

Clamdigger's Basket



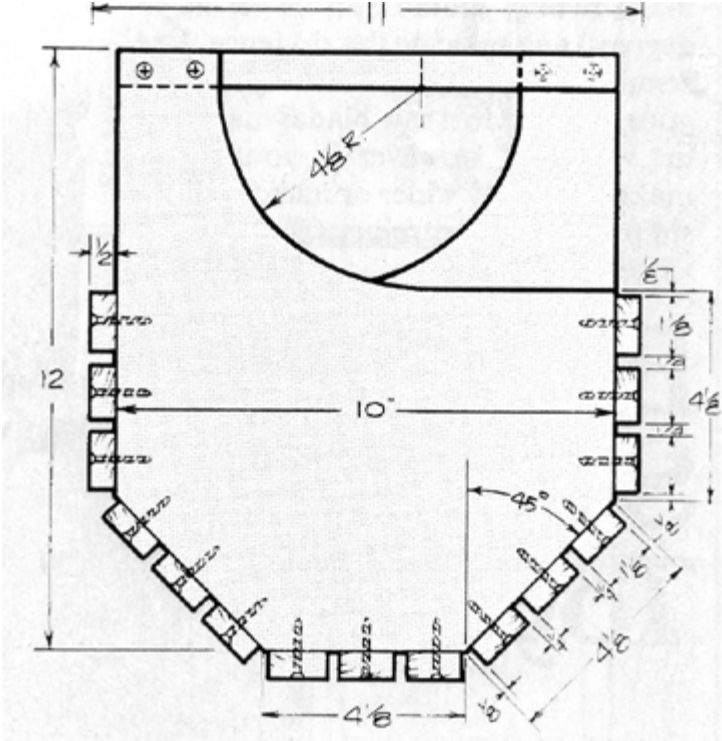
Here's a somewhat scaled-down version of a basket commonly used by early New England clamdiggers. This one is rather unusual in that the handle is not centered. Instead, it runs diagonally, presumably to improve balance. If there are no clam beds in your area, it will still serve nicely as a magazine rack or as a means to display your favorite floral arrangement.

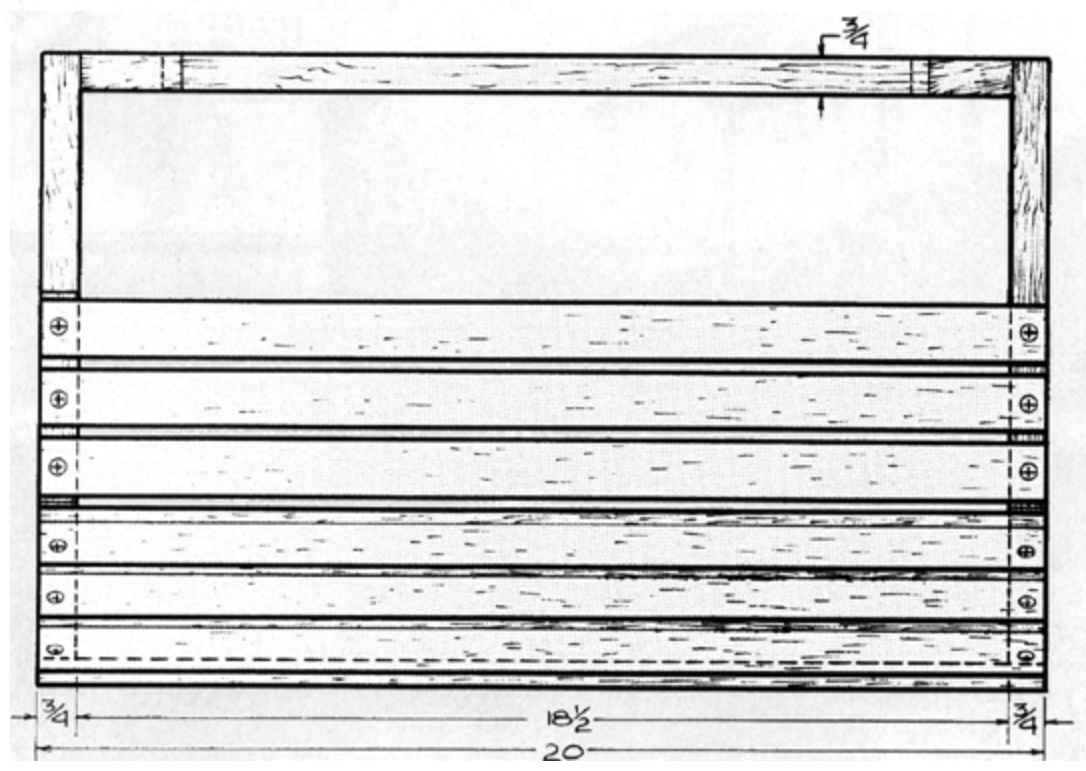
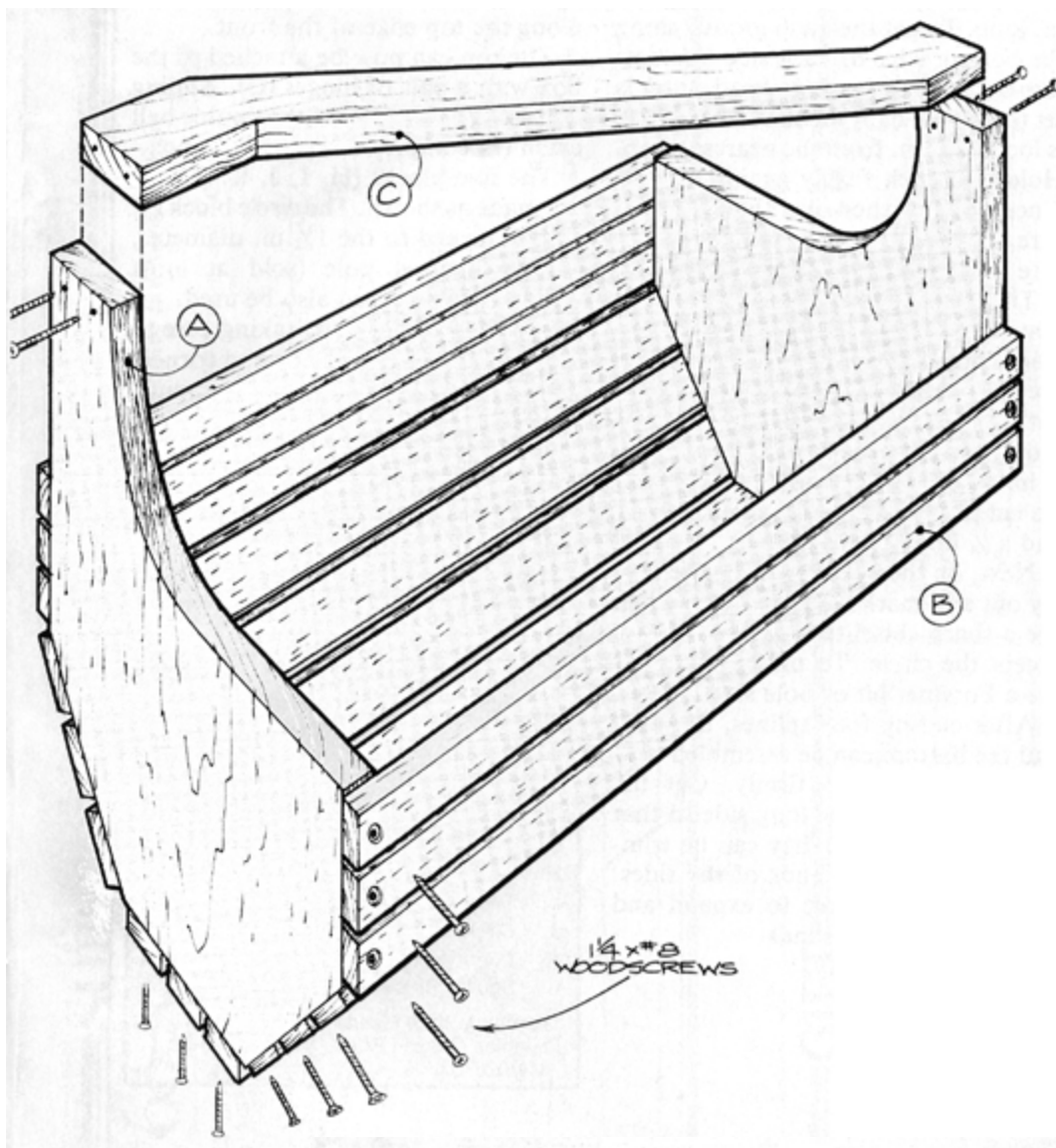
Clamdigger's Basket Materials List

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd
A	Side	3/4" x 10" x 12"	2
B	Slat	1/2" x 1-1/8" x 20"	15
C	Handle	3/4" x 4-1/2" x 22"*	1

* Length and width dimensions allow extra stock.

Clamdigger's Basket Complete Schematic





Clamdigger's Basket Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Cut 3/4" thick pine to a width of 10" and a length of 12" to make the sides (A).
 2. Use the table saw to cut the 45 degree corners as shown. NOTE: Each corner measures 4-1/8".
 3. Use a compass to scribe the 4-1/8" radius before cutting it out with the band or saber saw.
 4. Choose a piece of five-quarter pine stock (which measures 1-1/8" thick) from which to make the 15 slats.
 5. Rip the slats slightly longer than their final 1/2" width so you can trim and sand them flush to the sides for assembly.
 6. Space the slats as shown in the end view.
 7. Use glue and #8 flathead wood screws to join the slats to the sides. NOTE: Each screw head is countersunk slightly below the surface.
 8. Select a piece of 3/4" stock from which to cut the 4-1/2" wide x 22" long handle (C).
 9. Lay out the handle shape as shown in the top view.
 10. Cut it out with a band or saber saw.
 11. Trim the ends for a snug fit between the sides.
 12. Assemble with a pair of 1-1/2" by #8 flathead wood screws on each end. NOTE: Once again, apply a slight countersink to each of the screw heads.
 13. Start with 80-grit sandpaper, and follow with 120, 150, and finally 220-grit to final sand all surfaces, taking particular care to smooth the upper curve on each side.
 14. Round over slightly all sharp corners and edges.
 15. Final finish as you desire. We left our basket natural and simply applied two coats of Watco Danish oil, use a brush to apply finish between the slats, allowed the second coat to dry, and rubbed the piece down with a clean cloth to complete.
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