

Hold Those Letters

Letter holders can be used to store your letters or other documents. You may also want to make one or more to give as gifts.

Woodworking Skill: Using a square, rasp, sandpaper, crosscut saw, coping saw and hammer
Life Skill: Planning and organizing
Success Indicator: Builds a letter holder

Tools Needed: Crosscut saw, coping saw or rasp, square, hammer, nail set

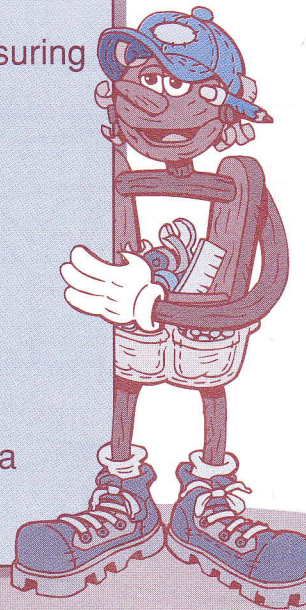
Materials Needed: 1" x 2" piece of lumber at least 8" long (Note: The actual dimensions of the 1" x 2" will be approximately 3/4" and 1-1/2")
1" x 4" at least 18" long
1" long finishing nails
80 or 120 grit sandpaper

Plans

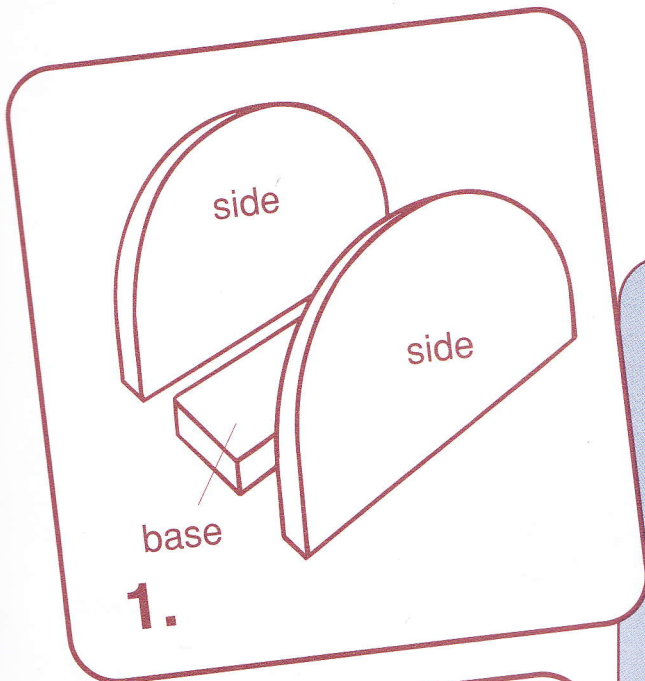
Building a Letter Holder

- Obtain the following pieces of lumber:
 - 1" x 2" at least 8" long (base)
 - 1" x 4" at least 18" long (sides)
- Check the lumber for squareness
 - 1" x 2" = at least one end must be square
 - 1" x 4" = at least one end must be square
- Square ends of lumber if necessary. Remember that you can square the end of a board using a wood file or rasp. If the end is very unsquare you may wish to cut off a small piece.
- Prepare lumber for cutting by measuring and marking each piece:
 - 1" x 2" — measure 6" from the square end and mark.
 - 1" x 4" — measure 6" from the square end (NOTE: after cutting off the first piece you will need to repeat this step for the second piece).
- For rounder corners on the sides (picture 1) of the letter holder, use a rasp on the top and then re-sand.

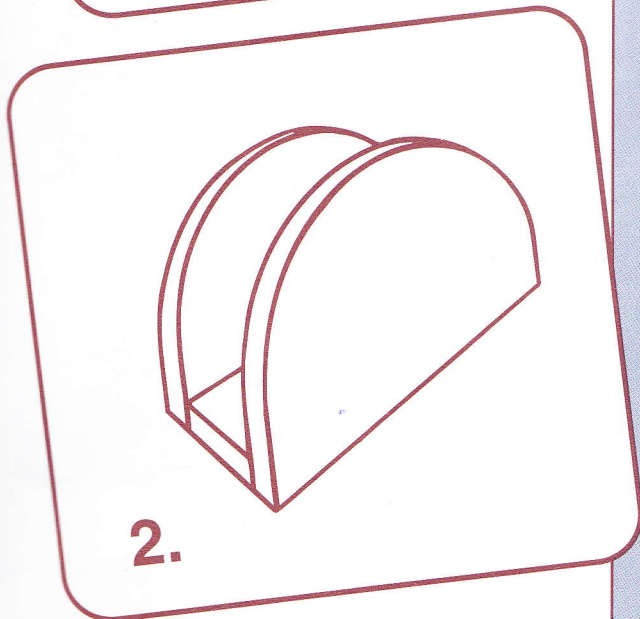
EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF WOOD.



MAYBE A
COPING SAW
WILL WORK
BETTER!



1.



2.

Plans (continued)

- To design even more rounded sides, (picture 1) take a small to medium size glass or can and use as a pattern to mark the rounded edge of the top sides of your holder before nailing. Clamp to a bench, cut with your coping saw and sand to a smooth finish. Then nail to your 1 x 2 base.
- Using a crosscut saw, cut the 1" x 2" piece of lumber as measured. (base)
- Using a square, check the new cut for squareness. If it's unsquare, use a wood rasp or file to square.
- Using a coping saw, cut along the semicircle lines on the 1" x 4" pieces of lumber. (sides)
- Sand the boards until smooth.
- Nail sides to the base of the letter holder. (*Note:* a nail set may be used to drive the nails slightly below the board's surface.)
- Re-sand if necessary.
- Apply an interior type finish.