Do It Yourself

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Plate-Display Rack

From "Ask DIY"

episode ADI-705 -- More Projects »

Q: Can you show me how to build a simple plate rack?

A: (Bruce Johnson, DIY antiques and woodworking expert) If you're a plate collector, here's a simple woodworking project to build an attractive way to display them. This simple rack only involves two boards -- a 12-inch backing piece with an attractive arch cut into it and a narrow shelf that will hold the plates. Here are the steps.

Safety Alert: Always wear eye protection and follow proper safety precautions when using power tools.

- On a 3/4-inch board that's 12 inches in length, lay out the cuts you'll need to make for the arch and the groove that will hold the shelf (figure A). For the arch, you can free-hand the layout mark if you have a steady hand, or you can cut out a cardboard template to help you make the layout mark.
- Marks are also made on the corners (figure B) which will be rounded off later using the saber saw.
- Using a table-saw with the blade set to a height of 1/2-inch, follow your layout mark to cut the notch across the length of the board that will be used to hold the shelf (figure C).
- After cutting the first pass (figure D), continue moving the fence on the table saw over 1/8-inch at a time to cut out a notch in several passes.



A simple shelf for displaying your plate collection can be made using just two boards.

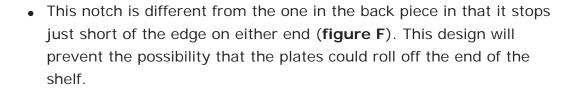


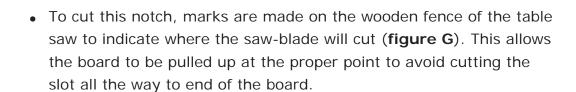
Figure A

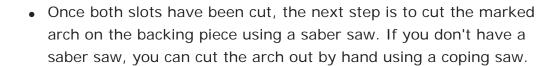


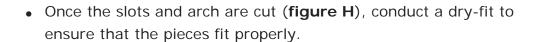
Figure B

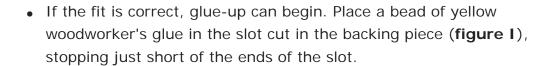
 A notch is also cut in the shelf piece to form a slot that the edges of the displayed plates can rest in securely (figure E).











- Once the glue has been applied, carefully position the shelf into the slot (figure J).
- Clamp the assembly to hold the shelf in place as the glue dries (figure K).



Figure C



Figure D



Figure E



Figure F



Figure G

• As a final touch, use fine-grit sandpaper to smooth of the edges.



Figure H



Figure I



Figure J



Figure K

RESOURCES:

Fine Woodworking

A magazine devoted to high-quality craftsmanship in woodworking.

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Email: service@taunton.com

The Small Wood Shop (The Best of Fine Woodworking)

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