Hi Joe,

Here's my blueprint request along with some notes and questions where I hope you can share your expertise.

**Background**:

This is a 1969 "ranch" style house, more of a "raised ranch" because it's on a slope. The main living area is at ground level on the bedroom end, and on the second story at the other end. There is an unfinished/unheated garage at one end (under Bedroom 2 & the bathrooms). The master bath is over a dirt crawlspace. The rest of the house is over an intermittently-heated partially-finished "workshop" (my "studio"). There is a dirt crawlspace below the studio. Only the main floor (not the studio) is in scope for this project (as depicted on the floor plan diagram).

The main floor has a plywood subfloor (I think 5/8", with joists 16" OC, within spec for my planks). I removed linoleum & particle board from the kitchen, will remove linoleum & particle board from the Hall bath, and will remove tile/linoleum/particle board layers from the master bath.

I'm installing [CoreLuxe Ultra • 7mm w/pad Rocky Coast Pine Waterproof Rigid Vinyl Plank Flooring 7.13 in. Wide x 48 in. Long](https://click.e.llflooring.com/?qs=39b8de8244c94af891055cbe391e8d0df3634693e18f6a6c31da31b6ad6cb15de493b8b59eada2b5f5401d62f35aea1e8451a0fc7a62e8ad8b9d55aadfa17075" \t "_blank) with [CoreLuxe • Premium Vinyl Floor Underlayment 100 sqft. Roll](https://click.e.llflooring.com/?qs=39b8de8244c94af833c2e18bbb64e420a8f10f43496e03221da423244cbfbbe2c64479d3636e74cfa6f9129e1d93eaed72d9b1d4de2efa17cb9735cbb1803d72" \t "_blank).

I've watched most of the Bootcamp videos, and a bunch of your YT videos.

**This project and areas of concern:**

\* **Bathrooms**: Whether I'll do the baths right now is in question. I want to replace the toilet and vanity in each, and am exploring options to see if I can find the budget to do so (this would be the ideal time). If I opt out of that then I may want to install temporary transitions at each bathroom door. If I'm able to complete each bath as part of this project then the plank will continue into each bath. Q: should there be a transition to the bath due to the difference in temp/humidity in bathrooms?

\* **Subfloor**: The subfloor throughout the house has lots of squeaks. I'm in the process of screwing it down to reduce the squeaks. There are also peaks and valleys in each room. The majority seem to be in the direction of the joists (which run lengthwise in the house). There are a couple cases where there are moderate angle changes in the floor, such that there is a peak & then the floor goes at an angle to the wall (most egregious is in the kitchen where it joins the hall). Most of the valleys are around 1/8 - 3/16" depth. The valley at the kitchen/hall is 3/4" deep.

If it will work ok without cracking etc (e.g. in that one deep spot) I plan to use Henry 549 to fill the valleys as it's available without waiting for delivery (going to pick it up today). It's a 3 hr r/t to get it but Ardex would take at least a week.

Up til watching your videos all signs seemed to point towards having to use floor leveler. Now I'd rather avoid that if possible as it seems like a difficult task, especially with my logistics limitations, e.g. have to work room by room, with furniture, cats, etc to factor in as I go through the house.

\* **Fireplace hearth**:  I've watched your description of under-cutting a brick fireplace hearth, and plan to do that.

\* **Exterior door sills**: I prefer the look of edging to match the plank (vs qtr round) if it will work ok.

\* **Stairs to garage**: The door here has about a 1 7/8" gap between the bottom of the door and the subfloor. After removing the carpet I stuck a piece of 2x4 here, plus a door sweep on the door, to mostly seal it. I'm not sure what the right way is to handle this with the planks in place. And for the transition to the stairs, there is a piece of wood attached to create the required 3/4" nosing for that "step". My thoughts are I might have to replace the door with one of proper height, or (a hack) take the door off and attach a piece of wood to the bottom to bring it down to the proper level.

\* **trap door to master bedroom crawlspace:** this is tricky because the edge of the trap door fits under the edge of the closet wall (next to the door), and there is a short length of floor on the outside end of the closet next to the trap door, and a sliver of floor on the other outside edge. My thought is maybe hot glue (so it could be removed in the future if possible) all of the flooring on & around the trap door, OR just skip that section & end the flooring (with edging) at the inside edges of the trap door.

\* **Layout**: This is tricky too because the main living/dining space runs the full width (front to back) of the house, so it might look best with planks running front to back (east/west). However there is a 16' x 2.5' hallway running perpendicular to that, to the rest of the rooms. If the planks run lenthwise in the hall, it will make it seem long and narrow (not desirable).  But if they run crosswise, it might have a "boardwalk" look (also not desirable. I'm not sure which is "less bad". Also, as mentioned, the joists run the length of the house, and the subfloor dips run in that direction too. So it seems there are competing demands here, one suggesting a front-to-back plank layout and the other suggesting that the planks run lengthwise with the house (north/south). I guess my inclination is to run the planks lengthwise (north/south) for a flow through the house, if the living/dining area wouldn't look weird with planks running the short way.

\* **where to start**: It seems if I run the planks front-to-back (the short way) I could start in the living room, and only work backwards in BR #3 and the master bath. If I run the planks lengthwise (north/south), it seems where to start is a bit of a toss-up. I'm thinking probably start at the front, so when I work backwards it would be into BR #2 and BR #3, relatively easy compared to the bathrooms & kitchen.

Thanks for making it this far, as you can see I've been mulling this over for a long time and am factoring in what I've heard you say in your tutorials. I'm looking forward to your thoughts.

Summary of questions from the above:

1. If I delay the bathrooms, is there any issue with temporarily edging up to each bath door? I'm thinking it might be complicated and will be different for each bath as one of the doors will be perpendicular to the plank direction.

2. Will Henry 549 using the slotted trowel & long board method you described going to be ok for the subfloor dips? What's best for the deep slope in the kitchen/hall/wall area? Should I fill that up to level, or maybe a 1/2" of 549 plus some layers of roofing paper? (30#?)

3. What do you think about the doorway to the garage stairs?

4. What do you think about the trap door in the master BR closet?

5. What do you think about layout/direction & where to start?

6. What have I missed? :-)