



## Try Square



### Function

A try square is used to check or 'try' 90° angles, also known as right angles, it is also used to assist in marking right angles. The stock must be held tight against the timber when checking or marking 90° angles.

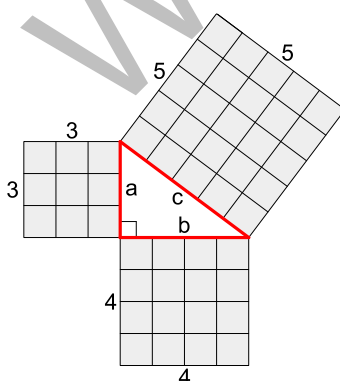
### Description

A good quality try square will have a steel blade, riveted to a rosewood or ebony stock, with a brass strip to avoid wear. There are other versions available, such as those made entirely out of steel, normally used in engineering. There are also roofing squares available for checking and marking larger items.

You can make your own version quite easily, for both small and large items. It is important that straight timber is used for the sake of accuracy, or alternatively cut plywood strips. You can also make a traditional wooden 'T' square, although these do have their limitations.

### Top Tip

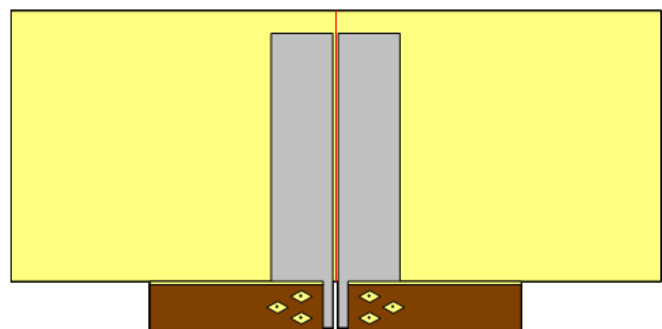
When making your own try square or T-square, use the **3:4:5 triangle**, which uses Pythagoras Theorem  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ , as shown below. You can also check a square is 'true' by marking a 90° line and then reversing the square and checking it against the original mark.



$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

$$3^2 + 4^2 = c^2$$

$$9 + 16 = 25$$





## History

Wooden try squares were used in both Ancient Egypt and Ancient Rome and can be seen in the artwork from this period between 1543-1292 BC<sup>1</sup>. It is possible that they were used long before this. From the 18<sup>th</sup> century try squares were manufactured in factories, prior to this the tradesman would have made their own, which is still the practice in some workshops today.

## Health & Safety

There are no significant health and safety considerations.

Woodwork with Pete

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<sup>1</sup> "[Melencolia Square, Part 6: From the Grave](#)". *Lost Art Press*. 2014-06-05. Retrieved 2020-10-22.