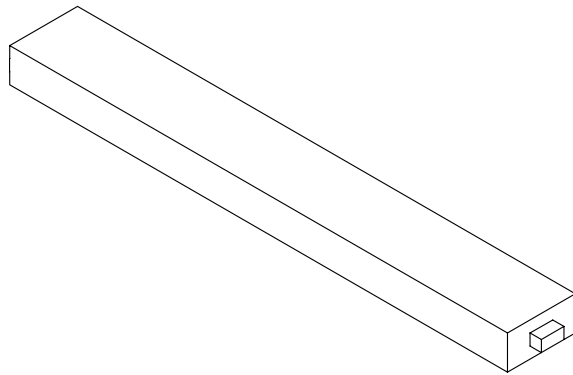


Next transfer the scales, cut them out of paper and trace them onto 1x. After cleaning them up real well at the sander, they can be glued in place, except for the one on the head. Because of the potential danger posed by the front scale, I strongly urge that it be made removable. I think the aesthetics of the piece are much enhanced by this sharp scale and it looks much better with it on. But it is not really safe, especially for younger children. My solution is to make it removable. That is, drill a hole for a dowel, glue it into the scale but don't glue it into the head.

After the scales you can make your spreaders. Cut two pieces of 2x, 3" wide and 23" long. The distance between the rockers will be 22". The other inch is for the tenons, 1/2" on either end. These I would cut on the table saw. Set the blade height at 1/2". If your material is true 1 1/2" thick, set your fence at 1" make a pass with the piece on it's end, the 3" side to the fence, this is called a cheek cut. Turn it around so the other cheek cut is made on the same end, then flip it over and do the same thing to the other end. Repeat with the other spreader. Then set your fence at 2" and make a pass with the spreader on it's end and the 1 1/2" side against the fence, this is called a shoulder cut. Turn it around so the other shoulder cut can be made on the same end, then flip it over and do the same thing to the other end. Repeat with the other spreader. Set your fence at 1" to the outside of the blade. Lay the 3" side flat on the table saw with the end against the fence. With a bevel gauge, run the piece through to remove the cheeks. Flip over and do the other cheek on that end, then reverse to remove the cheeks from the other end. Repeat with the other spreader. Run your blade up to 1" height and do the same thing with the shoulders. This should leave you with perfect 1" x 1/2" x 1/2" tenons.



Flip your dragon upside down, center your spreaders on the tenons on the bottoms of the feet, and mark where the mortises need to be cut. Take the spreaders to the mortising press. Make sure there is a 1/2" mortising bit in the press. Set the depth for 1/2". Make side by side cuts with the press to make 1" by 1/2" mortises. Use Gorilla glue in the mortises, clamp the spreaders to the legs and let dry overnight.

When everything is dry, place the rockers 22" apart, set the dragon on top of them. Move it back and forth until you find where it needs to land. Take a combo square and transfer where the tenons will land and where the mortises should be cut in the rockers. Once determined, take the rockers to the mortising press and cut the mortises into them. Using Gorilla glue attach the spreaders to the rockers. Clamp and let set overnight.