

# Matt's Clamp Rack

by Ian Kirby

My friend Matt's collection of clamps is typical of the serious amateur woodworker, so I decided it would be appropriate to design and build him a rack to store them. He brought all his clamps and deposited them on my bench, which is a good place to start. A count of the different types provides dimensions, which in turn point the way toward design solutions. This is also the point at which you should consider whether you might be adding a particular type to your collection or conclude that one type is seldom if ever used and therefore can be excluded from your design.

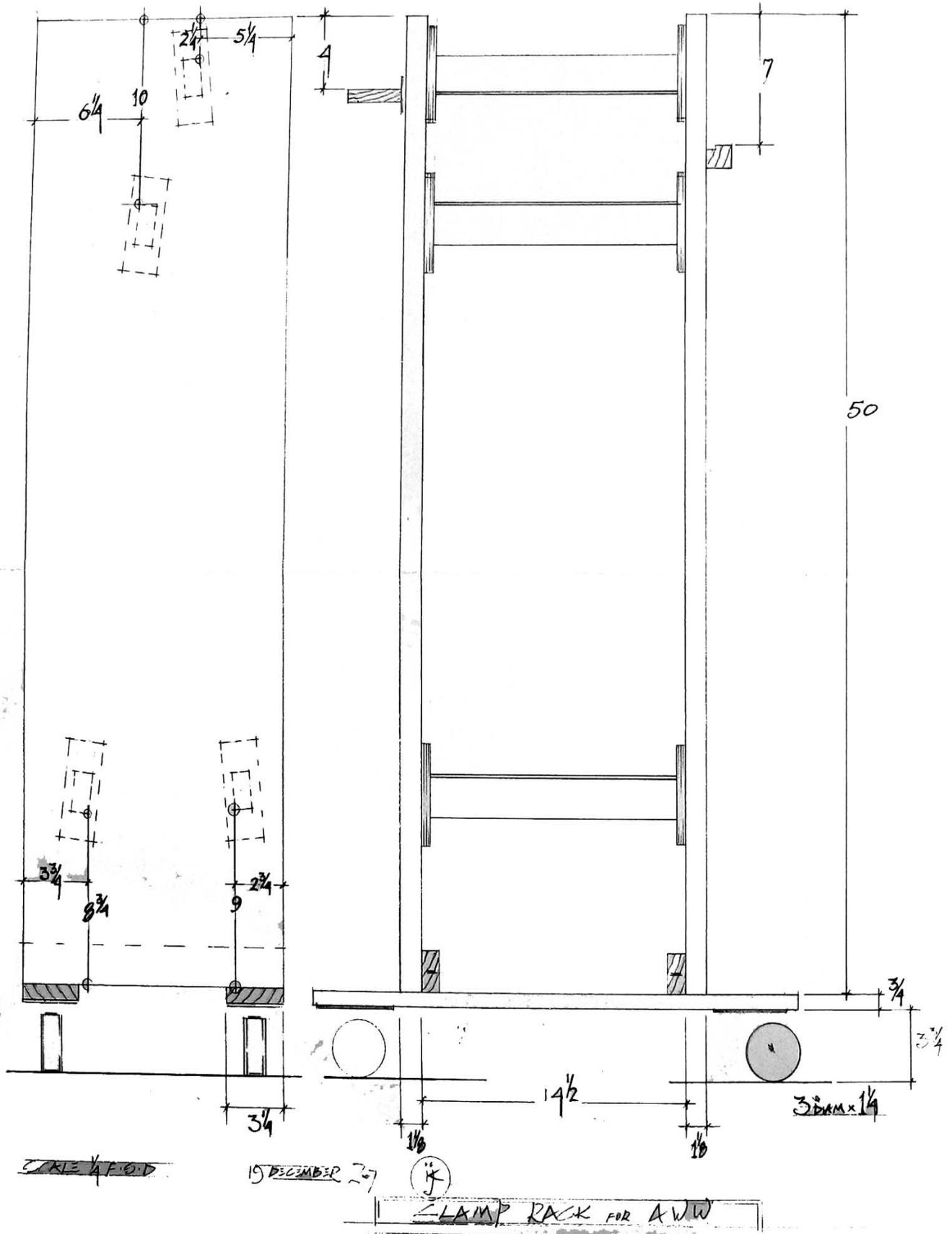
The overall design of the structure could well be decided by what materials you have on hand or stuff you've been warehousing for too long. That's what happened in this case.

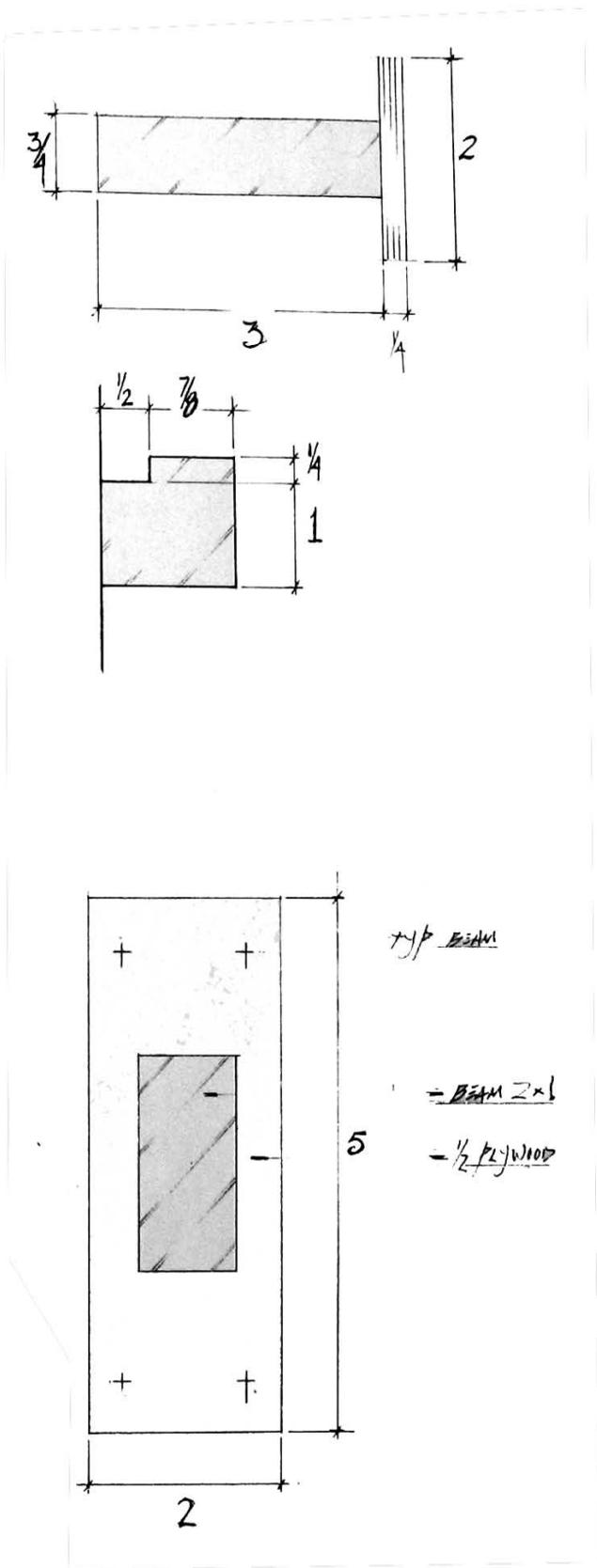
## Building Materials

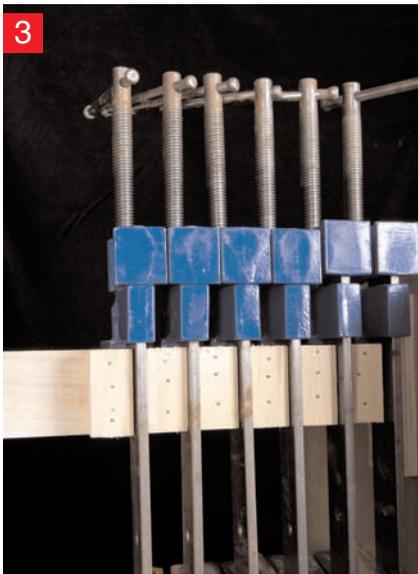
Sheet material makes as effective a tower as a frame and I happened to have some 1/8" thick MDF. Had it been 5/8 CDX plywood, the outcome would have been the same. Matt had some Record bar clamps and, since the company is no longer in business, he won't be buying any more. To extend his range of bar-type clamps, he had invested in some Rockler pipe clamp heads. They are designed so that the screw handle clears the bench as it turns. The casting that keeps it off the bench is thickened at the foot. I don't know if it was intentional from a storage point of view, but a carrier with a rebate on the inside provides for easy hanging (*Photo 1*, on page 3).

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The Record bar clamps and fast-acting bar clamps hang on four cross beams (photos 2 and 3). The beams were cut to length and fitted with 1/2" x 3" x 5" plywood pads screwed to each end. The beams were positioned by placing one of each clamp on the MDF at the desired hanging angle. Once the beams were screwed to one side, the assembly was set up on the second side. The two sides were aligned using a purpose-made wooden try square, simply two pieces of wood clamped together at right angles. The blade went from the top side to overlap the bottom MDF by 1/2". Once in position, the pads were screwed in place. The carrier for the Rockler pipe clamps was screwed to one side and the carrier for the quick grip clamps (photo 4) on the other.

The wheel supports were drilled to accept the wheels, one pair swivelling, one pair not, and attached with nuts and bolts.

Rather than screw the wheel supports into the edge of the MDF. I opted for a more secure connection by gluing and nailing a softwood gusset across the bottom edge and screwed the supports into that.