

on the Same Rack

BY CHRIS GOCHNOUR

Storing lumber effectively is a challenge in any shop, but it's especially challenging in a small shop. When I designed my current lumber rack, the efficient use of space was a priority. I wanted my lumber to be accessible and close to the chopsaw, where I cut it to rough length. Gradually, I developed the notion of a combination crosscutting table and lumber rack. While I was at it, I decided to make the chopsaw easily removable so that I could take it to installations.

The rack's framework consists of two hardwood posts and a series of cantilevered arms that hold the lumber and support the crosscutting table. The posts are lag-bolted to the stud wall. I chose bolts

ery for these arms, stacking two tenons for each arm rather than making a very wide one. This improves the joint because less material is removed from the post, which minimizes the risk of splitting. It also avoids wood-movement problems that can occur with wide tenons.

The arms for the chopsaw table have a series of dadoes cut on the inside faces to accept plywood ribs that support the tabletop. I made the top of the table out of medium-density fiberboard (MDF), because it is very flat and a good utility work surface. I also built a hardwood fence with stops for repetitive cutoff work.

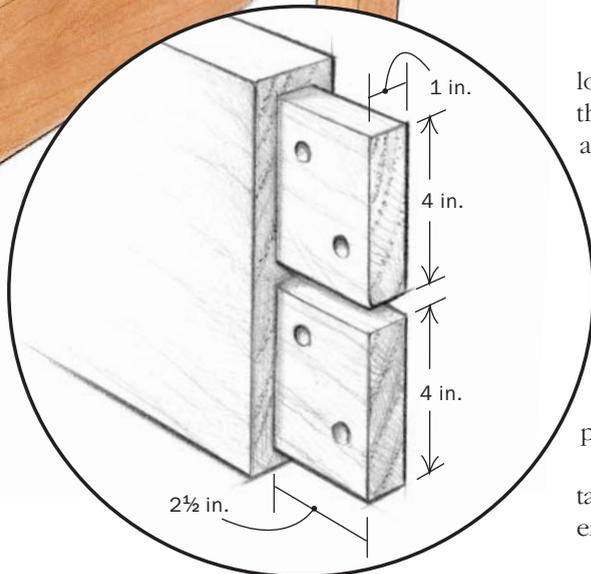
The chopsaw is mounted on a small tray that slides into place and is secured with

Cantilevered arms and a built-in chopsaw table provide plenty of storage, easy access and efficient crosscutting in a small space



Posts, 2½ in. thick by 3 in. wide by 87 in. long

Lag bolts, ½ in. by 6 in.



long enough to give me 3 in. of threads in the studs, and I mounted the posts 6 ft. apart to correspond with the wall studs.

The arms, also hardwood, are tenoned into the posts and secured with glue and draw-bored pegs. I chose to taper the arms so that I could have the strength of a large tenon mounted into the posts but more room for lumber on the outside. For ease of assembly, I glued the arms into the posts before bolting the posts to the wall.

The arms that support the crosscutting table are almost twice the width of the others and are not tapered. I modified the join-

two screws. With this setup, I can remove the two bolts and take the saw with me. In the shop, my fence replaces the factory fence. But when I take the saw on the road, I remount the factory fence.

My drill press is just a few feet away from the table, so I installed a drawer at one end to hold drill bits and drill-press accessories.

My rack is just inside the large door I use for bringing lumber into the shop. I simply back in my truck and unload lumber right onto the rack. Let the work begin. □

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