

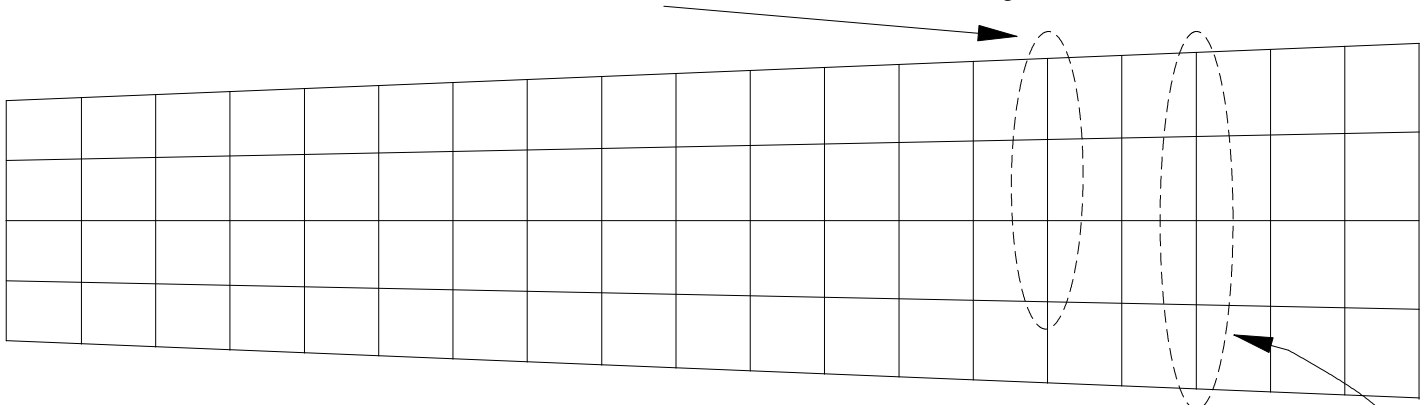
MAKING A BANJO FRET BOARD (and dealing with the wacky geometry of the 5 string...)

1. Draw a centerline down the entire fret board blank and mark nut and heel positions.

The centerline drawn on the fret board blank will also indicate the third string position.

2. Calculate overall string widths at nut and heel by subtracting 1/4" from desired width of the finished neck.

3. Match the distance between 4 TAPERED HORIZONTAL LINES to the desired string width at the nut.



4. Fold the pattern at this line, match centerlines and transfer ALL FIVE string positions to the nut location.

5. Match the distance between 5 TAPERED HORIZONTAL LINES to the desired string width at the heel.

6. Fold the pattern at this line, match centerlines at the heel and transfer ALL FIVE string positions.

7. Draw a line 1/8" outside and parallel to the first string line.

8. Draw a line outside and parallel to the fifth string line from the fifth fret to the heel end.

9. Draw a line 1/8" outside and parallel to the fourth string line from the nut to the fourth fret location.

10. Form the transition curve between the end points of these lines to create the fifth fret "bump out" area.

11. If a tunneled fifth string will be used, connect a point 1/8" outside the fourth string at the nut to the end of the line drawn 1/8" from and parallel to the fifth string.

12. The entire fret board profile (and neck shape) is now defined. Slot the board before cutting it to shape.

13. The third fret position marker is moved slightly toward the center of the tapered section of the fret board to minimise the off-center look of the fretboard inlays.

Adding the fret board to the neck blank:

The midpoints of the nut and heel are positioned on the neck blank centerline so they will appear symmetrical.

Mounting the neck to the pot:

With the neck heel center positioned on the pot centerline, the entire neck is "rotated" slightly clockwise to place the third string nut slot directly over the pot centerline.

