

# How to Make a Simple Mallet

*Step-by-Step*  
*Tips, too!*



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## Some Tips to Start

1. A mallet can be deconstructed into two parts: the head and the handle. Use hardwoods only.
2. The head and handle often have contrasting colors, such as walnut and maple. This is done solely for aesthetics.
3. BBs or flat washers are used to add weight to the mallet head.
4. Choosing the right adhesive is a key step in crafting a durable mallet. Titebond Ultimate is a good choice.

## More Tips

5. A handy method to combat parts slippage when gluing is to add a few drops of CA glue and an activator. Hand-hold the parts in precise placement until the CA sets. Follow up with clamps until the wood glue cures.
6. While this project is simple, it has several steps. Instead of constructing a single mallet, consider making multiples. Save, trade, or sell the extras.

# Materials and Dimensions

Wood	Species*	Final Dimensions			1 Mallet	4 Mallets
		T	W	L	# Pieces	# Pieces
Head						
Sides	Hickory	3/4"	3"	5 1/4"	2	8
Center	Walnut	3/4"	3"	5 1/4"	1	4
Shims	Hickory	3/16"	3/4"	3"	4	16
Handle	Walnut	1 1/8"	1 1/8"	12"	1	4

\* Maker's choice.

- Other Useful Items

- ✓ Flat washers or BBs
- ✓ Wood glue
- ✓ CA glue – medium
- ✓ Activator
- ✓ Finish

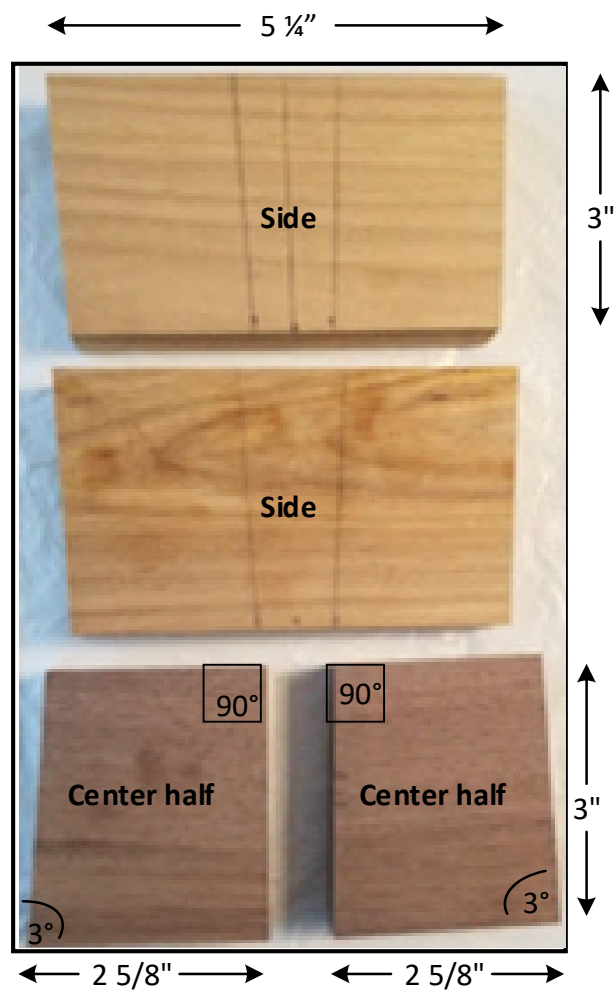
# Raw Materials – The Start

Boards  
3/4" X 4" X 24"



Handle  
1 1/8" X 1 1/8" X 24"

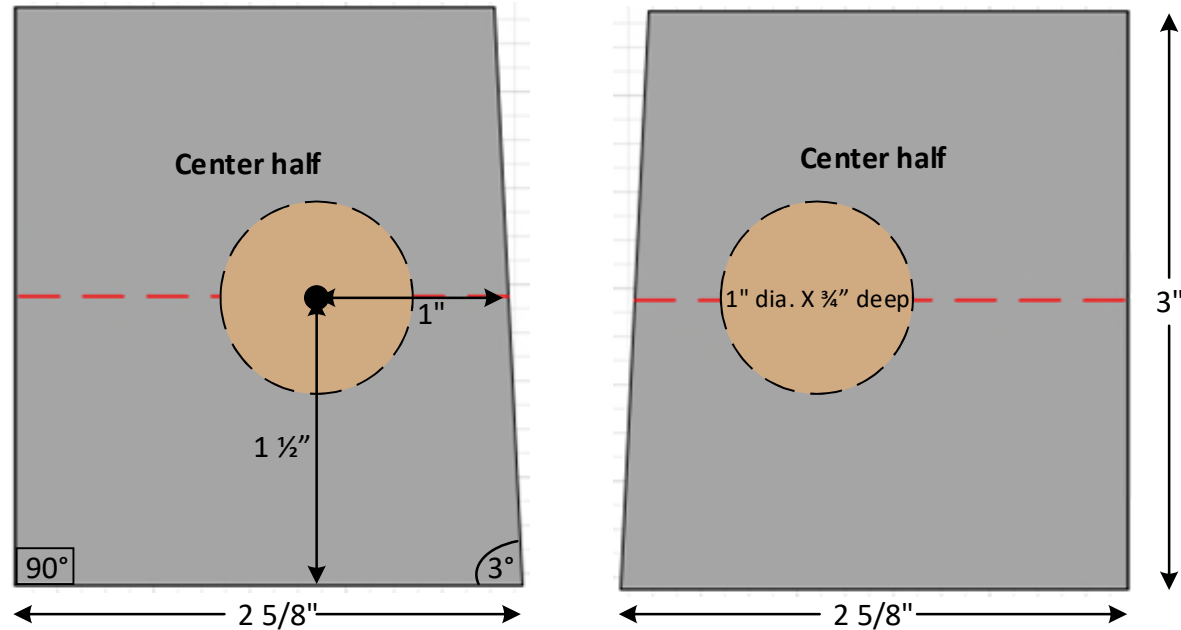
# The Mallet Head



The measurements shown are final dimensions

Pieces should be slightly oversized by 1/4" at the start

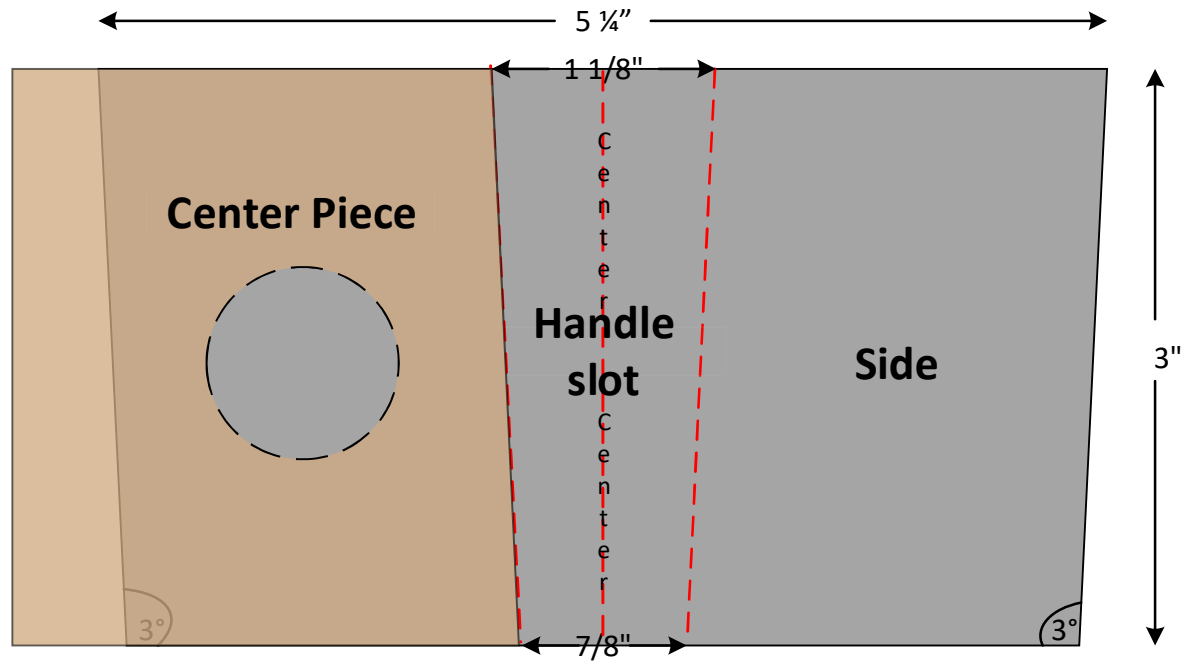
# The Mallet Head Center Pieces



**Tip:** Drill holes before assembling the mallet head

# Mallet Head Detail

Alignment  
is critical

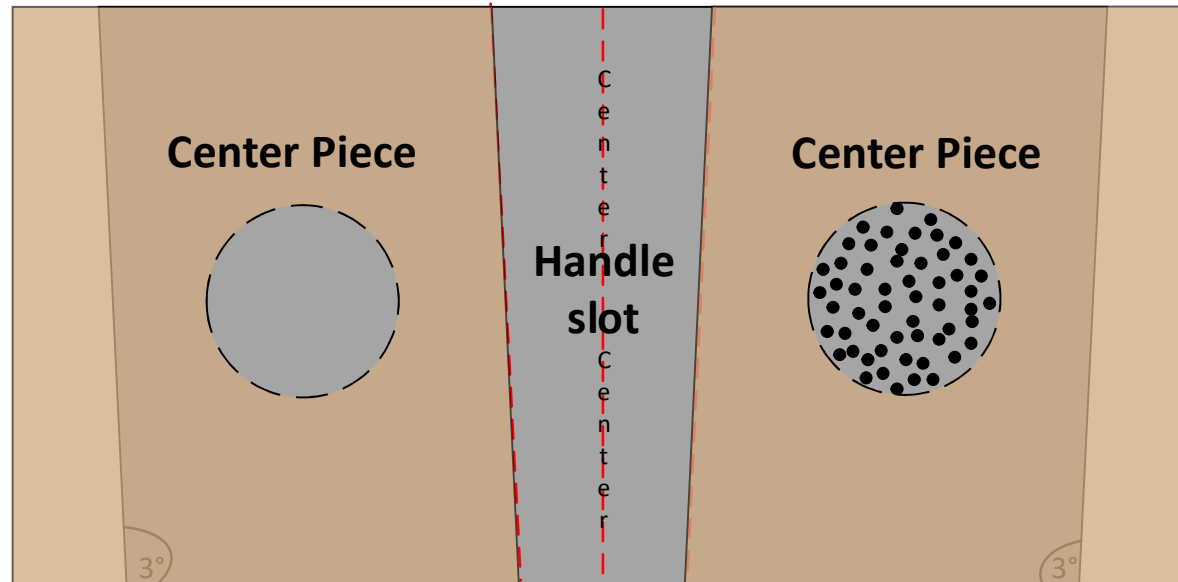


Note orientation  
of the center half.



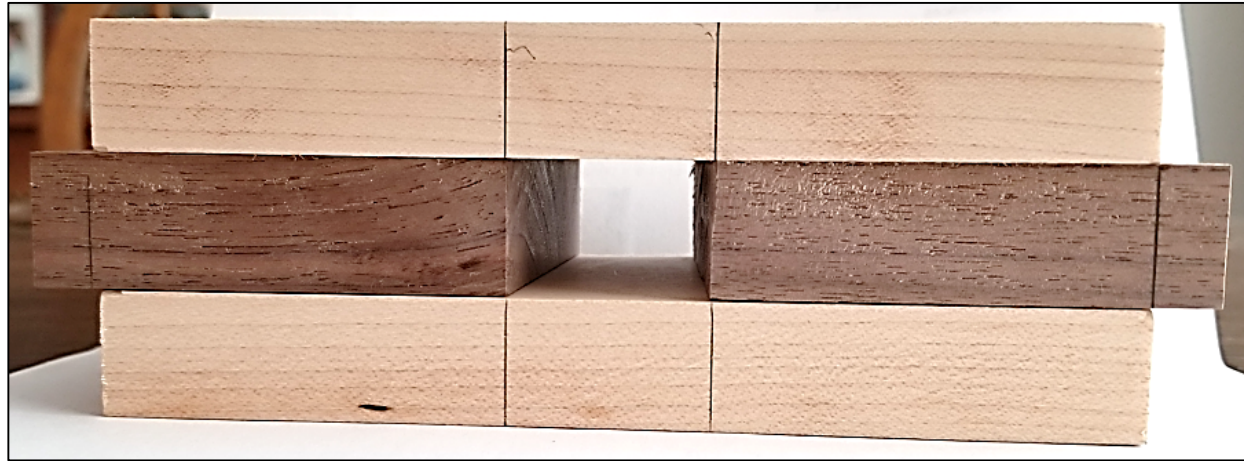
# Fill the Mallet Head Holes with BBs

The BBs should be **flush** to the tops of both holes



Add wood glue to the BBs. This prevents the BBs from rattling around when the mallet is in use. Allow 24 hours to dry.

# Glue and Clamp Other Side to Head



**Tip:** Use penciled lines to aid alignment during the glue-up

# Resaw, Rout, and Sand the Head to Final Dimensions

3" Wide X 5 ¼" Long X 2 ¼" Thick

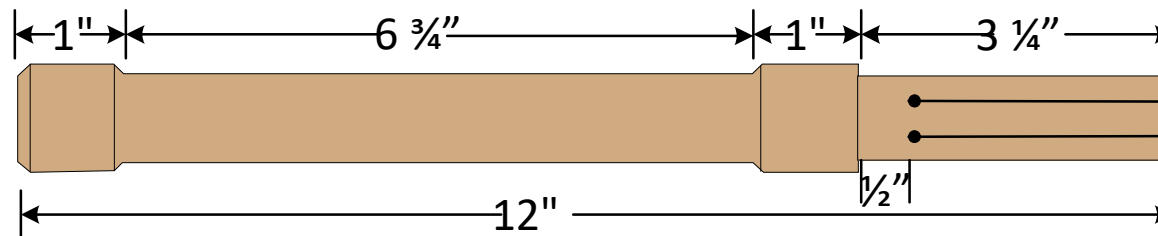
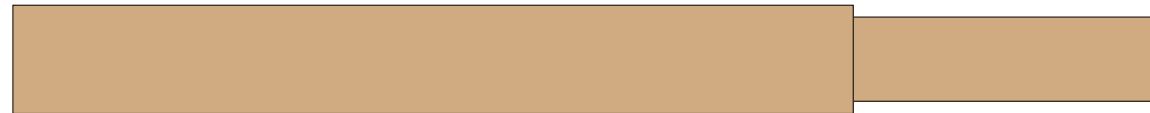
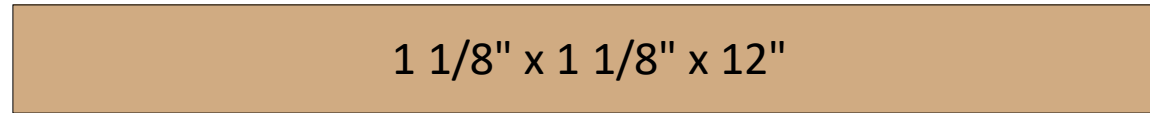
Chamfer or round all outside edges to minimize chances of chipping



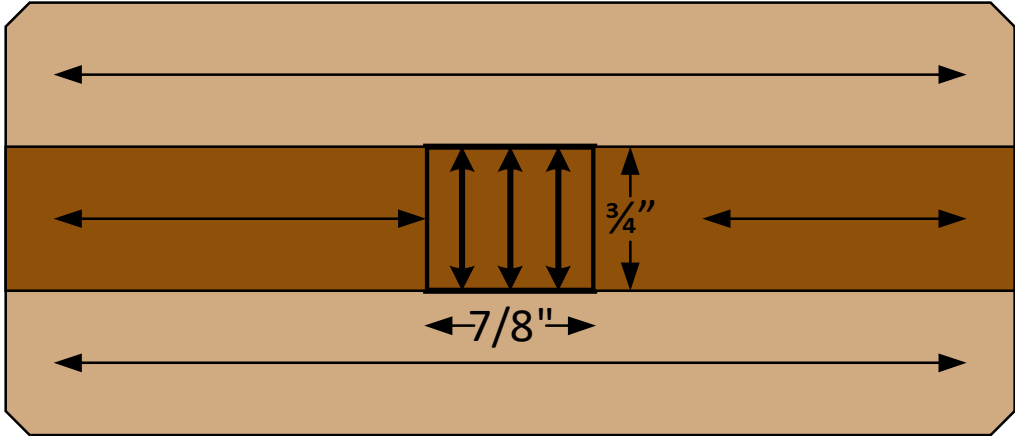
Do **not** round the handle slot edges.

## The Mallet Head is Complete!

# Three Stages of Handle Construction



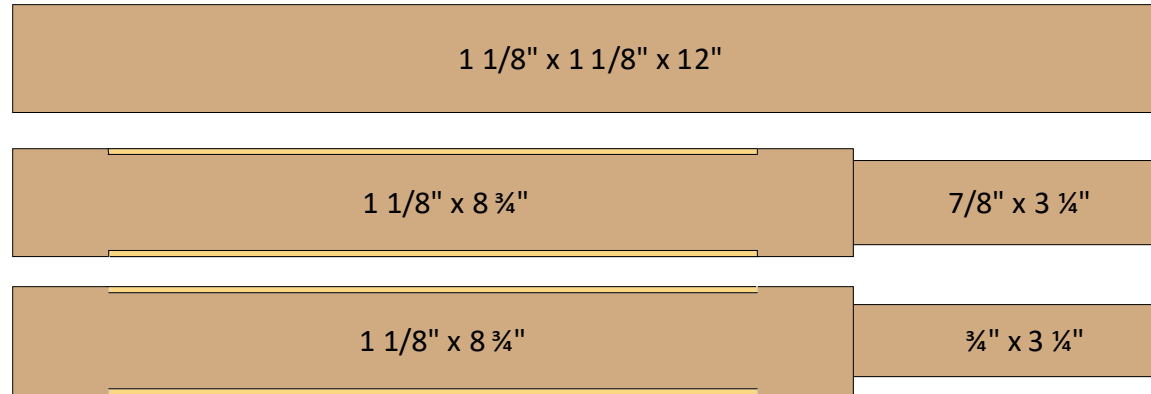
# Grain Orientations – Head is Perpendicular to the Handle



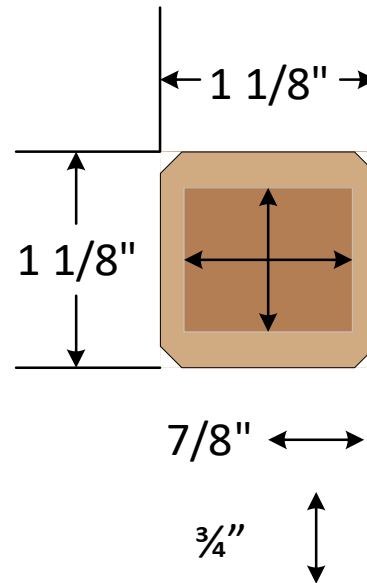
Head Grain  $\longleftrightarrow$

Handle Grain  $\updownarrow$

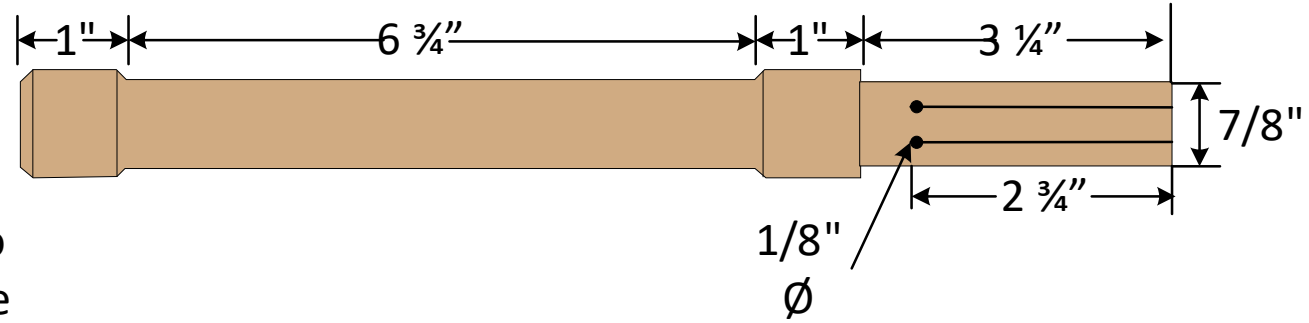
# Handle Detail



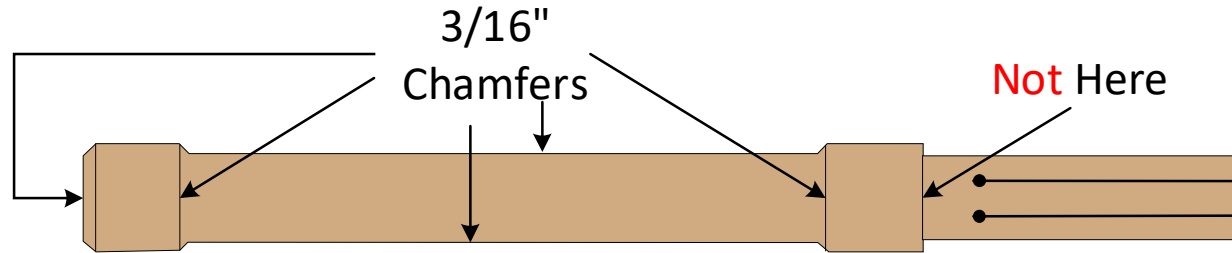
End View Looking  
Down from the Top



# Handle Milling



*Tip:* Cut the two shim slots before chamfering



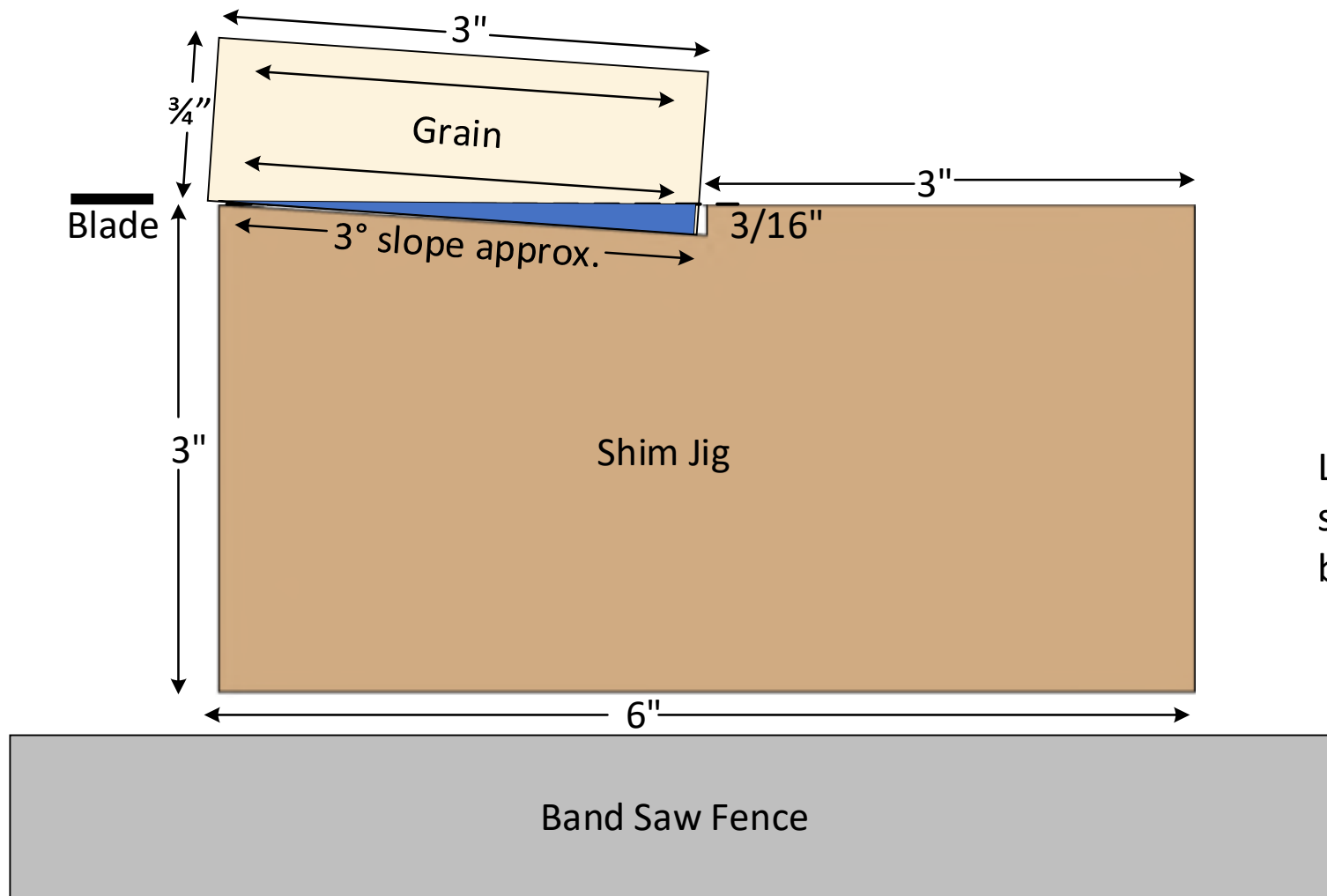
# Handle Shaping Steps Summarized

1. Mill the handle blank to 1 1/8" X 1 1/8" X 12".
2. Chamfer the tenon (head) section to 3/4" X 7/8" X 3 1/4". Be careful about the grain orientation.
3. Drill two 1/8" holes about 1/4" from the tenon edges on the 7/8" side.
4. Use a band saw or other thin-kerf blade (not a table saw) to slice the tenon from the head end to the freshly drilled holes.
5. Shape the handle by chamfering the edges below the tenon section.
6. Dry fit. The handle should fit tightly into the narrow end of the mallet head mortise. If not, make the required adjustments to the handle tenon.

The Mallet Handle is Complete!



# Make the Four Shims – the Jig



Be sure to cut  
along the grain

Lightly sand the  
shims to blunt the  
blade serrations

# Attaching the Head to the Handle

*Tip:* Start with the two middle shims

*Tip:* Thoroughly glue the handle tenon and lightly glue the mortise



After the glue dries, use a flush-cut saw and remove protruding section; sand smooth.

# Final Steps

The final steps of the mallet-building process have arrived: final sanding applying the finish of your choice. I have had good luck using three coats of General Finishes Arm-R-Seal Satin.

*Behold your  
magnificent  
creation!*





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