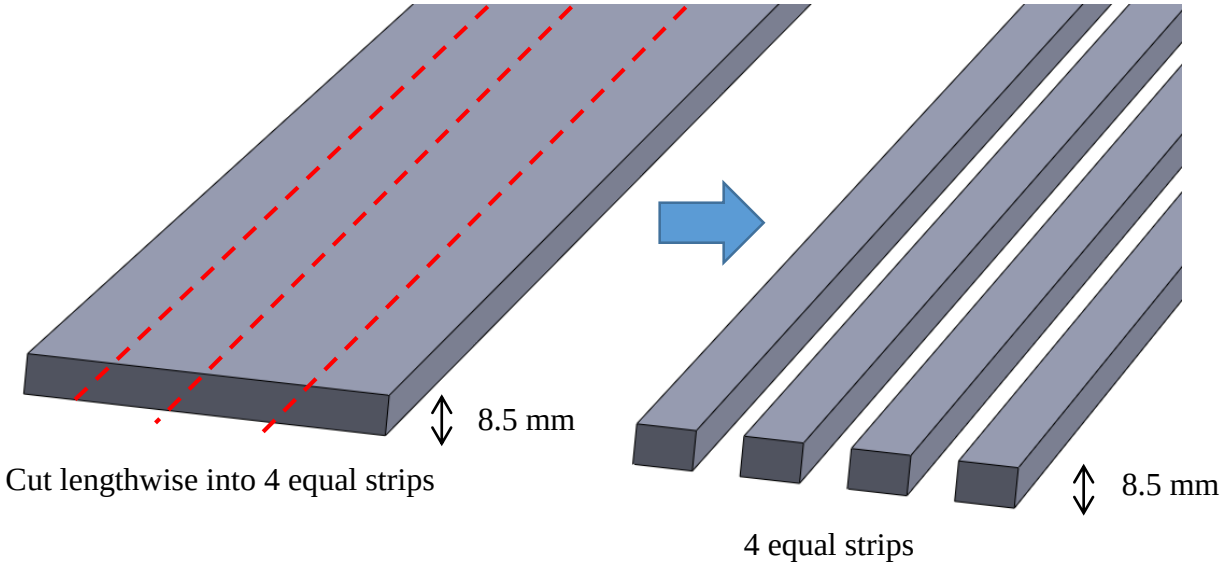
ABS Sidewall How To

WARNING: Ski/snowboard building is dangerous. Wear safety googles, gloves, etc., and consult a professional for advice. SkiLab is not liable for any personal or property damage as a result of ski/snowboard building and the use of the information contain in this HOWTO. Additionally, SkiLab is not liable for any final product quality issues or results due to improper product design, prepping of materials, or construction.

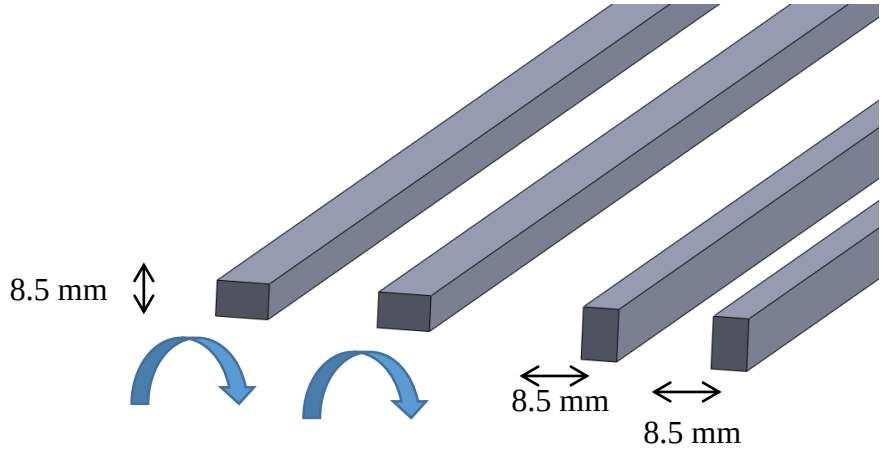
The ABS sidewall material available from SkiLab is specially formulated for skis and snowboard construction. The sidewall material comes in long strips, where the width of the strip is approximately 3 inches (75 mm). Each strip is 8.5-mm thick. Each piece can be cut lengthwise to create 4 long skinny strips (with dimensions of 8.5 mm by approximately 17 mm). These 4 strips will provide sidewalls for one pair of skis or two snowboards.

The 8.5-mm thickness can be used directly with wood cores between 8.5 and 9 mm thick. However, for core materials that are thicker than 9 mm, follow the procedures below to cut and attach the sidewalls to your wood core before vertical profiling:

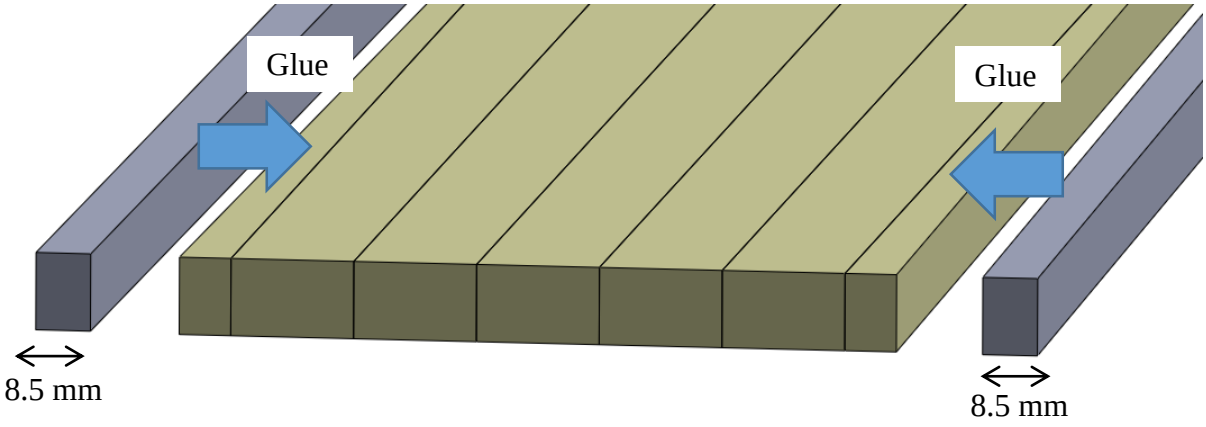
Step 1: Cut ABS sidewall lengthwise as shown.

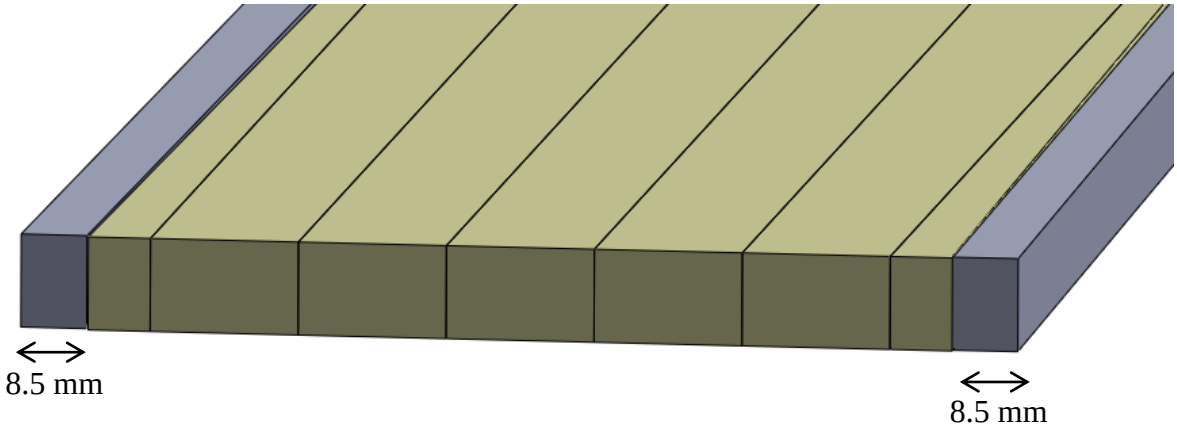


Step 2: Rotate sidewalls 90 degrees as shown:



Step 3: Glue sidewalls to core as shown, then vertically profile the core with attached sidewalls. Note that the sidewall strips protrude 8.5 mm beyond the width of the core on both sides (as shown below):





Step 4: Lightly abrade (roughen) the surface of the sidewall material using sandpaper to enhance bonding. ABS sidewalls do not require flaming for bonding.

Plan carefully when designing with sidewalls. Be sure to consider the width of the core and sidewalls relative to the width of the base material with edges, as well as the geometry of the chamfer during the finishing phase. It is important to NOT over chamfer as this will remove too much sidewall material, thus exposing the core material in the finished product.