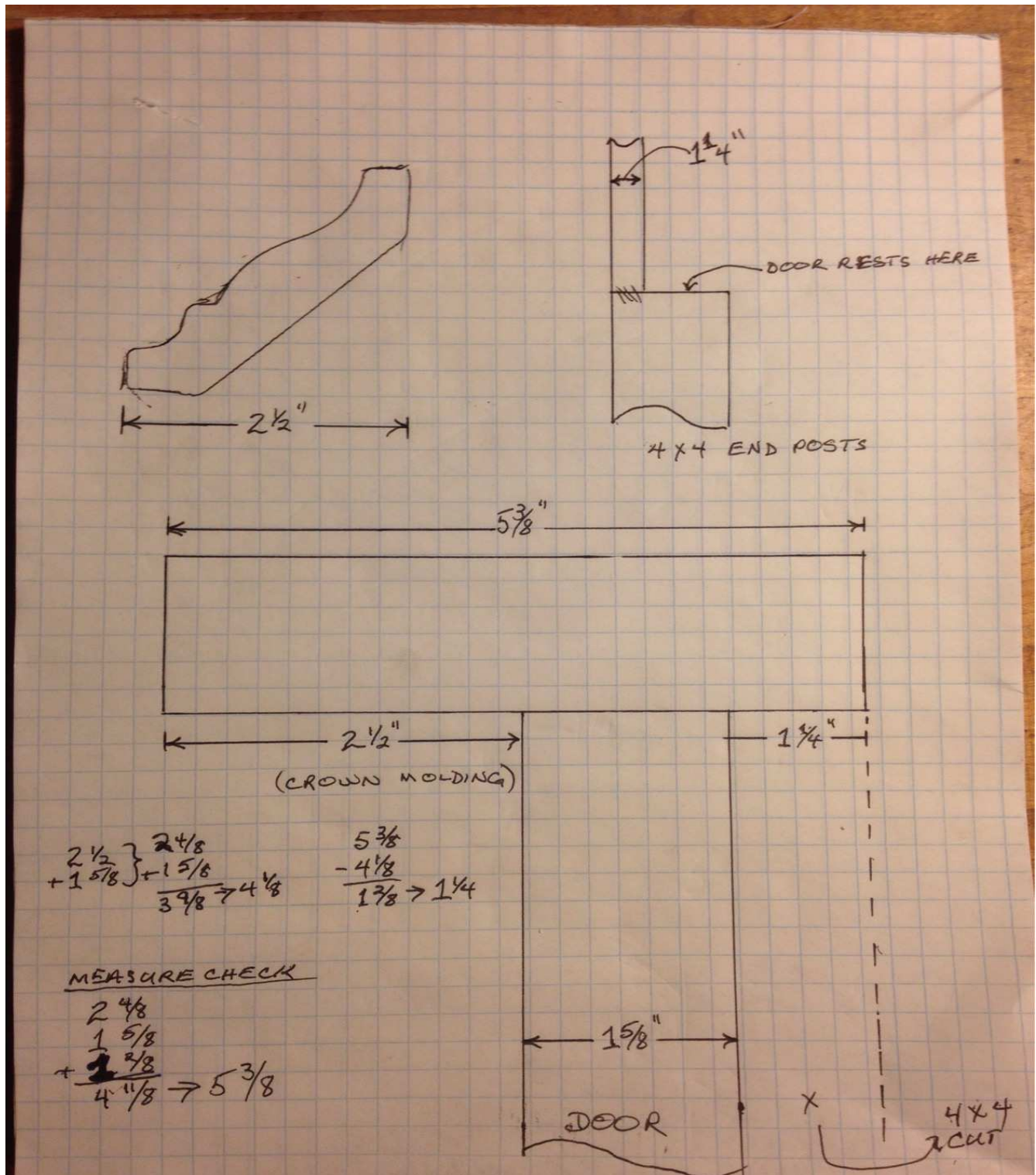


## Start with a plan



The crown molding I chose is the starting point. The plan shows that its installed depth is two and one-half inches ( $2\frac{1}{2}"$ ). This is used to determine where the top board will be positioned on the hinge-side of the door as well as the amount of overhang on each side of the door thus giving you the actual length of

## **Start with a plan**

the top board. Therefore, the overall length of the top board will be the length of the hinge-side of the door plus 5 inches. I added about 1/8" to each measure so that the board would have a small overhang once the crown molding is installed.

Since the support posts for the door are 4x4 cedar posts, the overhang at the back of the door determines how much material needs to be removed from the posts to provide a resting place for the door as well as a means of attaching the posts flush with each end of the door. In my case, I needed a one and one-quarter inch (1.25") of material to be flush with the top board at the back of the headboard.

With the door sitting on the 4x4 shelf, use clamps to secure the backrest to the door. Use a countersink bit to drill 6 holes in each backrest for 2" number 12 wood screws. I drilled two holes at the top, two at the bottom (side by side about 1" from each backrest edge), and two in the middle, 1" from each edge, but on a slight diagonal from each other. After removing the backrests, mark the door-side of the backrest with an arrow pointing to the outside edge to eliminate guesswork when doing the final installation.

In my case, once the backrests were installed, the shelf where the door rests was wider than the actual door. I used a round-over bit in my router to enhance the appearance.

## Door Sanding and Filler



The door needs to be brought back to unfinished wood. This includes stripping, filler application, and sanding. I chose Timber Mate wood filler (neutral base); it is more expensive, but it won't shrink and it

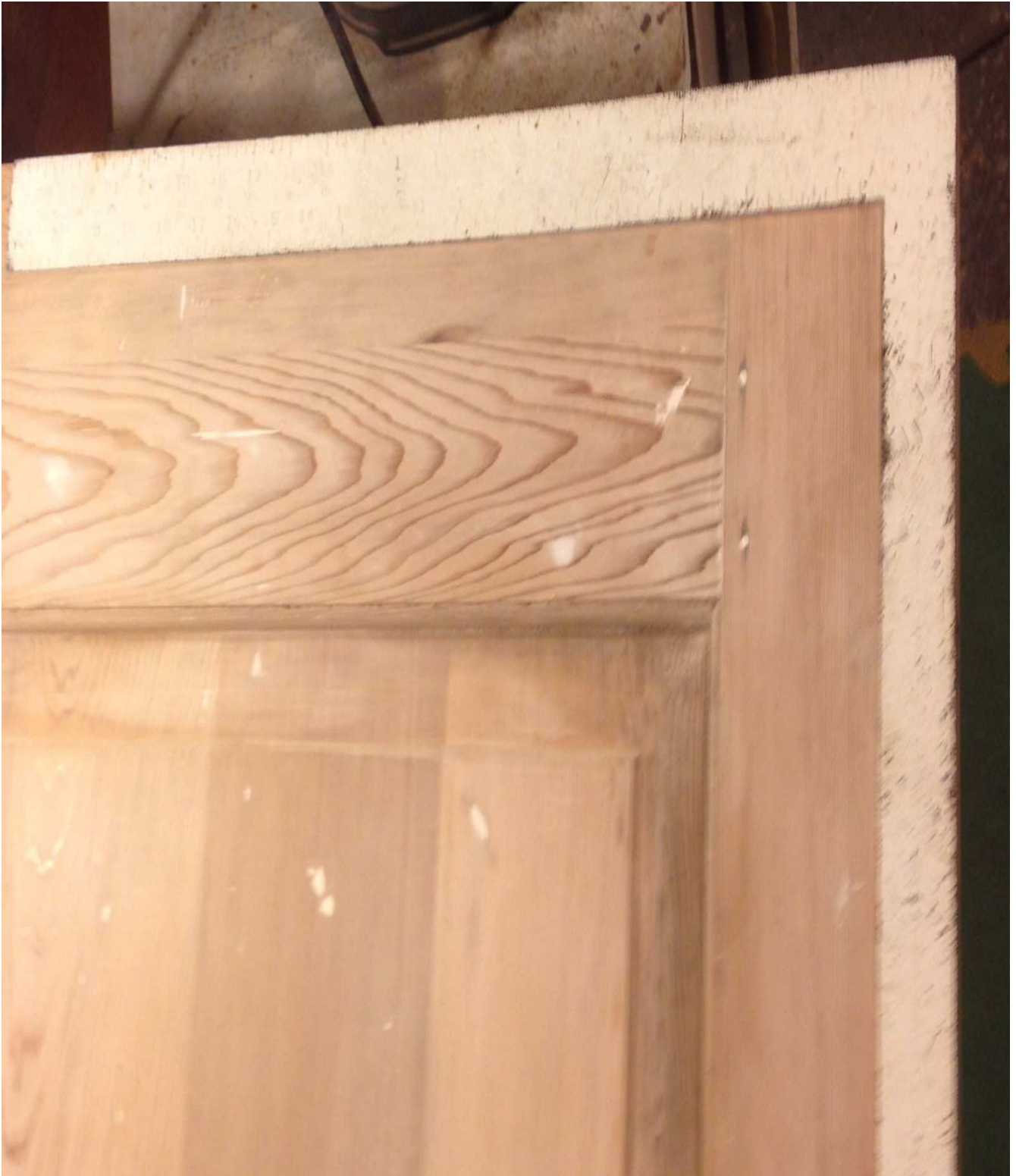
## **Door Sanding and Filler**

takes on stain well.

At this stage, you should choose which side of the door presents the least amount of defects; this will become the face of the headboard.



## Square Up



Keeping in mind that this is a cottage door, the next step is to make sure that the sides are square. In my design, I elected to have the door knob hole at the bottom so that it would lie below the mattress and bed covers. Use a carpenter's square to determine if both ends are square. In my case, the bottom of the

## **Square Up**

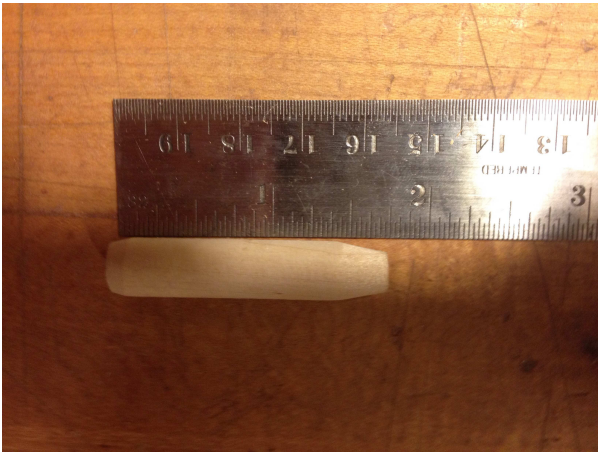
door (which will become one side of the headboard) was off by quite a bit. I used the carpenter's square to position and clamp a straight edge and used a circular saw to bring it back on square.

## Plan Details

In this design, the top of the headboard is a 2x6 clear cedar board sitting on top of the hinge side of the door. To determine the actual length and position of the board, you need to take into consideration the depth of the crown molding by referring to the original plan. Also, the top will be flush with the back of the supporting 4x4 structure as per the original plan.

Cut the top board to length. The board will be fitted to the hinge side of the door with 3/8" dowels and secured to the door with 90 degree brackets (choose an appropriate size so that they will fit inside the crown molding).

To do this, I used a centering kit. Drill the 3/8" holes on the hinge side using a try square as a guide.



## Position the Top Board

Insert the 3/8" dowel centering kit into the holes on the hinge side. Using the crown molding as a guide, position the top board and tap it to establish where the centre of the mating holes need to be drilled.

Repeat the drilling process described earlier using a try square to create the 3/8" receiving holes.





## Finish the top

Apply glue to the hinge-side holes and insert the blunt end of the tapered dowels. Allow appropriate drying time.

The top will rest in the tapered end of the dowels without any glue-up. Secure the top to the door using 90 degree brackets that will be concealed by the crown molding in front, and exposed on the back side of the door.

If the backrest is not installed, do so at this time. It needs to be present during the crown molding installation and for the staining and finish coating process.

Cut the crown molding to size and secure with a brad nailer (1" brads are sufficient). Refer to a number of YouTube video to understand how to cut the crown molding. (I found this one useful: <https://youtu.be/LHUH7knryFc>)

Fill in the brad nail holes and sand to a smooth finish. Apply stain and protective finish to suit your needs.

