

"The Pantry" it will store and rotate your canned goods.

In an effort to organize our food storage I developed this pantry. It will rotate the food as you use it, FIFO. I thought you might find it interesting and if you decided to make something similar you could benefit from my building experience (and mistakes.) What I ended up with is a unit that will store over 300 lbs. of canned food while taking up only 456 sq inches of floor space (<4 sq.feet) at a cost of \$134.72. This does not include the cabinet screws that I already had in inventory.

My material pile, which includes 3 boards that I did not need. You will need 1 3/8" sheeting grade plywood, 1 sheet peg board and 9 1"x10"x8' pine boards.



I measured the distance from floor to ceiling and then cut off 2" to make it easier to set the unit in place. I used the resulting gap to store extra florescent lighting tubes. Cut your 4' end boards the full width of your sheet. This is important as the sideboards and spacers will be supporting the weight of the food and you want them to be sitting on top of the bottom board. Cut the sideboards to fit inside the end boards and screw in place. Measure and cut a board into the two shelves. Fit them to separate the space into 3 equal parts and screw in place, both ends and back.



Rip the remaining 5 boards lengthwise in 2 equal widths. Cut 6 pieces to length, place between shelves along each outside vertical board and screw in place. These are necessary to fasten the outside edges of the pegboard. Next using the cans that you will be storing, determine size of spaces for the dividing boards and screw them in place top, bottom and backs. If you do all small cans you may need to rip 1 more board for additional spacers.



Cut the peg board to length and screw fast to the spacer boards. I cut mine 20" deep. The bottom space is 4" which will allow the larger cans to easily exit onto the shelf while still controlling the smaller cans. I left the upper hole, the one that you use to fill the space 5 1/2." This allows room to get your/my hand and forearm part way down the cavity so that it is not necessary to drop the cans the full length. Finally cut 1 1/2" boards the length of the shelves and screw on the front of each shelf to keep the cans from rolling off the front.



The finished project. Prior to screwing on the pegboard I removed the baseboard from the wall, determined where the studs were in the wall and screwed through the back of the pantry, through the drywall and into the studs to hold the unit in place. I use the pegboard to store bulky lighter items. It would probably hold up to heavier stuff but I figured with all the weight of the cans of food in back why take the chance.

Observations:

- 1.) You can look through pegboard to determine inventory levels.
- 2.) My unit as constructed will hold 19 soup cans per row, 11 1lb. 10.5 oz cans per row or 14 1lb cans.
- 3.) At times some can sizes will jam when they make the turn from the column to the shelf. I place kicker boards at the backs where the column meets the shelf and this helped a bit. The jams are relatively easy to work out either way.
- 4.) I built this unit in our garage and not in it's final destination, the storage room. Banker Billy helped me move the unit. We took the pantry up the garage steps that are shown in the background of the garage pictures. We busted 1 light switch, 2 nuts, and a vertebrae but could not make the corner. So back down the steps, out onto the porch, up the steps in the living room, through the kitchen and just barely made it into the storage room. Banker Billy was pretty red in the face and our dogs were covering up their ears by the time we finally got the thing in place. Billy did suggest, well I can't say everything that he suggested at least not in polite company. He did make a comment that it would have been far easier if I had built the unit in 2 sections and then screwed them together when we had it in place. He was right, I could have made a horizontal cut at the top shelf, put a bottom board on the cut off piece and a top board on the bottom piece and then screwed the 2 together at the installation.