#### **Chapter 3 – Marking Studs-Exterior Wall Plates**

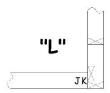
Lay Out Studs
on LONG
WALLS

1. Lay out long walls first. Before starting, check opposite walls to be sure they are precisely the same lengths (within 1/8"). If not, trim to equalize.

NOTE: This is very important with 24" o.c. framing because it ensures the studs are located directly under roof trusses.

- 2. Hook a tape on the zero end of the plates and mark the location of all studs on 24" o.c.
  - a. Center stud marking jig on these center marks, mark both edges of stud and place an "X" within edge marks on all four plates where no window or door
  - b. If the stud marking jig is not available,
    - i. Use the tape measure to mark the edges ¾" on either side of the center mark, or
    - ii. Slide the tape ¾" past the end of the plates and mark one edge of each stud location.

      Using the tape or a speed square, mark the second edge 1½" to the opposite side of center.
  - c. If 24" center falls at King stud, leave the "K" designation on that set of plates. Mark "X's" on the other set of plates. If the "K" location is <u>not on center</u> it may have to be moved. See Construction Supervisor or Site Leader.
  - d. If 24" center falls within a <u>window</u>, mark a "SX" ("Short Stud") on bottom plate. (DO NOT mark an "SX" within a door)
- 3. If length of walls not a multiple of 24", may be necessary to add extra stud at 48"
  - a. If wall long by ¾" or less, ignore the difference
  - b. If >¾", measure back from end and center stud at 48"
    - i. If it overlaps stud on 24" centers, locate extra stud tight to the one on 24" centers
    - ii. Otherwise, center stud at 48" from the end
  - c. If house plan does not show OSB sheathing at wall end or if door or window prevents installation of a full 48" wide sheet, see Construction Supervisor.
- 4. At each end of long walls, layout a corner with two 2x6 studs, making an L-corner
  - a. Make one mark at 1½" from end, mark with "X" (like a normal stud)
  - b. Make second mark 5½" from the first mark (the width of a 2x6)
  - c. Mark this "L" as "Corner Down"



### Lay Out Studs on SHORT WALLS

- 5. Extend tape 5½" past zero end and mark studs on 24" o.c. Mark "X's" and "SX's" as usual.
- 6. At the <u>non-zero</u> end, again extend tape 5½" past the end and measure back 48". If no stud at that location, proceed as follows:
  - a. If any stud is <u>centered</u> between 48" and 52½" <u>from the outside corner</u>, the edge of OSB can be centered on that stud during wall building.
  - b. If no stud is centered within that range, add a stud at 48" from the end.

# Finish Marking Plates

- 7. Mark the inside edge of the upper plate with "UPPER" and the inside edge or the bottom plate with BOTTOM. Mark the upper plate with a compass orientation (N,S,E,W) as it lays on the deck.
- 8. Lay plates flat on deck with inside edges facing in with ends at prescribed locations
- 9. Mark <u>inside edge</u> of <u>long wall bottom plates</u> 5½" from end to aid wall building

## **Quality Points**

### **Chapter 3 – Marking Studs-Exterior Wall Plates**

- All studs marked on 24" on centers from the zero end
- Additional stud marked (if needed) on non-zero end of long walls
- · At the non-zero end of short walls, verify stud marked in proper location for sheathing
- All "SX" studs under window sills are marked
- Both ends of long walls must have "L-corners" marked
- Both ends of longwall bottom plates are marked 5½" from the end to aid in alignment during wall building

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