

*BuildARamp.com
Presents*

The Beginners

Guide

To

Building

RAMPS



*Author:
Brandon Cardone*



Introduction

All text and illustrations produced by Brandon Cardone Copyright © 2004

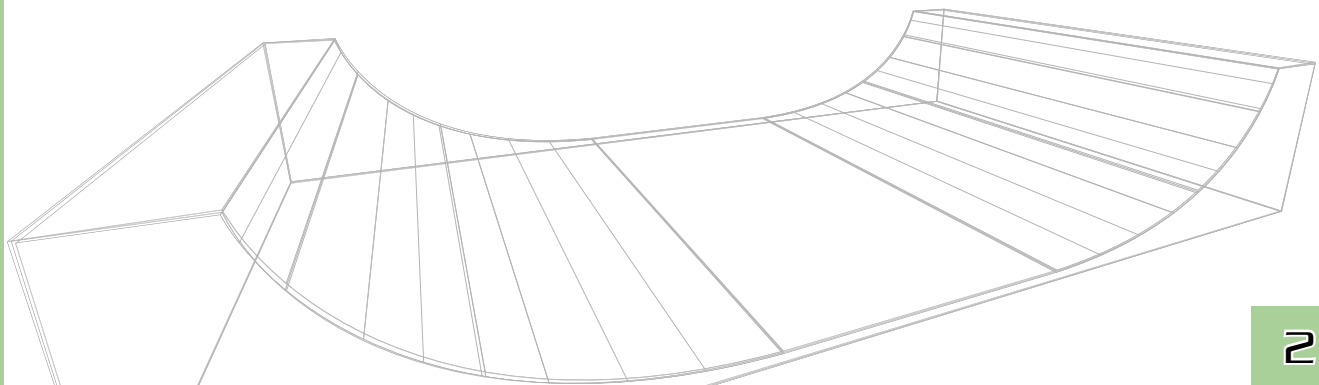
Disclaimer:

Building and riding ramps can be fun and rewarding; however, caution should be practiced with both. The author Brandon Cardone and any other contributors to this book are in no way, shape or form responsible for any legal matters, injuries or even death that may occur as a result of the information and content in this book.

So you want to build a ramp, maybe you are a parent and want to build something for your kid. Maybe you have been skateboarding, riding BMX, or inline for a while and realize that you want more than the few spots you get kicked out of on a regular basis. Whatever the reason, you've started in the right direction by purchasing this guide. Building ramps is a productive learning experience, but the most important thing is that it is fun and very rewarding if it is done right.

Most people really don't understand how to build ramps and end up giving up before they even give it a second thought. I have people all the time ask me "How do you bend the wood like that?" or "Where would you even begin building something like that?" Questions like these are why I wrote this guide in the first place. I want people like you to know that it really isn't that hard to build ramps if you have the right knowledge under your belt. I have been building ramps with my friend Mike Fitch since I was like 12 years old and over the years and plenty of trial and error, we have learned the art of building ramps. I asked myself if this kind of knowledge should be kept a secret, then I remembered all the fun I had growing up building my own stuff to skate and all the friends I have made over the years. We even had the chance to fulfill our dream of building an indoor skateboard park located in Johnson City, NY, [East Coast Terminal](#) as a way of giving back to the pastime that gave me direction and purpose in my life.

I hope this guide helps you as much as possible and I hope that it will give some of you that spark of inspiration that I found so many years ago. Who knows, there could be your own dream skate park lurking deep inside of you just waiting to be built and for others to enjoy. I wish you the best of luck in your quest and, most importantly, have fun.

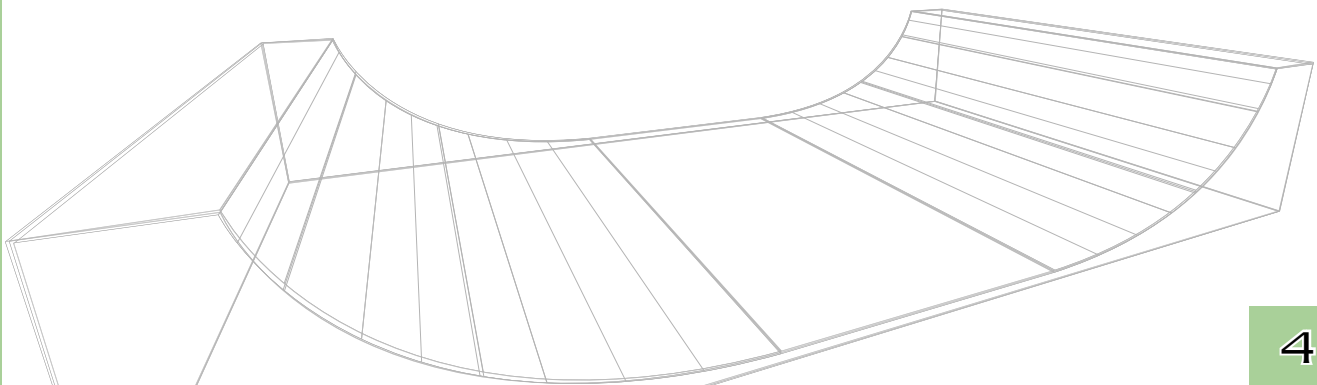


The Beginner's Guide To Building Ramps!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	i-ii
CHAPTER 1	
“Scope Out the Territory”	
Before you start building	5
Some things to consider	6
After your site has been decided	7
CHAPTER 2	
“Construction Preparation”	
Understanding your materials	8-10
Determining and buying materials	11-13
Materials comparison chart	11
Tools and Safety	14
Tool List	15-17
CHAPTER 3	
“All About Templates”	
What is a Template?	18-19
Drawing Templates	20-24
Cutting Templates	25
Preparing Templates for Framing	26
CHAPTER 4	
“All About Framing”	
Framing Templates	27-33
Framing Flat Bottom	34-42
Framing Decks	43-44
Coping Installation	45-46
CHAPTER 5	
“All About Sheeting”	
Introduction to Sheeting	47
First Layer	48-50
Second Layer	51-52
Final Layer	53
Sheeting to the ground	54
Time To Play!	55



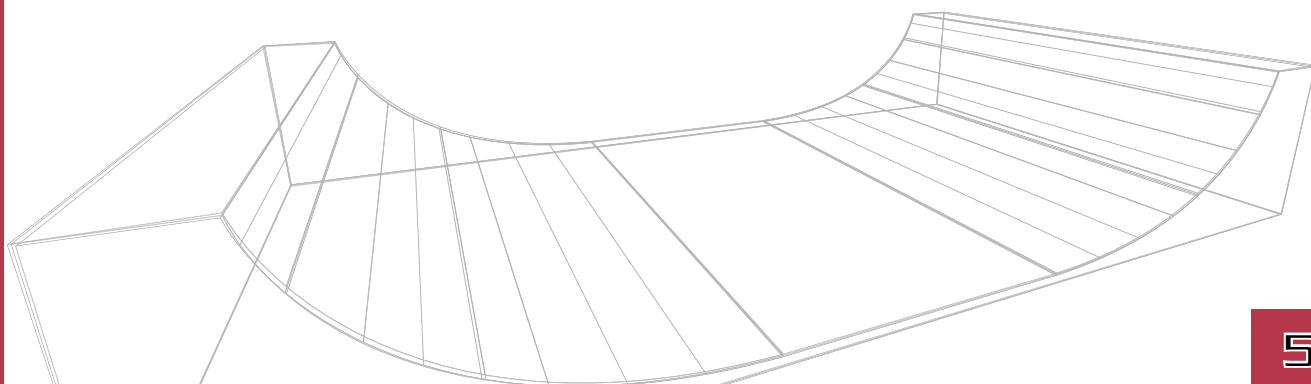
Chapter 1 Scope Out The Territory

- *Before you start building*
- *Some Things to consider*
- *After the site has been decided and inspected*

Before you get all gung ho and go down to your local lumber store to buy materials and grab the tools out of the shed, there are some things you should think about before you start building. For example, if all you want is a slider box or a jump ramp, you shouldn't need a huge area to put your ramps. In this kind of a situation, an empty parking lot or your driveway will work. Be creative, like screwing some trucks and wheels from an old skateboard or roller skates to the side so you can wheel it around easy. You could even cut handles in the sides of the templates to carry your ramp easier.

If you had your heart set on a ramp bigger and unmovable, obviously you will need more space. You see, the idea here is that if you know where you are going to be building your ramps, you can measure out the area and draw it on some graph paper or even some regular paper will work fine.

***Fig. 1.1** in this picture, notice how we had to build around a poll to the left!*



Consider how easy it will be to get your materials to the construction site

If your spot is way out in the woods, you better have some muscles because you will be carrying a lot of wood. This is when a wheel barrow comes in handy.

Access to electricity

Power tools are your friends and building a ramp without them is very hard, but not impossible if you are Amish. A generator or a bunch of extension cords might be the way to go.

Neighbors and noise

Those nosey neighbors of yours already hate you and are just waiting to ruin your fun. Will they call the cops when you're having a session at 3:00 in the morning? One solution to this problem is to fill the coping with concrete or sand and nail a layer of carpet to the underside of your ramp.

Weather

Wood and bad weather don't tend to agree with each other over time. If you can find an area that is protected from Mother Nature, then more power to you. For the rest of us, buying a good tarp is a really good investment. If you have the extra wood you could even build your own make shift canopy, this way you can ride your ramp even if it's raining. You may also want to consider building your ramp up of the ground on cinderblocks to keep the ramp high, dry and level.

Helpers

The more people you can find to help you build the better off you will be.

Ask everyone you know about available space

Hey you never know, your sisters, boyfriends, dad might have an empty garage or empty lot of land that they will sell you dirt-cheap.

Damage prone areas

Your trying to do a 360 flip pivot to fakie and oops, you just zipped out and your board is heading 100 miles an hour towards your mom's new car. You should take note of breakable objects around your ramps and make the necessary barriers to prevent them from being damaged.

Zoning Laws

You may be living in an area where it is the law to get a building permit or you could just take your chances and hope your local zoning board doesn't find out. You may end up having to pay fines and tear down your new creation. Trust me it isn't fun to take something apart that you've put so much time and effort into.

After the site has been decided and inspected

Remember, it is important that you build your ramps on a flat or level surface. If you don't, your ramp will not be as easy to build and ride. Once you have decided on a spot to build your ramps, start by measuring the whole parameter of the space you are going to be working in. Measure out any obstructions that might get in the way when you are building, like a tree or a telephone pole, things like that. You should also observe the landscape to see if you will have to level the area out or even build your ramp up off the ground on posts. By doing this you are saving yourself a lot of trouble down the road when you are halfway through your project and realize you don't have enough room or your that one side of your ramp goes uphill.

Fig. 1.2 Example of a site layout with measurements and landmarks

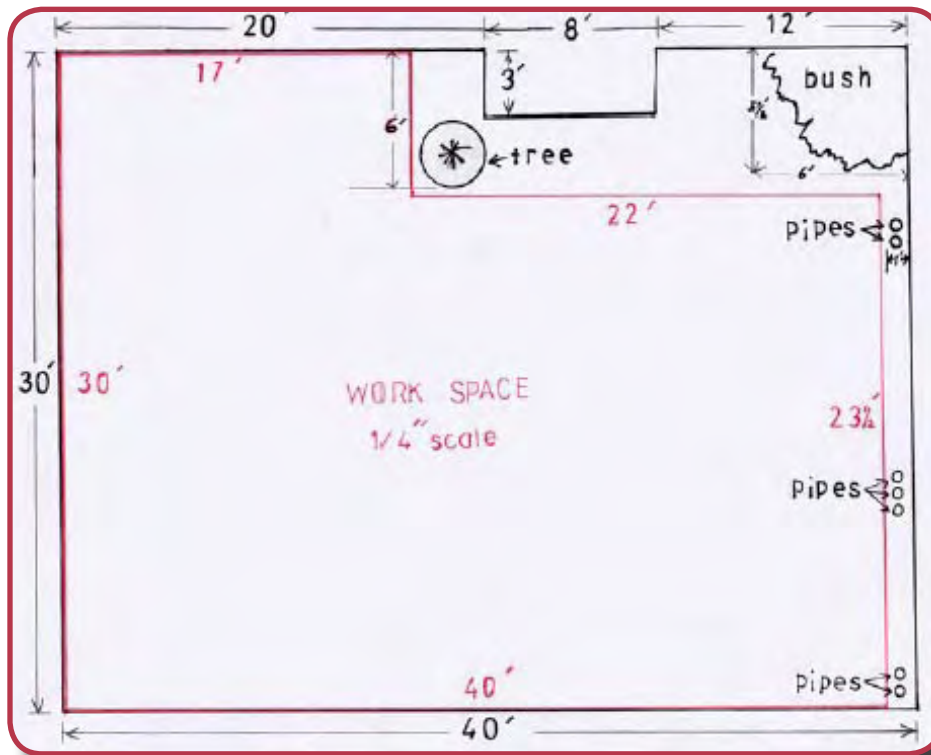
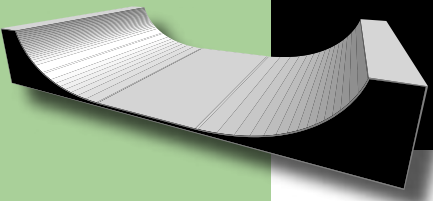


Fig. 1.3
we had to measure out
this 40,000 square-foot
facility now known as
[East Coast Terminal](#)





Well, it's time to play! I hope that this guide was very useful to you. As I have said before, building and owning a ramp comes with responsibilities, but it also comes with good friends and great times. There are many other resources out there for you to learn even more about building ramps and the more you know, the better off you are. Building a ramp is hard work, but you should know that by now. So go skate, ride a bike, inline or whatever else it is you do and enjoy the fruits of your labor with pride.



[Author: Brandon Cardone](#)

Editors: Mike Fitch, Fritz Diddle, and Michelle Cardone

Don't forget to check my very useful [Resources](#) online, where you can find tons of useful free ramp building information. I also have a [free downloadable Screen Saver](#) and [11 free desktop wallpapers](#) for you to choose from. And when you find the time between building ramps and surfing the web you can also keep up to date on the latest skateboard news and trends with my [online RSS Skateboard news feed reader](#). If you decide building a ramp on your own is a little overwhelming, don't worry because you can find a wide selection of [pre-built ramps shipped right to your door by clicking here!](#)

I always enjoy hearing from my readers. If you have any comments, suggestions or would like to share some photos of the ramps you have built using this guide please e-mail me at author@buildaramp.com