

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

May 2002

From Our Readers

Peggy,

...so that you know that your effort—and professionalism—do not go unnoticed, I take time out to drop this note. I know I speak for all BCMC exhibitors. Thank you for your pre, during and post Convention activities!

Sincerely,

Emanuel A. Coronis, President
Coronis Building Systems, Inc.

Dear Melinda,

I just wanted to drop you a note and comment on the article you wrote in your magazine ["If You Can Imagine It—We Can Build It."](#) I thought this was totally amazing how Fred Kenison P.E. Assistant Bridge Engineer for R.S. Audley, Inc. explained how they did this project.

I was amazed that they could use this type of truss application for a form of a concrete bridge. This is just amazing. The engineering properties that were used in the design of these trusses is something that I have never seen and been exposed to.

I did have a question though, how did the carpenter roll the skill saw? I saw in the pictures how they obtained the radius what were those trusses made out of. I would take it was machine stress related lumber probably fir and Larch?

As a person who has designed and estimated roof and floor trusses in the past this is a very interesting and an exceptional application of trusses that I have ever seen.

I am really glad that LaValley Truss was able to do this job and have it be profitable for them. This article and these trusses really got my attention.

Congratulations on a great article, and I hope to see more applications of trusses like this featured in [SBC Magazine.]

If you could please pass this on to Fred Kenison and the people at LaValley Truss. I would like to say a great job. I am sure that this will help the truss industry a great deal in the coming future.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence W. Conklin, President
LWC Estimating Service

Lawrence,

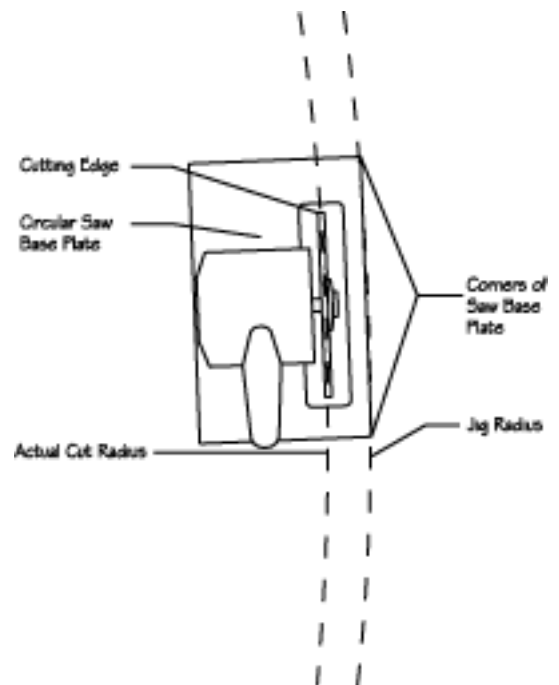
Thanks for your interest. The True Radiused Trusses that you ask about in the article "If You Can Imagine It—We Can Build It" were actually quite fun and profitable. The shop and yard crew guys all wanted pictures of the trusses after the job was completed to share with family and friends (not to mention our advertising folks).

Here at LaValley, we do not always look for plans with trusses or other engineered wood. We look at today's structural wood components as the solution to every framing problem. The only real question then becomes "How?"

The scenario played out perfectly with Fred Kenison at Audley Construction. After the very first phone call on this project, Fred and I both knew this would not only work, but would be a huge labor saver on this phase of the job. The details were left up to us, as that is where we excel.

You were quite right about the design loads being somewhat different than what we most often see. The loading on these trusses varied from a maximum at each end (where the concrete pour was thickest) to the center where the concrete was thinnest. The material selected for chords and webs was SS and DSS Southern Pine. As for the jig we crafted for cutting the radius uniformly, we simply measured the distance from the leading (cutting) edge of the circular saw blade to the arc created by the corners of the base plate (see sketch below) and increased the radius of the curve to account for this distance. This way you can simply hold the saw base plate against the jig and know that the blade is cutting the line you want. To assist the shop guys, we actually plotted the patterns at full scale on our roll plotter in the office.

CLICK ON IMAGE FOR LARGER VIEW



One final thought. We often get hung up on the notion that we are designing for permanence, i. e. we want whatever we build to last for the life of the structure. This thought process is fine when applied to buildings, but I believe tends to "shutter the windows of opportunity" when looking for solutions to the myriad of other problems that will be best solved with structural wood components. Just ask Fred Kenison.

Stan Sias, Engineered Wood Products Mgr.

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