

Handcut Molding Sticking Board

By Bill Anderson



There are many variations of sticking boards. In general, they all have a stop, a fence and a base. Sticking boards for sash are very much more specific, and are designed to fit the specific profile molding being made. I have various lengths of sticking boards for handcutting molding. Generally, the sticking boards should be as long as the length of molding one might want to generate for the size of work generally encountered. For me, this means that I want to make a stick of molding sufficient to surround a wall hung cabinet on three edges, which translates to about 4 feet in length.

The purpose of the sticking board is to hold narrow thin stock steady for molding. The sticking board is held between dogs on the bench, with the left edge hanging just over the edge of the bench. The far end of the board has a planing stop. This stop has several brad points embedded in the lower edge to capture the molding and prevent it from sliding side to side during planing. Along the length of the sticking board is an adjustable fence. The fence is $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick so that it will not interfere with the normal ranges of molding thickness. The fence is wide enough so that it will not deflect during the planing operation. The fence is attached at several points along the length with screws, and screw holes are arranged in a series of $\frac{1}{2}$ " increments so that the fence can be adjusted up to several inches from the edge. Beyond this, the stock would probably be wide enough not to deflect during planing, and it could be captured between dogs and still hang over the edge of the workbench. Lastly, there are 3 bradpoints driven up through the bottom of the board, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from the edge. These are placed at 1, 2 and 3 foot intervals and are designed to capture longer molding from the underside and prevent the molding from flopping around during planing.

Planing Stop. This is assembled from 2 pieces of thin stock (about $\frac{1}{2}$ " by $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 5" long each). Drill 3 nail holes through one piece, as close to the bottom edge as possible, and spaced at $\frac{1}{4}$ " intervals from the left end of the stock. Tap three brads in these holes so that they protrude about $\frac{1}{8}$ " or a bit more. Glue the second piece of stock to the first, covering up the bradpoint heads. Glue this assembly square to the far end of the sticking board, even with the left edge. Bevel the left edge of the stop so that it tapers down to about $\frac{1}{8}$ ". This will keep the molding plane from banging into the stop when planing.

Fence. The fence is made from stock that is $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick by 2-3" wide with a length just shorter than the length of the sticking board. The fence is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " shorter, so that it does not butt up against the planing stop, leaving a small gap ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") for chip relief. Drill 3 pilot holes along the length of the fence at 1, 2 and 3' intervals and about 1" in from the left edge of the fence.

Sticking Board Base. The base is about 50" long, by 5" wide and $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. Scribe a series of 6 parallel lines along the length of the board with a marking gauge, beginning $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the left edge, and in $\frac{1}{2}$ " increments. This will allow the fence to be set initially $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge of the board, up to 3" from the edge. Lay the fence on the base (and $\frac{1}{2}$ " shy of the planing stop) and using an awl, mark the 3 screw hole positions. With a square, scribe a perpendicular line across the 6 lines, at the 1', 2' and 3' marks. Drill pilot holes for the screws at the intersections of the lines (18 holes total).

Brad Points. The bradpoints are located along the left edge of the sticking board, $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from the edge. The brads should be just long enough to protrude about $\frac{1}{8}$ " above the surface. Drive the brads in from the bottom face of the board. After the brads are set, circle the points with a red marker to be sure you know where they are and to not accidentally put your hand on them.