Three-Legged

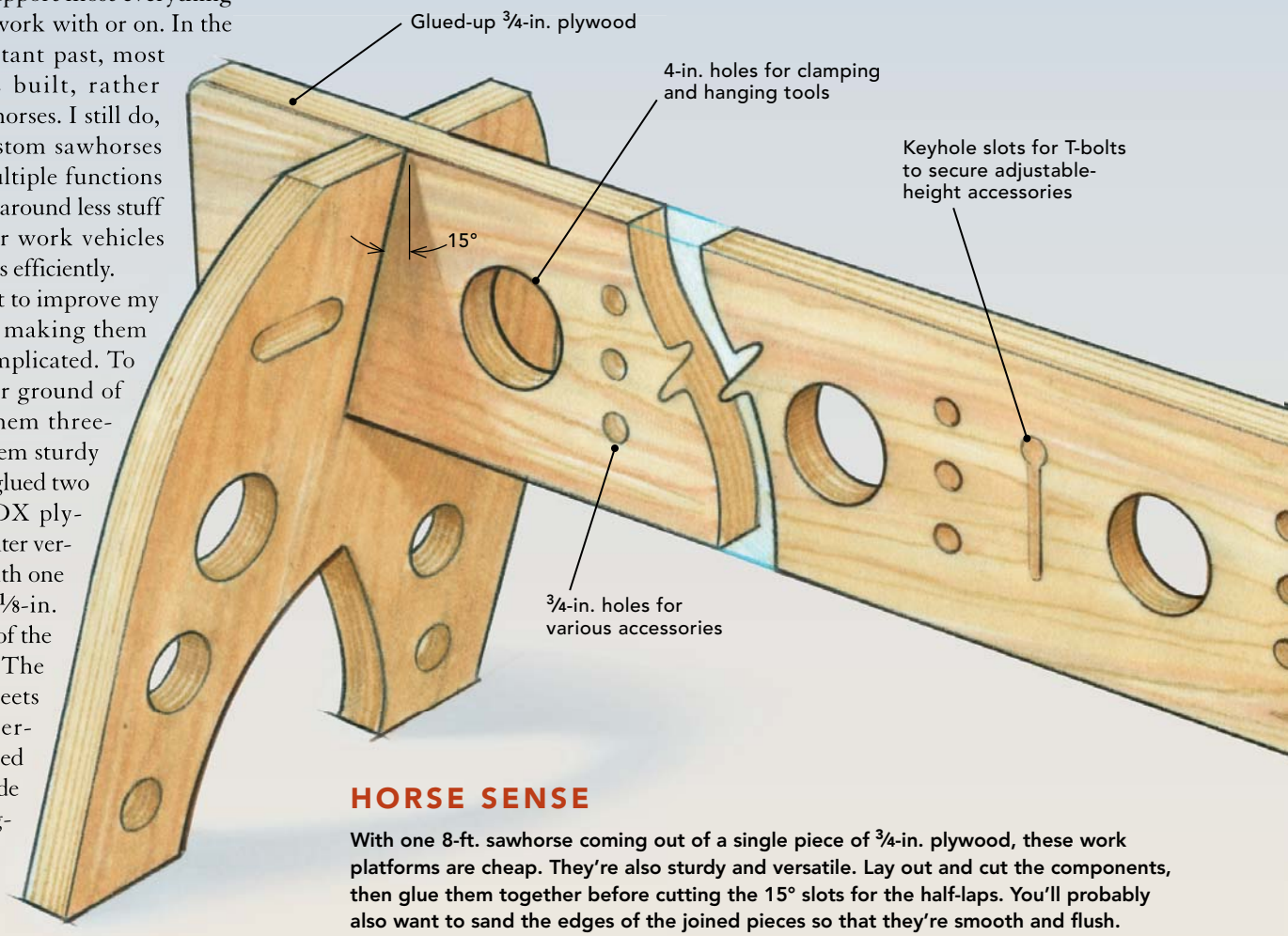
This versatile knockdown design sets up quickly and stores flat

Sawhorses support most everything carpenters work with or on. In the not-too-distant past, most carpenters built, rather than bought, their horses. I still do, because having custom sawhorses that can handle multiple functions means you can haul around less stuff and can use smaller work vehicles and tight workspaces efficiently.

I recently set about to improve my sawhorses without making them cumbersome or complicated. To handle the irregular ground of job sites, I made them three-legged. To make them sturdy but not too heavy, I glued two layers of ¾-in. CDX plywood together. (Lighter versions can be built with one layer of ¾-in. or 1⅛-in. plywood.) One end of the rail serves as a leg. The other leg section meets the rail at 15°, interlocking via half-lapped notches. I've now made rails in lengths ranging from 4 ft. to 8 ft.

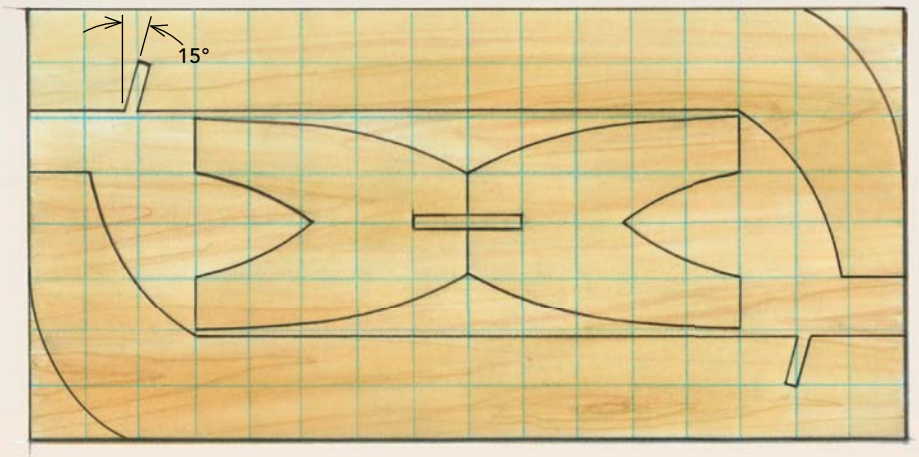
I bored and slotted the pieces to reduce weight without an appreciable loss of strength. The holes also allow the sawhorses to carry worktables, a tablesaw, or a miter saw, and to accommodate applications such as infeed/outfeed support. U-shaped sacrificial plywood caps protect the rails when I'm cutting on them. The hardware for the adjustable-height components is easily sourced through suppliers such as Rockler or Woodcraft. □

Brian Campbell owns Basswood Artisan Carpentry in St. Paul, Minn. For more on his sawhorses, visit basswoodmodular.com. Photos by the author.



HORSE SENSE

With one 8-ft. sawhorse coming out of a single piece of ¾-in. plywood, these work platforms are cheap. They're also sturdy and versatile. Lay out and cut the components, then glue them together before cutting the 15° slots for the half-laps. You'll probably also want to sand the edges of the joined pieces so that they're smooth and flush.



Drawings: Bob La Pointe

Sawhorses

BY BRIAN CAMPBELL

ACCESSORIZE YOUR OWN

A box slotted to fit around the rail supports a miter saw. Stock is supported by adjustable-height outfeed supports. A tablesaw rests on pipe clamps secured in the holes in the horses. Additional accessories are limited only by your imagination.

Store workpieces efficiently. *Great for storing trim or for use as drying racks, mini-shelves attach to the horses with T-bolts.*

Cams support a miter-saw stand. *Dowels from the cams ride in holes in the sawhorse. Rotating the cam changes its height.*

Handy hold-down. *Commonly available at woodworking suppliers, a bench dog used sideways clamps a workpiece solidly.*

Job-site workbench. *T-bolts and knobs allow the slotted supports to hold the benchtop at a variety of heights.*