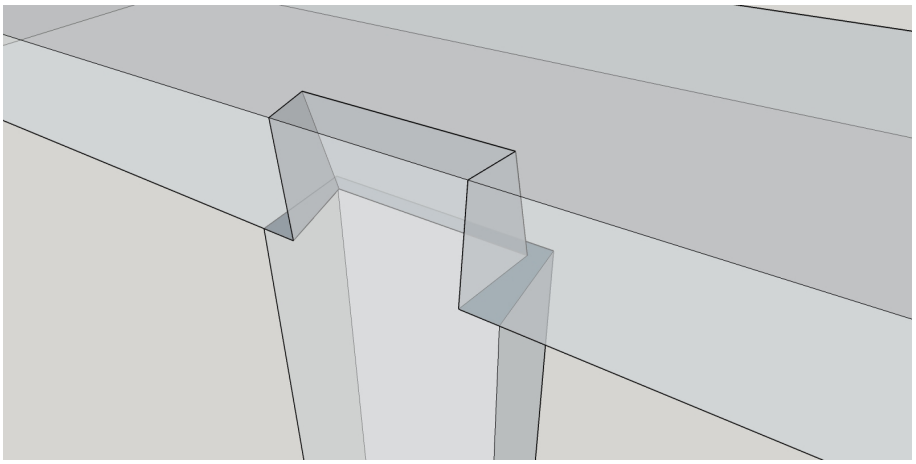
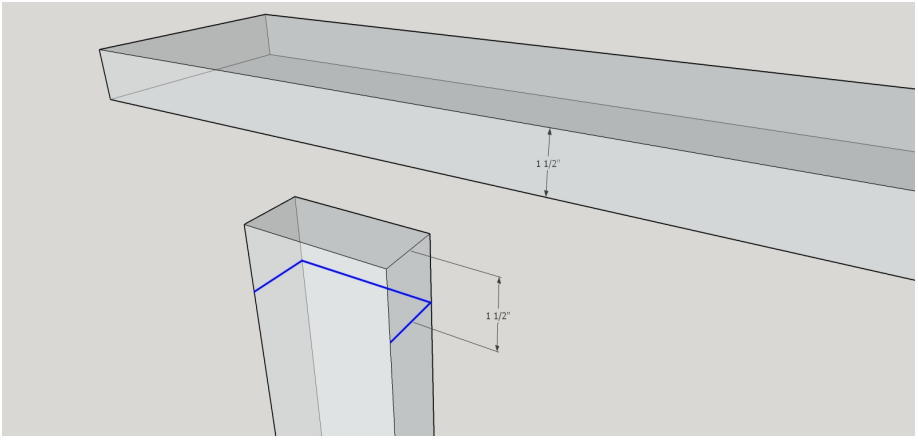
# RISING DOVETAILS - STEP BY STEP



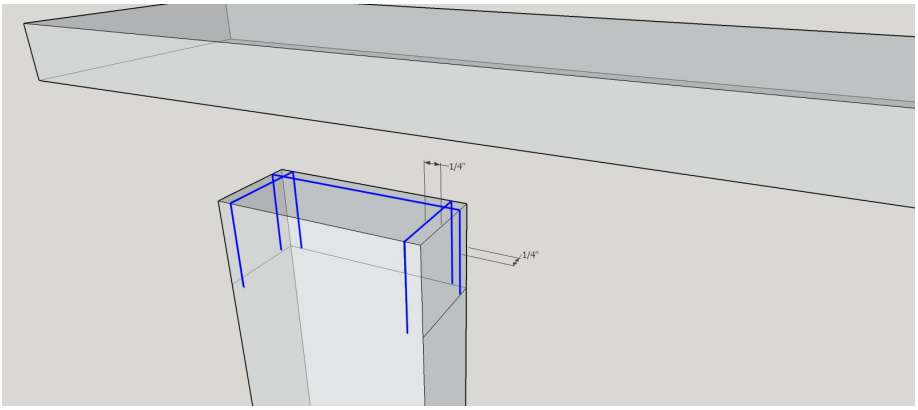
**Before you Begin:**

- When marking layout lines, a knife can yield greater accuracy, however, a pencil can also. Pay particular attention to the waste side of layout lines, and if using pencil – leave the mark and pare to fit.
- This layout is a complicated one. Take your time and practice a couple times.
- This tutorial uses squared off "two-by" stock for the examples but the basics are easily adapted to any other size.




**Step 1:**

Scribe a line, equal the thickness of the top piece, around the upper portion of the leg. Don't do the face of the leg yet.




**Step 2:**

Setting a gauge to 1/4", scribe in the cheek lines on the left, right and rear of the leg piece. Be sure not to scribe too low on the leg's face.

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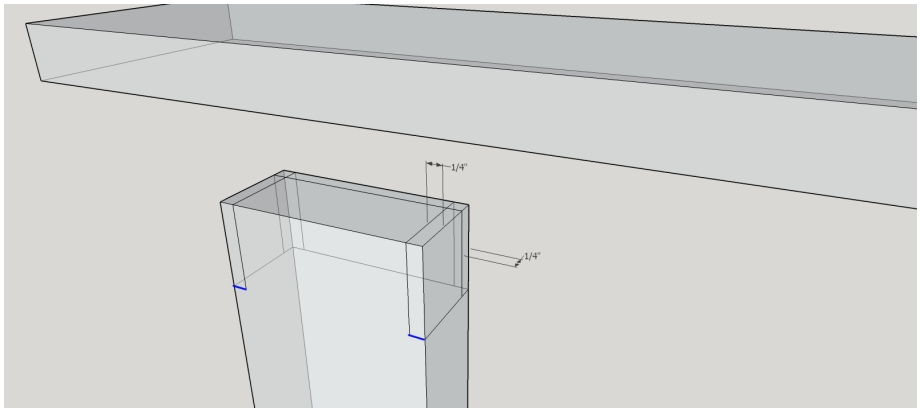
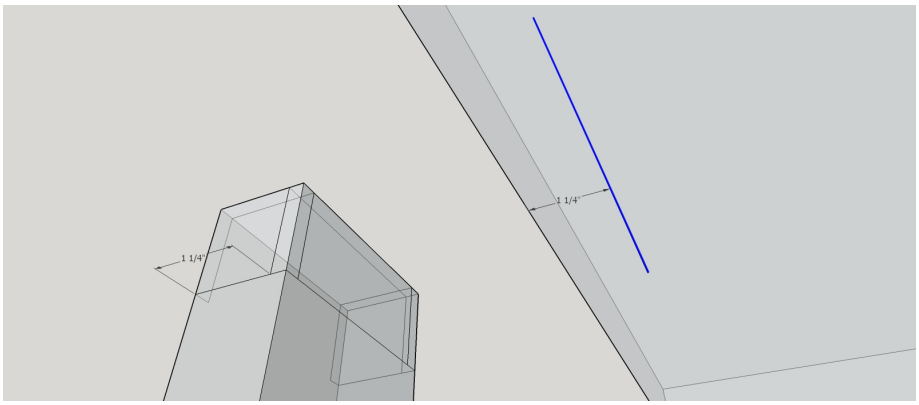


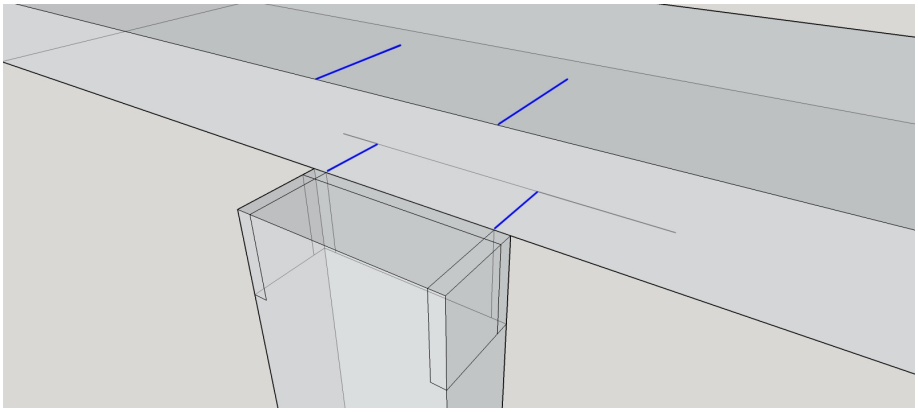

**Step 3:**

Now scribe the original shoulder marks from Step 1 square across, with the cheek lines from Step 2



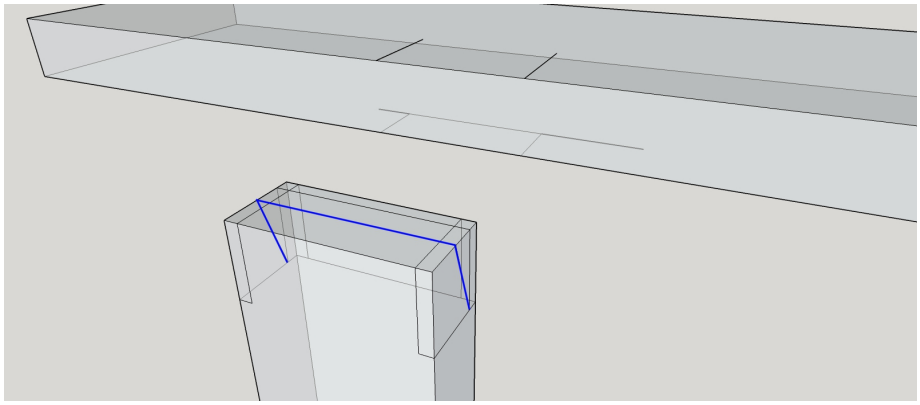

**Step 4:**

Next, gauge a line on the underside of the top. The distance from the edge of the top to this line, equals the face of the leg to the rear cheek. (Will be the final thickness of the dovetail base )



**Step 5:**

Square lines on the upper and lower faces of the top indicating where the left and right cheeks were gauged. For accuracy, present the leg to the top and take the marks directly.



**Step 6:**

Now mark the angle of rear slope by marking a bisecting line, horizontally across the top of the leg. Then from the ends of that line to the intersection of the rear cheek mark and lower base line

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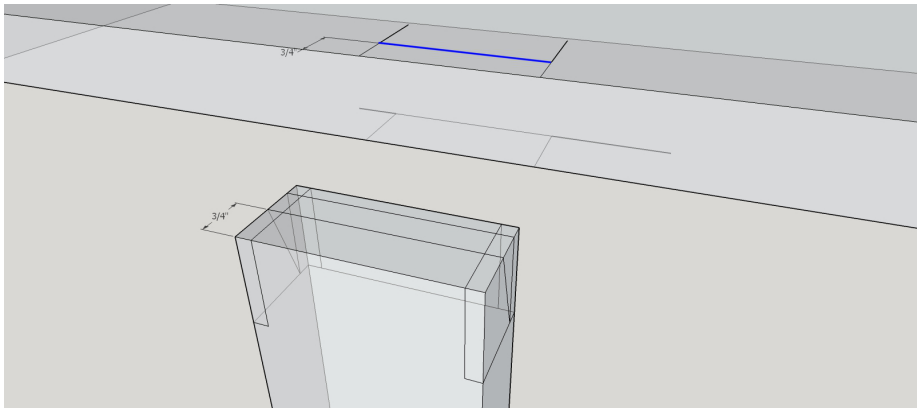
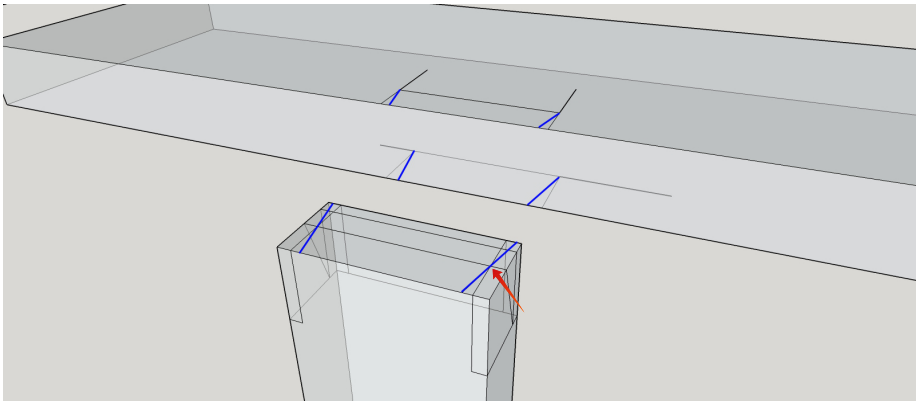


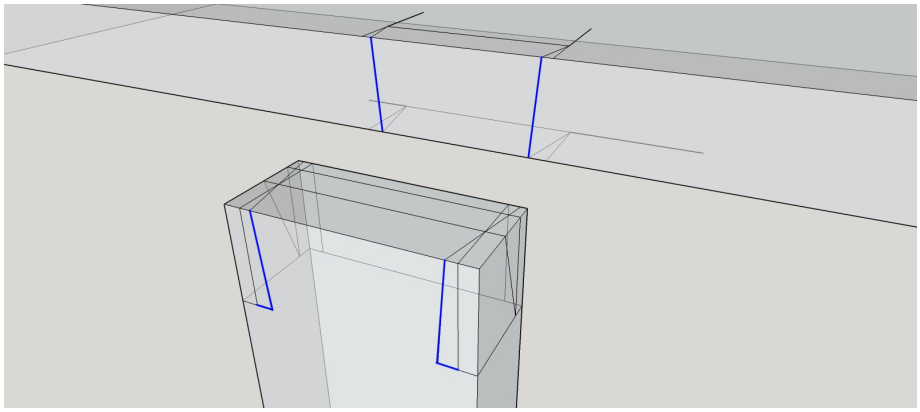

**Step 7:**

Transfer the thickness, from the face of leg to the bisecting line from the last step, to the upper portion of the leg piece.



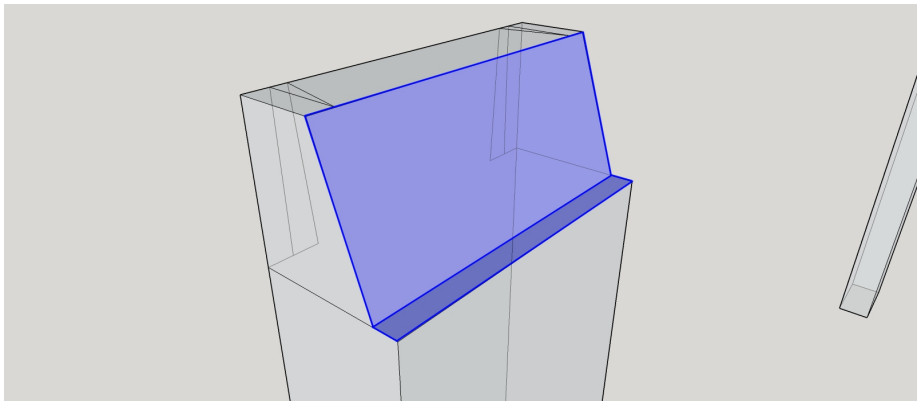
**Step 8:**

Set a bevel gauge to between 1:6 and 1:8. Mark in the angles of the tails on the upper and lower side of the top, as well as, the top of the leg. ***(Note how the mark on the leg intersects the bisecting line and left and right cheek lines.)***



**Step 9:**

On the top, join the the angled lines on the upper and lower face. Use a bevel gauge to transfer this resultant angle to the face of the leg. Now you can extend the lower shoulder line if you wanted.



**Step 10:**

Time to start cutting. Begin with the rear of the leg. Cut along the lower shoulder and the 'rising' slope. ***Be sure to cut on the waste side of layout lines!!***

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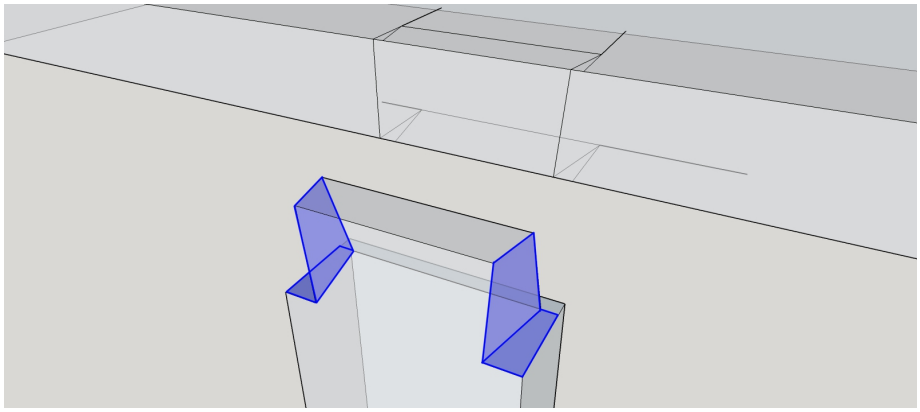
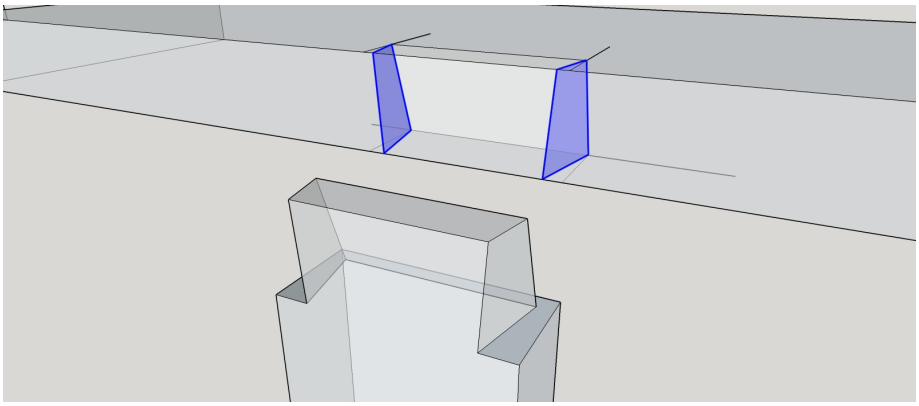


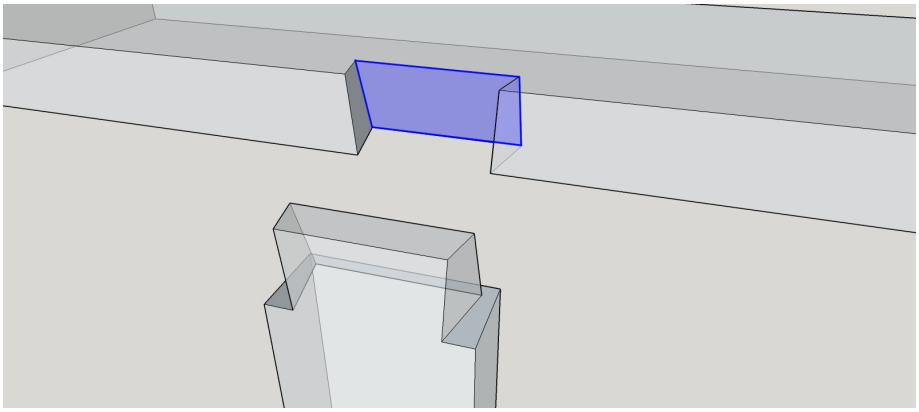
**Step 11:**

Cut the left and right sides away from the leg ***ensuring you cut from the waste side of the layout lines.***



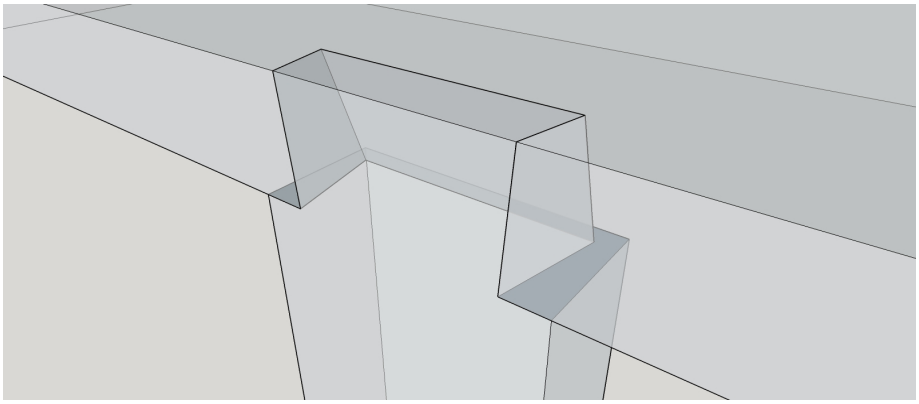
**Step 12:**

Using saw of choice, cut 2 kerfs into the top, on the left and right sides of the socket. ***Be sure not to cut too deep as well as keeping to the waste side of the layout lines.***



**Step 13:**

Use a chisel to chop away the waste from the socket by approaching from both the upper and lower faces to meet in the middle (preventing tear-out)



**Step 14:**

At this point the joint may still be way too tight. **Slowly pare away where needed to achieve a snug fit.** Take small amounts and test fit often!

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