

Make Your Own Cavalletti

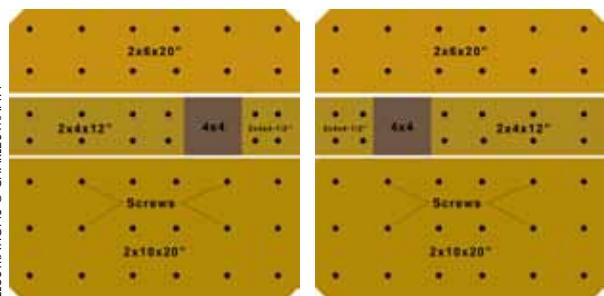
By John Madden

At the 2010 George Morris Horsemastership Training Program last January, the young riders spent a good bit of time working over the cavalletti Beezie and I use at our farm. Here are directions for making them yourself. I recommend making them 8 feet long for most uses or 12 feet if you are using them with young horses. You can also stack them to create jumps.

MATERIALS NEEDED (makes one cavalletti)

- 2 20- x 20-inch pieces of 3/4-inch exterior-grade plywood
- 2 20-inch 2x10s, pressure treated
- 2 20-inch 2x6s, pressure treated
- 2 12-inch 2x4s, pressure treated
- 2 4 1/2-inch 2x4s, pressure treated
- 1 8- or 12-foot 4x4, pressure treated (see note above)
- 1 1-pound box of 1 1/4-inch galvanized wood screws
- 2 3/8- x 4-inch lag bolts with flat washer
- 8 4-inch angle brackets and 32 1 1/4-inch #8 screws (brackets and screws may come packaged together)
- 2 tubes exterior construction adhesive with caulking gun

Circular saw; drill with Phillips screwdriver bit; 1/4-inch drill bit; 1/2-inch wrench/socket or adjustable wrench; 100- or 150-grit sandpaper, electric sander or router



(Note: Follow all precautions when working with pressure-treated lumber and power/hand tools, and wear safety glasses and gloves.)

1. Measure and cut all pieces with a circular saw, or have your lumber store cut them for you.

2. Starting with a plywood square in front of you, spread construction adhesive on one side of a 2x10 board, flip it over and align it with the bottom and side edges of the plywood.

3. Apply adhesive to one side of the 2x6 board, flip over and line it up with the top and side edges of the plywood.

4. Apply adhesive to one side of a 12-inch 2x4, flip it over and line it up to the left edge of the plywood and center it between the 2x10 and 2x6. There will be a narrow gap between the boards.

5. Carefully flip over the plywood and screw the 1 1/4-inch galvanized screws through the plywood into the boards (see pattern on diagram above).



ABOVE: A lag bolt driven into the 4x4 from each end holds it in place. **LEFT:**



Attach 4-inch angle brackets from the center of each face of the 4x4 into the plywood ends with screws for extra security.

6. Repeat process on the second plywood square, except this time aligning the 12-inch 2x4 with the right edge.

7. Make a pencil mark 1 inch from each corner and diagonally connect the marks with a straight edge. Use your saw to lop off the corners.

8. Hand sand or use an electric sander or router to ease the inside and outside edges of the cavalletti sides to protect your horse's legs should he accidentally hit it.

9. Insert the 4x4 into the space between the 2x10 and 2x6, snug against the end of the 2x4.

10. Using a 1/4-inch drill bit, drill a hole from the plywood side of the cavalletti end through the center of the 4x4 and use a 1/2-inch wrench/socket or drill attachment to drive in a lag bolt/washer until snug. Avoid overtightening. Repeat on the other end, making sure the ends are sitting level.

11. Use adhesive to insert the 4 1/2-inch piece of 2x4 next to the 4x4 to help hold it in place. Then screw in place with 1 1/4-inch galvanized screws. Repeat on the other end.

12. Screw the angle brackets in place in the center of each face of the 4x4 to the sidepieces on both ends.

13. Let the cavalletti sit for 24 hours before using to allow the adhesive to dry.