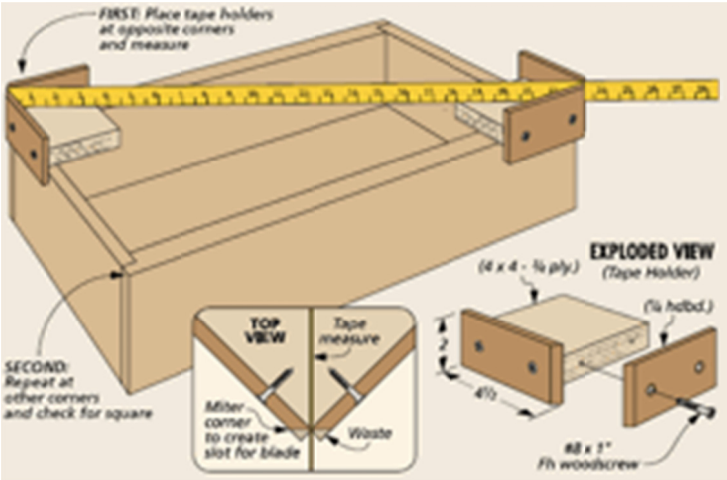
Processes – Assembly of Components

Before gluing up a project the quality of the joinery needs to be checked. This is easily done by putting each joint together. The pieces that fit together should be appropriately labelled so the wrong pieces don't go together accidentally.

Once each joint has been individually tested the complete section of the project that is going to be glued up should be assembled without glue. This is called the 'dry assembly' and is an important stage used to check that the whole project will go together properly, to get the right number of cramps (Sash Cramp and G-cramps) and set them properly, work out the gluing and cramping sequence, estimate the time and number of people required to glue up and ensure space is available to glue up. It is also important to check that all pieces are the correct size.

When gluing the project together there is no such thing as using too many cramps. You use what is required to cramp the job properly. Generally the cramps should run parallel or perpendicular to joints when making frames or carcases. When gluing panels it is important to have cramps on top and underneath the panels to keep the job flat. It may be necessary to use cauls or G-cramps top keep panels flat if the Sash Cramps cause them to lift.



When the project has been cramped together you need to work quickly to make any adjustments, depending on the working time of the glue used. If frames or panels are not square

the cramps can be adjusted so they are at slight angles to bring the project back to being square. Squareness of the project should be checked using both try squares and by measuring the diagonals of different sections. Panels can be checked for flatness by running a straight edge across them and looking for gaps between it and the panel.