

A Portable Take-Down Sword Rack

By Warder Kevin O'Shaughnessy

Background:

A few years ago I decided that I was tired of having to dig through a pile of swords, daggers and other equipment in my Rapier carrying case during the middle of a tourney. It was inconvenient, looked sloppy and more than once I pinched the #*@@\$\$% out of my fingers while I was shuffling swords around. I wanted a better way to handle things.

My answer came when I saw a marvelous contraption assembled at an event by Sir LOGOS Von Schenecke. He had made a simple sword rack that disassembled readily. It didn't take up much space and left him better organized. I decided I wanted something like that.

However, by the time (weeks later) that I got around to working on it I couldn't remember the details of the construction. So I had to wing it and come up with my own design. I had some simple criteria in mind:

- 1) A rack capable of holding several rapiers, daggers and such.
- 2) Easy to assemble and take down.
- 3) Take up very little space during storage and transport.
- 4) Low cost.
- 5) Make with available shop equipment.
- 6) Make my friends envious.

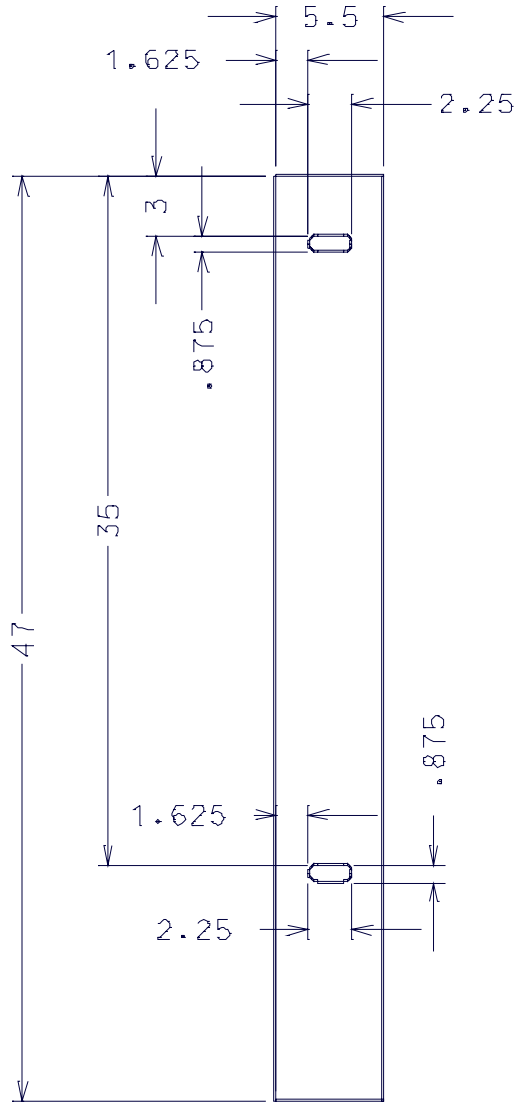
I made some sketches (long since lost), went shopping for wood and then set to work measuring once and cutting twice. Then I went shopping for wood again, curbed my enthusiasm and proceeded to do it correctly.

The end result worked very well for me. It breaks down nice and flat, assembles easily and holds nine blades. I can also set my rapier helmet on to one end and lean stuff against it as well. Sir LOGOS even said I had improved and simplified his design.

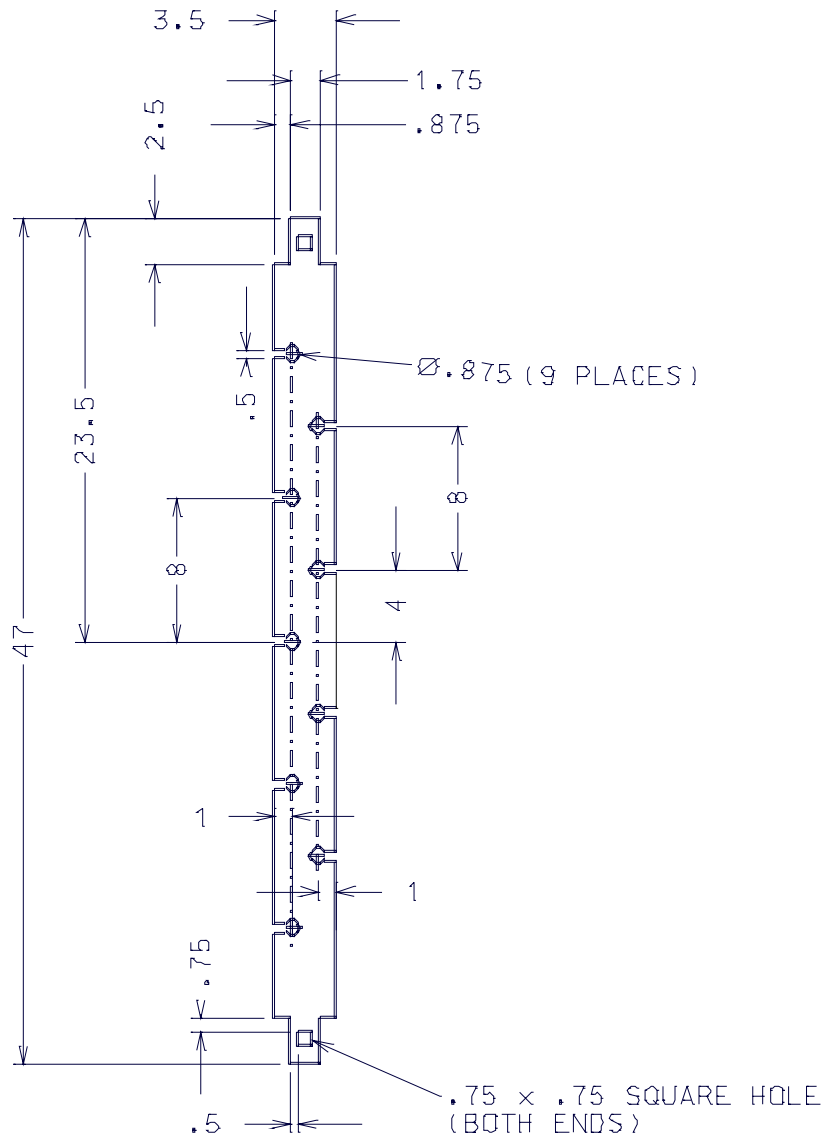
The rack consists of six major pieces of wood and four wedges made from scraps from cutting the major pieces. It also took eight wood screws. That's it.

Tools consisted of a jigsaw, a drill with spade bits (for making big holes in wood), a saw for cutting the boards and a wood rasp and files for squaring off holes. A tape measure, a screw driver and a square are also necessary. A hammer and simple wood chisel are very useful as well.

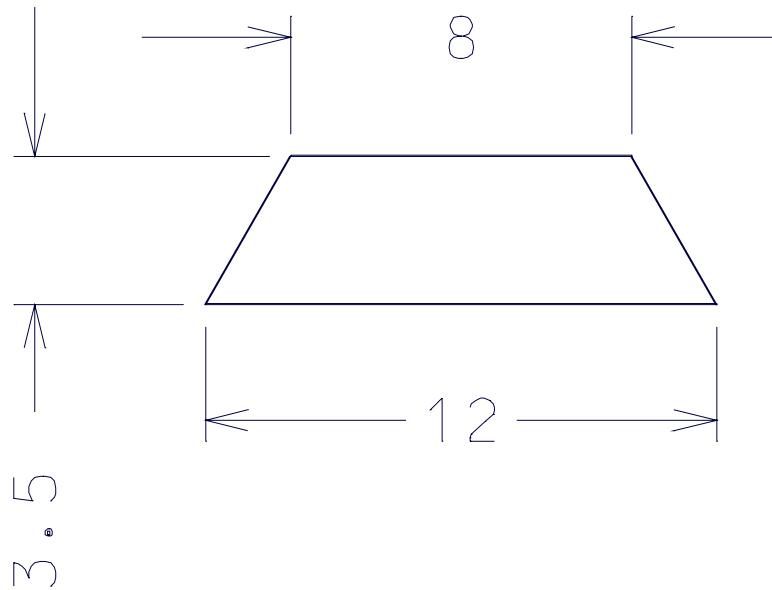
Here is the vertical side piece for the rack. Make two of them. I used a piece of 1 x 6 pressure-treated wood I had on-hand in my garage (deck leftovers). You need an 8 foot long 1 x 6 as your raw material for this.



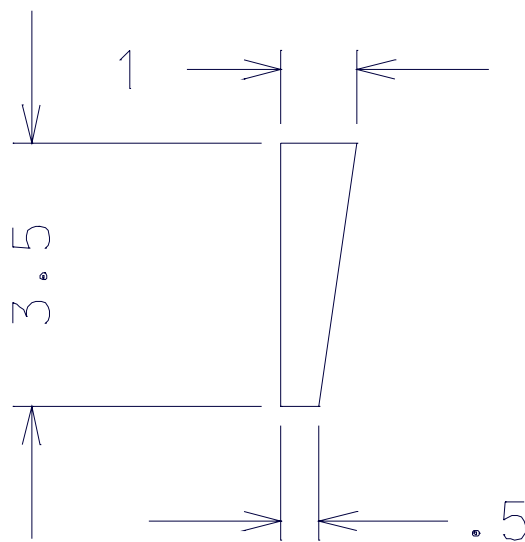
Here is the horizontal support. It has the slotted holes that the swords and daggers go through. Make two of them. You need an 8 foot long 1 x 4 as your raw material. A 1 x 6 can be substituted for a 1 x 4 if you want more spacing between the rows of holes. That could be useful if you use large guards on your rapiers.



Here is the “foot” that gets screwed onto the bottom each vertical support. It is also made from a 1 x 4. The total length you need is 24 inches (2 twelve inch pieces). This will leave you with leftover wood, even if you can buy a 4 foot board. You need the scraps to make your wedges that hold the rack together.



Next is your wedge. You will cut 4 of them from your 1 x 4 scrap.



Here are some pictures of the assembled sword rack. I stained the wood with a light oak stain.



Note how the bottom horizontal piece is very close to the tip of the sword. You may want to raise your bottom piece a couple of inches if you use shorter blades.

Here is a picture showing the lower wedge peg on one side. It also shows how the “foot” is mounted onto the vertical support. I did not try to fill in and cover the screw heads with wood putty. It would look better if I had.



As you can see, the ends of the rack are good places to hang helmets, masks and hats.



My sword rack is very plain and utilitarian. That is fine by me since it mostly resides in the back of my pickup truck. It would not take much work for you to make yours look a lot fancier. Fancy cuts, decorative scrollwork and holes, even carvings could easily enhance the looks of the rack you build. Have fun!