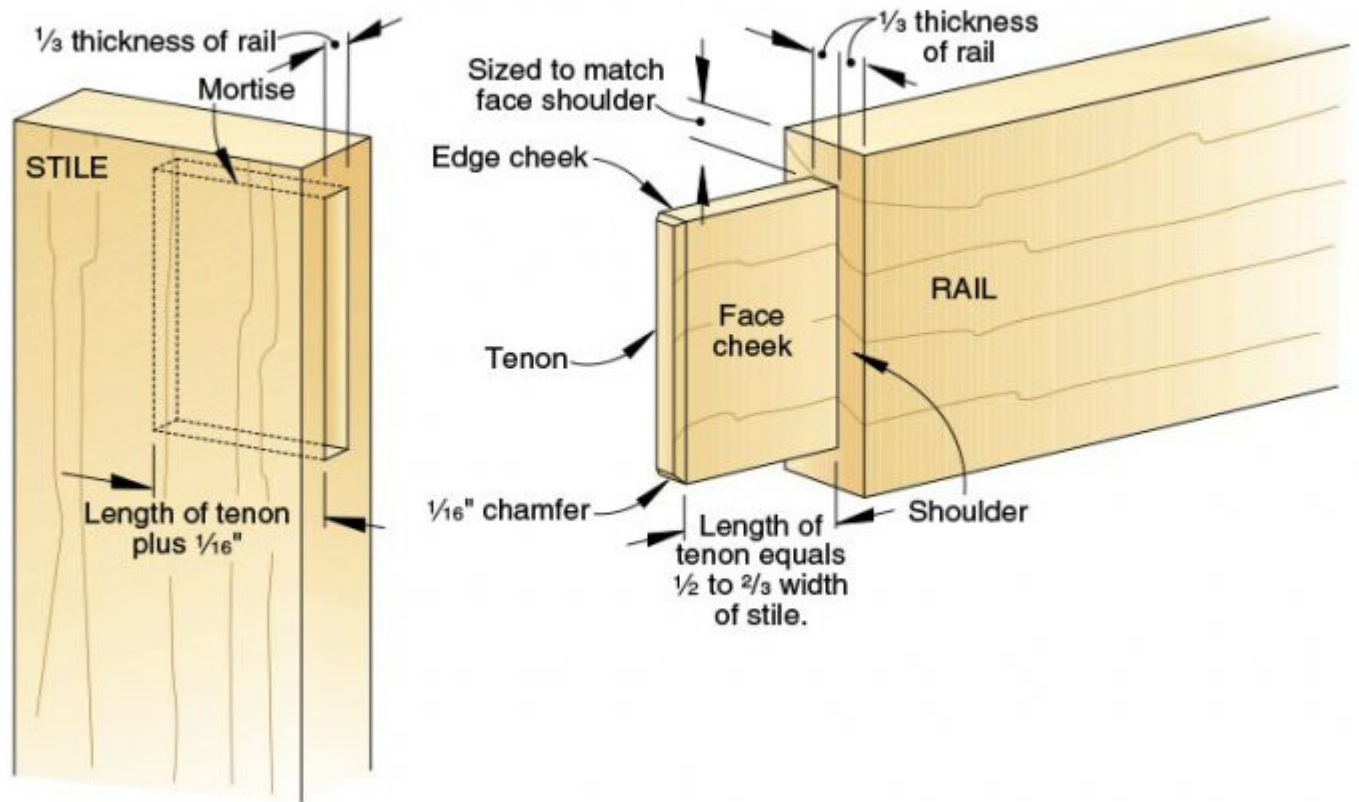


Rule of thumb for mortise-and-tenon size



Specific mortise-and-tenon size will vary by application. As a general guideline, make the tenon about $\frac{1}{3}$ the total thickness of the tenoned workpiece, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ as long as the width of the mortised workpiece. Though it's not structurally necessary, cutting a shoulder adjacent to the rail's edge as well as the face allows you to completely hide the mortise. To save setup time, size the edge shoulder the same as the face shoulder.

So, for example, for a matching $\frac{3}{4} \times 2$ " stile and rail, first make the stile's mortise $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long, $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, and 1 " - $1\frac{3}{8}$ " deep; then make a tenon sized for a snug fit without forcing, leaving it about $\frac{1}{16}$ " short of the mortise depth to allow for glue.