

## The 60-minute Sawbench

Woodworking in America 2012

This quickly constructed sawbench can be made with a handful of materials, just a few tools and no workbench (two 5-gallon buckets and a kitchen countertop will do). The result is sturdy and can be the starting point in making a workbench.

### Materials for two sawbenches:

2 - 2x4x10'

1 - 4x4x8' or 4x6x8' (or less -- you need only 4')

1 - 1x8x8' (or less you'll need about 4')

10d nails

Glue

### Tools

Steel framing square

Sharp pencil

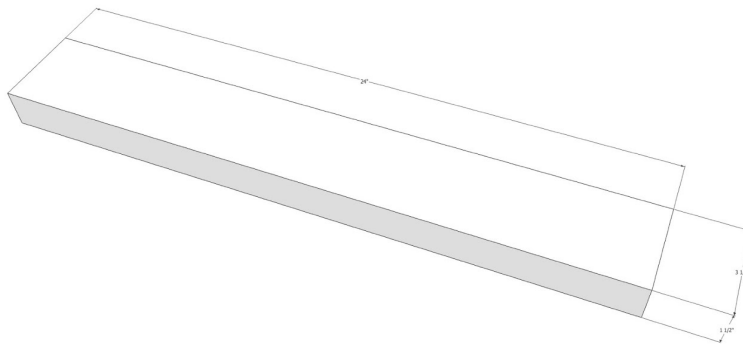
Crosscut saw (such as the Stanley Sharpoint or any 8-point saw)

3 F-style clamps

Marking gauge

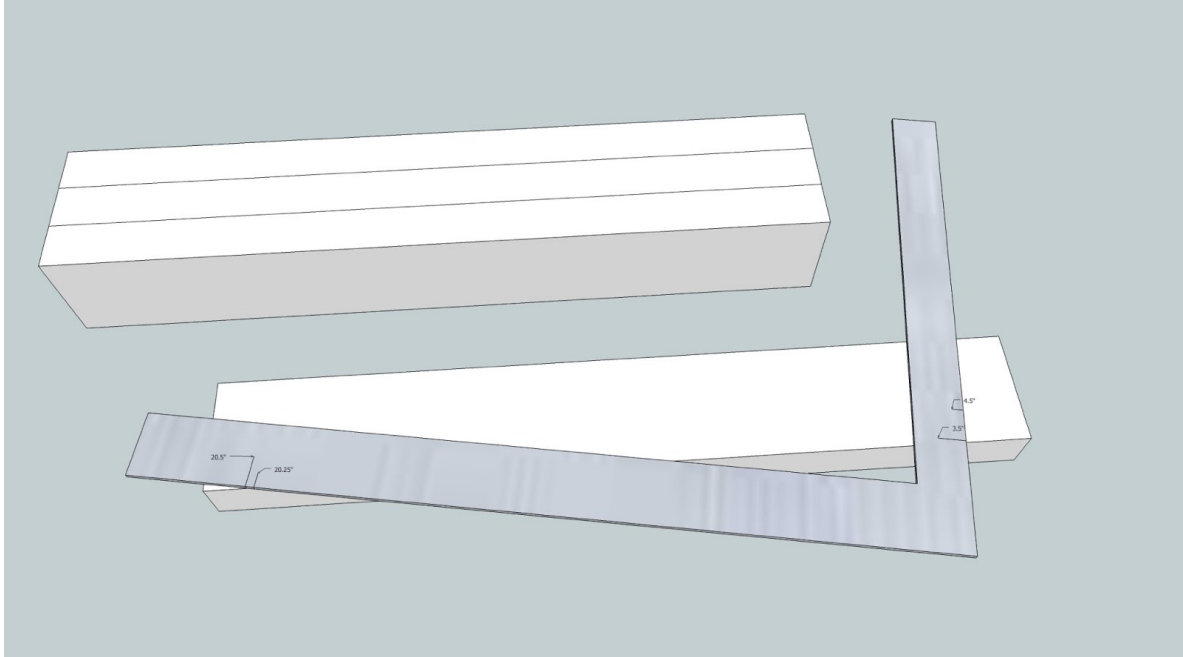
Hammer

Try square or combination square



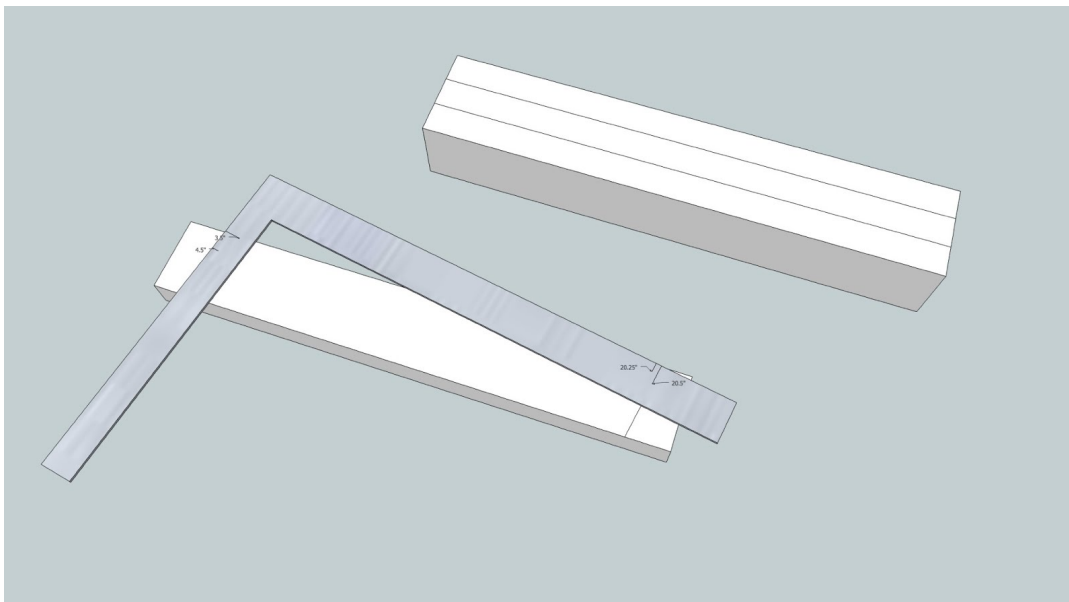
### Step One: Cut Your Legs and Top to Length

Use your steel square to crosscut one 24"-long leg from your 2x4 material. Use that 24"-long leg to lay out the other three legs and the 24"-long top. Keep the leftover 2x4 material to use as a clamping aid later on.



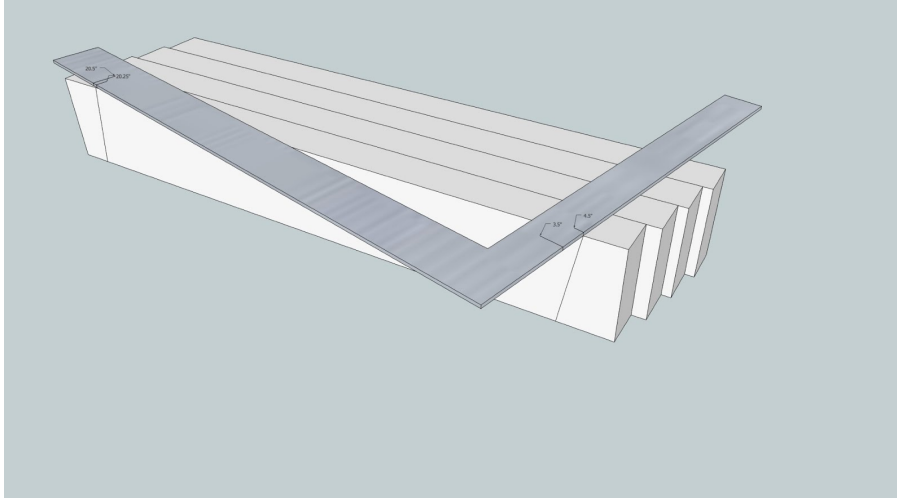
### Step Two: Scribe the Angle on the Face of One Leg

Use your steel square to lay out one angle on the face of one 2x4 leg. Set your framing square so the short tongue touches a corner of your leg at 3-1/2" and the long tongue touches that same corner of your leg at 20-1/2". Pencil a line across the face along the short tongue.



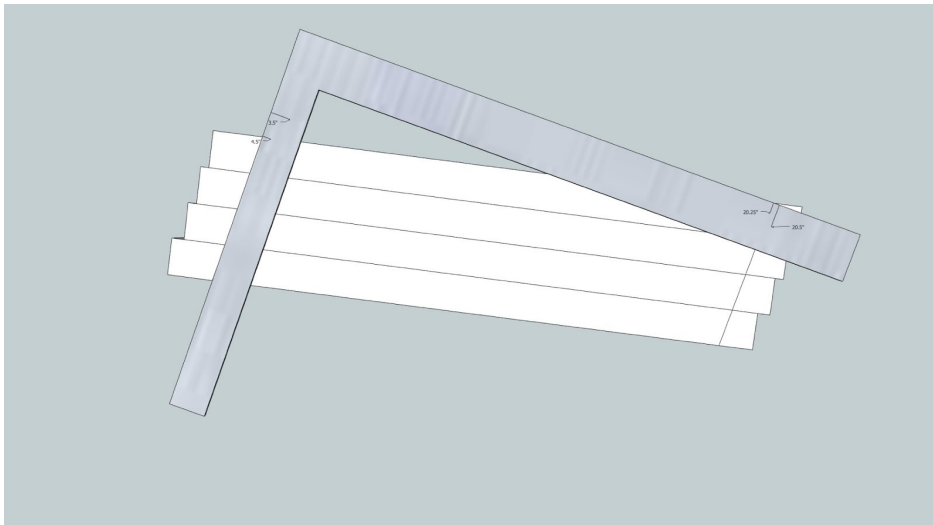
### Step Three: Draw a Parallel Line on the Other End of the Leg

Rotate your steel square 180° and use it to lay out a parallel line at the other end of this 2x4. Place the long tongue at 20-1/2" where your first line ends. Set the short tongue so it touches the corner of your 2x4 at 3-1/2". Scribe a pencil line along the short tongue. The layout on the face is complete. Turn your 2x4 on edge and bunch it with the other three legs so they are all touching face to face.



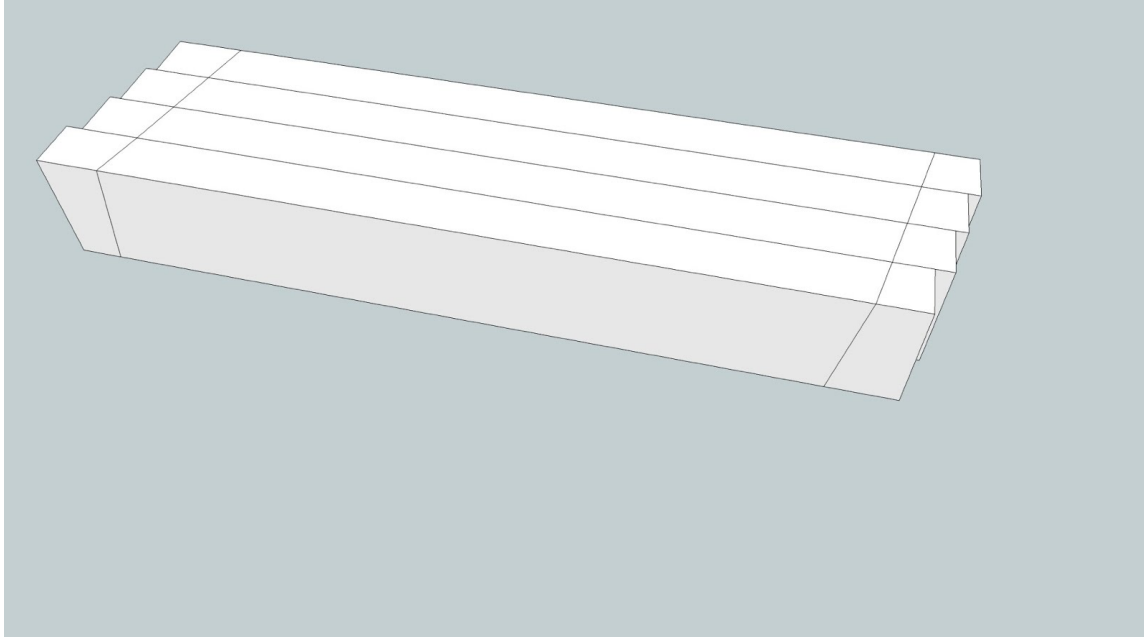
#### **Step Four: Scribe the Second angle on all the Edges**

Stagger all your 2x4s by about 1/2" from their mate. Clamp them together using your F-style clamps at the ends of the bundle of 2x4s. Use your steel square to lay out the angle on the edges of the boards. Set the square so the mark at 4-1/2" on the short tongue touches the line on the face of your 2x4. Set the long tongue so it touches your 2x4 at the 20-1/4" mark. Scribe a pencil line across the short tongue.



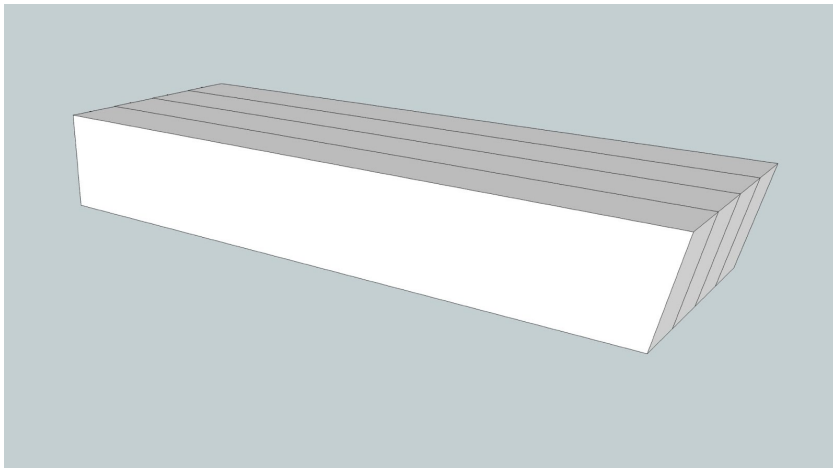
#### **Step Five: Draw a Parallel Line on the Other End of the Group of Legs**

Rotate your steel square 180° and use it to lay out a parallel line at the other end of your bundle of 2x4s. Place the long tongue at 20-1/4" where your previous line ended. Set the short tongue so it touches the corner of your 2x4 at 4-1/2". Scribe a pencil line along the short tongue. The layout on the edges is complete. Now clamp this entire clamped-up bundle of 2x4s to your workbench (or a kitchen counter). Be sure to clamp them on top of a piece of scrap so you don't saw into your working surface.



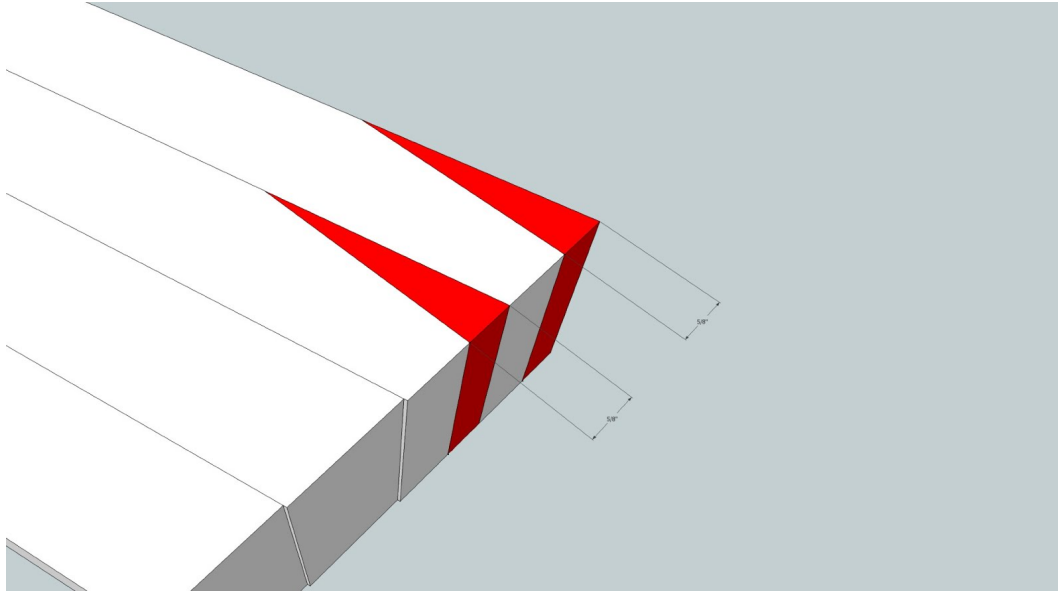
#### **Step Six: Saw Along Your Layout Lines**

Saw the entire bundle of 2x4 like a single board. Begin the cut at the far corner of the bundle. Nibble toward you along the line. When you kerf the corner nearest you, begin sawing down the face. When you reach the bottom corner of the face, use powerful strokes to finish the cut. Repeat at the other end of the bundle.



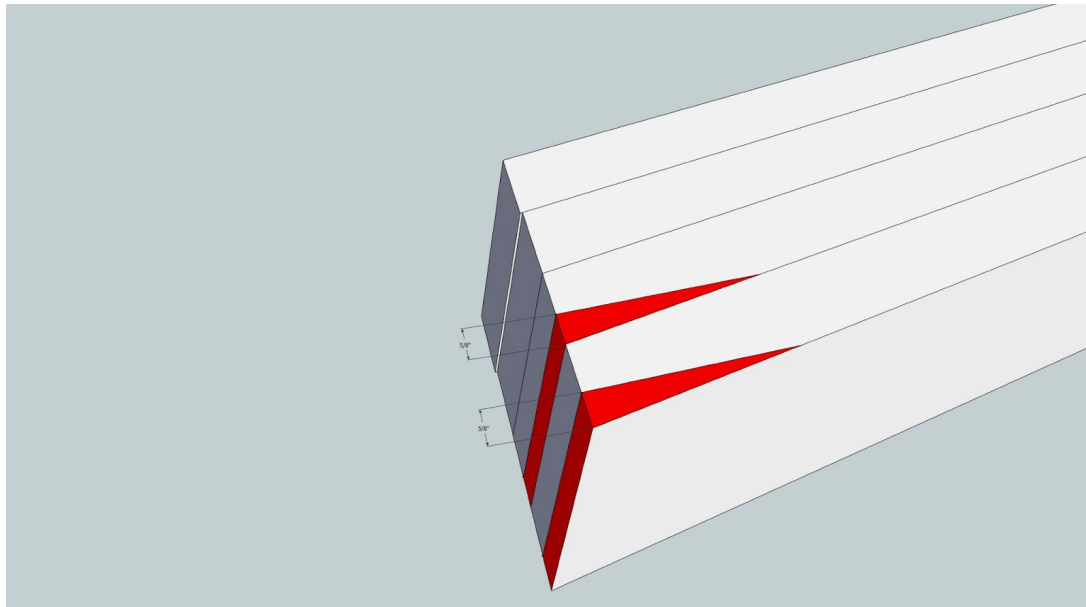
#### **Step Seven: The First Angle is Complete**

With both ends sawn, resist the temptation to release them from the clamps. Leave them clamped together for the next phase of the layout.



#### **Step Eight: Lay Out the Compound Splay**

You have already done the hard part. The compound splay is easy. With your gauge (or a combination square or ruler) mark a point that is 5/8" from the tip of the two legs at the back of your bundle of 2x4s. Then use your try square to draw the the red triangle shown above. Yup, that long line (the hypotenuse) is 90° to the end of your bundle.



#### **Step Nine: Lay Out the Compound Splay on the Other Two Legs**

Repeat the above layout on the remaining two legs at the other end of the bundle. Now you just have to saw away these four triangular areas and you will have four legs that will splay out at a compound angle and sit flat on the floor.

— Christopher Schwarz, October 2012