

Making Wooden Jam Cleats

By Larry Feeney

Jam cleats can be a handy thing for quickly adjusting sheets and the like. Wooden ones look better on our traditional small craft and they are easy to make out of scrap hardwood.



Scraps of locust waiting for something useful to do. To paraphrase Michelangelo, "You just cut away the parts that don't look like jam cleats."



Rough cut. These are double the finish thickness and will be sawn in half to form two cleats each.



Rough sanded and shaped a little. These are “mini” cleats— they will be used for *Anemone's* sheet.



Sanded and drilled for #6 screws: a $5/32$ clearance hole from the top through the base. Ready for oil finish.



In use. The line is more secure if a turn is taken around the open side of the cleat before jamming.

These cleats can, of course, be made in any size desired and out of many different suitable hardwoods, although the denser the wood the better. The depth of the base above the mounting surface can be easily adjusted by sanding or with a block plane to obtain just the right amount of jamming. Oil finish is preferred over varnish, the latter being slick and less likely to grip the line. For the same reason, hard-finished synthetic lines like Dacron and Nylon will be more likely to slip in the cleat than natural materials such as the cotton line illustrated. A hitch can be taken around the longer horn of the cleat when extra security is desired.