

DIY Floating Walnut Desk

Step-by-Step Printable Plans

Overall Dimensions

- 1 Desktop: **60" W x 16" D** (thickness is builder's choice)
- 1 Floating Desk Box : **44" W x 16" D x 6" H**
- 1 Right-Hand Cabinet: **16" W x 16" D x 24" H**

Materials

- 3/4" walnut plywood (carcasses + cleats)
- 3/4" solid walnut (face frames)
- Pocket hole screws: 1-1/4" for 3/4" material
- Wood glue, clamps
- 3" structural screws into studs (wall cleat)
- Pack soft-close concealed hinges (inset door)

Tools

- Track saw or table saw
- Pocket hole jig
- Drill/driver
- Level
- Stud finder
- Sander

Build Order

1. Build floating desk box carcass
2. Build cabinet carcass
3. Build and install both face frames
4. Install French cleats and hang both components
5. Build and hang inset slab door
6. Install desktop
7. Finish

Cut Lists

All plywood parts are 3/4". Verify thickness before drilling pocket holes.

Floating Desk Box

Sides	2	3/4" walnut ply	6 x 16
Top	1	3/4" walnut ply	42-½ x 16
Bottom	1	3/4" walnut ply	42-½ x 16
Face frame stiles	2	3/4" solid walnut	6 x 1-1/2
Face frame rails	2	3/4" solid walnut	41 x 1-1/2

Right-Hand Cabinet

Sides	2	3/4" walnut ply	24 x 16
Top	1	3/4" walnut ply	16 x 14-½
Bottom	1	3/4" walnut ply	16 x 14-½
Shelf (optional)	1	3/4" walnut ply	15 x 14-½
Face frame stiles	2	3/4" solid walnut	24 x 1-1/2
Face frame rails	2	3/4" solid walnut	13 x 1-1/2
Inset slab door (blank)	1	3/4" solid walnut	Cut to fit after frame install

Desktop

Cut desktop to **60" W x 16" D** out of ¾" walnut plywood. I added a 1-½" walnut face to my countertop.

Pocket Hole Placement

Use 1-1/4" pocket hole screws for 3/4" material. Keep holes off visible faces.

Tip

Dry-fit and clamp before screws.

Step-by-Step Build

1) Build the Floating Desk Box (Centered)

- Cut all floating box plywood parts square and label them.
- Drill pocket holes on the **inside** edges of the Top and Bottom panels (along both 16" edges).
- Dry-fit: clamp sides between top and bottom. Confirm the box is square (check diagonals).
- Glue and drive 1-1/4" pocket screws to assemble.
- Lightly sand inside edges now (easier before mounting).

2) Build the Right-Hand Cabinet

- Cut cabinet plywood parts square and label them.
- Drill pocket holes on the **inside** edges of the cabinet Top and Bottom panels.
- Dry-fit and clamp. Check to make sure everything is square.
- Glue and drive 1-1/4" pocket screws to assemble.
- If adding shelf pins, drill the shelf pin holes now (before the face frame).

3) Build Both Face Frames

- Mill face frame stock to **3/4" thick** and **1-1/2" wide**.
- Cut rails/stiles per cut list. Dry-fit each frame on its carcass.
- Drill two pocket holes on the back side of each rail end.
- Glue, clamp flat, then screw rails into stiles to assemble each frame.
- Glue face frames to carcass fronts. Clamp. Optionally: add a few brads to hold while glue cures.

Hanging + Door + Desktop

4) Install French Cleats and Hang Both Components

- Rip a 3/4" plywood strip at 45 degrees to create a wall cleat and matching box cleats.
- Find studs. Level the wall cleat line. Pre-drill and fasten the wall cleat into studs with 3" structural screws.
- Fasten matching cleats inside the floating box and inside the cabinet (mirror orientation so they hook securely).
- Hang the floating box first and level it.
- Hang the right cabinet and align the face frame edges so the tops read as one continuous line.

- Add screws from inside each box into adjoining box. .

5) Fit and Install the Inset Slab Door

- Measure the finished face frame opening after the cabinet is hung and square.
- Decide reveal (common: 1/16" all around). Cut slab door to size.
- Drill and install concealed hinges. Mount door to face frame.
- Adjust hinges for even reveal. Install pull/knob and optional catch.

6) Install the Desktop

- Set the top in place and confirm alignment. Install 1-½" walnut face around countertop edge.
- From inside the box and cabinet, fasten cabinet to countertop.

Finish + Final Checklist

Finishing

- Sand: 120 -> 180 -> 220 (or your preferred sequence). Apply oil or finish of your choice.