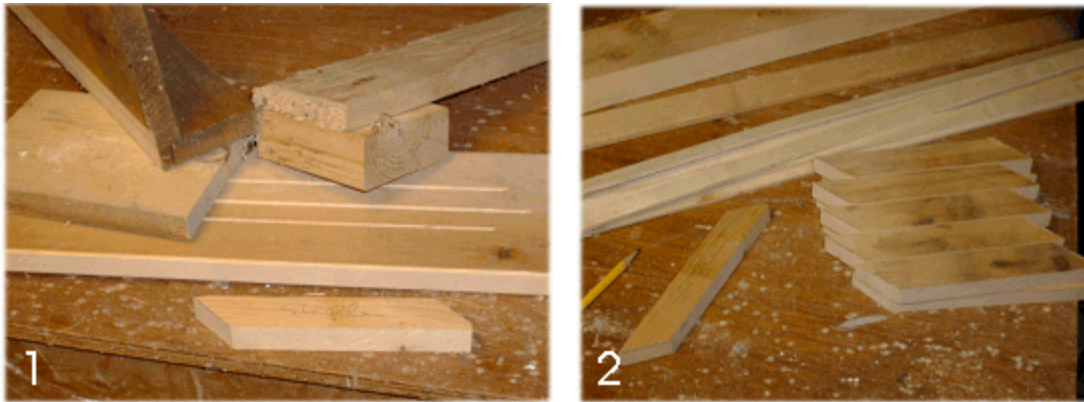


## Ribbon Rack

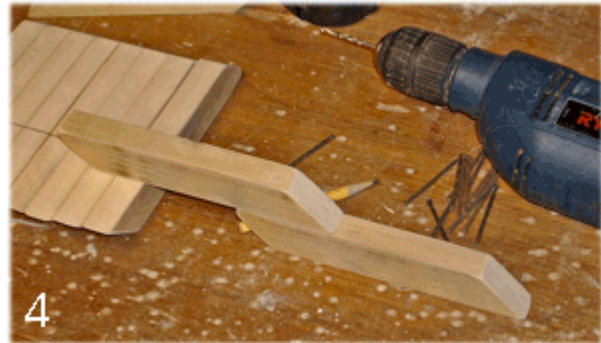
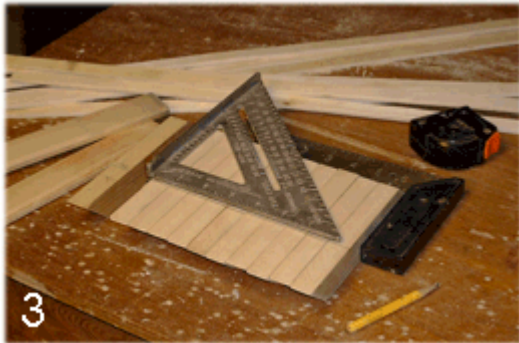
If you know someone with show ribbons, make a display for them. This rack is thirty-six inches wide, and twenty-seven inches top to bottom, for all its eighteen feet of ribbon rack. It appears to be able to hold forty-two ribbons of assorted rosette-diameters, mixed two on left, three in center, and two on right. It is, most easily, a power miter saw project.

I keep a “sample” of the building-block, as it makes a nice form from which to pencil-mark similar shapes on new wood. New wood? The basic shape is seven inches long and 1 1/8 wide, so any scrap of nominal one-by is fair game (illus. 1). As it is, I chose the right side of the (nailed-together) L-shaped boards in the upper left of the picture for these basic bracket elements.



Need some thin plywood for the cross-pieces (1/4 or thinner: this is Asian crate-wood, though I’ve generally used the ripped and split thickness of a 2x4 to make 3/16 by about 3/4 inch strips) (illus. 2). Need some maybe 3/8 inch thick pieces 1 1/2 inch wide for the wall-brackets (the side of a 2x4 works well: it’s already “eased”). The sample has one pointed-end cut blunt (a very little bit).

Square bracket pieces to each other according to their blunt ends, and mark a line across their “fronts” three inches up from their (lower) pointy ends (illus. 3).



The brackets assemble face-down on the table (illus. 4). Line up the blunt end of the first piece at the line on the “front” of the second piece and drill a pilot hole slightly undersized for a six-penny finishing nail (two-inches long) through/into both pieces of wood. The hole should best not come out the front of the lower piece.

Drive a nail into the upper piece, until the nail-point comes out its far side. Glue what will be the mating surfaces. Drive the nail through, into the lower piece, supporting successive pieces with to-be-used bits of bracket (illus. 5).



With the brackets assembled (illus. 6), mark the 1 1/2 inch wide bits of 2x4 edge that will be the wall-mounts, pre-drill them for three-penny nails, glue the surfaces, and nail-up.

Put a small mark at the center of the (thirty-six inch) plywood strips that will support the ribbons. Mark out eight inches from that center, and squarely mark all strips (illus. 7).



Tack wire nails into the plywood strips at the 16-inch-centers marked on the strips (illus. 8). Starting at one end (with glue, and checking that the “last” strips will also be centered on the brackets), tack the glued strips onto the brackets. And keep checking for strips square-to brackets.



NOTE: As shown, the six plywood strips require five bracket pieces, but the bracket pieces will stand between the ribbons. If the strips are tacked on the faces of the bracket pieces, just at the top of their vertical faces, this six-row rack would need one more bracket-piece, but could be made to “hide” the bracket-piece faces.

In this design, after the second strip is tacked, the next tack is in mid-air. Find some support for the newly-glued bracket-joint, scraps, whatever, so that the (very slight) impact of setting the wire nails does not loosen the more crucial bracket joint (illus. 9).



Drill holes for wall-mounting screws in the upper ends of the 1 1/2 inch strips, and slightly countersink the faces (illus. 10).

Don't hang the rack too close to the floor. The Champion and Reserve Champion awards are themselves twenty-seven inches long, and their multi-colored ribbons look nice displayed on lower rows. Think adult eye-level for mounting the rack.



John Sepich.