



## Texas Ramp Project Newsletter Article

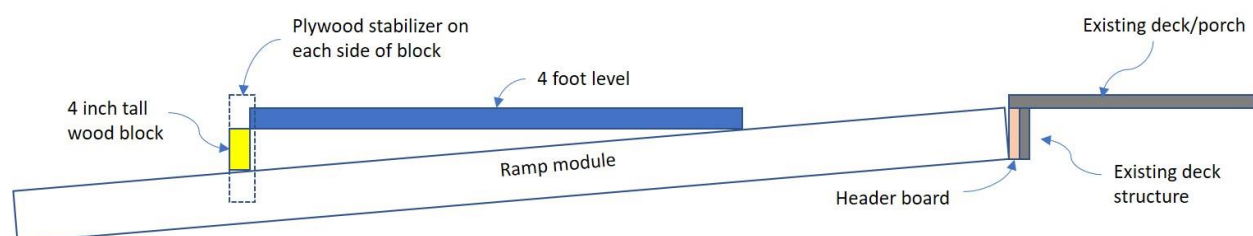
January 2022

### Building Basics

For this month's column we have an improvement on a jig from last month and a question about what local rules you have to meet when surveying and building ramps and what your solutions are. Please send any questions, comments or suggested construction topics to [royh85@verizon.net](mailto:royh85@verizon.net).

### Improved Slope Jig

Everything can be improved, and that includes one of the jigs in last month's newsletter. If you have used the level and 4" block, I can bet that the level and block have fallen off the module at some point. Randy Kerkman, our Austin Central regional coordinator, has an improved version that solves this problem. He got it from a former Austin team leader and warehouse manager. The addition of a 4"x 10" piece of plywood on either side of the block, as shown below, will hold it and the 4' level in place while the module is aligned and attached.



## **Rules and solutions**

I am interested in learning what local rules each of you has to follow, from specific ramp requirements like dimensions and handrail design to whether or not you have to get permits and if you have to pay for them. Any information you send to me in time will help us in planning the construction section of our upcoming statewide conference.

For example, the team I led in North Texas only had to get permits in one of the towns we served, but the fee was always waived. Like most teams, we were trained directly by John Laine, who joined us for our first three builds. So the design and construction methods all followed his guidance from many years ago.

The rules for our teams in Austin are probably the strictest, requiring permits and some changes to our “standard” design to meet the requirements.

Let me know if you have any special requirements in your area. We will compile the information for a future newsletter and for discussion at the conference in February.

## **Do you have other tips or suggestions to share?**

Please let me know if you have found a way to build ramps better, stronger or faster that might help other teams in the state. Send your comments, suggestions or other ideas to [royh85@verizon.net](mailto:royh85@verizon.net).