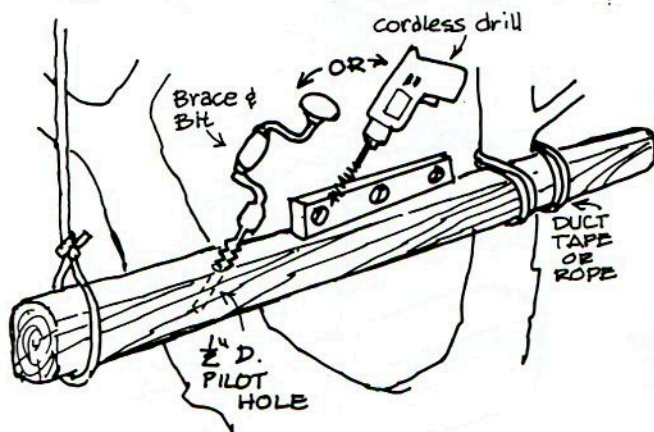
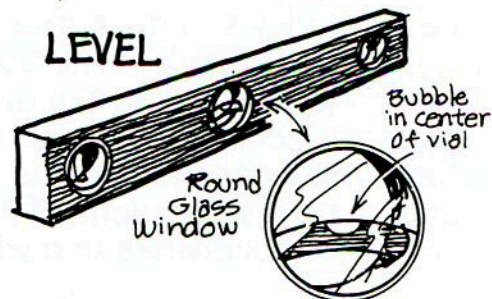


Platform (floor) Framing

To get the first support beam up into the tree, you may need to suspend it by rope, higher up into the tree.

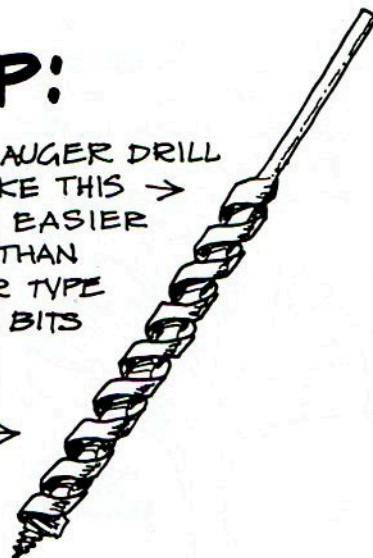
Hold the beam temporarily in place with rope or duct tape and check to make sure it is perfectly level. You should be able to find a level in your Dad's tool box. Hold it on top of the beam and tilt the beam until the bubble in the glass vial is dead center. Then drill a $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter pilot hole using a brace & bit or a battery operated drill with an auger bit.



TIP:

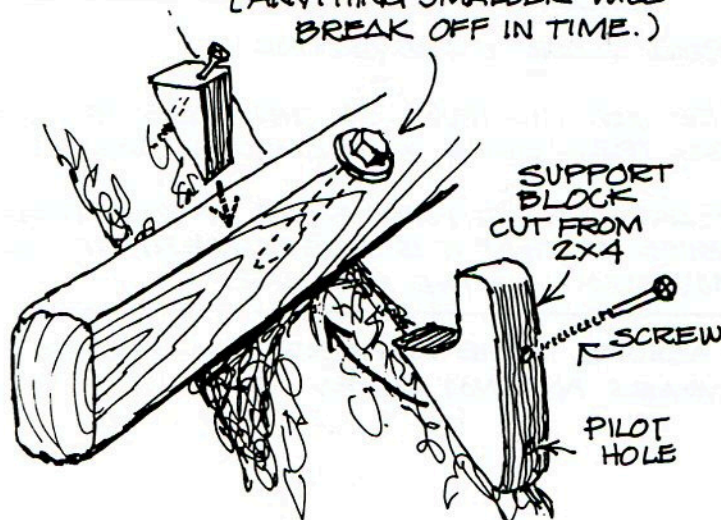
AN AUGER DRILL BIT LIKE THIS → IS MUCH EASIER TO USE THAN ANY OTHER TYPE OF DRILL BITS

AUGER BIT →



ATTACH THE BEAM TO THE TREE WITH $\frac{1}{2}$ " OR $\frac{5}{8}$ " DIAMETER LAG SCREWS.

(ANYTHING SMALLER WILL BREAK OFF IN TIME.)



To reinforce the connection between the branch and the beam, you can cut a support block and a wedge using an electric jig saw. Hold them in place with construction adhesive and 5" galvanized deck screws.

Secret Escape Hatch

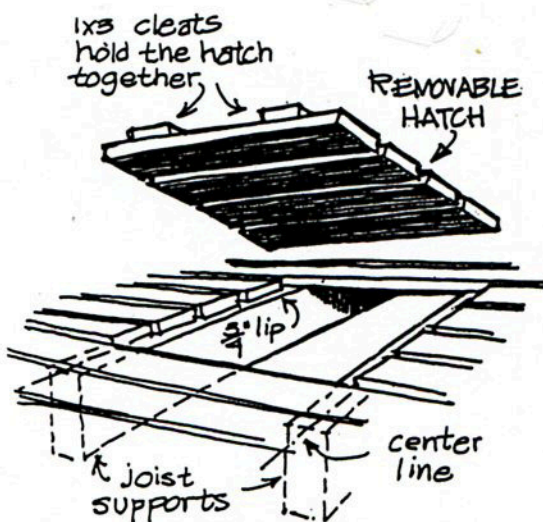
A secret escape hatch is always a good thing to have in case you need to beat a hasty retreat. If you plan ahead, you can make it so no one will be able to recognize it from the ground below.

Before you nail the floor boards down, lay them over the floor framing (joists) and mark the center line of the joists across the floor boards. Cut the floor boards so that they, and the hatch boards, share the same joist support underneath, thus creating a 3/4" lip for the hatch to rest on.

If this is as difficult for you to understand, as it is for me to explain, try figuring it out from this drawing.

Nail two 1x3 boards across the top of the hatch boards to keep them together. Make sure they line up with the other floor boards so that they will be indistinguishable from the rest.

To use the hatch, remove the hatch cover and climb down a rope ladder that you have previously bolted to the floor of the tree house.



Make your escape hatch the width of YOUR shoulders.

