

# Magazine Rack

Two bits of wood and a jigsaw are what you need to make this magazine rack that converts to a bookstand.

Because you're holding this magazine, chances are you could use a magazine rack by your favorite chair to hold your current crop of periodicals and catalogs.

And because you like magazines, I suspect that you also like books, and you might have need for a stand to hold open your favorite reference book – whether that's a dictionary, "Baking Illustrated" or "Tage Frid Teaches Woodworking."

If you're nodding your head in agreement to either of the above statements, we have one project that can scratch both itches. This simple project has only two parts and they interlock: Slide them together one way and they make a magazine rack; slide them together the other way and they make a bookstand.

And here's the best part: You need only a handful of tools to make this project. Plus, it's a quick job; I built the version shown here in just a couple hours. It's the perfect "I Can Do That" project.

by Christopher Schwarz

Comments or questions? You can reach Chris at 513-531-2690 ext. 1407 or [chris.schwarz@fupubs.com](mailto:chris.schwarz@fupubs.com).

## Gather Your Materials

As with all "I Can Do That" projects, we buy all our materials from the local home center. So with a construction drawing in hand I hit the lumber section. I wasn't happy with the No. 2 pine in the racks. The poplar was an uninspiring purple. But there were a couple promising red oak 1 x 12s. These were expensive: \$40 for a 6' length. But that was enough to make two racks, so I pulled the trigger.

## Make a Simple Jig

This project requires you to set the base of your jigsaw at 35° to the blade, sometimes tilted left and sometimes tilted right. To make these changes quickly and reliably, I made a little jig from a scrap. You don't have to make the jig for this project, but it sure makes life easy.

My blade-setting jig was made from a scrap piece of 3/4"-thick plywood that was about 3" wide and 12" long. I cut one end at 90° on my



Photos by Al Parrish

miter saw. Then I set the saw to make a 35° miter and cut off about 3" of the plywood. The piece that falls off is the jig for setting the blade.

By placing the jig on the saw's base you can tilt the base to 35° left and right quickly. And you can use the square edge of the jig to return the saw's blade to 90°.

### Make Your Straight Cuts

Use the drawing to lay out all your cuts. Then, with the blade set at 90°, make the cuts that define the two feet on one piece and the single foot on the other piece.

Then make the square-shaped cutouts on each piece. Here's how: Drill a couple 3/8"-diameter holes near the corners of the square-shaped cutout. Then use your jigsaw to remove the waste and square up the corners.

### Make Your Bevel Cuts

Tilt the jigsaw's base to 35° left and make all the cuts you can with the blade tilted this direction. Then tilt the blade the other direction and make the remainder of the cuts on the two pieces. In the end you'll have some



This scrap of wood acts as a reliable way to set your jigsaw's base to 35°. I found a protractor difficult to balance on the base and not nearly as accurate.



You can rotate the blade in its frame with a coping saw to make a tricky cut like this very easy.

waste hanging onto your work that needs to be removed with a coping saw. It's simple work. If you don't have a coping saw, use a chisel and a mallet to pop out the waste.

Clean up all your cuts with a rasp, file and sandpaper. Then fit the two parts together

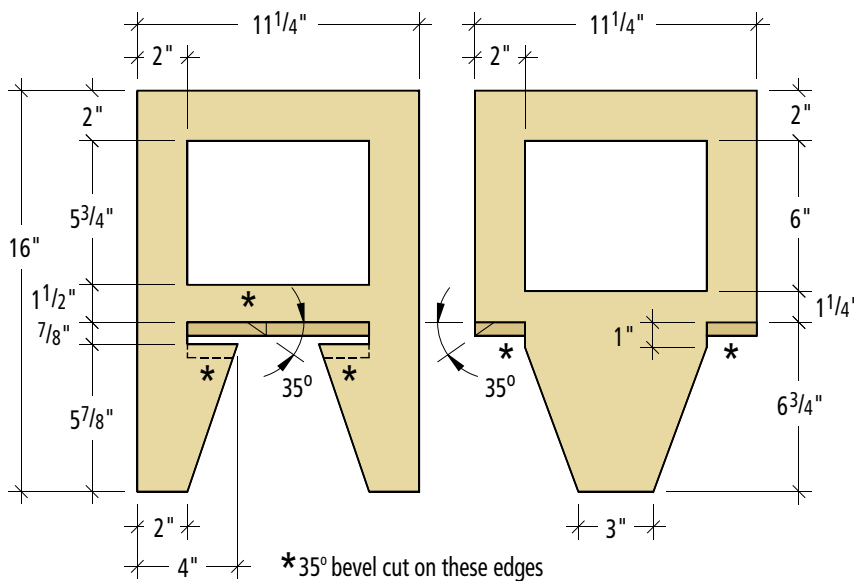
— you might have to adjust a few edges with a rasp to get a good fit. If the part with the single leg is just a little too thick to fit through the slot in the other, reduce the thickness of the single leg with your block plane until everything fits. Sand all your parts and add a clear finish (or stain or paint).

In our office, we have far too many magazines for this project to be useful to us. So we're going to use it as a stand for our office dictionary, which settles our debates on word usage. But if we ever need a magazine stand, it's just a flip of the pieces away. **PW**

## ABOUT THIS COLUMN

Our "I Can Do That" column features projects that can be completed by any woodworker with a modest (but decent) kit of tools in less than two days of shop time, and using raw materials that are available at any home center. We offer a free online manual in PDF format that explains all the tools and shows you how to perform the basic operations in a step-by-step format. You'll learn to rip with a jigsaw, crosscut with a miter saw and drill straight with the help of our manual.

To download the free manual, visit [ICanDoThatExtras.com](http://ICanDoThatExtras.com).



Elevation

## MAGAZINE RACK

NO.	ITEM	DIMENSIONS (INCHES)			MATERIAL
		T	W	L	
2	Interlocking slabs	3/4	11 1/4"	16	Red oak