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Classic Project

In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

Fishing Rod Rack

Fishing rods don't usually fare very well when stored in closets, garages, basements or attics. Better to keep them in a rack like this, where they can be given a measure of protection. It also makes a handsome display for the living room or den.

Ours holds seven rods, but it could be made somewhat bigger or smaller to adapt to your collection. Because of the length of most fishing rods, they are separated into two parts before being placed in the rack. The two drawers provide a convenient storage area for the reels, while the pegs are handy for hanging other such essentials as a vest, net, and favorite hat. The 1/2 in. by 3/4 crossbar shown in the exploded view is optional, should you want to store rods with reels still mounted. Locate the crossbar, and change the rod pocket holes and rod support notches as needed to suit your equipment.

Except for the back and drawer bottoms (which are 1/4 in. birch plywood), the project is made from 1/2 in. thick maple. Begin by making the two sides (A). If you are unable to find 9 in. wide stock, you'll need to edge join a couple of boards in order to get the needed width.

Note that three 1/4 in. deep by 1/2 in. wide dados are cut in each side. The two lower dadoes are cut completely across the width of the sides, while the upper dado is stopped 3 in. from the back edge.

The dadoes are cut with a router. To simplify the procedure, it helps to clamp the sides, edge to edge, as shown in the Dado Detail. Equip the router with a 1/2 in. diameter bit set for a 1/8 in. depth of cut, and clamp a straightedge across the two sides as shown. Make the 1/8 in. deep cut, then lower the bit to 1/4 in. and make a second pass. Cutting the dado in two passes helps reduces strain on the router while minimizing burning. (Since the router leaves rounded corners, you'll need to square the ends of the stopped dado with a chisel.)

With the dadoes completed, use the table saw and a dado head cutter to cut the 1/4 in. deep by 1/4 in. wide rabbet along the back edge of each side as shown. Then, transfer the curves from the grid pattern to the sides and cut them out with a band saw or saber saw. Smooth the bandsawn edges with a file and sandpaper.

Fishing Rod Rack

Next, cut the bottom (B), shelf (C), divider (D) and rod support (E) to size. As shown in the exploded view and the detail, there are seven rod handle holes bored in the shelf. Lay out and mark the location of each one, then use a 1 1/2 in. diameter Forstner bit to bore each hole to a depth of 3/16 in. And as mentioned earlier, it's a good idea to check your rod collection at this point to make sure things will fit okay.

Note that there is a 1/4 in. deep by 1/2 in. wide dado cut in the bottom and shelf to accept the divider (D). These cuts can be made with the table saw and dado head, using the miter gauge to support the stock as it is passed over the cutter. When completed, use the dado head along with the rip fence to cut a 1/4 in. by 1/4 in. rabbet in the back edge of the bottom and the rod support.

Lay out and mark the location of the seven notches in the rod support (see detail). Bore a 1/2 in. diameter hole to establish the end of each notch, then use the band or saber saw to cut the taper.

Now, temporarily clamp the sides, bottom, shelf and divider. Cut the upper

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Lay out and mark the location of the seven notches in the rod support (see detail). Bore a 1/2 in. diameter hole to establish the end of each notch, then use the band or saber saw to cut the taper.

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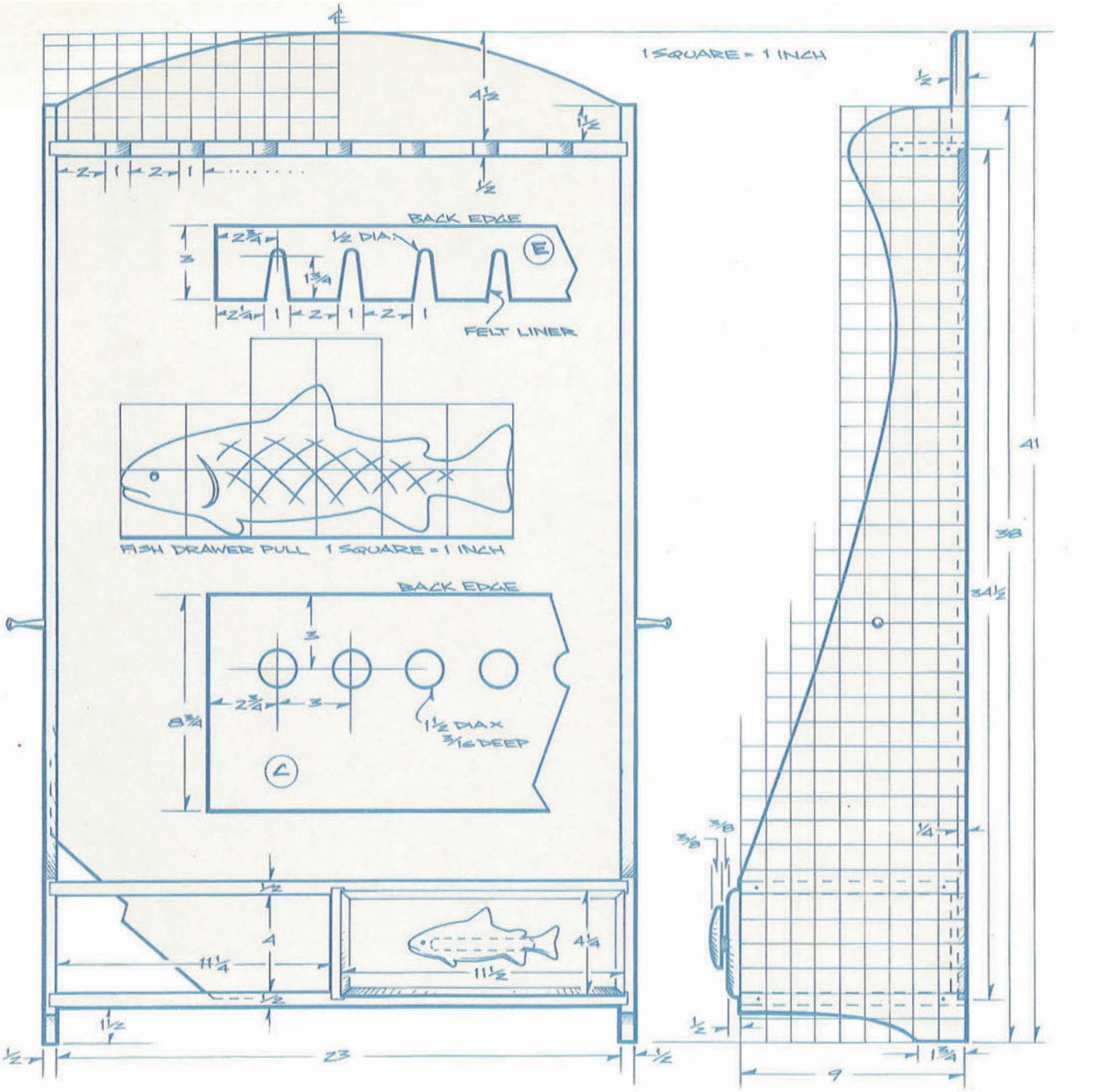


back (F) to size, then cut the 1/4 in. by 1/4 in. rabbets on each end (see Rabbet Detail). Transfer the curve from the grid pattern to the stock and cut it out on the band saw. Once cut, smooth the edge and check for a good fit where the curve meets the top end of the sides.

Next, measure the opening for the lower back (G) and cut it to fit. Make sure the four corners are square.

The fishing rack is now ready for assembly. First though, give each part a thorough sanding, finishing with 220-grit. Begin assembly by joining the bottom and shelf to the divider. Use glue and two or three countersunk finishing nails to secure the parts.

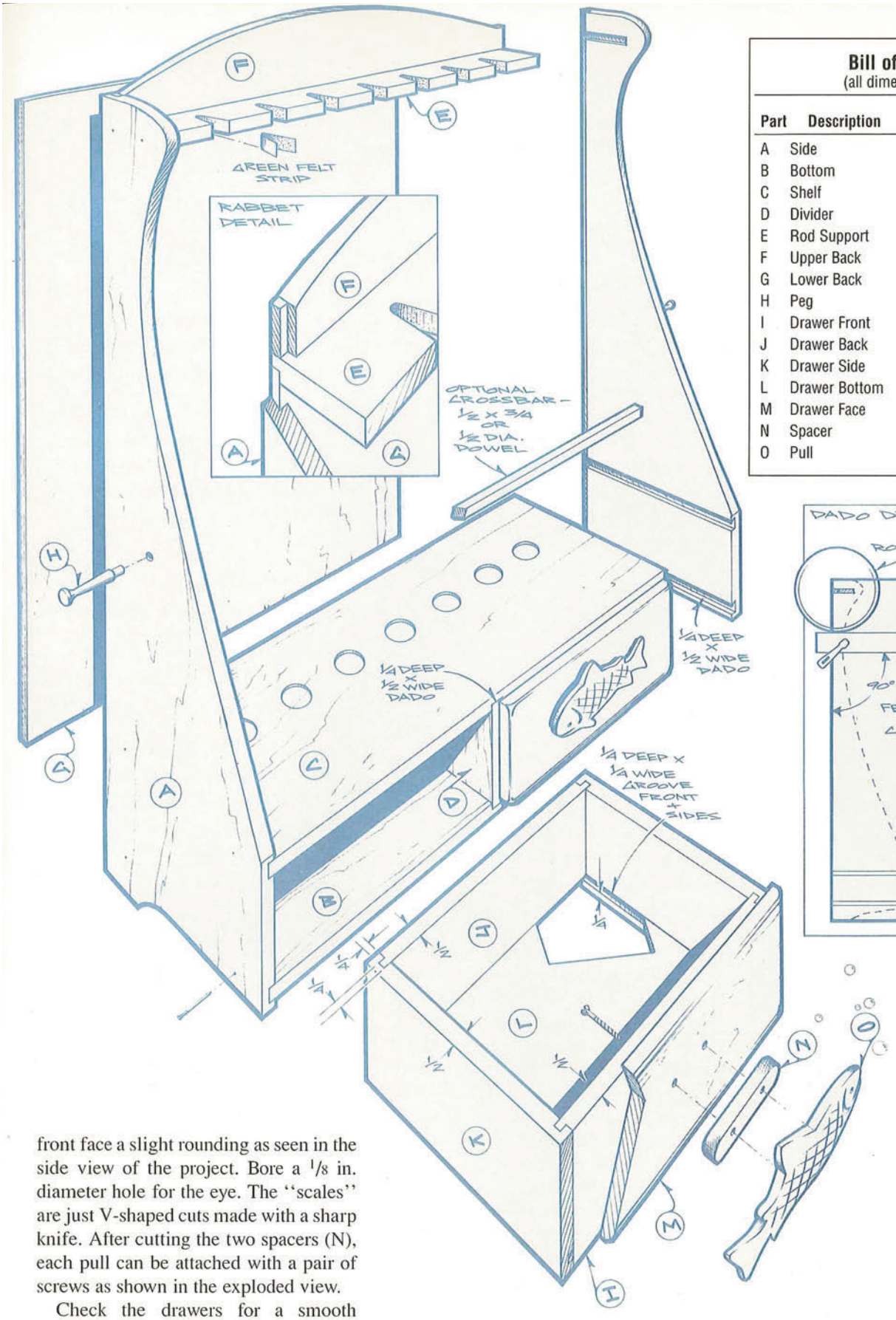
The bottom/shelf/divider sub-assembly can now be joined to the two sides along with the rod support. Once again use glue and countersunk finishing nails. If all looks okay, add the upper and lower backs in the same manner.

Bore a hole in each side, then add the two pegs (H). Any small peg will do, although we used one of those small Shaker-style pegs sold by most lumberyards.

The two drawers are made next. The front (I), back (J), sides (K) and face (M) are made from 1/2 in. thick stock, while the bottom (L) is made from 1/4 in. thick plywood. Cut the necessary rabbets, dadoes and grooves in the front, back and sides, then assemble with glue and clamps. Slide the bottom in place and secure it with two or three screws driven through the bottom and up into the lower edge of the drawer back.

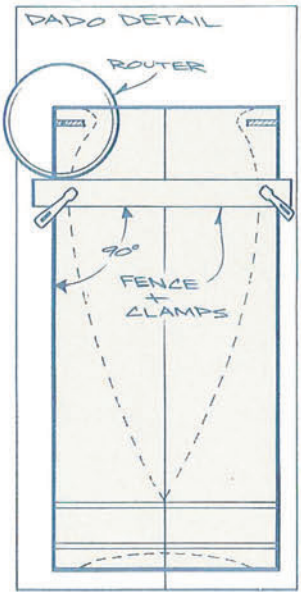
Cut the drawer faces to size and round the edges with a 1/4 in. radius round-over bit. Use a pair of wood screws to attach each face to the drawer front as shown in the exploded view.

Any kind of drawer pull (O) will work fine here, but we thought a fish-shaped pull was most appropriate. It's easy to make. First, cut 3/8 in. thick stock to 2 1/4 in. wide by 6 in. long, then transfer the fish pattern and cut it out with a band saw or scroll saw. Use a file to give the



Bill of Materials
(all dimensions actual)

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Side	1/2 x 9 x 38	2
B	Bottom	1/2 x 9 x 23 1/2	1
C	Shelf	1/2 x 8 3/4 x 23 1/2	1
D	Divider	1/2 x 8 3/4 x 4 1/2	1
E	Rod Support	1/2 x 3 x 23 1/2	1
F	Upper Back	1/2 x 4 1/2 x 23 1/2	1
G	Lower Back	1/4 x 23 1/2 x 34 1/2	1
H	Peg	1/2 dia. x 1 1/2 long	2
I	Drawer Front	1/2 x 4 x 10 3/4	2
J	Drawer Back	1/2 x 3 1/2 x 10 3/4	2
K	Drawer Side	1/2 x 4 x 8 1/2	4
L	Drawer Bottom	1/4 x 8 1/4 x 10 3/4	2
M	Drawer Face	1/2 x 4 1/4 x 11 1/2	2
N	Spacer	3/8 x 1/2 x 4 1/4	2
O	Pull	(see detail)	2



front face a slight rounding as seen in the side view of the project. Bore a 1/8 in. diameter hole for the eye. The "scales" are just V-shaped cuts made with a sharp knife. After cutting the two spacers (N), each pull can be attached with a pair of screws as shown in the exploded view.

Check the drawers for a smooth sliding fit. If all looks okay, give the entire project a thorough final sanding. Lightly round over any sharp corners or edges.

Next, we applied two coats of Minwax's Puritan Pine Wood Finish. When dry we added two coats of satin polyurethane varnish. A strip of felt glued to each rod support notch helps protect the rods.

The fishing rod rack can be mounted by driving four screws through the lower back. To insure adequate strength, use wall anchors or space the holes 16 in. apart and drive the screws into wall studs. Only two of the screws will show if you locate the two bottom holes behind the drawers.

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Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

Matt Becker
Internet Production Coordinator