

Designing Cabinet Fronts

Reference Number: **KB-02945**

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The information in this article applies to:



QUESTION

I need to design a custom cabinet front to fit my specific needs. How can I create a custom cabinet front in Chief Architect?






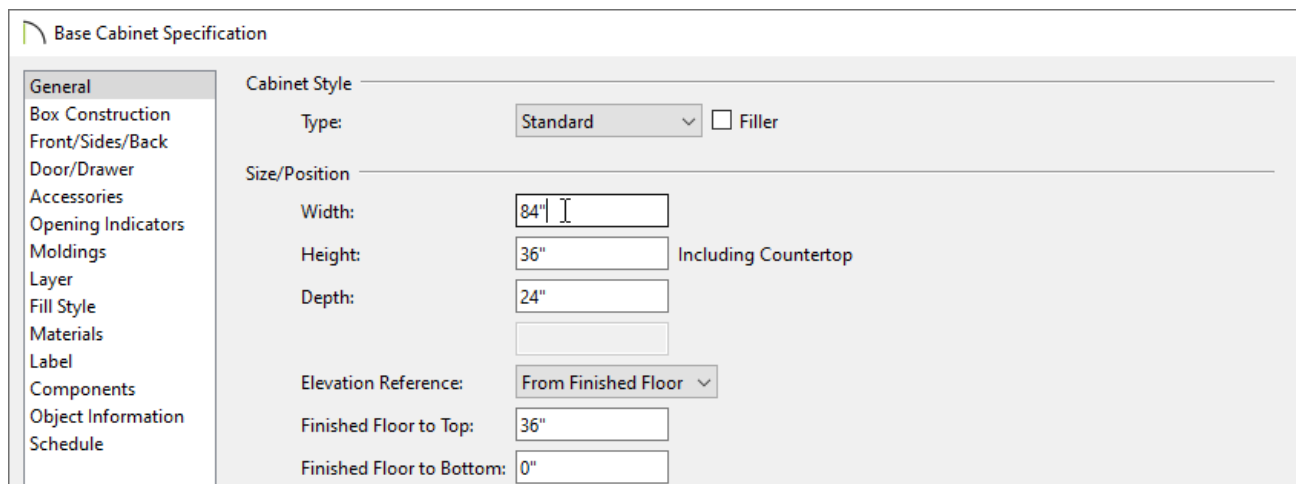
ANSWER

You can create custom cabinet fronts easily by using the settings located on the Front/Sides/Back panel of the Cabinet Specification dialog. In this article, we will describe how to create the double sink bathroom vanity shown in the image above.

Using the techniques mentioned here, you can create many different types of symmetric and asymmetrical cabinet combinations, such as for vanities, kitchen islands, china cabinets and hutches.

To create a cabinet with a custom front

1. Select **Build> Cabinet> Base Cabinet**  from the menu, then click in the plan to place a base cabinet.
2. Using the **Select Objects**  tool, select the cabinet,, then click on the **Open Object**  edit button.
3. On the **GENERAL** panel, set the **Width** of the cabinet to 84".



The screenshot shows the 'Base Cabinet Specification' dialog box with the 'General' panel selected. The 'Cabinet Style' section has 'Type' set to 'Standard' and an unchecked 'Filler' checkbox. The 'Size/Position' section has 'Width' set to '84"', 'Height' set to '36"' (with a note 'Including Countertop'), and 'Depth' set to '24"'. The 'Elevation Reference' is set to 'From Finished Floor'. The 'Finished Floor to Top' is '36"' and 'Finished Floor to Bottom' is '0"'. A sidebar on the left lists other panels: General, Box Construction, Front/Sides/Back, Door/Drawer, Accessories, Opening Indicators, Moldings, Layer, Fill Style, Materials, Label, Components, Object Information, and Schedule.

Base Cabinet Specification	
General	Cabinet Style
Box Construction	Type: Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Filler
Front/Sides/Back	
Door/Drawer	Size/Position
Accessories	Width: 84"
Opening Indicators	Height: 36" Including Countertop
Moldings	Depth: 24"
Layer	
Fill Style	Elevation Reference: From Finished Floor
Materials	Finished Floor to Top: 36"
Label	Finished Floor to Bottom: 0"
Components	
Object Information	
Schedule	


4. On the **Box CONSTRUCTION** panel you can specify if it's a **Framed** or **Frameless** cabinet, determine if there is a **Top** and/or **Bottom**, set the **Overlay**, and choose the **Cabinet Corner Treatment** options.

Base Cabinet Specification

General
Box Construction
Front/Sides/Back
Door/Drawer
Accessories
Opening Indicators
Moldings
Layer
Fill Style
Materials
Label
Components
Object Information
Schedule

Box Construction

☐ Framed

Separation: 

Left Stile Extend:

Right Stile Extend:

☒ Frameless


Top/Bottom

Top: ☒ Auto ☐ Has Top ☐ No Top


Bottom: ☒ Auto ☐ Has Bottom ☐ No Bottom

Door/Drawer Overlay


☐ Traditional Overlay

Overlap: 

☒ Full Overlay


Reveal: 

☐ Inset

Clearance: 

Cabinet Corner Treatment


☒ None ☐ Clipped ☐ Rounded


Corner Clip/Radius: 

☒ Automatic Placement

☐ Back Left ☐ Back Right

☐ Front Left ☐ Front Right

Corner Pilaster: 

Corner Pilaster Width: 

☐ Extend to Bottom

Note: If you choose to have Framed cabinets you'll be able to modify the Left and Right Stiles for each face item of the cabinet on the Front/Sides/Back panel.

- On the **FRONT/SIDES/BACK** panel, select **Front** for the Cabinet Side and **Custom Face** for the Side Type.

Base Cabinet Specification

General
 Box Construction
Front/Sides/Back
 Door/Drawer
 Accessories
 Opening Indicators
 Moldings
 Layer
 Fill Style
 Materials
 Label
 Components
 Object Information
 Schedule

Cabinet Side
 Side: Front
 Side Type: Custom Face

Face Items

Vertical Layout Parent

- 1 Separation - Horizontal
- 2 Drawer Default: Slab
- 3 Separation - Horizontal
- 4 Door - Auto Right Default: Recessed Panel
- 5 Separation - Horizontal

+ Add New...
 X Delete
 ↑ Move Up
 ↓ Move Down
 ! Split Vertical
 - Split Horizontal
 = Equalize

Selected Item Properties

Item Type: Layout - Vertical
 Item Height: 0"
 Item Width: 0"
 Item Reveal: 0"
☐ Lock from Auto-Resize
 Shelves: Specify...
 Appliance/Door/Drawer: Specify... Edit... Clear ☐ Reverse Appliance
 Percent Open:

Side Properties

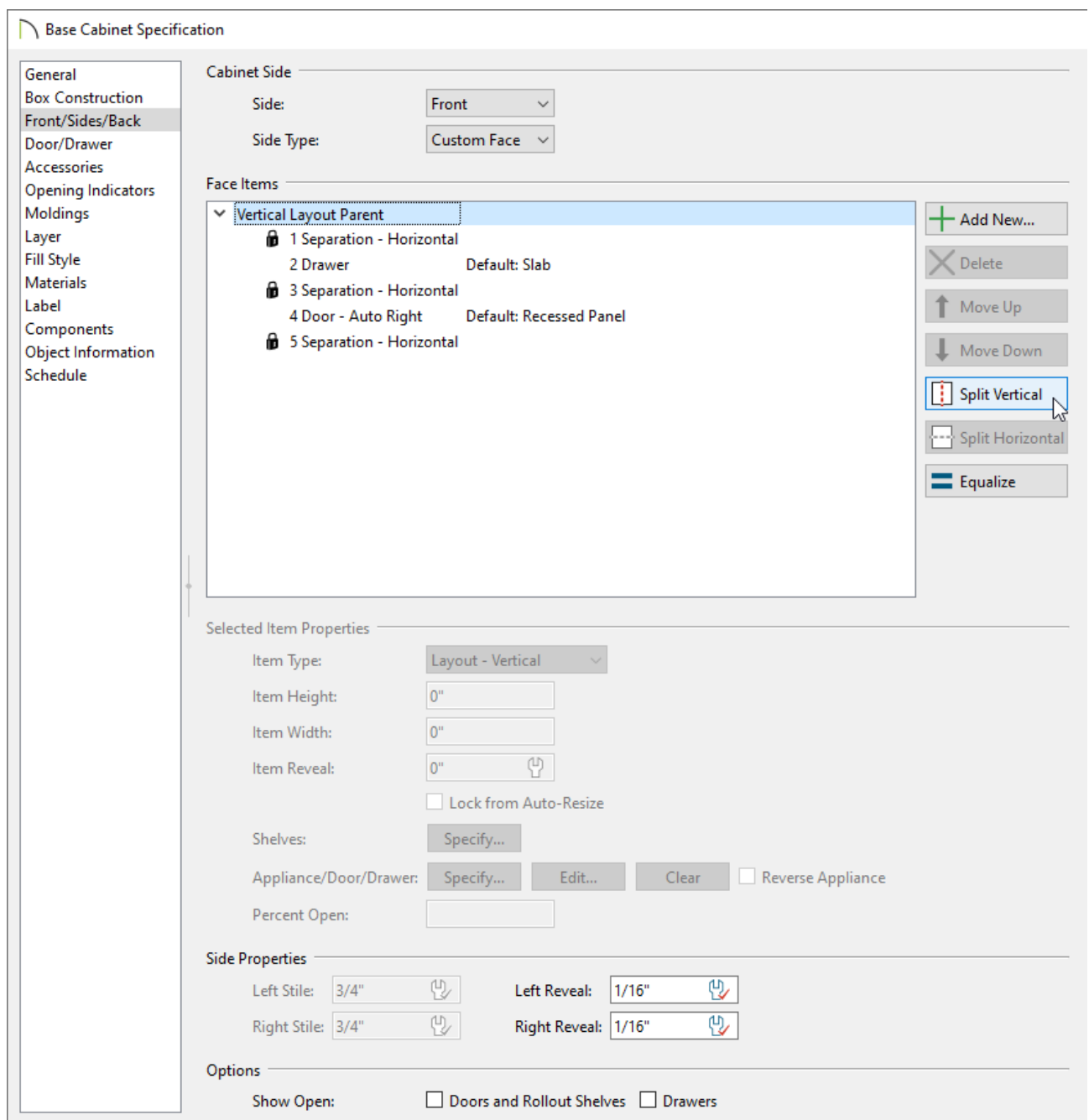
Left Stile: 3/4" Left Reveal: 1/16"
 Right Stile: 3/4" Right Reveal: 1/16"

Options

Show Open: ☐ Doors and Rollout Shelves ☐ Drawers

The left and right reveal can be adjusted for the cabinet using the fields under the Face Properties section.

6. Remaining on the **FRONT/SIDES/BACK** panel, select the "Vertical Layout Parent" option in the list of Face Items, then click the **Split Vertical** button.



7. Select "Layout - Vertical" on the left half of the cabinet and click the **Split Vertical** button again.

8. Next, select the "Layout - Horizontal" and click the **Equalize** button.

Base Cabinet Specification

General
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Front/Sides/Back
Door/Drawer
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Layer
Fill Style
Materials
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Components
Object Information
Schedule

Cabinet Side

Side: Front

Side Type: Custom Face

Face Items

Vertical Layout Parent

1 Layout - Horizontal

1.1 Layout - Vertical

1.1.1 Separation - Horizontal
1.1.2 Drawer Default: Slab
1.1.3 Separation - Horizontal
1.1.4 Door - Auto Right Default: Recessed Panel
1.1.5 Separation - Horizontal
1.2 Separation - Vertical
1.3 Layout - Vertical

1.3.1 Separation - Horizontal
1.3.2 Drawer Default: Slab
1.3.3 Separation - Horizontal
1.3.4 Door - Auto Right Default: Recessed Panel
1.3.5 Separation - Horizontal

Add New...
Delete
Move Up
Move Down
Split Vertical
Split Horizontal
Equalize

Selected Item Properties

Item Type: Layout - Horizontal

Item Height: 30 1/2"

Item Width: 82 1/2"

Item Reveal: 0"

☐ Lock from Auto-Resize

Shelves: Specify...

Appliance/Door/Drawer: Specify... Edit... Clear ☐ Reverse Appliance

Percent Open: 0%

Side Properties

Left Stile: 3/4" Left Reveal: 1/16"

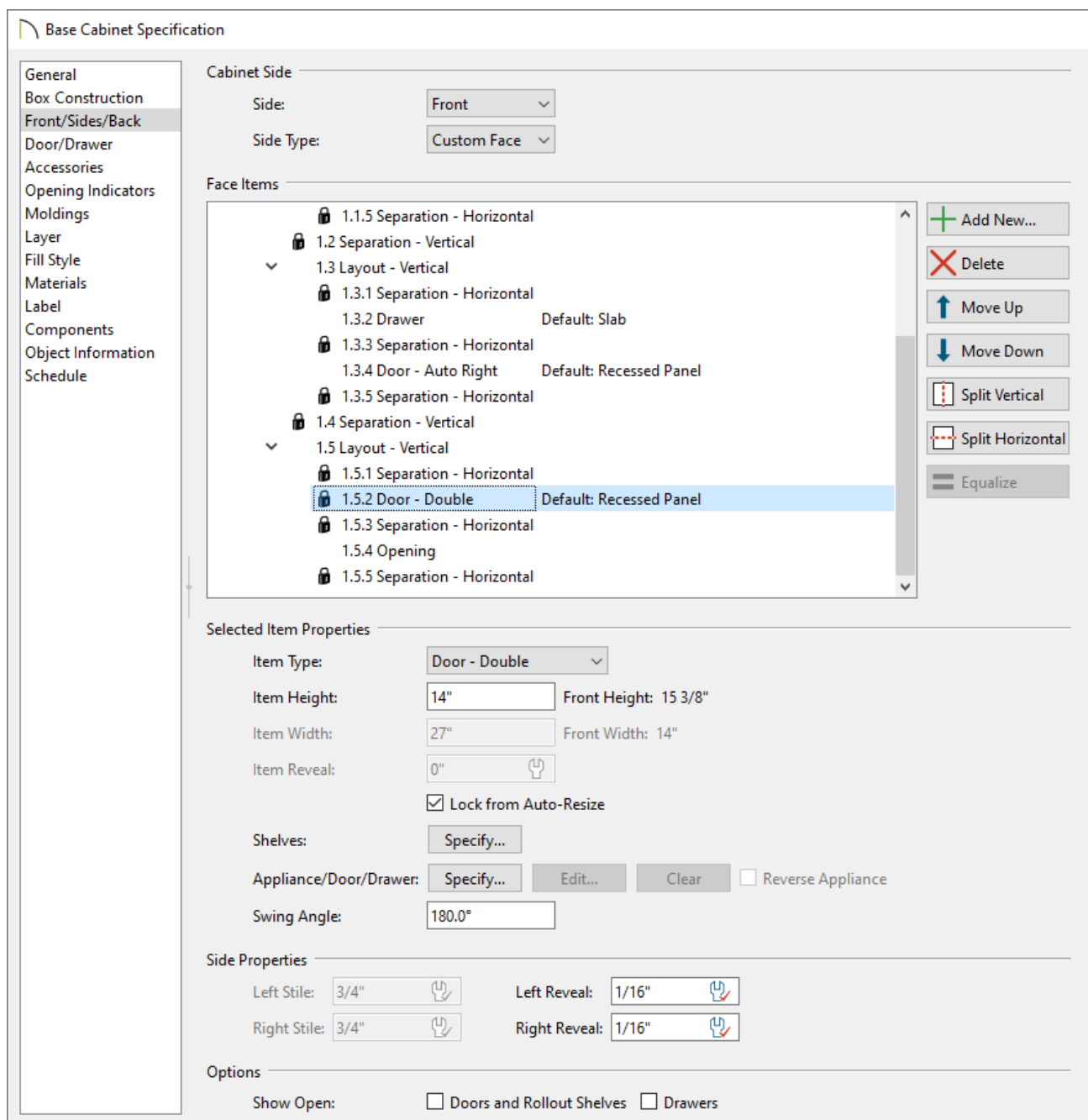
Right Stile: 3/4" Right Reveal: 1/16"

Options

Show Open: ☐ Doors and Rollout Shelves ☐ Drawers

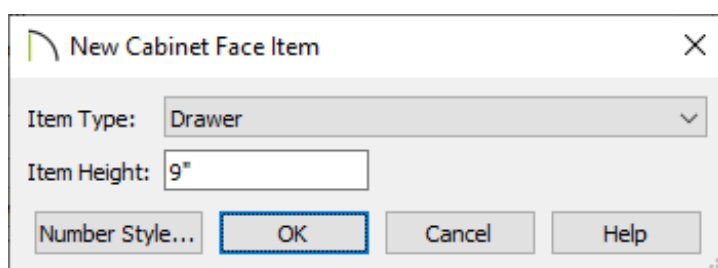
Note: The Equalize button makes the sizes of a face item's sub-items equal in size. It is only available if the selected item has sub-items.

- In the preview, select the left lower doors and change them to an **Opening** using the Item Type drop-down. Select the left drawer and change the Item Type to **Door - Double**. Set the height of the Double Door to 14". Repeat these steps for the right side.



10. Click on the center drawer in the 3D preview to select it.

11. With the drawer face item selected, click on the **Add New** button. In the **New Cabinet Face Item** dialog that displays, change the Item Type to a **Drawer**, change the Item Height to 9", then click **OK**.



12. Select the top drawer and change the Item Height to 9" also, then select the **Split Vertical** button. Select the second drawer and again click **Split Vertical**.

Base Cabinet Specification

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Door/Drawer
Accessories
Opening Indicators
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Materials
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Schedule

Cabinet Side
Side: Front
Side Type: Custom Face

Face Items

- 1.1.5 Separation - Horizontal
- 1.2 Separation - Vertical
- 1.3 Layout - Vertical
 - 1.3.1 Separation - Horizontal
 - 1.3.2 Drawer Default: Slab
 - 1.3.3 Separation - Horizontal
 - 1.3.4 Drawer Default: Slab
 - 1.3.5 Separation - Horizontal
 - 1.3.6 Door - Auto Right Default: Recessed Panel
 - 1.3.7 Separation - Horizontal
- 1.4 Separation - Vertical
- 1.5 Layout - Vertical
 - 1.5.1 Separation - Horizontal
 - 1.5.2 Door - Double Default: Recessed Panel
 - 1.5.3 Separation - Horizontal

+ Add New...
X Delete
↑ Move Up
↓ Move Down
Split Vertical
Split Horizontal
Equalize

Selected Item Properties

Item Type: Drawer
Item Height: 9" Front Height: 10 1/32"
Item Width: 27" Front Width: 27 11/16"
Item Reveal: 0"
☒ Lock from Auto-Resize
Shelves: Specify...
Appliance/Door/Drawer: Specify... Edit... Clear ☐ Reverse Appliance
Percent Open: 100%

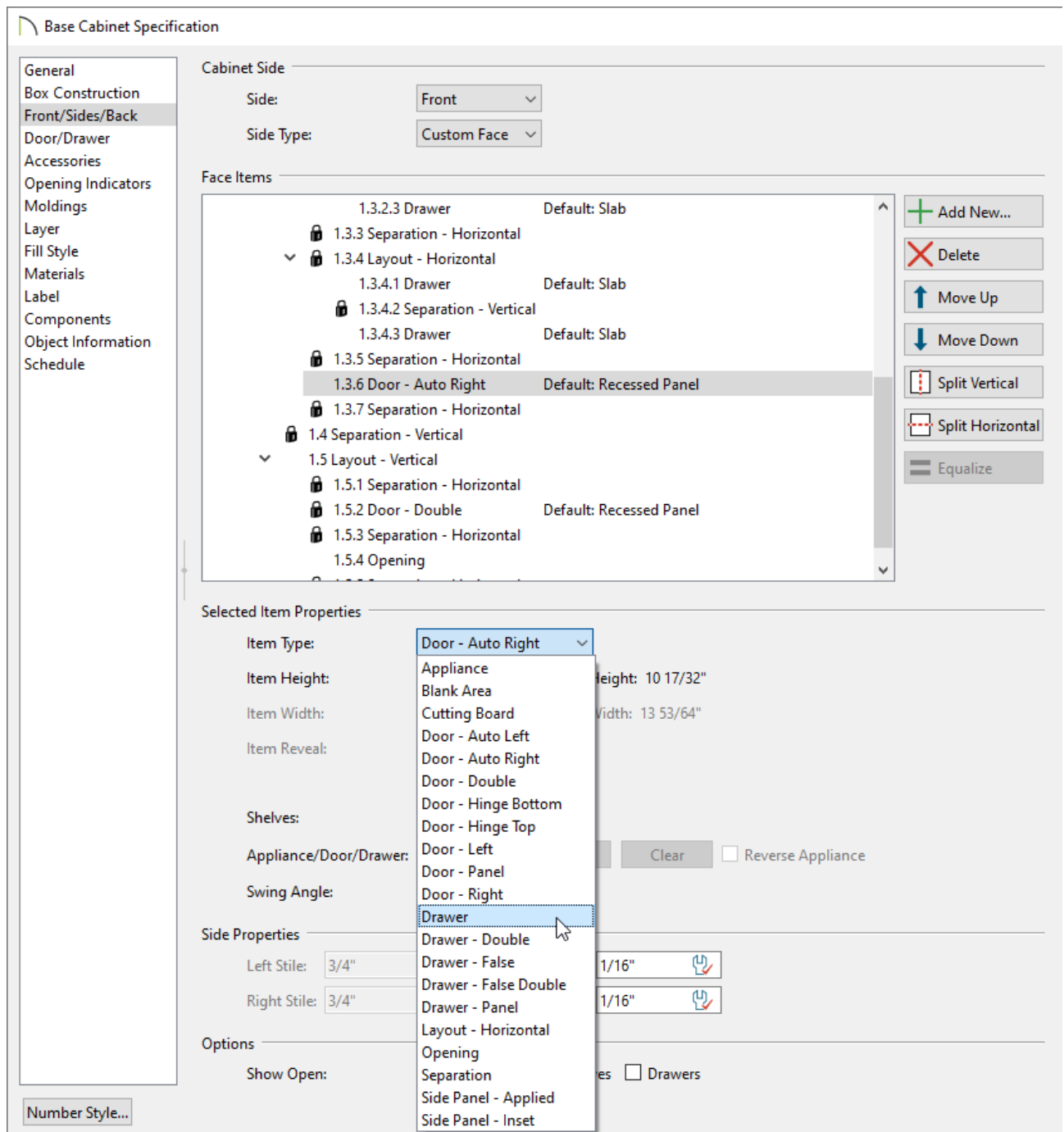
Side Properties

Left Stile: 3/4" Left Reveal: 1/16"
Right Stile: 3/4" Right Reveal: 1/16"

Options

Show Open: ☐ Doors and Rollout Shelves ☐ Drawers

13. Select the bottom double doors and change the Item Type to **Drawer**.



14. Make any other desired changes to the cabinet, such as to the **MATERIALS**, then click **OK**.

15. Take a **Camera**  view to see the results.



Related Articles

- [📄 Adding Cabinet Back and Side Panels \(/support/article/KB-03028/adding-cabinet-back-and-side-panels.html\)](/support/article/KB-03028/adding-cabinet-back-and-side-panels.html)
- [📄 Creating a Cabinet Detail \(/support/article/KB-00580/creating-a-cabinet-detail.html\)](/support/article/KB-00580/creating-a-cabinet-detail.html)
- [📄 Creating a Custom Cabinet and Adding it to the Library \(/support/article/KB-00446/creating-a-custom-cabinet-and-adding-it-to-the-library.html\)](/support/article/KB-00446/creating-a-custom-cabinet-and-adding-it-to-the-library.html)
- [📄 Creating Barrier-free Cabinets \(/support/article/KB-00657/creating-barrier-free-cabinets.html\)](/support/article/KB-00657/creating-barrier-free-cabinets.html)
- [📄 Editing Cabinet Shelf Attributes \(/support/article/KB-00787/editing-cabinet-shelf-attributes.html\)](/support/article/KB-00787/editing-cabinet-shelf-attributes.html)
- [📄 Using Different Door Styles on a Single Cabinet \(/support/article/KB-00040/using-different-door-styles-on-a-single-cabinet.html\)](/support/article/KB-00040/using-different-door-styles-on-a-single-cabinet.html)



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