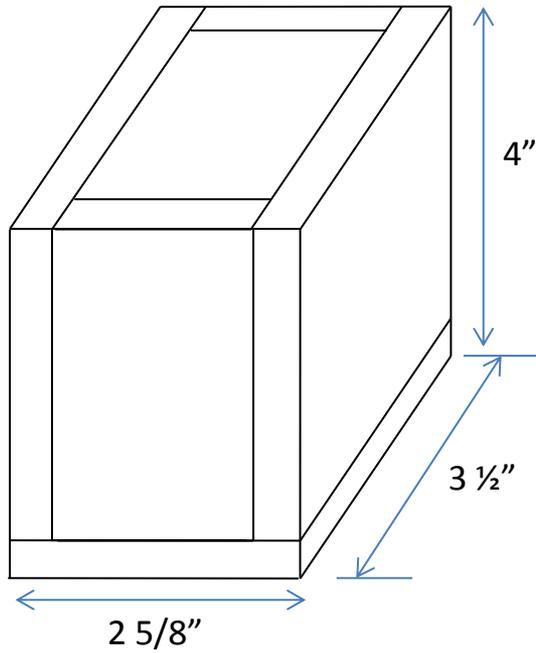


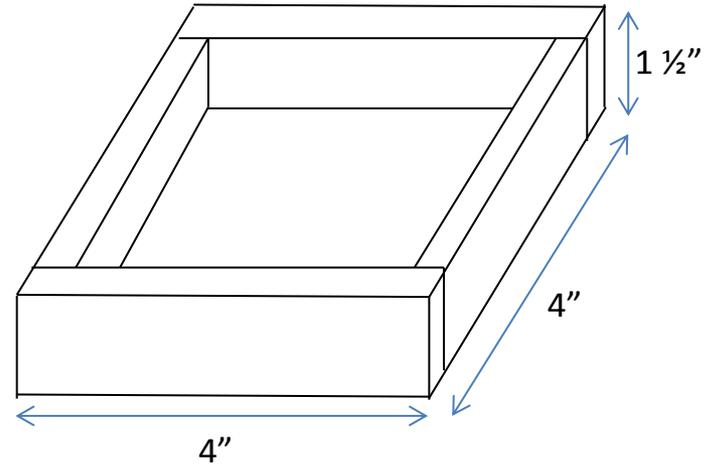
1 Board Cedar Desk Accessories

Dimensions

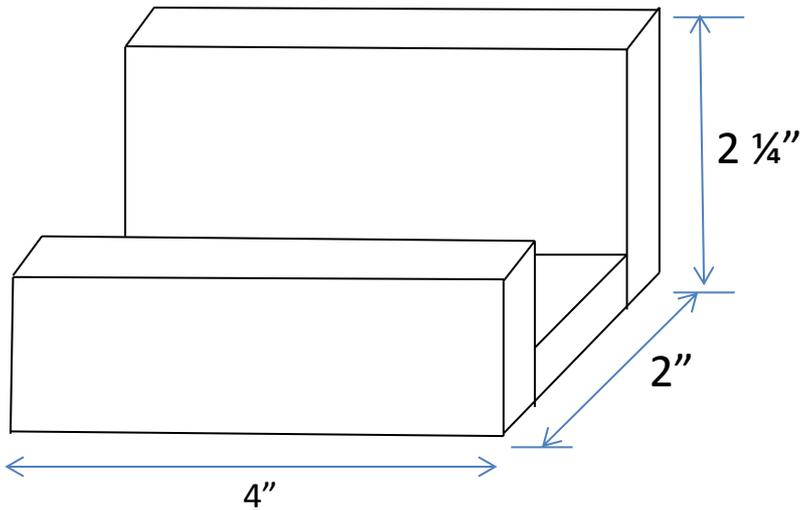
Pencil Cup



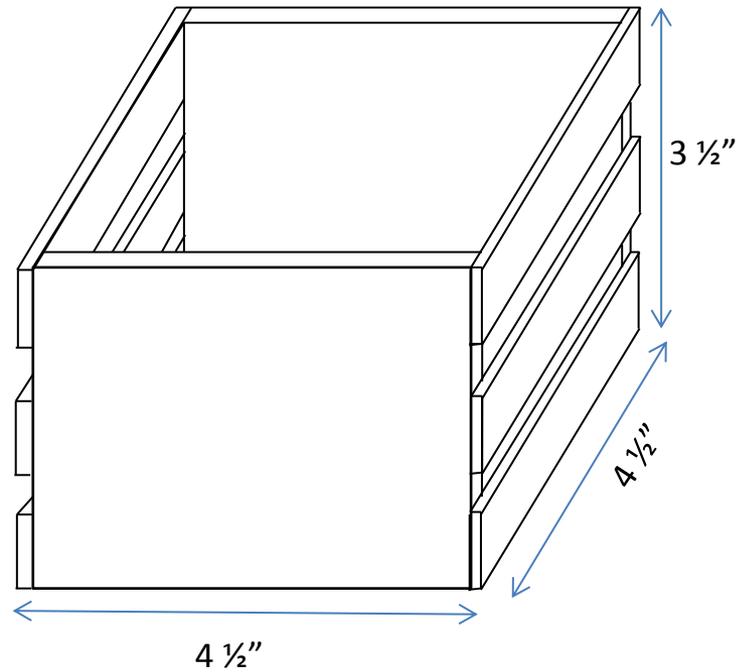
Paper Clip Tray



Business Card Holder



Mini Desktop Crate



Author Notes:

From just 1 cedar fence picket, you can build a 4-piece desk accessory set. The set includes pencil cup, paper clip tray, business card holder, and mini desktop crate (great for post-it notes, markers, etc). The goal for this plan was to create something that would make a nice gift, would require only 1 board (cedar fence picket is about \$3 for wood), requires no angles or rip cuts, and can be built using just your miter saw and nailgun or brad nailer. A palm sander is also highly recommended. You can make the whole set in just 1 afternoon.

Each piece has individual instructions and cut lists, so you can choose individual pieces to build if you like. Each instruction shows the total length of board needed to build that piece. The full set takes about 43" worth of the board. I looked up a lot of accessory sizes on Staples, Office Depot, Office Max, and Amazon, to make sure the plan sizes are comparable to standard desktop accessories, so none of them would have a large "footprint" on your desktop.

The picture shows the set built from a cedar fence picket. This is the board I used:

<http://www.lowes.com/pd/5447-14963-5447-0/?productId=4746391&Ntt=picket...>

You could also substitute ½" x 5 ½" craft board if you like. You would need two 24" pieces.

This was my second build using cedar, and for this one I selected the flattest board I could. This board was really very nice and was pretty flat. There are a few places in the plan where measuring before you cut is recommended. This will help everything fit nicely and help to account for any variation in board sizes. Also, sanding all the little pieces before assembly will help make the build and finishing easier. I sanded the picket on both sides with 80-grit then 220-grit, to get them nice and smooth before cutting. Cedar makes really fine sawdust, so I was sure to wear a mask while sanding.

I stained this set after building, but your build will go even easier if you sand and stain or finish your pieces before assembling. Then all it should need is touch-up after assembly. I think I'll do that on the next set.

Back story: This summer I'm on a mission to make things from as much of my scrap wood as possible. I had several odd-sized pieces of 3/8" craft board, 3/8" wainscoat paneling, 3/8" plywood, 1/4" plywood, and 1/2" craft board in my garage, and I wanted to make some nice gifts from them. I was able to make several sets of these desk accessories using those odd pieces. I made drawings and cut lists to recreate those in a plan using just 3/8" craft boards, 1/4" plywood, and a scrap piece of S4S. (I still have those drawings and can post a plan for those too if anyone is interested.) But, I found that nailing into the 1/2" thick pieces of board was much easier than the 3/8", and decided to make a few plan changes, so a whole set could be made with only the 1/2" board, and only 1 piece of it would be needed.

Materials and Tools:

Shopping List:

1 cedar fence picket, 1/2" x 5 1/2" x 6'

wood glue

1" finish nails

Finishing materials for desired finish

Tools:

measuring tape

square

pencil

safety glasses

compound miter saw

nailer

sander

Cut List from ½" x 5 ½" Cedar Fence Picket

Pencil Cup:

2 pc @ 3 ½", then cut to 3 ½" (front/back, then cut remaining part down to 1 5/8" for sides)

1 pc @ 3 ½", then cut to 2 5/8" (bottom, cut to fit, should be ~2 5/8" x 3 ½")

Total board length needed (includes blade widths): 10 7/8"

Business Card Holder:

1 pc @ 1 ¼", then cut to 4" (front, 1 ¼" x 4")

1 pc @ 1", then cut to 4" (bottom, 1" x 4")

1 pc @ 2 ¼", then cut to 4" (back, 2 ¼" x 4")

Total board length needed (includes blade widths): 4 7/8"

Mini Desktop Crate:

3 pc @ 3 ½" then cut to 3 ½" wide

6 pc @ 1" then cut to 4 ½" wide (cut to length after step 1b)

Total board length needed (includes blade widths): 17 5/8"

Paper Clip Tray:

2 pc @ 1 ½", then cut to 4" (front/back, 1 ½" x 4")

2 pc @ 1 ½", then cut to 3" (sides, 1 ½" x 3")

1 pc @ 3", then cut to 3" (bottom, 3" x 3")

Total board length needed (includes blade widths): 9 5/8"

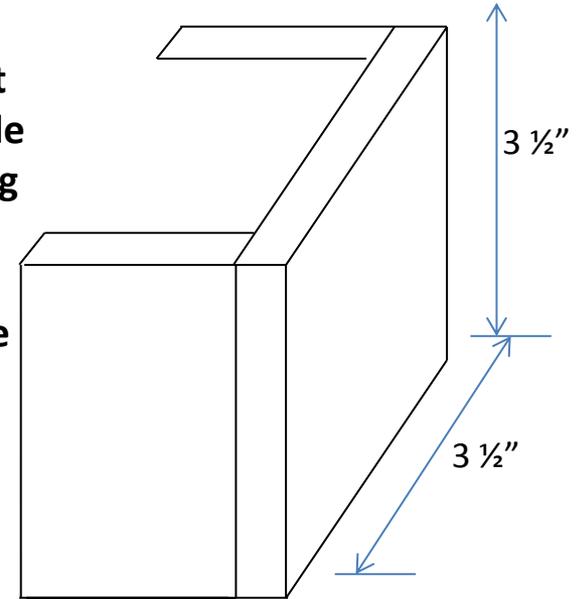
**Total board length needed
(includes blade widths): 10 7/8"**

Pencil Cup

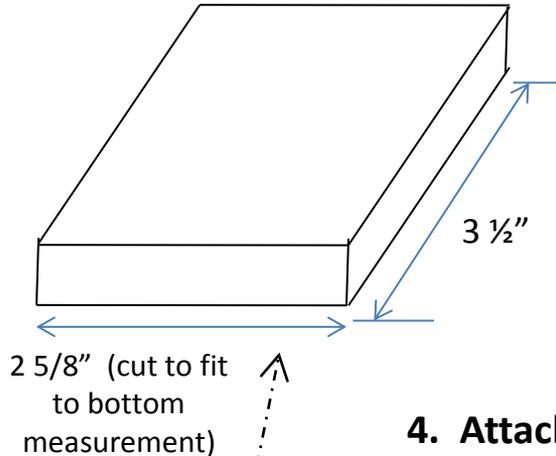
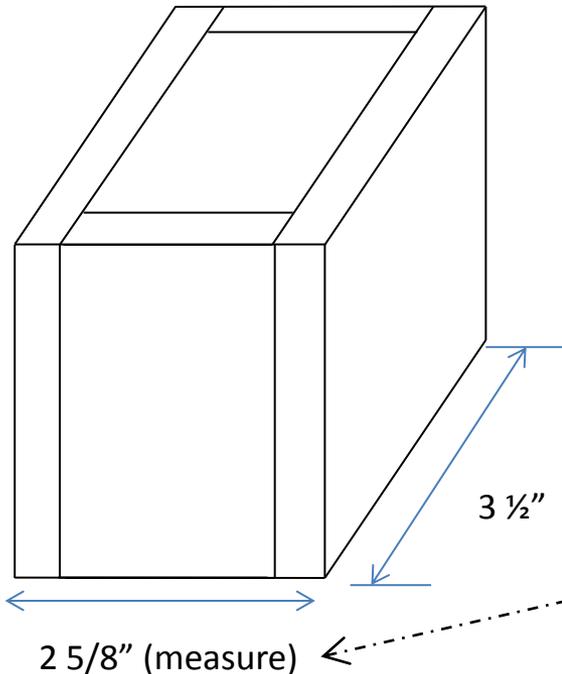
Cut List from 1/2" x 5 1/2" Cedar Fence Picket

2 pc @ 3 1/2", then cut to 3 1/2" (front/back, then cut remaining part down to 1 5/8" for sides)
1 pc @ 3 1/2", then cut to 2 5/8" (bottom, cut to fit, should be ~2 5/8" x 3 1/2")

1. Attach front & back to inside of side, keeping outside, top & bottom edges flush. Use glue and 1" finish nails.

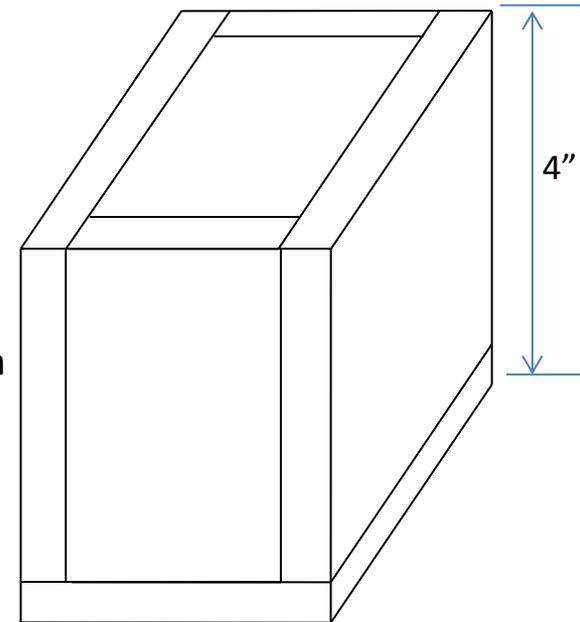


2. Attach other side to front & back, as in step 1.



3. Measure bottom dimension, then cut bottom to fit.

4. Attach bottom with glue and 1" finish nails, keeping outside edges flush.



Paper Clip Tray

**Total board length needed
(includes blade widths): 9 5/8"**

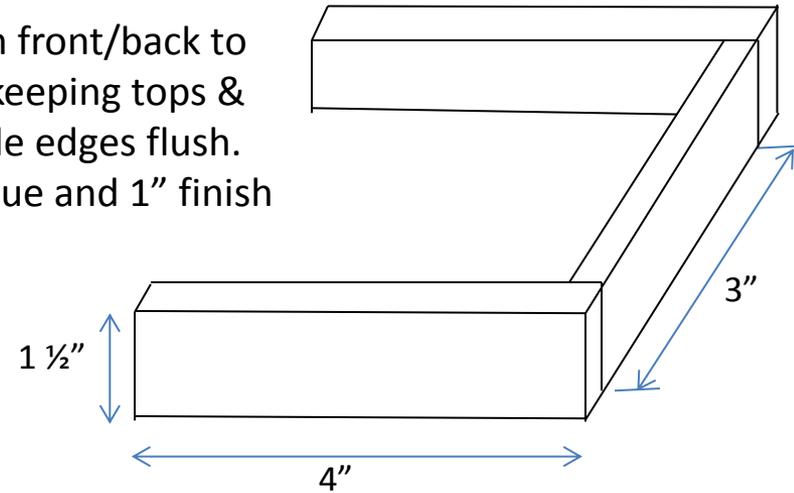
Cut list from 1/2" x 5 1/2" Cedar Fence Picket

2 pc @ 1 1/2", then cut to 4" (front/back, 1 1/2" x 4")

2 pc @ 1 1/2", then cut to 3" (sides, 1 1/2" x 3")

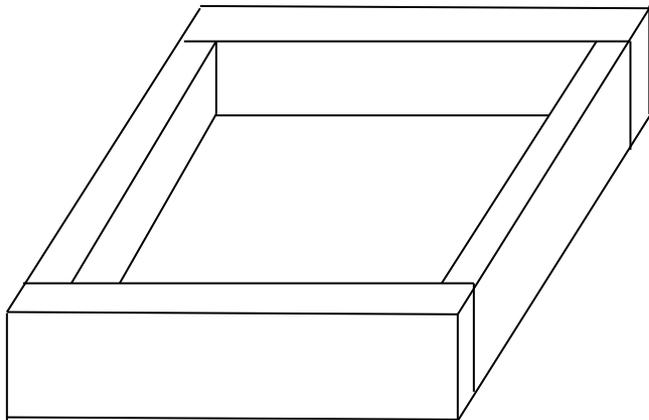
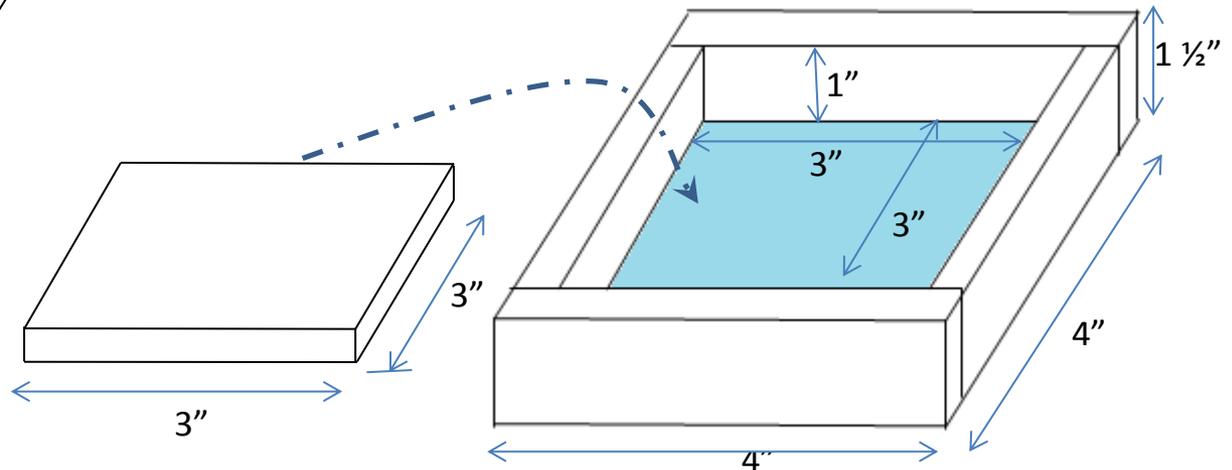
1 pc @ 3", then cut to 3" (bottom, 3" x 3")

1. Attach front/back to side, keeping tops & outside edges flush. Use glue and 1" finish nails.



2. Attach other side as in step 1.

3. Dry fit bottom first, check for square, and adjust/ trim bottom as necessary. Then remove and apply glue to bottom inside of box, and slip bottom into place. Keep bottoms flush and attach with 1" finish nails.



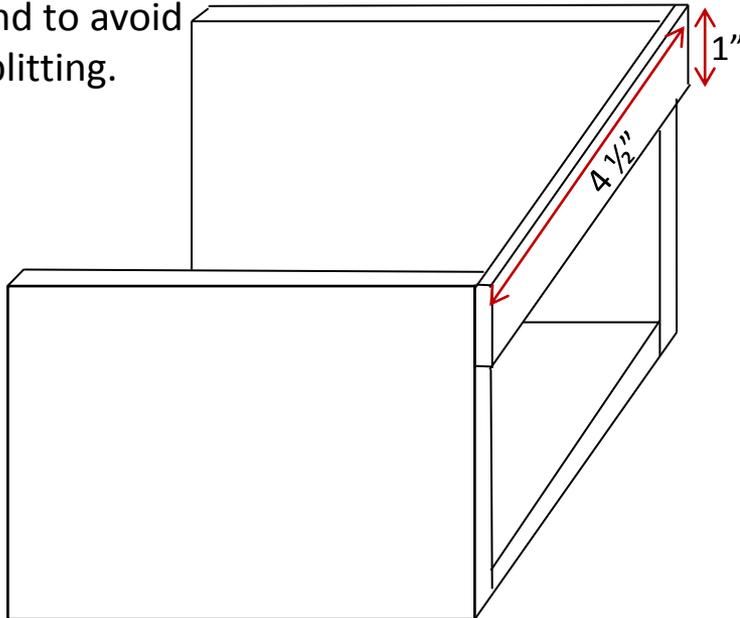
Mini Desktop Crate

**Total board length needed
(includes blade widths): 17 5/8"**

Cut List from 5 1/2" wide Cedar Fence Picket :

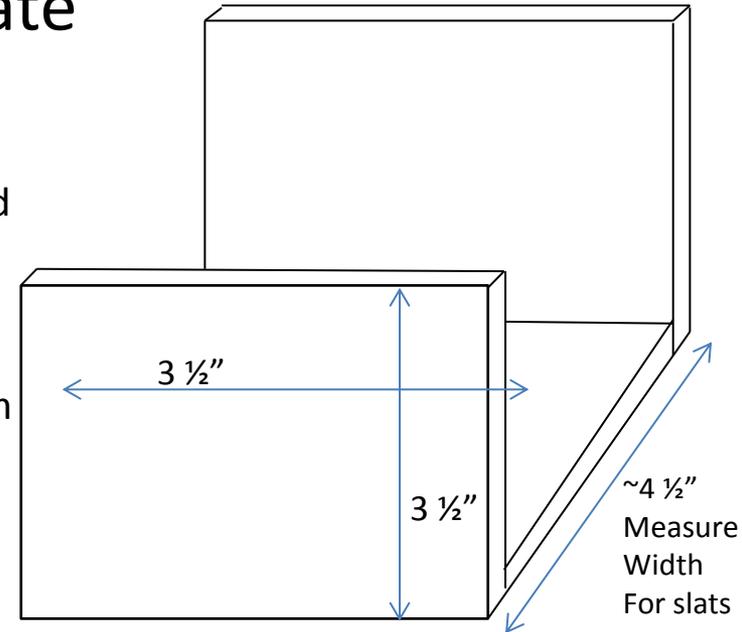
3 pc @ 3 1/2" then cut to 3 1/2" wide
6 pc @ 1" then cut to 4 1/2" wide
(cut to length after step 1b)

2. Attach top slats first, keeping tops and outside edges flush, using glue and 1" finish nails. Use just 1 nail per slat end to avoid splitting.

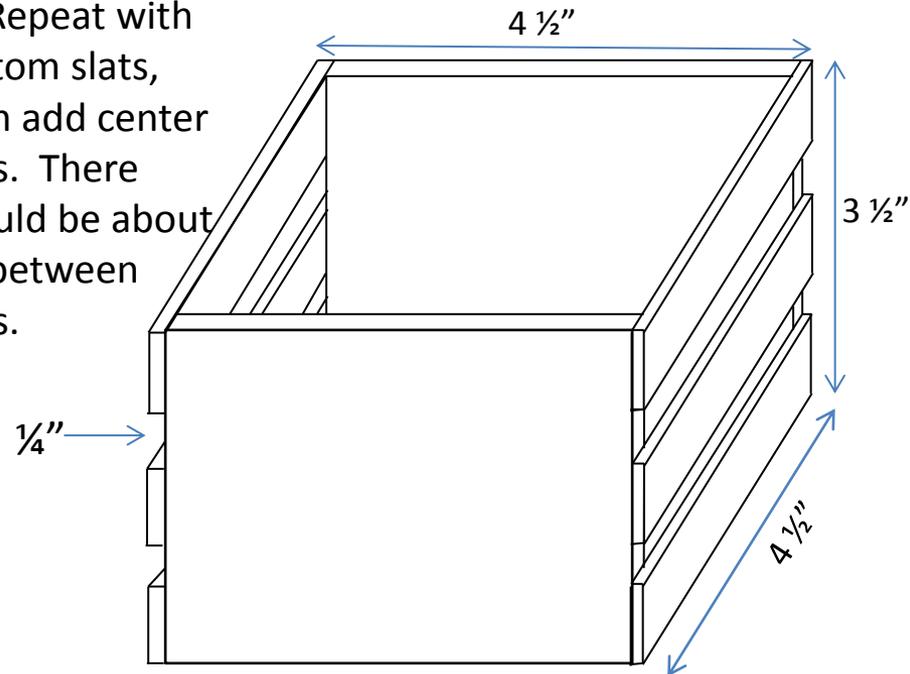


1a. Attach front and back to bottom, keeping outsides and bottom sides flush. Use glue and 1" finish nails.

1b. Measure bottom Width, and cut Slats to this length.



3. Repeat with bottom slats, then add center slats. There should be about 1/4" between slats.



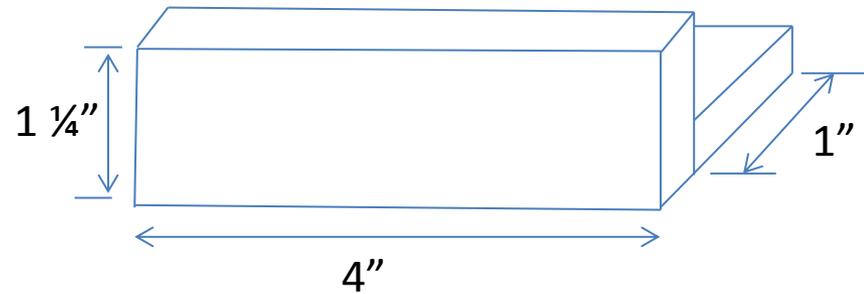
Business Card Holder

**Total board length needed
(includes blade widths): 4 7/8"**

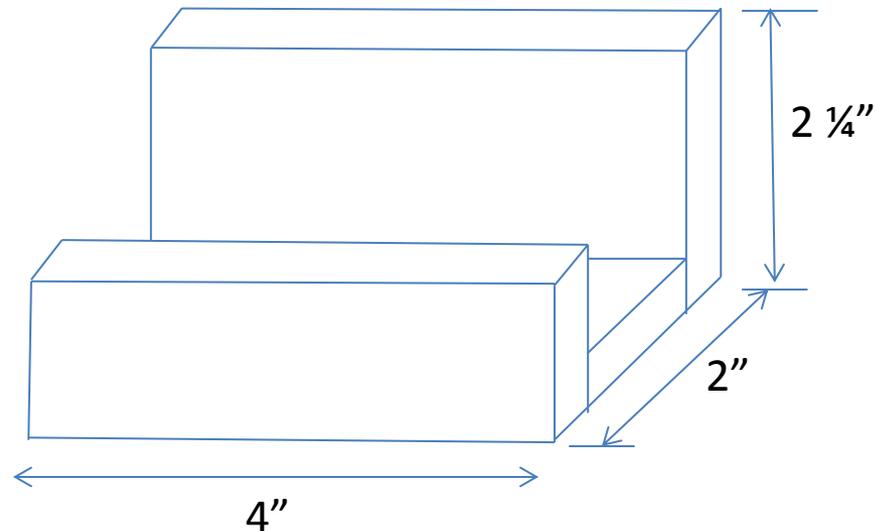
Cut list from 1/2" x 5 1/2" Cedar Fence Picket

- 1 pc @ 1 1/4", then cut to 4" (front, 1 1/4" x 4")
- 1 pc @ 1", then cut to 4" (bottom, 1" x 4")
- 1 pc @ 2 1/4", then cut to 4" (back, 2 1/4" x 4")

1. Attach front to bottom, keeping bottoms and outsides flush. Use glue and 1" finish nails.



2. Attach back to bottom, keeping bottoms and outsides flush. Use glue and 1" finish nails.



Tips:

Sand pieces before assembly.

Try finishing pieces before assembly, to make final finishing easier.

Finish Used:

For the finish, I followed Ana's tutorial for the Minwax Express Color in Walnut, on cedar. The only variation was I put the stain on all the nooks and crannies of the assembled pieces with a small paint brush instead of a rag, which worked really well and got the stain on nice and evenly. My first cedar build was going to receive just poly, but after seeing the walnut finish on these pieces, I went back and stained that one too! After all the stain was complete, 1 coat of Minwax Oil Modified Water Based Poly was added as a top coat.