

## **New Storage Cabinets for “The Opener Room”**

By John Stanley

Obtaining the Bob Kimball (known as BK) storage cabinet with architect drawers in February had me rearranging furniture in my opener room. I lost a wine rack (from Art Santen) and two wooden pieces of furniture had to be moved to my computer room. At first I had my working table moved into a corner to allow full access to BK's cabinet.

After three months of this arrangement I decided I needed to go another direction. Harbor Freight was having a Memorial Day weekend sale with 20%-25% off of everything. They had available 26" wide tool chests and I liked the eight drawer bottom on wheels and six drawer tool chest that would sit on top. My first problem was the Durham Store had sold out of these items. They said to come back on Wednesday and they may have a shipment in. I came back and they were in stock. I ended buying one bottom on wheels and two top chests. I

had decided my two old Husky tool chests needed to go. That meant moving my better Gladiator tool chests from my opener room to my computer room. The Harbor Freight people were able to get the bottom chest and two top chests (just barley) in the Expedition. One thing I noticed was that one top chest was made in Taiwan and one was made in China.

The chests were made by US General and nice with drawers being 20" deep when they are fully open. I get home and realize I am going to need help unloading them. The top chests weigh 116 lbs. each and the bottom chest on wheels weighed 175 lbs. Pat was grocery shopping and ran into a neighbor, Robert, who thankfully agreed to help.

I had healed up from my double hernia surgery in February and felt good. By now it was 2:30PM and Robert was coming over at 6:00PM to help. I had to start transferring current inventory quickly. My Cigar Box Opener collection was in the Husky cabinets and I emptied them first placing on a temporary table in our kitchen. The Gladiator chests in the opener room were next and had a lot of miscellaneous openers in them. I emptied this stuff on our extra bed.

The fun part started as the empty Husky chests are not that heavy and were placed on the kitchen table. The Gladiator chests are 6-70 lbs. each and I thought I could use a small cart to move them but after a skinned leg just had to move them to the computer room. I also smashed my right hand in a door jamb so I had a few band aids on at this point. But the new surfaces were cleared out and another cabinet would be donated to the Durham Rescue Mission.

Robert was on time and the Taiwan made chest was carried in first and placed in it's new home. It was a very hot day and after a good hour we had the wheels on the bottom chest and got it in the house. The China made chest was carried in and completed the puzzle.

I was one tired puppy and had a bunch of cardboard to take to the recycle place in Chapel Hill. After I got back Pat was not happy her kitchen was blocked by the table with a bunch of CBOs on it. So after a quick meal it was time to load them back into the Gladiator chests. The one positive at this point was finding a third Blantz patent CBO/Cork Extractor tool. I had thought I had lost it but it had appeared in one of the drawers. When Josef L'Africain found

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the ad proving the Blantz was a cork extractor I had sold him two of the five I owned for \$210.00 and \$250.00. He sold one in the ICCA for \$1,322 and the second one for close to that to the backup bidder. I am covering his expenses to JFO this year.

With that project down and the new chests in their new homes I thought would open the drawers. The Taiwan made chest worked fine but the one made in China would not let me open the drawers. Crap and the next morning I found out I would have to bring it back and trade it in. I had bought red units but the Durham store only had Blue colored chests in stock but if I wanted to drive one hour north to Roxboro, that store would get me a new red chest. I recruited my local friend, Lynwood Blalock (Mr. Nehi), to help. He was from Roxboro originally and was glad to go up.

We got the bad chest loaded in the Expedition, made the trip to Roxboro and the store made the trade. The replacement chest was made in Taiwan and the manager told me the Chinese made US General is older stock. After a scenic tour of Roxboro and Lynwood's old haunts we got back to Durham finally I had a working set of chests.

For years I have had lots of decent older and newer openers in plastic fishing boxes and now I had room to get them displayed or at least have them out so I would know what I have. It was a 4-5 day project organizing and I made good headway. More to do but I took pictures to show the current setup.

PS: Pat says this proves her point that I do have two rooms for openers and three when I use the guest bedroom. The collection keeps growing. What else can I say.



Left: New chests on wheels.

Right: Stand alone chest at left beside the BK cabinet.



More "Opener Room" pictures.

Next few pages are drawer shots from the new cabinet.

Bookcase shot of Golf & Syroco.

Coffee table of "M" & "N" Types.

Living room coffee table shot.

Computer room pictures (last page).

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