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Wednesday, Apr 20, 2022

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Wing wall paint 1

I cut the lumber for the middle-length wing wall and paint the first primer coat.



The above picture shows what happens when you use pressure-treated lumber. You can't paint it right away. It is wet green lumber full of chemicals. Most folks say to wait a month or so. I waited, and perhaps because I had the lumber sitting on the cinder-block wall, the lumber warped so bad I am afraid to reef it onto the wall with Tapcon screws. All that will do is put a whole bunch of stress on the wall, and it's stress that might get worse over time. This picture is the middle-sized wall, about 9 feet long. The longer wall on the other side of the house has lumber warped so bad it snapped off a 3.5-inch construction screw, in tension, no less. Time to admit failure and get kiln-dried.

I went to Home Depot at 10:30 and came back with the three 2"x10"x 10' boards. I tried to get straight ones. One nice thing about doing the job over is that I could use the pressure-treated wood as a pattern. There is an old saying, "*Never time to do it right, always time to do it over.*"

I was cutting up the lumber by noon. By 2:30 I had the first coat of primer on one side of the boards. At 5:30 I primed the other side of the boards. Tomorrow will be another primer coat, then two more days for two coats of color. Rather than screw the boards together, I will just mount them to the cinder-block wall.



This wall is an L-shape. The shorter pieces of the "L" did not warp as bad, but still replaced..



Here is the UPC for the lumber. I was so worried about finding straight ones I missed the big split in the middle one. I can cut around it.



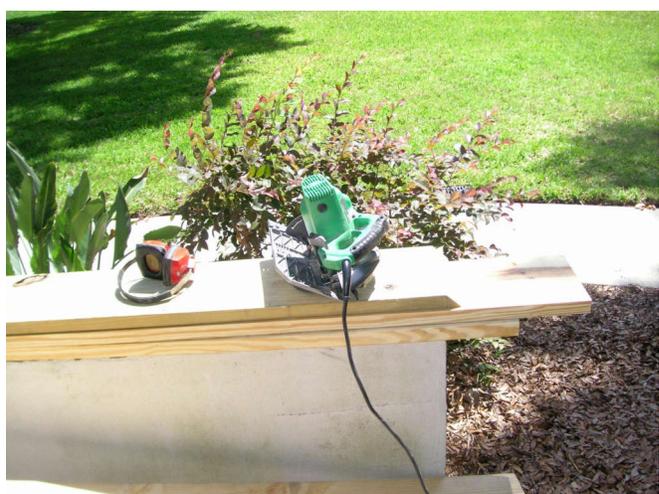
Bring a stapler to pop one of these nifty red flags on the back. I should have stapled the gloves down too, they almost fell off in a bump.



I figured to work on top of the wall.



I carry bungees to hold down the trunk.



I like the Hitachi saw since it stops fast. I wear ear muffs for tinnitus. It's a nice day to work.



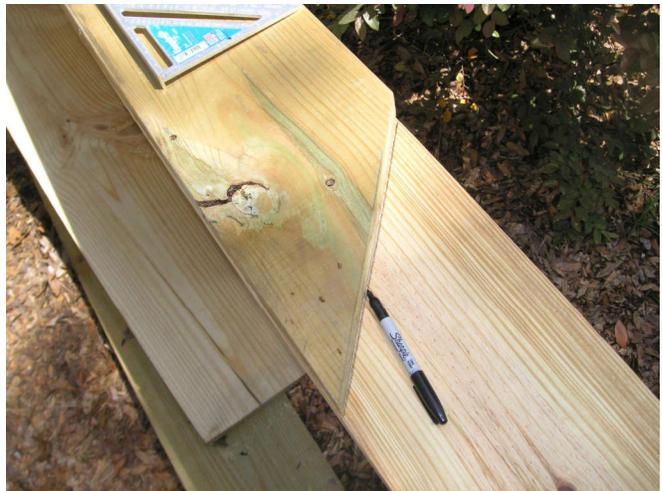
You can flip over your leaf barrels to use as work platforms. Don't wear gloves around rotating machinery, they catch and pull you in.



I used the square to line up the edges.



Check the angle of the saw.



I strike the 45-degree cut off the pattern.



I used scrap wood as a fence for the saw. The speed-square comes in handy here as well.



Check the saw for square as well. The stops were off on both directions.



I lined up the pattern with the long side up. Duh. For this board I could just flip it over.



Then I realized I could flip the pattern over so the long side was down. The two marks show how wrong I had the cut, and too short to boot.



UI set the fence and cut the first 45-degree.



Set the fence and make sure it is square.



Stupid, now I transfer the long side down.



The new board is a bit long, but the pattern has shrunk so I should be fine.



A better shot of the length difference. If the new board is too long, I can trim it and repaint.



Doing the end-cap is suited to working on the vise where the work is steady while I cut.



Setting up to cut the shorter part of the "L".



It took three tries. One was too narrow, one had a huge knot and top piece is right on.



I tried to use a leaf bucket to support the end of the board but that was not practical. Instead I just stacked it on two scrap pieces and cut.



I did a quick sanding more to clean the boards off than to smooth them out.



KILZ primer is great for this exterior job.



Old nitrile gloves are brittle. I switched to 9-mil latex later on in the job.



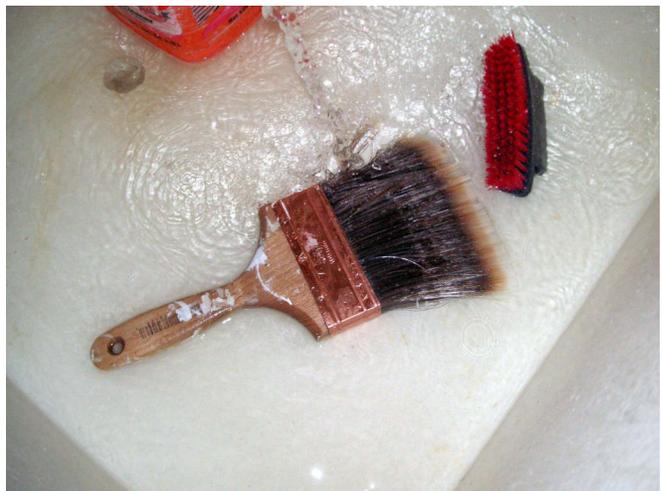
I get one side coated for the short side of the "L" as well as the end-cap.



I painted both boards at once, so I didn't get my shirt against the wet paint.



Then I do the 9-foot leg, sanding to get the board ready for primer.



I learned a fingernail brush cleans out the paint brush great, then slap it like Bob Ross to dry.



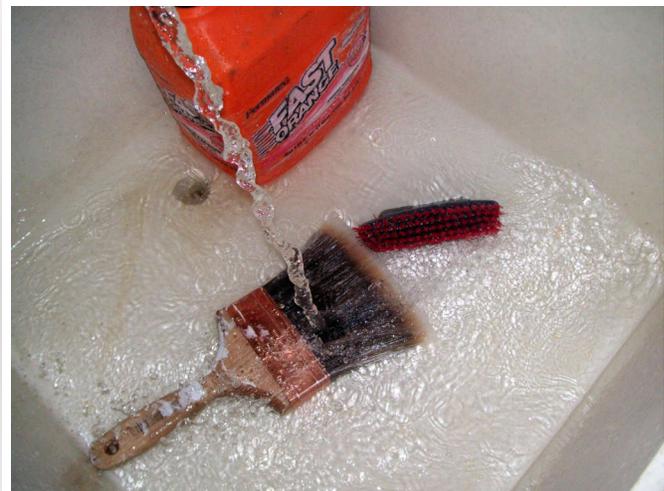
It's 2:30, and all the boards have primer on one side. Time for an [Analog Diet](#) lunch.



Now doing the back sides of the long boards after doing the two short boards and the cap.



By 5:30 the primer was dry, This time I tried these 8-mil latex gloves which are brand new.



Same deal, a fingernail brush cleans out the paint brush really well.



I had to work on top of the long boards, but it went OK, I painted one short board at a time.



I slipped off the latex gloves, hoping to reuse them tomorrow for the second coat of primer.



Hammer the paint can lid down.



Here are the long boards primed on both sides. Learning to clean that paintbrush well really makes it a pleasure to lay down multiple coats while saving the brush.

I might lay that front board on the wall tomorrow before the second coat. If it is a bit too long I can trim it down and just continue to paint it. It's not a killer if the boards are a little short, I have silicone caulk to fill the gaps. I also have some wood putty to fill in gaps in the corners. After I get all that done for all three walls, I will put a final coat of color on the walls, and they should last for decades. A day each for 2nd primer, 1st color and 2nd color. It's a nice Southern tempo. The wall was rotted for a decade, so a few more days will be fine.