



Theatre Virtual Learning

Theatre Design & Advanced Theatre Design
Stock Scenery: Building a Flat

May 4



Lesson: May 4

Objective/Learning Target: The student will understand how to make a flat with the measurements involved.

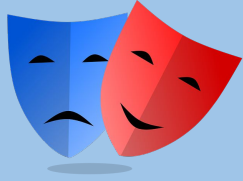


Stock Scenery: Building a Flat

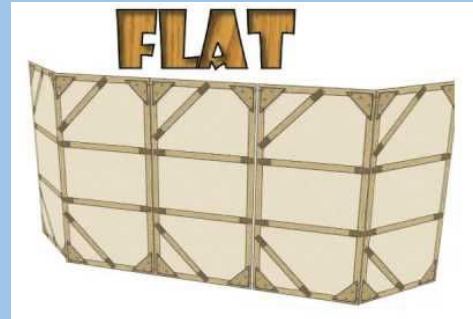
Let's Get Started / Warm Up Activities:

What is a flat used for?

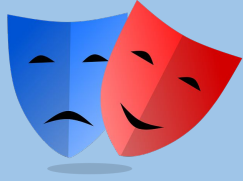
What is it made of?



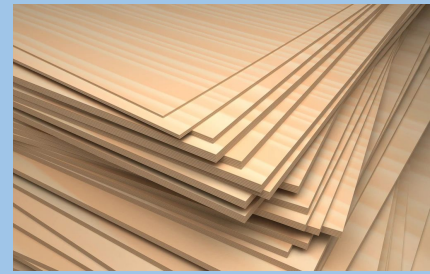
Flats



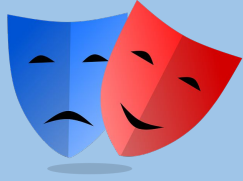
- Theatre flats, or scenery flats, are placed at the back and sides of a stage and painted to provide a background for the performance.
- Flats are frequently uniform in size and design so they can be stacked together and stored in a small space. However, you can have standard solid flats, window flats, door flats, etc.
- You can build theatre flats from lumber, plywood, and cloth.



Flats

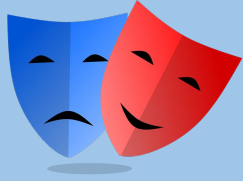


- The flat frame can be hard or soft covered and is used to create the illusion of walls for a stage.
- Soft covered flats are lighter in weight to move around, but can get damaged more easily because they are covered in muslin (strong material).
- Hard covered flats are much more durable, but they are heavier to move. They are covered in plywood or lauan.



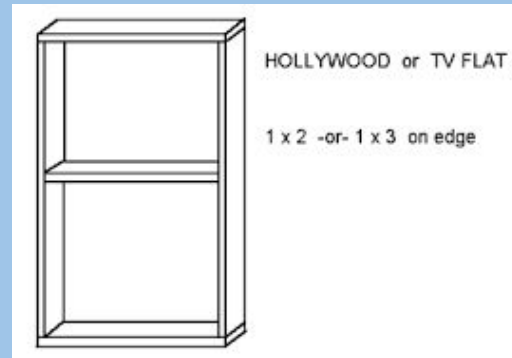
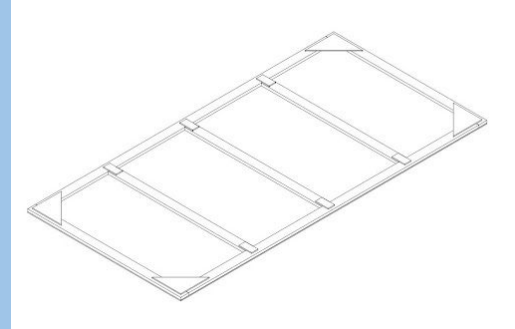
Flats

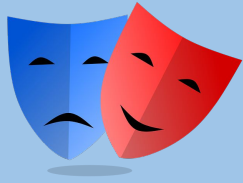
- The frame is typically built out of 1" x 3" or 1" x 4" pine laid flat.
- Different theatres will have different heights of flats as standard.
- If made with plywood, they are frequently 8' high (the height of a piece of plywood). Other theatres have 10' or 12' flats as their standard height, depending upon the height of their proscenium.



Types of flats

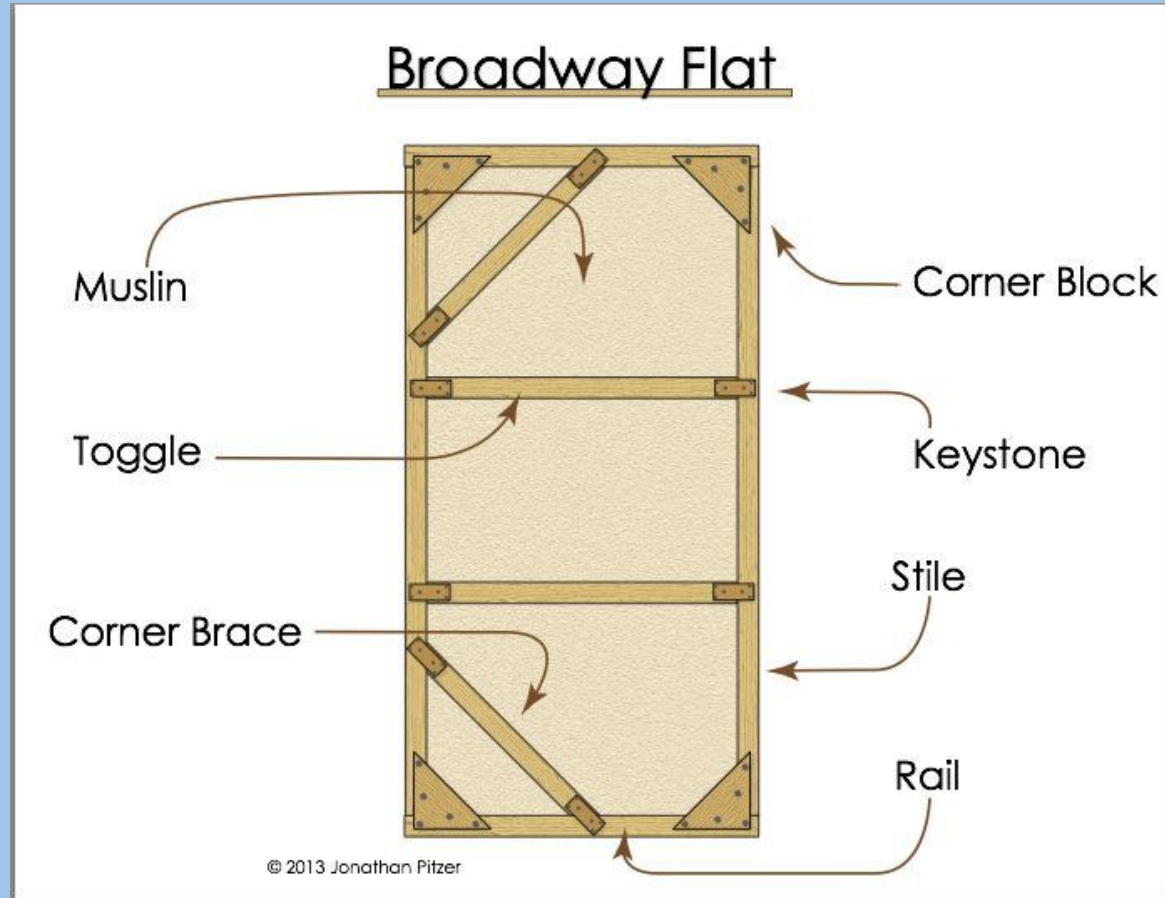
- There are 2 styles of flats.
 - Broadway flat: lumber is laid flat and covered in plywood, luan or muslin.
 - Hollywood flat: lumber is on edge to make it like a shallow box and covered.

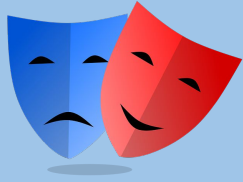




Main structure of a flat

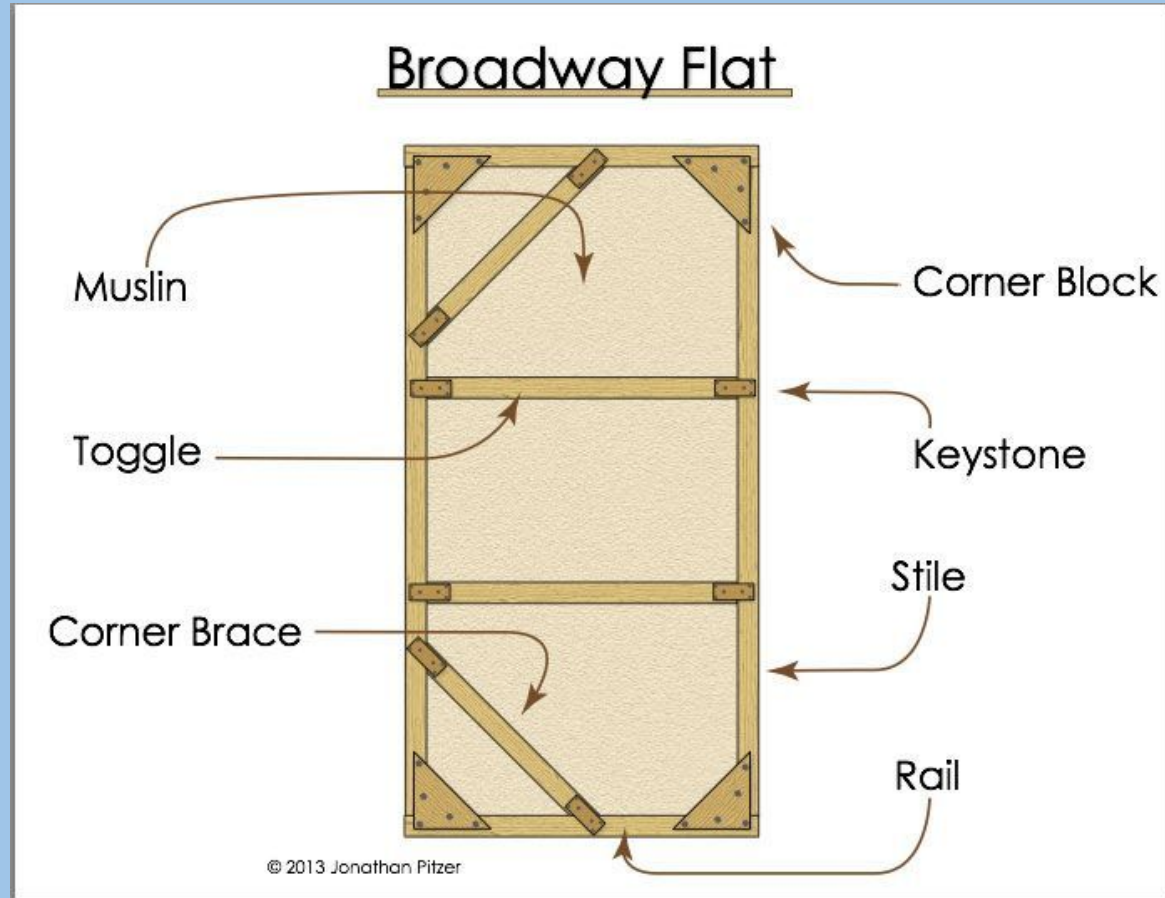
- Stiles run vertically up the sides
- Rails run horizontally the entire width of the flat
- These 2 frame the exact dimension of the flat structure

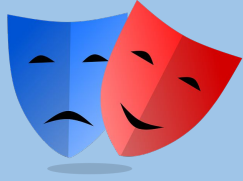




Bracing parts of a flat

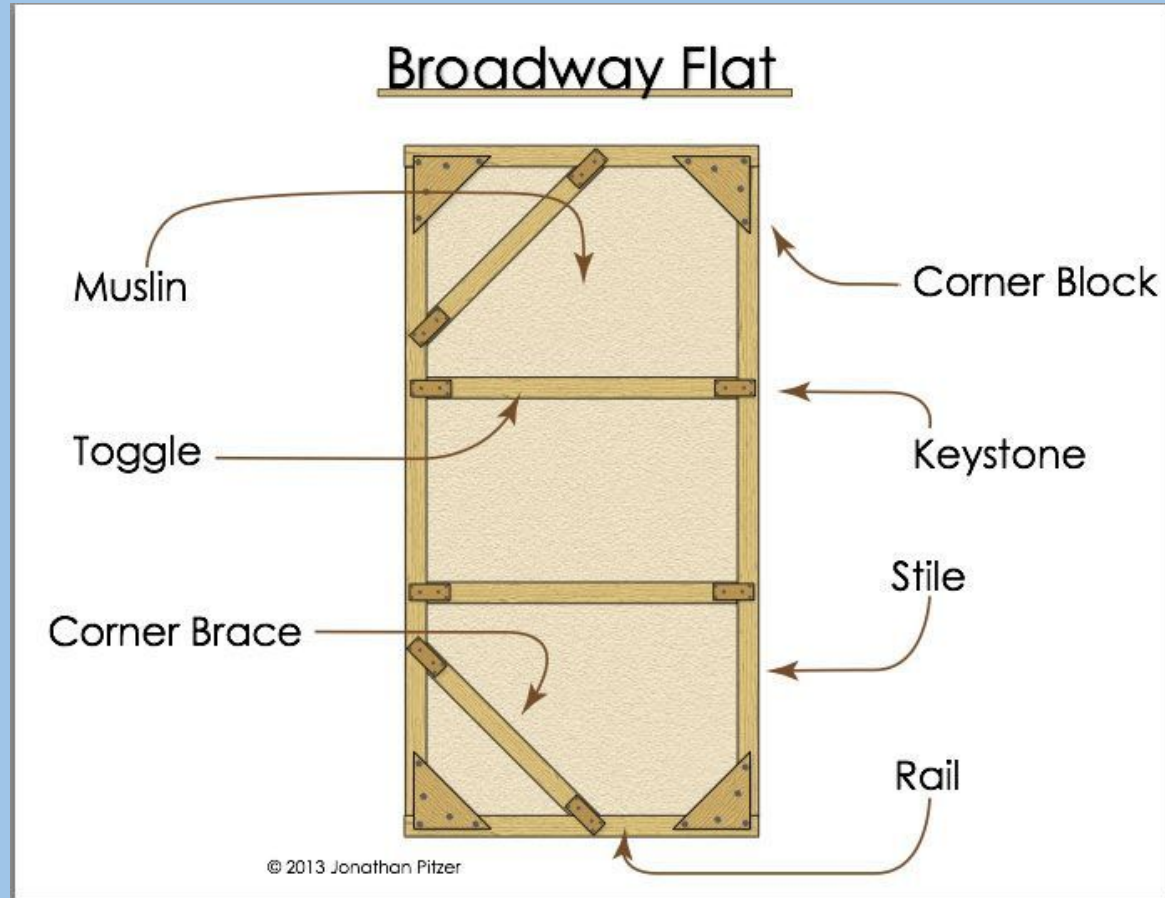
- Toggles cross the middle of the flat center for bracing
- Corner Brace holds the flat square
- These 2 elements keep the flat perfectly square so it can easily butt up to other flats.

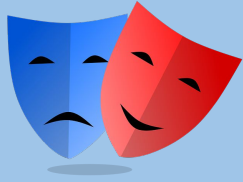




Parts of a flat

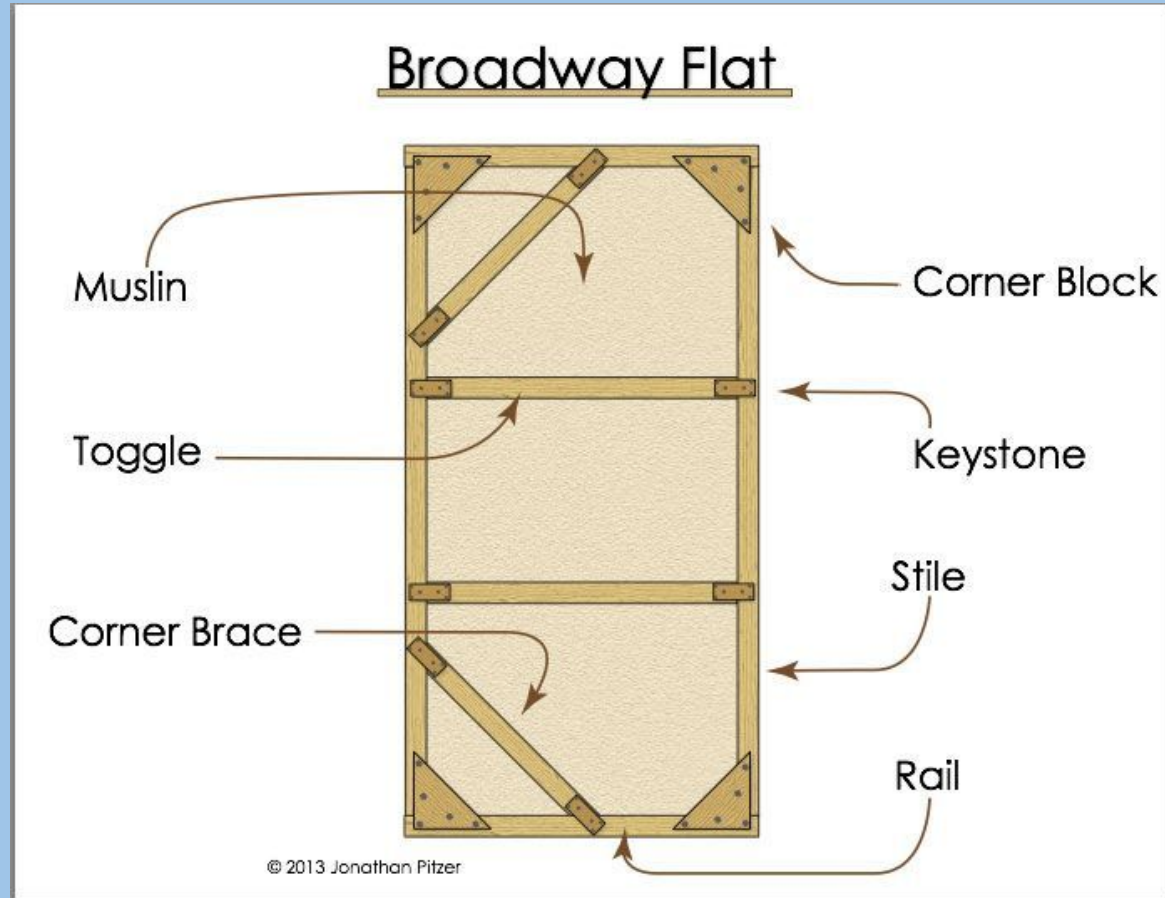
- Corner blocks and keystones are used to attach the above part together.
- These overlap the wood that is butted together (so the flat is truly flat). They are glued and nailed or screwed into place.

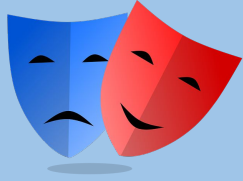




Parts of a flat

- This diagram shows the flat being covered in muslin, but if it is a hard side flat (covered in lauan or plywood), it would be in the same place.





Practice

Sketch out a flat with all of its parts.

Make sure the rails go clear across the bottom and top.

Keep this drawing to refer to for tomorrow.