Children's Vanity

Your little princes is growing up too fast. She needs her own retreat where she can corral all of her supplies. And you need a project for this weekend. This simple DIY build will fulfill both those needs. Plenty of storage below and a sophisticated, two-door mirror locker above. What diva wouldn’t go crazy for a vanity like this?
Make sure you read through the instructions carefully and take notice of any special construction notes prior to making any cuts. And always practice safe DIY'ing. Have fun!

PLEASE NOTE - many pieces may require you to cut them to fit a certain size while you are building it. Its best not to cut pieces until you need them. Take your time and study all the diagrams.

CUT LIST

5/16" x 2-1/2" x 8' pine window casing

3/4" x 8' pine screen molding

1" x 3" x 6'

1" x 2" x 6'

1" x 2" x 8'

1" x 2" x 8'

1" x 2" x 8'

2" x 2" x 8'

2" x 2" x 8'

3/4" x 4' x 8' plywood
Most stores that sell plywood offer you the ability to have full sheets of plywood roughly cut down to smaller, more manageable sizes. Here is a simple diagram to take with you that will help you instruct them to cut your sheets of plywood.

When you get home pay special attention to what sections yield what pieces.
### MATERIALS LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Qty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>¾” X 4’ X 8’ plywood</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2” x 2” x 8’ pine board</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1” x 2” x 8’ pine board</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1” x 2” x 6’ pine board</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1” x 3” x 6’ pine board</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¾” x 8’ pine screen molding</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/16&quot; x 2-½&quot; x 8’ pine window casing Home Depot #548744</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- Check your scrap bin, you only need 24" of a 1x3  

### NOTES

- 1-¼” pocket screws  
- 1-¼” brad nails  
- ¾” brad nails  
- Wood glue  
- ¼” shelf pins  
- 2” hinges  
- Clasp to hold doors closed  
- Door handles  
- Cup holder hooks 20 or so
1. You will first build the two bases for the vanity. Begin by cutting the four plywood sides to size according to the above illustration.

You can think of each piece of plywood as having an OUTSIDE and INSIDE.

On the OUTSIDE drill ¾" pocket holes as shown for 1-¼" pocket screws to be used later.

On the INSIDE drill for shelf pins as shown using your KREG shelf pin jig.

Repeat for the other three sides.

(Cut the two back plywood panels at the same time since they are the same size.

Drill the same pocket holes but don't drill the shelf pin holes. Then save them for Step 3.)

2. Now you will construct the sides for each base, consisting of four total side assemblies. Cut your eight 2x2 legs to length according the illustration above. Then, using the ¾" pocket holes you drilled in Step 1 attach the side panels to the legs with wood glue and 1-¼" pocket screws. Pay close attention to the above illustration. The side panels and legs are flush at the top. The INSIDE side is flush to the edge of the legs, which makes the OUTSIDE side inset ¾" from the edge of the legs. Repeat for the three remaining assemblies.

3. Time to start bringing the base assemblies together. Using the two back plywood panels you prepped in Step 1, attach two side assemblies to each back panel as shown in the above illustrations. Attach with wood glue and 1-¼" pocket screws making sure the pocket holes side of the back panel is flush with the edges of the 2x2 legs. Repeat for remaining base.

Don't worry about the pocket holes showing on the OUTSIDE. They will conveniently be covered by the window casing in Step 8.
4. Cut two bottom plywood panels to size to fit snug between the side and back panels. Drill ¾" pocket holes according to the above illustration. Insert the bottom between the side panels and slide until it is snug to the back and flush with the bottom edges of the sides and back. Attach with wood glue and 1-¼" pocket screws. Repeat for the other base assembly.

5. Next, cut the front 1x2 trim to size to fit snug between the front legs. Attach with wood glue and 1-¼" brad nails making sure the top edge of the trim is flush with the top of the bottom panel.

6. Cut the top to size according to the above illustration. You will find it easier to complete this step upside down.

Lay your base assemblies down on top of the vanity top as shown. Each base assembly will be placed about ¾" in from the outside edges and flush to the back edge of the vanity top (which should place them about ¾" from the front edge). Using the ¾" pocket holes you drilled in Step 1 attach the bases to the top with wood glue and 1-¼" pocket screws.

Having a friend help you carefully turn the vanity right-side up.

The vanity is starting to take shape.
7. Now we will trim the edge of the plywood top. Cut the screen molding to fit for all four sides, mitering the corners, as shown. Attach with wood glue and ¾” brad nails making sure the top edge of the molding is flush with the top of the vanity top.

8. Next we will add the decorative window casing that will also cover the exposed pocket holes. First cut a miter into one end of the window casing so that thicker edge of the window casing will be the long end of the miter. Hold the window casing in place with the thicker edge up against the legs and mark for length of the opposite long edge. Cut the miter. It is best to cut it a hair longer and continue to test fit it. We call this ‘sneaking up’ on the final cut. Attach with wood glue and ¾” brad nails. Continue this detail on both the left and right sides of both base assemblies.

Looking great so far!

9. Cut the 1x3 base for the vanity box to length. You will cut miters into each end so that the longer edge of the miter cut is still the 24” length of the base. Attach it with wood glue and 1” brad nails onto the vanity top. It will be attached to the back edge, centered and inset so that it is flush with the plywood edge, not the screen molding edge.
10.
Let's build the vanity box.
Cut the plywood panels for the mirror back and the wings according to the illustration above.
Drill ¾” pocket holes along the bottom of the mirror back as shown.

11.
The mirror back will receive the same mitered window casing treatment as the bases did.
Attach the window casing to the opposite side as the pocket holes with wood glue and ¾” brad nails making sure the outside edges of the casing is flush with the outside edges of the plywood.

12.
Now we will trim out the mirror back and the wings with 1x2 boards.
Take your time as these trim pieces will be the sophisticated finish to your little princess' vanity build.
Since only the tops have mitered corners it is a bit easier. First cut a miter onto one end of a 1x2 for the top horizontal piece. Hold in place and mark for length the shorter edge of the opposite miter cut. Make the miter, sneaking up on the final length.
Now cut a miter on one end of the longer vertical sides, leaving it longer than needed. Hold the miter up to the horizontal piece's miter and mark for the 90° cut on the bottom end of the longer vertical piece. Cut to fit. Attach with wood glue and 1-¼” brad nails making sure the trim pieces are flush to the back of the plywood panels. Careful when driving the brad nails. Make sure to fire along the back half of the 1x2 to drive into the plywood. Repeat the same process for the remaining panels as shown.
13. Attach the wings to the mirror back with 3 hinges so that the wings are flush with the top of the mirror back. Attach a handle to the outside of the wings and a clasp to keep the wings shut. Now attach the vanity box to the table top. Using the ¾” pocket holes you drilled in step 10 attach the vanity box with wood glue and 1-¼” pocket screws as shown making sure it is flush centered to the back of the 1x3 base.

14. Finally you can assemble your two shelves. Cut the plywood shelves so that they are 1/8” - 1/4” narrower than your base openings. Depending on how humid your location is will determine how narrow. Your shelves will shrink and expand. Cut the screen molding trim to length and attach with wood glue and ¾” brad nails. Finish your vanity to your liking and add the cup hooks for necklaces and decorative mirror. Now watch in amazement as your little princess grows in front of your eyes.