

BY PAUL DERKSEN

Framing for the Long Haul

Editor's note: This tip made immediate sense to many of us with bad backs, shoulders, and knees born of jobsite injuries and the stresses of lifting heavy materials. Even if you're still young and fit, consider what it will take to stay in the game for the long haul. Making one of these and using it to haul around the big stuff might help.

I picked up this tip when training at the Yestermorrow Design/Build School years ago to learn more about timber framing: To move heavy beams and posts, I now always use a timber cart. I built my own cart out of scrap lumber, a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch steel axle rod from an old garden cart, and a pair of 26-inch-diameter wheels.

The key to using the cart is to balance heavy loads over the cart's midpoint, the axle. I use it to move 24-foot staging planks, ladders, beams, and piles of framing lumber.

My homemade version is approximately the same height as my sawhorses. By pushing down on one end of the cart, I can raise a timber or staging plank high enough to easily set one end on my truck's ladder rack or on a set of staging, and then slide it up into place.

Homebuilder Paul Derksen owns TurningLeaf Housewrights, based in Norwich, Vt.



Send us your tips: JLC, in partnership with our sister publication *Tools of the Trade* and Milwaukee Tools, is giving away a power tool each issue to the reader who sends us the best trade tip. (Next month, we'll give away a Milwaukee M18 Rocket Tower Light/Charger Kit, shown at right). Send tips to JLC-Editorial@hanleywood.com with "Trade Tip" in the subject line. Any building trade qualifies. Don't sweat the grammar or writing; that's what JLC editors get paid for. But please send us high-quality photos, and, if needed, a rough sketch to explain your tip.

