

# A spirited holiday idea: wine racks you can make

Unfinished wine racks can be inexpensively bought at many unfinished furniture outlets or at kitchen shops.

Just follow these few easy rules in selecting and finishing your wine rack, and you'll have an inexpensive, unusual gift to put under the holiday tree this year.

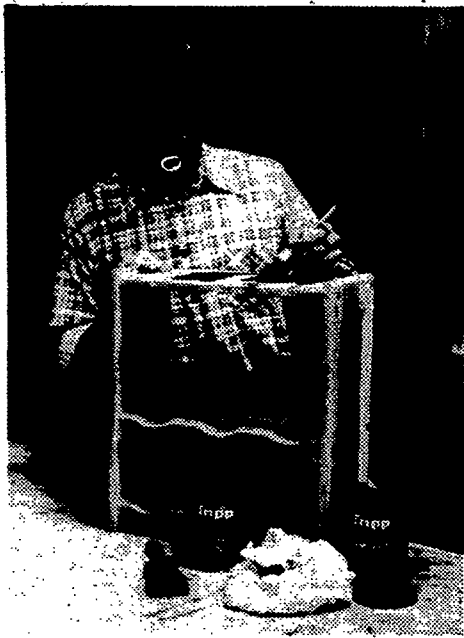
• **Selecting your wine rack** - Look for a good quality grain that will make the rack attractive. Be sure no imperfections, such as dents or glue marks on the joints, mar the wood. Buy something that will be easy to start, easy to finish.

• **Collect materials** - You'll need several lint-free cloths, or tack rags; a good brand of paint thinner for cleaning brushes; a plastic or canvas drop cloth to protect your working surface; a good quality brush and foam applicator; and several sheets of #180 and #220 sandpaper. Be sure to read the labels of each product for specific directions. The rest is easy.

• **Preparing your wine rack** - Most places will tell you the rack is ready to be stained when you get it home. It's not. Sand the rack evenly with #180 sandpaper, sanding with the grain all the time.

Give special attention to the parts that are routed, or hollowed out. With a clean rag or a tack cloth, brush away all the dust.

• **Choosing your look** - Now you're ready to finish your rack with one of Carver Tripp's 21 natural wood stains, 12 acrylic latex enamel colors or an antique toner over your color to give the look of classic elegance. Ask your dealer to put the stain on the shaker to be sure the product is thoroughly mixed. After drying overnight, you



GIVING IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT begins with finishing a wine rack in a natural wood stain (left) and filling it with goblets and great Christmas wines.

may want to finish the rack with Clear Finish in a satin sheen or high gloss to coat the wood against the damaging effects of water, alcohol and grease.

• **Staining your wine rack** - A 1/2 pint of stain will cover the job. Dip a foam brush applicator or a rag in the stain (be sure to stir the mixture well before using) and apply liberally.

Rub lightly against the grain to be sure that the stain penetrates all the pores. Finally, rub the same cloth over the rack, going with the grain and removing all excess stain.

Let dry according to the directions on the label. See **Top-Coating your wine rack** for the final step.

• **Painting your wine rack** - Use a nylon bristle brush with your acrylic latex color and apply liberally with long

strokes from end to end to avoid streaking.

After the first coat has dried properly, sand lightly with the grain and then apply the second coat for a mat finish. See **Top-Coating your wine rack** for the next step.

• **Antiquing your wine rack** - Using a nylon bristle brush with your acrylic latex color, apply liberally and let the first coat dry. Lightly sand the rack.

Apply the antique toner with a rag or a foam brush, applying in the direction of the grain. Let set for 5-10 minutes.

Using a pure China bristle brush, run the brush with the grain over the slightly wet surface to give it an antique look. Let dry properly and then top coat your rack.

• **Top-Coating your wine rack** - Choose a satin sheen, or low gloss, or a high-gloss

varnish. Apply one coat with a 2" China bristle brush and let dry according to the instructions on the label. This first coat will soak into the wood and raise the grain so that it is more visible.

Sand lightly with #220 grit sandpaper and tack off again with a clean rag. Then apply the second coat of clear finish to the rack.

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