

# Flesh skins the easy way - create a beam

## What is a beam?

A beam is a curved smooth surface that the skin can be laid over for working on. The beam can be quite small for fleshing smaller skins on and can be fixed to a bench or similar work surface.

The idea of a beam is to support the skin easily, allowing for a comfortable and practical working posture. A beam also allows for both hands to be used during the process. Being able to use both hands, for more control during fleshing and results in less fatigue.

## Creating a beam

A beam can easily be created by purchasing a length of underground "soil pipe" from a builders merchant. This pipe must have a smooth surface.

The pipe must be long enough to cope with the largest skin that needs to be fleshed. The pipe will require some support to ensure it is secure enough to hold the weight of the skin. The height of the pipe also needs to be adjustable to make a comfortable working height can be achieved easily.

The pipe can be supported underneath by creating an "A" frame. The "A" frame can either be an unsecured frame that can be moved along the under side of the pipe for maximum adjustability, or it can be fixed at a point that best suits the required height.

## Creating the "A" frame

An "A" frame can be created in the following way;

1. Cut 2 lengths of 3" x 2" timber to a length of 24" to create the legs (A)
2. Cut a further 2 lengths of 3" x 2" to a length of 18" to create the brace (B)
3. Place a brace either side of the leg at a point approximately 7" from the top of the leg. Drill a hole and bolt through the brace on one side of the leg, the leg itself and through the brace on the other side of the leg. Allow the legs to pivot at this point so that the top of the "A" frame clamps the pipe.

