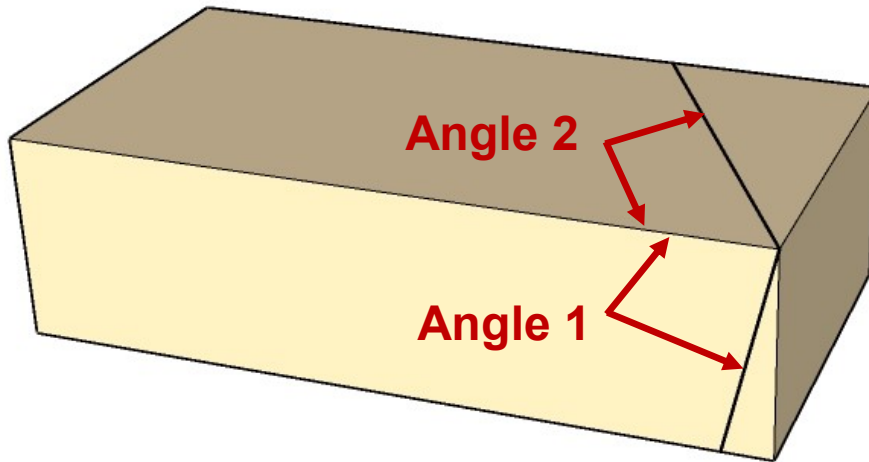
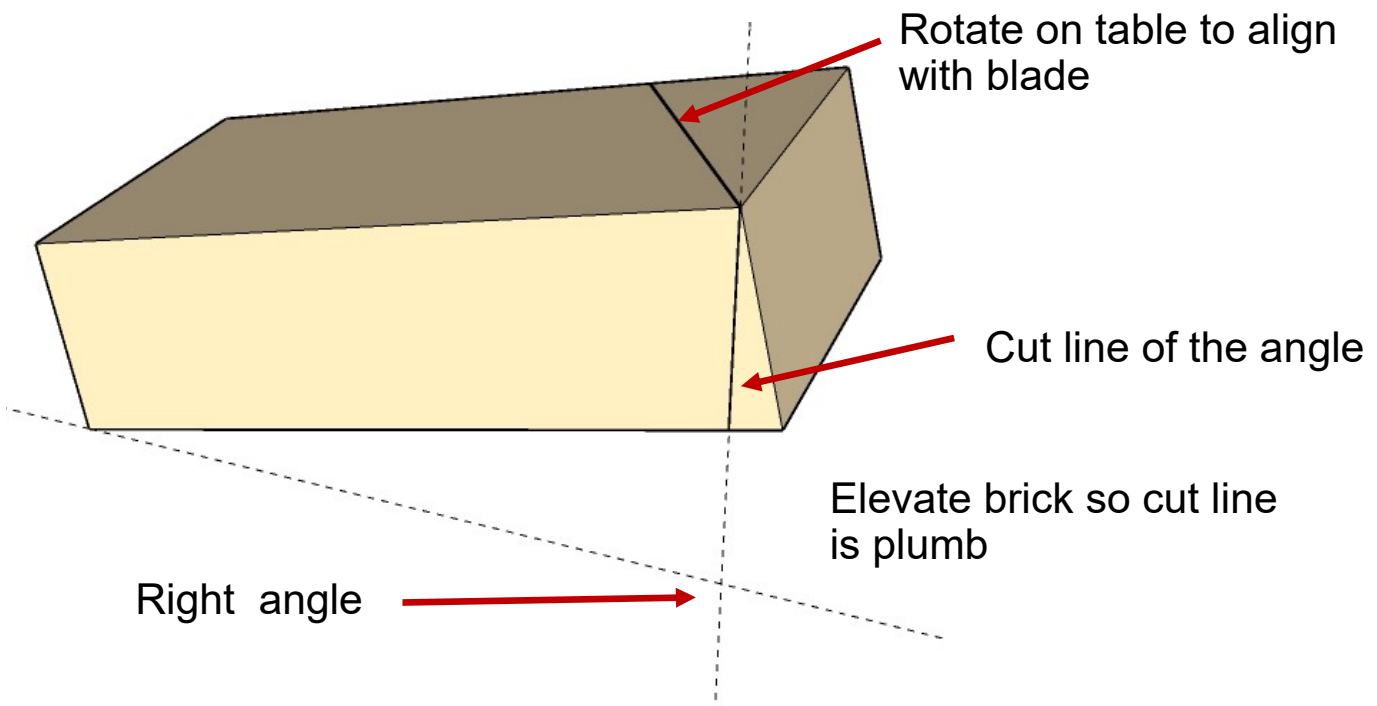


Cutting compound angles by Chris Prior

A compound cut has 2 distinct angles that radiate from a common point. One will be on the narrow face and one on the wide face.



Cutting a compound angle on a wet saw where the blade carriage is set at 90° to the table is a bit of a challenge. One of the angles can be achieved by simply rotating the brick. To cut the second angle, the brick needs to be elevated until the line is plumb.

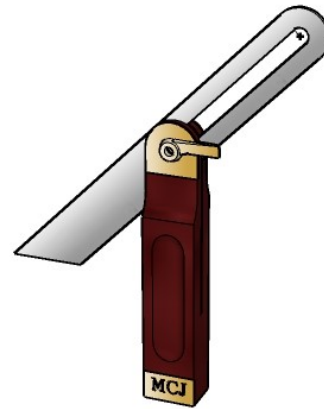
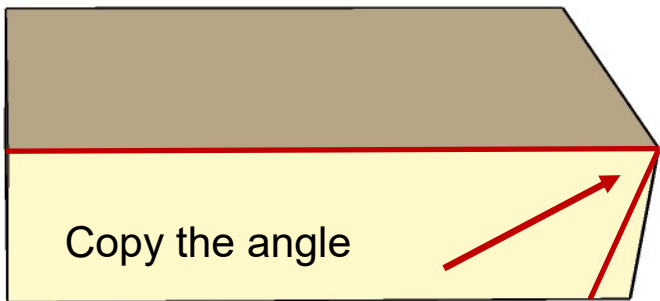


As a general rule, elevate the brick for the angle on the narrow face, and rotate the brick for the angle on the wide face. This will make it much easier to cut the compound angle

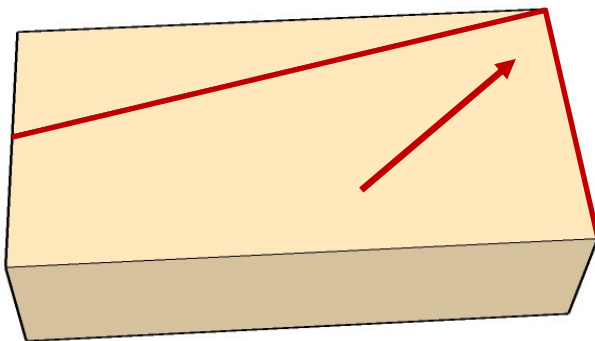
The best, safest and most accurate way to elevate the brick for the plumb cut is to make and use a jig. I typically use a firebrick to make the jig.

First, use a bevel square to copy the angle on the narrow face. Transfer and mark the angle at the corner of the wide face of the brick.

See diagrams below



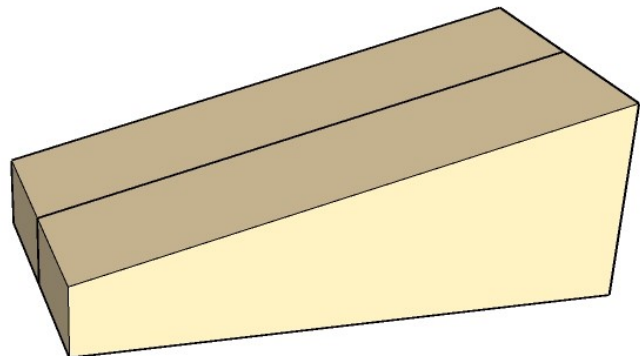
Use bevel square to copy and transfer the angle



Transfer the angle to the corner of the wide side of a brick

Repeat the layout on the opposing corner, and make the two cuts. These will be used to make the jig.

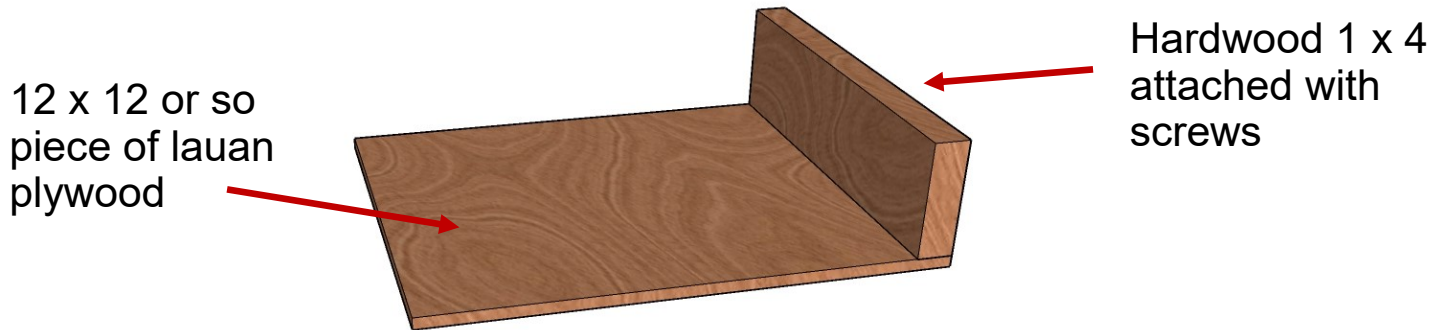
The two finished jig brick



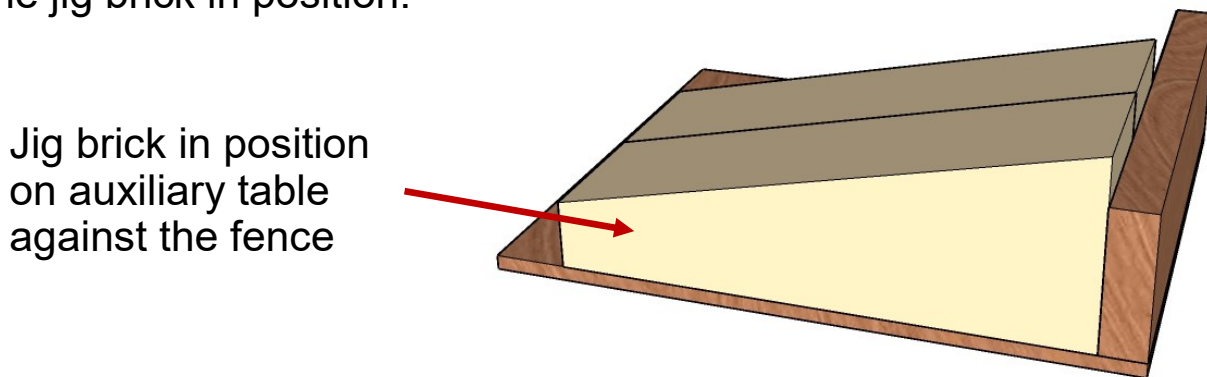
I find the best way to utilize the jig brick on the wet saw is to build a simple auxiliary table.

I use a piece of lauan plywood as the base, and attach a hardwood 1 x4 with screws to one end of the lauan.

See diagram below

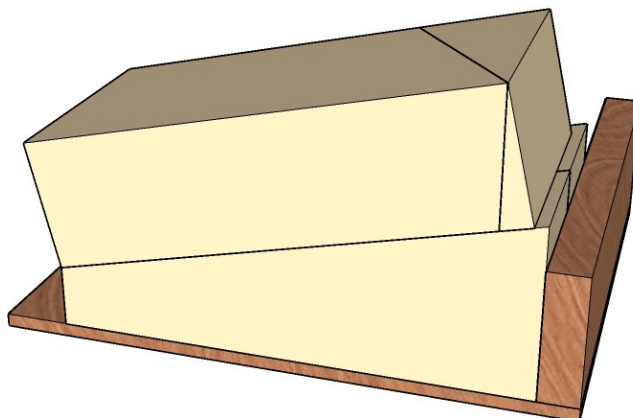


The jig brick are placed on the lauan. The 1x4 acts like a fence, aligning the jig brick in position.



Position the brick to be compound cut onto the jig, keeping the long edges flush. The jig will ensure the angle on the narrow face is properly cut.

Now simply rotate the auxiliary table so the line on the wide face is aligned with the blade



I find it much easier to move and rotate the jig if it is on an auxiliary table, than to try and hold and move the parts on the table without one...school of hard knocks...

Compound cut complete.

