optional add-ons for your 
Hobby Bench

The design of the hobby bench from issue 126 allows you to add custom features to suit your needs. On these pages, you’ll find the details for adding two options — storage racks and a tool rack.

The main idea behind each of these is storage and organisation. They provide handy ways to keep tools and supplies close by. But there’s another benefit here. These racks help keep your benchtop clear as you enjoy your hobby. And a less cluttered work area means you’re likely to get better results, too.

**STORAGE RACKS**

The storage racks mount to the end of the bench and hold tall or bulky items like books, cans of finish, or bottles of glue. The racks are built as units, so you can make as many as you’d like. And you can easily reposition them as your needs change.

Figure 1 shows the overall construction: Two ends capture a bottom and a pair of dowels. The dowels keep the stored items from falling off the rack. The box below highlights the two main steps involved in building each rack. You need to cut a rebate to house the bottom and then drill a pair of stopped holes to accept the dowels.

### HOW-TO: MAKE THE STORAGE RACKS

**Cut Rebates.** A wide dado blade buried in an auxiliary fence lets you dial in the size of the rebate to match the bottom.

**Drill Dowel Holes.** Careful layout ensures that the holes drilled in each end of the rack are aligned.
CUSTOMISED TOOL RACK

In addition to clutter control, the tool rack serves as a backstop to prevent items from rolling off the back of the bench. The tool rack is glued up from two pieces. They have matching trenches cut to hold your tools and accessories (box below). The arrangement I used is shown in Figure 1b. But feel free to lay out and size the trenches to match the tools you’re likely to use most often. I made keys to fit a couple of the trenches to keep the parts aligned during the glueup. A coat of wax keeps the keys from getting glued in place.

An easy-to-miss detail are the three holes. These accept a bushing to hold the post of an adjustable arm lamp, so you can have light right where you need it.

After drilling the lamp bushing holes, you can cut a shallow rebate on the inside face, as shown in Figure 1a. This registers the tool rack on the back edge of the benchtop. The rack is secured to the benchtop with long screws.

How-To: MAKE THE TOOL RACK

Cutting Trenches. Use the rip fence as an end stop to guarantee that the trenches in each half of the rack will be aligned.

Drill Lamp Holes. After gluing up the rack, drill three lamp bushing holes using a Forstner bit at the drill press.

A Wide, Shallow Rebate. A tall auxiliary rip fence allows you to recess the blade and support the tool rack.

NOTE: Tool rack is made from two layers of 19mm-thick hardwood
Materials, Supplies & Cutting Diagram

A   Storage Rack Ends (4)          100 x 100 x 19
B   Storage Rack Bottoms (2)      390 x 100 x 19
C   Storage Rack Dowels (4)       12mm-dia. x 390
D   Tool Rack (1)                 1170 x 115 x 38

- (4) 8g x 65mm c/s Woodscrews
- (8) 8g x 25mm c/s Woodscrews
- (4) 8g x 45mm c/s Woodscrews
- (2) 12mm-dia. dowels (900mm long)
- (1) Lamp Bushing
  (Lee Valley 05G48.01)

1200 x 140 x 19mm Stock
A   A   A   A   B   B

2400 x 140 x 19mm Stock
D   D