

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**).
- This notch is different from the one in the back piece in that it stops just short of the edge on either end (**figure F**). This design will prevent the possibility that the plates could roll off the end of the shelf.
- To cut this notch, marks are made on the wooden fence of the table saw to indicate where the saw-blade will cut (**figure G**). This allows the board to be pulled up at the proper point to avoid cutting the slot all the way to end of the board.
- Once both slots have been cut, the next step is to cut the marked arch on the backing piece using a saber saw. If you don't have a saber saw, you can cut the arch out by hand using a coping saw.
- Once the slots and arch are cut (**figure H**), conduct a dry-fit to ensure that the pieces fit properly.
- If the fit is correct, glue-up can begin. Place a bead of yellow woodworker's glue in the slot cut in the backing piece (**figure I**), stopping just short of the ends of the slot.
- 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.

RESOURCES:

Fine Woodworking

A magazine devoted to high-quality craftsmanship in woodworking.

The Taunton Press Inc

Newtown, CT 06470

Phone: 203-426-8171

Fax: 203-426-3434

Email: service@taunton.com

The Small Wood Shop (The Best of Fine Woodworking)

Model: 1561580619

Author: Helen Albert (Editor)

Mastering Woodworking Machines (Fine Woodworking Book)

Model: 0942391985

Author: Mark Duginske

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Figure H



Figure I



Figure J



Figure K