

Profile of a Cabinet Maker

By JOY RAMOS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Jessie Higgins
Apprentice Cabinet

Maker
Age: 25
No. of years in business: 3 years

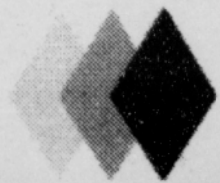
Hours of work: 40 hours per week with occasional overtime.

Potential Earnings: For a Journeyman Cabinet Maker, \$20,000 - \$60,000

finish. Once it's dry, I then add three coats of lacquer.

2:30 p.m. - The last and most important sequence is the finished quality. I hang

Typical Day: My day starts at 8 a.m. by look-



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PHOTO BY JOHN HAYES
Jessie Higgins works as an Apprentice Cabinet Maker at B. Hayes Custom Cabinets.

ing over job folders and planning for the day. Sometimes I act as Job Boss to oversee the details of another person's work.

9:30 a.m. - Begin work on the cabinets by assembling the basic frame.

10:30 a.m. - Take a 15 minute break.

10:45 a.m. - Do putting, the process of filling nail holes in cabinets, and then sanding work.

12 p.m. - Take a lunch break.

12:30 p.m. - I place two coats of sealer on the cabinets that gets sanded down to a smooth

the doors and drawer fronts; fix any odds and ends. Employer then does a quality control check.

5 p.m. - End of work day.
What do you like the most about your work? I get a lot of pride out of cabinet making. I have a love for woodworking that runs in the family.

What do you least like about your work? There's a lot to learn. Sometimes it gets frustrating and overwhelming because of it.

What advice can you give for someone interested in getting into this profession? Make sure cabinet making is something that you like to do. Be as patient as you can be, because it will test you.