

Lumber-Hanging Trick

If you gang-cut rafters, or even if you cut them one at a time, sooner or later all those parts have to be hauled up to the roof and installed. Framers Will Holladay and Nick Ridge used an efficient method for making this happen on a site in Oakland, Calif.

Will's job was to pre-cut the entire roof on the ground, while Nick and his crew nailed the pieces up. As Will cut the pieces — blocks [1] and rafters [2] are shown here — he hung them with nails along the plates or girders where they were being installed.

This makes for very efficient framing as long as all the parts are there. Because they're hanging exactly where they go, the roof cutter can tell at a glance if he's missed any pieces simply by looking at what's hanging from the wall. The carpenters assembling the roof just reach down from the plates and grab the next piece they need.

The method doesn't work for hanging long rafters, but you can still hang the blocks and stack the rafters near at hand [3]. — *David Frane*

