

Timber Framing Vocabulary

Beam	A main horizontal member in a building's frame.
Braces	Smaller timbers placed diagonally between posts and girts or plates to make a structure more rigid.
Common Rafters	Closely and regularly spaced inclined timbers that support the roof covering, independent of the bent system.
Girt	Major horizontal timber that connects posts.
Plate	The major horizontal timber, which runs from one end of the frame to the other and supports the base of the rafters.
Purlin	A horizontal member of the roof frame which runs between rafters.
Rafter	Sloping main timber of the roof frame.
Mortise and Tenon	Any joint consisting of a projection (tenon) on the end of one timber and corresponding slot (mortise) on the other.
Peg	A hardwood dowel usually ranging from 5/8 of an inch to 2 inches in diameter.
Tenon	The projecting end of a timber that is inserted into a mortise.
Beetle	A heavy wooden maul or mallet used in cases in which material would be damaged by a sledge hammer.
Come Along	A hand operated ratcheting wrench. Uses include tightening joinery during assembly, as a safety tie and for pulling frame components together during assembly.
Draw Knife	A tool having a blade with a handle at each end; by drawing it toward you, you can shave surfaces.
Framing Chisel	Large chisel with long, heavy blades: strong enough to be hit with a heavy mallet.
Mallet	A tool like a hammer with a wooden, rawhide or rubber head.
Pike	A long pole with a pointed steel head used in raising bents; also called a barn pole.
Slick	A wide bladed and long handled chisel pushed by hand to create flat surfaces.
Bay	Space between two timber bents.

Bent	A structural section of the frame which is composed of a line of vertical posts and the horizontal timbers that connect them.
Bent Design	The functional and artistic pattern of timbers creating the bent.
Timber Frame	A load-carrying structure of timbers ranging in size from 4x4 and up.

--vocabulary courtesy of www.dreamingcreek.com