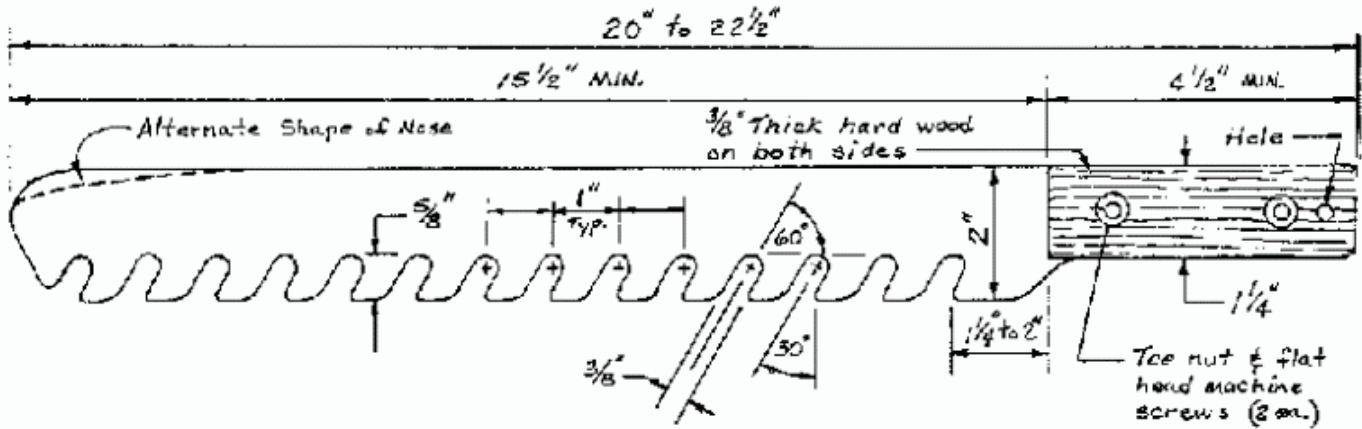


**Snow Saws ... and more**  
**Make Your Own Snow Saws!**

This classic saw design is from the HAT OKPIK Manual.



**SNOW SAW**

*No Scale*

NOTES

- Set teeth 1/16"
- Material = 1/8" thick x 2" Aluminum bar stock (Tempered Aluminum)

These Troop built saws are 24" long with 5" handles. The handles are shaped 1x2 pine with recessed #8 screws. There is also a red para cord lanyard to help find the saws in the snow. These saws were built from 1/8" aluminum stock at a cost of about \$2/LF. Outdoor shops sell saws similar to the HAT design for about \$50 (yes fifty dollars, each!). A Scout is thrifty!



One 'weakness' in this design is that the Scouts seem to like using the saws as a pry bar to try and move snow blocks. Being aluminum, they do bend (but can be bent back into something fairly straight without noticeable damage).

## Snow Saws ... and more

One Troop has had good luck in making combination saws/block plates from donated aluminum road signs. Apparently, the County Road Dept donates the old signs to the Troop when they need more saws! This particular example is 9"x24" (1/2 of a One Way sign!) with a tooth pattern modeled after the HAT design. Note the red para cord at the handle. We understand that these saws cut well and double as block plates for handling the cut snow blocks.

As we understand it, road signs use tempered aluminum making these saws very resistant to wear and tear, particularly by energetic Scouts!



## Snow Saws ... and more



Speaking of snow block plates, it's easy to make your own! Grass Valley's Troop 4 makes wooden block plates for free from 1/4" plywood scraps. The front edge is beveled to help get the plate under a snow block. They apply linseed oil to help maintain them and keep snow from sticking. Wood plates can also double as stove and pot supports (don't put your hot stove/pot directly on the snow!), supports under your tarp center pole, insulation under your feet when you're cooking (standing on snow will cool even the best insulated boots!), and more. You can also reinforce cookie sheets for use as snow blocks. The 1x2 wood piece keeps the sheet from bending. Metal snow block plates are a bit easier to slide under a snow block, but can't do double duty for stove supports, etc. You can get single ply cookie sheets cheap at thrift stores.



Wood block plates can serve multiple functions; block plate, stove/pot plate, tarp pole support, etc.!

One final thought, standing on the wood block plate does help keep your feet warmer, but you're usually using the plate to support your stove, etc. A better idea to have everyone bring a piece of insulation they can stand/sit on! Get into the habit of never sitting on the snow, you lose a lot of heat through you know where! Also, when you're not hiking or working around camp, stand on a pad; you'll be surprised how much warmer your feet are! Garden knee pads work well, especially the double wide style. They're about 1" thick and typically have a handhold that makes them easy to tie onto your sled or pack.

## Snow Saws ... and more



Garden knee pads work well. They're about 1" thick and typically have a hand hold allowing easy tie down to your sled or pack. Garden knee pads are a few dollars each; pads from surplus packing material are free ! You can also use inexpensive sleeping pads for standing or sitting insulation. But whatever you use, you'll be warmer for it so keep your insulation handy!