

# The Inside Job

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Painting the insides of a cabinet after it's assembled is a nasty job. If you're going to paint the work, it should at the very least go as well and as easy as it can. That's not to say a "shortcut" is in order. Not at all. But for it to come out well you have to plan ahead.

Getting paint in all the inside corners and behind the face frame and to have a good job of it is nearly impossible after the glue-up. So before going further, stop at the point where you might proceed with the assembly and insert another step. After the dry fit step where you're making sure of the assembly method and checking that everything is in order, take a pencil and run it along each joint where dados and rabbets come together. Then break it down and do this:



**There should be no paint in the joints because it could jeopardize the glue glue's adhesion. Notice how all the parts that shouldn't be painted are masked off with tape. Work carefully here and get the lines right or there will be more touch up to do.**

**Whatever method you use to apply the paint, the result will be bare wood where the glue joints will be. That's the best approach to painted cabinet work. Get good, smooth paint everywhere except in the joints.**



It won't be perfect. Just relax and do the best, most accurate masking and then after the cabinet is assembled there will be very little, hardly noticeable touch up to do where the paint didn't quite cover right up to the line.

Just believe this: Doing it this way is easier and gives better results than trying to paint inside an even partly assembled cabinet.

Don't forget to follow this procedure with the face frame before it's attached to the carcass.

If you only paint inside surfaces the clamps won't mar the outside. Don't forget to paint the back inside and out to prevent warping.