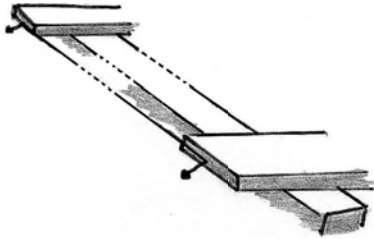
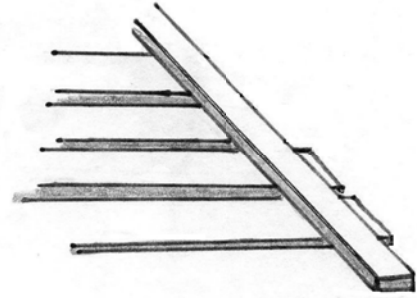


Appendix 2: Steps, Slopes, Boardwalks and Bridges – Guide Sheets

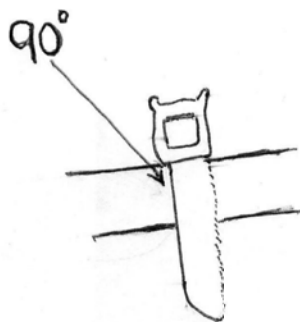
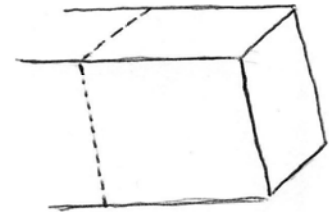
2.5a: Working with wood – tips

There will always be **small differences in lengths of decking boards**. This can make your finished project look untidy. So, when the boards are all nailed on, trim the edges straight using a piece of wood as a straight-edge.



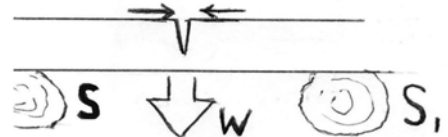
On one side, keep the ends of the boards in a straight line as you fit them (a length of string nailed to 2 measured pieces at the ends can help). Then you will only need to trim the other side at the end of the job.

When you cut wood for the frame, it's very important to cut it straight. If you don't the shape of the frame will be distorted. So carefully draw a line all the way round to guide your saw.

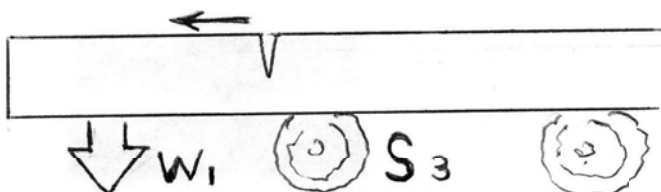


(Most saws are made so that they can help to draw a line perpendicular to the edge of the wood.)

When sawing the wood, **DO NOT support it at the ends** with the cut between the supports (S, S^1). The weight will push down (W) and close the cut, trapping your saw.



Instead, support the wood with **one end hanging free** (S^3). Then the weight of the wood will pull the cut open, making it easier to saw (W^1).



When you have cut almost all the way through, get someone to support the end to prevent it dropping and tearing the wood.

See also 2.5b: Working with wood – logs and landscaping

Appendix 2: Steps, Slopes, Boardwalks and Bridges – Guide Sheets

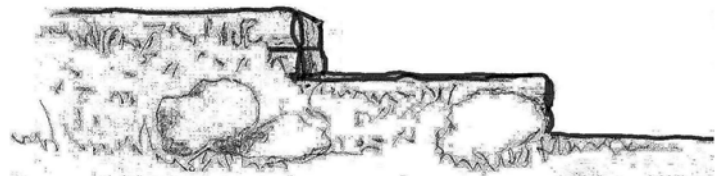
2.5b: Working with wood – logs and landscaping

Logs become available when we work in or near woodland. Use trees which are fairly straight and which are inside the wood and away from the path; take single trees from various different places, so that you do not make an obvious clearing. If possible, choose trees whose removal might benefit the wood, such as weak ones or ones which are being shaded out by bigger trees.

If you have thick logs to work with, it's OK to have the front and sides made from single pieces instead of two pieces.

Stobs which are made from logs should not be thin. Choose wood which is at least 6cm in diameter.

If the steps are in an open area they may look intrusive. Turf and rocks can be used to blend them into their surroundings.



Important: *cutting down trees requires skill and knowledge of safety practices. Only cut down trees if you have been trained to do so.*

Roger Whysall