

IDEAS FROM THE

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A Southeastern Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Tool Rack

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Proper turning-tool storage is important for pleasurable turning. It is also important for efficiency if you are a production turner. I am not a production turner, but I do like pleasurable turning experiences.

The American Woodturner, the Journal of the AAW, has published a few articles on tool storage, but none of them have met my requirements. One article used magnet strips to hold tools in place. This made for a flexible arrangement of tools, but I just couldn't see myself tugging at a tool, or having it attracted to another if it got too close. Holders with holes to drop tools into usually hide their business end and often don't protect one tool from another.

My requirements were simple:

- 1. The entire tool should be visible to be easily identified without having to remember a distinguishing handle.**
- 2. The storage device should be able to accept any size tool in any location so that tools could readily be rearrange when new tools were acquired.**
- 3. Placement and removal of a tool should be a no-brainer no matter what position it is in.**

Using the above requirements, I designed myself a rack that holds a dozen tools. See upper right photo. I use this rack for the tools I use the most. A second rack would certainly be nice, but I have run out of wall space.

I have seen another system that meets the above requirements. Mel Turcanik has a system made of pegboard and turned pegs. Make sure you take note of it at the November meeting. It is very versatile, expandable, and can be arranged for a high density distribution of tools if you start running out of wall space, a tradeoff that my design does not allow. However, I would not mount such a system on a corner wall (or else construct some kind of a guard if I did) in fear of poking out my eyes.

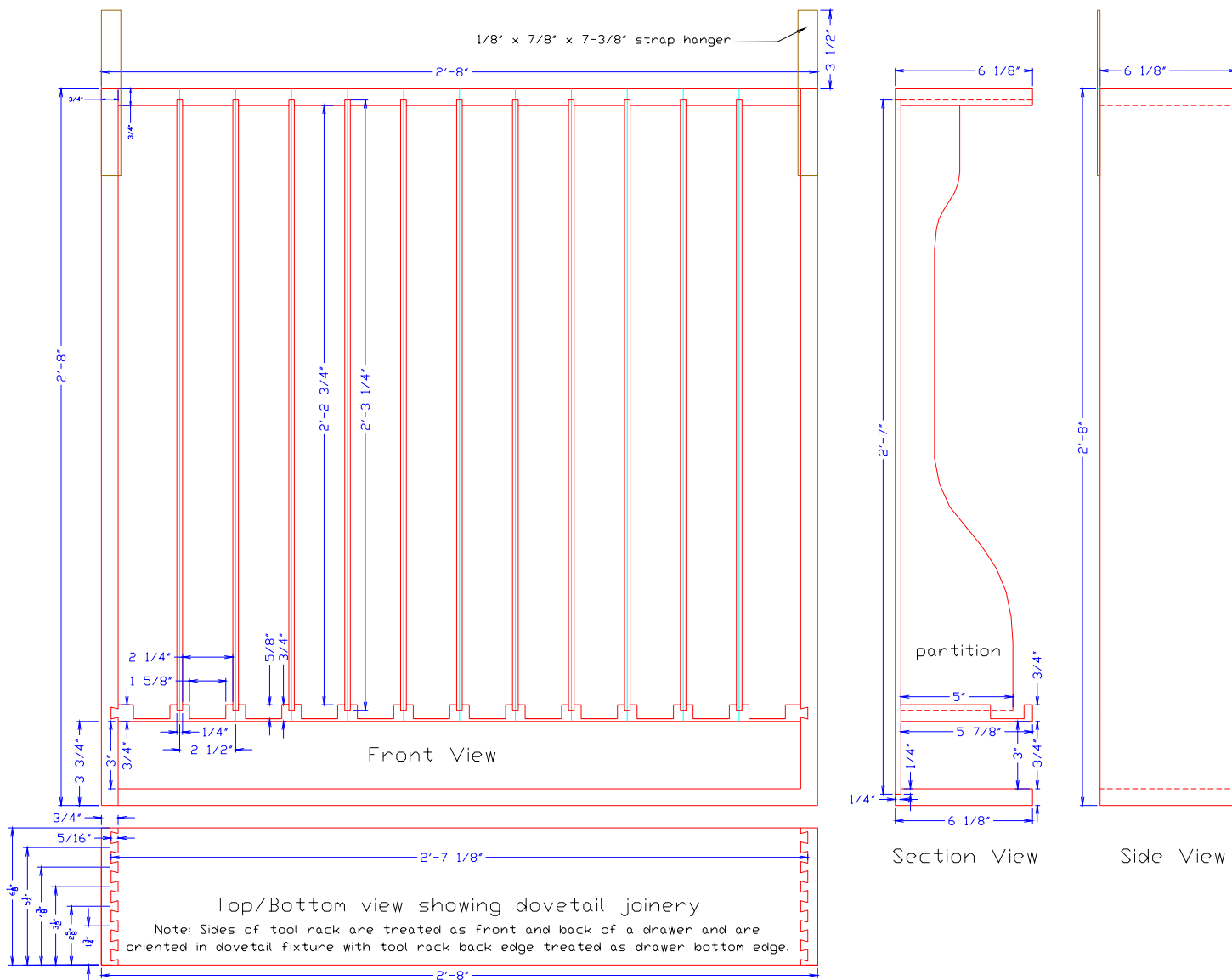
On the next page is a drawing of my tool rack. Even if you are not interested in the rack per se, you might benefit from some of the dimensions. The hardest



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part of the design was arriving at how much space I should leave for each tool, the diameter and depth of the recesses for handle ends, the shape of the partition that would allow easy access for all tool sizes, and the depth to allow for enough slant to keep tools from falling forward.

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Notes:

1. Case of 3/4" red oak with vertical partitions of 1/4" butternut.
2. Dovetails for case perimeter cut with Porter-Cable Omnijig using 1/2" half-blind dovetail templet, 1/2" 14 degree dovetail bit, and 5/8" templet guide and nut.
3. Holes for tool handles drilled into median horizontal partition with 1 5/8" Forstner bit.
4. Median partition joined to case sides with 1/4" deep dovetail tongue inserted from rear into blind stoped dovetailed dado. Dovetail dado machined first with 3/8" straight router bit followed by 1/2" dovetail bit.
5. Back of 1/4" oak plywood paneling screwed into 1/4" rabbet after median partition and vertical partitons installed without glue.
6. Finished with Watco Danish Oil

Woodturning Tool Rack

Irving L. Miller
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 Rack for Turning Tools.dwg