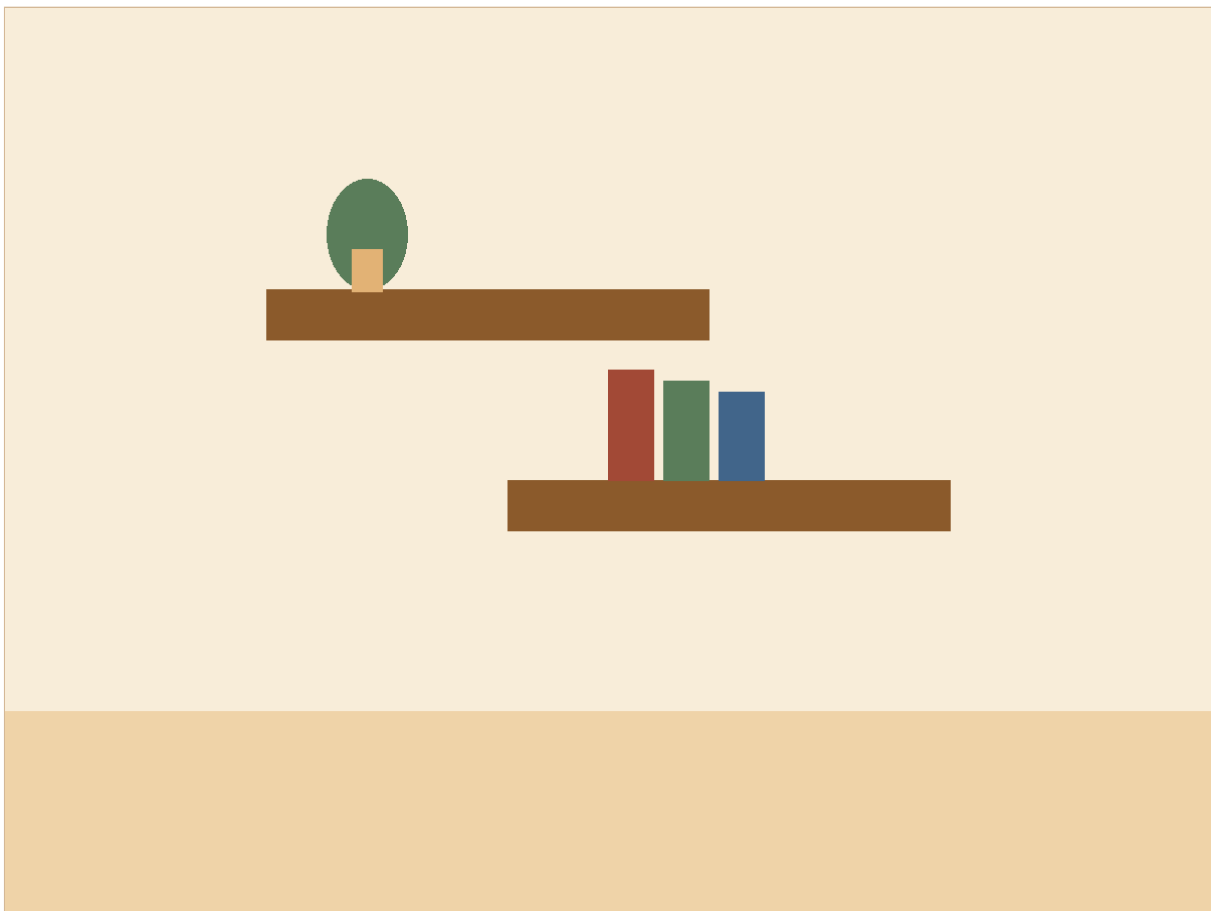


# Chunky Floating Shelves

*by Logan*



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## Overview

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### This is an Example plan, has not been validated

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Thick, seamless shelves with no visible brackets. The trick: they're hollow. A cleat of 2x2 "fingers" bolts to the wall studs, and a three-sided box slides over it like a glove.

Hollow construction means a 2"-thick shelf that weighs almost nothing, costs a third of solid lumber, and — mounted into studs — still holds a row of hardcovers without complaint.

#### Materials

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##### Finishing

- 1 × Danish oil or poly

##### Hardware & consumables

- 6 × Lag screws + washers — 5/16" × 3 1/2"
- 1 box × Brad nails — 1"

##### Lumber & sheet goods

- 1 × 1x10 board (rip into skins) — 8'
- 1 × 2x2 for the cleat and fingers — 8'
- 1 × Edge banding or thin strip stock — 1/4" × 2" × 8'

#### Tools

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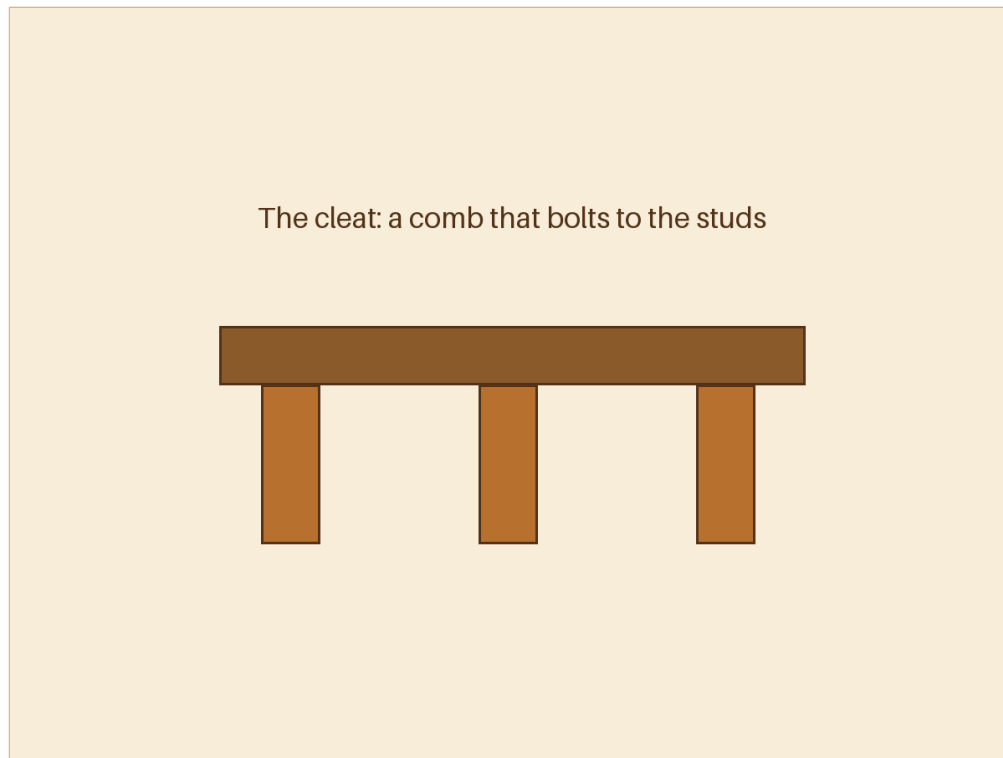
- Table saw — Ripping the skins (*or: Circular saw, Track saw*)
- Drill — Plus a stud finder
- Brad nailer — Glue + clamps works, just slower (*or: Clamps*)

## Build steps

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### Step 1 — *Build the wall cleat*

Cut a 2x2 to your shelf length minus 1". Cut 2x2 "fingers" at 6 1/2" — one for each stud you'll hit, at least three per shelf. Screw the fingers to the cleat at your stud spacing, making an E-shape (comb) that will be the shelf's skeleton.



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## Step 2 — Rip the skins

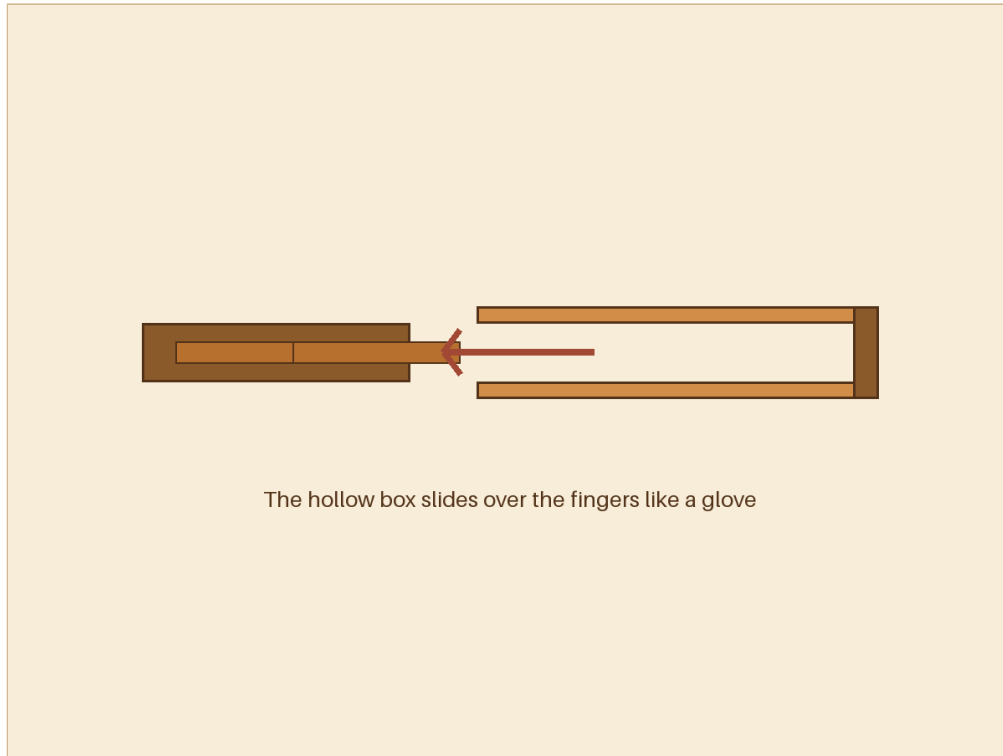
Rip your 1x10 into two skins (top and bottom) at 8" wide × shelf length. Their quality faces point out — the best board you have becomes the top of the shelf at eye level.



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### Step 3 — *Box the cleat*

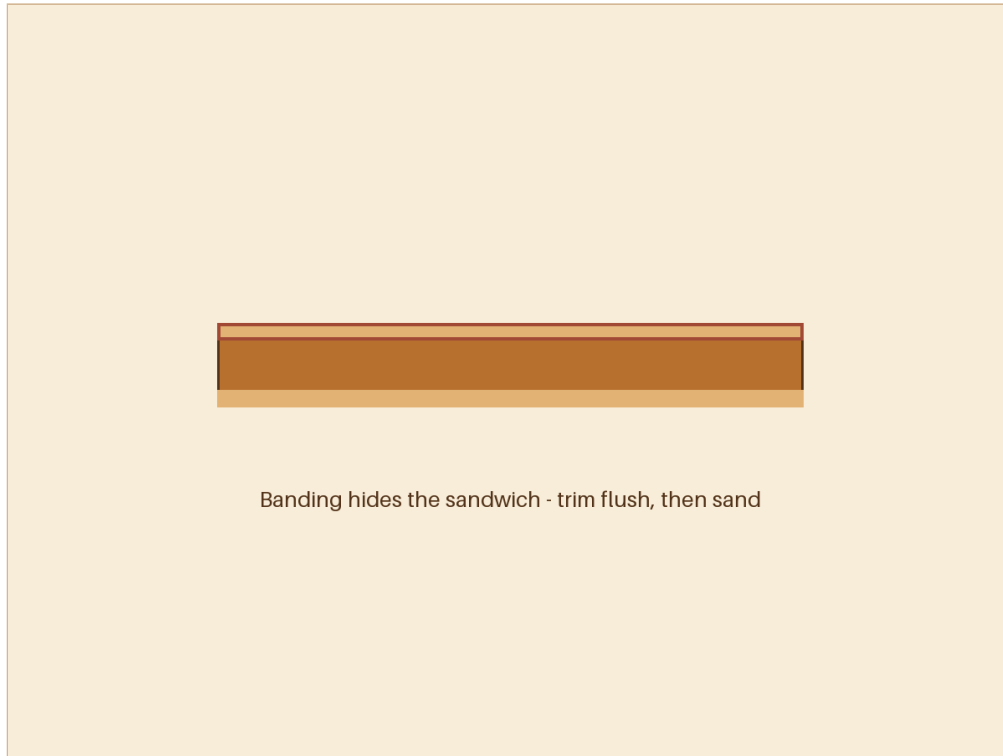
Glue and brad-nail the top and bottom skins to a **second** 2x2 front rail so you get a hollow box that's open at the back. Dry-fit over the wall cleat: it should slide on snugly. If it binds, sand the fingers, not the box.



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#### Step 4 — *Band the edges*

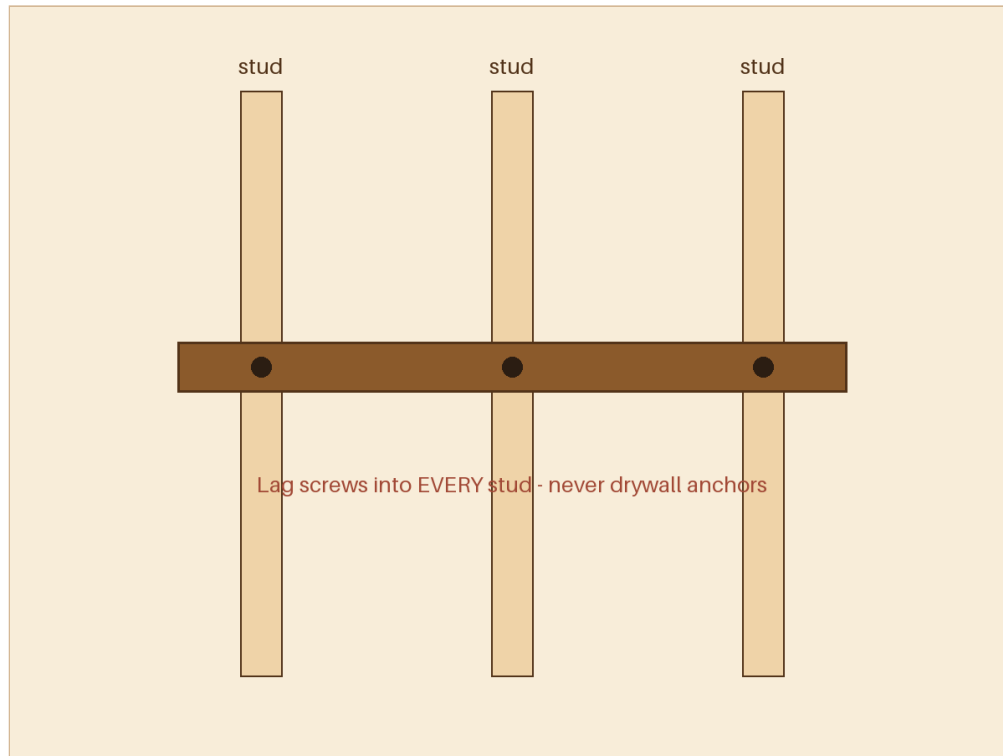
Glue the thin strip stock over the front and both ends to hide the sandwich construction. Trim flush after the glue dries. Sand to 180 and finish — oil looks best on the edge banding joints.



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## Step 5 — *Mount the cleat to studs*

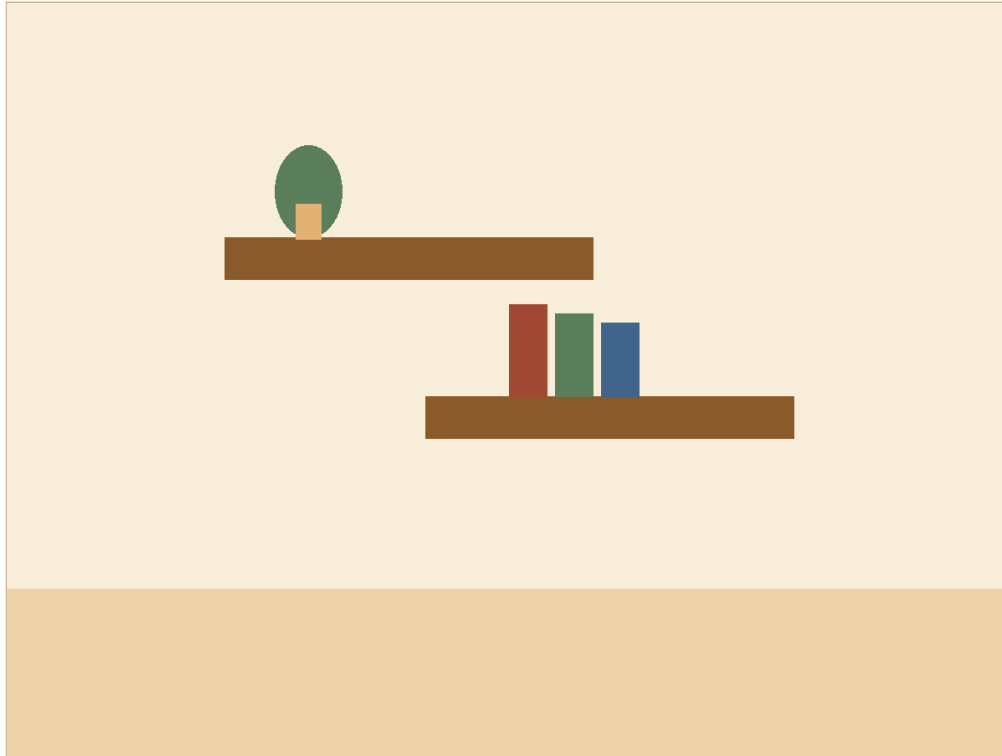
Find your studs, strike a level line, and lag-screw the cleat through into every stud with washers. This is the load path for everything the shelf will ever hold, so no drywall anchors, ever — studs or nothing.



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## Step 6 — *Hang the shelf*

Slide the box over the fingers. A friction fit usually holds; for insurance, drive two small trim screws up through the bottom skin into fingers where they won't be seen. Load with books, step back, accept compliments.



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