

KEEPING THE LOGS IN PLACE



1 Diehard swingmill operators swear by wooden skids with square-edged notches. The log contacts the edges with the bark and motion is prevented. Although wooden wedges work for larger logs, smaller logs require something more. A second reason for using wooden skids is that they give the sawyer the ability to contact the skid with the blade and not worry about resulting damage. For small (under 12-inch) logs on a consistent basis, icy logs, or slippery logs with bark falling off, a positive dogging system (available as an option or in the aftermarket) may be considered. Remember to take precautions to prevent striking the dogging system with the blade.



2 The remaining slab in the bottom of the log typically looks something like the one shown here. The edge strips in the right side of the log are usually left on to act as a support to prevent the sagging of the piece between wooden bunks. A small wedge is placed on the right side to prevent the piece from rolling to the right. The downside of wooden skids is that longer and oddly shaped logs will require additional support in the middle and possibly on the ends to keep the lower part of the log from moving and causing inaccurate boards as a result. This can be helped with a dogging system.