From the Original Woodworker's Notebook

By

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COLONIAL BOOKSHELF

A NOTE ON SAFETY

Safety is the responsibility of all woodworkers. Do not attempt any project or procedure without all safety devices intact. Any deviations in stock dimensions and/or any change in project will affect the end result of any project. When circumstances require the use of different materials, alter project dimensions as required.
Read all instructions for any project before starting the project.

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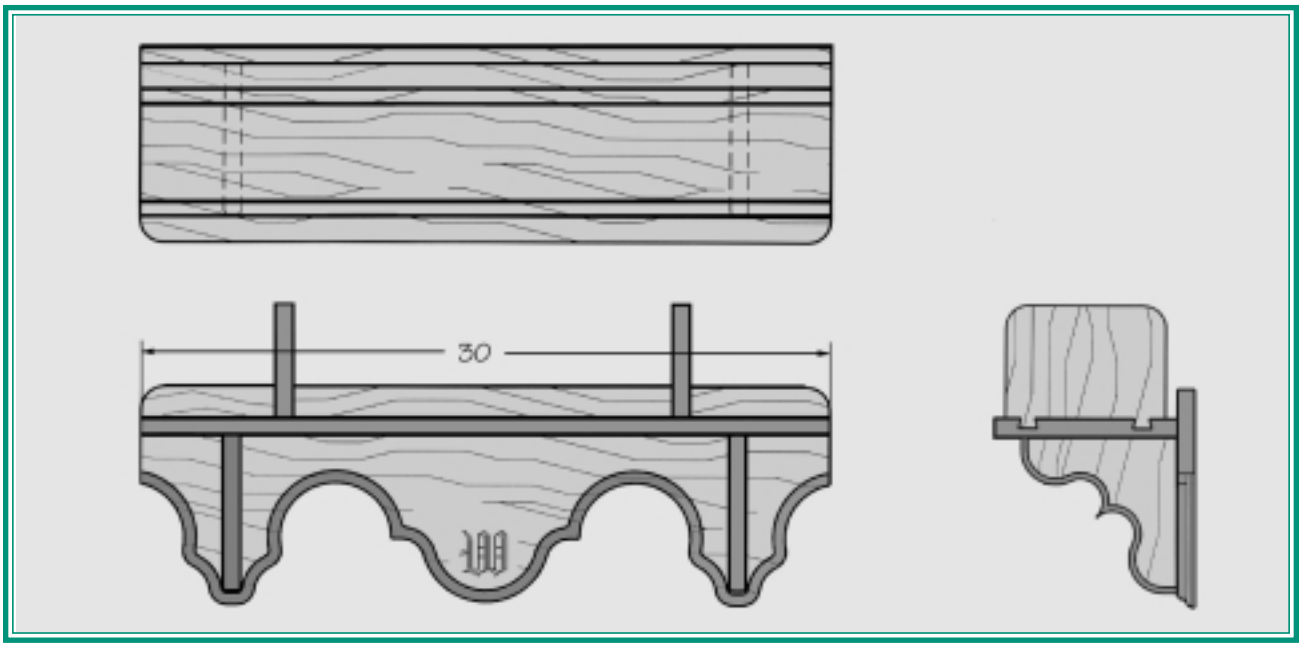
COLONIAL BOOKSHELF



A Simple Bookshelf

This is a simple to build project requiring no advanced joinery. It is fun to build and a very useful project. Constructed from hardwood and personalized with a monogram or family crest it has heirloom potential. The best choice of material for the project is Honduras mahogany. Mahogany is available in wider widths and is easy to carve with a small palm gouge "V" tool if you choose to carve the monogram. Material required is one piece of 1” x 10” x 72”.

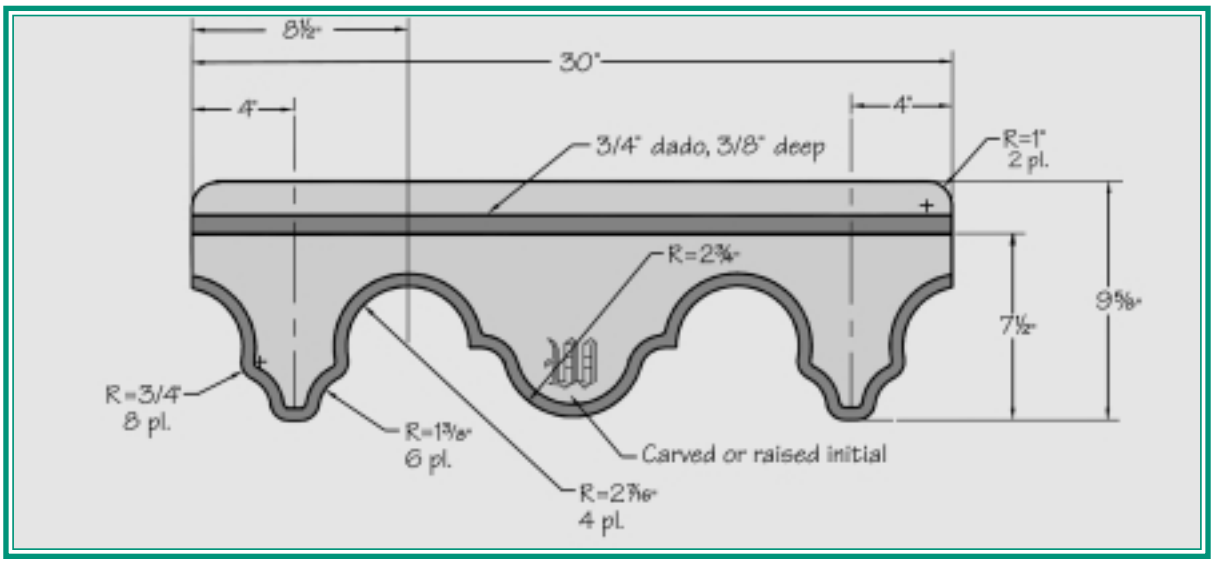
Construction

The first step is to enlarge the back panel template to full size. Enlarging can be done by Xerox or you can enlarge it by drawing on a one inch grid. The pattern is for one half of the panel. To use the pattern, transfer it to a piece of card stock or better yet a piece of ¼” or ⅜” inch plywood or particle board. It is a lot easier to cut and sand the thin plywood to the finished configuration. Use the wood pattern to transfer the lines to the back panel stock.

Rough cut the board to within an eighth of an inch to the line with a band saw or jig saw. Fasten the plywood pattern to the back panel with double-back tape. Be sure that the pattern is completely within the outside lines of the board. Use a clamp to apply pressure at the tape locations. The tape must be securely fastened to both the pattern and the board. Install a flush trim bit in the router and install a free hand router bit guard for safety. Finish trim the back panel board. Remove the pattern from the back board by using a putty knife at the tape locations to separate the two pieces.

After profiling the back board the next step is to cut the ¾” wide x ⅜” deep dado in the shelf. Do this on the router table or with a dado blade in the saw table. Install a bearing guided, roman ogee style, molding bit and freehand guard and trim the board as shown.

If you are going to add a carved monogram do it at this time. Finish sanding the back board after carving. A raised monogram should be added after sanding is completed. The shelf supports should be made in the same manner as the back



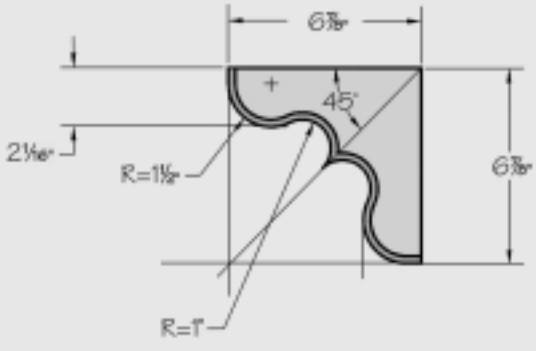
board. The profiling can be done at the same time with the same setups.

Use the drawing to create your pattern. The pattern is symmetrical about the 45 degree line. Make a square, fold across the corners draw one half the pattern, cut it out and unfold the square.

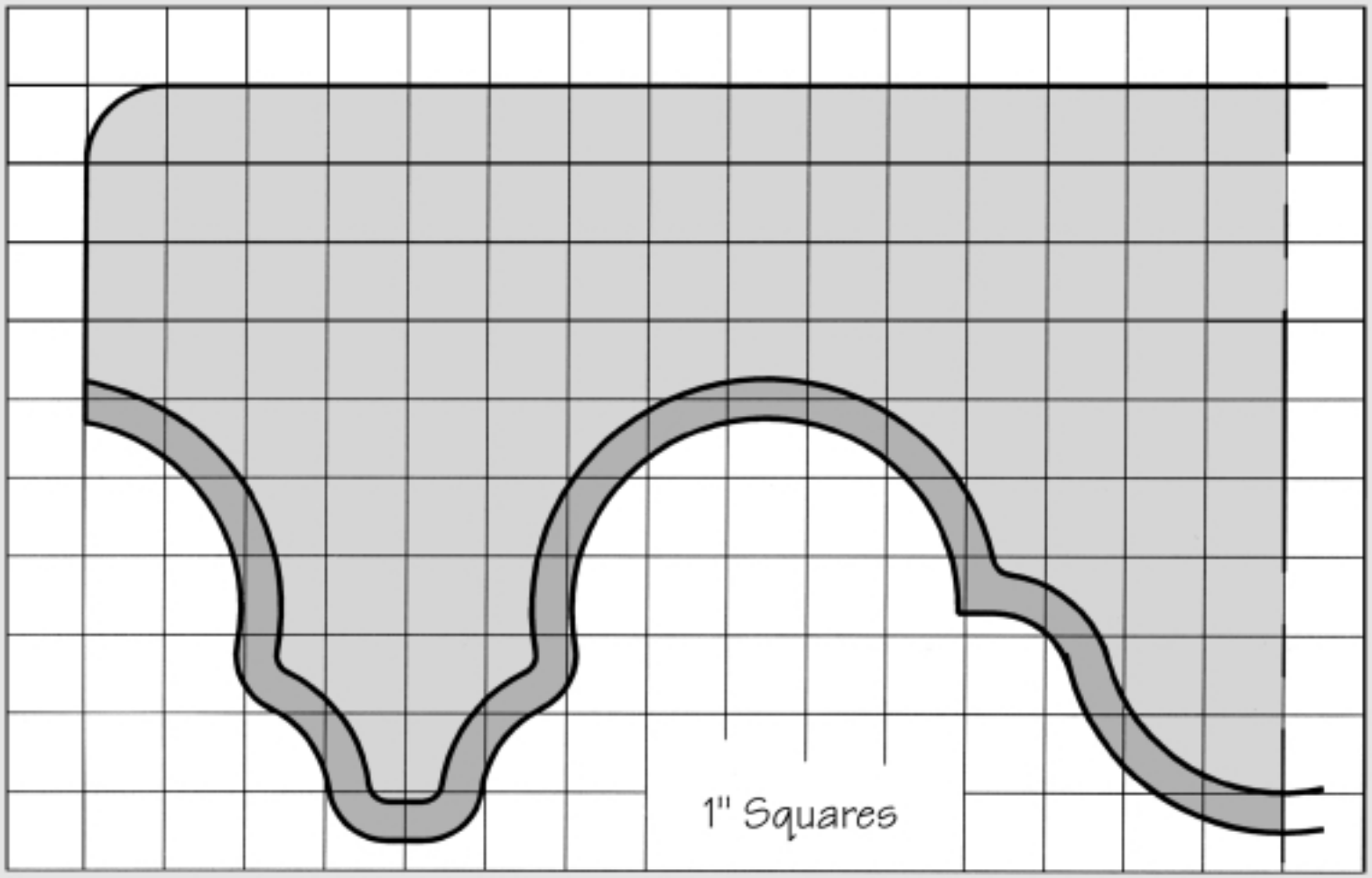
Use a 5/32" roundover bit with bearing to trim the edges of the supports.

Sand the supports and install them on the back board. The supports are located 4" in from each end on center and with the top edge of the support flush with the bottom edge of the dado. Glue the supports to the back board and install two countersunk screws in each from the back side of the board.

Cut the shelf to size as shown in the drawing. To make the dovetail slots use a ½" equally spaced dovetail template. Skip four pin locations between the slots, use the first and sixth. Set the height for a sliding fit.



SHELF SUPPORT PROFILE



BACK PANEL TEMPLATE

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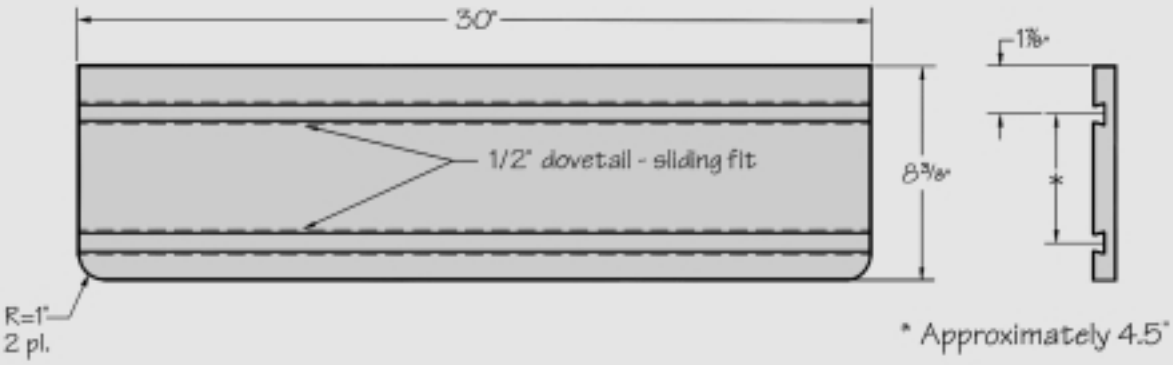


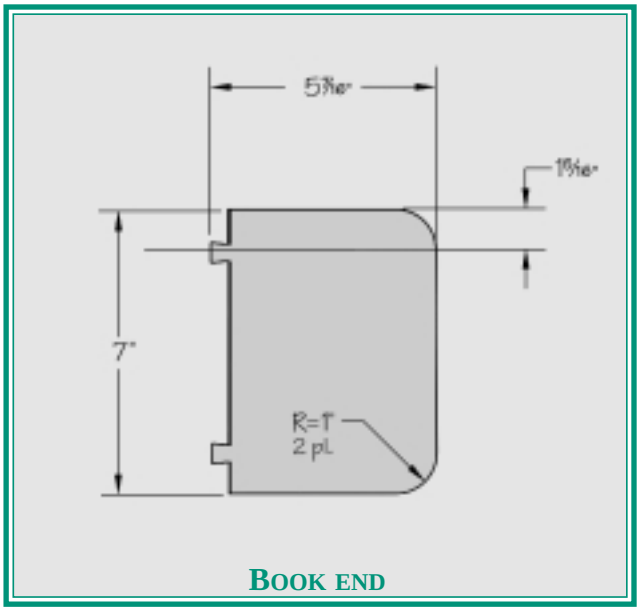
SHELF DETAIL

Cut the book ends to the dimensions shown. Use the same dovetail template and cut the dovetails on the bookends.

Use a 5/32" roundover bit with bearing to trim the edges of bookends and shelf.

Sand the shelf and install it on the backboard and support subassembly. Apply glue to the backboard dado and to the tops of the supports. Install countersunk screws from the back of the back board into the shelf. Install countersunk screws through the bottom of the dovetail slots into the supports.

Apply your favorite finish to the bookshelf. Do not put any finish in the dovetail slots or on the pins of the book ends. The slots and the pins may be waxed if desired for a smooth slide. Install the bookends in the slots. The weight of the books should be sufficient to bind the dovetails and hold the book stops in place.



BOOK END