Squaring a Board

The following procedure should be followed each time a board is taken from rough stock to S4S-Surfaced on 4 Sides. Do not square boards individually, but run them all at the same time for consistency.

1. Cut stock to rough length using the Miter Saw or a Hand Saw. Rough length should be a couple inches longer than required. Rough pieces should never be less than 18 inches (or the spacing of the feed rollers on your planer).

2. Use the jointer to surface the concave face of the stock. Remove material until most of the rough mill marks have been removed from the face. Do not joint both sides of the board, because the faces will not be parallel.

3. Head to the planer. Measure the thickness of your stock and set the planer to the thickness of the board minus 1/16”. Example: 1” board- set planer for 15/16”. Proceed to take off 1/16” (one turn of the adjustment wheel) for each cut, while flipping the board end over end to remove material from both sides, until the stock is the desired thickness. ***After 1/8-3/16” is removed, it’s a good idea to sticker your wood and let it acclimate for 24 hours.***

4. Head back to the jointer, and joint the concave edge until the rough mill marks are removed. You now have a straight edge to use at the table saw.

5. At the table saw, set the fence to the finished width of the board. Rip the board to the desired width. Be sure that the board is pressed against the fence at all times.

6. Congratulations, you’ve squared a board. Now, get to work and finish your project.

Special note: Check to make sure that the jointer fence and the table saw blade are square to the table.