

THE CABINET AUTHORITY, LLC

PO BOX 272 – NEWTOWN, CT 06470 – 203-304-2010

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WWW.CABINETAUTHORITY.COM

Congratulations on your purchase of Conestoga Cabinet Systems from **The Cabinet Authority!**

ABOUT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

The assembly instructions available on the website were produced by Conestoga several years ago. They should provide you enough information for these easy-to-assemble cabinets, though you may notice that they do not include all of the new offerings over recent years. This document is designed to fill in some of the gaps.

ARE THESE CABINETS TRULY “READY-TO-ASSEMBLE”?

We use the term “ready-for-assembly” rather than “ready-to-assemble”. The difference is really quite minor, however. All of the cabinet parts are carefully routed to fit together snugly. Clamping is not required (though some assemblers choose to do so).

Most “ready-to-assemble” cabinets do not give the installer any option to manipulate the alignment of doors and drawer fronts to meet the particular needs of the room. Our cabinets leave that alignment to the installer. As a result, there will be a requirement for the installer to do some measuring and to drill small pilot holes for hardware. In certain cases, the installer may also be required to provide small screws or brads or “blocking” made of scrap wood.

TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME USERS:

- 1) If possible, pick a standard base cabinet or a standard wall cabinet for your first assembly.
- 2) Print out and read the handful of “General Instructions” files and the instructions for “Base (or Vanity) Cabinet” and/or “Wall Cabinet” to start with. (You may not need much more than this once you see how the cabinets are assembled.)
- 3) On your first cabinet, assemble it initially WITHOUT GLUE or nails and with only the small, corner splines. This will help you to identify the couple of nuances to the assembly before anything gets set in place. (When you are comfortable with the process, carefully pry the frame from the sides and disassemble the other pieces.)

JIGS

Depending on the size of your order, your sales associate may or may not have included an Assembly Jig. The jig serves as “an extra pair of hands” and is very useful for large orders, but not absolutely necessary.

If you ordered upgraded drawer slides (Blum Tandem or Blum Solo), your sales associate may have included a jig (or template) for aligning the mounting brackets to the back of the cabinet.

This jig is a series of narrow plywood strips with odd shaped holes. To find the correct location, find the template hole that aligns with the bottom corner of the drawer opening, then hold that template along the back corner of the cabinet to mark the location of the bracket.

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SUGGESTED METHOD FOR ASSEMBLING WITHOUT AN ASSEMBLY JIG:

- 1) Lay out a clean, soft blanket or pad on the floor.
- 2) Lay the face frame face-down on the pad.
- 3) Insert the splines (2-fin side) into the frame as instructed.
- 4) Loosely position one cabinet side on the splines, supporting it with one hand until the next step is done. (Note: do not push the side all the way to the frame – that will be done at the end.) Make sure that the grooves are facing the cabinet interior.
- 5) Slide the cabinet bottom into the dovetail slot on the side. Make sure the finished side is facing the cabinet interior
- 6) Slide the second cabinet side onto the dovetail rout on the other side of the bottom. Again, do not push this all the way to the frame.
- 7) Slide the top (for wall cabinets) or top slats (for base cabinets) into the dovetail slots. Push the top about an inch “too far” into the slot (beyond the groove where the back will slide in).
- 8) Slide the back of the cabinet into the square slot until it abuts the rout in the back side of the cabinet bottom. Slide the cabinet top into position so that it covers the top edge of the back.
- 9) Push the assembly down so that the splines are completely embedded and the frame is flush with the top and bottom of the sides.

TIPS FOR INSET CABINETS:

- 1) Attaching hinges: It is typically easiest to align the hinges for inset doors prior to assembling the cabinets. When using concealed hinges, lie the frame and door face down on a clean, flat, padded surface and align the door correctly within the frame. Place the hinges in the pre-bored cup holes in the back of the door, then align, mark, and pre-drill the holes for the screws. Attach the mounting plates to the back of the frame. Once aligned, carefully re-wrap the doors in their packaging and set them aside until the cabinets are installed.
- 2) Attaching Blum Tandem drawer slides:
 - a. Before assembly of drawer cabinets, find some scrap $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick wood or plywood and cut pieces measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 3" (approx). You will need two such pieces for each drawer.
 - b. Glue or screw these blocks to the back of the face frame directly behind the stile (the stile is the vertical framing piece) alongside the drawer opening. The blocks should be positioned at the bottom corners of the openings and should be flush with the inner edge of the stile. **DO NOT** attach blocks to any other place where they may interfere with the cabinet assembly.

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c. After the cabinet is assembled, use the Blum Tandem Jig set for aligning and mounting the brackets at to the back of the cabinet.

d. Attach the slides to the rear brackets and to the blocks you added per the instructions. If installed properly, the slides will be flush with the bottom corner of the drawer opening, and 3/16" behind the back edge of the frame.

ATTACHING DRAWER FRONTS:

The optimal method for mounting a drawer front on a drawer box will depend on a number of factors, including the size of the drawer (as determined by the overlay measurement), the style of the drawer front and the type of knob or pull being used.

There are a few principles to keep in mind:

- Avoid using glue to attach the drawer front if at all possible. Silicone adhesive is okay, but screws are preferred.

- Align and attach the knob or pull only after the drawer front is properly aligned with adjacent cabinets.

- When using screws, the ideal is to screw from the inside of the drawer box into the frame of the drawer front. If that is not possible, screw into the thickest part of the panel.

- If there is a gap behind the panel, particularly in the case of drawer fronts with ¼" plywood panels, it is not a bad idea to glue a scrap piece of plywood to the back center of the panel to make it flush with the back of the frame. This will give you something to screw into.

FALSE FRONTS (ie, FOR SINK BASES):

There is no hardware included for attaching false drawer fronts (aka "blanks"). You may be able to purchase inexpensive mounting brackets from a local hardware store, or you can attach scrap wood to the back of the false front and use that to attach to the face frame.

ALIGNING OVERLAY DOORS AND DRAWER FRONTS:

The drawings below show Conestoga's suggested alignment for ½" overlay and 1-1/4" overlay doors and drawer fronts. Note that the ½" overlay doors and drawers are centered vertically and horizontally over the openings, but the 1-1/4" overlay items are shifted down to align with the bottom of the cabinet. This gives more clearance room under the counter on base cabinets and for dealing with uneven ceilings and/or moulding on upper cabinets.

Whereas the horizontal alignment is dictated by the hinges, the vertical alignment is up to you. When installing doors and drawer fronts on a cabinet, it is generally good practice to work from the bottom up. Make sure the door or bottom drawer front is aligned, then use a ½" spacer to align the drawer front above it.

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Since hinge holes are aligned an even distance from the top and bottom of all doors (unless you requested special placement), it can be useful to create your own template to help you determine the drilling location for the hinges on the face frame.

OTHER HINTS?

If you have ideas or suggestions that would be helpful to others learning to assemble these cabinets, please send them to your Sales Associate.

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