



building arched-top

RAISED-PANEL DOORS

These shop-tested routing techniques will have you building arched-top raised-panel doors like a pro in no time.

I've always been impressed by the arched-top raised-panel doors that are built in commercial cabinet shops. The wood frame on these doors features a gracefully curved top rail, which is echoed by a curved solid-wood panel (see *Photo below*).

This is the type of door that was on the cabinets in the kitchen where we installed the countertop pantry (*page 42*). So, in order to match those doors, I built a set of arched-top raised-panel doors for the pantry.

Aside from the curved parts, this type of door is no different than other solid-wood frame-and-panel doors. It consists of a pair of vertical stiles and two horizontal rails that surround a solid-wood panel. A look at the *Details* below shows that the rails and stiles are connected by what appears to be fairly intricate joinery. And of course, you'll need to make the solid-wood panel with the "raised" field. But don't worry — building an arched-top raised-panel door is not as complicated as it looks. A table-mounted router and three router bits make it achievable for any home woodworker.

