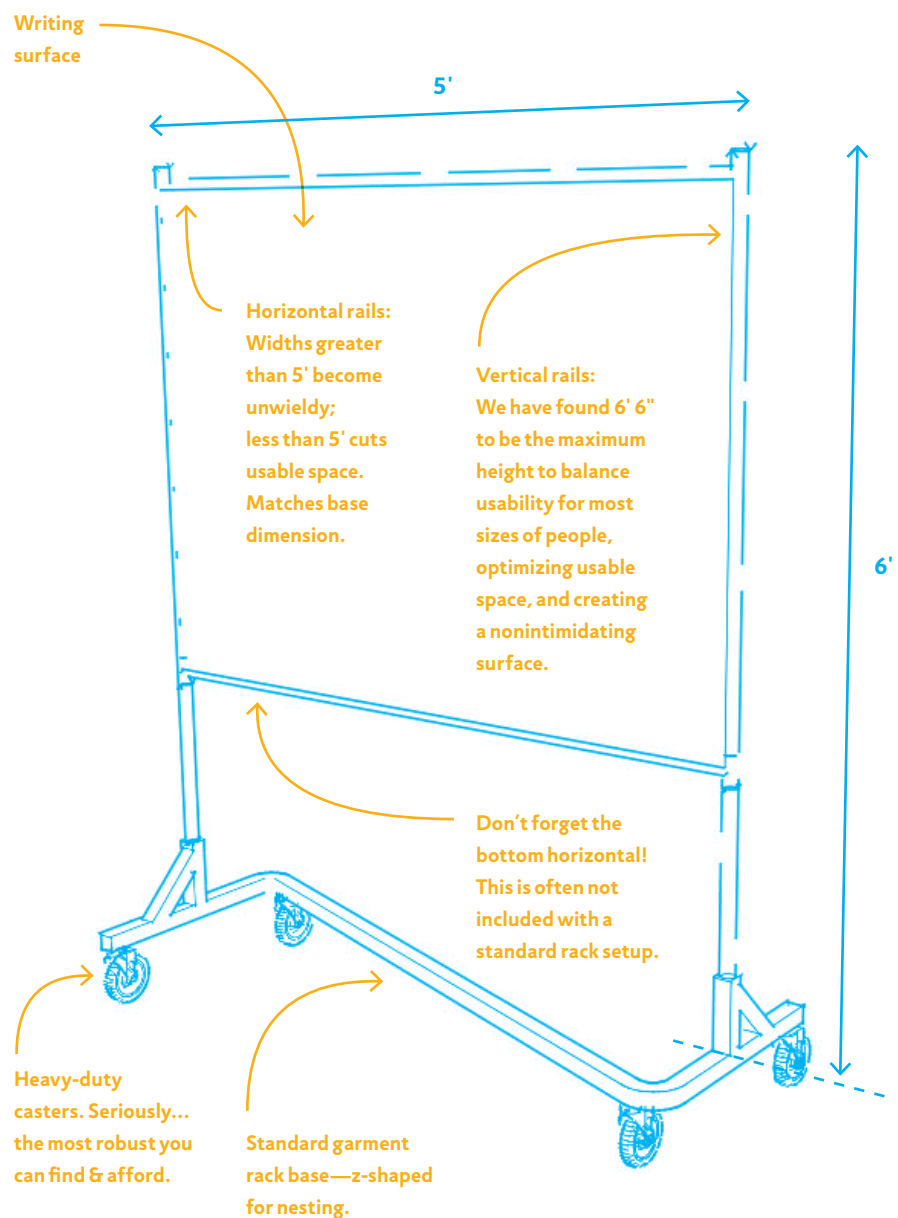


Easy-to-build dry-erase surfaces transform the working style of a space.

z-rack

One of the most enduring artifacts in the d.school, the Z-Rack, is actually a modified garment rack. When outfitted with a common construction material—showerboard—the Z-Rack becomes a deployable dry-erase surface.

This model is a fraction of the cost of a typical rolling dry-erase board, super-sturdy, easy to build, and large enough to act as a partition in the work space. The Z-Rack is great for subdividing large areas and creating differently scaled team work spaces.



sketches: Scott Witthoft

build instructions

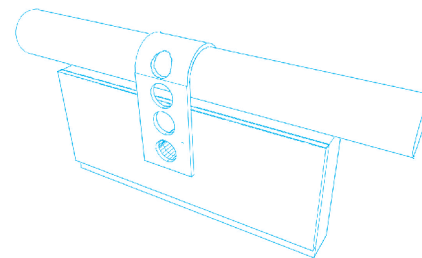
writing surface construction

Create a sandwich of showerboard panels laminated to a center panel of $1/2$ "-thick foamboard or $1/4$ " plywood. The result will be a dual-sided, rigid surface. It can be tricky to balance overall panel stiffness with weight—the center panel should be as stiff & light as possible.

writing surface attachment

Attach the writing surface to the Z-Rack frame using perforated galvanized steel strapping. Drill through-holes in the writing surface and attach at the two top & two bottom corners along the horizontal rails.

Metal strap attachment



showerboard or tileboard

The surface of this standard construction material works very well as an inexpensive and hackable alternative to commercially produced dry-erase surfaces. Eventually the surface will start to show residue and "ghosting"; water and a towel work surprisingly well for cleaning!

sourcing

garment ("Z") racks

The d.school has used the 6' tall double-rail Z-Racks with 4'- and 5'-long bases; locking casters are available at additional cost. Sean James Enterprises, Inc. (425 Tribble Gap Road, Cumming, GA 30040; 888 866-9826; www.garmentrack.com)

showerboard

Showerboard is available at most home centers and local lumber suppliers. Pine Cone Lumber (895 East Evelyn Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086; 408 736-5491; www.pineconelumber.com)

foamboard

Arch Supplies (99 Missouri, San Francisco, CA 94107; 415 433-2724; www.archsupplies.com) ULINE Shipping Supply Specialists (800 958-5463; www.uline.com)

casters

Industrial Caster & Wheel Co. (2200 Carden Street, San Leandro, CA 94577; 510 569-8303; www.icwco.com). Reference Stanford d.school red caster in 3" or 5". California Caster and Hand Truck Company (1400 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94107; 800 950-8750; www.californiacaster.com)

hardware

Perforated steel strapping and flexible steel "tape" are available at local hardware stores and home centers. McMaster-Carr (600 North County Line Road, Elmhurst, IL 60126; 630 600-3600; www.mcmaster.com)

see also

26

Tools_HACK: Showerboard Dry-Erase Surface

58

Tools_Whiteboard Sliders

190

Tools_Writable Surfaces Everywhere