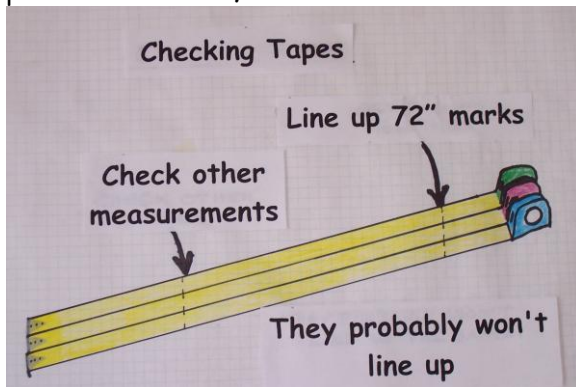


MEASURING-MARKING

This is the most important procedure that you will do to a piece of material. The next is following and cutting the line that you mark. I have about 20 tapes, I doubt if any two of the tapes measure the "exactly" the same. I usually use a 1 1/4" x 16' in the shop and laying out plates. With a helper take 3 new tapes, (any brand), even 3 brand new tapes all the same, lock them at 100" and line up exactly the 72" marks, then go down the tape and read the other measurements as shown in the picture. Stanley tapes are deadly accurate. The best tape on the market. A good tape is an investment in your job performance, not a cost.

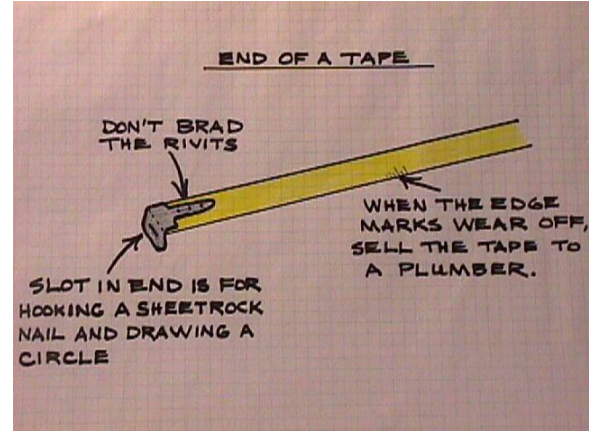


They will probably be off about 1/64 or 1/32" on some of the marks. That's OK.

After doing this you can be more tolerant of someone cutting a board 1/32 short or long.

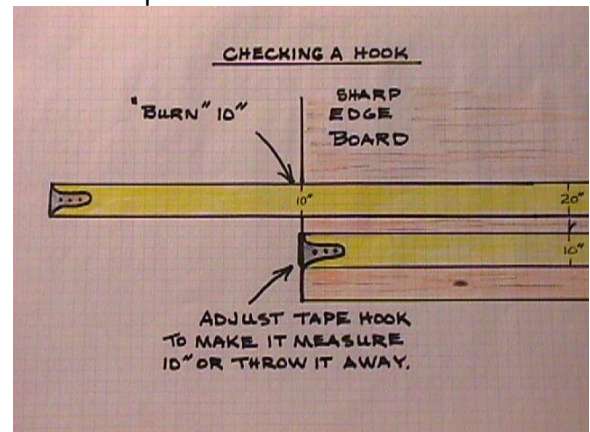
There is no excuse showing up on a job, and not having a good tape.

With a pencil (no tape) learn to make two marks on a board exactly 1/4" apart, center to center of the marks. Then 1/2", then 3/4", up to 1". Practice.



Be sure to check the hook at the end of your tape to see if it is bent (flatten it on a 2x end) from the last time you dropped it; don't brad the rivets at the end as it is suppose to slide back and forth the thickness of the hook on the tape.

This is for inside-outside measurements. Stanley tapes have 3 rivets. I have seen quite a few carpenters get fired from a job because they didn't have sense enough to take care of their tape.



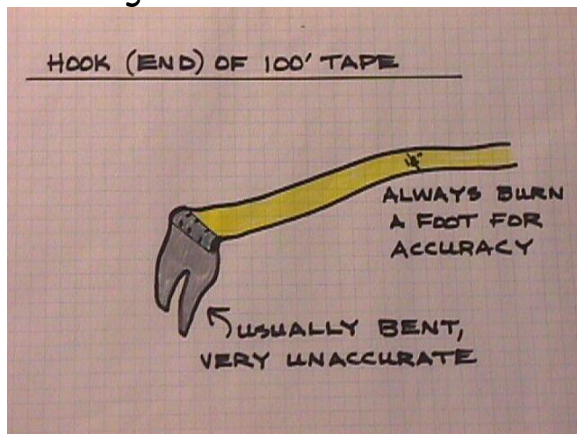
To check your tape, burn 10" and mark 20" on a square cut board.

Then hook the tape and it should read 10". Burn means to run the end of the tape past the end of your board and use a measurement different from the 0 measurement (hook).

Check your tape every morning and every time you drop it. Takes 15 seconds. I have seen some cheap tapes that are off 1/16". Bad business for you. Good for Stanley.

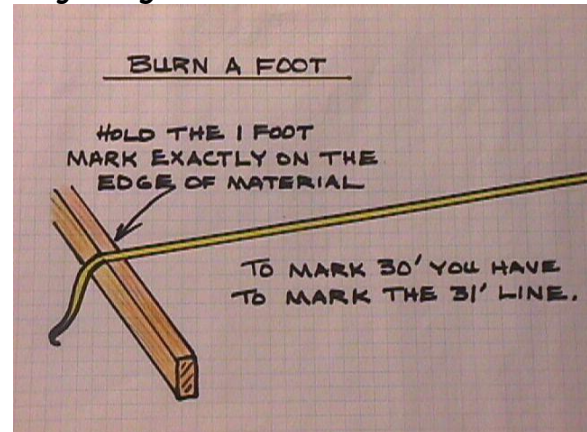
***If you want to get a closer look at the drawings and pictures go to the top and expand the page to 150%.**

When you are measuring distances for excavation and batter board locations, you can use a cloth or fiberglass tape. They stretch 1/4" or 1/2" in a 100'. Always use a steel tape for laying out frame lines and marking batter boards.



The ends of 100' steel and cloth tapes are highly inaccurate, burn a foot when using steel tapes. Cloth and fiberglass tapes are for estimating the distance of a

length. Not to be used for anything else.



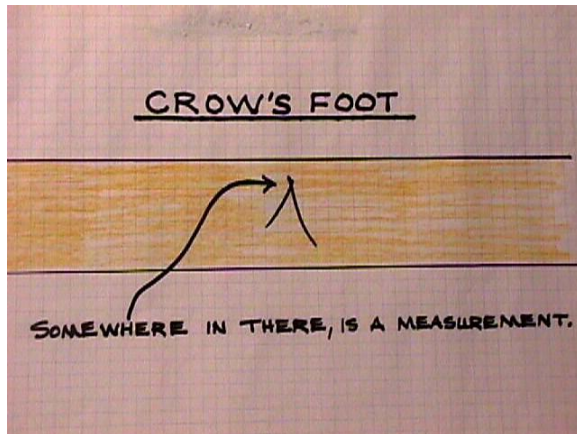
I have recently bought a 300' fiberglass tape at Home Depot (\$30) that has steel impregnated into it, very good tape and very accurate.

Any time you are measuring a distance and your tape is not straight, you are measuring an inaccurate rake (bowed down) (sloped) measurement, keep this in mind when you are laying out foundation on a slope or measuring an opening.

When measuring long distances, or something easier, take a level and bring your marks down to the ground from your drylines so as your tape will be lying on the ground when measuring.

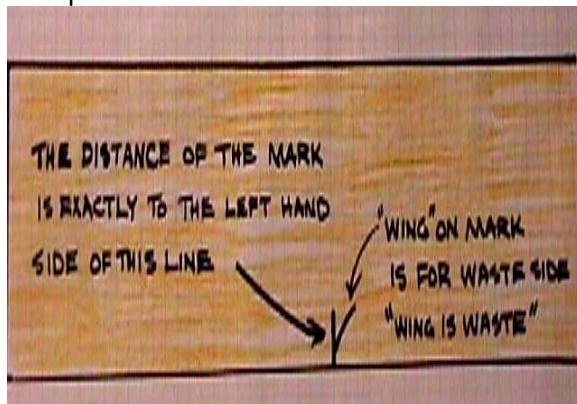
The hooks on Stanley's 100' steel tapes are accurate. These are the only ones I trust (until they get bent).

This is how a lot of carpenters mark a board, and only they know where the distance mark is, sometimes, if ever.



I don't care how many carpenters you see use this technique, still doesn't make it right. The correct way to mark a distance is shown.

Take care sharpening your pencil. I can look someone's pencil and describe the carpenter.



Make a straight $\frac{1}{2}$ " mark perpendicular to the edge of the board, then add a wing to it to show the waste side.

Take a square and make the line all the way across the board. Do this absolutely every time you mark a board. The piece you want has no mark on it, the left hand side of the mark shown is the dividing line between the piece you want and the waste

end of the board. I can mark and cut a board within a thirty second of an inch, so can you, if you will follow these simple instructions and do it exactly this way. I invite you to use the crows foot or any other marking technique and try it, if it works better than the technique I have shown you, use it. Anything I tell you in this book, if you find a better way, I truly want you to use it and let me know about it. You cut the line out, the wing mark means this is the waste side (wing-waste).

If everyone on your crew marks this way any carpenter can cut the other carpenters mark. Every time you make a mark it is just like writing a check. This is your signature. You can get paid for it or lose your job over it.

In cabinet work, stair and trim work, I use only inches and sixteenths. $10\frac{1}{4}$ " to me is ten-four, 10 and $4/16$'s. $10\frac{3}{8}$ to me is ten-six, 10 and $6/16$'s. $10\frac{3}{4}$ is ten-twelve. 10 and $12/16$'s.

Sounds silly, it's not. Don't knock it until you've tried it.

I've heard all of the garble through the years, especially in framing, about the strong one-eighth, weak one-eighth, proud one-eighth, slack one-eighth, heavy one-eighth, light one-eighth and so on. Carpenters that use this type of call out usually can't cut a board within a quarter of an inch of call out and this gives them an excuse for their incompetence. The truth is

they usually don't know or can't read the one-sixteenth marks that are on their tapes. It is usually not their fault; this is the way they were taught. Call out measurements as to what they are and mark your boards exactly every time you make a mark. Take a few minutes a day and study your tape.

Can you imagine Stanley making a tape that has weak and strong measurements? Never.

I have never understood how anyone can expect to draw carpenter wages and not be able to read and use a tape/pencil properly, mark a board correctly and cut a board to the correct length.

<http://carpenterbooks.com>

Bob Johnston