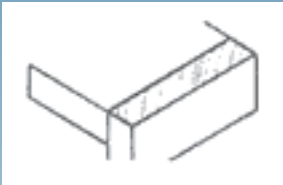


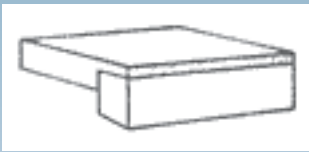
BASIC WOODWORKING JOINTS

Perhaps the most important factor that makes or breaks a project is the joinery. Usually, the more difficult the joint, the stronger it is. That's why it's best to decide on the joints you'll use early on in the planning stages. Here's a rundown of the most popular joints that are used.



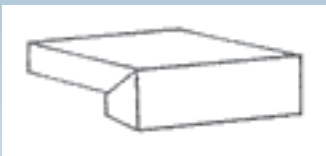
Butt Joint

The simplest joint for joining two pieces of timber, either at a corner or edge to edge. Make it stronger with glue blocks and/or screws.



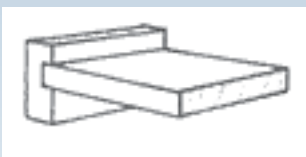
Lap Joint

A modification of the butt joint made by cutting a rabbet in the overlapping piece. Adds more gluing surface and strength than a butt joint.



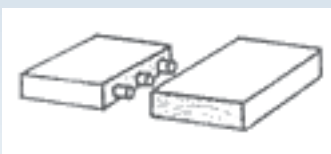
Mitre Joint

Create this corner joint by sawing one end of each piece to 45°. It demands accurate cutting for best strength and visual appeal.



Dado Joint

Most popular on bookcase shelves. A dado cut in one piece receives the end of the other.



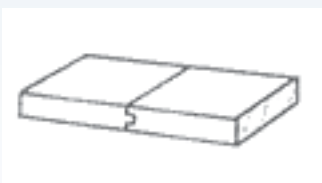
Dowel Joint

Drill aligning holes in each piece of wood, then glue dowels in place for a tight joint. Perfection requires a dowelling jig and bits.



Mortise-and-Tenon Joint

A strong, traditional joint that can be made even stronger by adding a peg. To add visual appeal mortises may not go all the way through the receiving timber.



Tongue-and-Groove Joint

This joint allows for wood shrinkage, it's great for floors and paneling. Cut groove in the edge of one piece and a tongue on the other to fit into the groove.



Through-Dovetail Joint

One of the best looking joints there is, but also one that requires more patience and accuracy to cut. The interlocking feature makes it really strong, as well as adding visual interest.