

how they did it

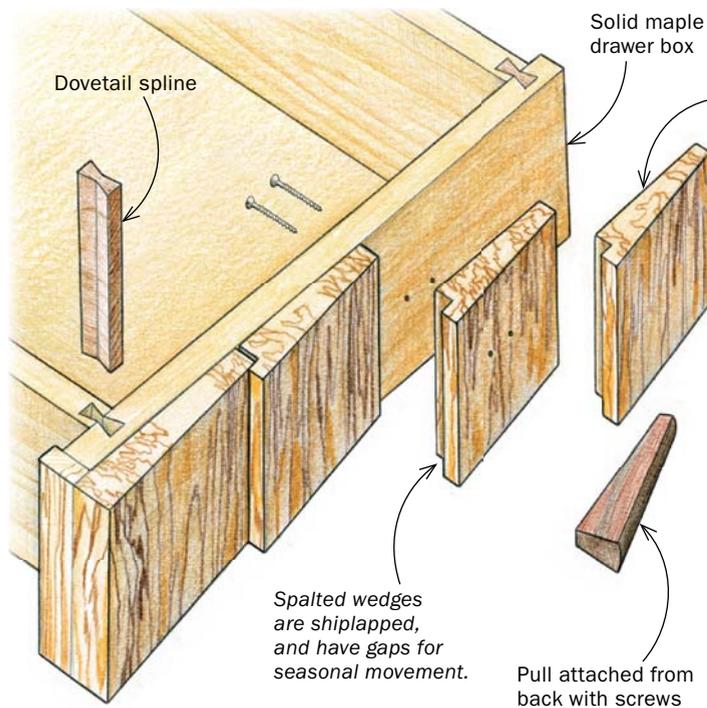
Vertical-grain, stepped drawer fronts

BY JONATHAN BINZEN

When Michael Fortune decided to make drawer fronts from firewood for his sideboard (see the back cover), he knew he wanted the spalting lines to run vertically. Since the markings run parallel with the grain, that meant there would be a lot of seasonal movement side-to-side in the drawer fronts. Fortune also wanted to give the fronts a stepped surface to contrast with the smooth, curved edges of the walnut legs and top of the sideboard. He got his zig-zag surface and also solved the expansion problem by making the drawer fronts from a series of overlapping wedges of spalted maple with room between them for movement. He made the wedges with a pair of bandsaw jigs—one that cuts flat sides onto a rough log, and a second that allows him to cut the wedges safely.



DRAWER FRONT ANATOMY



Wedges are glued to front of drawer box only at center.



Two wedges from each blank. After drying the blanks on a rack under a fan for several weeks, Fortune used an MDF carriage to cut two tapered pieces from each one.

Jlg makes furniture parts from firewood



Put a flat on the firewood. Two screws through a length of perforated angle iron secure the log while Fortune trims one side flat.



Slice the chunk into blanks. After creating a 90° face with a second pass on the angle-iron jig (left), Fortune cuts parallel slices from the log (above).

