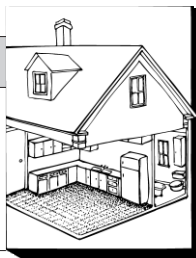


# A Lazy Susan In Every Corner

by Don Jackson



I never built a kitchen where convenient access to storage and space-efficiency were not important to the client. Over the years, kitchen hardware makers have answered these needs with catalogues full of pull-out, fold-down, pop-up, and swivel devices designed to make kitchen storage more accessible and to make use of every inch of space. Years ago, though, when I was starting out as a custom cabinetmaker, space-efficiency basically meant a good design and a lazy susan in every corner — at least insofar as the budget would allow.

There were originally two types of lazy susans — the full-round version, usually found in upper corner cabinets, and the pie-cut version, for L-shaped base cabinets. I never really liked pie-cut lazy susans — the L-shaped cabinets and doors were more trouble to build, the on-site installation was always a pain, and even when fine-tuned, the action seemed stiff and cumbersome. Plus, the doors on pie-cut units — whether the bi-fold type or the attached ones that turn around inside the cabinet — always looked different from the rest of the doors in the kitchen. So when manufacturers developed a third variation on the lazy susan — the half-round version — I began to steer customers away from pie-cut units. Once I explained how the half-round lazy susans worked, I never met any resistance. I've also never had any complaints or callbacks on installed units. On the contrary, most people are

delighted with the smooth action of the half-round units.

## Half-Round Lazy Susans

For the cabinetmaker, the advantages of using half-round units are clear: You build an ordinary, rectangular blind corner cabinet with an ordinary, well-proportioned door (Figure 1). Installation of the half-round units is simple: The support bracket attaches against the back of the cabinet blind side and the shelves slide down over the post and lock into place with set screws.

There's no wrestling with L-shaped or bi-fold doors. In my estimates, the overall cost of a blind corner with a half-round unit, including cabinet fabrication time, is less than the cost of a pie-cut lazy susan in an L-shaped cabinet.

Half-round lazy susans come in several sizes — from about a 14-inch to a 20-inch radius — to allow you to adjust the size of the blind cabinet as needed. The units are available with either coated wire or solid plastic shelves. If the customer wants extra convenience, there is a separate sliding bracket — about a \$20 upgrade per shelf — that brings the half-round shelves 12 inches or so out of the cabinet for easier access to items in the back.

Figure 2 shows a basic blind corner cabinet. I usually build European-style, or frameless, cabinets, using 3/4-inch birch or maple plywood for the carcasses, and cov-

ering exposed edges with hardwood to match the doors and drawer fronts. The half-round units install just as easily in face-framed cabinets.

The semicircular shelves pivot independently. Typically, the bottom shelf attaches to the cabinet door and pivots out as the door is opened. Since European hinges project out from the inside face of the door, they get in the way of the bottom shelf, so I use butt or piano hinges at these locations. At least one manufacturer, Rev-A-Shelf, has recognized the problem and makes a 1 1/4-inch offset bracket for use with Euro hinges.

## Upper Corners

For upper corners, the basic full-round, two-shelf lazy susan makes the best use of cabinet space. Figure 3 shows a simple upper corner cabinet that works with standard 12-inch-deep frameless cabinets. I typically use a 45-degree angled bracket for mounting the Euro hinges; another option is to use 45-degree hinges made specifically for angled-front cabinets.

The corner cabinet shown will fit an 18-inch-diameter lazy susan. The extra space at the sides of the cabinet can also be used without interfering with the lazy susan. In some cases I've built in vertical tray storage here or put small shelves halfway up.

Although it was never my choice for base cabinet corners, full-round lazy susans work in angled base cabinets. They are also no less useful in ordinary rectangular base or upper cabinets. Make sure when ordering that you check the height of the post — an extension is usually needed for upper cabinets. ■

Don Jackson, a former cabinetmaker, is the managing editor at The Journal of Light Construction.

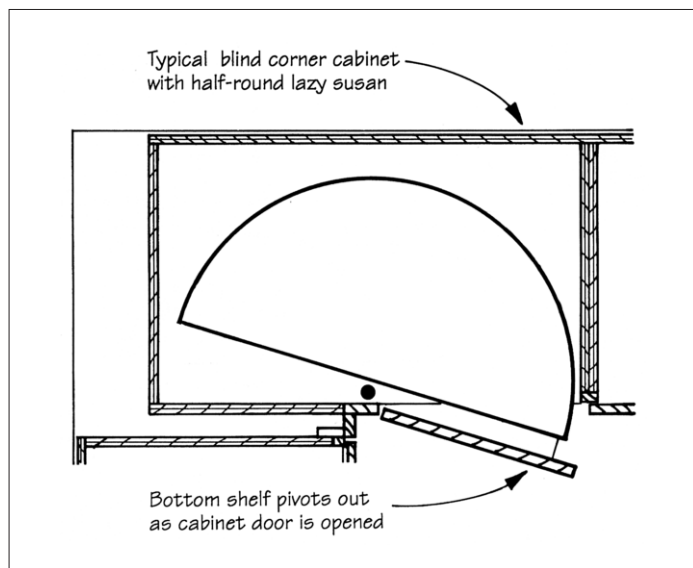


Figure 2. A blind corner base cabinet for a half-round lazy susan is simple to build, especially in a frameless style. The author uses butt hinges for the doors, since Euro hinges tend to get in the way of the lower pivoting shelf.

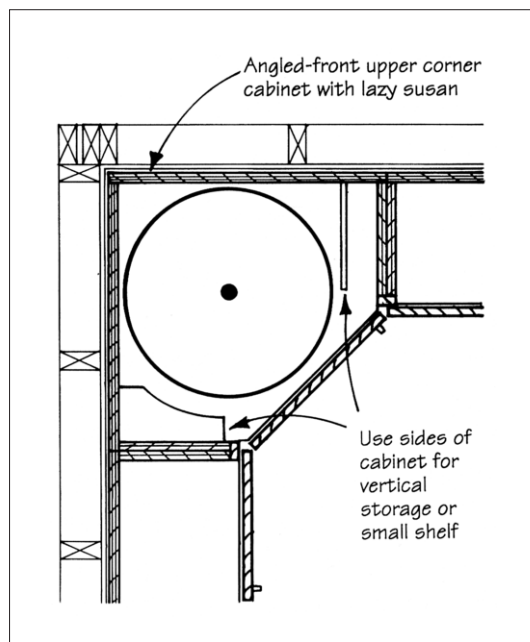


Figure 3. This angled-front upper corner cabinet fits an 18-inch-diameter, full-round lazy susan. Because the cabinet is frameless, beveled cuts are kept to a minimum in the cabinet's construction.



Figure 1. The author prefers half-round lazy susans because they blend well with the frameless style cabinets he builds.

## For More Information

The following companies manufacture the types of lazy susans discussed in this article.

Amerock Corp.  
4000 Auburn St.  
Rockford, IL 61125  
815/963-9631

Feeny Manufacturing Co.  
P.O. Box 191  
Muncie, IN 47308  
800/554-1410

Hafele America Co.  
3901 Cheyenne Dr.  
Archdale, NC 27263  
919/889-2322

Mepla Inc.  
909 W. Market Center Dr.  
High Point, NC 27261  
919/883-7121

Rev-A-Shelf Inc.  
2409 Plantside Dr.  
Jeffersontown, KY 40299  
800/626-1126