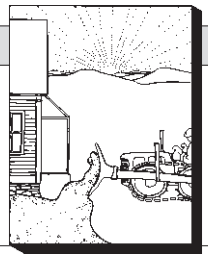


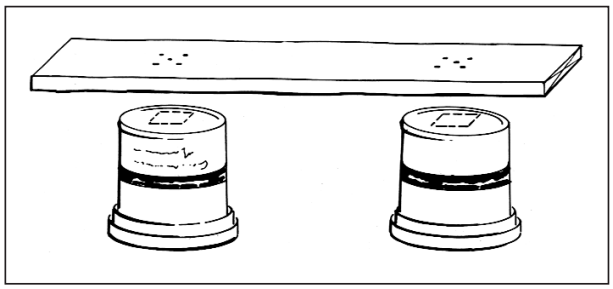
Rigs & Jigs

A few months ago, we invited those of you who work on site to tell us about the jigs, fixtures, templates, and other devices that you use to get your work done. What follows is a selection from the many good ideas we received. We hope you'll send in more ideas. If your idea is selected for a future issue, we'll send you $25 plus a free year's subscription. Please include your address and phone number. Send to The Journal of Light Construction, *1233 Shelburne Road, Suite C1, South Burlington, VT 05403.*—The Editors

Drywall bucket bench. We call this one an "Al bench" because Al was the first to make one. (I'll split the $25 with him if you use it.) It's cheap, light, and sturdy, and can be assembled in minutes or taken apart again if a bucket shortage strikes.

There's no trick to making one. First, get yourself two five-gallon drywall buckets, two 7-inch squares of plywood, a handful of drywall screws, and a 3-foot 2x10. To assemble, just wrestle the bails off the buckets, run the screws through the plank and bucket bottom and into the plywood squares so they draw up tight, and you've got it.

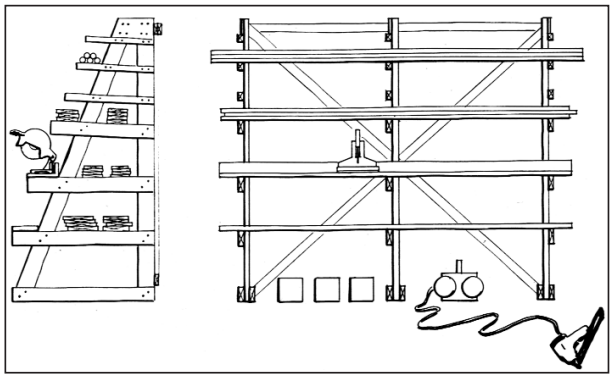
—Lisa Jablonski, Melrose, Mass.



Rack and bench. This is a simple way to organize a trim job. The frames are made from 2x4 stock with plywood gussets at the top. They are held together by 1x3 strapping on the back. We use screws to attach these, so the whole rack can be quickly and easily disassembled.

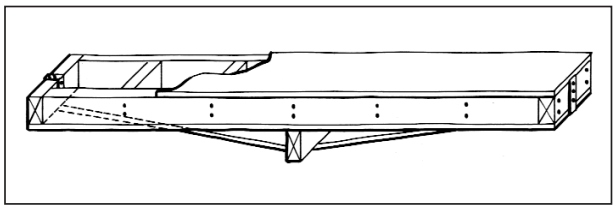
We store our trim, organized by type, on the upper cantilevered supports. We set these horizontal 2x4s so they slope very slightly to the rear of the rack—this way even closet poles stay put. Stock that won't be used for awhile can be stored between the two vertical supports.

We store tool boxes, nails, and our compressor beneath the first shelf. The second shelf is a 2x12 on which we mount a miter box; then we clamp supports at the same height as the bed for cutting longer material.—*Steven and Donna Cusson, Nantucket Island, Mass.*



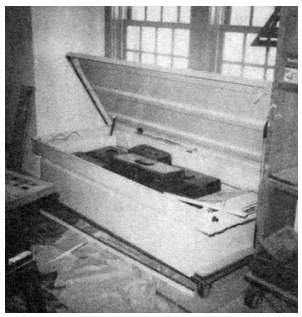
Trussed scaffolding plank. I make my own scaffolding planks using two 16-foot 2x4s with 9-inch blocks laid out on 32-inch centers. Then I cover this framework with 1/2-inch CDX or 7/16-inch OSB. Last, I attach one end of a 17-foot length of steel lumber banding to one end of the plank with screws, stretch this framework tightly underneath, and fasten it at the other end. By inserting a 2x4 on edge beneath the banding at the center of the walkboard, I create a kind of truss. I've never had one of these planks break.

—Thomas E. Knebel, Denton, Texas



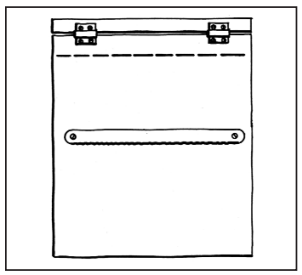
Mobile truck box. A lot of builders carry their small power tools in a lockable, steel truck box that fits across the bed of their pickup. I bring mine inside and roll it around. I screw 1x4 rails flat to either end of a 3/4-inch plywood platform to keep the box from shifting around, and mount 5-inch-diameter, heavy-duty, rubber casters on the bottom so it can be rolled easily from room to room.

—Roger P. Trachier, Hartland, Vt.



Sandpaper cutter. An old 10-inch hacksaw blade works well to cut up 11x9-inch sandpaper sheets into halves and quarters. I screwed one to the side of a box that holds several palm sanders and a collection of sandpaper. The cutting edge of the blade is 5 1/2 inches from the hinge pins on the lid. The pins serve as a stop to rip the sheet of sandpaper lengthwise in half. And a line drawn 4 1/2 inches from the cutting edge serves as a gauge for cutting these halves into quarters.

—Finnand Everyman, Burlington, Vt.



Reveal block. I use this jig for measuring the reveal on a door or window casing. I take a piece of 1x scrap and cut a 2 1/2-inch equilateral triangle—a size that fits conveniently into corners and a nail pouch. On the edges I cut a 3/16-inch-wide rabbet—the width of the reveal we typically use—at half the depth of the 1x. Once I've got the casing cut to length, I just rest the block on the jamb, bring the casing tight to it, and nail.

—James Hoffman, Castleton, N.Y. ■