# Low-Cost Drawer "Kit" By the Foot Version 1.2

## By R. G. Sparber



See my nice pull-out custom drawer? It is 3 ½ inches wide and can be any length up to 10 feet. The cost is about $1.00 per foot. The icing on the cake is that you only need a tin snips and a pliers to make it.

The drawers "kit" is sold at big box stores like Home Depot, well hidden in the construction aisle:

This is ClarkDietrich ProTRAK 20 3-1/2 in. x 10 ft. 20-Gauge EQ Galvanized Steel Track[2]. As of this writing, the cost is $10.47 plus tax for a 10-foot stick.

My little Honda Fit cannot carry a 10-foot stick inside but a quick snip of the sides let me bend the track in half. I just had to be careful that no sharp edges cut into my seats.

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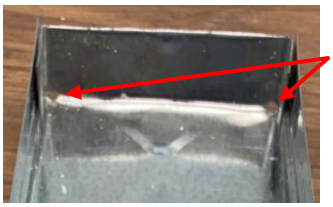
[2] This "Track" is part of a system of metal studs with top and bottom support used to make walls. If you happen to live in Australia, see https://www.bunnings.com.au/knauf-76-x-3000mm-steel-wall-track_p1091043

I mark off the length I want and then add a second mark about 1 ½ inches beyond it. Using a square, I extend the first and second marks along the sides and back of the stock.

Next, I cut off the piece at the second mark.

Then I use a tin snips to cut a V on each side at the first mark. The V provides a bit of room as the end section is bent up.



Optionally, you can drill holes at the corners to prevent bunching up.

The end section is folded up with the side ears inside the channel. Cut edges can be razor-sharp so ***be sure to deburr***. If desired, you can run screws or Pop Rivets to secure the ears. I didn't bother.

The back lip prevents stock from sliding away from me as the drawer is pulled forward. I hate to admit how many bits of metal fell behind my shelving before I added that lip.

A nice improvement on this idea is presented by Tom Lipton in his video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gikvPsNXZk0&feature=youtu.be&t=1669 He bends a lip on each end of the formed sheet metal so it becomes a liner that won't move as stock in placed in it or removed. Craig Marshall suggested bending a tab only on the front to it is a drawer pull and also a stop when pushed all the way in.

Craig also suggests ripping a piece of ply 1" thick, and cutting it into 3 1/2" sections and using them to plug the back end of the tray. Just screw (or nail) through the tin into the edges of the plywood. Nice enhancement!

## Acknowledgment

Thanks to Craig Marshall for finding the equivalent part in Australia plus finding a broken URL. Thanks to John Herrmann for finding that I *again* used the wrong word for pliers. I don't think I will ever learn…

Thanks also to Craig Marshall for drawing my attention to Tom Lipton's video and then improving on the idea.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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