

Scoring a Saddle Notch with a Chisel

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- 1) Before you start your chainsaw and start cutting, you must score the edges of the corner notch to prevent splintering. See the [Log Construction Manual](#), pages 118 to 124.
- 2) Use a thin 1" chisel, not a thick 1" chisel. In the video, the chisel on the left is too thick for scoring. The chisel on the right is good for scoring.
- 3) Use the correct angle between the chisel and the log — too steep makes the notch's edge too weak. Not steep enough, and the notch will not be concave inside.
- 4) Score deeply—more than 1/4"(6mm), and up to 1/2" (12mm) deep. A razor knife cannot score this deep.
- 5) Use the flat side of chisel against the scribe line, not beveled the side of the chisel.
- 6) Score by tapping the chisel twice with a mallet—the first tap sets the chisel edge slightly into the log, the second tap is much stronger and scores more than 1/4" deep.
- 7) Move chisel along the scribe line, 2 taps, then move chisel again. Develop a rhythm. Use the score to locate the chisel position with every move by tilting the chisel from the score into the un-scored wood—doing this keeps your score as straight and smooth as possible. You will see the person in the video starting in the scored area, and then “tipping” the chisel into the next area to be scored.
- 8) Score VERY close to the scribe line—stay closer than 1/32" (less than 1mm) to the scribe line. You will not be taking more wood off later, so score as close as you can now.
- 9) The scribe line must stay on the log, and should be completely visible after you have finished cutting the notch with the chainsaw. Do NOT remove the scribe line from the log when scoring or when cutting the notch.

**TO PLAY THE VIDEO, MOVE THE CURSOR (HAND) ON TOP OF THE PHOTO BELOW,
THEN CLICK ONCE. THE VIDEO WILL START PLAYING.**