



# Shop Notes

## Sawhorses

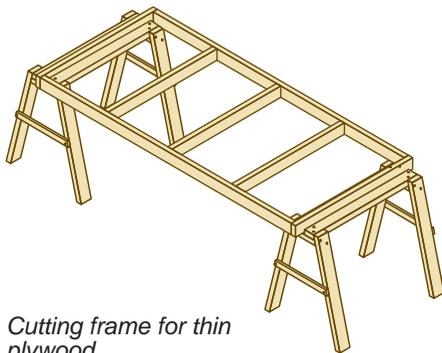
**Sawhorses come in all types—from wobbly knocked-together versions to hardwood fine furniture. I built these to hold a Chuck Merrel designed dinghy during construction.**

There really isn't much to these sawhorses. Including the sacrificial strips, each one takes about 24 feet of straight 2 X 4 lumber, and maybe three feet of 1 X 2 for the side braces. This leg length puts the top surface 31 inches from the floor. For me, this works out to just about knuckle-high.

Cut the top pieces to length, and rip the bevel down one side of each. Put the top pieces on a flat surface, spaced apart by a sacrificial strip, and measure for the cross bars. Cut these with a 14 degree bevel on each end. Glue and screw the tops and cross bars together. Cut the legs to length with a 14 degree bevel on both ends. Glue and screw the legs to the ends of the tops. Cut some 1 X 2's to length, bevelling the ends to 14 degrees, and attach them as side braces.

Most of the time I leave the sacrificial strips off. This leaves a wider surface to work on. I put the strips back in whenever I'm going to cut large sheets of plywood. If you set your depth of cut to slightly more than the plywood thickness you can saw right over the sawhorse without having to reposition the work. When the strip gets too chewed up, replace it.

Thin plywood needs a cutting frame under it, otherwise it sags and buckles, resulting in poor cuts and kickbacks. A frame of 2 X 4's about 42 inches by 90 inches would be about right. This frame fits the gap for the sacrificial strips.



Cutting frame for thin plywood

