Cat Adoption Room Project

10 Years ago, the local S.P.C.A. canceled its contract with the County of Fresno for animal control. The County decided to “temporarily” use the parking lot of its condemned morgue to house the animals, with Fresno Humane Animal Services running it for the last 6 years. The County recently built 3 new buildings not far from the current location. Through my contacts with Animal Compassion Team, who started Fresno Humane, I received the County contract to design and build all the furniture and cabinetry for the new cat adoption room. It was a fun project that had me doing a lot of plastic laminate work and a lot of head scratching. It was nice having to use my brain to design and figure out how to make it all work. Here are some of the highlights and photos of the build. I had fun doing it.

Parts of the 2 large cat trees partially laminated. The pieces on the top show the mortise and tenon construction that was made using ¾” MDF.

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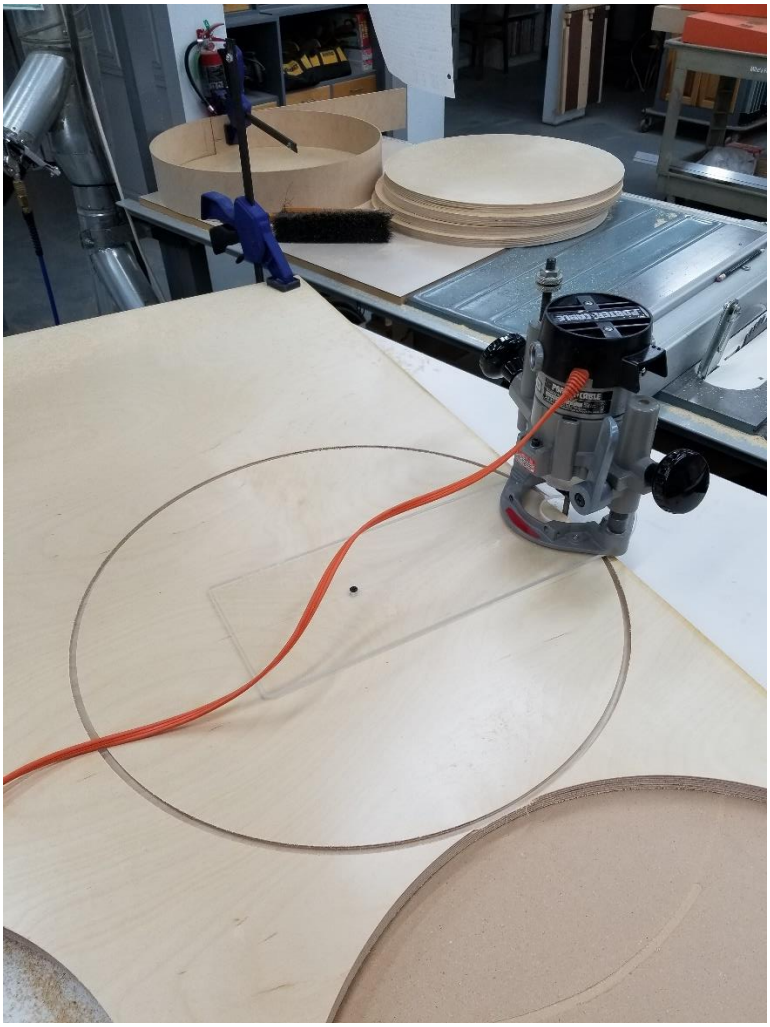


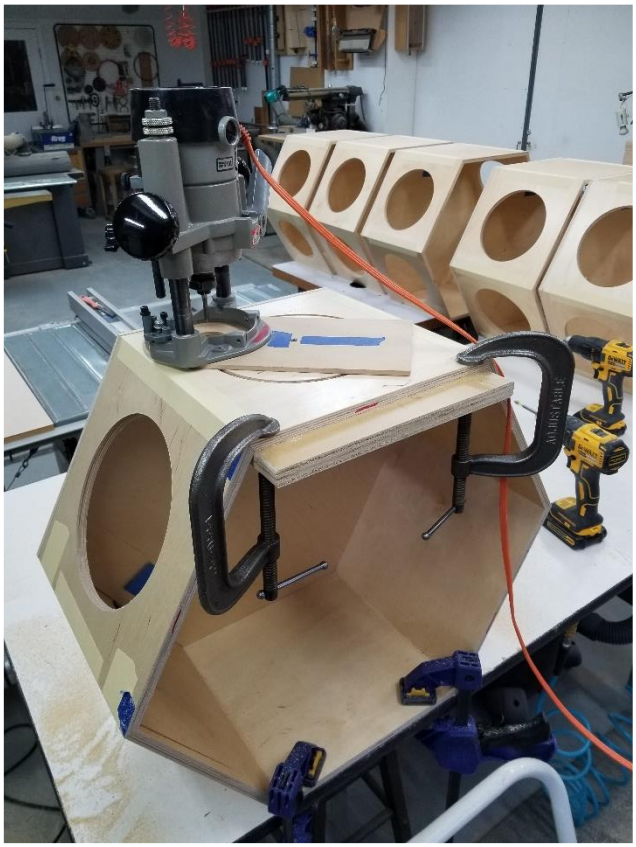
Using a trammel jig on the router, bases for the beds were cut out of ¾” pre-finished Baltic Birch.

Bases were then wrapped and glued with 2 layers of 1/8” MDF and clamped at the joints using curved clamping cauls covered with clear packing tape. The MDF was nailed around the perimeter of the Baltic Birch to help secure it in place.

Drilling jig used to drill brass insert holes perpendicular to the laminate.

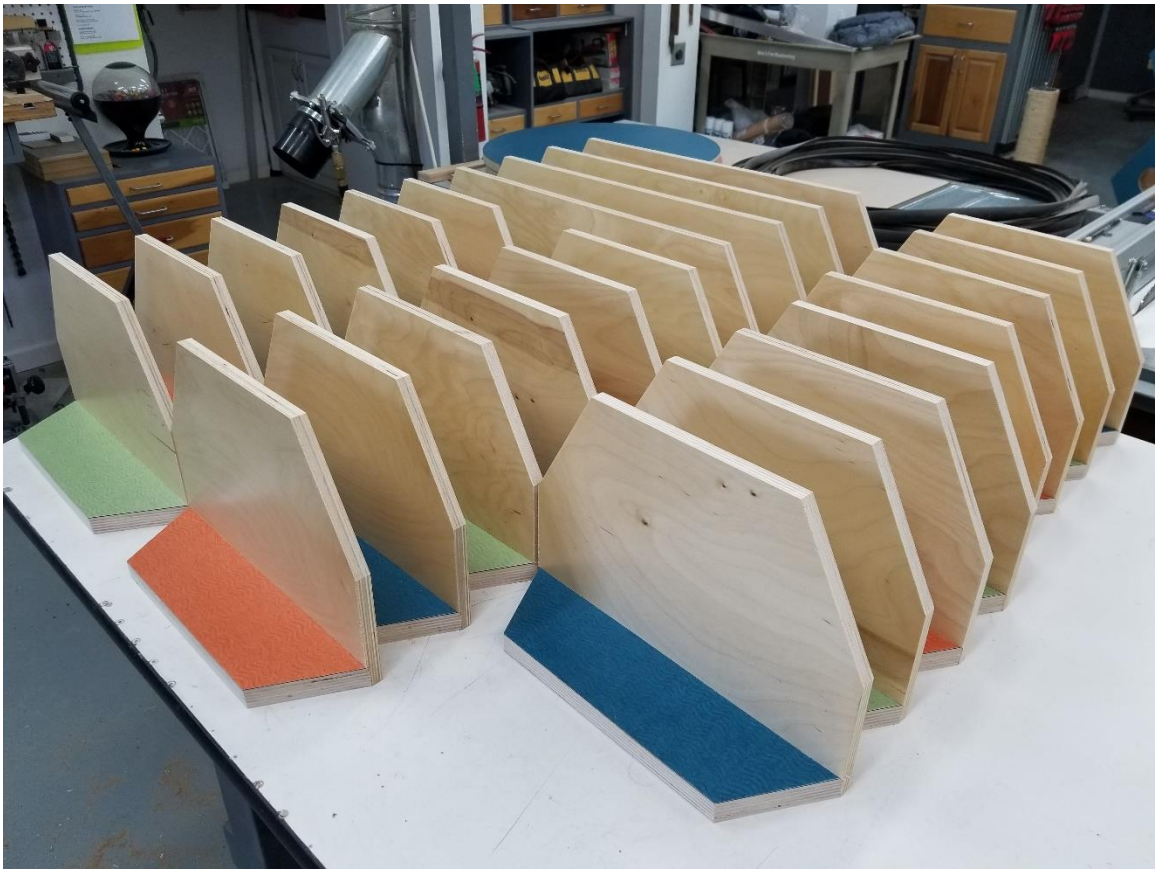
Jig used to thread the brass inserts straight into the holes.

After considering lots of assembly options, I decided to tape and glue the mitered seams and fold the joints together, similar to making a mitered jewelry box. The sides are ½" pre-finished Baltic Birch to make them easier to clean. No clamps were needed for assembly!

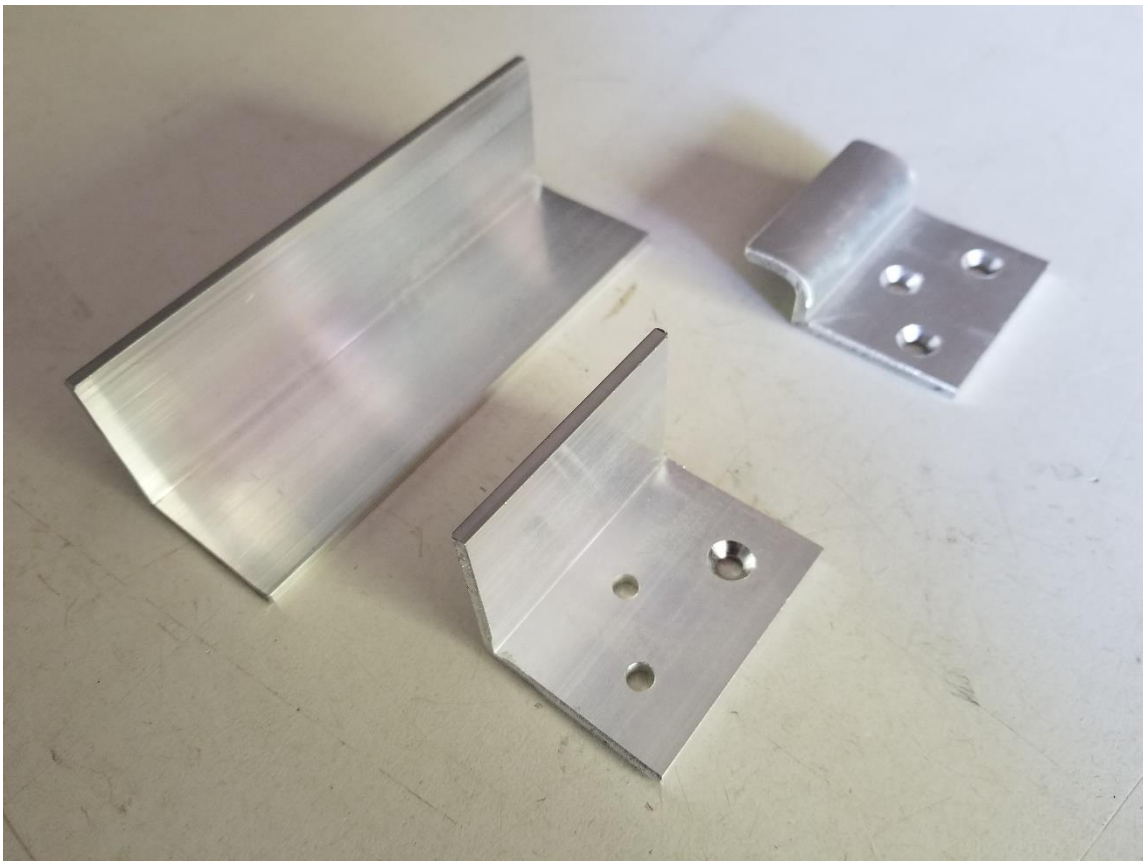


Cat access holes were cut into 4 sides of the hexagon boxes using another router trammel jig in 3 passes. I now have lots of 8" x ½" Baltic Birch discs.

Routing templates were used to make the 3 various wall box fronts. The fronts were then covered with plastic laminate and glued to the hexagon boxes.



The Baltic Birch steps assembled, and laminate applied to add some additional color.



70 slatwall box & step mounting brackets were made from 1/8” x 1 ½” x 1 ½” aluminum angle.

The steel frame for the rolling cat litter cabinet welded, sanded, and waiting for paint.

Litter cabinet and mounted wall boxes with steps. The boxes are mounted on MDF slatwall panels so the configuration can be changed occasionally.

24’ long base cabinet with storage drawers and covered with luxury vinyl plank flooring.

2nd cat wall and 2nd cat tree. The window looks into the main entrance lobby.

Close-up of the wall boxes, steps, and scratching post/bed.