



Timber Framers Guild

PO Box 60, Becket, MA 01223

413-623-9926 • Fax 888-453-0879 • will@tfguild.org

DRAFT

Scribe Rule Curriculum

DESCRIPTION

Describe the principals of Scribe Rule Layout and its uses for timber framing.

Demonstrate the use of Scribe Rule layout for joinery.

Demonstrate the use of Scribe Rule Layout for frame sections.

LEARNING TASKS CONTENT

1. Describe Scribe Rule Layout
 - Principles of Plumb & Level References
 - History of Scribe Rule Layout
 - Origins of Lofting / Masons' Loft
 - Scribe Rule, Timber Resources & Architectural Form
 - Drawing Requirements
 - Horizon Lines
 - "Chalking Out" on Floor
 - Primary & Secondary Timbers
 - Lining Timbers
 - Positioning Timbers
 - Accommodating Wind, Bow & Crook
 - Leveling up & Level Marks
 - Double-Cutting (Origins of Square Rule?)
 - Full-scribe / French Scribe / Lofting / Other Variations
 - Pros & Cons of Layout Form
2. Scribe Rule for Joinery
 - Marking-up Layout Lines & References
 - Transferring Information from Floor
 - Setting Dividers
 - Lines of Sight / Axis of Scribe
 - Peg Layout & Offsets
 - Stack-Scribing Techniques
 - Tips & Tricks
 - Tumbling
 - Special Tools & Jigs
3. Scribe Rule for Frame Sections
 - Bent Layout / Truss Layout
 - Wall Layout
 - Floor Layout
 - Roof Layout
 - Tips & Tricks

GOALS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

Practical:

Given the following tools:

- Carpenter's Pencil
- Tape Measure
- 2 ft Spirit Level
- Framing Square / Steel Rule
- Combination Square
- Chalk Line / Ink Line
- Dividers
- Plumb Bob (preferably French type)

- i) Learners will demonstrate their understanding of Scribe Rule by by laying out a simple mortise and tenon joint on two connecting timbers. Layout will be accurate to 1/16" tolerance overall.
- ii) Using only the tools listed above, learners will demonstrate their understanding of Scribe Rule as follows:
 - Lay out a simple frame section or truss on workshop floor in full scale. Identify Critical dimensions and Datums.
 - Line timbers.
 - Position Principle Timbers (level) over layout to within 1/16" tolerance using plumb bob and level.
 - Scribe all necessary joinery to within 1/16" tolerance.