

Wood Try Square Plan of Procedure

Materials*

Handle	1 – 5/8" x 1 1/2" x 6" hardwood
Blade	1 – 3/16" x 1 1/2" x 9-10" hardwood
Pins	2 – 1/4 - 3/8" diameter dowels

*Size parts to suit your needs. Quartersawn material is best.

1. Surface all parts. Ensure all surfaces are flat, faces and edges are square, and opposite surfaces are parallel.
2. Cut the slot for the blade on the table saw. Install a flat-bottom kerf blade (Forrest #1 grind or rip blade). Use a sled and large stop block to support the handle, or a tenon jig. Cut the depth about 1/4" shallower than the width of the blade. Flip the handle after the first cut to center the slot. Move the stop or jig as necessary until the blade fits in the stop. Alternatively, make the slot a little small and plane the blade to fit.
3. Dry-fit the blade to ensure it seats fully and can be positioned square to the handle with no gaps. Before glue-up, create the chamfers at the top of the handle as shown. Use five-minute epoxy to glue it in; it gives you plenty of working time. Be sure to check the blade for square several times while the epoxy is setting up.
4. Mark and drill the holes for the pins using a brad-point bit. Make sure the hole is backed up to avoid tear-out. Glue in the pins. When the glue is dry, cut flush and plane all surfaces flat.
5. Verify square; tweak as necessary.
6. Knock down any sharp edges with 320-grit sandpaper. Finish as desired (shellac and/or wax works well).

