operating a board feeder to position a board from the board magazine to a board receiving area, with ends of the board being aligned with the nail plates positioned in the respective nail plate pressing areas; and

operating a pair of spaced apart nail plate presser assemblies overlying ends of the board receiving area and aligned with the respective nail plate pressing areas to press the nail plates into the ends of the board.

19. The method according to Claim 18, wherein the board feeder and the pair of spaced apart nail plate extractor assemblies are linked together so that the board is positioned in the board receiving area simultaneously when the nail plates are positioned in the respective nail plate pressing areas.

20. The method according to Claim 18, wherein the board feeder comprises a pair of spaced apart first and second board extractors, and wherein the pair of spaced apart nail plate extractor assemblies comprises a pair of spaced apart first and second nail plate extractors.