



Build It With



— Fishing Rod —
HOLDER



Step-By-Step Plans: DIY Fishing Rod Holder

Do you have a bunch of fishing rods with nowhere to put them? Or worse — are your reels stacked together and creating an eye sore in your garage or shed? Build your own fishing rod holder to easily organize your rods and reels for quick access while also adding beautiful natural hardwood into your space.

Follow along with this step-by-step guide and video tutorial! Watch as Steve Stack builds this exact fishing rod holder in a recent episode of Build It With Baird:



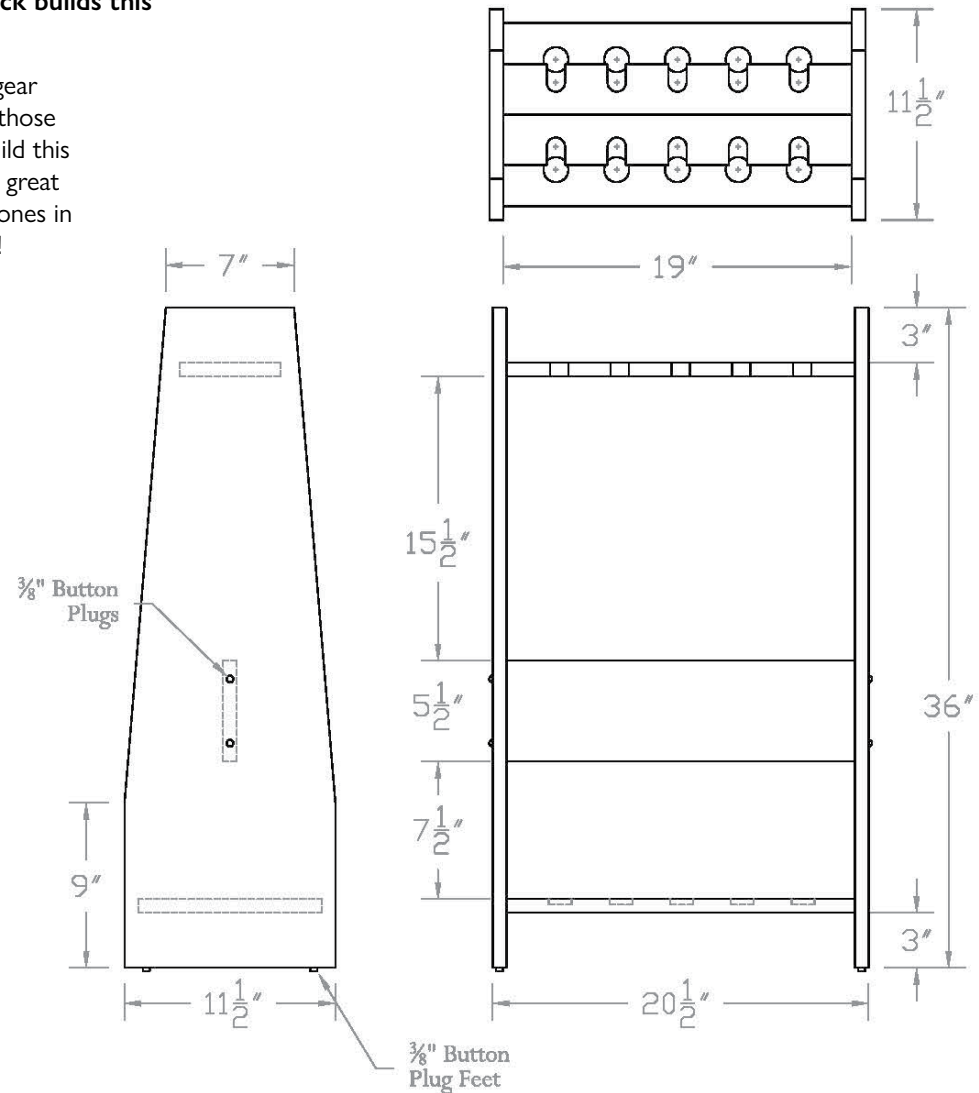
Don't live with your fishing gear in a disorganized mess. Use those woodworking muscles to build this nice and easy project – it's a great opportunity to let the little ones in your family lend a hand, too!

TOOLS NEEDED:

- Table Saw or Circular Saw
- Drill or Screw Guns
- Palm Sander
- 1" Forstner Bit
- 1 3/8" Forstner Bit
- Kreg 720 Pocket Hole Jig
- Clamps
- Try Square
- Straight Edge
- Miter Saw

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- [8' - 1x12 Red Oak S4S Lumber](#)
- [4' - 1x6 Red Oak S4S Lumber](#)
- 1 1/4" 32mm Kreg Pocket Hole Screws
- Wax
- [Titebond Original Wood Glue](#)
- [3/8" Wood Button Plugs](#)





Step 1

Collect and size all your materials.

To get started, collect all your tools and materials needed for the project. Gather all the lumber required for the fishing rod holder and trim it to size at a square cut.

The two side panels should measure 36" by 11 1/2" by 3/4".

The bottom shelf should measure 19" by 10" by 3/4".

The top shelf should measure 19" by 5 1/2" by 3/4".

The center support should measure 19" by 5 1/2" by 3/4".

These measurements will allow you to create a rack that will hold ten fishing rods.

Use the table or circular saw to crosscut the lumber to these measurements. Finished edges will be sanded at the end of the build.

Step 2

Plan out rod hole placements on the bottom shelf.

The bottom shelf of the fishing rod holder will hold the handle in place. Measure these holes before cutting them out to ensure proper spacing. This rod holder will have a 2-inch offset from both edges of the board and 2 7/8" from the ends—space out 3 5/16" equal spacing between each hole.

Use a tri square to map out the spacing on the bottom shelf and mark with a pencil. Use an "X" to mark the center of the hole locations.

Step 3

Plan out rod hole placements on the top shelf.

The top shelf holds each fishing pole in place so they don't fall over. This step follows the same process as Step 2 but with slightly different measurements.

The upper shelf should have a 2 7/8" offset from the ends with 3 5/16" center spacing between each hole. However, reduce the edge offset to 1" (instead of 2").

Use a tri square to map out the spacing on the top shelf and mark with a pencil. Use an "X" to mark the center of the hole locations.





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Step 4

Drill shallow holes on the bottom shelf.

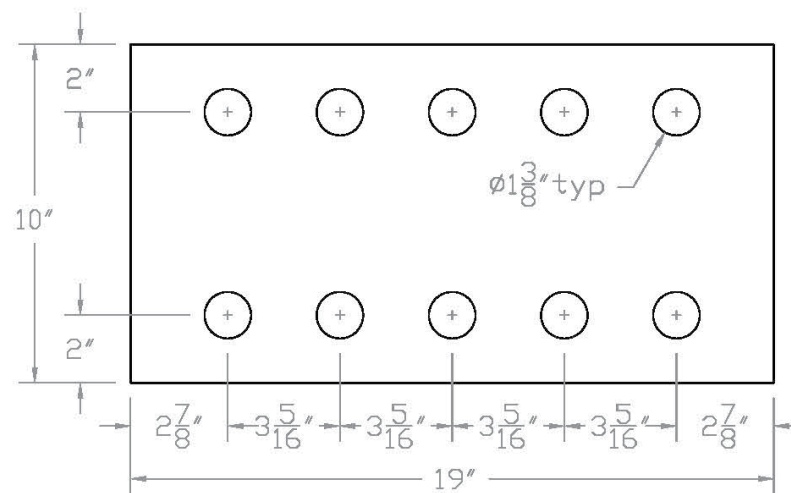
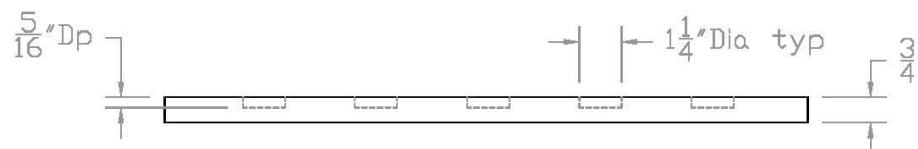
Using a 1 3/8" Forstner bit with 5/16" depth, drill the circular holders where the Xs are marked. Repeat 10 times for each handle location. Be careful to not drill through the bottom of the wood piece. The hole should be deep enough for a rod handle to fit in it without slipping.



Step 5

Drill complete holes on the top shelf.

The top shelf will have complete holes. Use the 1" Forstner bit to drill the holes where the Xs are marked. Drill all the way through the wood and repeat 10 times.





Step 6

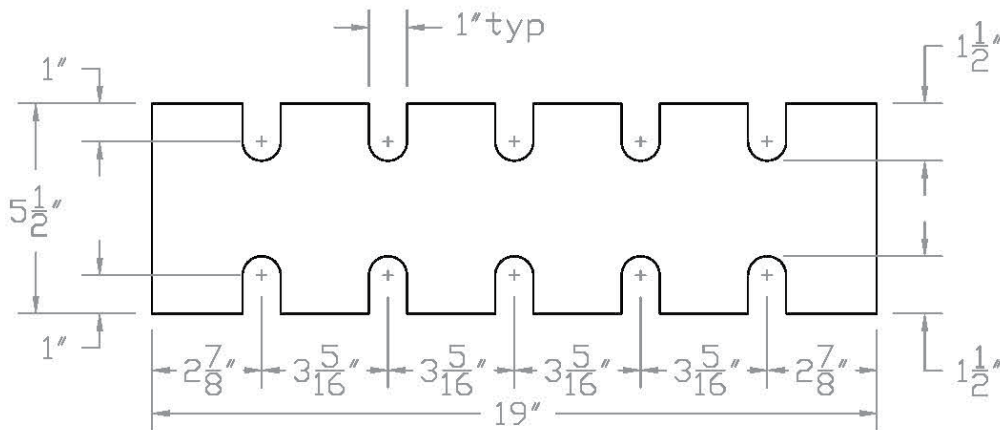
Mark cuts for a U-shaped cavity on the top shelf.

On the top shelf, use a pencil and draw a line from each side of the circle to the closest board edge. This is how you know where to cut for the U-shaped cavity to house the rods.

Step 7

Cut out the U-shaped cavity.

Use a cross-cut miter box to saw out the lines you marked in Step 6. (This changes the hole to a U-shaped cavity so that you can slide a fishing rod into the cavity.)



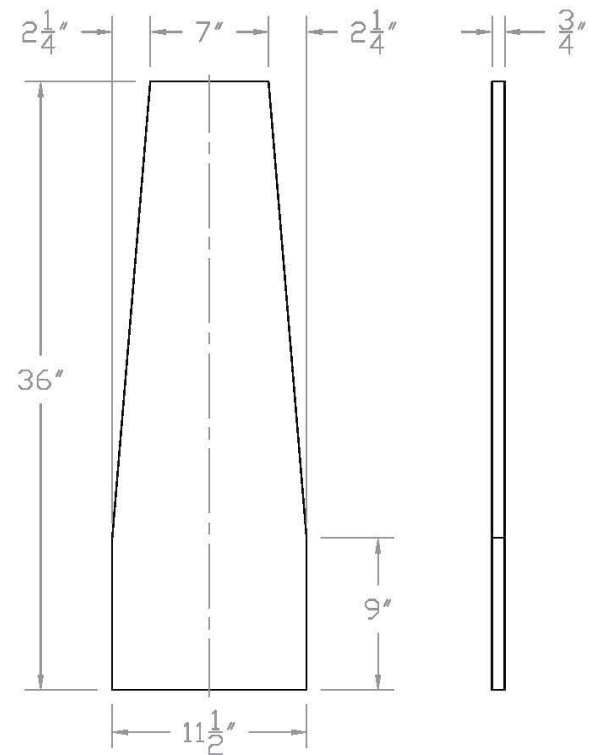
Step 8

Trim side panels.

In order to create this tapered look, you'll need to grab your circular and mark the edges of each side panel. Starting at about 9 inches from the bottom, draw a slight diagonal line toward the top of the panel, with the top end point measuring 2 1/4" from the edge of the original wood piece.

Mark the cut line and place another piece of wood on that line to use as a fence for your saw. Trim both sides of each side panel.

After trimming is complete, the bottom of the side panel should measure 11 1/2" in width and the top should measure 7" inches in width (2 1/4" removed from each side of the panel).





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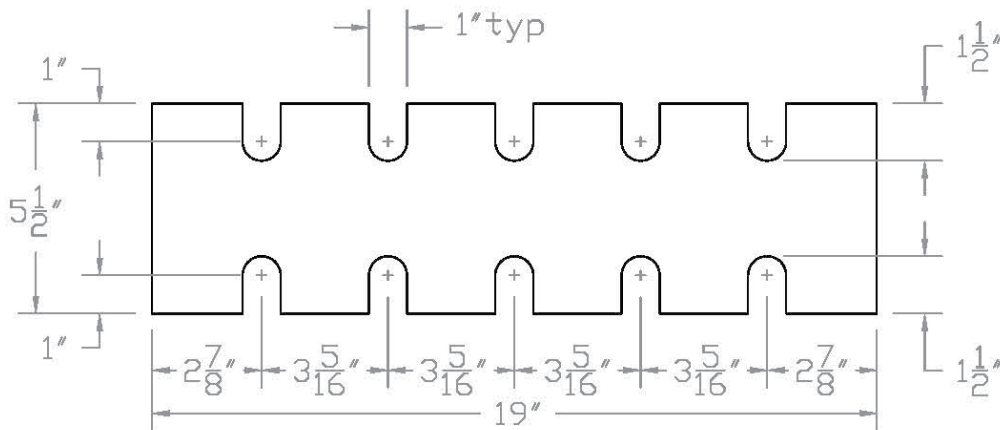
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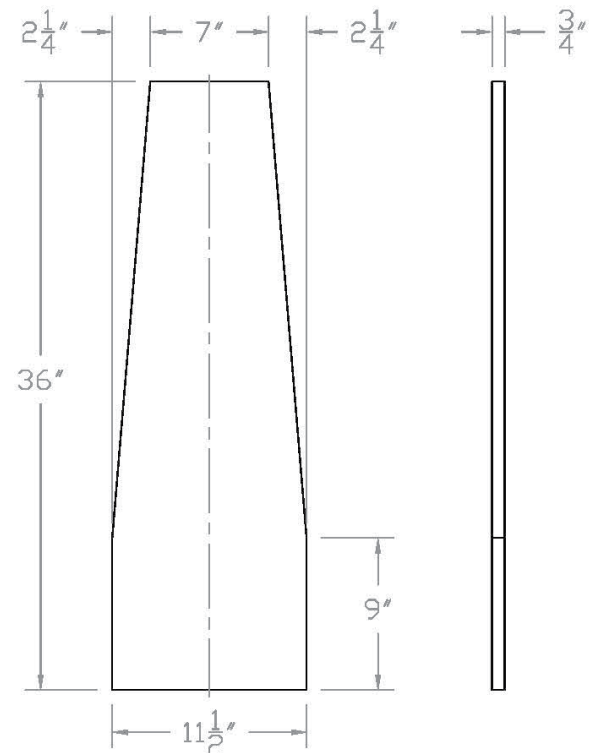
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Step 9

Lay out where the shelves and center support will be on your side panels.

Take your side panels to draw out where the shelves will be placed. The bottom shelf will lay 3" from the bottom of the upright side panels. Going from the opposite end, the top shelf will lay 3" from the top of the upright side panel.

The center stretcher board measures 19" by 5 1/2" by 3/4". The 5 1/2" side will be up against the side panels, as they will be 19" apart.

To determine the center board's placement, measure 10 1/2" from the bottom and 18 1/2" from the top. These will be the lines measuring the top and bottom of the center support beam. Measure the distance between these lines to make sure they are 5 1/2" apart to fit the width of the board.

Step 10

Drill pilot holes for the center support beam.

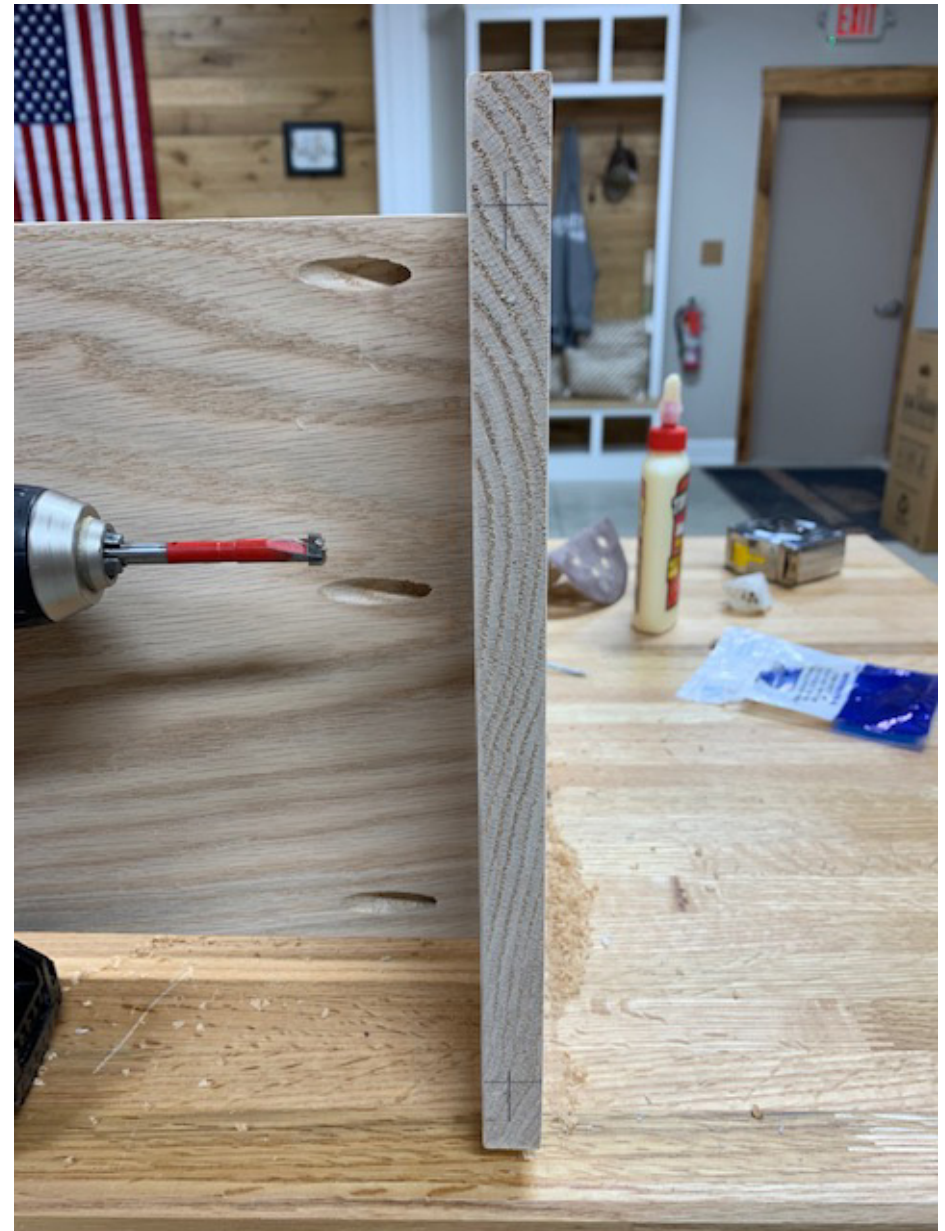
Drill 2 small pilot holes in each of the side panels where the center board will be located.

Step 11

Drill pocket holes on the shelves.

Drill three pocket holes (using the Kreg 720 Pocket Hole Jig) on the underside of the bottom shelf. Space them out evenly over the width of the board.

Drill two pocket holes on the underside of the top shelf. Space them out evenly over the width of the board.





Step 12

Sand all boards.

Sand down each face of the side panels, shelves and center support beam to smooth the surface.

Step 13

Assemble the fishing rod holder structure using wood glue and screws.

Apply Titebond wood glue onto the edges of the bottom shelf. Place the glue side down on the side panel and screw the wood in place using the pocket holes.

Repeat the same process to attach the top shelf to the same side panel.

Apply Titebond wood glue on the remaining side panel where the shelves will be placed. Pick up the structure to place the other ends of the shelves on top of the glue line. Use the pocket holes to secure both shelves with screws.

Step 14

Add center stretcher board for support.

Use wood pieces that measure 7 1/2" to find the exact spacing of the center support beam. Place the beam on the wood pieces for easier assembly. Apply wood glue onto both side panels where the support beam will be located.

Place the centerboard on the wood glue line. Use the pilot holes to screw the beam to the side panels. Remove the extra wood pieces that were used for measurements.

Step 15

Place wood buttons on the bottom of the rod holder.

On the outside of the side panels, place 3/8" wood buttons over the screw holes, being sure to add wood glue before placement. Use a hammer to secure them into the hole.

Drill four holes in the bottom corners of the side panels (the edge that touches the floor when standing). Add 3/8" wood buttons into the holes to elevate each corner and act as contact points for the ground instead of having the wood board directly on the ground.

Step 16

Sand edges to finish.

Unfinished board edges are sharp and cause splinters. Use a sander to finish and soften the edges on every board.

Step 17

Apply polyurethane.

To finish, spray a couple of coats of polyurethane to seal and protect the wood. In our project, we chose a satin finish.



Step 18

Enjoy!

Add your favorite fishing rods to your finished product and see how good it feels organizing your gear with something you built yourself!



Hal Shaffer | Host + Co-creator, Renovation Hunters

Upgrade Your Reel Organization

Don't let your garage, shed or hunting cabin look disheveled! Organize your space by neatly placing your fishing rods on this great DIY fishing rod rack.

Need to store more than 10? The above-average DIY-er can easily adjust these plans to accommodate the space for more rods.

For more great projects and DIY inspo, check out the Baird Brothers Content Studio - contentstudio.bairdbrothers.com - where you can find free plans, interviews with special guests, tips, tricks, trends and video tutorials.

Every day is a great day when you're making sawdust. Until next time!