

Bread Rack

If you wrap freshly baked bread while it's hot, trapped moisture will make it soggy. If you slice the loaf right away, steam will escape—steam that finishes the baking process. And if you move it straight from the pan to a counter top, condensation will make your bread look (and taste) like it's been standing in a puddle. Cool your bread on this distinctive rack instead. Air will circulate around the entire loaf, the crust will remain intact, and the texture will be irresistible.



Materials List

Black walnut is recommended for this project.

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|------|---------------------|--------------|
| (2) | 3/4" x 1-3/4" x 14" | Sides |
| (17) | 1/4" x 8-5/8" | Birch dowels |

Suggested Tools

Router
Jigsaw
3/8" drill
36" straightedge
Compass
1/4" drill bit with 1/4" stop collar
45° 7/16" chamfer bit

Hardware & Supplies

Waterproof wood glue
Food-grade bowl finish

Construction Procedure

1. Measure 1" in from each end of both 14" pieces, and mark on the sides and top edges.

2. To round the rack's ends, measure 2" in from each end of both pieces, and mark on the bottom edge of one face. From these 2" marks, strike a 2" radius across the face of each board, at each end (see Dowel Placement).

3. Measure up 1" from the bottom edge of each piece and mark a line lengthwise.

4. From the point where the previous 1" marks intersect the line drawn in Step 3, measure and mark points every 3/4" along each piece's lengthwise line so that there are seventeen marks all told (see Dowel Placement).

5. Using the 1/4" drill bit and a stop collar set to 3/8", drill 1/4" holes on the marked centers to a depth of 3/8". (Do not penetrate the opposite faces.) There should be a total of thirty-four holes altogether.

6. With a jigsaw, cut the marked radii on both ends of each piece.

7. Using the 7/16" chamfer bit in the router, chamfer all top and end edges of both pieces' face sides. (The face side is the side opposite the holes.) Sand the pieces smooth.

8. Glue the seventeen dowels into the set of sockets on one side piece, taking care not to overfill the holes with glue. Fasten the dowels into the second side piece in the same manner, starting at one end and working your way to the other. Clamp the sides firmly together, and set the rack on a flat surface while the glue dries.

9. Sand the project lightly. Apply food-grade bowl finish to the completed rack.

