

# Doubled Joist Prevents Cracked Decking

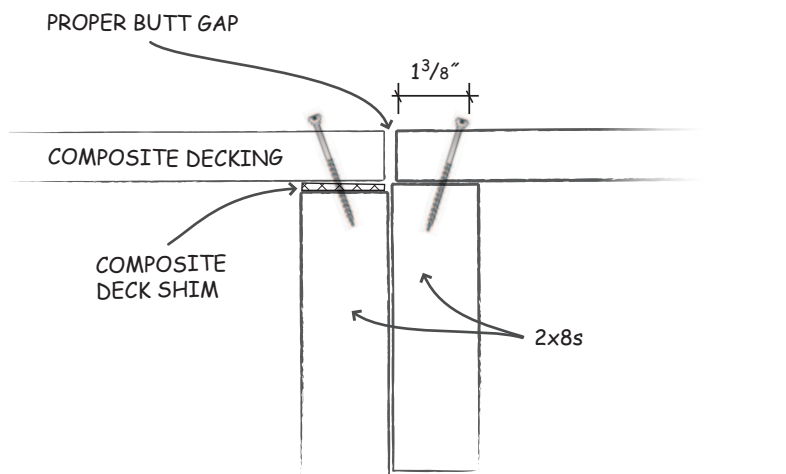
by Ben Roberson

Composite decking can crack if screws are placed too close to the end of the board. Planning ahead for the butt-joint location and installing a double joist there is a great, inexpensive way to avoid that problem. It gives me a full 1½ inches to support each of those end butts, and prevents crowding the screws. Alleviating the potential for a crack in the end of a \$60 composite deck board far outweighs the \$20 for the extra joist and hangers.

If the double joists aren't flush on top, I shim the low side with decking cutoffs — the same color as the decking so they don't stand out. I also use pieces of composite decking as jigs to consistently and correctly space the butt joints.

*Ben Roberson owns All About Awesome Construction in Evergreen, Colo.*

This Tip wins a DeWalt DCF885L2 20-volt impact driver kit. ❖



## Tips

We want your best deck-building tips. We're partnering with DeWalt to give away a power tool each issue to the reader who sends the best tip to [prodeck@hanleywood.com](mailto:prodeck@hanleywood.com). The prize for the May/June 2013 issue is a 20-volt impact-driver kit. So, write up those tips. Don't sweat the grammar or the spelling — that's what editors get paid for. Take a photo (your camera's best setting, please), or send a sketch on the back of a napkin.

