

LET'S GO FISHING

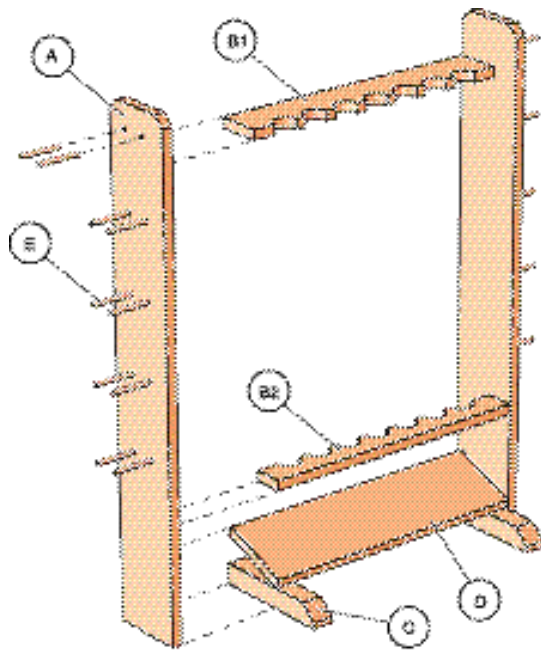
A rod rack for the keen angler

A whole bunch of good fishing gear, with specialty rods and high-tech reels, can be quite difficult to store. Here's a rod rack which turns a storage problem into a decorative item. Australian, NSW and Cronulla Sharks Rugby League legend Andrew Ettingshausen (ET), loves to fish whenever his schedule allows. Here Andrew shows how to make this rack using only hand tools and a power drill. It's as easy as that! *By Dieter Mylius*

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Item	Part	Size	Material
A	Sides (2)	140 x 19 x 1000mm	Pine
B1/B2	Rails (2 from 1)	140 x 19 x 550mm	Pine
C	Feet (2)	42 x 42 x 250mm	Pine
D	Base	140 x 19 x 550mm	Pine
E	Pegs (20)	10mm diam x 90mm	Hardwood dowel

All joints are glued and screwed. Check size of components against actual unit as it is being built. Diagram over page.



A wash of blue acrylic will allow much of the white to show through

Easy step-by-steps

1 Cut the sides (A).

Measure 25mm down each side from top corners and mark 45° angles. Cut the angles to form corner bevels. From the top measure 50, 200, 350, 500 and 650mm down each side. Square across at each of these points and mark 55mm in from both sides along each line. At these points drill 10mm diameter holes to a depth of 15mm for the reel pegs. Wrap masking tape around drill as a depth gauge.

2 Cut the two rails (B1, B2) from one piece of timber.

Mark 55mm in from one edge and draw a line parallel to edge. From one end mark 65mm along the line, then a further six spacings of 70mm. The space left to the end of the board should be 65mm. With power drill and 50mm diameter hole-saw, bore through seven holes centred on marks. Use the hole-saw at low speed with a steady pressure to avoid overheating.

3 **After the holes have** been drilled, clamp the piece along a bench and cut along the centre line of the holes with a handsaw. Make sure you support the offcut as it separates so it does not fall on the floor and split or bruise. Mark underside of wider piece 'top' and narrow piece 'bottom'. Clean the holes and cuts with sandpaper. Cut the base (D) to size ready for assembly.

4 **Shape feet (C) with a 25mm bevel** on front edge and screw them to base of sides. Back of each foot is flush with back of sides. Measure 100mm back up sides to give slope of base. Clamp sides to base, using a rail half as spacer at top end. Screw on base then rails: wider rail 90mm from top flush with back and narrow rail 250mm from bottom flush with front. Countersink screw holes.

5 **Stand the unit on its feet** and check that all is square. Cut all the pegs (E) from hardwood dowelling and glue them into the holes prepared earlier. Wipe away any excess glue. Fill all countersunk screw holes and knot holes with a quick drying water based filler. Deep knots may need two applications of filler. Sand the filler, all the edges and surfaces of unit ready for painting.

6 **To achieve a washed out marine look**, base coat the rack with two coats of white acrylic, sanding between applications. Make blue wash by thinning Taubmans China Blue acrylic enamel with 50 per cent water. Paint wash over white and follow immediately with a dry brush in long strokes to highlight white underneath. Wipe wet paint off the brush as you work. Stick self-adhesive felt into the semicircles to protect the rods.