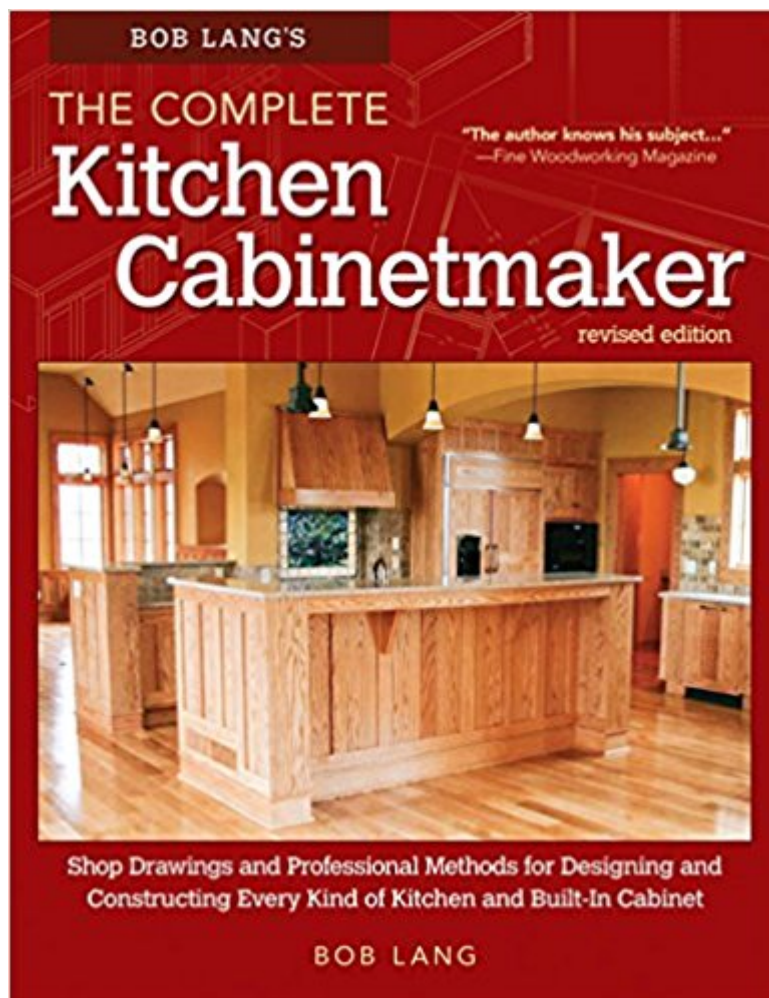


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# Bob Lang's The Complete Kitchen Cabinetmaker, Revised Edition: Shop Drawings And Professional Methods For Designing And Constructing Every Kind Of Kitchen And Built-In Cabinet





## Synopsis

This practical handbook takes the mystery out of designing and making built-in cabinets. It covers both traditional face-frame cabinets and frameless Euro-style cabinets, with meticulously detailed shop drawings, clear instructions, and hundreds of professional tips. This second edition includes a colorful new 16-page idea gallery with photographs of finished cabinets.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you more or less know how to make a wooden box but don't have any specific training that would lead you to have an immediate answer to questions like "which measurement should I take first?" or "should I put the edge banding on before or after assembly?" then this book is exceptionally helpful. You might have to dig through a lot of it to find the bit of information you're after, but it's probably in there somewhere regardless of whether you're building face frame or European cabinets. While the vast majority of this information is timeless, there are a number of products available to the casual hobbyist these days that can greatly simplify processes that would have required tens of thousands of dollars worth of piano-sized equipment to accomplish at the time of this book's original writing. From track saws to Kreg jigs and Festool's pricey-but-still-cheaper-than-an-hour-of-a-contractor's-time LR-32 indexing system, you just don't have to be a full-time pro to zip through a lot of precision cutting and drilling tasks as quickly as one anymore. In that sense, the material is fairly dated, and while that's not really a crime of any sort, it

does have the unfortunate side-effect of leading some people to believe there's simply no way they could ever be good enough to build the cabinets of their dreams. Obviously, some of those people will be right, but others may find themselves unnecessarily discouraged if they aren't already knowledgeable enough about such things to have a Mafell dealer on speed dial. I'd still recommend the book, just don't make the mistake of thinking that \*everything\* the author describes is necessarily the best possible way to do something.

Possibly the best book on standard cabinet making. Careful, thorough description of the standard processes, discussion of alternatives, and excellent, clear illustrations all make this book well worth the cost. This is the revised, second edition.

I have both this book, and the "Kitchen Cabinets Made Simple" book. Studied them both. My take is, if you are patient, and really want to learn about building and installing cabinets, this is the book for you. If you are not patient, and think, "just tell me how to build a damn cabinet" maybe the "made simple" book might be more your speed. This book is about twice the content by page count alone, and the "information density" how much is conveyed with fewer pages/words increases this even more. The "made simple" book is a quicker, easier read, and you can be out building some (likely suitable) cabinets quickly. However, this book teaches you the ins/outs of all the choices you might make (perhaps frustrating the impatient reader) which I liked. I also note some differences in approach. Mr Lang makes some design choices that may make for a better result down the road. His method for constructing the back of the cabinet and "nailer" can more readily accommodate imperfections in the wall during installation time (installation isn't really covered in the "simple" book). Also, the "simple" book technique leverages the factory edges of the plywood, assuming that these are straight and square. Lang explains that you can't rely on factory edges being square, and shows you how to: a) determine if they are out of square, and if so, b) how to mitigate this. Lang goes into great detail about making a storyboard, making lists, using spreadsheets, cut-lists, installation, really giving you insight into the thinking of a pro cabinet maker. I've read the entire book, and now reading again, and now the first chapters make more sense, having the perspective of all the info in the later chapters in my head now. You might at first get frustrated that Lang is a bit like a newscaster, reporting all the options, and giving you the ins/outs of each option, but never really saying "I like this one best" (but the pro/con lists he does give you a good clue), but as you get through it, you will discover the way he "often does it" or "likes to do it" for certain things. If you understand, follow, and execute the advice in this book, you should be able to build a fine set of

cabinets, and understand and explain your choices to others and yourself. I did get good info from the "simple" book, but as a more patient guy who wants more info on "why" I'm doing something, and don't mind reading twice as much info to get there...I like Lang's book better. If I wanted a more simple, step A, B, C approach to building cabinets, I might prefer the Paolini book ( I just ain't that guy).

This is the first book I've found that presents in-depth coverage of non-face-frame cabinets and comparisons between them and face-frame cabinets. I'm getting ready to have a house built, but I plan to do the cabinets myself. While I have a little experience constructing some drawers and carcasses, this book is what I was looking for to guide me through the whole process. There is a good chapter on the whole planning process and chapters devoted to each of the functional components (doors, drawers, carcass, etc.) of a cabinet as well as some specialty cabinets (sink cabinet, corner cabinet, inland cabinet, etc.). It covers constructing plastic laminated counter tops, but not other types of countertops.

I really like this book. I have two other books on kitchen cabinets, and while both of those books provide good information (I have no regrets buying them), I like this one the best. The author does a very, very good job of explaining the building process and devotes a lot of time to the organization process. He tells you why it should be done, why it's important, and what can happen if you don't do it. The other books by Udo Schmidt and Randy Johnson don't really delve too much into this. What the other books lack is real information on European or frameless style cabinets. This book has far more information on that subject, which is of particular interest to me. Yes, this book is a bit dated in some aspects (like using biscuit joinery instead of pocket screws or Dominos) but the illustrations are well done. I wish the photographs were color, but this is a small thing and doesn't really impact the book. I really suggest this book for anyone wanting to build cabinets but honestly would say that it would be good to get the ones from the authors mentioned above as well (Building Kitchen Cabinets -Schmidt and How To Make Kitchen Cabinets -Johnson). One can never have too much information and each book is a valuable resource.

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