Gun Cabinets, Racks, Cases & Pistol Boxes

Photographs, drawings and plans for construction.
Also, information on how to make a holster, bench rest, and loading bench.

THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN is the official journal of The National Rifle Association of America (NRA). Its readership is well defined and essentially has a strong common bond of interest in firearms, ammunition, their appendages, and their legitimate use—on the target range, in the hunting fields, and as items to be acquired, collected, and enjoyed.

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75 CENTS
DISPLAYING FIREARMS TO ADVANTAGE

A few of the ways used to show collections of interesting arms

Firearms can be displayed in a variety of ways, depending on the types and quantities of arms and on the available space. Anyone planning a display should give careful consideration to an over-all layout. Measurements should be taken, space should be allocated, and materials should be selected before proceeding with the actual physical layout. Planning can mean the difference between guns hung on the wall and an advantageous display of arms. Examples of effective displays are shown on these 2 pages.

This room display represents a variety of arrangements of gun interests. The display case above the desk and the one at the right are wood framed with glass fronts and pegboard back panels. The guns are mounted on the pegboard with hooks specially bent from coat hanger wire which are covered in plastic tubing to prevent damage to finishes. The advantage of such a mounting is that the display can be changed with relative ease by simply moving the hooks.

The bulk of a collection can be kept in a metal cabinet, such as the one at the left. For protection of arms, the drawers of the cabinet are lined with red felt. On top of the metal cabinet a Revolutionary period Kentucky flintlock pistol is displayed mounted on wooden blocks and enclosed in Plexiglass. The Plexiglass cover keeps off dust and curious hands, yet still allows the gun to be seen from all sides.

On the table at right is a group of 3 jewelry store cases, with velvet-lined bottoms, mirror backs, and glass sides and tops.—Dr. G. W. Huckaba

A large number of long guns can be displayed in a limited space. The key feature is a notched bracket, made from ¾” plywood. It is attached to the back panel, and also is supported from above by a brass welding rod. Each bracket will accommodate 6 guns. Carpeting on the floor of the case will hold gun butts in position without slipping. A display of 7 brackets, or 42 guns, occupies 72" of wall space. A staggered arrangement of the notches allows a good view of each gun.—Paul C. Mitchell

A simple, attractive shelf display of handguns can be achieved with blocks of wood. The top of the block can be shaped to fit a particular portion of the underside of the handgun in such a way that it will not allow the piece to twist or fall. The height of the block can be determined and the base leveled so that the gun butt is flat on the table or shelf. When the correct size has been obtained, the block can be stained and varnished to blend with other woodwork.—Paul C. Mitchell
A built-in wall case can be constructed of prefinished mahogany plywood panels, backed with additional paneling or lumber to provide a firm base for screw hooks. The case is equipped with sliding plate glass doors and indirect fluorescent lighting. Adequate illumination is important in eliminating excessive shadows and reflections, so the display can be seen clearly.

To display long arms, metal shelf-support strips for bracket inserts are attached to the back paneling; flat wire forms of spring-tempered brass are riveted to the bracket faces and are hand bent to positions which will hold guns firmly in place. Short arms are mounted on L-shaped screw hooks of brass. Metal forms may be covered with plastic tubing to prevent damage to finishes.

The floor of the case provides space for displaying powder horns, flasks, and various other accoutrements.—H. B. Greene

A glass-fronted case on a tilting stand displays handguns for easy viewing. This stand is 15” long, 10½” wide, and 5½” high. The guns are attached to the back of the case with thin wires (around the cylinder spindles or loading levers) and small L-shaped brass holders (in muzzles of the barrels). Because these means of attachment are almost imperceptible, this makes an attractive display.—M. Clifford Young

An orderly display of a number of guns can be arranged in a relatively small space. In this instance, 12 long guns of the Civil War era are displayed in a case that is 6 ft. wide, 4½ ft. high, and 6” deep. The case is illuminated by a 4-ft. fluorescent light and is covered by 2 plate glass panels that roll on ball bearings at top and bottom. Display cards are held in place by slotted, ¼-round stripping.—Andy Palmer

A gun display that can be closed off to casual visitors or locked securely while the owner is away, and yet be opened for interested friends, is advantageous. The 2 upper doors are constructed to fold back on themselves and then against the walls. Guns are mounted on both sides of 2 swinging panels. Concealed behind the 4 lower doors are 4 sections of 6 drawers each. Each individual drawer is made large enough and deep enough to contain 2 or more cased guns.—Harry C. Knod
For your Handguns . . .

A Wall Display Case

By Thomas E. Wessel

Every fine handgun collection, large or small, deserves to be displayed. A case provides an excellent means of doing this, and also enhances the beauty of the guns. This one is a simple wall case of early colonial style.

A height of 20" seems to be optimum, but the width may vary between 20" and 32" without the case losing attractive proportions. This is dependent on the number of guns in the collection and the anticipated growth. As for the wood used, maple is a nice medium but pine may be substituted.

Cut and plane the top, bottom, and side pieces to 1" in thickness and 3½" in width. Secure them by using a simple butt joint (detail "A" in sketches on page 5). The wood screws are set ¼" below the surface of the wood, then topped with 5/16" walnut dowels to give the appearance of 'pegged' construction. An effective substitute for walnut can be had by soaking small sections of pine dowel in walnut oil stain for a few days.

Note at this point that the wood parts throughout must be thoroughly sandpapered to assure a fine finish.

The door may then be fashioned, allowing a clearance of 3/64" between door frame and case all around. Plain 3" by 1" brass hinges are used, but ¼" must be removed from the right-hand leaf of each so that it will be flush with the rear surface of the door (detail "F"). The hinges of course must be inset, both in the door frame and the side of the case. This is best done by rasping or chiseling out the 3" spaces in the door frame until the right-hand leaf of the hinge is flush with the frame. The depth of the inset in the side of the case is then determined by measuring the remaining portion of the hinge, which includes the pin and left-hand leaf, and deducting the door-to-case clearance of 3/64". Infinite care must be exercised in hanging the door, to insure a proper and easy swing.

Once the door frame has been hung, it may be removed and a sheet of ¼" plate glass fitted to it. It is best to take the frame to the concern from which the glass is purchased, and they will cut it to fit at the time of purchase. The glass is held in place by four mitered sections of ¼" cove moulding (details "B" and "C"). The brads should be set and puttied. Do not glue the moulding in place, because even though a thick pane of glass has been specified, the possibility of breakage is present and glue would compound the work needed to replace it. The door is not permanently installed until the final painting and varnishing are complete.

The next step is to roughly cut the backboard, from 3/64" plywood, within 1/16" of the actual dimension. It must then be hand-fitted by using a rough grain sandpaper so that it will fit snugly inside the case on all four surfaces. At this point, four ½-square retaining pieces are glued or fastened by means of ½" by #7 wood screws (detail "D") just inside the rear of the case. The backboard is then put through the front of the case and glued to the retaining pieces. If possible, before the glue has set, wide-jawed clamps should be applied between the retaining pieces and the backboard to insure good contact.

Four ¾-square stringers will then be glued around the inner surfaces of the case (detail "E"), ¾" from the front edge. These serve as retainers for the door to prevent it swinging too far inward, and also as a dust seal.

After all glue is thoroughly dry, and final sandpapering is done, the case is ready for finishing. There are untold numbers of wood finishing methods, but I feel that the one outlined with the drawings on page 5 is by far the easiest and most attractive because of its simplicity. Finishing, especially varnishing, should be done in a room that is as dust free as possible. A bathroom is ideal.

The guns may be hung on hooks of flat brass stock, formed and padded as shown below. While I arranged my guns butt-upward, the hooks can be installed to hold guns at any angle.

The door can then be hung and the job is finished. The case is held on the wall with two brass strips, each 1" by ½" by ½", with a ½" hole in each end. These are first screwed to the case and then to the wall.

(See drawings on next page)
A Portable Gun Cabinet

Here is a portable gun cabinet designed and constructed for transporting, displaying, and storing guns. The cabinet, which holds 3 rifles, 2 shotguns, 4 handguns, ammunition, field glasses, and accessories, has the following inside measurements: 47" long, 14¼" wide, and 9¾" deep. (Size may be varied.) It is made of ¾" redwood and ¼" Masonite to minimize weight. Sides and ends are made in one section with joints dovetailed, and then the section is sawed apart diagonally. This diagonal cut gives greater depth at the bottom of one side for protection of stocks, and affords maximum space at top of the other side for ammunition storage. The 2 sections are joined by 4 concealed hinges along one side. Two trunk fasteners are on the other side. Sponge rubber can be cemented on edges of one section to exclude dust. The ¼" Masonite front and back are fastened with brass screws, and corners are covered with brass corner protectors. Notches in boards holding guns are lined with felt.

The compartment at top is large enough to hold ample ammunition, cleaning kit, first-aid kit, hand warmers, calls, etc.

Two folding brass handles are on the sides of the cabinet near the bottom and one is on the top end, and they are placed so that guns are on the bottom when cabinet is moved. Doors of the ammunition compartment remain shut holding the ammunition in place. Handguns and field glasses have to be wedged in with a quilt during moves.

—B. M. Shaller
HAVE you ever seen a gun cabinet that was more than a mere storage closet? Its function should be more than storage—it should show the guns off too. Some shooters with this in mind have put on glass doors and some have installed lights.

This new cabinet represents the best features of all the cabinets I've seen, and has a couple of new ideas besides.

My Dad and I decided on walnut paneled doors. You can never let a real gun crank out of your house unless you show him your guns anyhow, and glass doors only make the interior an anti-climax when they're pulled open. We also figured that on opening the doors it was best to have the rifles and shotguns arranged so the tops and sides of the guns would be seen, instead of a row of trigger guards and slings. Therefore our cabinet holds rifles and shotguns so their tops and sides are toward the front. We managed this by cutting butt slots at a 30-degree angle in a heavy walnut plank fitted to the floor of the cabinet. Muzzles are held by another board on the back of the cabinet grooved for the barrels, and set 37 inches up. The cabinet holds five rifles and three double-barreled shotguns. Guns are spaced far enough apart so a bolt handle will clear a neighboring gun and guns can be taken out without bumping. Five inches seems about the right spacing.

Pistols are held in the upper part of the cabinet by sliding the barrels over polished steel pins made of drill rod. For .22 caliber pistols we used a 13/64-inch rod, for .38's an 11/32-inch rod, and for .44's and .45's, a 13/32-inch rod. The corners were rounded off and the other end knurled on an engine lathe. The knurled ends were pressed into holes in boards fastened to the back of the cabinet above the shelf. When drilling holes for the pins, they were tipped slightly up and to the right 30 degrees, so the sides of the guns are seen. Quite a number are easily stored in a small space in this way, yet they can be quickly removed. I can get a dozen pistols in my cabinet.

The shelf below the pistols is made of plate glass etched or ground on the bottom. In front of this shelf is my cartridge collection that had been accumulating dust for a number of years. It was mounted on a 3/8-inch walnut board. Hidden behind it is a long fluorescent light—a fluorescent strip, electricians call it—that illuminates both parts of the cabinet. Because the glass shelf is etched on one side, the fluorescent tube is invisible, yet diffused light comes through it to light the top section nicely.

On the sides of the doors are green felt panels which hold shooting awards. These may be easily taken out to pin on new medals, since they hang on miniature curtain rods made from 3/16-inch steel.

We put Alnico magnets in the top and bottom of the door frame and fastened short steel plates on the door, for magnetic door latches. The right door closes over the left when shut so steel plates are necessary only on the right door. Of course, if children are to be kept out, a lock should be installed.

In the cabinet itself solid walnut was used, with walnut-faced 3/4-inch plywood panels in the doors, sides, and back.

The drawing shows basic dimensions from which you can design a cabinet to suit your own collection. Not too much walnut lumber is necessary since paneling is used. If you build your own, it will take a month or two of spare time, depending on how fast you work.

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1 Lay pattern near base of 26" piece so that bottom of hook, where stock will rest, will be 5 1/4" from bottom. Draw around pattern to form first hook, then raise it to next place above and draw next hook, etc. Top design may be drawn free-hand or with French curve. Curve must reach end of board so that both sides retain original length. Note that by turning right side end-for-end, the bottom of barrel hook will be some 7 1/2" from the bottom.

2 The 2 sides are marked 'S' for stock and 'B' for barrel. With 3 cuts both come out requiring edge sanding only. The pattern may be extended on a longer board to increase number of hooks: 26", 3 hooks; 32", 4 hooks; 38", 5 hooks. Add 6" for each additional space. Shaded area above the 'S' indicates an optional cut for very heavy rifles. For the initial cut follow the line on 'B' side to have both sides come out even. The 2 sides after sawing. Three-cornered pieces at top and bottom side to have both sides come out evenly.

3 The 2 sides after sawing. Three-cornered pieces at top and bottom are waste.

Build in one hour...

AN ATTRACTIVE GUN RACK

By George Crossette

4 Side pieces are superimposed to demonstrate different levels necessary to make guns lie level. Notches for inserting braces have been indicated.

5 This is the rack after it is assembled, stained, and waxed—1 hour working time after first cut. Felt strips glued into barrel slots are a refinement. The rack may be decorated with molding cuts, shield designs in the braces, or by carving.
**Making A Pistol Box**

By Harry Reeves

Any 'do-it-yourselfer' can, with the aid of a few basic home workshop hand and power tools, build a 3-gun pistol box at a total cost of about $10.00. The box can be made from 3/8" hardwood veneered plywood, or ordinary fir and hardwood plywood may be used if box is to be covered with artificial leather.

Cut pieces carefully

First, cut the 8 rectangles that form the box. Use the rip fence in sawing the rectangles, setting it to saw the exact dimension. Saw a piece from scrap plywood and measure carefully to determine it is exactly the size desired. When starting each rectangle, place a straight edge of the piece against the rip fence. Cut all pieces of the same dimension before changing the saw setting.

Next make the cut across the 12" dimension of each end of front and back pieces. Check the drawing to ensure that cuts are made on correct edges.

Next make the cut at bottom edge of front, back, and 2 end pieces to form groove of dado joint to receive pieces. Check drawing before making cut.

Now make cut in top edge of front, back, and 2 end pieces to form groove of dado joint to receive top.

Now make cut all the way around bottom piece to form male dado joint for bottom piece.

Saw a hole in the 14 3/4" x 6 3/4" hardwood top piece to form handle recess. Size of opening will be determined by size of handle; however, dimensions shown in drawing should take care of even a large-size handle. Dress recess edges with rasp or sandpaper, then glue to 15" x 6 3/4" hardwood top piece to give a 1/8" overlap all the way around. To prevent slippage of pieces during gluing, use a few brads, then clamp or weight until glue has set.

The box is now ready for assembly. If all cuts have been made to dimensions given, box should go together snugly and perfectly by fitting top, front, back, and bottom pieces to-
gether and then setting 2 end pieces in place. When all pieces fit properly, assemble by gluing each joint in turn and allow box to set overnight for glue to dry. Use bar clamps or weights to hold box in position. Lay the box on front or back and weight top surface. A few ¾" brads may help at this point, but are not necessary.

Now lid must be cut out of this box. The drawing shows where and how to make lid cuts with power saw. The top cut is ¾" deep; front cut ¾" deep. Use a fine tooth (#10 or #11) keyhole or saber saw to cut lid from box by sawing through end pieces. If all rectangles were cut true and all pieces are warp free, the lid will come off in one piece with no internal stresses to cause warping or twisting.

Blunt edges and corners of box with wood rasp or sandpaper so that corner protectors will fit neatly.

**To cover box**

If box is to be covered, lay out a pattern on heavy wrapping paper. Place box on the paper, top down, then trace the top. Now roll box on back and trace the back. Next roll it carefully onto one end and trace. Now roll it back and trace the other end. Last roll it onto the bottom and trace, allowing sufficient to cover lockrail on front of box. Follow same general procedure for tracing lid pattern. Allow about 1" beyond pattern edge for lapping over opening at sides, top, and bottom. When patterns are right, use them for cutting material selected for covering box. Thin artificial leather is good since it is waterproof and has a strong fabric backing. Genuine leather is more difficult to use since it requires expert thinning at edges to make a good fit. Some fabric-reinforced plastics are quite thick for this purpose.

Fit hinge next, with hinge-pin about 1/16" above top surface to insure that lid will set slightly back off the vertical for secure scope setting. Use #5 wood-screws for installing hinge, after drilling correct-size pilot holes. Slot each corner of covering over handle recess, then cut a piece to cover recess.

Use small brass or chromed bolts or rivets to secure handle hardware. Wood-screws will pull out and thus should not be used.

Attach aluminum angle tray guides with woodscrews or small bolts. Construct gun tray and gun holder. Cut slots in holder to fit individual guns snugly so they will not spill out and damage sights should box be tipped over. Interior of box can be finished by applying felt flocking of the color desired. This material is available at most hobby shops and is easily applied.

**CORNER GUN RACK**

Here is an inexpensive gun rack that needs no attachment to the wall. It fits in any unused corner and will not tip. The guns are easy to reach, yet out of the way. It holds 12 guns and provides storage for cleaning rods and ammunition.

One half sheet (4 ft. x 4 ft.) of 3/4" plywood is required. To cover the back you will also need 2 pieces of Masonite or ¾" plywood 30 ½" x 24 ¾". The back cover is not necessary for strength, so could be omitted. Other items needed are 30 #8 flat-head wood screws, 10 ft. of felt weather stripping, a piece of sponge rubber ½" x 2 ½" x 24", wood glue, and a tube of Duco cement.

After drawing the curves on the plywood sheet, lay out the slot cuts so that their sides are parallel to lines drawn from center of the curve through middle of the slots. Note that the 3 slots on the 2 outside edges are 1¾" wide and the 6 slots 2½" wide. Change slot dimensions shown to fit individual guns. Allow sufficient side clearance and remember that the top projects over the ends ¾".

Make straight cuts with a hand saw, and use a coping saw or saber saw for curves.

After all parts are cut out, bevel back edges of the shelf supports at 45°. The parts are then both glued and screwed together.

I used dark walnut stain and varnish for the finish. After finish is dry, cut the foam rubber so that it fits flat on the bottom and glue in place with Duco cement. This cushions the gun butts and keeps them from slipping. Glue weather stripping in the slots to cushion upper points of contact.

You can drill holes in the top, near the back, for cleaning rods. A locking set-up for the rack can be made using 4 ft. of ¼" to ¾" steel cable, rubber or plastic tubing to cover it, 2 large screw-eyes, and a small padlock. Wrap one end of the cable around a short metal rod (an 8-penny nail with ends cut off) and solder it securely. Slip the cable through the ½" hole in end of the rack with nail on the outside and then slip covering material over the cable. Form a loop for the padlock shank in the other end and solder it securely. To lock the guns in the rack pass the cable through the trigger guards or lever loops and the screw eyes on the shelf brackets. The end is passed out through the ½" hole and secured by the padlock.

The rack shown in the photograph is a modification of this design. The straight end sections were cut off to make a 10-gun rack to fit a particular corner.—J. K. Potts
YOU can make a HOLSTER

By Ellis L. Stackfleth

How often have you wanted a holster made 'just so'? You can make your own in a couple of hours and with small expense. These pictures show each of the steps from pattern to completed holster.

Many shooters have learned to do good leather work. It takes few tools and little skill, it goes rapidly, and the completed project provides many hours of usefulness and pleasure.

A foot-square piece of eight-or ten-ounce cowhide is sufficient for two small holsters. The holster shown here cost $1.35. Rubber cement and thread can be had at almost any shoe shop. Tools used, except for two stamps and the needles, are available around the house. Leather and leather-working tools may be obtained at a leatherscraft or hobby store.

1 First step is a paper pattern. A sheet of paper torn from a sack or a target serves very well. Fold paper around gun just as the holster will fit. Outline of pattern is made with pencil. Pattern is cut along this outline.

2 The paper pattern is placed on the shiny side of the leather and outlined with a ball-point pen or pencil. Make and mark pattern carefully, as it determines finished size.

3 Holster is 'roughed out' with knife to follow the outline. The rough blank is then dampened by immersing in clean warm water for about 10 seconds. Excess moisture may be dried with a clean towel.

4 Blank is now wrapped around the well-oiled gun. It is pressed with the fingers to impress form of gun in the leather. The thumbnail can be used to trace the outline of the gun. This mark will serve as stitching guide.

5 A second line is traced about 1/4" in from the stitching guide line. This will be the edge of the border for the basket stamping. A diagonal line is lightly drawn from border to border to serve as a guide for the basket stamping.

6 The basket stamp is placed carefully on the guide line and struck with the mallet. A few practice strokes on a piece of scrap will tell you how hard to hit the stamp to get impression of uniform and proper depth.
The design is made by interlocking each stamp with the alternate, as illustrated. Leather should be rested on a piece of marble, smooth concrete, or hard wood during the stamping operation.

Holes in belt loop for stitching are located about 5 per inch and punched with a sharp awl, to permit needles loaded with waxed linen thread to pass freely. For neatness, locate holes carefully.

Inside edges of the holster are now coated with rubber cement and allowed to dry for 2 or 3 minutes. Edges are then pressed together with the fingers to insure they stay in place while holes are punched along the stitching line.

The belt loop is stitched securely to the back of the holster using the “saddler’s stitch.”

A line is now drawn about 3/8” outside the stitch line. Holster is carefully trimmed to this finish line in first step of finishing operation.

Sharp edges can be trimmed with the knife or gently sanded to remove hairline trimmings preparatory to burnishing with a hard tool.

The glossy edge of the holster is made by rubbing the cut leather with the metal back of a pocket knife. Friction created by moving the knife rapidly over the edge produces a beautiful gloss.

The holster is now ready for an application of “Neat Lac” or wax, depending on the color you desire. “Neat Lac” will give the beautiful natural color and tends to hold the color. Most waxes will darken the leather a certain amount.

After finish is on, still-damp holster should be formed over gun. Then remove gun and permit holster to dry. Holster will harden and shrink slightly. Forming will aid in holding gun, yet a quick draw snaps the gun loose.
Looking for adequate storage room for your gun collection? Here are directions for building . . .

A Cabinet for your Guns

By Donald R. Jones

Several months ago I realized that my arms collection had far outgrown the four-gun rack I had on the wall of my den. I needed one cabinet large enough to hold everything yet still of convenient size. I found plenty that fitted my needs perfectly, and were beautifully made to boot, but I just couldn't afford the price. So I made it, and if you have the same problem, here's how you do it.

First I drew up the set of plans shown here. The next step is to study the plans, and be sure you understand them thoroughly before any wood is purchased or cut. This cabinet is for 15 rifles and will also hold pistols as required. If you don't need one this large, you may wish to alter the plans. Before you do so, remember it's always better to have a little more room than not enough.

After checking the plans and making any needed alterations, take a trip to your lumber dealer and order the following:

1/4" stock, White or Ponderosa Pine:
(1) 1 pc.—1/2" x 11 1/2" x 12'
(2) 1 pc.—1/2" x 11 1/2" x 15'
(3) 1 pc.—1/2" x 11 1/2" x 6'
(4) 1 pc.—1/2" x 5 1/2" x 10'
(5) 1 pc.—1/2" x 5 1/2" x 17'
(6) 1 pc.—1/2" x 3" x 12'
(7) 1 pc.—1/2" x 3" x 12'

3/4" stock, White or Ponderosa Pine:
(1) 1 pc.—3/4" x 5 1/2" x 15'
(2) 1 pc.—3/4" x 3" x 8'
(3) 1 pc.—3/4" x 3" x 10' with edge rabbet 3/4" wide, 3/8" deep
(4) 2 pcs.—3/4" x 3" x 8' with edge rabbet 3/4" wide, 3/8" deep
(5) 2 pcs.—3/4" x 2 1/2" x 15'
(6) 1 pc.—1 1/2" x 3" x 8'
(7) 1 pc.—1 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 8'

3/4" Fir Plywood:
2 pcs.—6" x 6' for drawer bottoms and cabinet back

Hardware:
1/4 lb.—15" finishing nails
1 lb.—Weldwood glue
5 cabinet locks with keys and screws
4 drawer pulls
3 door pulls
4 pieces—cabinet hinges with screws
4 flat-head screws
1 cabinet door catch

Don't accept knotty or green lumber because, while it may be cheaper, it will cause trouble later on. Just remember you're paying plenty for this stuff, so be fussy.

You may want to build of 3/4" lumber and that's okay if you don't mind the added weight. But be sure and alter all pertinent dimensions in the plans.

When the lumber arrives lay it out in an open space and measure all pieces, then write lightly on each piece where it goes in the cabinet. Following is a list of the pieces to be cut from lumber. Numbers correspond with the numbers on the material list.

1/4" White or Ponderosa Pine:
(1) 2 pcs.—6" long; pcs. (A1) & (A2)
(2) 3 pcs.—5" long; pcs. (B1), (C1), & (C2)
(3) 2 pcs.—16 1/2" long; pcs. (D1) & (D2)
(4) 2 pcs.—15 1/2" long; pcs. (E1) & (E2)
(5) 2 pcs.—25" long; pcs. (K1) & (K2)
(6) 2 pcs.—25" long; pcs. (W)
(7) 2 pcs.—54" long; pcs. (F1) & (F2)
(8) 2 pcs.—54" long; pcs. (G)
(9) 2 pcs.—13 1/2" long; pcs. (H1) & (H2)
(10) 2 pcs.—13 1/2" long; pcs. (J1) trim to 3 3/4" width & (J2)
(11) 1 pc.—6 1/2" long; pcs. (L1) & (L2)
(12) 4 pcs.—6 1/2" long; pcs. (I)
(13) 4 pcs.—6 1/2" long; pcs. (M)
(14) 4 pcs.—6 1/2" long; pcs. (N)

1/2" White or Ponderosa Pine:
(1) 2 pcs.—5" long; pcs. (O1) & (O2) five of each
(2) 2 pcs.—4" long; pcs. (P, not illustrated)
(3) 2 pcs.—5" long; pcs. (Q)
(4) 2 pcs.—6" long; pcs. (R)

Note: Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 straight pieces cut to fit your cabinet.

Note: Parts 10, 11, 12, and 13 straight pieces cut to fit your cabinet.

Dimensions . . .

Assembly . . .

Note: 1/2 must be planed off top of upper drawer for exact fit.
Before starting construction, check your tools. I'm a hand tool artist, mainly because I can't afford power tools. I used the following: a handsaw (combination cross-rip), a stiff backsaw and miter box, a screwdriver, a breast drill, drill bits, a square, a hammer, a 1/2" chisel, a plane, a brace, and a 3/4" bit. Of course, if you happen to have power tools the work is half done.

On rabbeted pieces such as the (A) and (C) pairs, lay out the rabbets on the poorer side of the lumber, so the better side will show in the assembled cabinet. Make the cross cuts with the stiff backsaw, being careful not to cut too deep or you will weaken the wood too much. Then take the chisel (it should fit the slot exactly) and chisel out the material between the saw cuts.

When rabbets in (A) and (B) have been completed, assemble (A), (B), and (C) with glue and nails. Lay the frame on the back and check the corners with a square. If the frame is not perfectly square (it probably won't be unless all rabbets are perfect) force into alignment and hold in place with weights (bricks do nicely). Of course if cabinet clamps are available they will be preferred.

You will note that the (D) pair fit into the rabbets of the (C) pair, so measure their length from the completed frame (a difference of 1/4" will cause no end of trouble) using my measurements only as a guide.

Note that the bottom edge of the top facing (E1) is flush with the bottom of (B), allowing free access to the rifles in the top rack.

Before cutting the two side facing pieces (F1) and (F2), again check the measurements on your cabinet. Be sure that the ends meet (E1 and E2) or a gap will result that will be unsightly in the finished cabinet. Similarly be sure (G) is cut to fit, and fasten with its top edge flush with the top of (C2).

Parts (K1) and (K2) are the lower cabinet doors, cut from piece (3). 1/2" stock. Set these in place to check the fit.

The pieces (M) fit between (P1) and (F2) in the top compartment, and form top and bottom pieces for the glass doors. Pieces (L) will be the sidepieces for the doors and likewise fit their space exactly. The corners are mitered as shown. You will note that the (M) center miters will make a "V", the apex of which will point down on the bottom piece and up on the top piece. Remember to leave pieces (M) whole until the door is finished. Remember to keep the edge rabbet for the door glass on the inside always. Always keep a picture of the completed door in your mind while working, to avoid mistakes. If no clamps are available, use nails in the corner joints and either remove later or drive incompletely, clip off, and rivet flush. The whole door may now be set in the cabinet and fitted exactly. Only now should the doors be cut apart.

In the rifle rests, drill holes in the barrel and stock notches in pieces (O) before they are cut out, to avoid splitting. The racks are attached to the 3/4" x 3" pieces (N) using half-lap joints. When assembling the rack be careful to alternate pieces (O) so that the barrel notches are opposite and over stock notches in each case.

A pistol rack can be made with a 5" x 3/4" piece (P) on edge on (C2), with projecting dowels spaced for pistols standing muzzle up and trigger guard to front.

After cabinet is assembled except for its back, give the entire cabinet a final sanding. When you are satisfied it is smooth enough, dust it off and apply a coat of white shellac. After this has dried thoroughly, rub down with steel wool and apply a coat of clear spar varnish. Rub down again with steel wool and wax when perfectly smooth. If desired the cabinet may be stained before application of the shellac.

The glass should now be purchased to fit the upper doors, and installed. Cut the back from the 1/4" plywood, and be sure to have the joint behind (C2). Finish the inside surface as you did the rest of the cabinet and then attach. Attach the drawer and door pulls at this time and hang the doors.

Shelves may be placed as desired in the lower compartments, or one may be used as a reloading center with detachable work table.

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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
A good gun should have a good case. Many states require a gun to be cased while en route to or from hunting or target shooting. Making a case is not difficult, and most shooters have the necessary ability to make a case for themselves, realizing a cash saving while doing so. Here are instructions on making a leather rifle case.

1. The design chosen dictates the tools required. Those shown were all used in making this case. Other designs may require more or less tools. Tools and other materials needed may be purchased from most leather stores. The tools shown are: (l.-r.) round beveler, tracing tool and spoon beveler, pear shader, basket stamp, sunburst tool, stippling tool, edge beveler, large sunburst, and swivel knife.

2. To make the pattern, lay the rifle on a sheet of heavy paper, fold it over, and trim the paper to the size and shape desired. Leave the pattern generous in size; after the leather is cut, any surplus can be trimmed away.

3. Leather dealers can be of assistance in choosing proper leather. Heavy leathers will make stiff cases. Place the paper pattern on the flesh side of the leather selected. Tape it at intervals and trace the pattern onto the leather with a ball-point pen. Use the swivel knife for the first cut along the traced line. This leaves a groove for a sharp-edged knife to follow. When cutting the leather, hold the knife perpendicular so the cut edges will be square.
4 The case can be left plain. However, decoration enhances the appearance and value. Floral patterns and game scenes are often used. Basket stamping is one of the simpler designs and is attractive. If you do not wish to make your own design, a number of printed plans are available from leather dealers. The design should be on a strong paper not easily softened by dampness. The design pattern should be smaller than the case to leave room for a border.

When leather is cut, submerge it in water and roll into a towel. Leather must be damp, but not dripping, for tooling. Lay pattern over the leather and trace the lines of the design with tracing tool. Trace complete design onto leather before removing pattern.

5 The swivel knife is used to give relief to the design. Portions of the design which are to stand out are given a shallow cut with the swivel knife. Where one petal overlaps another or an animal is outlined against a background, the cut will give the appearance of added depth.

6 Leather tools best when slightly damp. As work progresses, the leather will dry and require dampening.

Following swivel knife cuts, the mallet and stamping tools can be employed. The leather will take the stamping better if it is laid on a slab of marble or other very hard, flat surface. To learn how each tool works, practice on some pieces of scrap leather.

Place the edge beveler on the cut line with the sharp edge next to the object to be raised. Tap the tool lightly with the mallet, sliding the tool along the edge. Work slowly and decide which features should stand out and which should be depressed to give proper relief.

7 The pear shader and spoon beveler are used for rounding and additional detail within the design. Fine details, such as veins in leaves, are made with light cuts using the swivel knife.

8 The stippling tool is used last on the background of the case after the design has been tooled. The stippling provides contrast which can be increased further by applying leather dye to the stippled areas of the case.

9 Basket stamping can be used for complete coverage or one side of the case. Draw a diagonal line across the area to be stamped. Use it as the guide line for the first row of impressions. Care must be exercised to keep rows straight.

10 After the stamping is completed, use the sunburst tool around the border of the case to cover the edges where the stamp mark ends. The design is then edged with the beveler to give a raised appearance to the border.
11 The rifle is shown in a completed case. The case was formed by dampening the leather and folding it down the center lengthwise. Edges should meet at all points. Lay the folded case on a towel and allow to dry thoroughly.

Proper handles may be purchased or made. To make, fold lengthwise a piece of dampened leather 3" x 10". When dry, glue and stitch the center, leaving 1½" unstitched on either end. These flat ends, shaped as desired, are stitched or riveted, one to each half of the case. To locate handles, lay the rifle in the case and find the center of gravity; place handles there.

Case should be lined with soft material such as pile or cotton outing flannel. This is glued to the inside of the case with rubber cement or other flexible adhesive. Start gluing in the middle fold and work out wrinkles toward the edges. Either fold lining edges under or let protrude past case edge and sew in final edge stitching.

12 The zipper gusset of the case is made of a lightweight 3/4-oz. leather. Make it 3" wide and 2" longer than the edge of the case. Use a heavy-duty zipper.

Cut the leather gusset in half lengthwise and stitch one half on each side of the top of the zipper. The zipper should be the same length as the case opening and the gusset will extend beyond the zipper on each end. The gusset may be sewn to the zipper with an ordinary sewing machine. The gusset is ready to be glued to the inner edges of the case opening. Place it so that the ends of the zipper come to the exact middle fold at each end of the case. Start at one end and work down both sides progressively. Full length gluing of one side and then the other may cause unevenness. Punch a hole about every 10" along the edge and tack the gusset in place with a single stitch. Use a sharp-edged awl to punch the holes for the stitching. Punch the holes on a piece of wood from the outside of the case toward the gusset. Holes should be large enough to pass big leather needles easily.

To saddle stitch, thread a leather needle on each end of a piece of heavy linen thread about 25" long. Thread should be waxed by pulling through a cake of beeswax. Holding a needle in each hand, run one needle through the first hole to the middle of the thread. Then each needle is passed through each consecutive hole in the opposite direction. Pull the thread tight after each stitch. Stitch the ends of the case last so the gusset fits exactly.

13 When stitching is completed, rub the case edges with beeswax and lignum vitae wood creaser. This gives a neat, rounded edge. Finally, apply a coat of Neat Lac to the leather for waterproofing and preserving.
A built-in gun rack saves space and money. I made one for a hallway wall (it should not be put in a load-bearing wall). The first step was cutting an area out of the plaster and rocklath 34" wide by 60" high. The 2"x4" studs at sides of the opening guided the keyhole saw. Horizontal guide lines were made for top and bottom cuts.

Several holes were drilled through center 2"x4" stud at top and bottom of opening, and the stud section was broken off by twisting with a large monkey wrench. This had to be done as gently as possible to prevent damage to plaster on opposite wall. Nails protruding from rocklath were cut off with cutting pliers, and remaining portions of the stud were trimmed flush with top and bottom of opening.

Pieces of 1/4" Masonite were fastened to top, sides, and back of the opening with a non-drying cement made by Minnesota Mining and Mfg. Co. The Masonite piece across the top was cemented to boards nailed to cleats on the studs. Japanese grass cloth wallpaper was cemented to the Masonite.

Wormy chestnut was used for wooden parts of the rack. The frame around outer front has mitered joints, and was fastened to studs with wood screws. Screw holes were deeply counterbored, and screw heads were covered with 9/6" dowels. The board for bottom of rack was fastened to cleats on the 2"x4" studs. Narrow pieces of wood were fastened around top edge of bottom board to enclose the gun butts. Butt spacers were also fastened to the bottom board. Front and rear barrel supports rest on cleats fastened to the 2"x4" studs. The rear support was notched for the barrels, and the front support was also notched where necessary to provide clearance for a large diameter barrel or tubular magazine. The front support should be loosely fitted as it must be lifted out for removal of guns. A walnut oil stain was used to finish the wood.

To illuminate the gun rack, the hall light fixture was replaced with a fixture containing a spotlight-type bulb.—George O. Young

**Materials**

1. Masonite, 1/4"x34"x60" (back)
2. " 1/4"x5/8"x60" (sides)
3. " 1/4"x5/8"x34" (top)
4. Wormy chestnut, 3/4"x4"x42" (frame top and bottom)
5. Wormy chestnut, 3/4"x34" (bottom board)
6. Wormy chestnut, 3/4"x1 1/2"x34" (bottom board edging and barrel supports)
7. Wormy chestnut, 3/4"x1 1/2"x7" (bottom board edging at sides)
8. Wallpaper, cleats, gun butt spacers, cement, screws, nails, 9/6" doweling, and stain

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**A tamper-proof...**

**Gun Rack**

This tamper-proof 4-gun rack costs less than $6 and is made of 1" white pine throughout. The rack floor is made of two 11" x 20" pieces, nailed together, one of which has 4 oval slots to snugly fit the buttstocks. The slots are positioned so that the gun barrels are tipped back slightly. The barrel support is made of one 4" x 20" piece with barrel holes drilled first, after which piece is cut down the center bisecting the holes. Rear half is screwed to side piece and the front half hinged at the left side. A corner support attached to the front half provides area for a sturdy hinge, and a matching piece is attached to the left side piece as a support. The padlock hasp is attached on the right side. Height and depth of rack will depend upon space available. All strain-bearing members should be assembled with blue round-head wood screws. A coat of maple stain followed by shellac or satin-finish varnish completes the job.—Raymond A. Santirocco
Here's How I Did It

Spare magazines can be stored in the pistol box using clamps made for holding screens in window frames. Clamps should be mounted on a block of wood of same thickness as the magazine.—C. E. Jones

It annoyed me that the eyepiece of my internal-adjustment spotting scope did not extend beyond edge of the pistol box cover, so I improvised the sliding mount shown. The base was formed from heavy gauge soft aluminum with edges crimped to fit scope-ring bracket. Flathead screws were used to attach base to pistol box cover and 2 round head screws act as stops. Cover can be closed when scope is pushed forward against stop screw.—John W. Gardner

This pistol case carrying device, made of 1" webbing, has proved very practical. It drops out of the way when the case is opened, and can be rolled up and put inside if desired.—Lt. Col. John L. George
A GUN CASE

Here is a gun case that can be decorative as well as useful. It is made of 3/4" thick knotty pine. After the parts are cut to size (dimensions given here may be altered to fit most any firearm), assemble them, first applying glue and then putting 3 or 4 finishing nails in each joint to insure a snug fit. After the glue has dried, round the corners with a small block plane.

Next attach the hinges. After sanding, the fit between case and lid will be tight.

To finish, countersink the nails and fill the nail holes with wood putty. Sand the case smooth with medium grit sandpaper and finish with fine sandpaper or steel wool. Then apply 2 or 3 coats of varnish, sanding lightly after each undercoat. Don't sand the final coat.

Cut green felt to fit inside the top and bottom of the case. Glue felt in place. Sponge rubber should be attached to the inside of the top to hold the gun in place when the case is closed. The felt liner should be cut away from those places where the sponge rubber is to be fastened.

—John F. Clark.

A Portable Gun Rack

Thanks to its horizontal carrying handles, this light yet rugged gun rack is readily 2-man loaded in station wagon or truck for transport to the range. Base portion of rack can be fitted with storage boxes to hold targets, ammunition, stapler, etc. Cleaning rods are stored along inside of legs. With hinged cover locked in place, contents of rack are secured against tampering. Fitted outer cover of waterproof canvas is recommended to protect arms against dust and elements. Although designed for Remington 521-T rifles, it can be readily adapted to other models. With heavier rifles, reduce capacity of rack to not more than 8. Total cost for materials was $12; construction time 4 hours using hand tools.—R.J. Latshaw, San Angelo, Tex.
I recently decided to build a portable bench rest that I could easily carry in my car and set up anywhere in a jiffy. The top was made of 3/4" waterproof plywood, reinforced on the under side by three wood strips screwed and glued to the plywood top. Sections of 1" iron pipe were used for the three legs because they could be secured more "wiggle-proof" to the top than could wood legs. These pipe legs are threaded at one end to screw into pipe flanges, which are screwed to the reinforcing strips on the bottom of the bench top as shown in the sketch. These flanges are fastened to the strips at such an angle that the two front legs splay forward and sideways, and the rear leg backward, 8" from perpendicular. Each iron pipe leg has a hole drilled through it, and a 3/4" iron rod inserted serves as a spanner to screw it tight into the flange. The top was then varnished.

This proved to be quite steady. But it was decided to make the rest steadier still by adding a fourth leg at the rear end, on the side away from the shooter, jammed between the top and the ground at a greater slope. This was made of 3/4" iron pipe with a ball point at the upper end, adjustable with a jack screw. The ball point is inserted in an iron socket on the bottom of the bench as shown, the lower end of the leg is jammed into the ground, and the jack screwed out to thoroughly tighten this fourth leg.

An adjustable iron pedestal, or similar rifle rest, is placed on top of the bench and adjusted properly for the rifle and for the shooter. Instead of this pedestal, wood blocks can be used to support the front sandbag at the right height and location as was done in the earlier days of bench-rest shooting. The rear sandbag is laid on the bench top in the usual manner, and the spotting scope with its tripod is placed at the left of the pedestal.

Any ordinary chair, stool, or ammunition box can be used for a seat.

The entire outfit and all equipment packs easily in the back seat or luggage compartment of one's car. It is not too heavy to carry easily, say 100 yds., from car to firing point, and there it can be set up ready for use in less than three minutes. I have been using it for the past six months with entire satisfaction. Groups fired from it have averaged just as small as from the standard bench rest.—C. L. TOWNSEND WIELENS, USA (Ret'd)

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A Budget Handgun Cabinet

I fitted my handgun cabinet into a wall recess made for a long door chime, after installing a short 7" chime in place of the original. The back piece was made of 3/4" plywood covered with Japanese grasscloth wallpaper using wallpaper cement. To this I screw-attached the top piece and the base piece, both of wormy chestnut, the screws coming in from back side of the plywood. After staining the chestnut, the assembly was cemented to back of the recess with a non-drying cement (floor tile cement will work as the load is supported on the bottom of the recess). The side pieces were made of 1/4" Masonite covered with the grasscloth wallpaper and cemented in place.

The guns are supported on a vertical wood member pivoted at top and bottom. The pivots are 3/8" round brass rods long enough to engage about 2" into the wood and also contact the brass flanges at top and bottom which support the upright member. The upright wood piece is drilled with a series of 3/8" holes (at an angle of 45°) which are fitted with brass rods to support the guns. Ends of the rods are turned down for a length of from 3" to 4" to give a sliding fit in the gun bores. It is best to lay out the guns prior to drilling to insure proper spacing of the holes. A fixture was used in drilling to make all holes the same depth and angle.

The vertical member was mounted in the cabinet as far to the left as possible and centered on the width of the sills. A 3/8" crosspin fitted to the bottom pivot rod engages notches cut into the bottom flange. The rear notch positions the gun rack parallel to but not touching the background. The front notch holds the rack at 45° position when guns are being removed or replaced. The exterior frame of chestnut has mitered corners and is fitted with recessed brass hinges. Single-strength window glass is held in the frame with 1/2" square brass stock drilled and attached with small brads. The eight 1/4" round brass rods fitted in 45° pattern in front of the glass are snapped into holes drilled before the glass is fitted.

The frame is mounted to the wall with patent plaster fittings to accommodate the hinge screws. A friction catch keeps frame flush with wall. All brass fittings are lacquered to prevent corrosion.

—GEORGE YOUNG

Here's How I Did It

A gun rack for the car trunk or rear seat is easily made from plywood. Carpet-covered notches prevent marring of guns and scopes.—Ed STEWART

An attractive wall display gun frame can be made from 1/4" plywood and 3/4" or 1/2" molding sold by suppliers of picture frames. In cutting molding allow 1/2" overlap for bradding it to plywood panel. Cut wood cradles from 1/4" white pine to fit gun and drill screw holes for cradles in panel. Lay felt over panel and cut to outside edge, then glue in place. Brad molding to panel, install cradles, and insert screw eyes for hanging frame. A name plate can be used if desired.—Ed STEWART
**MAKING A PISTOL BOX**

This pistol box is more easily constructed, smaller, and cheaper than conventional boxes. It will hold most items needed by the shooter.

Top, ends, and bottom are ¾” cabinet-grade plywood. Back is ½” hardboard and door is ½” mahogany. Spotting-scope length dictates length of the box. The box shown accommodates a 13½” scope.

All saw cuts are completed on the top, bottom, sides, and shelf first, including rabbiting for back panel. With these parts clamped in position, measure the back to get a snug fit, since the back holds the other parts in alignment for assembly.

Drill the 3 holes in top and inlet the elevation plate to bottom. Case is now ready for final assembly. Use glue and finishing nails on all joints. Install the shelf last. It should be just high enough to accommodate the scope with clamp.

The handle is formed of plywood laminated together. Drill the ½” holes in the handle ends. Position for the holes can be scribed from below with handle in position on the box. Some of the handle hardware for the pistol box is machined; the remainder can be obtained from hardware stores.

A 1½” piece of mahogany is splined to the top and bottom of the door to prevent warp. A piano hinge is used.

The mailbox lock is available for less than $1. Drill the key boss hole from the face first. Using this as a guide, inlet the lock into the door. Small plates hold the lock in place. Lock plate is cut from 1/16” sheet metal and can now be installed, and the bolt recessed.

Make the gun supports from ¾” wood and cut to fit trigger guard contours. Clamp the supports to guns and place in position on the shelf. Position supports so guns do not touch. Mark around the supports. Drill holes in the centers of marks, then glue and screw the supports in place.

The scope clamp is made from 1/16” sheet steel. The keyway in the rod is milled or cut with a rat-tail file on a long taper. A 10” rod is satisfactory; however, length can be varied.

Attach rubber feet to case bottom at the corners, and to handle legs. Next, set the case in shooting position on the range. Screw elevation knob through carrying handle halfway into elevation plate stud. If necessary, shorten the dowel legs on case handle so the scope is on target.

Sand and fill the case exterior. Finish with 2 coats of flat black enamel followed by 2 coats of varnish. Handle and door can be finished by rubbing white paint into the grain, then sanding and varnishing.

Plastic upholstery fabric can be added on the shelf and on bottom of scope compartment to prevent wear.—Ray J. Phillips

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**Here's How I Did It**

I made my simple but attractive wall gun rack from 1/4”x12” pine shelving and molding trim. All corners were mitered, and pieces assembled with screws and glue. The barrel rest, notched for 6 guns, was nailed to the sides. Gun butte rest on section of carpet glued to bottom. I grained, lacquered, and hand rubbed mine, but a good job can be done by staining and varnishing. Wall showing inside rack can be papered for a novel effect. Dimensions can be varied to alter gun capacity.—Mar Gomez

To build a 2-pistol case for $1.50, first obtain a cal. .50 ammunition case. Cut a ¾” block of wood, with 2 grooves for guns to rest on, to fit case. Glue felt or similar material onto wood block to protect guns. Drill a hole on top of the case to mount scope. Spray-paint box with flat black. There is sufficient space for scope, ammunition, screwdriver, ear plugs, and incidentals.—Arthur L. Chan
A Compact Loading Bench

FEW homes or apartments have space for a regular reloading bench. This portable bench is one answer to that problem.

All lumber was ordered cut to finish dimensions. Cost of all materials and hardware, exclusive of sandpaper and stain, was $12.07.

Strength is the design keynote, with compactness and neatness secondary. Although it may look small, I reform 30-06 brass to .308 as easily as on a full-size stand-up bench. The operator's weight anchors it to the floor and final pressure is applied with a straight arm and weight of the upper body. Individuals over 6 ft. might have to increase the length of the seat and legs.

No details are included for cabinet storage arrangements as this will vary according to user's equipment. All items shown are easily stored and protected. Equipment includes a C-type press, powder measure, and scales. The cutout in the base allows ram and handle to extend below, and base of press to reach almost to the back. Two small wood cleats hold down the rear of the press base inside the cabinet until one wing nut and bolt can be placed to anchor it. The press is angled slightly to the left inside the cabinet so that the handle can be secured to the backbone with a leather strap loop.

All joints were glued with Elmer's Glue and plentifully reinforced with 1 1/2"-10 flathead wood screws. All flat pieces are 3/4" fir plywood. The pressure leg can be mounted on a modified strap hinge as shown, or it can be fixed in position.

The offset 2"x4" backbone and seat provides additional leg and handle room as well as space for press base inside the cabinet. The press is angled slightly to the right on top and as close to the edge as possible to provide plenty of knuckle clearance at side of the seat. It is secured by four 5/16" bolts and wing nuts. A hasp and padlock, holding the seat down to the backbone, will prevent tampering as the cabinet doors will not open if seat is folded.—D. C. WELLS

LEGEND

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<td>F</td>
<td>4&quot;x12.5&quot;x34&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>G</td>
<td>3.5&quot;x12.5&quot;x34&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>12&quot;x15/4&quot;x34&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>6.5&quot;x9.5&quot;x34&quot;</td>
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<td>K</td>
<td>11/4&quot;x14.5&quot;x34&quot;</td>
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<td>L</td>
<td>11/4&quot;x14.5&quot;x34&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>2&quot;x4&quot;x27&quot;</td>
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Dots indicate 1 1/2"-10 flathead wood screws.

Here's How I Did It

Components to build this locking rack are right-angle 3" screw hooks, a piece of rod, and hexagon steel nuts. The hexagon nuts are welded to the hooks and locking rod.—MARRY E. RICHESON

The walls of my den are too soft to hold hooks, so I solved my gun display problem by fastening 4" wide strips of pegboard to the wall studs with 2" round-head brass screws. The 1" hole spacing makes possible almost any gun arrangement, and additional 3/16" holes can be drilled for exact leveling. Standard 2 1/4" hooks are wide and strong enough for the heaviest gun.—NOBLE HOGGSON

Here is a convenient method of displaying shooting medals in which they are supplied.—CAPT. FRITZ A. CALLIES

PLANS AND KITS

Gun cabinet, rack, and pistol box plans and/or kits are available from the following sources:

American Plywood Association, 1119 A St., Tacoma 2, Wash. (plans)

Coladonato Bros., Dept. R-103, Hazelton, Pa. (plans & kits)

Julius Relver Co., 4104 Market St., Wilmington 99, Del. (pistol box kits)

Viking Gun Cabinets, Lenhartsville, RD #1, Pa. (kits)

Western Pine Association, Yeon Bldg., Portland 2, Ore. (plans)

Yield House, Dept. RM-10-3, North Conway, N. H. (kits)
Rolling-Block Gun Rack

This gun rack was made from two 7 mm. Remington rolling-block rifles.

The first step is to completely disassemble the guns. After disassembly, wash all parts in solvent. Use a buffing wheel charged with coarse black buffing rouge on all metal parts of the guns.

When wood parts have dried, surfaces are sanded. Scraping may be necessary before sanding. Once stocks are clean, reassemble them temporarily to receiver and trigger guard. Cut off rear of buttstocks perpendicular to barrels. Disassemble guns again after this operation.

Next, make clamps of 1/16" sheet brass which fasten barrels to crosspiece on top of gun rack. Barrel may be used as a bending form. The brass clamps can be tapped lightly with ball-peen hammer to obtain a pleasing effect.

Crosspiece and base are 1"-thick mahogany 30" long, and have beveled edges. Handgun holders are notched for barrels, and their height is made to suit guns to be held.

All wood parts are finished with a mixture of walnut stain and paste wood filler. When filler attains a glazed look, wipe it off across grain with burlap or coarse cloth. After filler has hardened, sand parts smooth and give them a coat of clear sanding sealer.

Now reassemble metal parts. After assembly, wipe off metal parts with solvent. Clamp assembled parts in a vise, and spray on 3 or 4 thin coats of clear plastic.

After assembling guns, hook front sights over top of crosspiece and, using brass clamps and screws, fasten barrels to crosspiece so that they are at right angles to crosspiece and 25" apart (see upper arrow in photo below). With gun barrels placed parallel to floor, mark buttstock positions on base. Keep toes of stocks 25" apart, and use a square to keep guns perpendicular to base and crosspiece. Drill holes in base, and screw two 3" flat-head wood screws through base and into stocks.

Copper strips 1/16" thick and about an inch wide are used for gun hooks. These are bent to fit the rolling-block stocks, and then the barrels and stocks of your guns (see lower arrow). Hammer these with a ball-peen hammer as on the barrel clamps. Hooks are then lined with black felt. One of the rolling-block trigger guards will also serve as a barrel hook. Brass screws are used to fasten hooks to rolling-block stocks. Barrel notches of wood handgun holders are also lined with felt, and the holders are glued to the base.

Fixing bayonets to the rolling-block barrels completes the job. The rack can stand free, against a wall, on a cabinet base, or it may be hung on the wall by the crosspiece.—William A. Stephenson

Here's How I Did It

A metal mop holder with 3 spring clips can be mounted on the car dash to hold guns upright. Machine screws with wing nuts secure unit to the dashboard. Felt glued to clip jaws prevents marring gun barrels. Method of mounting will vary according to make of car. On my Volkswagen pickup I had to fit extension plates to hold as there was insufficient clearance between dash and floor for direct attachment to dash.—Fred P. Faltersack

ABOUT THIS REPRINT

This material is reprinted from THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN (published monthly), the official journal of The National Rifle Association of America, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036. Material of interest to shooters, hunters and gun collectors appears in every issue of THE RIFLEMAN. More than 740,000 NRA members profit from the publications, services and programs of the NRA.

Produced by Editorial-Technical Division

"RIFLEMAN" INDEXES

Questions & Answers (Jan. 1954 thru Feb. 1965) 50¢
Products & Services (Jan. 1941 thru Dec. 1965) $1.00
"How-To-Do-It" (Jan. 1940 thru Apr. 1966) $1.00

This reprint is from the March, August 1956; February 1956; February, March, April, June 1957; January, July, September 1958; February, October 1959; January, November 1961; October 1962; January, October 1963; January, February, March, April, May, June 1964 and other issues of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, a fully copyrighted publication.