



## Utrecht Art Supplies

### Studio Craft: Bracing a Panel

Rigid (panel) supports can be braced- mounted to a sturdy frame- to add dimensional stability and prevent distortion. Simple bracing is easy to do with just basic hand tools in any studio.



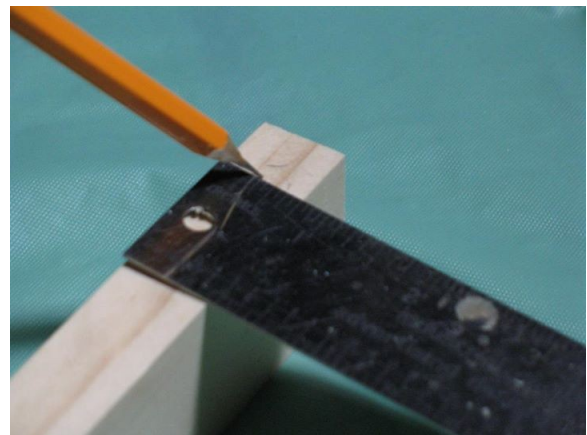
Select clean, knot-free pine boards for bracing. Tools include a saw, hammer and wood chisel, sanding block and file.



Cut a panel of the size desired. Panel materials can be hardboard or exterior-grade plywood. Sand and bevel panel edges.



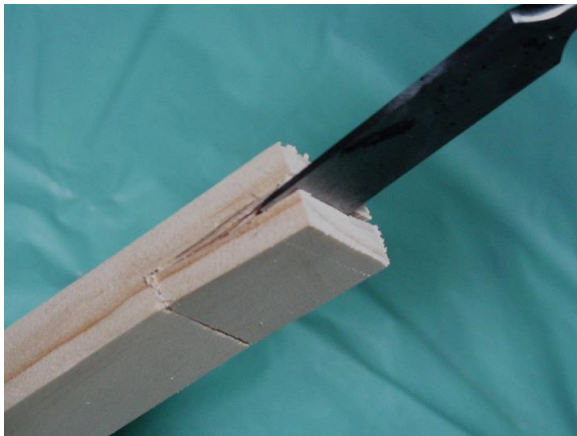
Clean panel with denatured alcohol.



Cut braces the same dimensions as the panel. Measure to cut lap joints on each end, parallel line half the height of the board, and perpendicular (cross cut) equal to the width of the board.



Cut across the board at 90 degrees, half the height of the brace.



Use a sharp chisel to remove excess wood. If necessary, clean up with a file or sanding block to achieve a flat, square joint.



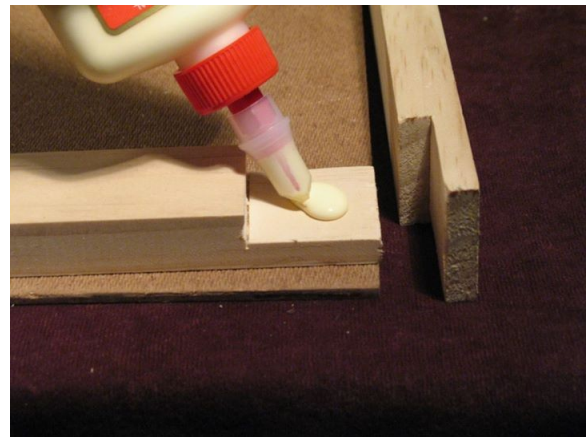
Lap joints offer good surface area and resist diagonal distortion.



Prepare to assemble the panel.



Place panel face down on a clean surface. Apply glue on all four sides.



Place bracing on panel back and apply glue generously to joints. Promptly clean up excess.





Apply weight or clamp until glue has set.



Clean up edges and corners with a file or sandpaper so all joints are flush. Prime panel as desired.



Ready-made cradled hardboard panels are available primed or unprimed



Cradled basswood panels are available ready to prime as desired.

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

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