

DIY Trim & Cut Measurement Guide

Transform basic plywood shelves into a flawless custom built-in.

Grab your exact cut adjustments to seamlessly upgrade basic shelves into a floor-to-ceiling masterpiece. Standardizing your measurements guarantees a tight, high-end finish before you make a single cut.

● Crucial Cut Adjustments

3.5 in

2x4 elevated base height

- 1/4 in

Total shelf width for wall clearance

- 1/16 in

Horizontal face trim from inner width

+ 1.5 in

Baseboard length for mitered returns

- 3 in

Base rail length from unit width

8.5 in

Base cross brace length

Flawless Floor Transitions

Scribe the bottom edge of your continuous baseboard to the floor using a compass tool. This custom cut eliminates gaps from uneven flooring without thick, messy caulk lines.



● Professional Finishing Steps

- 1 Attach face frames** Nail 1x2 MDF face frame strips across front horizontal edges to mimic solid wood.
- 2 Prep the edges** Sand cut edges with 220-grit paper and seal with a dedicated synthetic or oil-based primer.
- 3 Hide the seams** Run paintable caulk seams along wall joints and wipe smooth with a damp finger.
- 4 Apply the enamel** Roll two coats of satin cabinet enamel with a flocked foam roller; cure for five days.

● Plan Your Shelf Spacing

Find your row: **Items to display**

Items to display	Your pick	Why
Standard novels	12 inches	Maintains balanced proportions for books
Oversized art	Up to 16 inches	Provides distinct purpose for levels
Small sculptures	Asymmetrical dividers	Breaks long spans into cubbies
Trailing plants	Dedicated cubbies	Adds architectural interest to grids

● Check Before You Build

- Measure exact distance between vertical plywood supports for true inner width.
- Check floor level across width and depth to plan cedar shims.
- Verify full floor-to-ceiling height to calculate vertical face frame length.
- Plan 45-degree miters on outside corners to wrap molding seamlessly.
- Lightly scuff primed edges with 320-grit paper before topcoat application.

● Project Measurements & Notes

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