



# FACTSHEET

This factsheet has been prepared for general information purposes only and is provided as a guide for builders and buyers of Log and Timber Structures.

October 2005

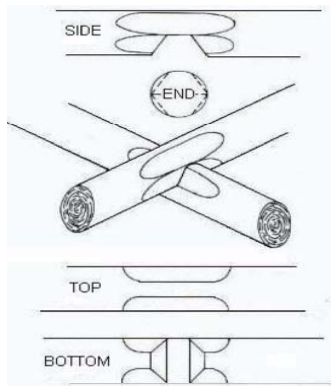
## Building Systems

Handcrafted Log Homes are just as the name suggests, hand crafted. Logs are sourced and chosen specifically for your home. Each log is peeled and prepared to be “stacked” horizontally, notched at the corners and laterally scribed to fit snugly onto the log below to form your log wall.

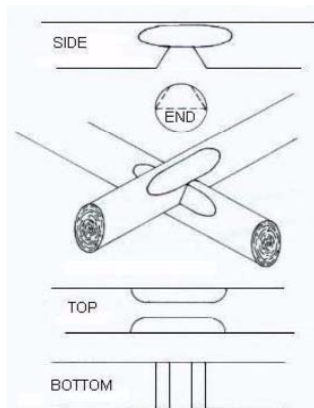
Scribing is the process that handcrafters use to transfer the contour of the top of the bottom log to the bottom of the top log. Once scribed, a skilled saw operator then cuts the bottom of the top log to fit exactly on top of the bottom log, creating tight fitting walls.

Over the centuries notches have been developed for special uses, different areas, structural stability, and aesthetics. Different notches are used for corner systems, post systems, floor systems, or special areas.

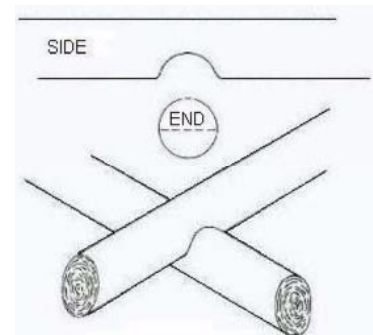
Some notches commonly handcrafted by BC Log Builders include:



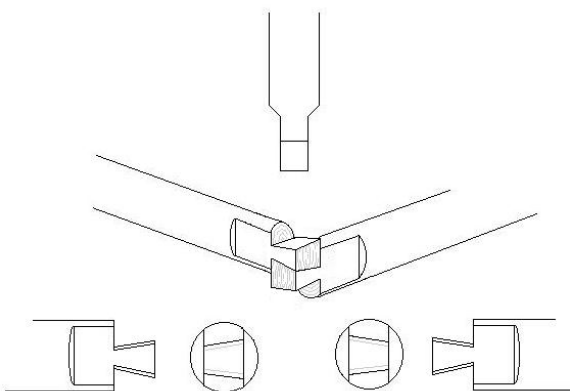
Norwegian Wedge or Diamond Notch



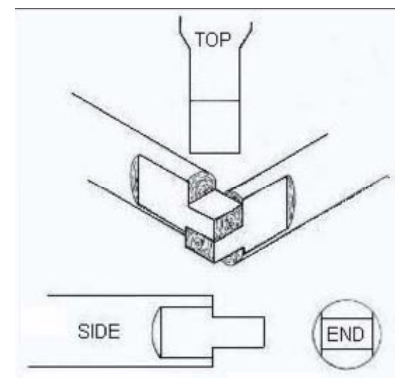
Saddle Notch



Round Notch



Dovetail Notch



Lap Notch

Because each log is unique in shape and size your handcrafted log home is truly yours.

A second option is the chinked log home where the horizontal logs are not scribe fitted and the lateral joints are left open. Historically the open joints were sealed with mortar, straw or wool. Today, the open joints are sealed with a flexible man made material or alternative natural methods such as hemp/lime fill.

A machine profiled log home, as the name suggests, uses logs that are processed in a plant and machined to a uniform diameter. The resulting finished product looks much like “siding” which is often sold in ready to assemble “kits”. Machine profile manufacturers offer a variety of corner locking (notch) systems and styles. The logs may be squared or round or a combination of squared on the inside and round on the outside.

Post and Beam construction is becoming increasingly popular and many log builders offer post and beam construction as an alternative to handcrafted log homes. Post and beam construction is a method of construction that uses large, widely spaced timbers to provide structural support, and then the walls are framed and completed with conventional building materials.

Timber framing is the traditional form of post and beam construction. The origin of timber joinery in North America predates the availability of metal fasteners and of sawmill produced lumber. Therefore large hand hewn and hand sawn timbers were used, joined together by mortice & tenon connections, secured with hardwood pegs, or merely by joint geometry.

Whether modern materials and connections are used to create wood post and beam construction or whether the historic and traditional timber joinery is used to join members, the resulting product is functional and striking.

Today there is an intermingling of various building styles and you will often find handcrafted log homes which incorporate post and beam or timber frame components in their design just as it is more and more common to see round log accents in a timber frame or stick frame home.