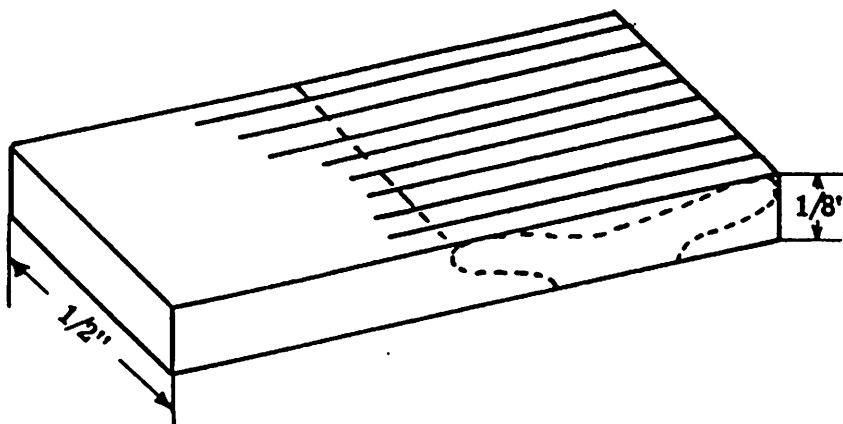


C.M.M.S. Shop Notes**Wood Cleats**

In trying to fashion the many deck and bulwark cleats required for OLIVER CROMWELL, I accidentally stumbled on a means of mass producing them. This may be old hat to many, but since it has been successful, a brief description is given here so that others may try it and probably improve on it.

I started with a smooth block of applewood $1/8$ " thick x $1/2$ " wide x about 2" or 3" long. On the $1/8$ " face, I sketched the outline of the side elevation of the cleat with a hard pencil. On the $1/2$ " face, I drew parallel lines $1/16$ " apart.

Holding the block in a vise, I carefully saw across the $1/2$ " width with a jeweler's saw, following the pencil outline and left one end of the blank still attached to the block. Then, turning the block, I sawed down each parallel line to the end of the still-attached rough horn. A careful cut across gave me eight blanks.



By holding the base of the blank in a pair of squarenose pliers, the horns may be rounded with a needle file and desired shape smoothed with fine sandpaper.

This method insures obtaining at least eight units of reasonably the same length, thickness and shape. The smallest I have been able to turn out were $7/32$ " long between tips of horns.

I found the easiest way to hold these for drilling and painting was to mount them in a row on the sticky side of masking tape or icebox tape. Even with a #70 drill, I found drilling one hole was better than two because of the danger of splitting. They were secured in place with Elmer's Glue and a wooden pin. For best results, where they were secured on a previously finished deck or bulwark, the finish was scratched a little so the glue would catch.

This same method would work with other media such as boxwood or plastic.

— J. H. Kingman

P.S. Whether this method will work for shroud cleats which require a longer base for seizing the ends - remains to be tried.