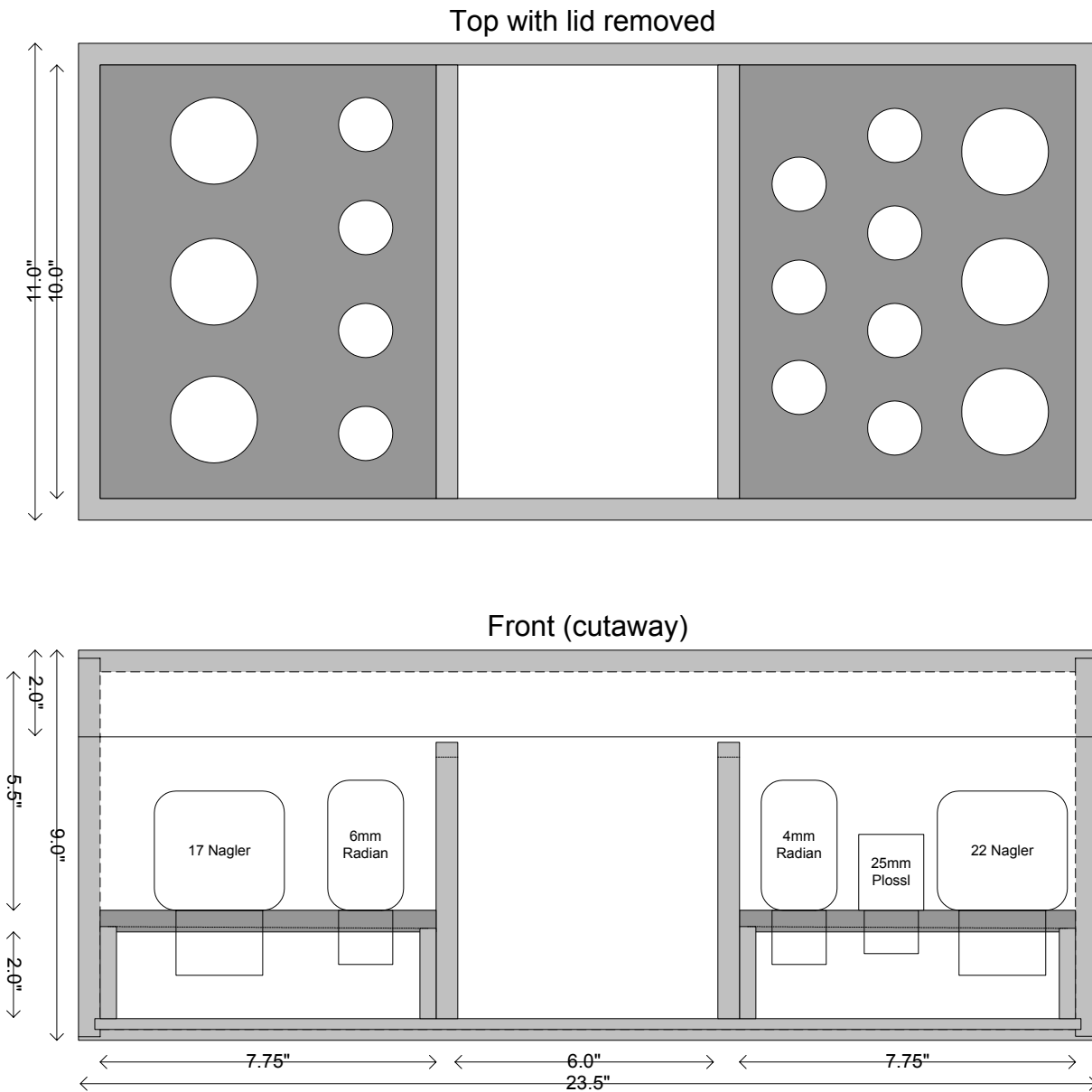


Oak Eyepiece Case

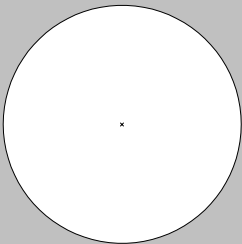
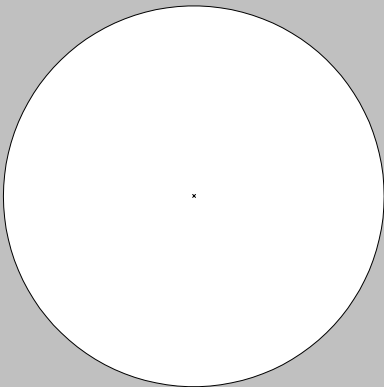
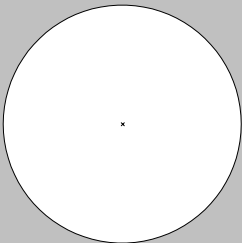
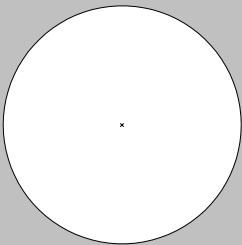
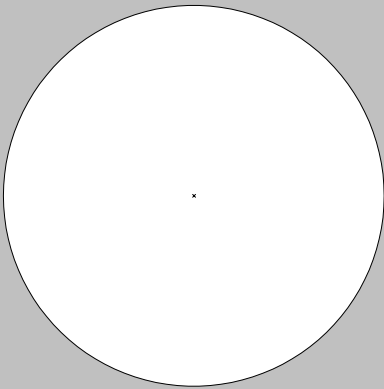
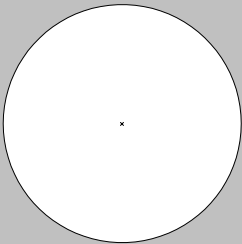
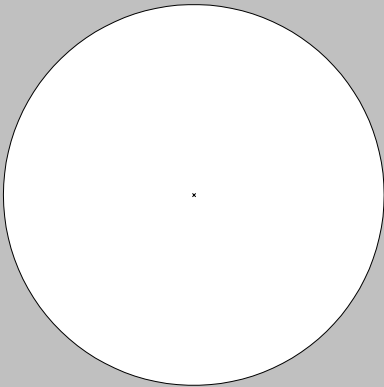


The case is made from 1/2" Oak plywood from the local Lowe's. Make sure that the grain runs horizontally to help prevent tearout when cutting the box joints (and use a backing board!). I used urethane glue and it was quite a bit of work to remove the excess. In the end it was worth the effort.

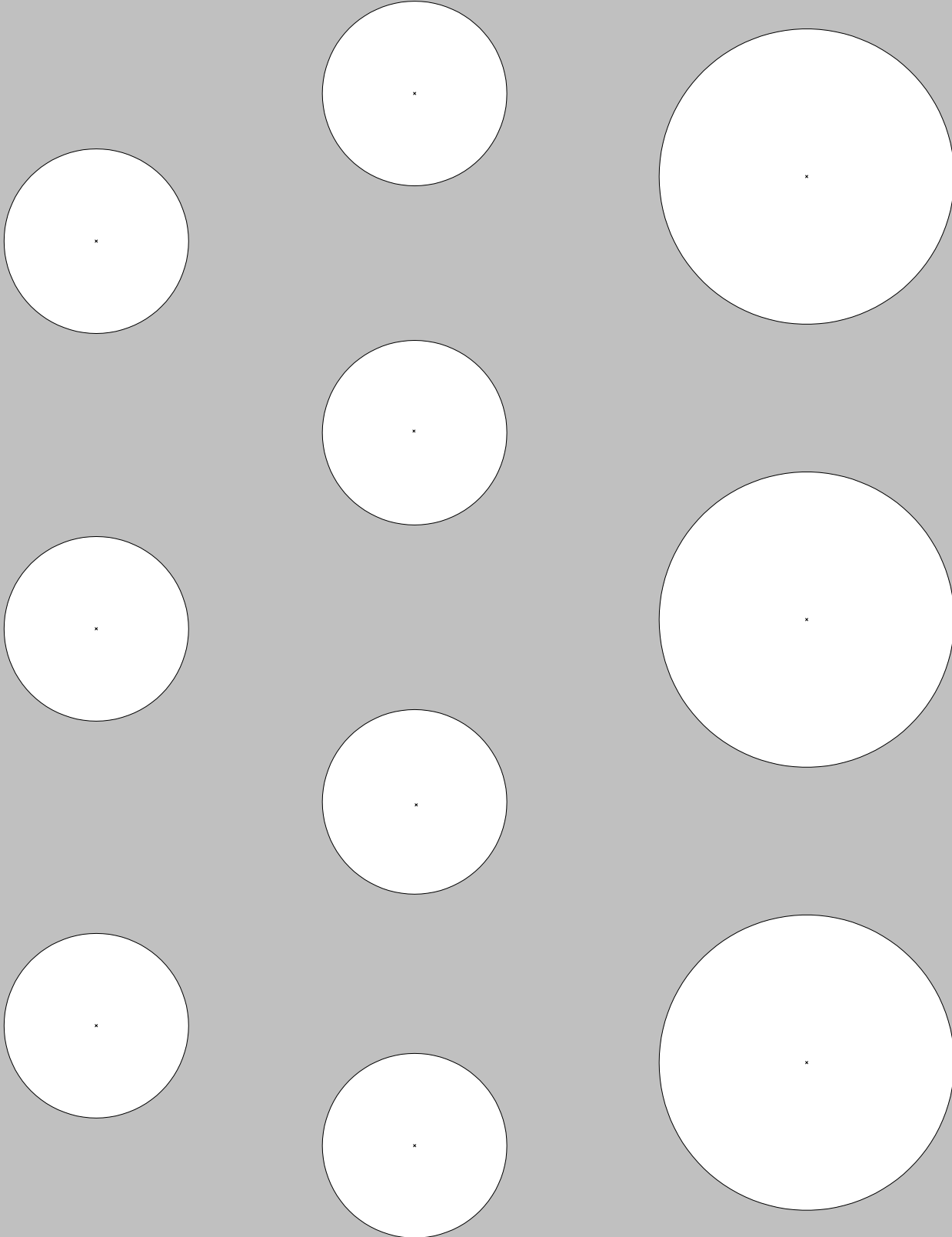
The eyepiece rack is 1/2" solid oak and the trays are Starboard (a plastic). I chose Starboard because it cuts like wood and, hopefully, will not create dust from the eyepieces rubbing against it.

If I were to do it again I would have made the 'real' bottom 1/2" plywood instead of 1/4" even though it seems quite stable.

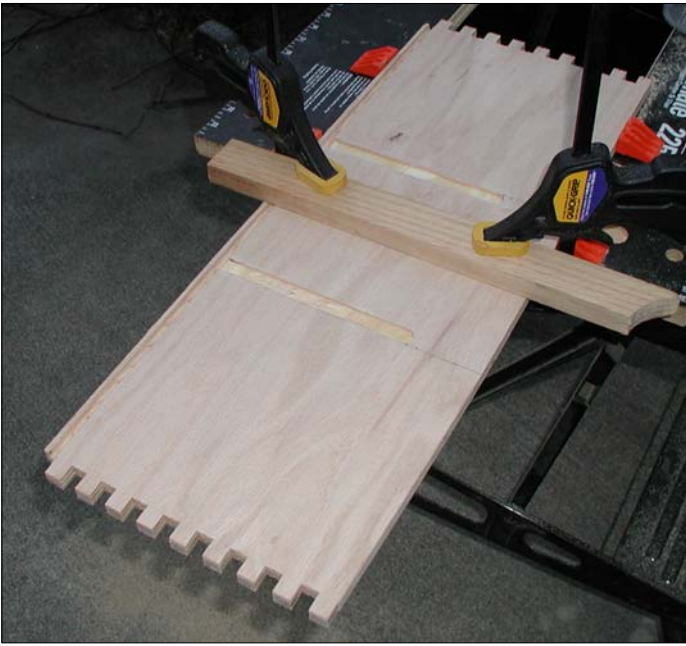
Template for eyepiece rack, configuration 'A'



Template for eyepiece rack, configuration 'B'



Eyepiece Tray B - 7.75" x 10.00"



Here's one of the sides with the slots cut in for the two dividers. The Lynn Jig did a great job on the box joints.



This is one of the ends with a slot for the 'real' base. A false bottom will be glued on to make the bottom smooth.

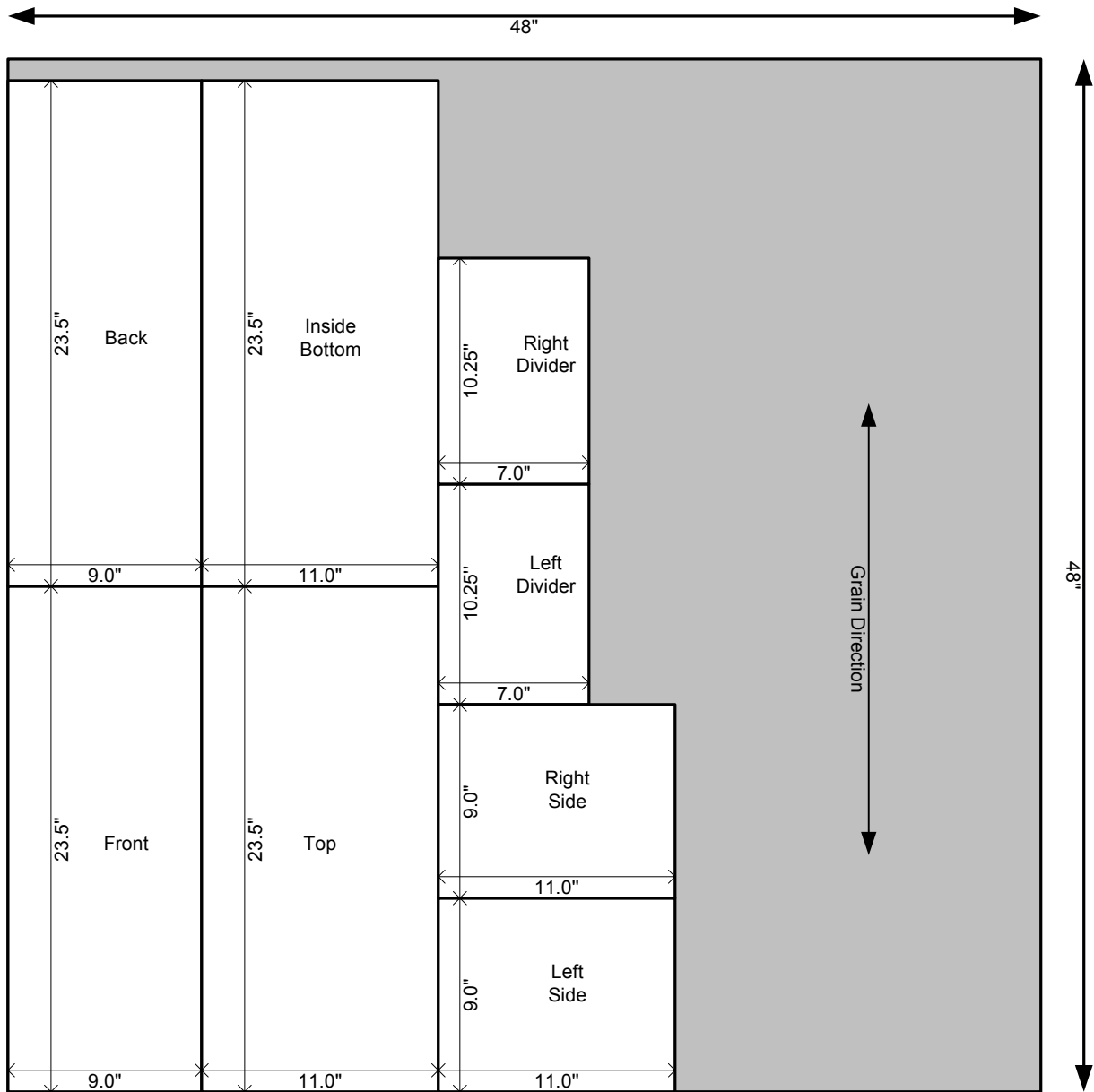


This just after the lid was cut off. Everything needs sanding and then the I'll start with the urethane. I decided to go with a gloss spar urethane and attempt to make a smooth surface, a rough task on porous Oak.



Here's the finished case after eleven coats of urethane on the outside. The inside has five coats. The hardware is heavy chrome intended for marine use.

The eyepiece trays are StarBoard (a plastic that cuts like wood). They are supported by 1/2" thick racks with heavy fely on the bottoms and on a dado around the outside to prevent wood on wood contact for vibration suppression.



1/2 sheet of 1/2" thick Oak plywood
Cuts do not take into account blade kerf

Here's a variation on the theme...

This is a solid Oak eyepiece case made by Milton Esqunaldo on display at the Chiefland May 2002 Starparty. It is heavier and cost more than the plywood version, but it's built like a tank and looks great. Nice work, Milton!

Of course you could always cover the plywood end grain with solid oak strips as a compromise.

If you would rather buy a finished case instead of making your own check out Steve Carroll's web page here:

<http://sciaastro.net/carrolls/cases/>

Steve's cases are made well, but they don't have the nice box joints in the previous plans and cost about 3 times more than the DIY version.

