

*Passionate*



*Painter*



My Favorite D.I.Y.  
**Brush Holder**

# D.I.Y. Brush Holder



**T**his is a photo of my brush holder. If it's the first time you've seen one of these, I want to tell you why I love it, so you can decide if you'd love one, too. I found this design on Pinterest, and highly recommend it.

In this photo, you can see that the brush holder looks like a row of cans on a window sill. Any of us who've dropped our brushes into unsecured cans know they topple over.

The beauty of this one is that the cans are bolted up through the bottom, securing them to the wooden plank. So long as your plank is wide enough (mine is 5.5" wide), it will be stable.

I've seen many cool-looking brush holders that are on a carousel, or in desk organizers with a square footprint.

I've also seen them kept lying in shallow drawers. The bottom line is, **do what works for you**. I love the narrow footprint of this brush holder because it sits at the far edge of the rolling cart that holds my glass palette. It's nice and secure in balance, and fits perfectly where I can conveniently reach all of my brushes without needing a lot of space.

You can make one of these with as many cans as your board can fit. The more cans, of course, the wider you'll want your board to keep it stable.

Making one of these is simple and depending on what you've got lying around, may be free. Check out the photos and notes that follow on how to make one of these yourself.



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Bolts will work, too.



## Supplies

- A board that's 5.5" wide and up to 40 inches long (mine is about 39" long and nice and stable). If you want more cans, just make sure the board is wide enough to provide stability from tipping.

**NOTE:** if you want a long, narrow board as a base, you could go that route and bold it down to a work table for stability.

- As many cans as you can fit comfortably). I recommend some taller cans for long brushes and shorter cans for the detail brushes. You can see here I've alternated can sizes in mine, and will probably swap out a couple for an extra small can so my 00 brushes don't get lost.

I used two different sized chili cans for the brush holder you see here. You'll want to make sure they are nice and strong. Chili, bean, or soup cans work.

- A side-opening can opener (shown above). This is important to prevent sharp edges. My side-opener produces smooth edges; as you can see here it's a Faberware. I don't endorse any specific brand, but I can tell you this one is great for smooth edges.

- One **machine screw or bolt** per can, with nut. Either a machine screw or bolt work well, because they have a non-pointed end, which minimizes scratches if you reach into the can.

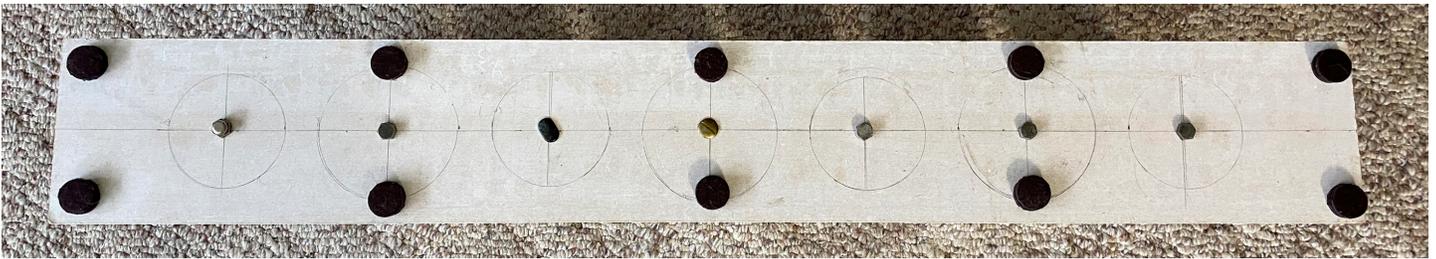
Make sure your screws are long enough to accommodate the bolt after getting through the depth of the wooden plank. It's great if it's just long enough, so it doesn't stick out into the can too much to prevent scratches.

I used bolts instead of screws, because I had them in my garage. The important thing to remember is, the taller the head on your bolt, the more you'll need to countersink it or add felt feet so the holder sits flat and level.

- Though not completely necessary, I highly recommend wide washers are recommended to make sure your cans are secure.
- A drill bit wide enough for the screw and strong enough to go through the cans.



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## Step 1

Use side-opening can opener to remove the lids on your cans empty them, and wash them thoroughly. Bonus: you can eat the contents of your cans, or freeze them if you're not ready to down 2 gallons of chili.

**SAVE THOSE LIDS**

## Step 2

Use the nice flat lids to measure and space them apart on your plank. The photo shows the bottom of my brush holder and the lines I used to measure with. Once you've got the lids where you want them, **trace** them so you can easily mark the center of each can. You can go ahead and toss your lids after this step if you want.

## Step 3

Drill through each can bottom and the center of each can space to allow for the machine screw.

## Step 4

Slide each screw in from the bottom, going through the can first, then the washer, then screwing on the bolt on the inside of each can.

## Step 5

Even if you have flat screw heads and counter-sink them, you may want to use felt pads on the bottom of your brush holder. You can see a detail of the felt feet in the photo above and here.

That's it. As a last, fun step, if you want to, you can embellish your cans with old-timey chalk board stickers and twine, or even paint them – use your imagination! I'd love to see your brush holders; email me a photo at [caroline@passionatepainteracademy.com](mailto:caroline@passionatepainteracademy.com)

