

JOINERY

Technique is simple, you just mark the width of each member on the other, crossline it and saw the miter lines.



This is an "offset miter" joint, forgotten by many but still in use by some carpenters.



You can do this with a 2x6 and a 2x4 or any odd width lumber you want to miter together.



This is what the joint is for, mitering a 1" rail into a 1½" style.



Bevel Lap



This is a "bevel lap" joint. I have never seen anyone, except for a few timber framers that make this joint; although I am sure some of you have made it. I have been using it for years and I learned it from an old carpenter that framed timber structures.



Technique, again, is very simple. Mark your lap piece on your member to be beveled.



I cut the outside lines with a miter saw and make some relief cuts. Notice I left the two fine lines I drew to make a tight joint. Then I finish the cuts to the corner with a hand saw.



Then I take a chisel and take out the material from corner to corner. I carefully plane it with this chisel.

My chisels are razor sharp. I put a 60° swooped bevel on them with a belt sander/120 belt then hone them to a micro edge with 400/800 then 1500 emery cloth. I sharpen my slick the same way. I have a set of 1½, 2, and 2½"x24" slicks. Necessary tools for some of the frame work I do on timber frame work and stair work. Dull wood chisels are useless. A dull chisel is also far more dangerous than a sharp chisel.



This is the beauty of this joint is the fact that a lot of carpenters and people are going to wonder how you made this and still have a full edge on your style or rail showing.



This is also something I use, a bevel lap joint for 2x furniture. This is a 30° joint I made for a chair.



This shows the lines I draw on the parts to make the cuts. Precision and correct marking are essential.



Same as square joint, I cut the main outside cuts with a miter saw and also make a few relief cuts.



I take out the main stock of the angled dado with my $\frac{1}{4}$ " claws, which are almost as sharp as my chisels and they rival an adze for removing wood.



I finish with a chisel.



I prefer making the compound miter cut with a handsaw. This cut was 75° and I would have spent quite a few minutes setting up to cut this on a power saw and I cut it in one minute with a good handsaw.



Stanley's Sharks Tooth saws are the best I have ever used. You

don't have to apply any down pressure just move the blade and the saw will take care of the cutting.

I very seldom see a carpenter carrying a handsaw any more. I have and always will carry one.

Cuts, especially compounds, are sometimes easier with a handsaw than a power saw.

When I started carpenter work in 1957 we had no power tools. A lot of houses were built and had neither electricity nor plumbing; some still don't today in McAlister, NM. A handsaw, coping saw, keyhole saw and a bow saw were all the saws my dad had until 1961.

Anyway, I am an old carpenter and the handsaw is an old tool and an old procedure, so we work well together.



This is the same joint except it is 30° instead of square.

I've done a lot of these and I can do an angled bevel lap in about 10 minutes. Time to me, at age 62, is not such a factor as it is to a 20 year old carpenter.

That's it for now. I was doing some joinery and thought you might want to see some vintage joinery that should be used today.

Lots of things carpenters like me did 50 years ago need to be brought back.

That is one reason I and 5 other carpenters across the nation wrote the Construction Comprehension Test. Every year less and less apprentice and journeyman carpenters can pass this simple test. On the average only 6-8 carpenters out of a hundred get all the answers correct.

Carpenters use to know all these things and many of these young carpenters don't study the carpentry trade like I and many others do.

Carpentry is a dying trade. I mean real carpentry, someone who can, by their self, build a house and do it all, dirt to trim, and do it correctly.

Most young people want to buy a computer (which is good) or a game player (which is usually bad, cop killing games, sex games) instead of buying some books and tools to learn a construction trade to get a job.

Most young carpenters today are specializing and not learning the trade as I and others did.

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