

Quick Reference Guide

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Chapter 3 - Laying Out Exterior Walls

Layout Exterior Corners with String	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. At each corner measure in $5\frac{1}{2}$" from the outside surface of rim box. Measure in from both sides, mark an "X".2. Drive two 8d nails into the outside of the rim board, roughly aligned with these initial corner marks.3. Stretch a continuous, tight string between these nails for all exterior walls. The strings crossing at each corner create an easily adjustable corner.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slide two $\frac{1}{4}$" spacers <u>tight to the rim board</u> under each string near each corner (between the corner mark and the rim board) to keep the string straight and off the surface when making adjustments.• Align the two strings at each corner over the corner mark using two additional 8d nails to move and hold the line left and right. Drive these nails <u>close to the spacers</u> 2"-3" away from the corner mark to allow additional changes later with additional nails.
Create a Rectangle	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Measure the lengths (between string lines) of opposite walls and record on the Wall Layout Worksheet (copy in Manual).<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If opposite wall lengths differ by $\frac{1}{8}$" <u>or MORE</u>, add $\frac{1}{2}$ the difference at <u>each</u> end of the shorter wall• If walls differ by <u>less than $\frac{1}{8}$"</u>, ignore the difference and proceed to Step 5.<p>NOTE: If house includes a corner porch, see manual.</p>
Square the Rectangle	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. With a long steel tape, <u>burn a foot</u> and measure the diagonals between the string line corner marks and record.6. If they differ by $\frac{1}{8}$" <u>or more</u>, adjust the string lines using additional 8d nails as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At <u>each</u> end of the SHORT diagonal, lengthen the LONG wall by $\frac{1}{2}$ the difference.• Recheck for square and adjust as needed.
Check for Rim Bow	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Check all four sides of the rim bow: measure between the string line and the outside of the rim board every 4' to 5' and record on the Worksheet.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the maximum measurement is <u>greater than $5\frac{5}{8}$"</u>, move both ends of the mason line equally toward the rim board (use the 8d nails) until maximum = $5\frac{1}{2}$".• If the difference is <u>equal to or less than $5\frac{5}{8}$"</u>, ignore the difference and proceed to Step 8.
Complete Layout	<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Mark final corner marks on the deck at the intersecting corner string line locations9. Remove the string line and nails.10. Snap and spray red chalk lines for all wall locations.

Quality Points

Chapter 3 - Laying Out Exterior Walls

- Main floor wall layouts are complete:
 - Exterior and interior walls are marked on deck
 - Opposing walls are of equal length (within 1/8")
 - Rectangle is square (within 1/8")
 - Corner porch (if existing) properly laid out per manual
- All wall plates are cut and marked for studs, windows, and doors
 - Long wall bottom plates are marked 51/2" from ends to align with short wall chalk lines
 - All Studs (X), Kings (K), Jacks (J) marked, door and window areas labeled with size on top edges of wall plates
 - All Wall plates are securely nailed together with duplex nails
 - 2 exterior short walls are off the deck and set aside
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- Component assemblies are complete and labeled:
 - Exterior components
 - Interior components
- Stairs are complete:
 - Temporary stair handrail is installed on lower half only
 - Temporary stair cover is installed and secured
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