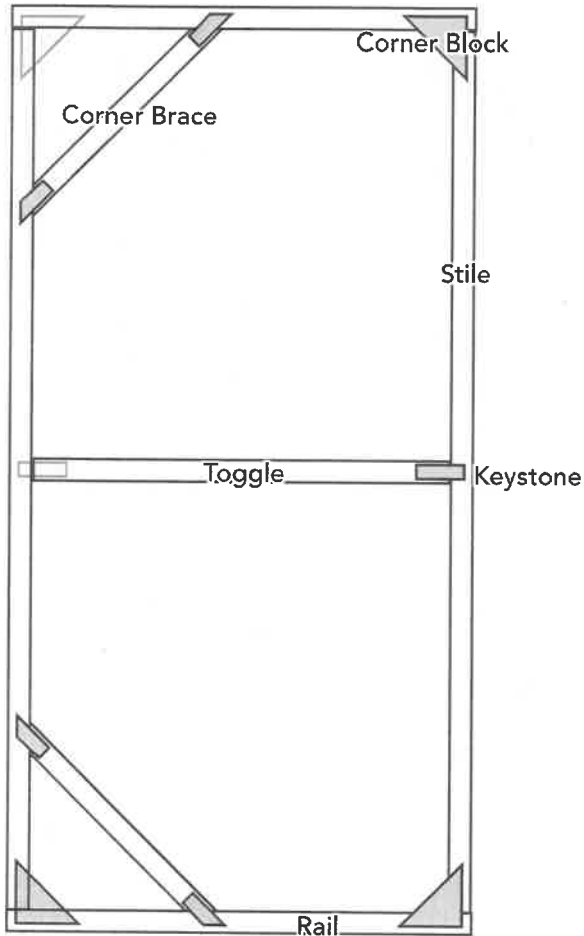


# What is a Flat?



*Flats, short for Scenery Flats, are flat pieces of theatrical scenery which are painted and positioned on stage so as to give the appearance of buildings or other background.*

*Flats can be soft or hard-covered. Soft-covered flats are covered with canvas or muslin. Hard-covered flats are covered with plywood.*

*Flats are usually built in standard sizes (4'x8', 4'x10', 4'x12') so they may easily be stored and reused for subsequent productions.*

*Flats are either braced to the stage deck (e.g. when they're used for an entire performance) or are flown in from the fly gallery (e.g. when settings need to change during a performance).*

## Parts of a Flat

**Rails** are the top and bottom framing members of a flat. Rails run the full width of the flat (4' for a 4'x8' flat).

**Stiles** are the sides of the flat frame. The length of the stiles is the full height of the flat, minus the combined width of the rails (7'7" for a 4'x8' soft-cover flat constructed of 2½" rails).

**Toggles** are cross pieces that run between the stiles. The number and placement of toggles depends on the type of flat. The length of the toggles is the total width of the flat minus the combined width of the stiles (3'7" for a 4'x8' soft-cover flat constructed of 2½" stiles).

**Corner Braces** are pieces placed at a 45° angle between each rail and one stile in order to give the flat reinforcement and rigidity.

**Corner Blocks** are used to join the corners of a soft-cover flat. They are normally made of ¼" plywood triangles.

**Keystones** join the toggles to the rails of soft-cover flats. They are normally 8" long.

# What is a Flat? Quiz

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer each question with a T (True) or F (False).

1. Flats are built in individual sizes. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Hard-covered flats are covered with plywood. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Stiles are the top and bottom framing members of a flat. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Corner Blocks are used to join the corners of a hard-covered flat.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Toggles are cross pieces that run between the stiles. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Flats can be soft or hard covered. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Corner Braces are pieces placed at a 90° angle. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Flat is short for Scenery Flat. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Rails run the full height of the flat. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Keystones join the toggles to the rails of soft-cover flats. \_\_\_\_\_