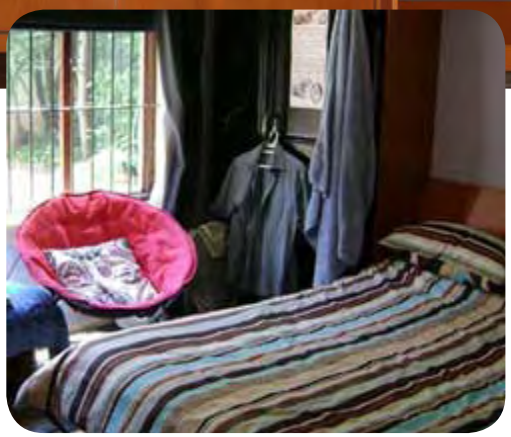
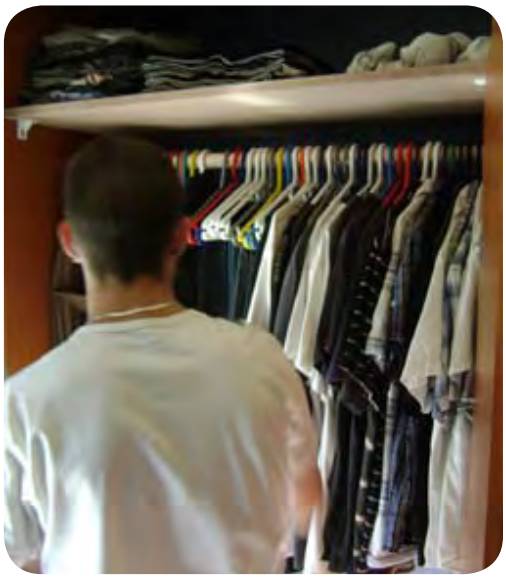
diy built-in closet

When my son decided he wanted a larger bedroom I said bye-bye to my home office just to keep peace in the home. Unfortunately the room didn't have any built in cupboards and it wasn't long before the mess started to pile up.

Time to add built-in cupboards, which were done in a weekend and cost far less that getting someone in to do it for me.



Having received several quotes in the region of R6000 upwards, I realised that I could save a bundle by doing this project myself. There are several PG Bison board products that can be used for a project of this nature, and I settled on MelaWood, as I needed to match the Murphy Wall Bed that I had already installed in the room. *(PIC TOP: The cupboards were built around the Murphy Wallbed that was previously installed)*



Other board products that can be used are: BisonLam and SuperLam.

All board products in the PG Bison range are available in a variety of colours and styles, as well as board sizes and thickness. A 16mm board thickness is recommended for a study, well built closet system that will last.

Getting started
The first step was to measure up the area and draw a plan. Take measurements from wall to wall and floor to ceiling. The plan is essential for working out board sizes for cutting, what sides need to be edged by your local Timbercity and what hardware you will need to complete the project.

See diagram on back page

MELAWOOD® MELAMINE FACED BOARD

What is MelaWood?
MelaWood is a high quality melamine faced board. It comprises a single layer of melamine-impregnated decorative paper, fused under heat and pressure to both sides of a smooth surface.

PG BISON

The Assembly

With your plan in hand, having all your boards cut and edged, and all your hardware, the assembly should be fairly easy.

Tools that you will need for this step:

- Cordless screwdriver or Drill/Driver
- Impact/Hammer drill
- 4mm drill bit and countersink
- Spirit level
- Stepladder
- Tape measure
- Pencil

Have some scrap pieces of thin timber available to use as spacers for floor and walls that aren't plumb.

1. Start by fitting the two end uprights to the wall. Drill pilot holes into the boards at the top, middle and bottom, and countersink. Drill through the boards to mark the wall.

2. Refer to your diagram. Place all the uprights on a flat, level surface. Mark, drill pilot holes and countersink for mounting shelf brackets and screw the shelf brackets onto the uprights.

3. Use a hammer drill to drill into the wall for the wall plugs. Use wall plugs and screws to attach the two end uprights to the wall. You can use spacers to fill gaps for any walls that are not straight. (see pic 1 right)

4. For this step you will need an extra pair of hands. Start at one end and position the next upright. Place a shelf at the top and screw onto the brackets (see pic 2 right). Do the same at the bottom. I left a 50mm gap at the bottom to fit a panel (see pic 3 right). Work along and continue to add uprights and shelves at the top and bottom. Once complete, you can mount the remainder of the shelves.

What is a Countersink?

Use a countersink to create a cavity in board or timber to allow a screw head to sit flush - or below - the surface. to get into a tight space.

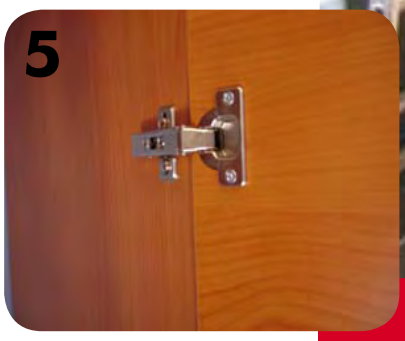
To finish off, fill any holes with Alcolin Wood Filler in a tint to match, or purchase plastic screw tops from your local hardware store.

You can also use a countersink when fastening with nails.

Fitting the doors

If you prefer to make your own holes for hinges, you will need a 32mm Forstner Bit and a Router, or drill and drill stand. Test fit the hinges and mark with a pencil to determine the position of the hinge holes and screws. Drill pilot holes for screws.

For perfect mounting the rule of thumb "measure twice - cut once" comes to mind. If your holes are just 2mm out, your doors will not sit flush together. Take the time to get your measurements right.



Adjusting the hinges

Minor adjustments can be made on the hinges themselves. The screw closest to the front of the cabinet adjusts how far out or in the doors are in comparison to your cabinet and to the other doors. Loosen the screw and manually push or pull the door to adjust it. Re-tighten the screw when the door is in the position you want.
The screw farthest from the front of the cabinet can be turned clockwise and counterclockwise to move the door from side-to-side (right or left).

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What is a Forstner Bit?

Often used in furniture making and other woodworking projects. Forstner Bits cut holes with a flat bottom, such as for cupboard hinges. Best used in a router, but can also be used in power drill held in a drill stand.

Get the right hinges

When sourcing hinges for mounting closet doors, make sure that you specify a full-overlay hinge. This type of hinge allows for smooth opening and a door that sits flush over the sides/uprights. When a side/upright is shared between two doors, you will need a half-overlay hinge. For doors that sit flush with the sides/upright, use an inset hinge.