

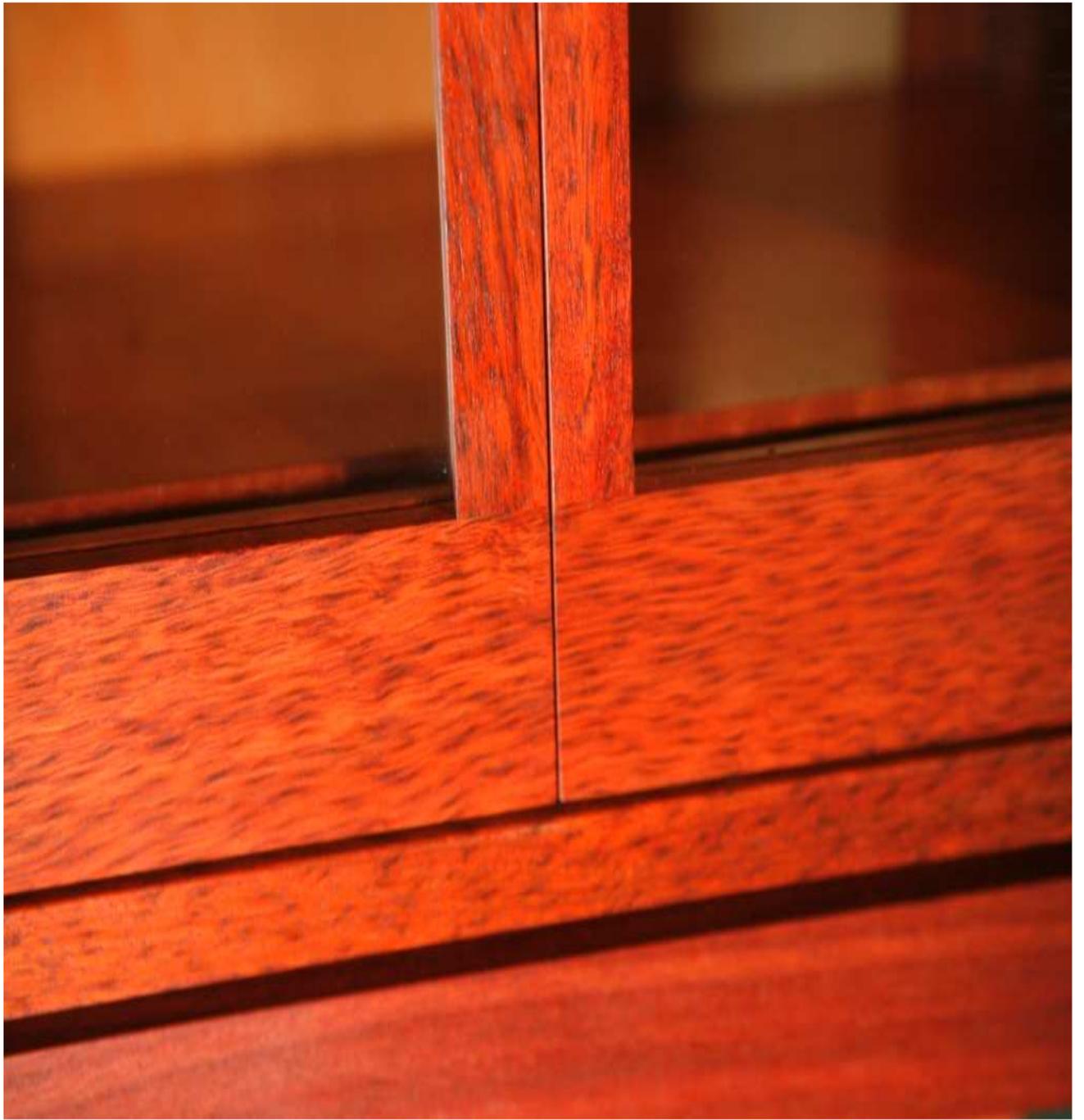


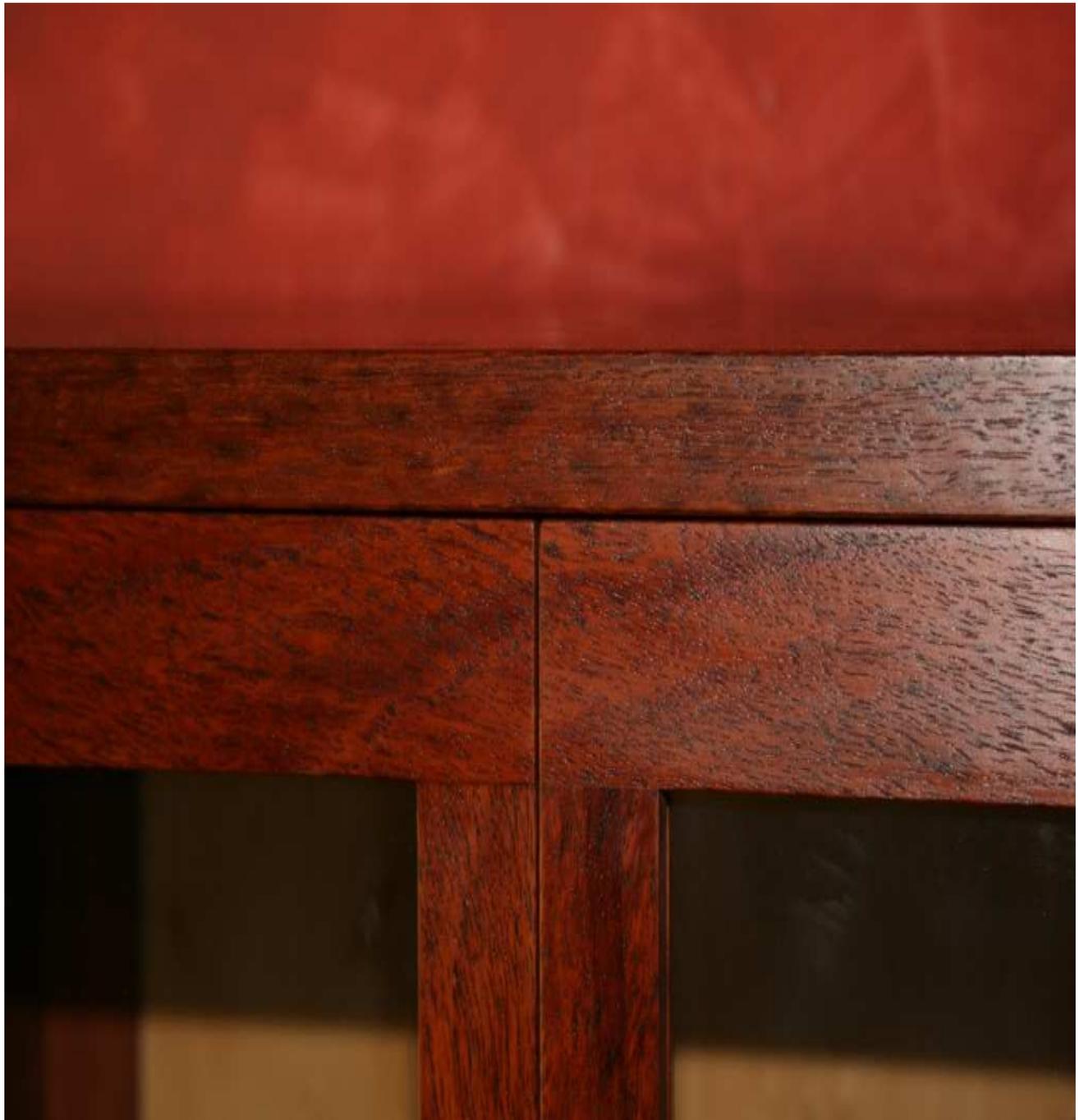
Scott Horsburgh
Designer and Maker of Fine Handcrafted Furniture

Article 6: 29th January 2008
Piece: Display cabinet on a stand
Subject: The making of the doors.

The photos below show the detail of the front doors of the cabinet. On each door all four frame members are of different widths. The bottom horizontal rail is the widest; the outside vertical rail is the next widest; the top horizontal rail the next and finally the inside vertical rails are the thinnest. I wanted to make the inside vertical rails as thin as possible so as to not take up too much viewing space. The top and bottom horizontal rails are from the same piece of wood so that the grain carries on through. I love this detail. I feel it makes the doors look as though they are one and shows a lot of thought has gone into the grain selection. It also makes fitting the doors very challenging as there is no margin for error. If you plane too much of one door or do not fit them correctly, then the line of the joinery will not follow through and the grain will not line up nicely. This is a detail that Krenov has used and it adds a lot of interest to the doors.







All of the joinery in the doors are bridle joints and I have cut these and glued them together using the same techniques mentioned in previous ezines. Before glue-up I have routed out the inside faces to house the glass panel and the beading to hold the glass in place. I have used brass escutcheon pins nailed through the beading to hold the glass in place. All of the holes are pre-drilled.

Preparation of the frames pieces:

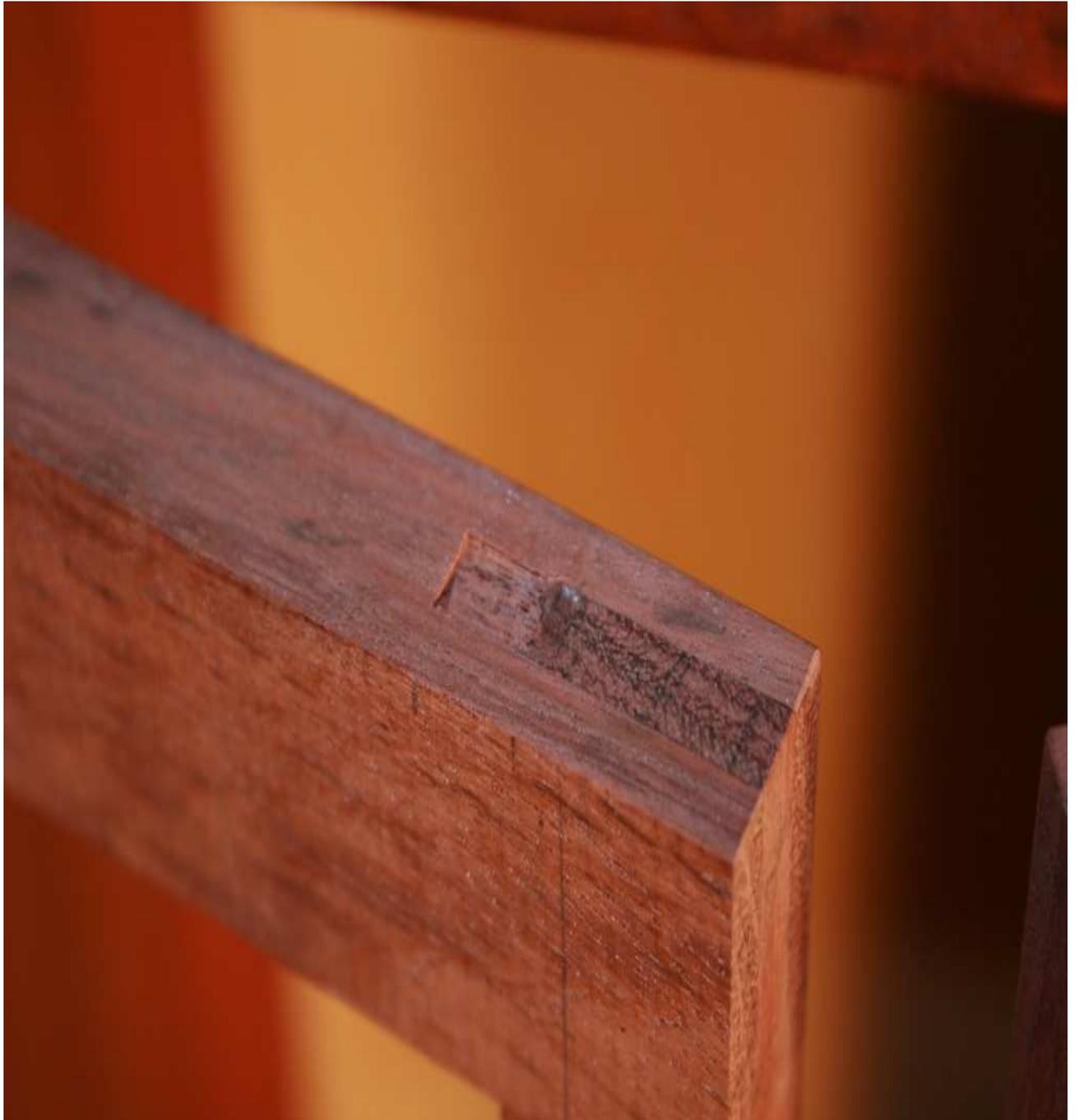
Every piece of wood in a fine piece of furniture is hand planed and checked for wind using wind sticks. If you have any wind in any of the pieces that make up a

door frame you will be in trouble. Wind will force the doors to kick outwards or inwards and they will not line up nicely. This is very important. It is also important to make sure your joinery is accurate and square so you are not placing any stress on the pieces when they are glued together. Accurate marking out and planing up will ensure success.

I made these doors about 1mm oversize so that I only had a small amount to plane off them to fit. When planning them to fit I firstly planed the bottom horizontal rail to ensure a snug, flat fit with the carcass. The hinges are attached to the top and bottom horizontal rails so that is why I firstly planed the top and bottom rails. If the hinges were traditional hinges attached to the vertical outside stile I would have planed this side first. I then carefully planed the top horizontal rails so that the doors fit firmly in place and the grain is lined up perfectly. I can then plane them down to allow them to move freely, but not too much. Take your time and don't rush. It would be a shame to mess things up at the final fit when all of the hard work has been done. I found the pivot hinges wonderful to use. I did not need to screw the hinges to the carcass when fitting the doors. The hinge sat firmly in its housing and did not move. This saved a lot of time and hassle.

Once I had the doors fitted horizontally I could easily plane the vertical rails to fit cleanly. I did not place a dust proof rebate on the doors as I wanted either door to be able to be opened first. The hand plane with a razor sharp edge will enable you to get the perfect fit.

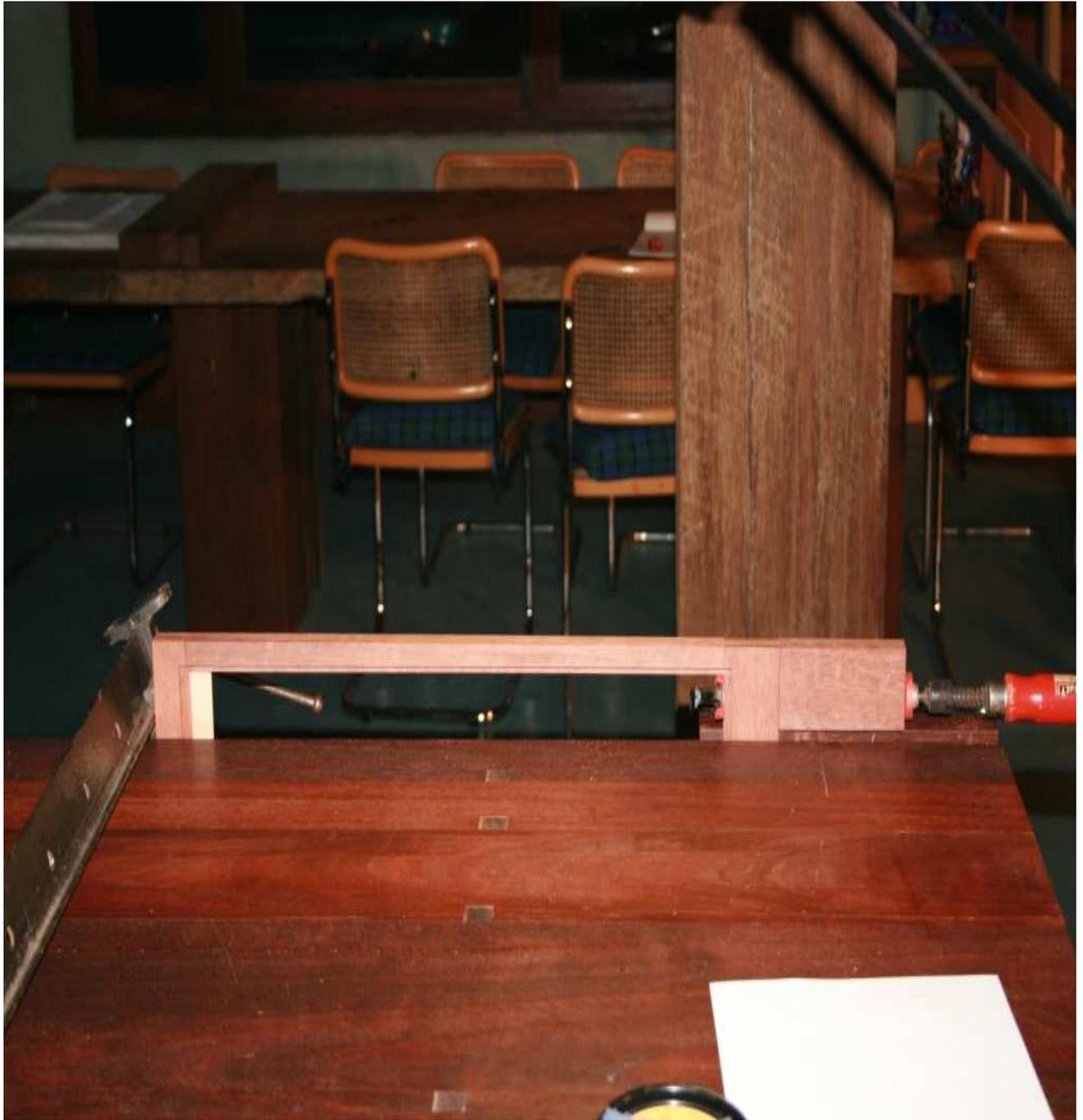
Once I had the doors fitted I need to place the small concave 'V' cut at the top of the horizontal rails. The door catches at the inside top of the carcass slot into this 'V' cut and pull the doors into the door stops. Do one at a time and measure carefully. The purpose of the catches is to not only hold the doors in place but to pull the doors into the door stops. When the doors close you will get a lovely crisp sound. The photo below shows one of the 'V' cuts.



When the doors have been fitted you can plane the inside and outside faces to clean up any pencil lines.

The photos below show one of the doors held firmly in place at my workbench so that I can plane it to fit. Rather than place a small bevel on the end to prevent tearout when coming off the end grain I have clamped a piece of wood there to protect the end grain from tearing out. I have done this because I did not need to take off much wood to fit the doors and I did not want a small bevel at the end.



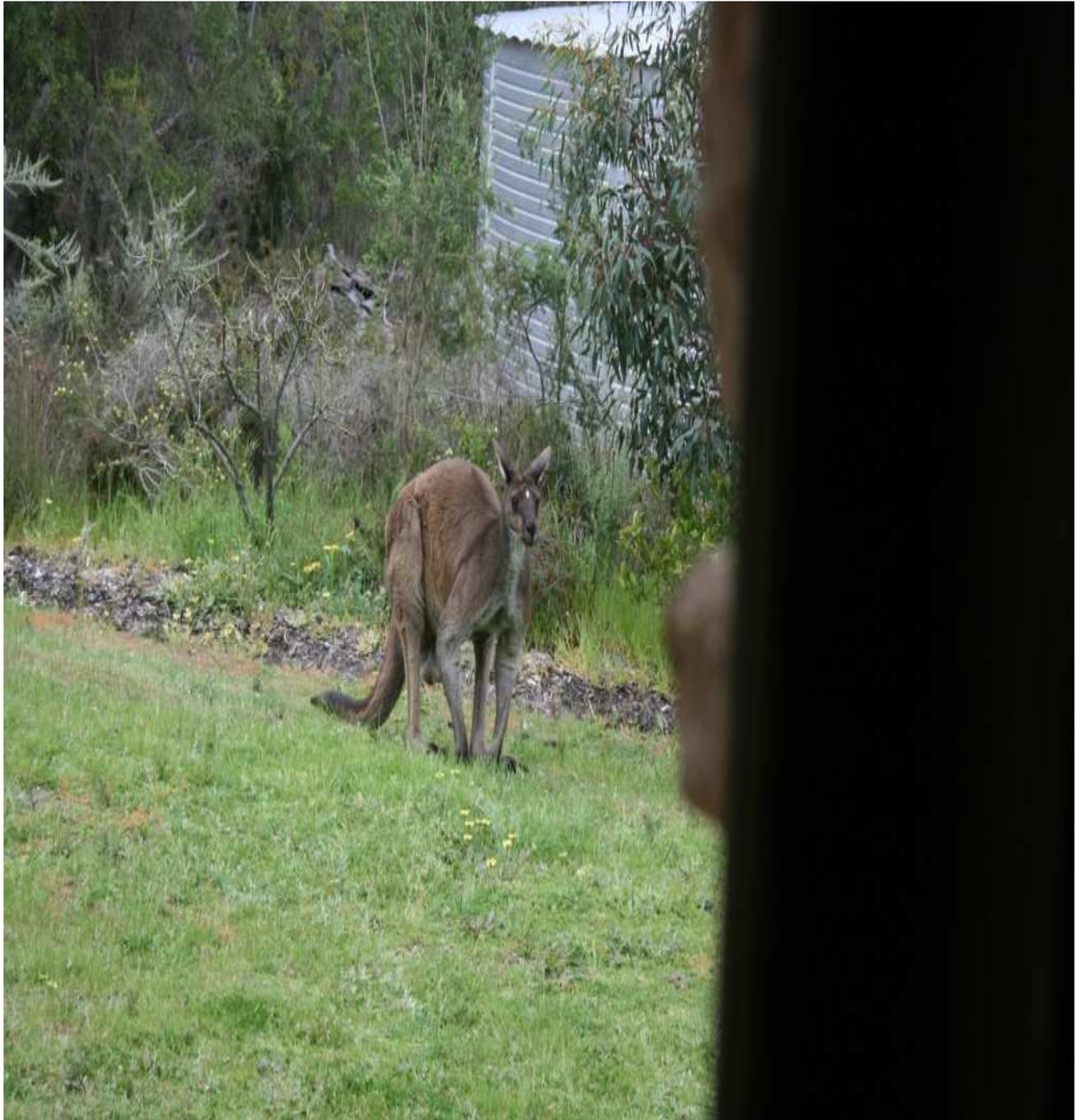


The picture below shows just how effective the huon pine interior back panel is at lightening the inside of the cabinet.



Once you have fitted the doors you can mark out the housings for your handles. This is best done once you have fitted the doors.

Have a look at this magnificent kangaroo. This is an old friend who visits me regularly. If he was standing upright he would be about seven feet tall and very intimidating. He's huge and strong. Look at the size and power in his tail.



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