



Workshop News

Marking & Measuring

Special points of interest:

- Women Build House kick-off event is scheduled for Saturday May 13th! I'll be volunteering most Fridays maybe you can join me!

Habitat for Humanity

Women Build

- Check out additional Workshop for Women Articles at: denver.yourhub.com
- Visit our booth at the Highlands Ranch Home & Garden Expo (May 6 & 7)
- May & June classes are scheduled - visit www.workshopforwomen.com

Did you know?

The chalk line used in modern building construction dates back to Ancient Egypt.

"Snapping a line," a technique familiar in modern building construction, is used to mark straight lines over long distances using what is known as a "chalk line". After 5,000 years the only change in this technique is that we use chalk where the Egyptians used wet red paint.

There are several hand tools that are used in basic carpentry to measure and mark your material for cutting and/or assembly. This article will discuss each tool and when and how it is used.

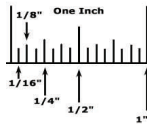
The tool most of us are familiar with is the standard **tape measure**.



This is used to measure a range of distances. Tape measures can be purchased to measure various lengths up to 50 feet.

The key to being able to read a tape measure is learning and understanding all the subdivisions of an inch.

Each inch is divided into halves, quarters, eighths,



and sixteenths (If math class was too many years ago or you're over 40 and those little lines tend to blur into each other look for some of the newer tape measures that indicate the different fractions for you right on the tape). In addition to feet and inches, a tape measure also has special marks at 16 inch intervals to indicate the layout of most floor joists. The end hook always appears to be loose and this is intentional. It's designed to slide a distance equal to its own thickness so both inside and outside measurements will be accurate.

Once you have made your measurement there are several ways to mark the cut line. When marking material or distances less than 12 inches (i.e. across a 2 x 4) you can

use a **speed square**.



This handy tool can be used to mark straight and square lines. It can also be used as a protractor to mark angled cuts. Speed Squares come in both 6 inch and 12 inch sizes. The speed square also has many other uses that are beyond the scope of this article.

For marking measurements over long distances on things such as plywood, roofing, flooring or walls, you will want to use a **chalk line**. Which is essentially a string that is covered in chalk that is pulled taut between two marks and "snapped". The chalk marks a straight line between the two points.



Habitat for Humanity Women Build Starts May 10th!

If you've been thinking about volunteering now's the time to act! The 2006 Women Build house is starting. The house is being built at 4960 Sherman St in Denver.

What makes this project even more fun is the family we are building in partnership with, Mary

Jones and her children, Lane (7) and her three daughters, Marcia (6), Lauren (5), and Marlene (4). Mary works as a Para (assistant) for children with developmental and cognitive impairments. She loves her job and is pursuing a degree so that she can be a group leader

Join me, Mary and the

other women of Metro Denver in fun, fellowship and giving back. Hope to see you at the "official" kick off event on May 13th. Click on the link to the left to go directly to the Habitat website.

Sign up to Volunteer TODAY!