

Simple Oars - by Spark Geissler

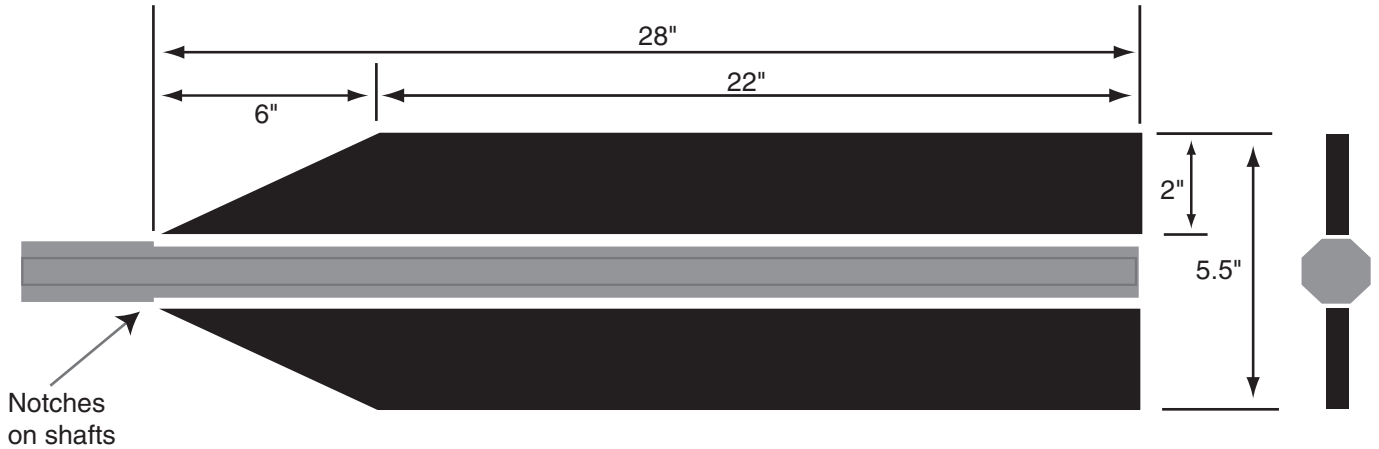
Created 10/1/01 Modified 10/29/01

Use a light, dry and straight 2 x 4 with very small or no knots (You might have to do some digging through the pile.) Rip two lengths that are 1 1/2" square. Trim the four sides of the lengths at 45 degrees to make them octagons (see Fig 1). Trim each one to 7 feet long.



Figure 1

Cut four 2" by 28" by 3/4" pieces of spruce or similar strong light wood. Cut angle on each one as shown below to the 6" mark. Notch the shafts about a saw-blades width (or a sixteenth inch) on 2 opposing sides of the octagonal shafts for 28" as shown. Position blades onto notches and epoxy and clamp.



Side view with blades attached before trimming shaft thickness

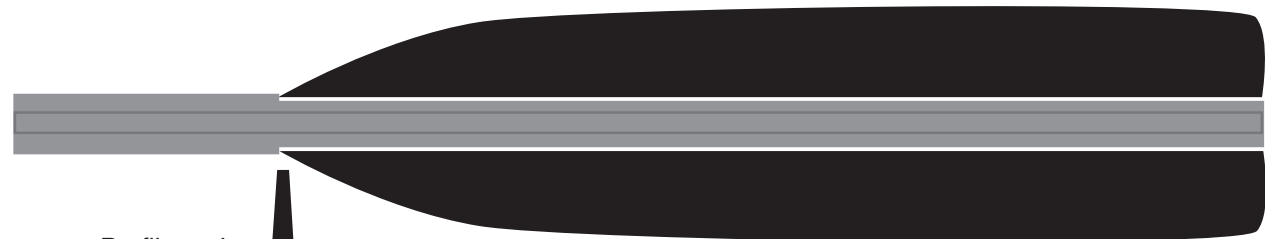


Taper shafts over the 6" dimension down to the thickness of the blades with grinder or saw.

Cut or grind shafts flush with the blades thickness



Shape the corners with a grinder or sander



Profile at the 28" point

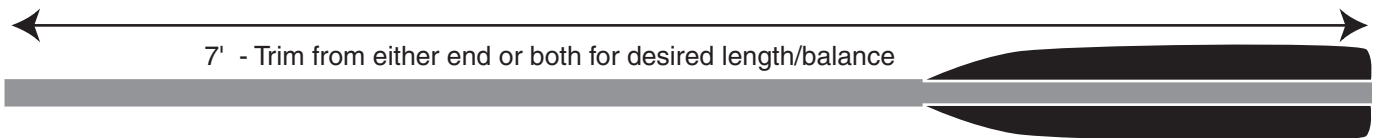


Taper edges by grinding or sanding down to approximate 3/8" thickness

Profile at the tip



7' - Trim from either end or both for desired length/balance



Round the handles if desired. Varnish or epoxy and varnish to finish.

Cover blade tips with 5" length of fiberglass tape before trimming to length.