

# Letters —

## **How to cut boards to make a column**

The angles to cut the edges of the boards for columns (courtesy of Master Gunwaldt Gulbjörn, Keith Dodd, my buddy/husband) are:

for 8 sides:	67.5°
12 sides:	75°
16 sides:	78.75°

It took him about two minutes to come up with this, and it seemed too weird to me at first, but if you divide 360° by the number of sides you get the angle in the middle of the “column,” and each triangle needs to be 180° so it’s half of the difference between 1/8 (or 1/12 or whatever) of a circle and 180°. (That’s not the way he figured it; he used line extensions out on the outside of the figure and figured it from 180° there, but it works out the same way and is easier for me to picture using the inside triangle.)

**Sandra Dodd**  
*Mistress Aelflead of Duckford*

## **Another Clamping Method**

The idea for clamping wooden columns looks interesting. Might I suggest something else? The Lee Valley tools catalog has several variants on the idea of using a fabric band to clamp awkward shapes and polygons, which have the advantage of being both easily adjustable and not marring the work.

**Shelly McLean**  
*Lady Crystian the Undecided*

## **More Permanence, Please**

I enjoy my subscription to Sacred Spaces. I do hope you will devote more attention to large structures such as hovels, crofts, cottages and manors – as well as castles and gates. Though I know everyone’s Valhalla is Pennsic, I think many of us prefer permanent structures. More and more pictures and plans would be appreciated.

**Brice Hereford**  
*Brice of Oakden*

## **Period Cooler Plans**

For period coolers, my source for plans is *Muzzle Loader* magazine’s “The Book of Buckskinning II.” In it is an entire chapter on making your own camp gear (trunks, coolers, chairs, a camp cot, etc.) with the emphasis on function and authenticity. The current price is \$13.95, and the ISBN number is 0-9605666-2-7. Any recent copy of the magazine should have ads for this book.

**George Page**  
*Lord Qatagin-u Jajiradai*

## **Flooring and Wall Panels**

An easy and somewhat inexpensive way to make flooring and wall panels is to use a sheet of CDX grade plywood, and use a router to inscribe board lines. Then stain the plywood however you desire.

**Aaaa**  
*(Name illegible. May refer to the castle Ag)*

## **Medieval Woodworking “How-To”**

As a request for an article, I would dearly love to see something on how to do woodworking for medieval buildings. Things like what kind of joints and how they were constructed, (with the angle of being able to reproduce it). I would like to see this kind of thing, as I’m looking more and more into working out a permanent SCA site for local gatherings.

**Joseph Heck**  
*Terras*

## **Plans for Glastonbury Chairs**

In answer to the question from Robert M. Coulter (about Glastonbury chairs), Colin dearg and Eric Foxworthy built a chair very similar to this one, and they have plans for sale at the address below. The chair breaks down for transport.

**Write to:** Tim Bray  
962 Janet Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549-4731

**Catherine Keegan**  
*Ceridwen MacAoudhegain*

**More ...**

# Letters (continued)

## ***A Bit of Inspiration***

One of my quirks is taking seriously any obligations I might have to any group I am a member of, whether it be the Society as a whole, my local shire, or a household or guild... Since I am a member of the guild, no matter how unwittingly, I feel I should do what I can to make sure the Guild's projects turn out as well as they can. To that end, you will find a check enclosed for \$100. Use it as you may see fit. I will, unfortunately, not be at Pennsic this year, but I am looking forward to seeing pictures of the project.

**Nathan Wright**

*Natan of Windhaven*

## ***From the Pennsic Choir Newsletter***

"The Known World Architectural Guild has offered to build a replica of Chartres Cathedral, a wonderful Gothic structure, behind and around the choir for the concert this year. There will be stained glass etc... To make this production complete, we will be singing music that could have been sung at Chartres..."

**Val Price**

*Mistress Jossetyne*

## ***An Offer Not to be Taken Lightly***

When in doubt, jump right in... I own a good-sized piece of land in the center of Missouri, about 35 miles northwest of Columbia. The total amount is 1480 acres, in two pieces: the bigger piece is 1435 acres of mixed-use land (120 acres of cropland, 300 acres of meadow (in pieces), and the rest is woods, hills, ponds, and scrub); and the other is 46 acres of wooded land (mostly oaks, with a scattering of pines, oaks, and other types), about 1/4 mile south of the bigger piece. I live on the land, which means there's telephone, electricity, and water available. There's plenty of wood available for the cutting, and some of it could be used after suitable logging and drying for a multitude of buildings, from wattle-and-daub to timber-framing to forts. Some of the meadow hasn't been used for pasture or crops in many, many years, which means those fields have no residual fertilizers (man-made or naturally produced), pesticides, or other harmful substances. One particular meadow was used this past year for an event in the midst of The Great Flood of '93, and the ground was dry enough to allow camping.

I've been in the SCA for a long time, and am as anxious as anyone to get Ye Perfect Site. The problem is, it's hard to do everything myself, even with a tractor and chain saw. Now, the question is - with a willing and eager owner, available land, and all that lovely wood, would anyone out there be interested in building period buildings for use as an SCA site? There is obviously not enough time to do real work this summer, especially with green wood, but 1995 is only a year away (and May 1, 1995, will be AS XXX, which is an auspicious number, as it is 3 (the number of The Most Holy Trinity) multiplied by 10 (which is another auspicious number, being the sum of 1 (representing the Lord) and 2 (representing the perfect union between husband and wife) and 3 (again, the Holy Trinity) and 4 (the number of the Gospels). This note brought to you as part of the medieval numerological mindset. err, where was I?) This gives us a year to plan. Actual physical work could be done over several three-day weekends (Memorial Day and the Fourth of July immediately suggest themselves), and/or one or two weeks in summer.

Is anyone interested? Write to me at the address below, or e-mail me at [alban@aol.com](mailto:alban@aol.com) or [alban@delphi.com](mailto:alban@delphi.com) over the Internet, or on either Delphi or America Online: ALBAN. I should be at Pennsic this year, too, on Merchant's Row (look for Potboiler Press, at the pavilion with the large red and yellow device on the roof). In fact, is there going to be a get-together at Pennsic for readers of this newsletter?

*Alban St. Albans, at upper Fenwick  
Shire of the Standing Stones, Calontir*

Write: Eisenstein  
3940 Highway H  
Fayette, MO 65248

## ***In the works***

For those of you who have requested articles, I'm tracking down several pieces, and either planning them or getting permission to reprint them, including: Plans for a Mongolian Yurt; more detailed plans for a cruck building; a Norse sea chest; how to lash down a tent; historic tenting disasters, and how to make a coracle. Thanks for your good ideas - *Ed*.