



# **Introduction to Steel Fabrication**

Gui Cavalcanti 4/24/2012





- Top priorities for hexapod structure:
  - 1. Strength at scale
  - 2. Availability/Affordability
  - 3. Manufacturability
  - 4. Analyzability



- Highest strength conventionally available
- Easily weldable
- Machineable... ish
- Widely available in large quantities
- Cheaper than most other metals
- Fatigues in a predictable way
- Welds are as strong as parent material

# **Disadvantages of Steel**



- Heavy as hell
- Slow to machine/cut/modify
- Unstable in plain form (rusts over time)

### **Steel**



- Some alloys we will be using:
  - 1018 Mild Steel
    - Most common, lowest strength (1.5x stronger than aluminum), relatively easy to form
  - 12L14 Free Machining
    - Tougher than 1018, easiest to machine due to .25% lead
  - A36 Steel
    - Weakest steel, lowest yield point would prefer if we didn't use any, but most commonly used in angles
  - A513 (1020-1026) Steel
    - Stronger than 1018, used in steel forms such as angles and tubes
  - 4130 Chromoly
    - Strongest steel, used in high-end thin-wall tubing

## **Steel**



### • Rolling:

- All steel is rolled or formed into shapes

### – Hot Rolled:

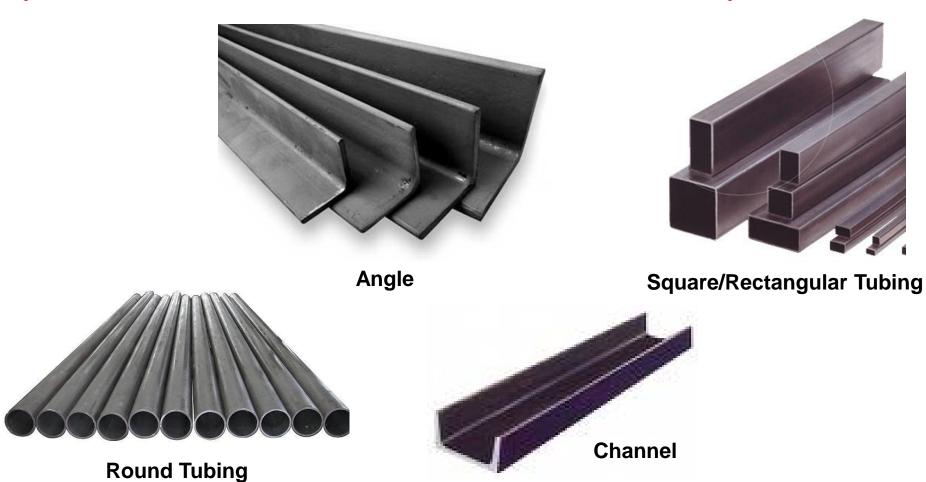
- Steel is above recrystallization temp when rolled
- Poorer finish, weaker, but better stability
- Used in angles and square and rectangular tubes

### - Cold Rolled:

- Steel is below recrystallization temp when rolled
- Shiny finish, stronger, more prone to warping
- Used in bars and round tubes

## **Common Steel Shapes**





## **Weldments**



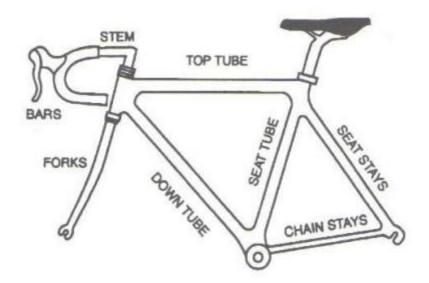


#### Weldment: Assembly of parts welded together

# Weldment Advantages



- Low part count
- High robustness
- Geometrical strength
- Relatively low weight



# Weldment Disadvantages

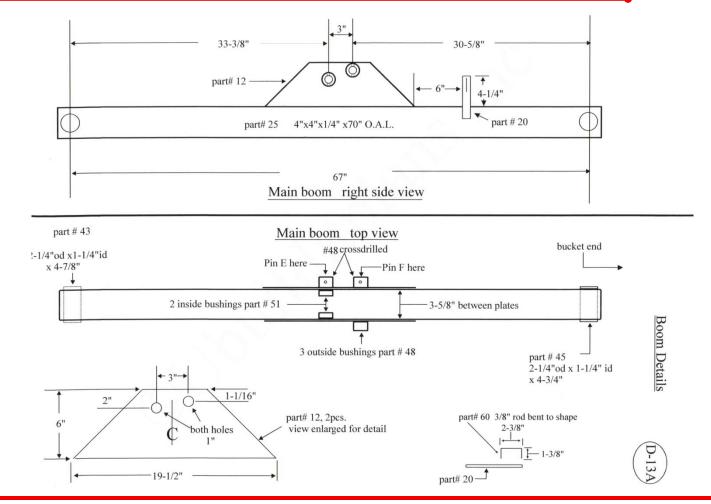


- Time consuming
- Low accuracy and precision
- All repairs are ad hoc
- <u>Almost impossible to significantly change</u> <u>designs once made</u>

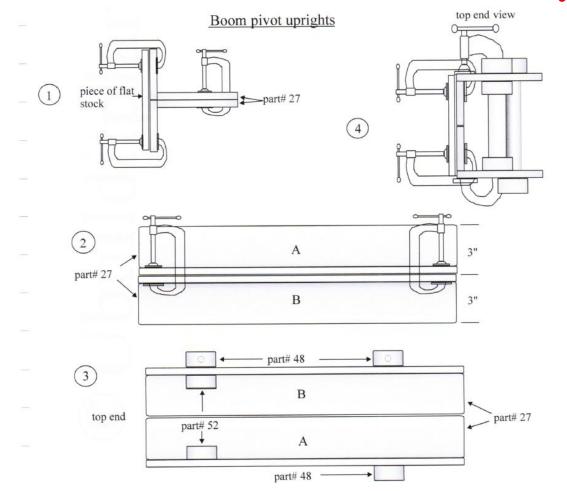




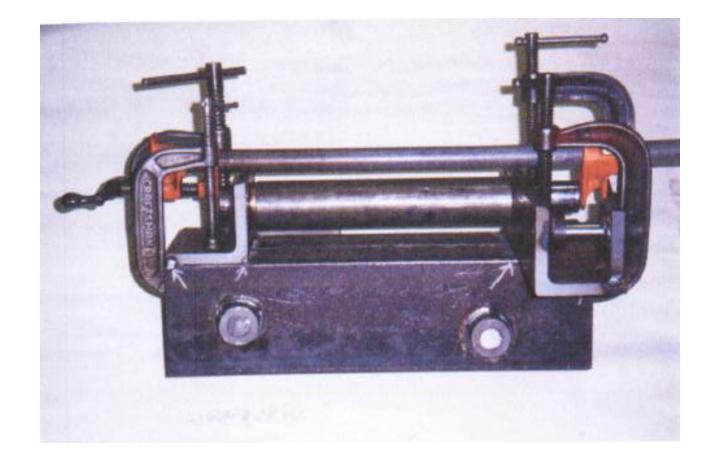












# Leg Cart



