

Timberframe Layout Tape Measure

In timberframing the most common burn lengths are 1", 10", and 12", with 10" and 12" being by far most common. Shorter burn lengths such as 1" don't typically work well because the hook prevents the tape from laying flat. Clamps are often used to keep the tape measure in place during layout.

Some timberframers make their drawing dimensions all in inches, so adding 10" is easy to add and check. Others make their drawings in feet and inches, which is why some choose a 12" burn length. The drawing scheme may also dictate the burn length. The new Timberframe Layout Tape Measure from FastCap works for both groups because it's marked for both techniques with a 10" burn length reverse scale built into the tape measure blade. This gives you a built in burn length and eliminates the need to remember to add to your drawing dimension. It also features a flat blade for easy marking. In addition, the reverse scale comes in handy when marking tenons on tie beams or posts.

The picture below illustrates where the Timberframe Tape Measure comes in handy. The zero starting point (red line) would have been marked out on the timber prior to cutting the joinery. The tenon is in the negative direction (left) of zero with the measured length to the right of the zero line. Once the zero point is determined on your timber, the reverse scale can be used to mark out the length of tenon to be used.



The Timberframe Tape Measure has a positive length of 30' – long enough for the majority of timberframing layout. While braces may be as short as 4', many rafters are 22'-28' long and posts can vary from 8'-24'. This tool will become a staple in your woodshop and on every timberframe job. Get yours today at your local FastCap dealer or online at www.fastcap.com.