

# Paul Revere LETTER HOLDER

**F**ourth of July celebrations today seem to be more pomp and fireworks than memory and honor. And perhaps the passage of time softens our need for fire-in-the-belly patriotism. But, consider the seminal moments in our nation's history, and right up there with the signing of the Declaration of Independence is The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere.

We asked scroll saw artist Bill Zaun to design a desktop letter/pencil holder for us that would commemorate this historic moment. Like most of Bill's designs, the scroll-cut parts are easy to make, even if you haven't done much scroll saw work. And, our full-size patterns of the scroll sawed parts mean you can get right to work, without need for enlarging, or grid patterns.

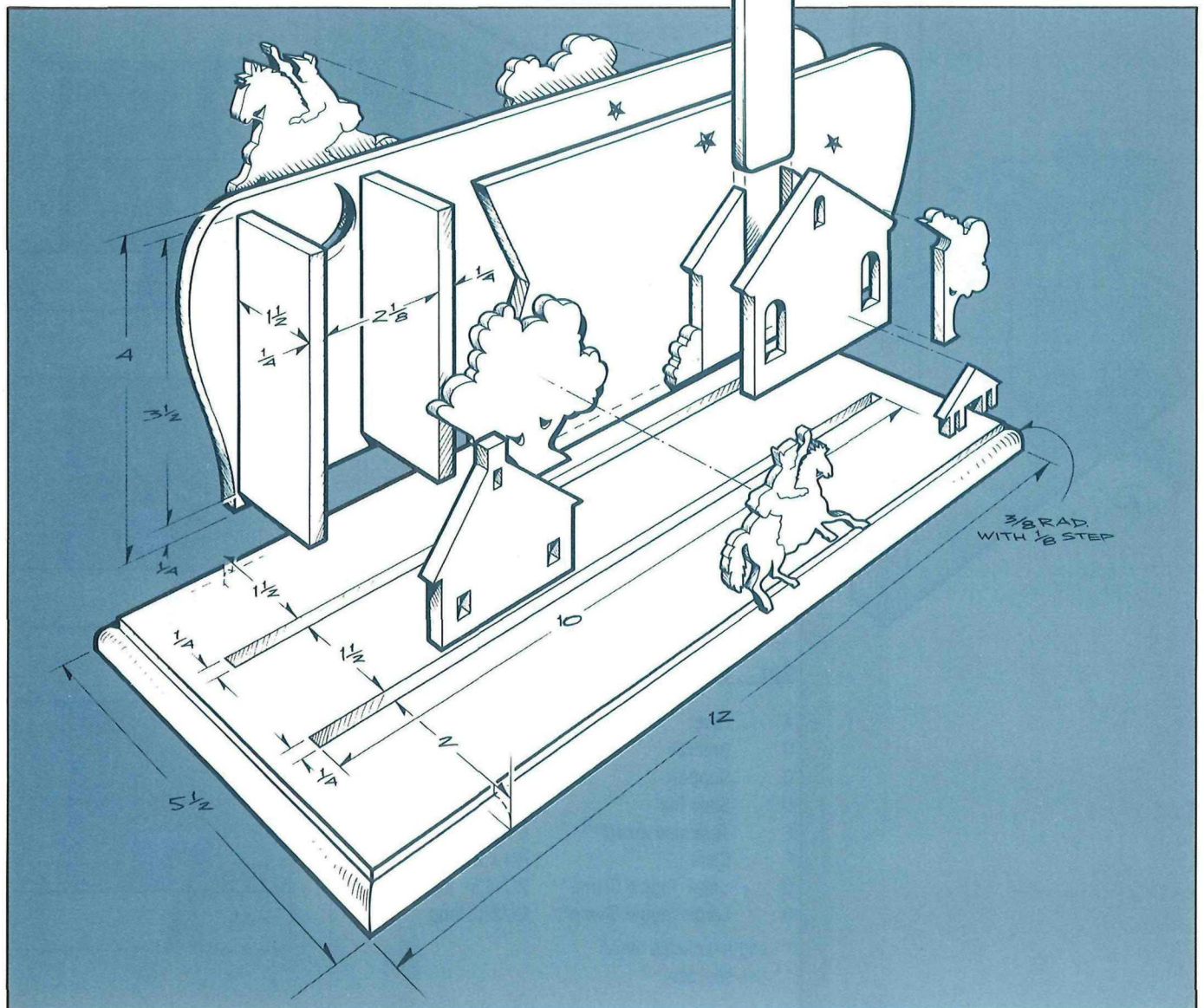
## Obtaining the Wood

Except for the base, which is  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick mahogany, all the remaining parts are  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick. We used walnut for the letter holder sides and di-

viders, maple for the house, oak for the trees and shrub, cherry for the church parts and the steeple letter opener, and padauk for Paul on his horse. As the back view photo shows, we've added a tree along with Paul on his horse on the back of the letter holder. The tree on the back side is oak, while Paul on his horse is cherry.

## Kit Source

If you have an ample scrap box, you can probably get most of the stock for this project by resawing. But for







those woodworker's who may have difficulty finding the specified woods, or obtaining the needed thickness, we've asked a stock kit company, Heritage Building Specialties, to provide a low-cost kit that includes all the wood you'll need to build the Paul Revere Letter Holder exactly as shown (see Stock Kit Source). The stock kit includes all the needed material, final thicknessed and ready for you to start cutting.

Your stock kit will include more than enough stock for all the parts. But lay out the patterns on the wood before you start cutting with the scroll saw, to make sure you don't forget anything.

### Transfer Patterns

First up is transferring the patterns to your stock. The quickest way to transfer the patterns is to make photocopies of the Clip-N-Save pattern page, cut apart the separate pieces of the pattern, and use 3M Spray-Mount Artist's Adhesive to affix the patterns directly to the stock. To use the 3M adhesive, spray it onto the back of the paper pattern, wait about a minute, then apply the pattern to the wood.

If you use our stacking technique (see Pro Tip), you'll only need a single pattern of each of those elements that can be

stacked, specifically Paul on his horse, the letter holder sides and the halves of the church on either side of the steeple. You can also stack the large tree on the front and the same tree on the back, but note that after the trees are separated, you'll need to cut the front tree back a bit where it fits against the roof of the house.

Take careful note of the grain direction of the various parts before applying the patterns. Note that the church and steeple grain all runs vertically, as does the grain of the trees and shrub. The grain of Paul on his horse should run diagonally, either from the horse's head to the back feet, or from the tail to the front

feet. It really doesn't matter which diagonal direction you choose (the project in the photos has one horse and rider cut each way).

### At the Scroll Saw

Start with the interior cuts on any given piece. For example, for the letter holder sides, start by cutting out the moon and stars. You'll need to drill a starter hole for each of the interior cuts, then thread the saw blade through the hole before mounting it in the saw.

Once the interior cuts are complete, cut the outside profile. If you are careful with your cuts, minimal sanding and cleanup work will be required prior to assembly.

### The Base

The base is just a  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. mahogany board  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide by 12 in. long. Lay out a pair of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. wide by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. deep grooves in the base to accept the letter holder sides. We show the grooves as 10 in. long, but check the length of your sides and cut the grooves to fit. Note that the grooves aren't centered on the base. The front groove is located 2 in. back from the front edge of the base.

We cut our grooves on the router table with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. diameter straight cutter, and

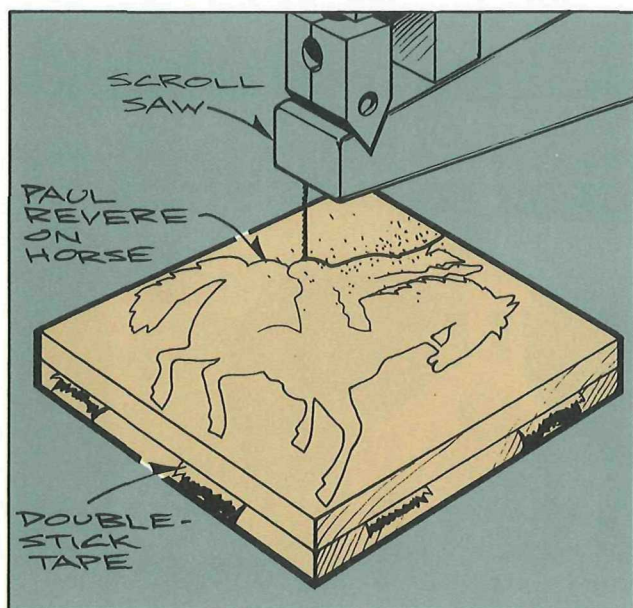
## Stock Kit Source

A stock kit, with all the pre-thicknessed wood you'll need to build the Paul Revere Letter Holder exactly as shown, is available from:

**Heritage Building Specialties**  
205 N. Cascade  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
Tel. 1-800-524-4184

Ask for Project PAK kit no. WJ49402. Cost is \$14.95 postpaid per kit.





## PRO TIP

Once your friends glimpse this handsome letter holder, you'll no doubt be building more than one. But here's a way to make quick work of the scrolling, whether you are making one or many. Simply stack like pieces and cut several at the same time. For example, stack the pieces of padauk and cherry for Paul on his horse, and you can cut both at once. Use the same technique to cut the two sides of the letter holder, and the identical halves of the church on either side of the steeple "opener."

Doublestick tape (Bill Zaun recommends 3M tape, about 1/2 in. wide, sold in most hardware stores for mounting storm windows) can be used to temporarily join the two pieces. Just be careful when separating the scroll-sawed pieces so as to not break any of the delicate parts. An X-acto knife comes in handy to coax the pieces apart.

then used a chisel to square the groove ends. Use stops clamped to the router table fence to limit the length of the grooves. Since both ends of the grooves are blind, you'll need to lower the stock down over the bit to start the cut. Work slowly and carefully, and cut the 1/4 in. groove depth in two passes, each pass removing about 1/8 in. of stock.

Once the grooves are cut, use a 3/8 in. radius round-over bit to apply the stepped radius all around the base.

### Assembly

Glue the sides into the base, and the dividers into position between the sides. Then add the various scroll sawed pieces, taking care not to apply too much glue. The idea here is to avoid excess glue squeeze-out, which can make a mess of the finished piece. When gluing the sides of the church in place, take care to leave enough space for the steeple/ tower/letter opener to slide in and out.

To get the steeple to effectively serve

as a letter opener, you'll need to sharpen the sides to a knife profile. You'll also need to sand to thin the steeple slightly, or it won't slide easily in and out of its "pocket."

### Finish

Our letter holder has a penetrating oil finish. Simply wipe the oil on, let penetrate, then wipe off. Repeat several times to bring out the deep natural color of the various woods used in this project. 