Super Cheap $10 Dollar Hanging Ski Rack

Construction Instructions

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Primary Items Cut List –

Cut List Alternative #1

1 8'x2'x7" treated lumber

2 4" dowels

50 2" woodscrews

Cost - $18 +/-

Cut List Alternative #2

It is possible to actually build this with a standard 2'x4'. If you are trying to save money, I would definitely recommend doing this.

1 8' 2"x4" treated lumber

2 4" dowels

50 2" woodscrews

Cost - $12 +/-

Cut List Alternative #3

This option would be the same cut list as Cut List #2 but I would just snag wood from the reject bin. I found my dowel that way, and the cost was just a buck or two per dowel, as opposed to $4. It was warped as all get it out, but I was able to find lots of straight 5 inch sections amongst all that warpage – and that suited me just fine.

1 8' 2"x4" treated lumber
2 4" dowels
50 2" woodscrews

Cost - $8 +/-
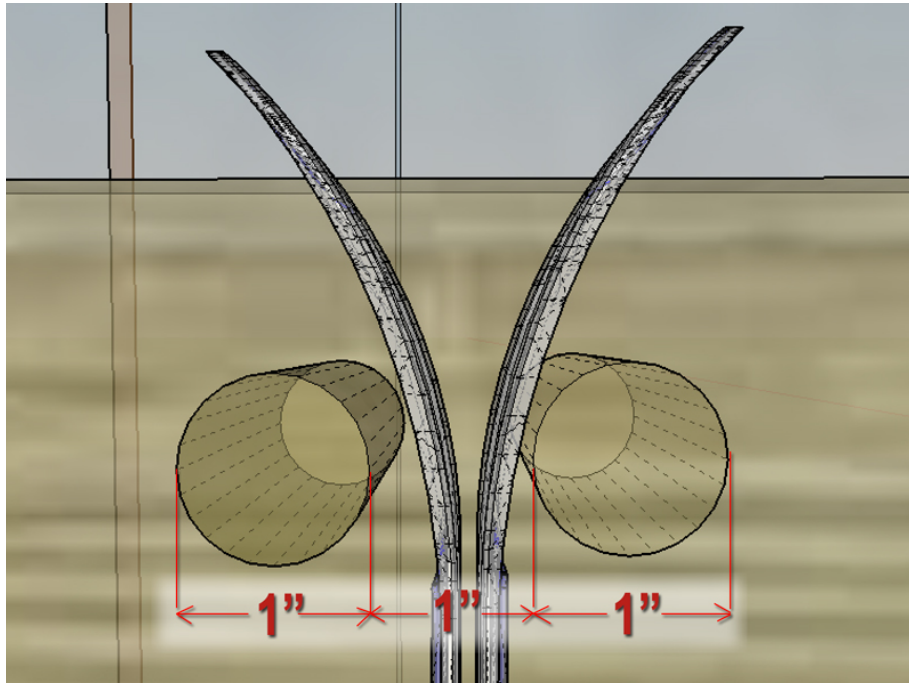
Detailed Build Walk Through

The first critical component to making the DIY garage ski rack work is simple. You need these three measurements.

Critical Measurement #1
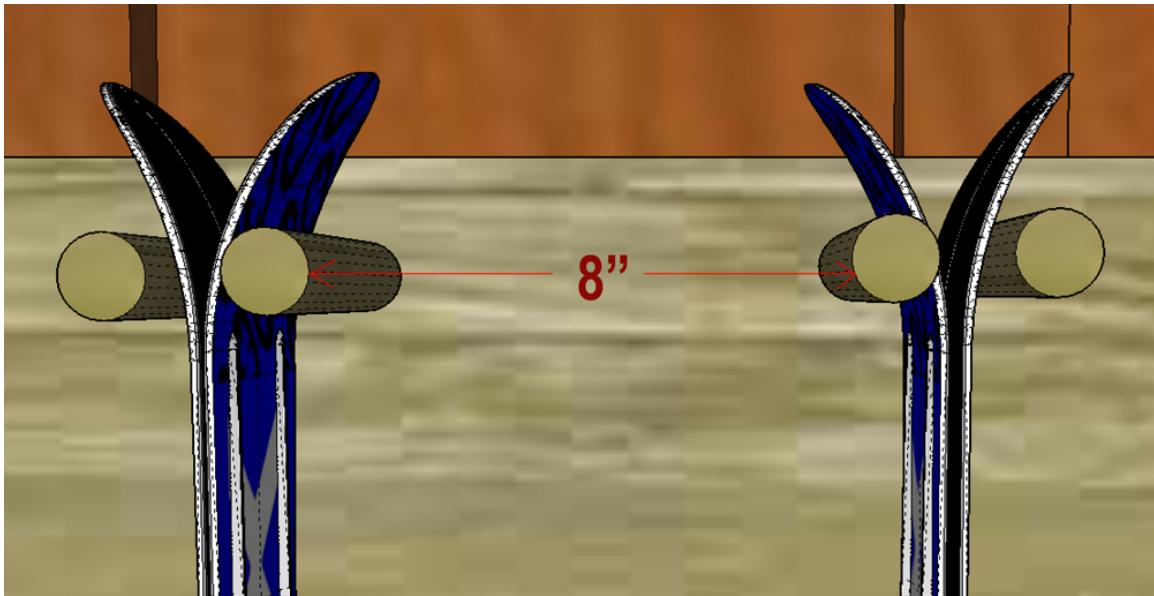
1 inch – 1 inch – 1 inch.

Critical Measurement #2

1 inch dowels x 2 (at the very least)

And a 1 inch gap between the dowels.

Critical Measurement #3

The next critical measurement to take note of is the separation between skis.

Alignment and Spacing –

The next critical measurement is the distance between the skis – more specifically, the distance between dowels. This measurement has to be at least 7 inches. But I did mine at 8 inches. You could get away with 7 if your kids are different ages and the ski bindings are at significantly different levels.

Put them any closer than 7 or 8 inches and I promise you, your bindings will start banging into each other and they won't fit on the rack. I know, because I almost made this mistake my first time around the barn.
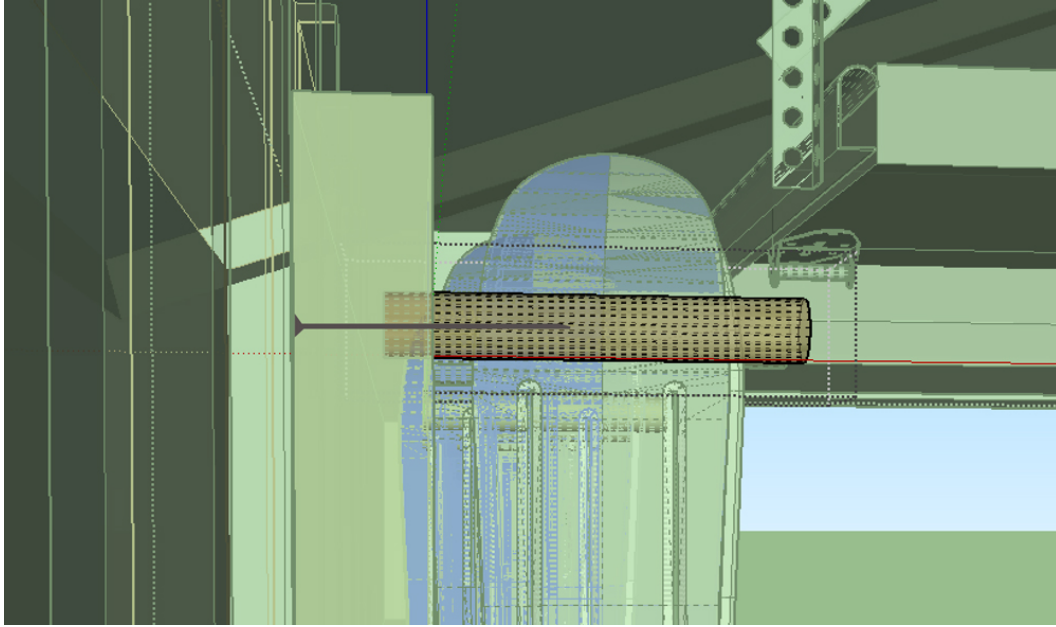
This schematic shows how you should assemble the dowels onto the board. The very first step is drilling 1 inch holes at least half way into your board for the dowels to slip into. This way there will be support on the dowel along with the 2 inch screw for added torque.

Once you have your 1 inch diameter hole drilled, you'll need to drill a pilot hole through the front to the back to guide your 2 inch screw. Place your dowel in the hole, and then drill the screw through the back of the board and into your dowel.

Spots for Ski Poles

The final detail that I highly recommend, are spots for your ski poles. Split the difference on your spread between your dowels. (If you used 8, center the poles dowel at 4.) Drop down 1/3rd of the distance to the bottom of the board and drill your holes.

Again, I highly recommend doing it all at once while you are a drilling machine. And just like that – you have your Cheap, 10 dollar ski rack. Compare this rack to anything else on the market available commercially, and I promise you, that you just saved at least $100 for this number of skis. Not to mention the amount of space you saved. Congratulations – you are a Do It Yourself Monster!

Original Blog posting detailing out the construction:

Hanging Ski Rack Plans and Instructions

There will be about four of you on planet earth in need of this posting... but the four of you that need this should go ape about this post. When you and your growing kids start skiing, and skis begin to propagate like freaking bunnies, you need a place to put them. The problem we have is that we have to keep all our skis so that as our kids grow up they may grow into them... and thus, we have about a million skis lying around.

So when we bought our skis this season I decided I'd had enough. Until now we have been just piling our skis in a corner of the garage. Yeah, not great for the skis, and not great for the clutter quotient of the garage. To solve this problem I began researching what it would cost to buy a rack to mount on the wall in the garage and I just didn't want to pay the hundred bucks or whatever to get all the racks I needed to handle all our skis.

And so I started researching the best ways to build a rack that efficiently handle our skis. I considered closet setups, and bench configurations. I looked into mounting them on the ceiling, but I didn't want to have to get ladders out to get at them. I considered a horizontal solution. I thought about brackets for the bindings, and a leaning method for them all. And I even considered building a hover ski rack container for everything... but I didn't want to win a nobel in process. I just needed a place to dump my skis quickly. And that was when I realized that there was a super simple solution staring me in the face.

My Hanging Ski Rack Plans and Instructions became super simplified when I realized that if I just used two dowels, I could hang the skis

vertically and simply. And blam, I had it all figured. Except... that would be a lot of torque on the dowels... how in heavens name am I going to have enough strength in the construction to pull it off?!?

But then it came to me – if use a 1 inch thick 2×8 – and I drilled a 1/2 inch deep, 1 inch wide hole it should support the weight perfectly. My dowels were 1 inch in diameter, and fit the whole perfectly. But before I dropped in the dowels, I drilled a guide hole from the front to the back. That way I could set all the dowels in place, and then put the rack face down on the dowels and drill all the screws into the dowels at one go.

Then all that was left, was screwing the baseboard into the garage studs. Two guides holes every foot to match with the studs, and then hitting them with two two inch screws in every guide hole and you are done. The weight of the skis will be perfectly balanced on the tips, and the countersinking of the dowels will support the weight perfectly. Voila, you are done.