

DO-IT-YOURSELF

You Can Tighten Loose Rungs With Some Wedges And Glue

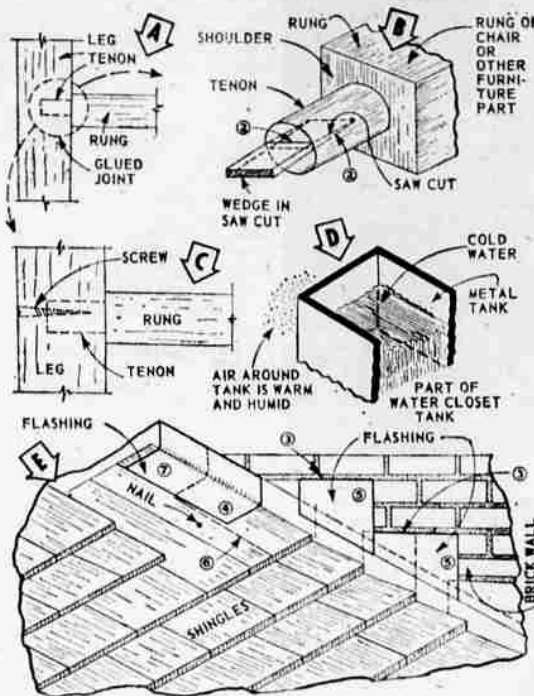
By J. RALPH DALZELL

When wooden furniture, especially chairs, develop loose joints the remedy is simple. Loose joints are usually caused by the strain of long usage and age. If subjected to hot and dry air for long periods, the glue in the joints may become ineffective.

Picture A shows a typical loose mortise and tenon joint between a rung and a leg of a wooden chair. If the tenon fits snugly and has not shrunk until it is smaller than the mortise (hole in the leg) apply wood glue to the tenon and then hold the joint closed tightly with a clamp or rope until the glue hardens.

If the tenon is considerably smaller than the mortise, make a saw cut in it (2 in picture B) and then drive a thin wooden wedge into the saw cut. Cut off the wedge at the end of the tenon. The thickness of the wedge is governed by the amount the tenon must be increased in size to fit snugly in the mortise. One or more trials may be necessary. Then apply glue to the tenon as explained, and clamp until dry.

If appearance is unimportant, a loose joint shown in picture A can be tightened as indicated in picture C. Use a screw with an exceptionally slender shank. Use clamps or a rope to hold the joint tightly in place. Then drill a small hole slightly less than the diameter of the screw through the leg and well into the tenon of the rung. The joint will be tight when



the screw is tightened. The screw head can be driven slightly below the surface of the leg to improve

the appearance, if desired. Readers complain about water dripping from the exterior sur-

faces of water closet tanks during the summer months. The air is warm and humid in the summer and contains a high percentage of water vapor. The water in the tank is usually much colder, so it makes the tank colder than the air surrounding the tank. This makes the water in the air condense, which causes the dripping. It is the same action as with an iced drink during hot, humid weather. The only remedy is to install one of the new tanks with a double wall.

Leakage of rain or melting snow is likely to occur unless ample flashing is properly installed at the point where roofs and brick walls meet, as shown in picture E. The flashing pieces 7, 4 and 6 overlap each other under the shingles and extend a few inches up along the brick wall. The flashing pieces marked 5 have one end extending into the joints between brick and the other end overlapping the pieces marked 7, 4 and 6. This installation of flashing avoids leaks. To install this flashing remove some of the shingles and then replace them with the flashing. Be sure to fill all joints between brick with mortar after the flashing has been installed. Try not to drive nails through the flashing. Use wide shingles so nails can be placed as indicated.

Lumber Buying Tips For Knot Novices

Aside from the fact that he knows that a 2x4 doesn't measure two inches by four inches, many a handy man is a babe-in-the-woods concerning facts about lumber.

First of all, hardwood isn't always hard and softwood isn't always soft. Some so-called softwoods are harder than such hardwoods as poplar. The terms, "hardwood" and "softwood" refer to the kinds of trees from which the lumber was cut.

Softwoods come from needle-bearing or cone-bearing trees; hardwoods from broadleaf trees.

Softwoods are used mainly for structural purposes. Common softwoods are cedar, fir, pine, redwood, spruce, hemlock.

Hardwoods are preferred for furniture, interior finish and flooring. The most common hardwoods are oak, walnut, mahogany, birch, hickory, ash, beech, maple, gum.

The important thing to remember is that soft woods will take care of most of the repairs and small construction jobs you'll be

making around the house. Don't purchase an expensive piece of wood for a basement shelf, when a simple, pine board is all that's called for.

Where you will save the most money is in an understanding of grades of lumber.

The softwoods are divided into two main classifications: select and common.

Select lumber has a limited number of defects, is relatively clear of knots, and is used for finishing purposes. There are four grades of select lumber:

Grades A and B, sometimes lumped together and called "B and better." Those have the fewest blemishes, no knots and are ideal for clear finishes.

Grades C and D have some minor blemishes, a few tiny knots and may have one clear side free from defects. Use those grades where fine lumber is called for, if you plan to paint over it.

Common lumber is used for construction. It often has many blem-

Lumbermen Offer Kitchen Planning

Aggressive lumber retailing firms throughout the country are responding to the demand for better kitchens by establishing kitchen departments, trade sources report. As might be expected, special emphasis usually is given to the merchandising of wood kitchen cabinets, which fit in naturally with the other wood items merchandised by lumber dealers.

One lumber retailer has found it profitable to set up a designing service which provides every customer with a free kitchen plan, even though the original purchase may be only one or two cabinets.

ishes and defects. Top grades of common lumber are "1" and "2." What defects there are do not affect the soundness of the material.

Knots are small and sound and, except for them, No. 1 is comparable to "D Select" stock.

Grades 3, 4 and 5 have coarse defects which affect the soundness of the wood. Such defects are open knots and splits, which must be cut out. No. 3 is usable; No. 4 is about the poorest you're likely to bother with.

Hardwoods are graded with different designations — Firsts, Seconds (often combined), Selects, No. 1 Common (often combined), No. 2 Common, Sound Wormy, No. 3A Common, No. 3B Common.

Don't buy clear grades of lumber if you intend to paint. Buy the least expensive grade that will do the job you have in mind.

On small jobs it's often economical to buy a lower grade of lumber and cut away the defects.

The difference in price between two grades is usually great enough to make up for the waste.

If you plan to construct a garage, porch or some similar structure, check your local building code. A specific grade of lumber may be required.

Other terms you should know: Strips, less than two inches thick, eight inches long; Boards, less than two inches thick but eight inches or more wide; Dimension lumber, any width between two and five inches thick.

Lumber is priced by the board foot, an amount of wood one inch thick, one foot wide, one foot long. And sizes are never what they seem.

That 2x4 mentioned earlier was the size of the piece before it was planed. It lost 3/4ths of an inch all around.



DON'T GET LOST in the forest of lumber grading. Blaze a trail through trade jargon before buying stock for your shop.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—Can shellac be used out of doors?

A—No. It would turn white even if used as an undercoat.

Q—Please advise me how to select exterior paints.

A—Earth pigments are generally more permanent when exposed to weather and sunlight than chemical colors, and tinted paint is more durable than white. The principal earth pigments are ochre, the siennas, umbers, red oxides and "earth" browns and blacks.



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