The wire brush digs out the softer wood between the much harder ridges that create the grain in the wood. The rough texture also allowed for excellent penetration of the weathering treatment that's applied to the finished project.

Unlike sanding, the rotating wire brush meets a lot of resistance so you'll need both hands to hold the drill during this operation. Clamp the piece you're working on securely to the workbench to keep both hands free to work with the drill.

There are a couple of styles of wire brush attachments – cup type (shown) and wheel style with the bristles radiating straight out from the metal collar. I used both types, working with the grain direction, and the results were pretty much the same for both.

Wire brushing all the parts for the project takes a bit of time and your upper arms will certainly get a workout by the time you're done. I determined which sides of each piece would be visible and needed the wire brush treatment before I started so I didn't worry about the unseen surfaces.

Once the wire brushing was complete there were a few loosely attached slivers of wood at the corners which I removed with a light scuffing with some sandpaper and slightly eased the edges.

***Fig. 2: The top piece shows the effect of the wire brush treatment compared to the original on the bottom.***

## *Assembly*

I started by assembling the supporting frames for the top and the shelf. I used 2” Common Nails (Not Galvanized) for the rustic look along with wood glue to keep the joints secure. The non-galvanized nails will take on a rusty appearance almost immediately when the weathering stain is applied.

***Fig. 3: Clamp Cleats to the work bench to help hold the parts while nailing.***

### *Shelf Frame*

Lay out all the parts for the Shelf Frame on the workbench and dry fit them together. Since I was nailing these pieces together I clamped a couple of cleats along the edges of the bench to act as

 