

RE-FLECT

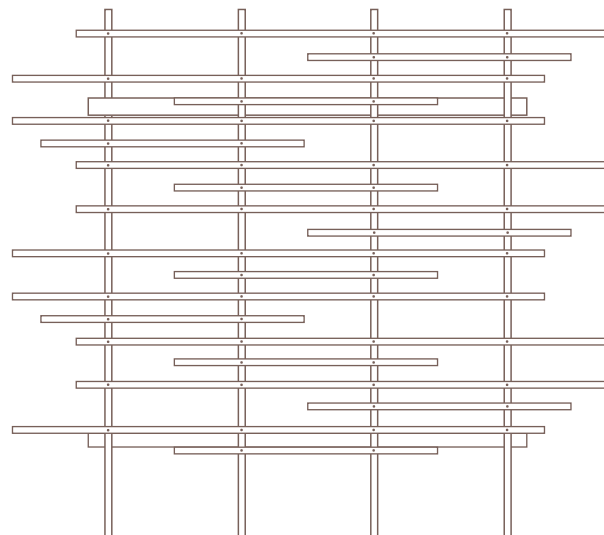


FEATURE PRESENTATION

Show Off Your Art with this Oversized Frame

by Steven Dodds

For my brother-in-law's surprise thirtieth birthday party, his wife asked guests to bring gifts that could be put up on the walls. Presents ranged from doodles to photos of particle physics experiments. The idea was to display the gifts without riddling the living room wall with nail holes—a case that called for some guerrilla carpentry. I built a sort of indoor trellis at home, then took it apart again and brought the components along with me. With the guest of honor safely ferried off to the movies, I assembled the whole thing in just half an hour. As friends arrived, we hung their pieces by driving screws into the slats. What started out as a means for a makeshift presentation now rivals the art for attention.



WALL FRAME

\$45

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 1" x 4" wood boards, 8' long
- 2 1" x 4" wood boards, 6 1/2' long
- 10 1" x 1/2" wood lattice strips, 8' long
(or 1 5/4" x 6" board, 8' long)
- 1" x 1/2" wood lattice strips, 4' long
(or 1 5/4" x 6" board, 4' long)
- 100-count box of 1" long panhead screws
- 4 finish nails (optional)
- 1 1" x 3/4" strip of wood, about 6' long (optional)

TOOLS:

- Handsaw
- Straight edge
- Pencil
- Table saw (if you're cutting your own lattice strips)
- Electric drill
- Screwdriver or screw bit for drill
- Hammer (optional)

MAKE IT

1. To cut the upright slats, hold one 1" x 4" wood board perpendicular against a wall and pull the bottom 16" to 18" away from it.
2. With the board leaning against the wall, set your straight edge on the floor and draw a horizontal line parallel to the floor on the side of the board. On the other end of the board, draw a vertical line parallel to the wall.
3. Cut off everything beyond the lines. When you lean the board, it should rest cleanly against the wall and floor.
4. Clean up your cuts, then trace the angles onto the other 1 x 4s and cut them to match.
5. If you're cutting your own lattice strips, start with a 4' piece and an 8' piece of 5/4" x 6" decking, then cut it into 1/2" wide strips using a table saw. (If you don't have the facilities to cut the strips from a wider board, buy lattice strips in the molding department of a lumberyard.)
6. In the 8' strips, drill holes 6" from one end and then every 24" after that (which makes 4 holes in each strip). The last hole will be 18" from the end.
7. In the 4' strips, drill a hole 12" from each end.
8. With the back edge facing up, lay the first upright on the floor with one end touching the wall. Then lay out the other uprights parallel to the first at 24" center to center. All of the uprights should be perpendicular to the wall.
9. Screw the 6 1/2' long 1 x 4s across the four uprights about 16" from each end. This is to hold all of the uprights in place, evenly spaced and parallel to each other, which will make screwing on the slats much easier. Use two screws at each connection to keep the whole thing from twisting when you move it.
10. Have a friend help you carefully flip the assembly over and lean it against the wall to make sure it sits nicely. Make any tweaks necessary and set it back on the floor with the front facing up.
11. Now screw the slats onto the uprights. Note that 8' and 4' slats alternate as shown in the photo. Space them 4" apart. (Making a spacer to slip between the slats as you screw them in place can make the layout go quicker.)
12. Lift your frame up against the wall. If the floor is slippery or there are dogs or kids underfoot, you may want to tack a strip of wood to the floor to keep the bottom of the rack from being accidentally kicked out.

Tip: The trellis leans up against the wall. The bottoms of the uprights are cut off at a 12° angle so that they rest flush against the floor. Adjust the size, scale, and spacing to fit your wall space.