



## TECHIE TIPS

Simply '*understanding the processes*' can improve your enjoyment with woodworking. With your **Scuttlebutt**, I hope to give you some quick tips to get the job done right.

Here we go:

- **Get the 'plan' out of your head and on to paper**  
This is really a 'no brainer' yet so many males **resist** because they 'think' they **know** what they are doing. Potential problems can become apparent and solved when a 'mud-map' is drawn. And our friendly techies will have a common point to refer to when troubleshooting with you.
- **Learn to make a 'cutting list' if there are multiple pieces in the assembled job.**  
This will help you to plan for sourcing material and estimating quantities –particularly where the direction of the timber grain is important.
- **Be accurate with your marking out**  
Always measure from the **same edge** on the **same side** of the material  
Draw your right angles from the **same edge** on the **same side** of the material.  
Plan to use a **centreline** when marking out **symmetrical pieces** or **drilling holes**.  
Make a **3mm gap** between each piece you mark out **if hand cutting**.  
**Keep your pencil sharp** with a conical point. Use the electric sharpener on the Supervisor desk.
- **Check the measuring / marking out tools for damage before beginning**  
The square ends of steel rules **sometimes sustain damage** from misuse, like opening paint cans. When this happens, begin your marking from the **100mm** mark and count off the target length.  
**Learn to check if the try square** has been dropped and **therefore inaccurate**. [*Ask how*]  
Never use a **try square** with a **45 degree bevel** for drawing **90 degree** lines. [*Ask why*]
- **Use an old exercise book to record your sketches and related notes.**  
It is surprising how useful it can be for **replacing** a damaged component or simply **making** another. Years later you can look back with pleasure on your progress with this wonderful pastime.