

Do It Yourself Plein Air Panel Painting Easel



After painting plein air for many years, I have seen/used most every type of paint easel/box available. I then went through a period of making my own paint boxes - many quiet elaborate and complicated with all the bells and whistles. A few years back I was driving to New York City to teach a plein air landscape workshop. I realized my paint box was back in my studio after being in the car for 2 hours I had about three hours to figure something out. I swung by a hardware store, had them cut a couple of pieces of plywood to size. I strapped them to my tripod and got through the workshop. I ended up liking the rig so much, I polished it up a bit and have been using it ever since. The best part is that it weighs less than a pound and is rock solid even in strong winds. It is by far the lightest rig I have ever used.

Capacity:	will hold most any reasonable sized painting panel
Time to make:	about 1 hour
Cost: under	\$15.00

Panel Easel Plan - Inside

Materials:

1/4" Plywood:

2@ - 9"X12"

2@ - 3/4" x 2"

2@ - 3/4" x 1 1/4"

1@ - 2"X2"

1@ - 3/8" X 12"

2 - 5/8" long-wide head (phillips) screws (for resting the paint panel on)

2 - 1" x 1/2" hinges w/screws

4 - small 3/8" phillips screws

1 - T-NUT 1/4-20 X 5/16"

Tools:

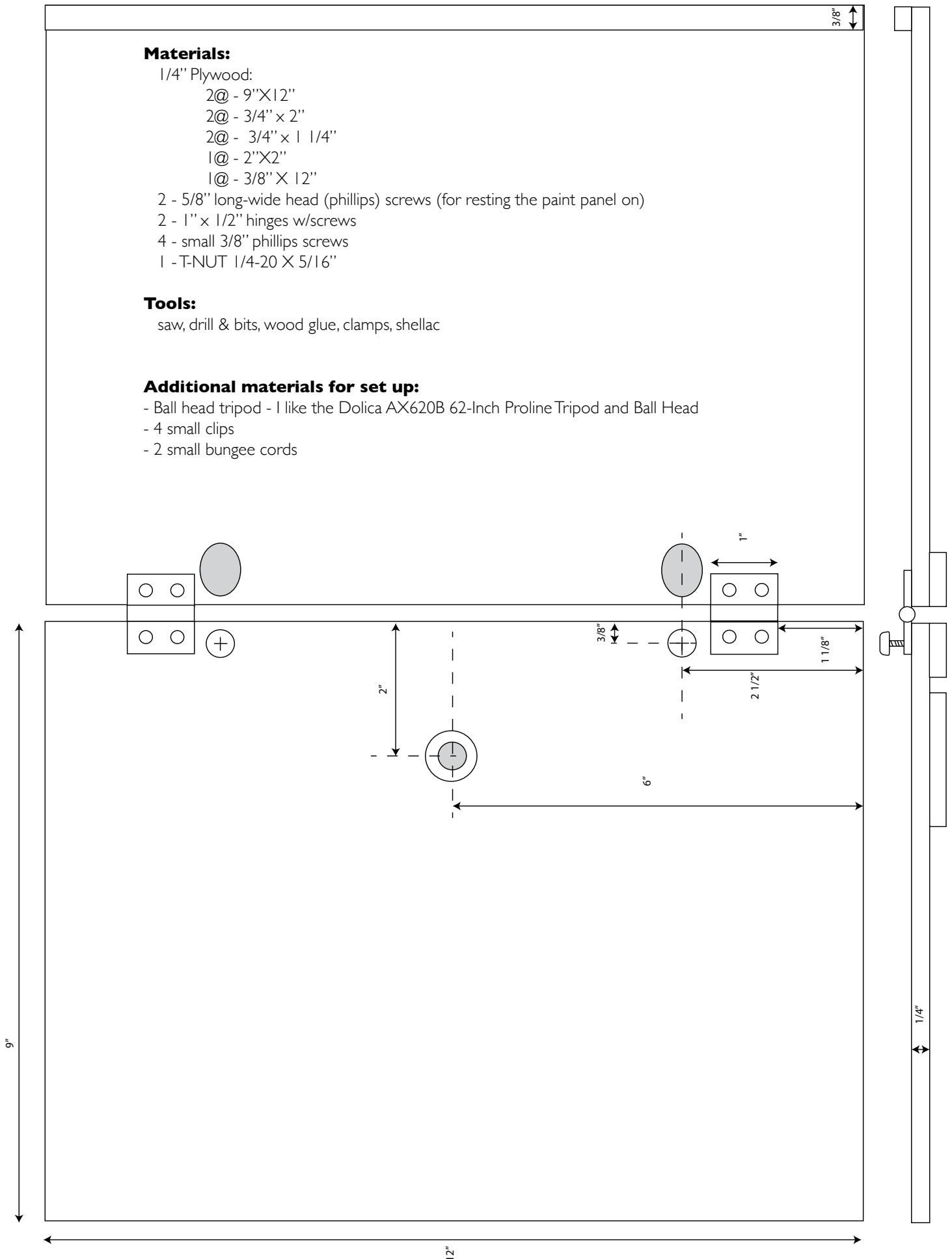
saw, drill & bits, wood glue, clamps, shellac

Additional materials for set up:

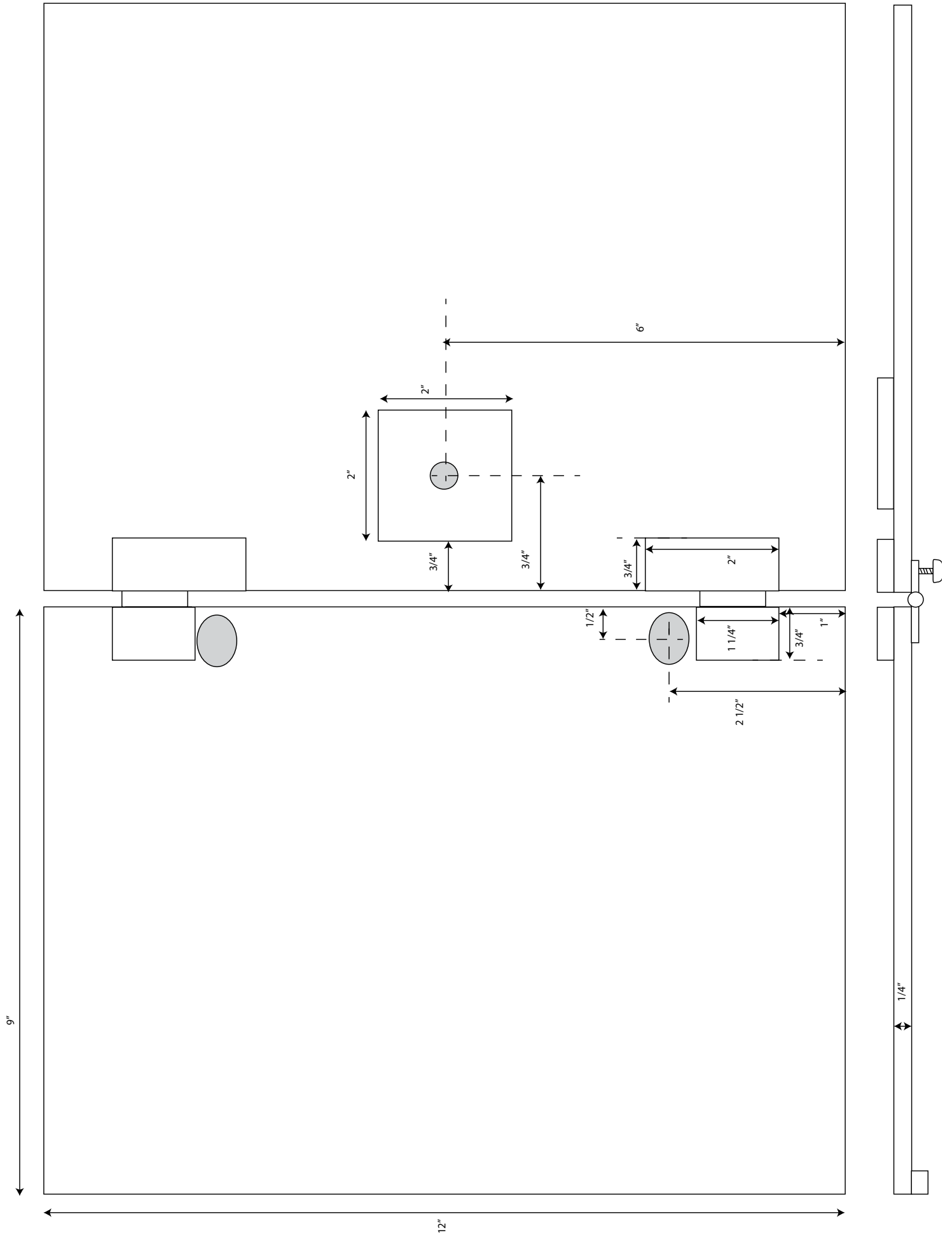
- Ball head tripod - I like the Dolica AX620B 62-Inch Proline Tripod and Ball Head

- 4 small clips

- 2 small bungee cords



Panel Easel Plan - Outside



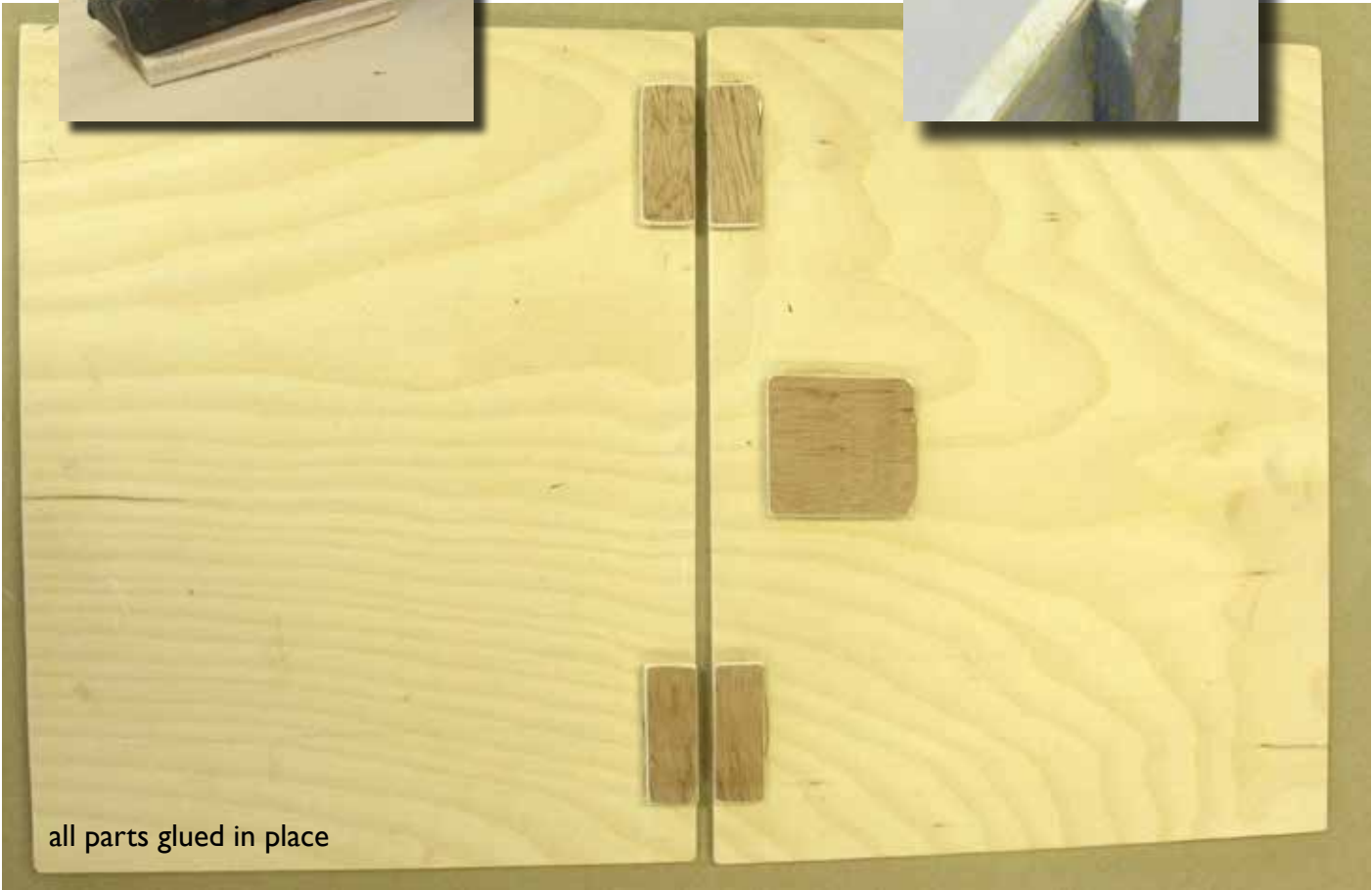
plywood pieces cut and ready to assemble



glue and clamp pieces in place



Palette stop/rest piece in place

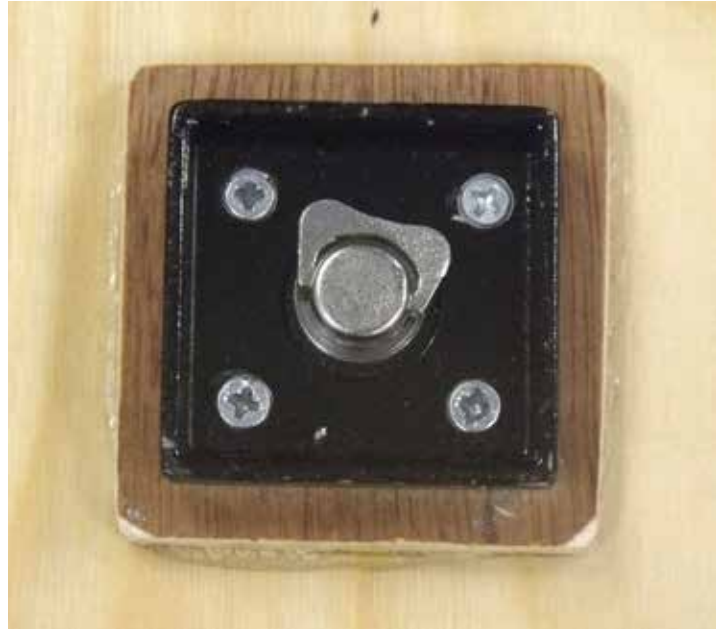


all parts glued in place

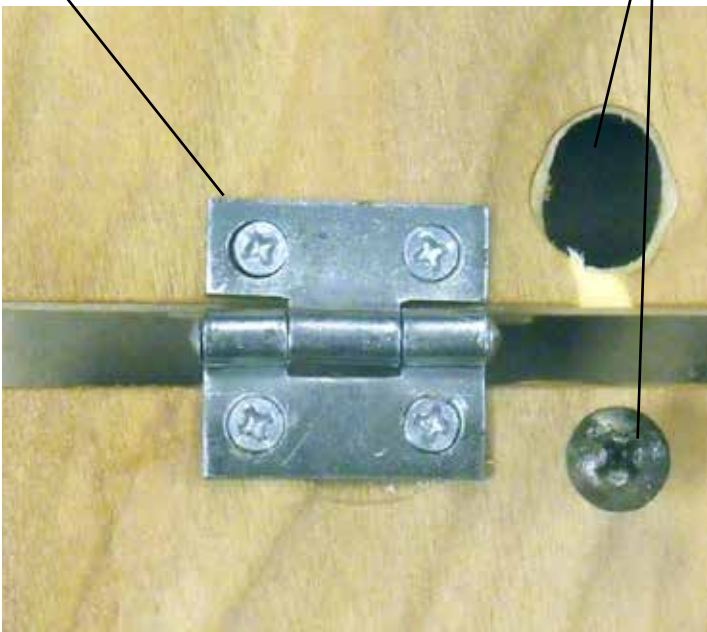
hole drilled and T-nut inserted



tripod mount screwed to T-nut
- additional 4 small screws drilled and inserted for added stability



hinges pre-drilled and screwed in place
anchor screw and relief hole in place



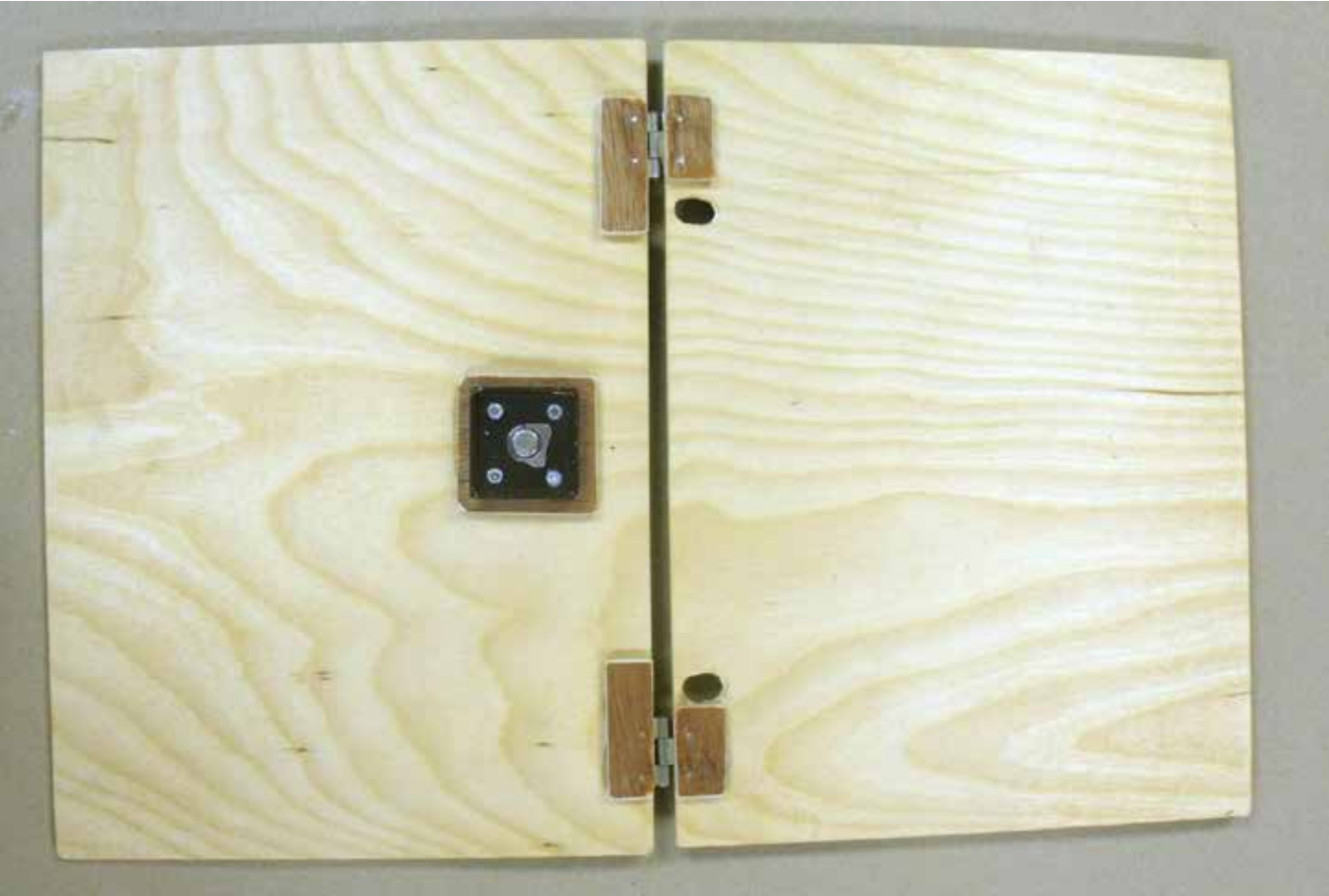
the tips of the screws may be "proud"
- file them down if needed



assembled inside



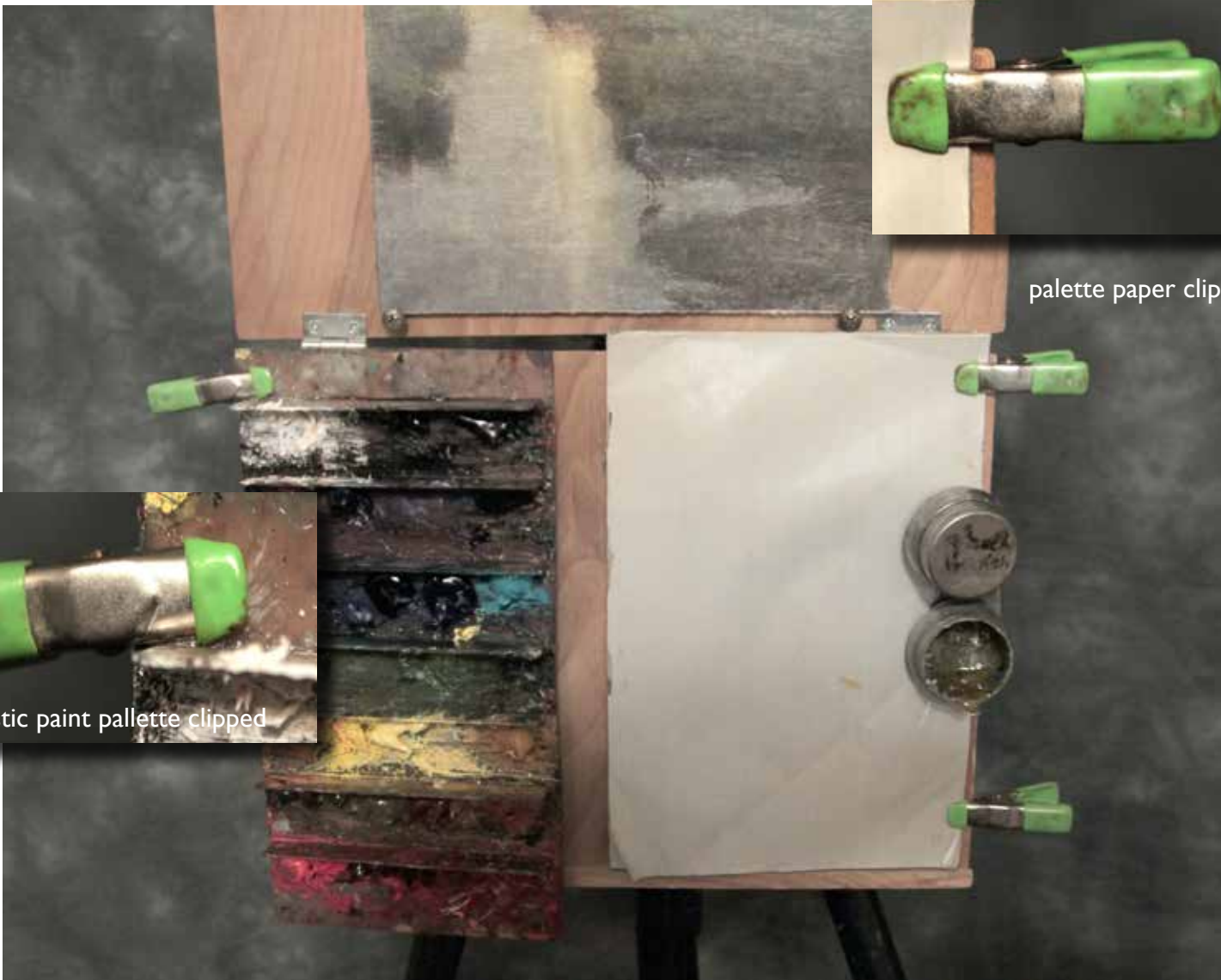
assembled outside







palette paper clip



plastic paint palette clipped

paint panel secured via bungie cord



paint easel secured on the back via bungie cord



tripod secured to the back

Paint Palette

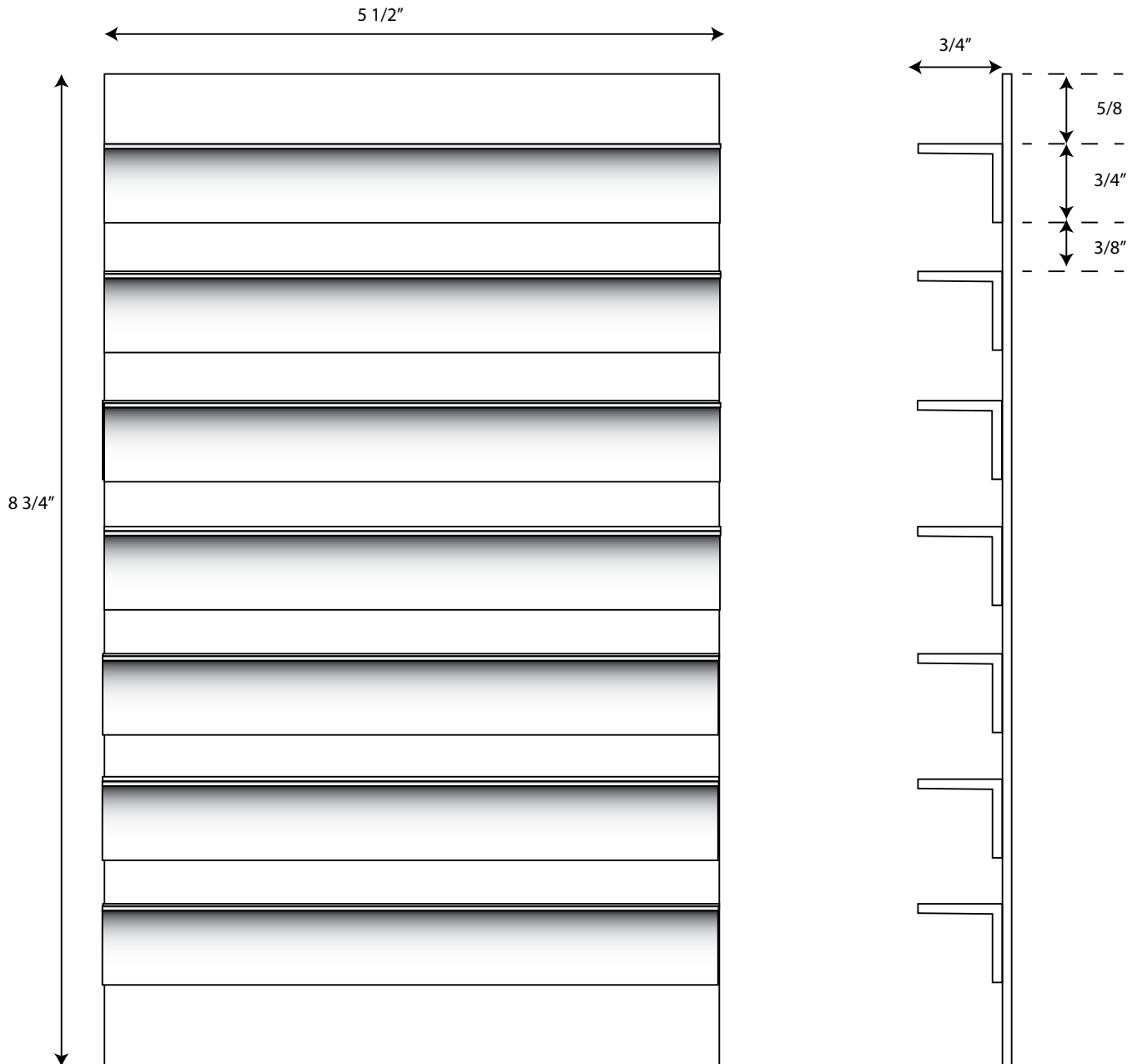
Materials:

- Plexi -glass - 6" x 8 3/4"
- drywall corner protector (clear plexi) - 7 pieces cut to 6"
- use 5 minute epoxy to glue the shelves in place

Store the above paint holder in a plastic freezer box. It packs well in a backpack for field painting. It can be stored in the freezer in between paint sessions to prolong the oil paint.

Mixing Palette:

- I use gray disposable paint palette paper pads. I cut them down to 6"x9"



Paint Palette

