

# Processing Stock for Woodworking

Here are some notes that cover the way that I prepare my stock when I'm building something. I've found that it is important to bring the pieces close to their finished widths before they are completely flattened and planed down and that is the underlying principle for my procedure.

1. Start by doing an initial joint on the edge of the piece of wood.
2. Place the trued-up edge against the fence and rip it (usually on the band saw) to about  $3/16$  ths of an inch oversize (more if the wood is unstable or if it's a long piece).
3. Then flatten (joint) the concave face of the wood.
4. Putting the jointed face down, run it through the planer. Once the planer starts making a full cut on the upward face (where the cutters are located), flip the piece end for end so as to remove equal amounts of wood from each side when it's run through the planer until reaching the desired thickness.
5. Rejoint or finish joint an edge of the piece of wood. This edge should now be perpendicular to either face of the wood and it doesn't hurt to check with a square to make sure at this time.
6. Rip the piece down to  $1/16$  th of an inch over the final desired width, putting the final jointed edge against the fence of the

bandsaw.

7. Lastly, run the piece on edge through the planer with the jointed edge down to bring it down to its finished dimension.

If you have stock of sufficient thickness you can do multiple pieces of the same width out of longer stock; go through the above procedure and then cut them to length. Wood generally moves very little when it's crosscut.

If I'm building a door or a piece I want very flat, I'll cut the pieces oversized as above, sticker\* and then let them sit for a couple of days before I joint and plane them down. I'll sticker pieces if I'm worried about them warping.

Sticker a glued-up table top until it's secured to the base.