

This is an alternative step for those with access to a wider selection of tools. Instead of using a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood board as the center divider, this step involves creating a frame and an insert.

Cut List:

- (2) 1x2 board 24"
- 1x2 board 20.5"
- 2x6 board 20.5"
- $\frac{1}{4}$ " Sheet 21.5" by 18.5"

Start by pre-finishing the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " sheet with paint, chalk paint, or dry erase paint. It is easier to do it now than trying to paint it while it is in the frame.

Cut Dados in side pieces (2 alternatives)

- Set up the table saw with a dadoe blade at  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " depth. Alternatively, use a regular blade with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " kerf at  $\frac{1}{2}$ " depth. Set up a sacrificial fence to protect yourself and tools. Use a feather board and pusher stick to cut straight down the edge of the 20.5" 2x6 and faces of the 20.5" 1x2 and both 24" 1x2s.
- Using a router table with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " straight bit, route a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep dado straight down the edge of the 20.5" 2x6 and faces of the 20.5" 1x2 and both 24" 1x2s.

Build U Shape with 1x2s (2 alternatives)

- Drill pocket-holes on both ends of the 20.5" 1x2. Orient the pocket-holes on the face without the dado. Attach the 20.5" 1x2 to both 24" 1x2s using 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " pocket-hole screws.
- Pre-drill and use 1" screws and glue or nails and glue to make a butt-joint connection between the pieces.

Finish center divider

Slide the prefinished  $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood in the dados. It should fit snugly within the rails if all measurements are precise. Dry fit the 20.5" 2x6 to ensure smooth fits all around. Adjust if necessary.

Apply glue to the end of the 20.5" 2x6 and clamp into place on the assembly. Pre-drill and use 1" screws or use nails to attach.

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