



Woodsmith **PLANS**

SAW BLADE STORAGE



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Here are three easy-to-build storage systems that protect your saw blades while keeping them well organized.



If you take good care of your saw blades, they'll take good care of you. The best way to ensure that your blades last a long time is to store them in a safe place.

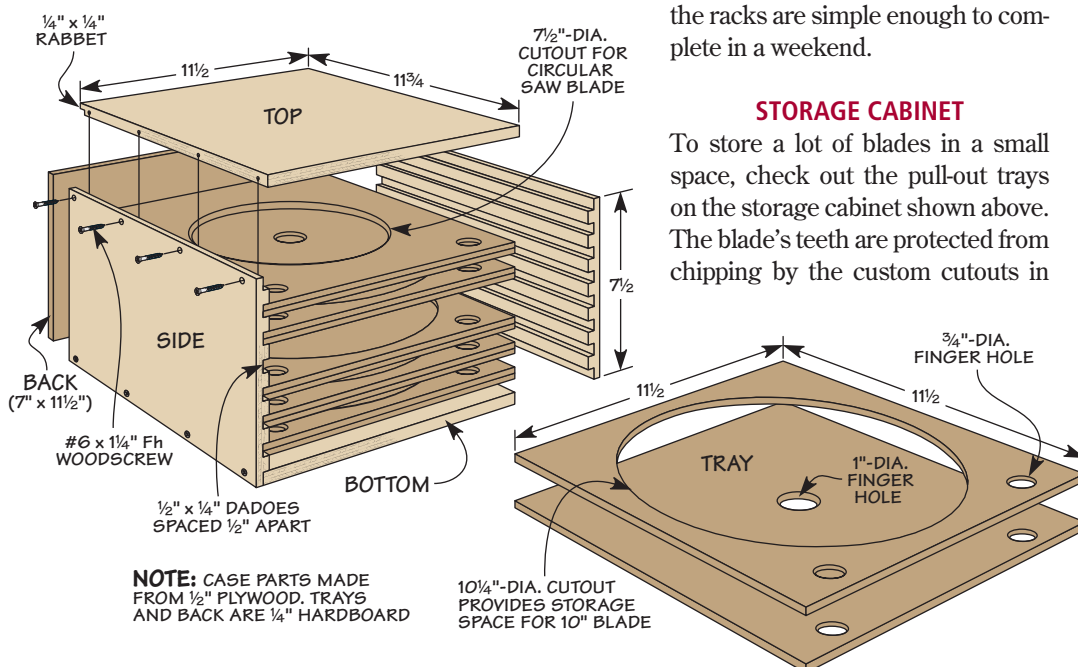
These three storage racks offer protection against dings and nicks, and they do a good job of keeping blades organized. Plus, the construction techniques used to build the racks are simple enough to complete in a weekend.

The individual trays. You can size the open-front plywood box to house as many blades as you need. (My 7½"-tall box holds six saw blades, as shown in the photo above.)

MAKE THE BOX. To determine the height of your box, allow 1" for each saw blade plus an additional ½" for joinery and spacing. Then, cut a series of ½"-wide dadoes spaced ½" apart in the sides. These dadoes create the slots to hold the sliding trays. To accept the top and bottom, cut rabbets on the ends of the sides.

The last step is to cut a rabbet on the back edges of the top, bottom, and sides of the cabinet to hold the back panel. All of the dimensions for these pieces and the details on the joinery techniques are shown in the drawing at left.

ASSEMBLE THE BOX. With the joinery complete, you can assemble the storage box. The box is simply held together with some



STORAGE CABINET

To store a lot of blades in a small space, check out the pull-out trays on the storage cabinet shown above. The blade's teeth are protected from chipping by the custom cutouts in

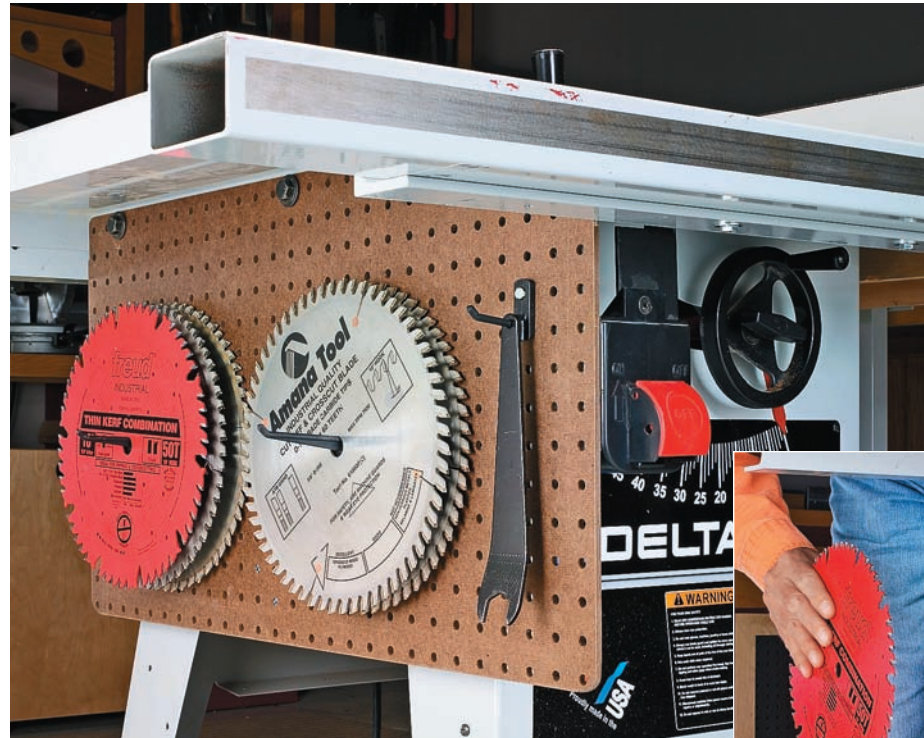
glue and screws. Once that's done, you can get started on making the trays that hold each saw blade.

HARDBOARD TRAYS. Each tray is made from two layers of 1/4" hardboard (drawing, page 1). A cutout in the top layer holds the blade. The easiest way to make the cutout is to use a circle-cutting jig and a hand-held router. Size the holes on the trays slightly larger than the saw blade. This makes it easier to remove the blade from the tray. Note: In addition to making cutouts for your table saw blades, you could also make a tray or two for circular saw blades.

Once the top layer is completed, you can glue the bottom layer to it. When the glue dries, drill a 1"-dia. hole in the center of the bottom layer. This hole is used to remove the blade from the tray. Two 3/4"-dia. finger holes, drilled at the front edge of each tray, make it easy to slide the tray in and out of the box.

PEGBOARD STORAGE

For blade storage right by my saw, I came up with a simple solution. As you can see in the photo above, I placed a panel directly under the wing of my table saw. This way,



there's a lot less clutter around my saw and the blades are always within easy reach. I was also able to make room on the panel for a hook to hold my arbor wrench.

This simple storage panel is just a small section of 1/4" pegboard that's held in place using the same bolts that attach the wing to the table. The panel has plenty of space for two sets of blades. Each set hangs from a heavy-duty plastic hook (I limited the number of blades on each hook to three).

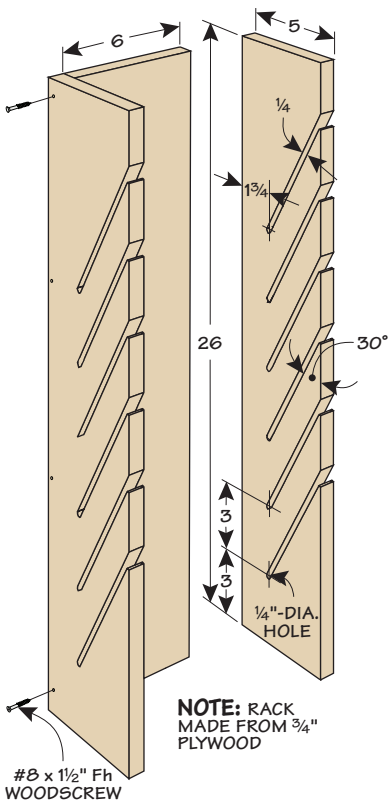
To avoid chipping the carbide tips on the blades when I hang them up, I keep them separated with a plastic lid (inset photo, above right).

the blades and make it easy to see exactly which blade you're choosing.

The only tricky part is getting the slots to match up. To do this, first join the sides with double-sided tape. After marking the slots on one piece, drill a hole to locate the end of each slot. Then cut the slots with a jig saw or band saw. Finally, attach the sides to the back with glue and screws and hang the rack on the wall near your saw.

Take the time to build a blade storage rack for your shop — the results will be worth the effort.

- ▲ **Protection.** Plastic lids separate the slots to match up. To do this, first join the sides with double-sided tape. After marking the slots on one piece, drill a hole to locate the end of each slot. Then cut the slots with a jig saw or band saw. Finally, attach the sides to the back with glue and screws and hang the rack on the wall near your saw.



STORAGE RACK

The best storage systems make it easy to choose the right blade for any situation. The plywood storage rack, shown at right, does just that. It works as a kind of filing system for your saw blades and lets you identify and access any blade quickly and easily. Best of all, it keeps your blades from banging into one another and chipping their teeth.

The rack consists of two sides and a back that form a "U" shape, as shown in the drawing at left. Angled slots cut in the sides hold



- ▲ **Angled Slots.** Storing your blades at an angle keeps them separated and in plain sight, making it easy to choose the correct blade.