

How to make a Porch Swing Seat

The Porch Swing.

This seat has an adjustable seat-back which angles back to give varying degrees of comfort depending on whether or not you want to sit up straight or lie back a little. As with other Build-eazy projects, it's designed with the help of a handyman or DIYer in mind. All joints are secured with bolts and/or screws and nails. Because of this, the project only requires the most basic of tools to undertake a professional job.

A bit about the lumber.

All dimensions are in both millimeters and inches. The inch dimensions are in brackets ().

There are two different types of lumber used for this project. 90x35(1-1/2"x3-1/2") treated pine for the frame and 90x20(3/4"x3-1/2") hardwood for these seat slats and back slats. Also a small amount of 145x20(3/4"x5-3/4") treated pine for the armrest.

If the sizes vary in your area, just make allowances accordingly.

The 45x35(1-1/2"x1-3/4") pieces required are from 90x35(1-1/2"x3-3/4") stock ripped (saw down lengthwise) in half.

Any other smaller members that are required can also be cut from standard stock.

Hardware.

As well as the lumber in the list below, you will also need...

- Two 3600mm (12ft) lengths of galvanized chain
- 10 galvanized coach (carriage) bolts 10mm (3/8") x 120mm (5") long.
- A handful of 100mm (4") nails.
- A few 75mm (3") nails to hold the two end frame members together while drilling and bolting.
- 92 wood screws approx 35mm (1-1/2") long for these seat slats, back slats and armrests.

The cutting list

All dimensions are in both millimeters and (inches)

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a		90x35 (1-1/2 x 3-3/4)	375 (14-3/4) long	<i>seat frame ends outer</i>	2 of
b		70x35 (1-1/2 x 2-3/4)	375 (14-3/4) long	<i>seat frame ends inner</i>	2 of
c		90x35 (1-1/2 x 3-3/4)	375 (14-3/4) long	<i>seat frame intermediate</i>	2 of
d		45x35 (1-1/2 x 1-3/4)	275 (11") long	<i>vertical arm support front</i>	2 of
e		90x35 (1-1/2 x 3-3/4)	650 (25-1/2) long	<i>vertical arm support rear</i>	2 of
f		45x35 (1-1/2 x 1-3/4)	530 (21") long	<i>horizontal arm support</i>	4 of
g		145x20 (3/4 x 5-3/4)	585 (23") long	<i>arm rest</i>	2 of
h		45x35 (1-1/2 x 1-3/4)	300 (11-3/4) long	<i>top chain spacer</i>	2 of
i		70x35 (1-1/2 x 2-3/4)	150 (6") long	<i>bottom chain spacer</i>	2 of
J		90x35 (1-1/2 x 3-3/4)	1300 (51") long		2 of
k		90x35 (1-1/2 x 3-3/4)	1400 (55") long		1 of
l		90x20 (3/4 x 3-3/4)	1170 (46") long		1 of
m		90x20 (3/4 x 3-3/4)	1230 (48-1/4) long		1 of
n		90x20 (3/4 x 3-3/4)	1230 (48-1/4) long		1 of
o		90x20 (3/4 x 3-3/4)	1230 (48-1/4) long		1 of
p		90x20 (3/4 x 3-3/4)	850 (33-1/2) long		12 of

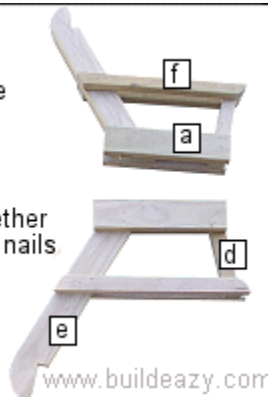
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The Instructions

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begin by making up the two end frames so that one mirrors the other.

Nail members together but ensure that no nails will be in the way of where the bolt holes will be.

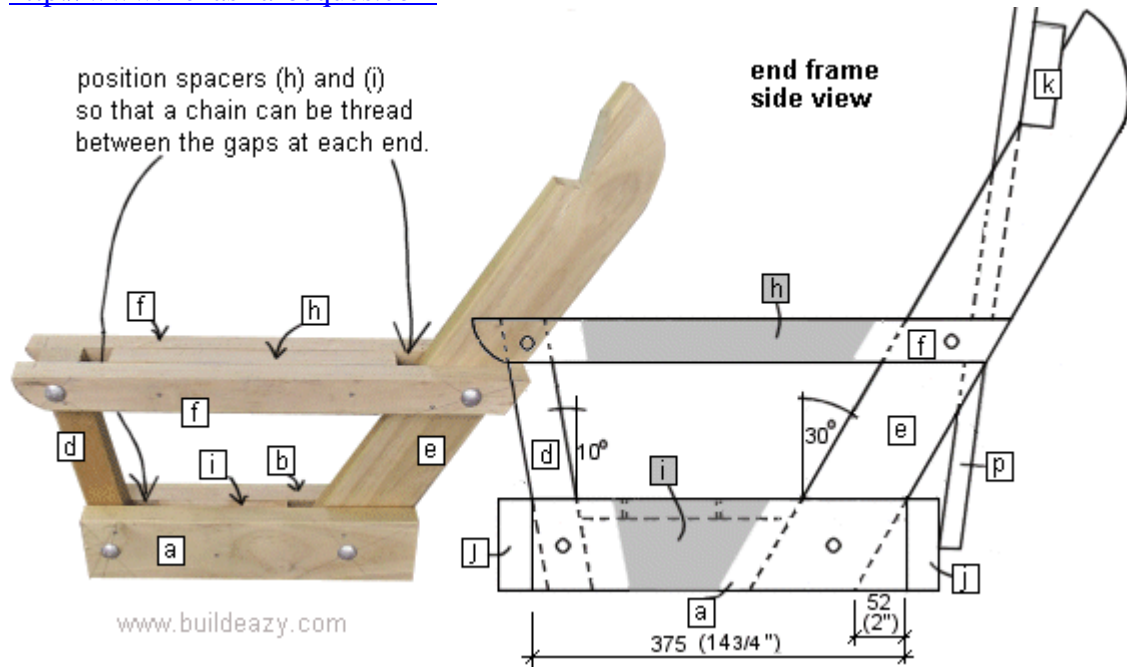


Makeup the two end frames.

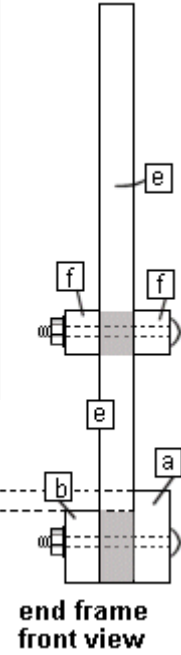
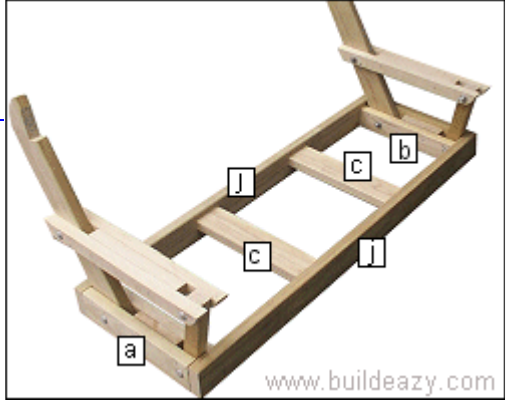
Cut the members (a), (b), (d), (e), (f), (h), and (i) to the dimensions as shown in the lumber list in the previous page.

Make up the two end frames using the drawings below as a guide. Note that the inner seat frame ends (b) are a different width than the outer seat frame ends (a) by 20mm (3/4") which is the thickness of these seat slats.

First nail and then bolt the horizontal members (a), (b), (f) to the vertical members (d) and (e) with 10mm (3/8") coach (carriage) bolts. The spacers (h) and (i) can be fixed with screws.



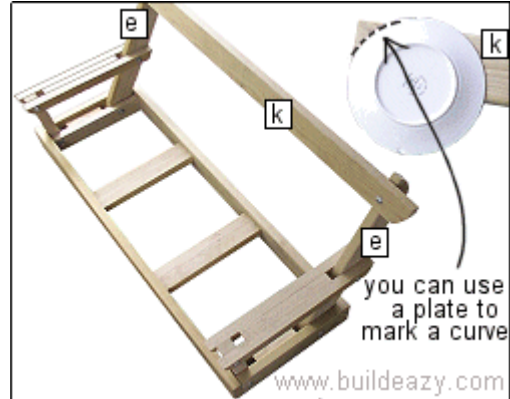
2 **Makeuptheseatframe.** Cutthemembers(c)and(j)to the dimensions as shown in the lumber list in the [previous page](#). Nail the front and rear seat frame members (j) to the seat frame end members (a) and (b). Nail in place the two seat frame intermediate members (c) ensuring that they are 20mm (3/4") below the top edge of the front and rear seat frame members (j).



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The backslats support.

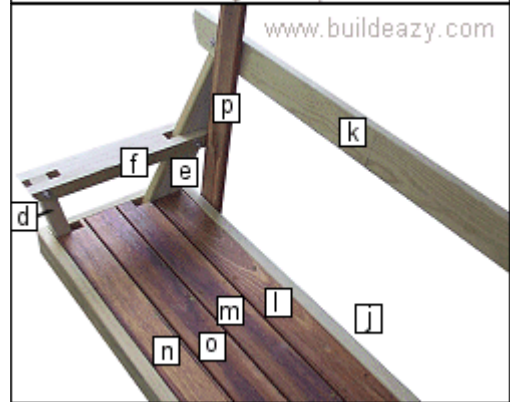
Cut member (k) to the dimension as shown in the lumber list in the [previous page](#). Round each end. You can use an inner plate, paint tin or any other circular object as a template to draw a curve. Bolt the backslats support (k) to the two rear vertical arm supports (e).



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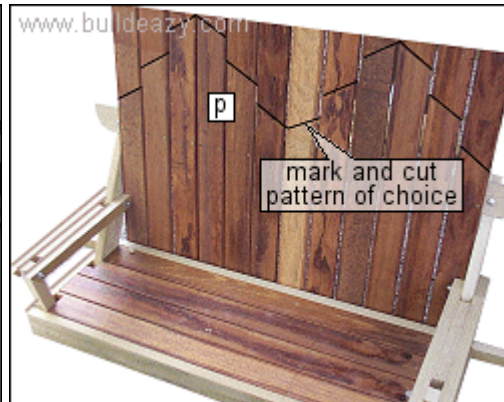
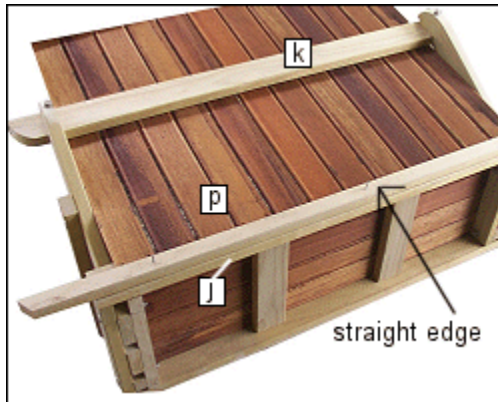
Fix the seat slats in place.

Place the seat slats in place spread evenly within the seat frame. Members (n) and (m) will need to be checked (cut) out at each end to allow for the chair cavity and vertical arm supports (d) and (e). (See diagram). Screw the seat slats to the seat frame members (b) and (c). Pre-drill screw holes in the slats slightly bigger than the screw shank.



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Fix the backslats in place and mark for cutting.



Temporarily nail a straight edge to the bottom half slats will have something to sit on while they are being fixed in place. Spread the back slats (p) out evenly between the two end frames and rear seat frame member (j) with screws. Pre-drill screw holes first through the backslats. When the backslats are fixed in place, you can draw a pattern of your choice at the top of curved lines or a handsaw will do if the pattern only consists of straight lines.

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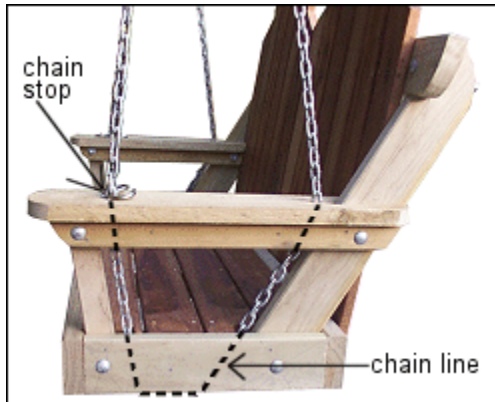
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Fit the armrest.

Cut the armrest (g) to fit around the rear vertical arm support (e) and fix with screws to the horizontal arm supports (f). Make holes in the appropriate places for the chain cavities.



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Thread the chain.

Thread the chain through the holes in the arm rests down through the cavities at the bottom of the end frames and back up. The holes and cavities should be big enough so that the chain can be pulled through freely. When the seat is held off the ground by the chains (more about that next page), the seat angle can be easily adjusted and locked in place by inserting a "chain stop" through one of the chain link holes just above the front arm rest (g) hole. A "chain stop" can be a small bolt, piece of rod or anything that can fit through a chain link hole and stop the chain from slipping

around the end frames.

When you want to re-adjust the seat angle, simply take the seat out of the ground, adjust the angle and lock it in place again by putting the "chain stop" back.

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Supporting the swing.

Hang the swing so the seat is approx 400 (16") off the ground. The builder is responsible for ensuring that the swing is supported adequately to take the weight of the swing as well as the people that might occupy it.

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Have fun!



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