

Guild Shop Tool Holders

by Dan Brandner

1/24/25 DB

I admire the simplicity of design of the tool holders we have in our turning clubhouse. The slanting base board [slant board] lightly wedges the tool handles between two boards with half circles in them [scalloped boards] and holds them snugly. I understand this design was created by Bob Eberhardt. Having more tools to hold, I had to make some more holders and here are the dimensions that I found to work.



There are two different size holders described, made to fit the different lengths of tool handles. I worked with all standard width boards and/or utilized scrap when I could. The drill bit I used for the holes was a 1-5/8" Forstner bit. Screws used were 1-1/2" construction screws.

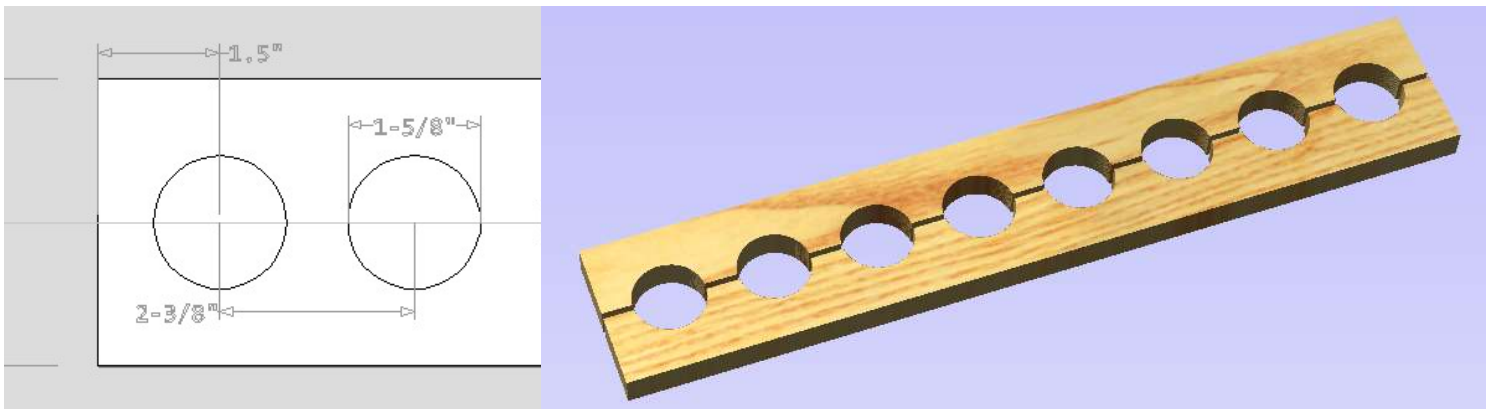
The wood dimensions are 1" x 4", nominally 3/4" x 3.5".

The rails are 1.5", and can be ripped from the 1x4, or ripped from an old 2x4 you have sitting around.

For each holder you need two ends, 1 long board for drilling holes in, 1 long slant board, and two long rails. The two end boards are the same length, and the long boards are all the same length.

Parts Lists (for a 10 place holder, for small handles)	<i>(for long handles tool holder)</i>
Side boards 0.75" x 3.5" x 12", qty 2	Side boards becomes 14" long
Long boards 0.75" x 3.5" x 24-3/8", qty 2	
Rails 0.75" x 1.5" x 24-3/8", qty 2	
<i>1 long board becomes the slant board</i>	
<i>1 long board becomes the drilled scalloped boards</i>	
Also needed...	
1-5/8" forstner bit	Wood glue if desired.
1.5" wood screws	Brad nailer if desired.
1/4" plywood for a backing if desired.	

Before cutting any boards, calculate the length of the long boards based on the dimensions below. Start the first hole center 1.5" from the end along the midline of the board, then mark centers every 2-3/8", ending with 1.5" to the other end from the last center. That makes a long board length of 24-3/8" for 10 holes. Or 19-5/8" for an 8-hole board. Or 14-7/8" for a 6-hole board.



Mark the centers of each hole to drill at, and drill the holes using a 1-5/8" Forstner bit. After drilling, rip the board exactly in half on the table saw or band saw. Sand the curved surfaces and soften sharp edges as desired.

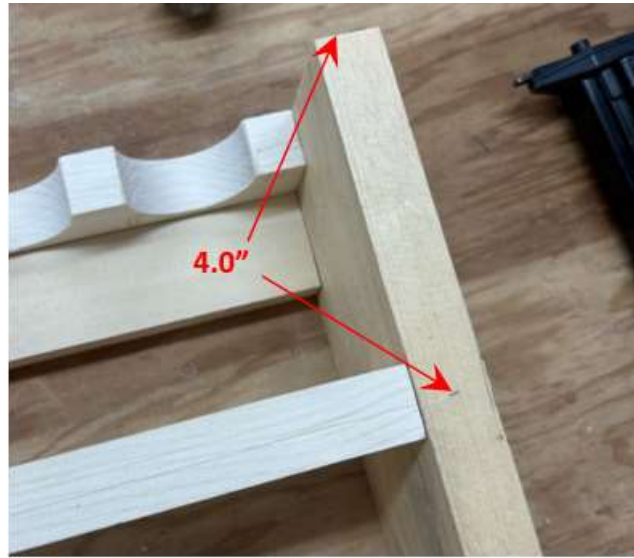
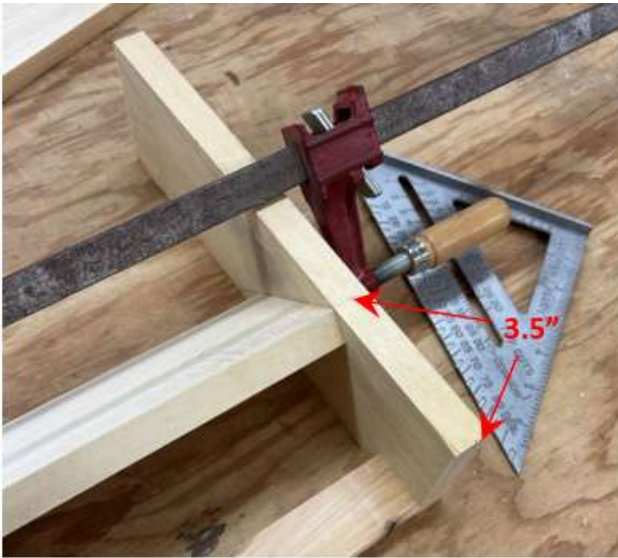


I built two different tool holders based on the tool handle lengths. The smaller one was designed to hold the small handles that are on Crown tools. For that one I used 12" side boards. For the larger handles, I used 14" side boards, and placed the slant board and the lower scalloped board at a different location.

Assembly

I used a brad nailer to tack the pieces together temporarily using clamps to hold the pieces. Using brads allowed me to use single screws on the rails and scallop boards. One could alternatively use glue, dowels or other forms of joinery.

For the small tool holder, mark the sides up 3.5" from the bottom for the corner of the slant board, and again at 4" from the top, for the middle of the scalloped board attached at the front of the holder.



In the left photo above, the arrows marks span 3.5". At this point I brad nailed the slant board at a 45° angle with the corner of the board flush with the front of the holder. I also tacked on the lower rail at the back edge of the board.

In the right photo above, the arrows marks span 4" down from the top. Place the midpoint of one scalloped board at mark and flush with the front of the holder. Also place the other scalloped board flush with the top back corner of the side board. Place the second rail underneath that scalloped board. The rails add rigidity and give a mounting point for attaching to the wall. For the longer holder I used some shorter screws to secure the scalloped board to the rail tightly.

Repeat the process on the other side of the holder with the other side board. After tacking together with brads, I drilled pilot holes and screwed the pieces tightly together.



Note the rightmost picture above is the 14" sided longer holder. That holder is different, in that the slant board is at the bottom of the holder and the mid, scalloped board is located at 7", the midpoint of the 14" side. Additionally, the lower mounting rail is placed above the slant board rather than below it.



For the 14" sided holder, the slant board is placed at the bottom of the sideboard at a 45° angle with the two edges touching the bottom and front of the side board as shown in the left photo above. The mounting rail is then placed above this board, with its lower edge 3" from the bottom of the side board.

The top scalloped board and top rail are attached the same. For mounting to the wall, I put some screws through the rails into an appropriately located stud. One screw centered in the top rail and one in the bottom should hold this to the wall securely. Soften all the sharp wood edges with some sand paper as a final touch. Finish as desired.

Another option would be to attach a French Cleat to the holder for attaching it to the wall. I think the ones at the clubhouse have a back on the holder made of ¼" plywood. This is another option to hold everything nice and square. I did add this backing on these longer holders before attaching to the wall.

I never had a place to store my thin parting tool. I'll be attaching it to the side of my tool holder like this using a notched piece of ½" plywood as shown here. Also, a photo of the two finished 10-place tool holders ready for mounting.

