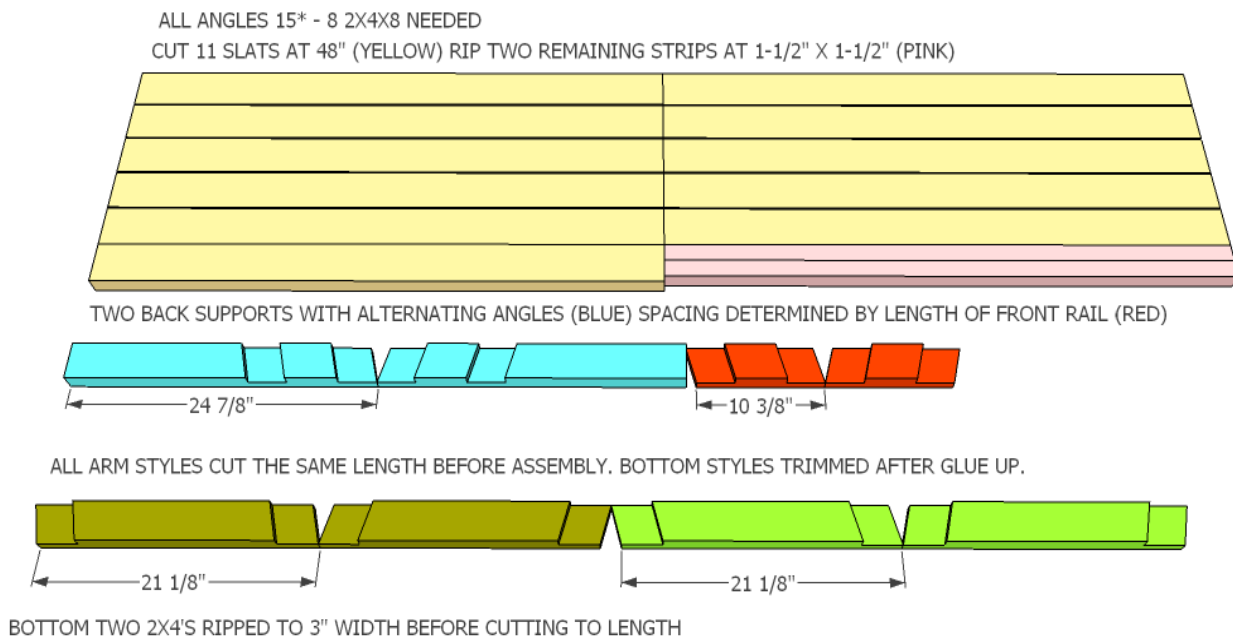


2x4 Porch Swing

I have always wanted to turn my bench design into some type of swing. Recently I was asked to make a swing so I figured now would be a great time to do so. The swing that I came up with is made from eight 2x4x8's and four 3/8" eye bolts. My cost was around \$40 with a build time of 5 hours. I wish I had a place to hang one of these because this has turned out to be one of my favorite projects in a long time. I hope you enjoy and can build one of your own.

Step 1: Cut

Cut all of your parts to length and width according to the cutting diagram. The width (3") needs to be cut first with the arm components. Typically I like to have all my parts cut before assembly but there are a few parts that need to be measured after some assembly is done (pink)



Step 2: Half Laps

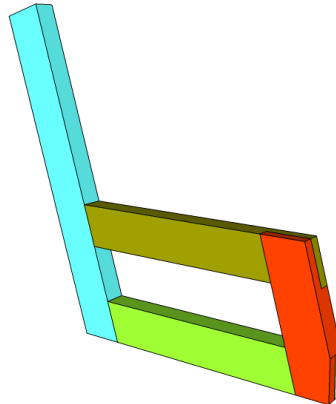
Half lap joints can be cut with various tools. In this project I used my table saw with a dado blade. It is the quickest and easiest method for me. However, if you do not have a table saw you can either cut these with a hand saw and chisel or a circular saw and chisel. For a good explanation of cutting precise half laps please refer to the video at the end of this article.

Step 3: Glue Up

With all of the arm components cut and fitting together nicely you can glue all of the pieces into place.

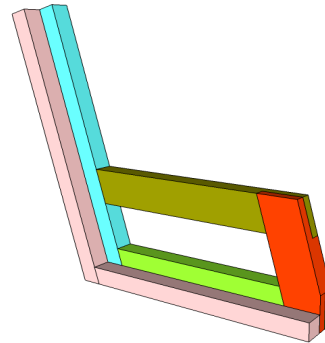
Step 4: Trim The Arms

The front of both arm assemblies needs to be trimmed slightly (red/bright green). A cut perpendicular to the bottom needs to be made where the half laps intersect. This point is where the seat slats will start.



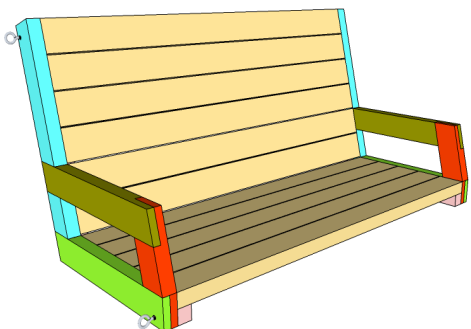
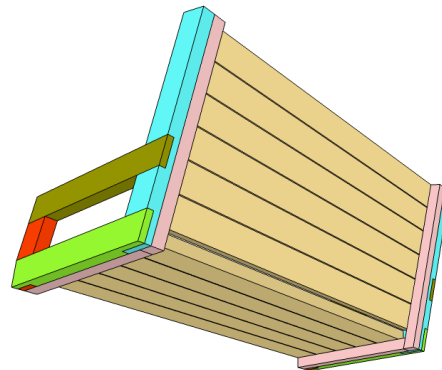
Step 5: Add Slat Supports

The slat supports (pink) can now be measured and put in place. I used glue and 4 or 5 screws to secure them to the arm.



Step 6: Install Slats

Starting from the front install the seat slats. Each slat is secured with two screws on both sides from below. Make sure you pre-drill for all of your screws so that you do not split the slat support. The space between slats is 1/8". I used the solid end of a 1/8" drill bit for this. After the seat slats, install the back slats working from the top down.



Step 7: Eye Bolts

I used 3/8"x4" eye bolts on my build as they were the shortest I could find. 3-1/2" eye bolts would be ideal. I drilled holes so that they went through both the arm and the slat supports.