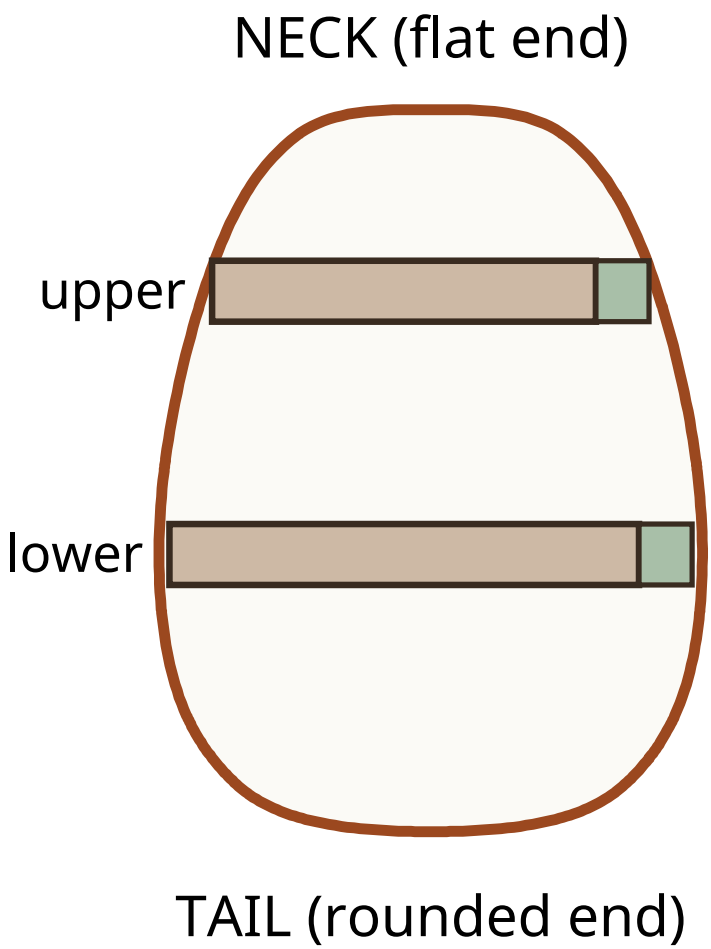
Wedge Spreaders — Pineapple Tenor

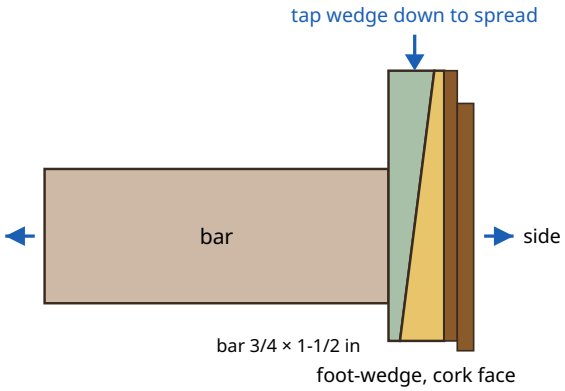
No turnbuckles: one wedge and a wedge-shaped foot do the spreading. For pressing the sides home against the mold walls while blocks and linings go in — the same bars hold the rim's shape when it comes out of the mold.

Where they go



Plan view (body outline from the class top template), neck at the top. Three spreaders: upper, middle, lower. Each bar is on the left; the green block at the right end is the wedge + foot-wedge. Bar lengths are nominal — measure your rim (see notes).

How it works



Detail (schematic, not to scale). Side view: the bar (left) bears on one side; the wedge sits against the bar end and the foot-wedge against the side, cork face out. The two are mirror tapers (1:8) — together a rectangle that gets thicker as the wedge is tapped down, spreading bar and foot apart. The wedge heel stands proud of the rim: pull it up to release.

Dimensions

Station	Body width	Inner width (minus 2 × 0.17 in sides)	Bar length (inner − 7/8 in)
Upper	7.53 in	7.19 in	6-5/16 in
Middle	8.80 in	8.46 in	7-9/16 in
Lower	8.94 in	8.60 in	7-3/4 in

Parts (per spreader)

- **Bar:** hardwood, 3/4 × 1-1/2 in section, length per the table. Cork pad on the fixed end.
- **Wedge:** hardwood, 3 in long × 3/4 in wide, tapering 1/2 in → 1/8 in (1:8). Flat face to the bar, angled face to the foot-wedge.
- **Foot-wedge:** hardwood, 3 in long × 3/4 in wide, the mirror taper (1/8 in → 1/2 in). Angled face to the wedge, flat face to the side, cork on the flat face.

Three pieces of wood and two cork pads per spreader — the foot absorbed one wedge.

1:8 is self-locking. The taper is shallow enough that friction holds the wedge — tap it in and it stays put when you let go. No turnbuckle, no thread to strip, nothing to buy.

Cut both from one setup. Wedge and foot-wedge are the same taper, flipped — cut them together so the angled faces match exactly.

Measure your rim. Bent sides vary: measure the actual inner width at each station and cut the bar 7/8 in shorter (5/8 in wedge pair + 1/4 in slack for easy placement). The table is the nominal starting point from the template outline.

Release: pull the wedge up by its heel (it stands proud of the rim; the heel takes a pull cord if you want one). The bar goes slack and lifts out.