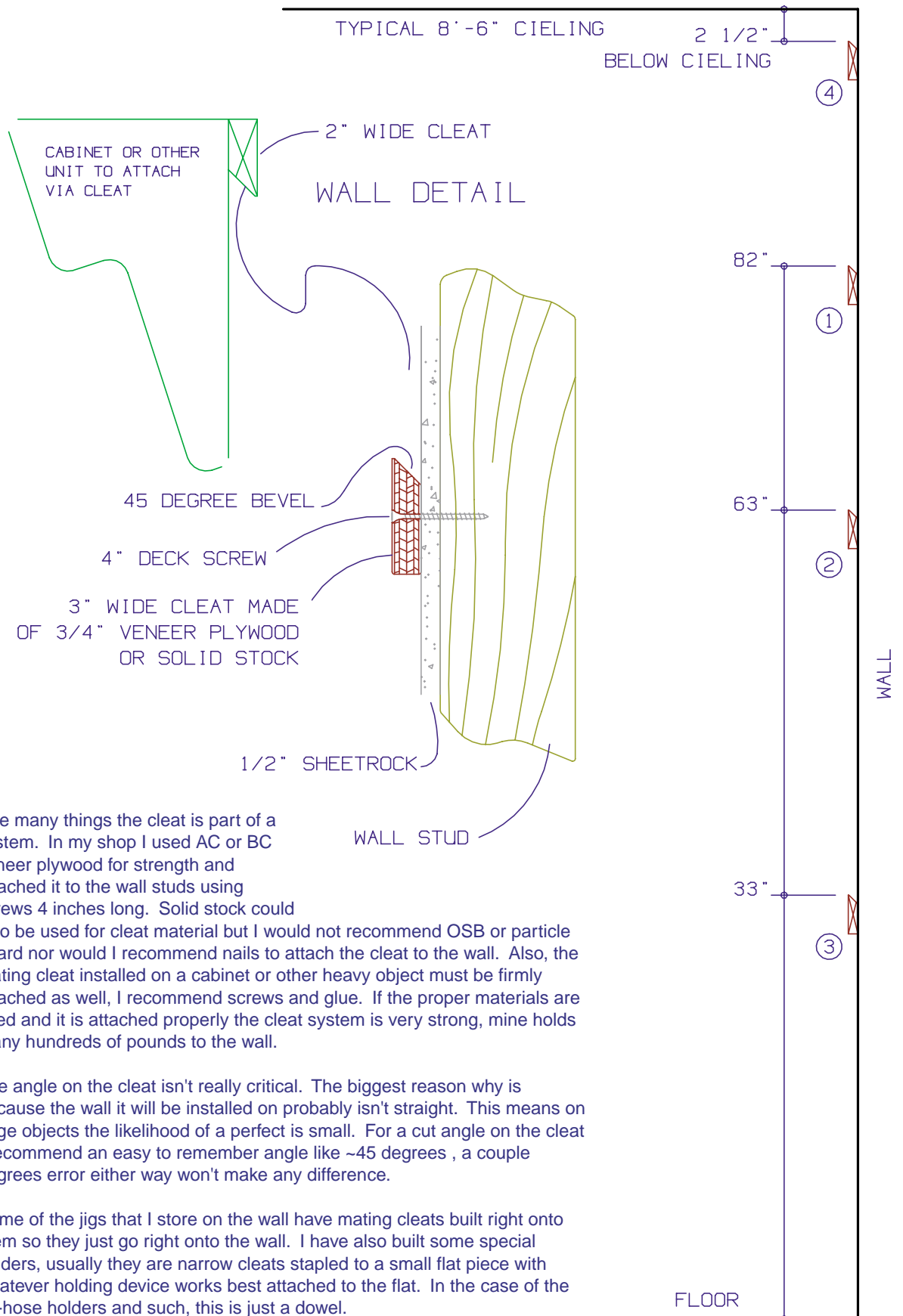


French Cleat



Like many things the cleat is part of a system. In my shop I used AC or BC veneer plywood for strength and attached it to the wall studs using screws 4 inches long. Solid stock could also be used for cleat material but I would not recommend OSB or particle board nor would I recommend nails to attach the cleat to the wall. Also, the mating cleat installed on a cabinet or other heavy object must be firmly attached as well, I recommend screws and glue. If the proper materials are used and it is attached properly the cleat system is very strong, mine holds many hundreds of pounds to the wall.

The angle on the cleat isn't really critical. The biggest reason why is because the wall it will be installed on probably isn't straight. This means on large objects the likelihood of a perfect is small. For a cut angle on the cleat I recommend an easy to remember angle like ~45 degrees, a couple degrees error either way won't make any difference.

Some of the jigs that I store on the wall have mating cleats built right onto them so they just go right onto the wall. I have also built some special holders, usually they are narrow cleats stapled to a small flat piece with whatever holding device works best attached to the flat. In the case of the air-hose holders and such, this is just a dowel.