

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

June/July 2003

## From Our Readers

Rachel,

I want to compliment you on the FAQ article you wrote about valley sets in SBC Magazine. I am a structural engineer and this is the second one of your articles (the other was Multi-Ply Girders) that I have put in my files for future reference. You did a good job of answering all the questions I could think of about valley trusses.

I look forward to your next article.

Rick Burch  
Johnson & King Engineers  
Columbia, SC

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Hi Rachel,

You've made some excellent points in your latest article (FAQ, "Valley Sets," April 2003). The unbraced top chord on supporting trusses is a real problem in the field! In my experience trusses are too often either inadequately braced by valleys themselves without any additional bracing, or the valleys are placed on the top of sheathing, in which case the supporting trusses are braced properly by sheathing but the valleys are usually improperly connected through the plywood.

Personally, I like seeing the valleys placed on top of sheathing!

The true level of this problem is directly related to the size of trusses. The majority of erectors gain experience from short span trusses and then "naturally" extend this experience on much, much larger trusses. This is a recipe for disaster and there are plenty of examples to prove it. This misunderstanding of true forces and stresses in longer trusses also significantly contributes to inadequate temporary bracing during erection of trusses. This "learning" really requires a certain level of unlearning and I hope our industry does tackle this problem in a more systematic manner.

Keep up the good work. WTCA is really doing an excellent job! And you guys deserve much praise and appreciation from the industry.

Martin F. Bassani  
MF Bassani  
State College, PA

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Via Email:

Just a note to let you know how much we appreciate your magazine! It's great! Being a consultant engineer faced with numerous projects related to re-engineered wood trusses, I find your magazine filled with useful information. Keep up the good work!

Marc LeBlanc,  
JOMA Engineering Group, Inc.  
Moncton, NB, Canada

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