

## To make Setting Poles

1. Find a good, clear 2x6 or 2x8. The plank should be 12-feet long, and any knots should be small and tight. The grain should be relatively straight and even throughout.
2. On a table saw, rip the plank into 2x2 strips (this is the nominal dimension, the actual will be 1-1/2").
3. On a router table, make the strips octagonal, using a roller-bearing chamfering bit. Assuming that the stock is 1-1/2" square, the router bit should be set so that the top edge is 7/16" above the surface of the table. Practice on a sacrificial strip.
4. Measure out the best area of the strip, about 11'-6" long, and cut the ends off neatly.
5. Decide which end will be the bottom, and measure out the lower 4 feet. This portion will remain octagonal.
6. On a router table, make the upper portion round, using a roller-bearing roundover bit of appropriate cutting diameter (3/4" diameter, probably). Again, practice on a sacrificial strip. **Consider switching steps 3 and 6 next time.**
7. Scribe and cut out the lower few inches for the shoe, using a bandsaw or table saw to remove the bulk of the wood. Use the template that came with the shoe as a guide for the wood removal. Glue it to foam-core or cardboard and cut it out. . Finish up with a rasp until the shoe fits snugly and is centered and straight.
8. Mount the shoe by driving it on as tightly as possible, and attach with the provided screws.
9. Smooth out the pole with a Microplane shaper. Sand the pole with 60-grit sandpaper, fairing the transition between the octagonal and round portions. If you choose to taper the pole slightly, work the upper few feet repeatedly with the Microplane and 60-grit paper-this is abrasive enough to create a slight taper. Fair the transition between the octagonal portion and the shoe as well so there are no raw edges of wood exposed.
10. Finish the pole with 120-grit sandpaper. Treat with boiled linseed oil, although the lower portion may be varnished or shellacked.