Chapter 8: Notching Columns With Trusses

Most Common Mistakes:

1. Failing to notch trusses into columns.
2. Truss notches made on column sides other than as denoted on plans.
3. Installing wall framing and/or eave strut before notching columns.

Elevated Wood Floors (floors over crawlspaces, full or partial basements, lofts, mezzanines, second or third floors) may be installed prior to this step provided all of these occur:

Outside building dimensions are accurate at floor level;
Column spacing is accurate at floor level;
Floor is square when sheathed.

This may result in more effort to raise trusses. Please go to Chapter 33 for elevated wood floor assembly prior to returning here.

To determine notch bottom location from “eave height”:

Hook a tape measure on splash plank bottom.

Measure up interior truss bearing columns (on column outside) to eave height as specified on building plans. Put a mark here to measure from.
This is “A” on See Figure 8-1.

From “A” – Measure down truss end height (truss end dimension). This point will be notch bottom, “B” on See Figure 8-1.

Figure 8-1: Notching Columns With Trusses

Interior trusses ARE ALWAYS notched into columns.
For a two-member truss – remaining column AFTER notching into a nominal 6” solid sawn column **will be approximately 2-1/2”** in area remaining BEHIND trusses (unless otherwise noted on building plans). *See Figure 8-2*

For a three-member truss – remaining column AFTER notching into a nominal 6” column is approximately **1”**.

Notch depth should be adequate to provide full truss bearing on column below.

**Figure 8-2: Marking Columns for Notches**
Important! Notch column *same side* on opposite sidewalls.

Unless otherwise noted on plans End trusses *ARE ALWAYS notched* into outside column faces.

For a one-member truss – follow same process as outlined previously for interior trusses, however notches will be only 1-1/2” in depth and will be into all corner and endwall columns.

If building has endwall overhangs endwall trusses will be dropped by roof purlin height adjusted for slope. Please review ‘End Truss to Corner Column’ detail on plans and visit appropriate Chapter 52-55 showing end truss Vertical Lowering Distance.

Notch depth should always be adequate to provide full truss bearing on column below.

Building construction will be easiest by completing all roof framing installation and installing roofing *before* installing any girts or other wall framing.

**IMPORTANT!** Avoid trimming any sidewall, endwall or corner columns for length until AFTER all roof framing has been completed and preparations are made to install roofing.

Only then, trim off column portions extending above roof plane.