

THRIFTWOOD

BADGE TRAINING TEAM

Serving the Scout Districts of
Barking and Dagenham, Brentwood, Hornchurch, Romford & Squirrels Heath

Measuring and Marking Tools

Accurate measuring and marking is vital for every woodworking project. Always remember to double check all markings as the slightest mistake at any stage could ruin a project. There is a vast range of measuring and marking tools that are available, some of what I consider the most important are listed below:

Pencils

This may seem like an obvious one but many first time woodworkers have been guilty of using inadequate writing instruments like pens. Pencils can be used for fine marking or thicker marking depending on the job. Ensure that you have adequate supply of not only pencils but also erasers for the inevitable mistakes that will occur.

Steel or plastic rule

A steel rule is the best type of rule and is not easily damaged and therefore allows markings to be precise every time. They come in a couple of sizes and you should purchase a couple of different sizes.

Retractable tape measure

This is a compact rule that is best used for larger jobs and is available in a variety of sizes from 3 meters to 10 meters. A 5 meter tape measure is generally all that is required.

Gauges

There are several types of gauges that are available and gauges are the best tool for marking along the grain. Three of the most popular gauges on the market are the marking gauge, mortise gauge and the cutting gauge.

The marking gauge is the tool that is most often used. A sharpened steel pin is used to score the surface of the wood. To mark the wood you simply set the distance by moving the wooden rule to the distance required and move along a straight edge.

The mortise gauge has two steel pins rather than the one that is on the marking gauge. The mortise gauge is used for marking the position of mortise and tenon joints.

The cutting gauge has a small blade that is most suitable for cutting lines across the grain.

Marking knives

Marking knives are considered to be more accurate than pencils. They are used to

make a slight indentation in the wood and are then often drawn over with a pencil before cutting.

Squares

There are a couple of different types of squares that are used for woodworking: precision squares; combination and adjustable bevel.

The precision square is used for either drawing a precision line across a piece of wood, precision right ends or checking that lines have been drawn square.

The combination square features both a 45 degree angle and a 90 degree angle along with a spirit level and a metal ruler.

An adjustable bevel has a blade that can be adjusted to almost any angle. It can be used as a square and used to mark a variety of different angles.

