Light, Strong, Stackable Sawhorses

A project plan for building versatile sawhorses

For more FREE project plans from Fine Woodworking
CLICK HERE NOW

Enjoy our entire site FREE for 14 days!
450+ videos, 33-year archive, blogs, and more
TRY IT NOW
Light, strong sawhorses stack neatly

I’ve used these sawhorses in the shop since about 1978. Even though they’re light, the horses have never failed. It’s easy to make a bunch of them, and the entire lot can be stored in one neat stack.

The legs are attached to the sawhorse with a scarf joint that is glued, clamped, and screwed. A spline added to the joint boosts shear strength and maintains the correct angle for the splay during assembly.

Cutting the scarf on the leg is tricky. You’ll need a jig similar to the one shown in the drawing at right. First, miter both ends of the leg with a compound miter, 15° and 15°. Then clamp a pair of legs in the jig, which holds them splayed both 15° front to back and 15° side to side. With the tablesaw blade set vertically, cut the cheeks. To cut the spline slot in a leg, first set both the miter gauge and the tablesaw blade at 15°. Then, with the scarf joint facing down, use the miter gauge to support the leg as it’s passed over the blade.

—Louis Mackall, Guilford, Conn.