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LUKE A. BARNETT

*Chairmaker*

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ADRIAN, MICHIGAN U.S.A.

Make a shaving horse.



**Shaving horse**— A shaving horse shave horse, or shaving bench is a combination of vice and workbench, used for green woodworking. A foot-actuated clamp holds the work piece securely against pulling forces, especially as when shaped with a drawknife or spokeshave.

As the name "horse" suggests, the worker sits astride the shaving horse. The clamp is operated by the operator pressing their feet onto a treadle bar below.

Typical usage of the shaving horse is to create a round profile along a square piece, such as for a chair leg or to prepare a workpiece for the pole lathe. They are used in crafts such as coopering and bowery

The shaving horse is basically a very fast, foot operated vise. When paired with a sharp drawknife, it becomes a rapid wood removal system unlike any other. This vise is a very ancient tool, depicted in many old paintings and other art. I even seen the men of the Nights Watch using this awesome tool on the latest season of Game of Thrones. The fact that craftsmen have been using these clamping mechanisms for several hundred years is a good indicator of how effective this tool is.

The shave horse is utilized by a broad range of craftsman including wood turners, bodgers, coopers, chair makers, shingle makers and many other traditional trades. With traditional woodworker rapidly gaining popularity, People are using drawknives and spokeshaves to make chairs, paddles, snowshoes, splint basket parts, walking sticks, and many other great items.

In my trade of chair making, I shape all pieces of the chair while sitting in a shaving horse. The shaving horse really speeds up the shaping process. I use the drawknife to rapidly shape log pieces into rough parts. After those parts dry, then I do very delicate detail work using the spokeshave and rasp, all with being firmly held in the strong jaws of the shave horse.

The process of using a drawknife to shape wood, is a very different way of working wood. It is much more sculptural. It allows more expression, and subtle details. The eye guides the hand. You feel the wood, and the wood responds. It's quite a dance. This is working wood. I tend to think a lot of people get that term confused with machining wood.

Woodworking doesn't have to be expensive. With a few garage sale tools and a little bit of knowledge, you can make many projects, including this shaving horse. All materials can be obtained at low prices for less than \$30.00 as of 9/15/2015. I paid full retail value for everything.

A quick note. This shaving horse is largely based on a design by Peter Galbert. Some modifications have been made. Peter also has a wonderful improvement to add to this shaving horse. If you are interested in learning more about his special improvement, I highly recommend you purchase his book "Chairmakers Notebook" by Peter Galbert. One of the best woodworking books ever written.

Another note. I did not specify the diameter of the bolts because this measurement does not matter. Use what you have. You could even use drywall screws if you were in a pinch. I used 5/16" bolts. I drilled all holes with a 5/16 inch bit to minimize play.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me. I will have an instructional video posted to youtube for this shaving horse. Visit my website for more info.

If you want to acquire more knowledge and build challenging projects, please check on my class schedule. Classes will be listed with LISD in 2016. until then check my website.

**[Www.barnettchairs.com](http://www.barnettchairs.com)**





The basics

A Pencil, A measurer, A square, and the almighty chisel!!



You need a way to measure an angle.

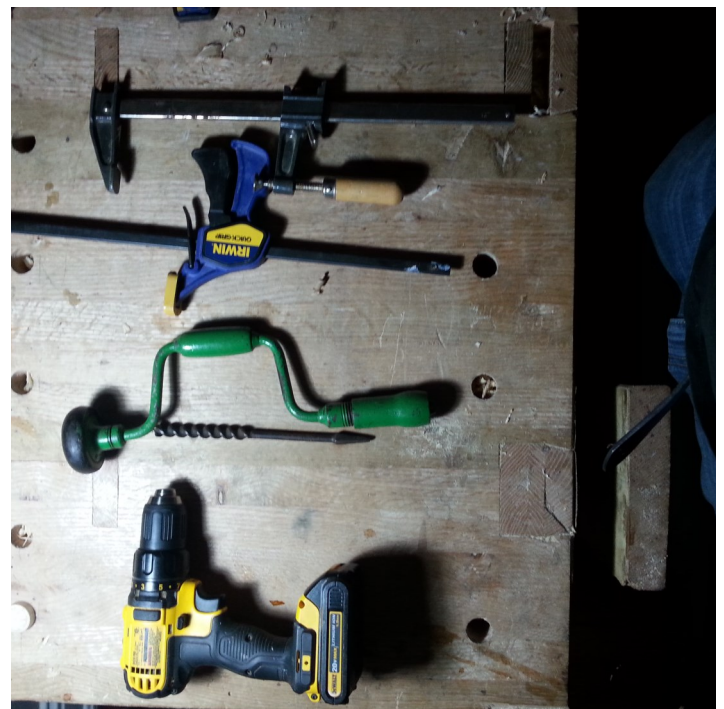
A speed square would work well.

## Tools Needed.

You need a way to cut board. I enjoy using a good ol' fashion hand saw..



You need a way to drill holes. And some clamps would be very nice for this project.

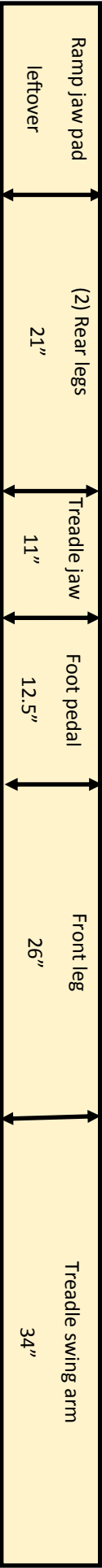




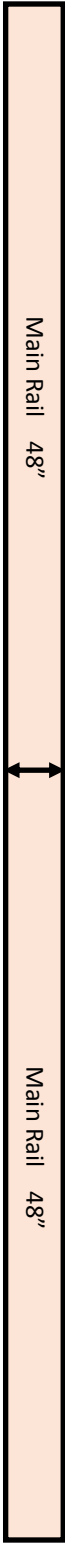








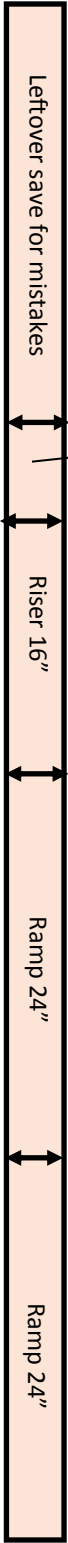
(1) 2x8x10



Spacer

6"

(2) 2x4x8



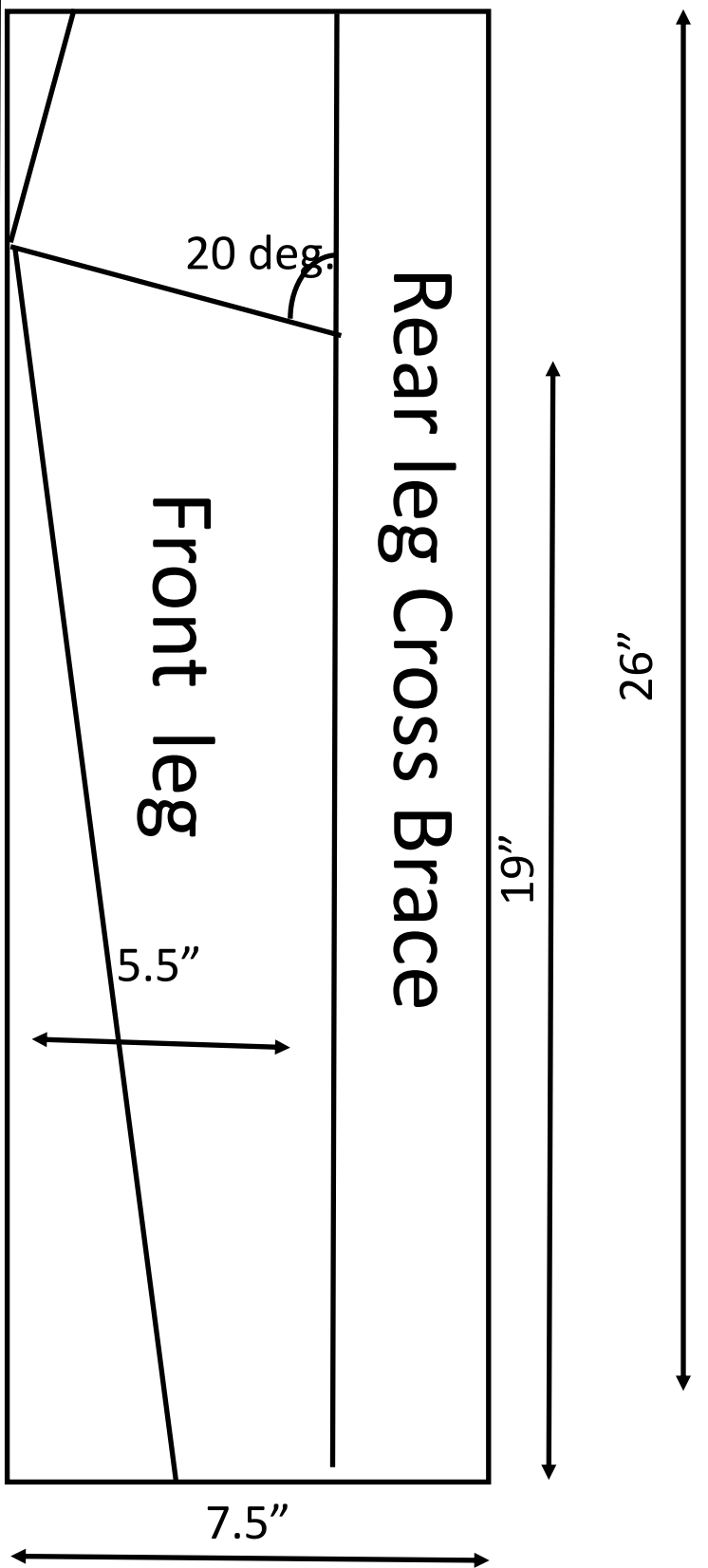
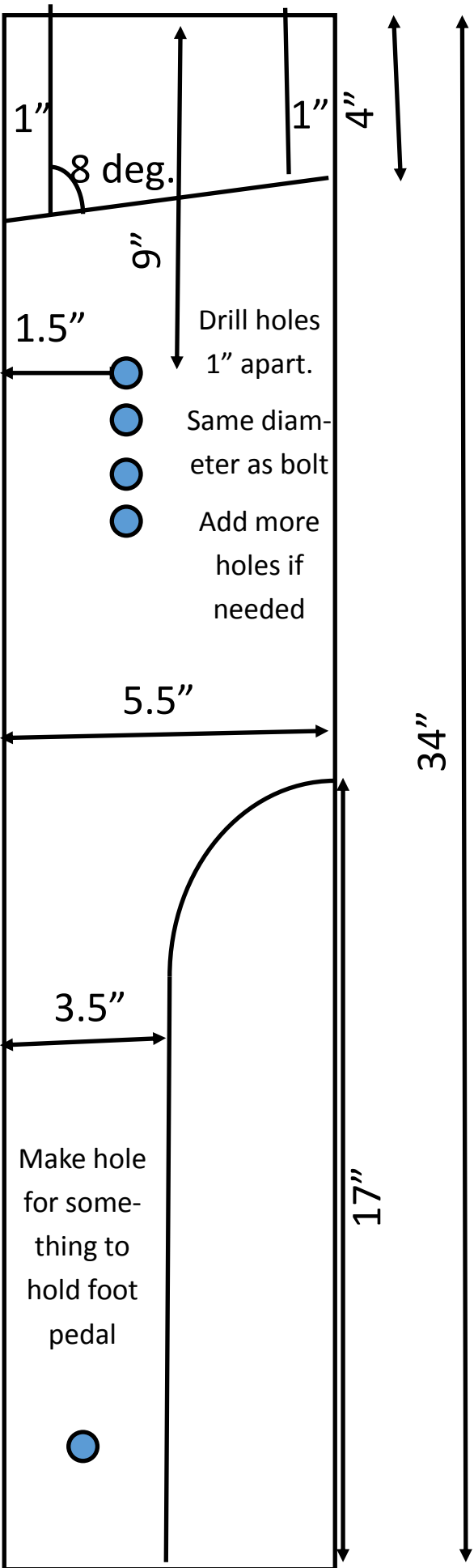
(7) 5" bolt

(2) 8" bolts

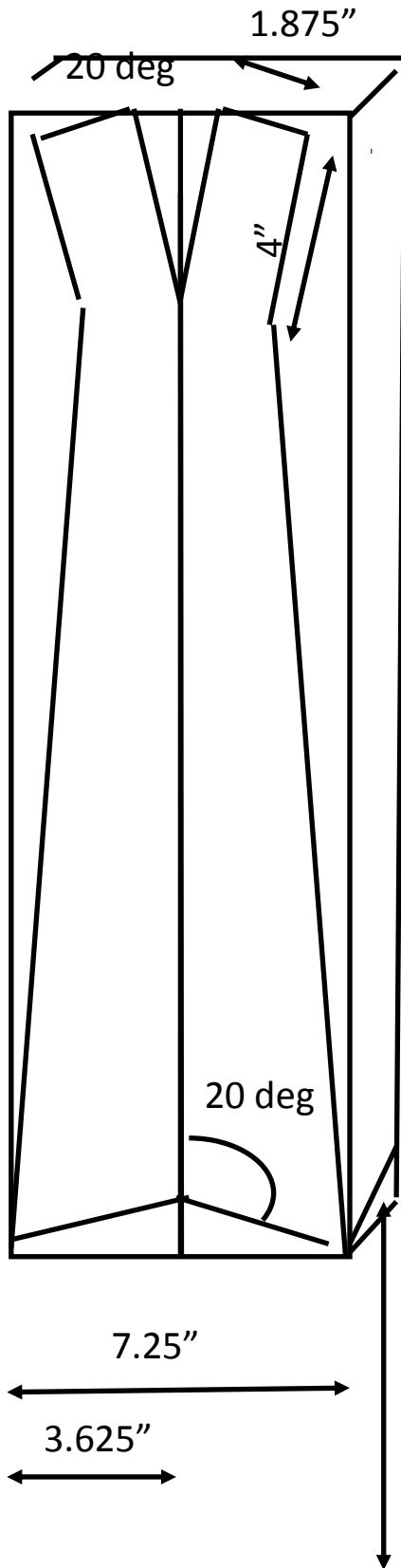
(9) Bolt nuts

(8) lock washers

(16) washers







Rear legs  
Cut 2x8 in half  
Compound angle on feet

Legs must bevel 15 degrees on short side to match dado in rail. Legs must mirror each other.

