

# How To Process for Making Lawn Crosses

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This is Marv's process for making lawn crosses. It is not the only way, nor are the materials or the sources of those materials unique. Enjoy!

## Materials

- Cellular PVC Trim – 1" x 2" x 8' (actual dimension is  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8')
- Home Depot (Note that one side of the PVC trim is smooth and the other side has a pattern)
- Round Rod  $\frac{3}{16}$ " OD, 72" length, mill finish – Orange Aluminum on-line
- Oatey Regular Clear PVC Cement – Home Depot

## Tools Used

- Table saw
- Band saw
- Radial arm saw for dado cut
- Horizontal drill press to make hole in bottom
- Belt sander

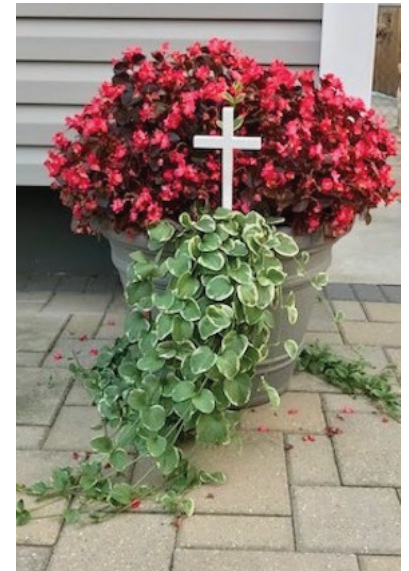
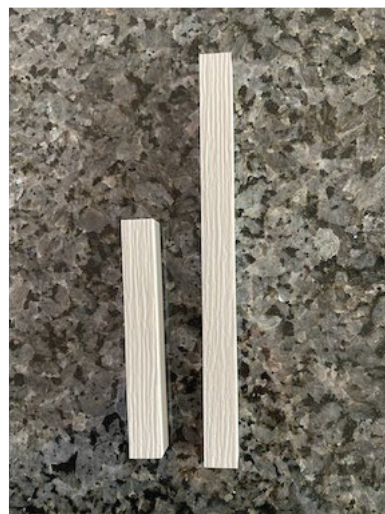
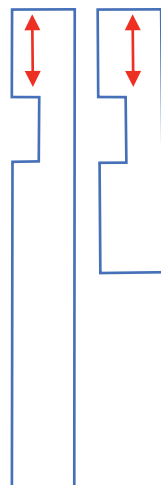
## Process

### Step 1

Use the table saw to rip the PVC trim lengthwise in half, resulting in  $\frac{3}{4}$ " by  $\frac{3}{4}$ " strips 8 feet long. Please note that the material may not be exactly  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide so it is important that the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " material is cut exactly in half so that the material fits in the dado groove tightly.

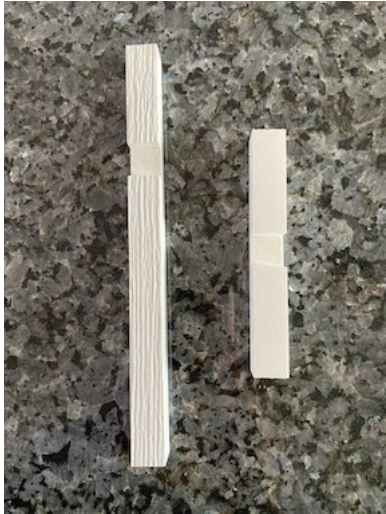
### Step 2

Cut the  $\frac{3}{4}$ " by  $\frac{3}{4}$ " material into pieces. The cross pieces for the cross are 5" long and the vertical piece is  $8\frac{3}{4}$ " long. The vertical length can be changed slightly to get the most pieces possible out of the 8' long pieces. I use a band saw to cut these pieces to length.



### Step 3

Cut the dado groove in the vertical piece with patterned side up. Cut the dado in the horizontal piece smooth side up so that when assembled, you see the same pattern on one side of the cross and the smooth side on the other. I use stacked dado blades in a radial arm saw to accomplish this operation. The dado groove should be located in the middle of the horizontal piece and down from the vertical piece 2 3/16" from the top.



### Step 4

This step adds the PVC clear cement to the dado groove on one piece (sometimes, it is prudent to apply PVC cement to both sides). Put both vertical and horizontal piece together and let the glue dry for 30-60 minutes.



### Step 5

Drill a 3/16" diameter hole, approximately 1 3/4" deep in the center/bottom of the vertical piece to insert the rod. For this operation, I use a horizontal drill press (Shop Smith).

## Step 6

The final step in building is to prepare the rod and insert the rod in the bottom of the vertical piece.

The rods we use are 3/16" in diameter and procured from Orange Aluminum Corporation. The description for this is Round Rod 3/16" OD, 72" length, Mill Finish – material is Aluminum – part number RB61188-72M.

As noted, the material is 72" long, so it needs to be cut into 6" pieces. I use my band saw to cut these in groups of 50 pieces. To eliminate sharp edges, I sand each end using my belt sander.

The rods are inserted into the drilled hole without any adhesive.



In summary, this cross is made from material that is durable and does not need to be painted and should last for many years. The aluminum should not rust or deteriorate in any way.

