

Traditional Finnish Log House Making: Diamond Saddle Notch

Log houses have been a part of Finnish culture for centuries, and the traditional diamond saddle notch is one of the most iconic and distinctive features of these homes. This unique notching technique creates a strong and weathertight joint that is both beautiful and functional.

In this article, we will take a closer look at the diamond saddle notch and provide step-by-step instructions on how to build it. We will also discuss the history of log house making in Finland and the benefits of building a log home.

The tradition of log house making in Finland dates back to the 13th century. The earliest log houses were simple structures with one or two rooms, and they were typically built by farmers and fishermen. Over time, log houses became more elaborate, and they began to be used for a variety of purposes, including churches, schools, and government buildings.



Traditional Finnish Log House - Making a Diamond-Saddle Notch by Jarmo Hiltunen

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 18876 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 110 pages
Lending : Enabled



Today, log houses are still very popular in Finland, and they can be found in both rural and urban areas. Log houses are prized for their beauty, durability, and energy efficiency.

There are many benefits to building a log home, including:

- **Durability:** Log homes are very durable and can last for centuries. Log walls are thick and strong, and they are resistant to fire, insects, and rot.
- **Energy efficiency:** Log homes are very energy efficient, and they can help you save money on your energy bills. The thick log walls provide excellent insulation, and they help to regulate the temperature inside the home.
- **Beauty:** Log homes are beautiful and unique. The natural beauty of the logs adds character and warmth to any home.

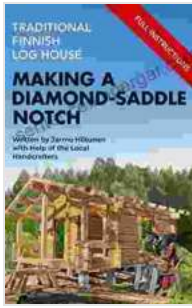
The diamond saddle notch is a type of log notch that is used in traditional Finnish log houses. This notch is created by cutting a V-shaped notch into the top of one log and a corresponding V-shaped notch into the bottom of the log above it. The two notches are then fitted together to create a strong and weathertight joint.

The diamond saddle notch is a very distinctive and beautiful notch, and it is one of the things that makes Finnish log houses so unique. This notch is also very strong and durable, and it can withstand the harsh Finnish climate.

Building a diamond saddle notch is a complex and time-consuming process, but it is also very rewarding. The following steps will help you to build a diamond saddle notch:

1. **Select the right logs.** The best logs for building a diamond saddle notch are straight, strong, and free of knots. Pine and spruce are two common types of wood that are used for log houses.
2. **Prepare the logs.** The first step is to prepare the logs for notching. This involves removing the bark from the logs and squaring up the ends.
3. **Lay out the logs.** Once the logs are prepared, you need to lay them out in the desired pattern. The logs should be laid out so that the ends of the logs overlap by at least 8 inches.
4. **Cut the notches.** The next step is to cut the notches into the logs. To cut a diamond saddle notch, you will need to use a chainsaw or a drawknife.
5. **Fit the logs together.** Once the notches are cut, you can fit the logs together. The logs should fit together snugly, and there should be no gaps between the logs.
6. **Secure the logs.** Once the logs are fitted together, you need to secure them. This can be done by using nails, screws, or dowels.

Building a log home is a challenging but rewarding experience. The diamond saddle notch is a beautiful and distinctive feature of Finnish log houses, and it is a technique that has been passed down for generations. With the right tools and materials, you can build a log home that will last for centuries.



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