



Scrolled Lighthouse Coat Rack

By Michael Martin

Here's a useful little project for beginners and advanced alike. It is designed small to fit on a door or small space to hang your jackets or maybe the next days work clothes. It's made from a scrap piece of oak $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 6" x 12".

I searched the internet for a suitable pattern to use but came up empty. Everything I found was rather complicated for this type of project, or, cost money for the plan. The only thing I didn't have laying around the shop were the two coat hooks. I suppose you could turn up a couple of shaker pegs and it would look just as nice. As for the pattern, It was drawn in AutoCad so I could get a good idea of the proportions.

A big worry for me, (since I am in the beginner class) was if I could scroll three quarter oak. To my surprise, the scrolling went very well. I used a Flying Dutchman – Polar #5 blade and took my time cutting.

Now on to the project!

Step 1: First select a clean knot free piece of oak. (Any wood would probably do.) Square it up to 6" x 12".

Step 2: Next mark the center of the board at 6" with a light pencil line. This will help line up the pattern later on. Notice the two lines on the pattern on the top and bottom. These lines will align with the center mark on the board.

Step 3: From the top, mark a line across the board 1" down.

Step 4: Now lay out all the radius. You will have to have a $\frac{3}{4}$ " helper board butted up to the top to mark the 2" radius.

Step 5: Once everything has been marked, band saw (or jig saw) just outside the lines.

Step 6: Take the board to the disk sander and round the corners to your pencil lines. I chucked a drum sander in the drill press to touch up the convex curves. Nothing is really fussy, but being a little shaky on the band saw, I like to sand to the line.

Step 7: Now, you can attach the pattern to the board. Adobe should print it out at full size. The dimensions are there just to check. I use a repositionable spray adhesive (hah....try to get it off in one piece...). The pattern should be cut out so the large radius will somewhat match the radius on the board. If you line up the marks on the pattern with the center you drew on the board, it will keep the pattern centered and straight with the board.

Step 8: Next is the holes for the fretwork. The size is up to you as long as it fits in the pattern. I tend to put nice big holes where I can. It makes it easier to thread the blade through for me.

Step 9: Now the fun part! Cut out the lighthouse! I started with the smaller inside holes, then finished with the large outside cutouts. Using the FD-Polar #5 blade, and a slow steady feed, no interior sanding was necessary on the finished board.

Step 10: Set up your router to cut a 1/4" to 3/8" groove around the outside of the face for the rope. It depends on the size of the rope you have how deep to go. I tried for 1/2 the diameter of the rope. (Nothing fussy here either.) I happened to have a roman ogee cutter handy, so I used the top half of that. Being a sailor, I matched the rope, which I had plenty of, to the groove. That's probably the backwards way to do it though.

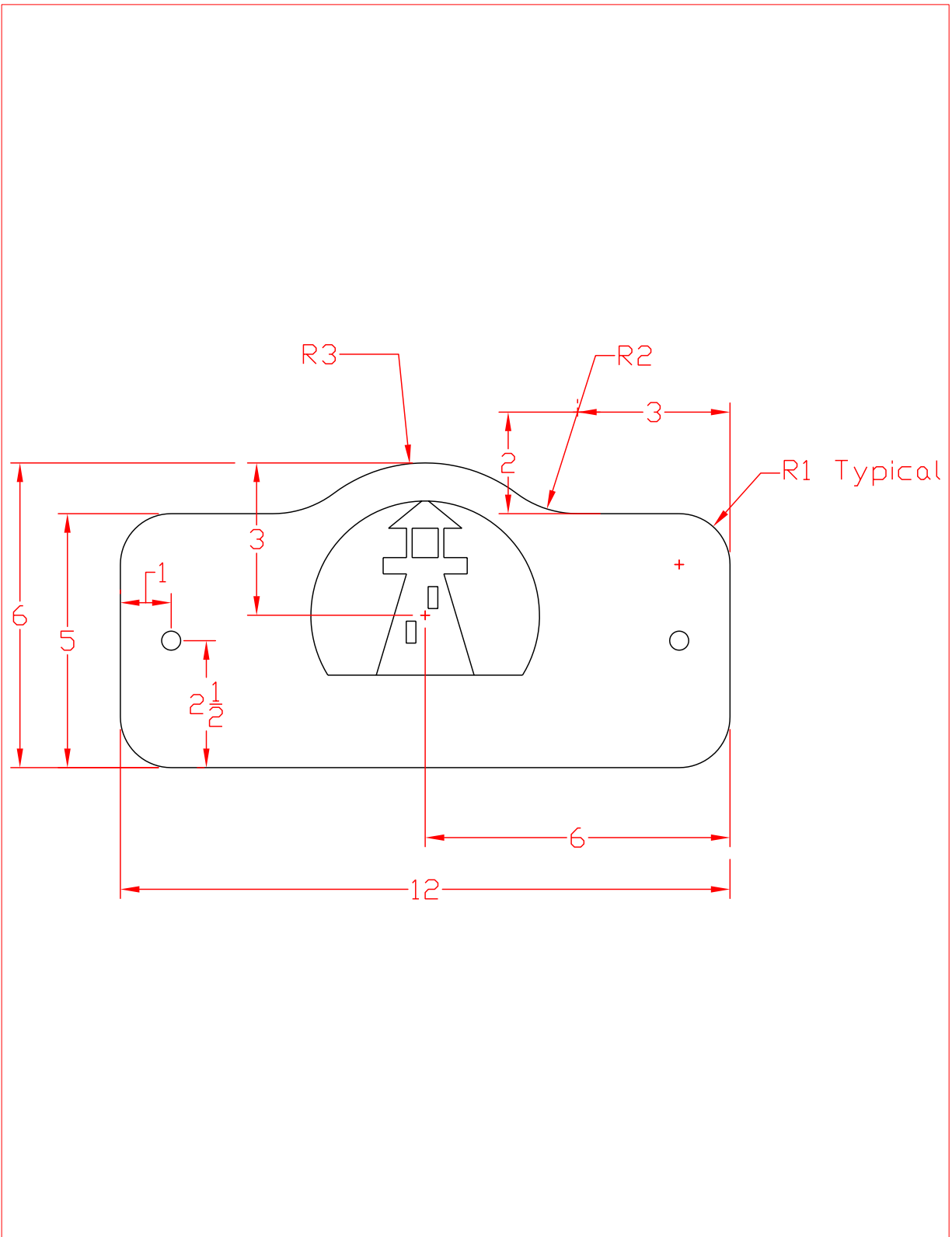
Step 11: Position your hardware on the board where it looks good and mark and drill your holes. (Saves on your finish later.)

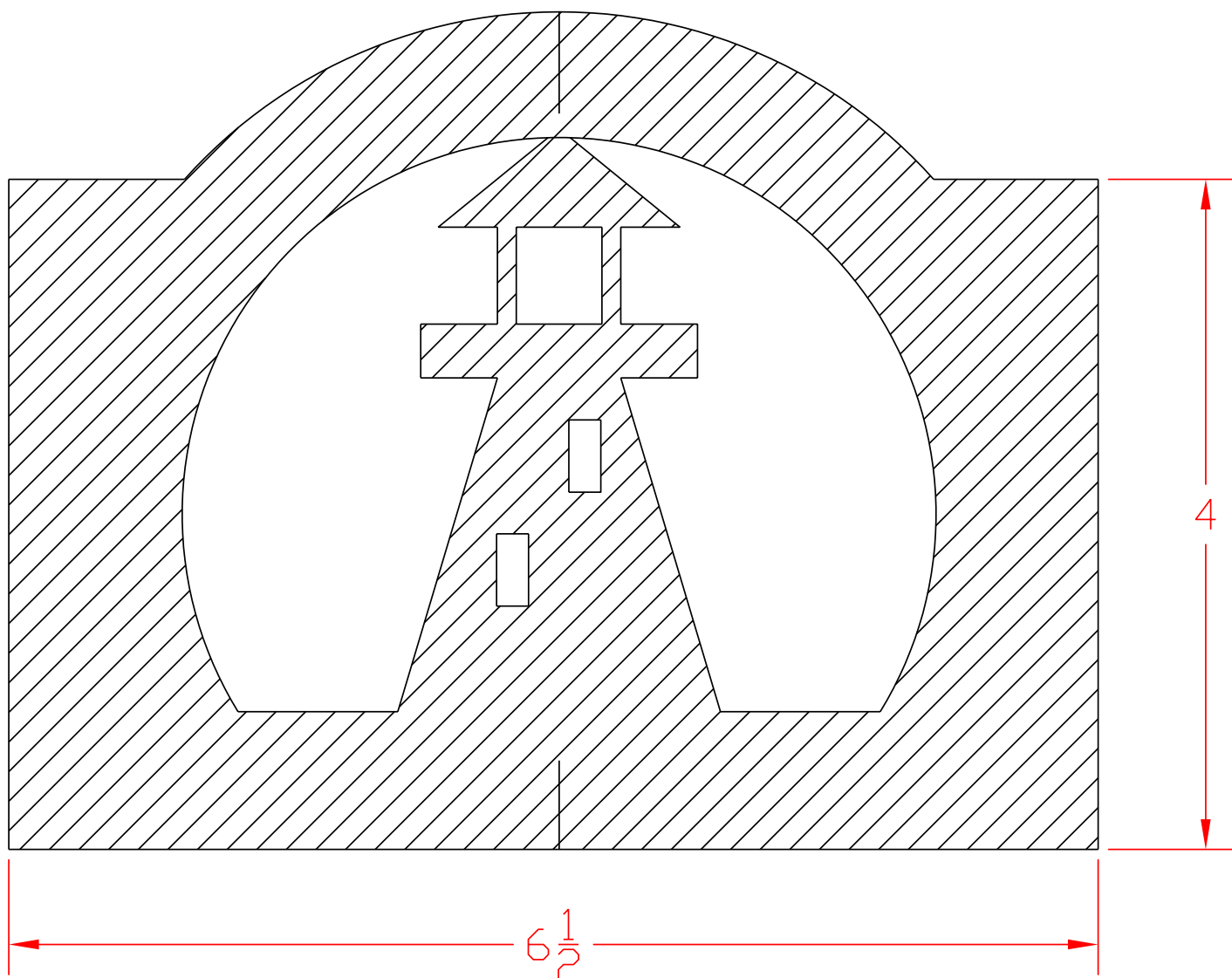
Step 12: For the mounting holes, I used a 3/8" forestner bit drilling 3/8" deep, then finished with a #10 countersinking bit. A #8 screw fits the hole better than the #10 screw does. After the coat rack is mounted, I put a dab of glue on a couple of plugs to cover the screw heads.

Step 13: Sand and finish as desired. Pictured is a golden oak stain with polyurethane over it.

Step 14: The finishing touch is to install the rope. After laying it in the groove to get my length, I whipped each end with a bit of string, and dipped the very ends in glue to keep from fraying. To glue it to the board, use 5 minute epoxy (snatched from the kitchen drawer where the wife keeps it). Mix only a small amount of glue, and do only one length (or side) at a time. The glue sets up fast so it doesn't take that long, and you get a better looking corner. If you use manila rope, you can put a coat of polyurethane over it to keep it looking fresh.

That's it! Now you have a project that was fun and useful too!





Scroll saw
pattern

Full size