio Slide Show To see more of Kopf's dazzling marquetry and hear him talk about his work, go to FineWoodworking.com/extras.