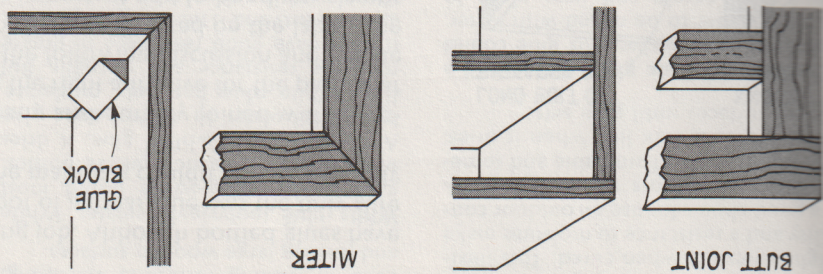
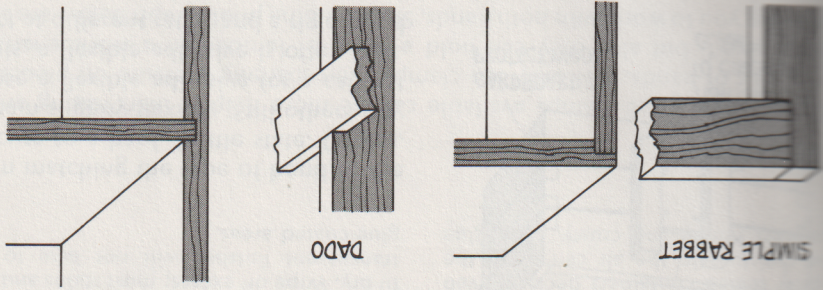


WOOD JOINERY METHODS



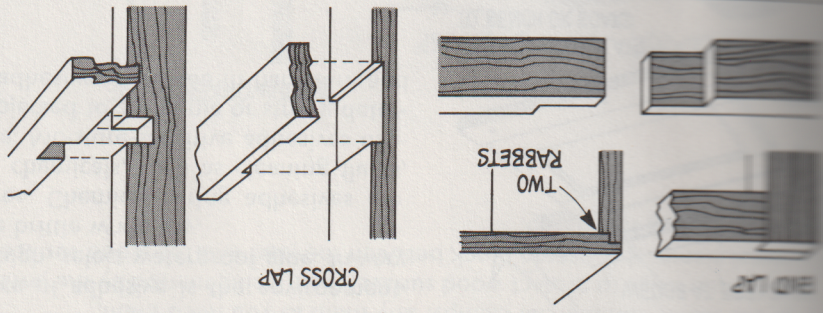
BUTT JOINT

MITER



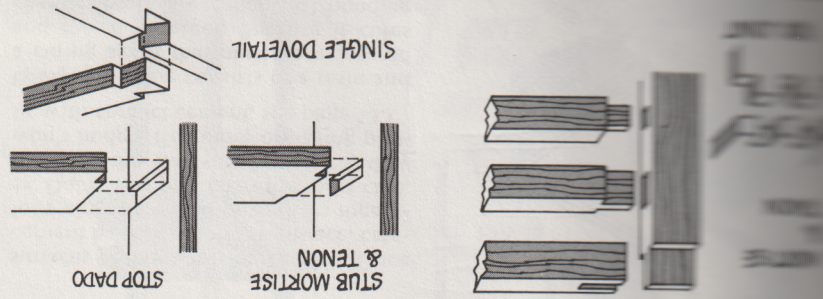
SIMPLE RABBIT

DADO



CROSS LAP

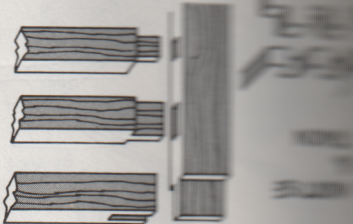
TWO RABBETS



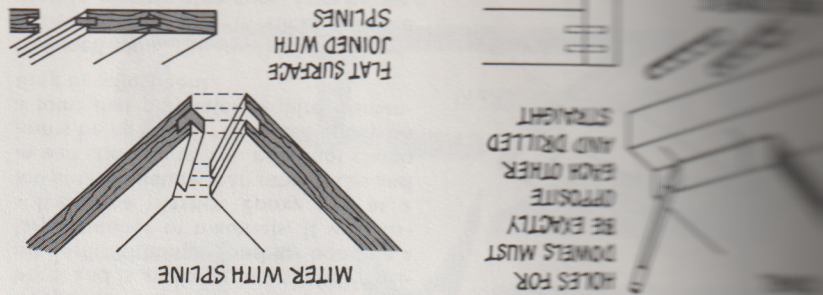
STUB MORTISE & TENON

STOP DADO

SINGLE DOVETAIL



HOLES FOR DOWELS MUST BE EXACTLY OPPOSITE EACH OTHER AND DRILLED STRAIGHT



MITER WITH SPLINE

FLAT SURFACE JOINED WITH SPLINES

Butt joints and miters are the easiest

joints to make; you just saw through the pieces and fit them together. Both kinds are weak; they require fastening with glue, blocks, nails, screws, bolts, dowels, or splines (see bottom of page).

The simple rabbet (far left) is stronger and shows less end grain than a butt joint. Secure it with glue and fasteners. **A dado**, near left, is a strong way to inset a support or hold a shelf. Glue alone will hold some dados.

End laps and cabinet corner joint at far left are made from two corresponding rabbets, cut at the end of joining pieces. The cuts in the rails are easily made with a hand saw; those across the broader surfaces may require a power saw. Although rabbeted joints are stronger than butt joints and miters, they need to be strengthened with glue and sometimes with fasteners.

Cross lap joints (near left) are made by cutting matching dados in two pieces. Some don't need glue or fasteners; they are ideal where you want to dismantle joints.

Mortise and tenon variations (far left) are made by cutting (sometimes quite deeply) a dado in one piece to interlock with a mortise at the end of another. Cutting the mortise is similar to cutting a multiple rabbet. A box joint is like several open mortises and tenons. The stop dado and stub mortise and tenon, near left, both will hold a shelf without exposing the dado groove. The single dovetail is a lock-type joint.

Dowels (far left) make simple joints strong. All you do is drill holes for the dowels in each piece (special "dowel centers" are available for centering the dowels in both halves), cut the dowels to a size slightly shorter than the combined depth of matching holes, score small grooves along the dowels so glue can escape the holes, spread glue along each dowel, insert them, and clamp the joint tight.

A wooden spline, inserted in a saw kerf, is a sure and simple way to strengthen miters and butt joints. A spline's width should be slightly less than combined depth of kerfs. Glue and clamp.