



## Mitre Square



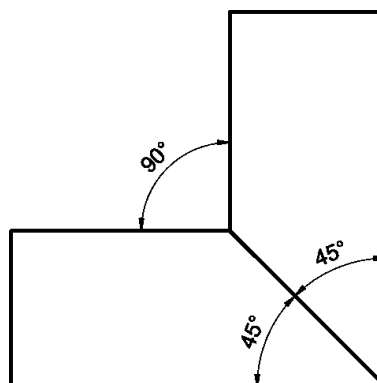
### Function

A mitre square is used to check or try  $45^\circ$  angles, it is also used to assist in marking  $45^\circ$  mitres. The stock must be held tight against the timber when checking or marking  $45^\circ$  angles. It can also be used for checking and marking  $135^\circ$  angles.

### Description

A good quality mitre square will have a steel blade, riveted to a rosewood stock, with brass strips to avoid wear.

To form a mitre joint, cut a  $45^\circ$  angle in two pieces of wood and join them together to form a  $90^\circ$  angle (right angle). These are the traditional joints used for picture frames and many other applications.





## 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. It is likely that mitre squares existed during this same period.

## Health & Safety

Take care with the pointed ends on the blade of the mitre square, as these can be quite sharp.

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