Wine rack *from reclaimed oak*

We raise a glass to Michael T Collins' simple wine rack design

I've always wanted a wine cellar. 'If you're interested in building your own wine cellar you need to start by analysing your space and determining what will fit,' said my local sommelier. Well, that put an end to the underground climate-controlled room I was dreaming about. So, for the time being, it's a counter-top wine rack.

The configuration

While wine bottles come in a variety of shapes and sizes, a typically 75cl bottle has a diameter of 75mm and is about 293mm tall. Champagne comes in slightly larger bottles that measure up to 90mm in diameter and closer to 318mm tall. Therefore different wine racking styles work better for certain wine bottle shapes, depending on what you plan on collecting (or drinking).

For this project we'll create a wine rack that can hold standard wine and Champagne bottles.

First plan the configuration of your wine rack. A rectangular rack for 12 bottles is going to take a different number of supports and connectors than a triangular rack for the same number of bottles. If you want to store bottles larger than this simply make the connector longer.

Cut list

For this particular project I had some red oak left over from a previous make that was ideal, but this project lends itself to using up any off-cuts.
To make a rectangular wine rack that will hold 12 bottles you will need: Enough wood to make 20 support pieces of 30mm x 180mm and enough 10mm dowel to make 62 x 95mm connectors. You could use less if three bottles are simply resting on the top layer).

1 Rip the oak into 30mm x 30mm long strips – I have found that this size is just right, and aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

Side note: Hard woods are notorious for showing scorch marks from a tablesaw. These blemishes can be avoided by having a feather board, clean sharp rip saw blade and the fence that is perfectly parallel to the blade.


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2 Cut the supports to length. Use a stop for consistent sizes.

3 Next, ease the edges on all the pieces – you could also choose to do this after ripping to size.

4 To bevel the ends I set up a simple jig on the spindle sander that limited the amount that could be sanded off.

5 Mark the location of the support connectors – centred and 20mm from the ends.

6 To get consistent results I created an L-shaped jig that was clamped to the drill press. This ensured that every hole was perfectly aligned. Set the drill depth to 10mm – with this depth the holes will not intersect in the supports.


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7 I drilled holes on all sides of the supports – this allowed for future expansion (still have that cellar in mind) – and did a final clean up.

8 Finally, cut the connectors to a length of 95mm. This gives enough space for 75mm-90mm diameter bottles.

Building the frame

9 This couldn't be easier – start by joining the supports and connectors to make a single layer.

10 Then make another layer and connect the two. Because I was not sure of the configuration I wanted, I opted not to glue the parts together – the friction between the supports and the connectors is sufficient to hold the rack together. However, I would not rely on it to carry your wine around.

Finish

I decided not to apply a finish, but instead to just let the oak develop a natural patina.

Now pour yourself a glass, sit back and enjoy the view of your wine cellar to be… ■


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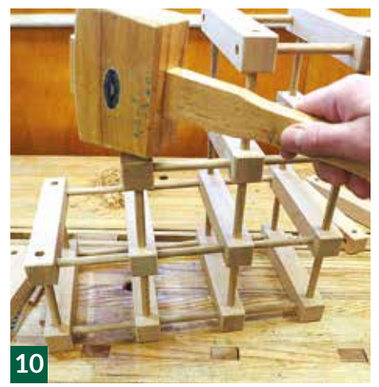
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