This compact bookcase offers a perfect solution whether you’re looking for a place to keep your favorite books or you’re seeking a place to display objects you love. Its compact size means you can fit it into almost any room, and the simple style means it will match a variety of decorating styles. Adjustable shelves allow you to fit the items you want to store or display easily.

Because you build this bookcase yourself, you can customize it to suit your decor even more. You can stain it or paint it to coordinate with other furniture in the room, and you can even customize the look by changing up the molding that surrounds the top.

Plus, the bookcase is easy to build using the items in your DIY Project Kit, a few basic tools and skills, and some plywood, molding, and boards. We’ll take you through the process step by step so that you can create your own compact bookcase in no time.
Introduction:
Please read this page before you begin working on this plan.

Safety:
Attention: Almost any do-it-yourself project involves risk of some sort. Your tools, materials, and skills will vary, as will the conditions at your project site. Kreg Tool Company (“Kreg”) has made every effort to be complete and accurate in the instructions and other content contained in this document. However, Kreg will not assume any responsibility or liability for damages or losses sustained or incurred in the course of your project or in the use of the item you create. Always follow the manufacturer’s operating instructions in the use of tools, check and follow your local building codes, and observe all commonly accepted safety precautions. We strive to be accurate, but reserve the right to correct any errors.

Tips for working with your project plan:
• Before you begin building your project, read through the plan completely to ensure that you'll know what to expect as you proceed, and so that you understand all of the steps in the process.
• As you build the Bookcase, keep the following in mind:
  • The Bookcase is built from a combination of plywood and boards. You can cut the plywood pieces using your Rip-Cut™, but not the boards. The Rip-Cut™ isn’t designed for cutting boards.
  • The Bookcase top is surrounded by molding to cover the plywood edges and to give the top a more substantial look. We used “base cap” molding, which is available in home centers. There are many styles of molding you can choose from if you desire a different appearance
• Before you begin building, you may want to practice using your tools with some scrap material to become familiar with their usage.

Mark each part with its name and letter to be sure you keep them all straight. It can also be helpful to indicate the top and bottom of each part to ensure that you orient them correctly.

Before you cut, make sure that you’ve calibrated your Rip-Cut™ according to the instructions. This will ensure accurate cuts.
As you can see, the bookcase consists of just a few parts. The main structure, the shelves, and the top and bottom are all made from plywood. Simple “screen molding” covers the exposed plywood edges, and the top is wrapped with a decorative molding that adds style without complicating construction.

When you shop for plywood, shy away from sheets labeled as “sheathing.” They’re inexpensive, but aren’t reliably flat, and they don’t have an attractive appearance. At the least, look for “sanded plywood” sheets. They’re flatter and smoother. For the best results, pay a little extra for “hardwood plywood.” Home centers usually offer this type in birch, which is smooth, flat, and attractive.

**Accent Molding**
Decorative “base cap” molding dresses up the bookcase top for an elegant look.

**Plywood Case**
Using plywood creates a strong, easy-to-build case and sturdy shelves.

**Easy Edging**
Simple “screen molding” covers the plywood edges for a finished look.

**Adjustable Shelves**
Shelves can be positioned at multiple heights.

**Simple Support**
Rails and stretchers made from 1x2 boards stiffen the bookcase and give a finished look.
Materials List
These are the materials you’ll need to build one (1) Bookcase

(1) 48" x 48" x 3/4"-thick sheet of plywood
(2) 24" x 48" x 3/4"-thick sheets of plywood
(1) 72"-long 1x2 board
(1) 96"-long piece of 5/8" x 1-1/4" base cap-style molding
(4) 96"-long pieces of 1/4" x 3/4" screen molding
(50) Kreg 1-1/4" coarse-thread pocket hole screws (includes a few extra)
(32) #18 x 3/4" brads (to install case edging)
(10) #18 x 1 1/4" brads (to install top molding)

Tools Required:
Circular saw, drill, tape measure, hammer, wood glue, miter saw (or a handsaw and miter box), pencil, medium- and fine-grit sandpaper, painting/finishing supplies

The bookcase is designed so that the parts can be cut from one half sheet (48"x48") and two quarter sheets (24"x48") of plywood. That means you can buy a full sheet and cut it yourself, have the sheet cut to these sizes at the home center, or just purchase partial sheets (often called “handy panels”) in the appropriate sizes.
When you're cutting sheet goods with a circular saw, make sure that the whole piece of plywood is supported. A sheet of 2”-thick rigid foam insulation laid on the ground or on a sturdy work table works great for this. The foam supports both the piece you are cutting off and the remaining part of the sheet so they can’t slip or fall, and you have both hands free to control your saw. As you cut, let the saw blade cut into (but not through) the foam.
Drilling the Shelf Pins:
1. Set the fence on the Shelf Pin Jig for a 2" setback.
2. Position the jig along the front edge of the left side and 7 1/8" from the bottom end.
3. Drill 6 shelf-pin holes.
4. Move the jig up, insert the locating pin in the lowest hole, and then drill the remaining 5 shelf-pin holes.
5. Repeat step 4 twice more to drill the remaining holes.
6. Move the jig to the back edge, and then repeat steps 2-5
7. Repeat this process for the right side.
When cutting the rails (D) and stretchers (E) to length from the 1x4, you can’t use the Rip-Cut™. It’s not designed for this type of cut. You can still use your circular saw for this cut, though, by simply sliding the Rip-Cut™ saw connector off of the aluminum guide rail. Or, you can make this cut using a miter saw, a hand saw or a jig saw.

When you’re drilling pocket holes on the edges of the 1x2 rails and stretchers, the pocket holes will overlap one edge and will be visible on that edge. Don’t worry, though. This won’t decrease the strength of the rail and, after assembling the bookcase, these edges won’t be visible.
Here’s an easy way to cut the top molding (G): First cut extra-long pieces. Then start on one end of the top and work your way around, cutting each piece to length as you go.
When you install molding that wraps around a piece, test fit all of the pieces before you attach any of them permanently. You can use masking tape to hold the pieces in place as you do this.
The shelves (J) are cut slightly shorter than the inside width of the bookcase. That way, they’re easy to slip in and out as you position them on the shelf pins. The small gaps at each end won’t be noticeable.

When you install the moldings, use glue in addition to brad nails. If you are using regular brads and a hammer, drill pilot holes to prevent splitting. Instead of a drill bit, just chuck a brad into your drill to create the holes. If you have access to an air nailer, use that to attach the moldings. You won’t have to predrill holes.