

Chapter 8: Notching Columns With Trusses

Most Common Mistakes:

1. Incorrectly measuring eave height.
2. Not notching trusses into columns.
3. Truss notches not made on same side of columns as denoted on plans.
4. Installing wall framing and/or eave girt before notching columns.

POP QUIZ

You, and your builder, must pass this one question, open book quiz, before going further.

Question: Which of the following is the correct measurement of eave height?

- A) From bottom of skirt board to bottom of trusses.
- B) From top of concrete slab to bottom of trusses.
- C) From bottom of skirt board to underside of roofing at intersection with outside edge of columns.
- D) Some other randomly determined distance.

Answer: C

CAUTION

Look carefully at building plans before going further. Make certain building's height is correct and ***matched to plans***.

Failure to do this step correctly will result in costly errors and may cause wall steel to not fit!



“Eave height” is **always** the measure from pressure treated skirt board **bottom** to interior truss **top** at intersection with outside edge of truss-bearing column. ◀

See Figure 8-1.

To determine notch bottom location from “eave height”:

Hook a tape measure on skirt board bottom.

Measure up interior truss bearing columns (on column outside) to eave height as specified on building plans. Put a mark here to measure from.

This is "A" on Figure 8-1.

From "A" – Measure **down** truss end height (end of truss dimension). This point will be notch bottom, "B" on Figure 8-1.

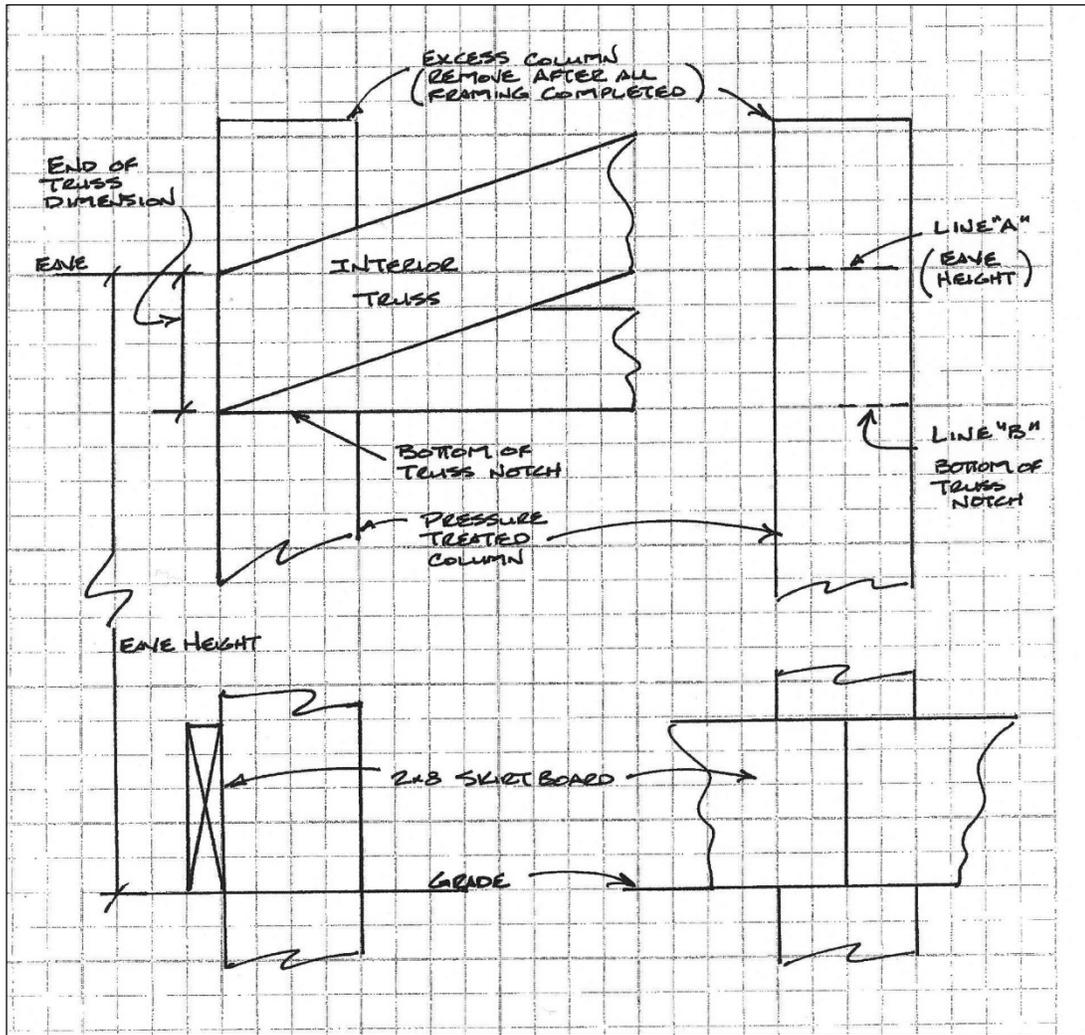


Figure 8-1

Interior trusses **ARE** ALWAYS notched into columns.



For a two-member truss –remaining column AFTER notching into a nominal 6” solid sawn column **will be approximately 2-1/2”** in area remaining BEHIND trusses (unless otherwise noted on building plans). See **Figure 8-2.**

For a three-member truss –remaining column AFTER notching into a nominal 6” column is approximately 1”.

Notch depth should be adequate to provide full truss bearing on column below.

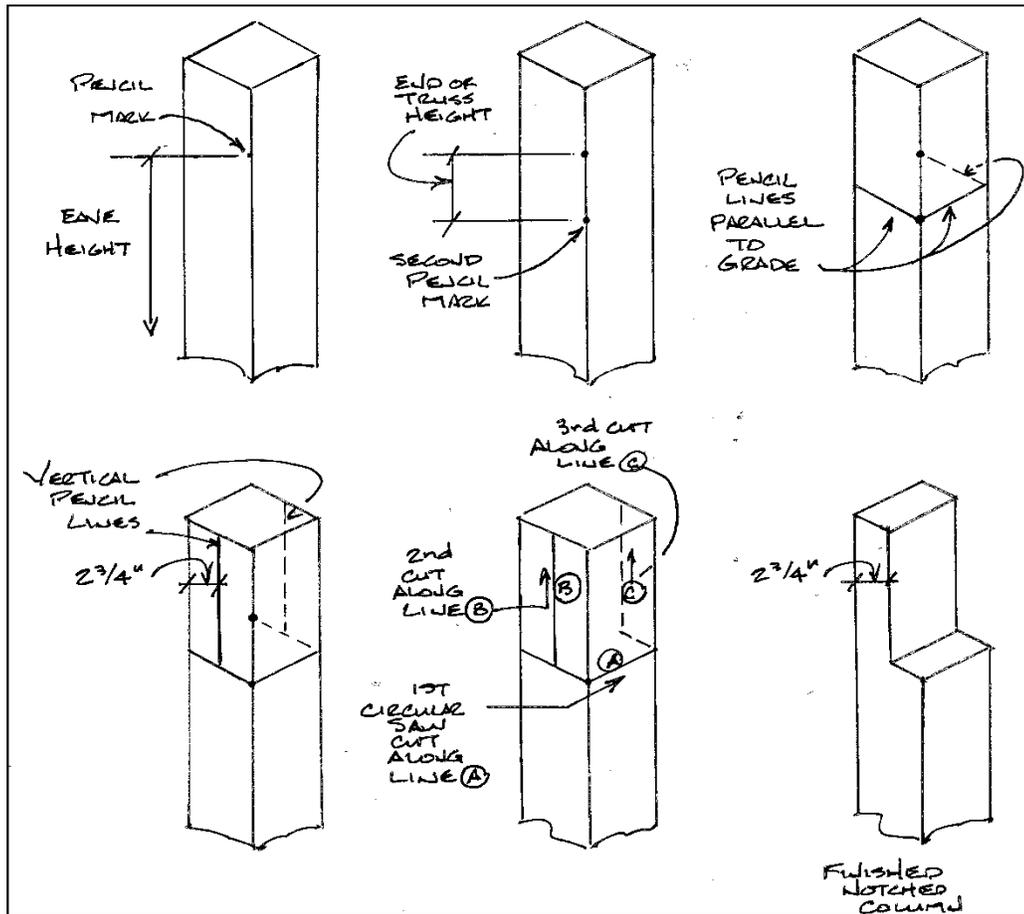


Figure 8-2



Important! Notch **same side** of columns on opposite sidewalls.

Unless otherwise noted End trusses **ARE ALWAYS** notched into columns.



For a one-member truss – follow same process as outlined previously for interior trusses, however the notches will be only 1-1/2” in depth and will be into all corner and endwall columns.

If your building has endwall overhangs your endwall trusses will be dropped by the height of the roof purlins at an angle. Please review your ‘End Truss to Corner Column’ detail on your plans and visit Chapters 52-55 which also shows end truss Vertical Lowering Distance.

Notch depth should always be adequate to provide full truss bearing on column below.



Building construction will be easiest by installation of all roof framing *before* installing any girts.



IMPORTANT! Do **NOT** trim any sidewall, endwall or corner columns for length until **AFTER** all roof framing has been completed and preparations are made to install roofing. Only then trim off column portions which would extend above roof plane.