

Bench with Planter Box

BENCH WITH PLANTER BOX

With ProWood® pressure treated lumber you can expand your back yard seating and enhance its beauty with a combination bench and planter box.

CUTTING THE LUMBER TO SIZE

Always Use Safety Glasses

Using a circular saw, cut the boards for the bench assembly. Start by cutting your two 8'-long 2 x 4 ProWood® boards into two 7' side panels. Next, cut your six 8'-long 2 x 4 ProWood® boards into six 55-1/2" bench pieces, which will leave you six 40-1/2"-long "scrap" pieces. Cut two of these to 25-1/2" for the end pieces of the bench.

Cut two other 40-1/2"-long scrap pieces into two 18" legs. Cut one 40-1/2"-long scrap piece into a 22-1/2" bench inset. Cut the remaining scrap piece into a 19" leg cross support.

Now cut the boards for the planter box. Cut your 10'-long 1 x 4 ProWood® board into two 25-1/2" and two 27" top trim pieces.



Caption

Next, cut your 8'-long 1 x 2 ProWood® board into two 23-1/2" and two 25-1/2" bottom trim pieces. Now cut each of your three 8'-long 1 x 8 ProWood® boards into four 18" side panel pieces and one 20-1/2" bottom piece—for a total of 12 8'-long side panel pieces and three 20-1/2" bottom pieces. Finally, cut one 8'-long 2 x 4 ProWood® board into two 22" cleats and two 17" cleats for the inside bottom of the box.

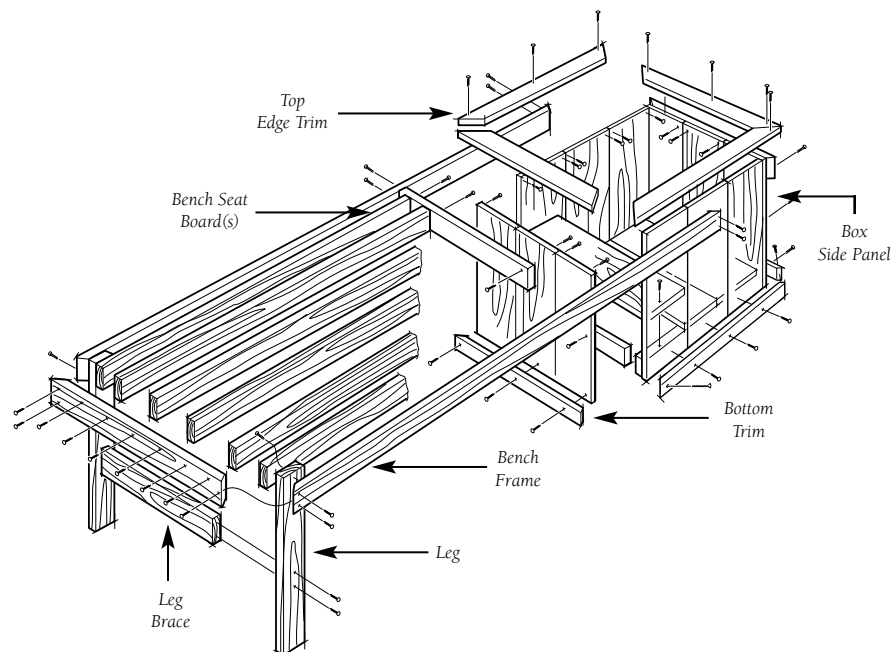
BUILDING THE BOX'S SIDE PANELS

Use the 17"-long and 22"-long cleats you just cut to hold the 1 x 8 boards together as you assemble the side panels of your planter box. Remember to always attach each cleat flush with

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Idea Builders



trim joints. For the trim on the outside face of the planter box (both top and bottom), the angles will cut through the 1" side of the trim piece. For the trim on the top edge (or rim) of the planter box, the angles will cut through the 4" side of the board. When both ends of a trim piece require angle cuts, make sure the angles are not parallel. Experiment by cutting angles in scrap wood first to help get the angles perfect.

ADDING THE BOTTOM TRIM

Cut a 45-degree angle through the 1" side in both ends of two 23-1/2" trim

pieces and four 25-1/2" trim pieces.

Be careful not to shorten the longest edge of the trim piece when cutting this angle!

Match your trim lengths with your side panels so that each corner will form a 90-degree joint between trim pieces. Once you have match the trim pieces attach the bottom trim to the planter box flush with the bottom of the planter box using 2" 6d galvanized finish nails.

BUILDING THE BENCH FRAME

Cut each end of the two 7'-long 2 x 4 boards and the

two 25"-long 2 x 4 boards to 45-degree angles so that they will make a 25" by 7' rectangular box with 90-degree joints.

Position the boards to form this rectangle and attach them at each joint using 1" screws. Place the first two screws from one face of the angle (approximately 1" from the edge) and the third screw from the other face of the angle in the middle of the 2 x 4 board, so that the screws do not hit one other. You now have the frame for your bench. Place this frame upside down on a flat surface, so that the "best"

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side of the 2 x 4 frame boards is facing down.

Add the legs to the frame by attaching them to the 7' side boards at opposite corners inside one end of the frame. *(Refer to the illustration for a look at how to do this.)*

Next, attach the brace for the legs also using 1-1/4" screws. Center the brace on the legs between the bench frame and the end of the legs.

BUILDING THE BENCH SEAT

Place a 55-1/2" long 2 x 4 bench support board inside the bench frame with the 4" side flat against the side of the bench leg and the end butted up against the 25"-side of the frame.

Screw the board to the bench frame end board and the bench leg. *(Refer to the illustration for a look at how to do this.)* Repeat with a second 55-1/2" long 2 x 4 bench support board on the opposite bench leg.

Space the four remaining 55 1/2" long 2 x 4 bench support boards evenly between the first two boards and attach with 1-1/4" #6 galvanized all purpose screws to the 25"-side of the frame that has the legs attached.

Place the 22-1/2"-long 2 x 4 bench inset inside the bench frame butting against the "free" ends of the bench support boards. Attach the first bench support board on each side to the bench inset board with 3" #6 galvanized all purpose screws, using a 2 x 4 piece of scrap as a spacer to matching the gap provided by the bench legs. Space the remaining four boards evenly between these and attach with screws.

PUTTING THE BENCH ON THE BOX

Turn over the frame and seat piece so that the assembly is right-side-up and supported on one end by the bench legs. Slide the opposite end over the planter box so that the two 7'-long bench frame boards and the 22-1/2"-long bench inset and end piece without legs become the top trim for four sides of the planter box. Make sure the top of these three boards are flush with the top board of the planter box. Attach with 1-1/4" #6 galvanized all purpose screws.

ADDING THE TOP EDGE TRIM

You should have two 27" pieces and two 25-1/2" pieces of 1 x 4 left for the top edge trim. This trim covers the top edges of the planter box and bench

Basic Tool List

- ◆ Miter Box Or Angle Square for Angle Cuts
- ◆ Circular Power Saw
- ◆ Drill And Drill Bit
- ◆ Tape Measure
- ◆ Hammer
- ◆ Screwdriver

frame. Each of the joints for this trim is also 45-degrees, but you will have to cut the angles differently.

They must be cut through the 4" side of the piece. Keeping in mind the difference in the way the angle is cut, you can follow the instructions for Attaching The Bottom Trim given above to attach your top edge trim. Also refer to the illustration for a look at how this trim is attached.

Always wear gloves, a dust mask, and eye protection when sawing, sanding, or machining wood.

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the bottom of each side piece and centered over the width of the panel's boards. Also, keep in mind which side of your wood will face outward. You want to keep your "best" side visible. (See the illustration for a look at the Planter Box assembly.)

THE FIRST TWO SIDE PANELS

Take one of the 17" cleats and attach it to the bottom of three 18" 1 x 8 side pieces with a 2" 6d galvanized finish nail. The side pieces should be held together to form a solid panel with the 17" cleat centered side-to-side along the bottom edges. Repeat this process with the other 17" cleat and three more side pieces to form your second panel.

THE SECOND TWO SIDE PANELS

Next, take one of the 22" cleats and attach it to the bottom of three 18" 1 x 8 side pieces with a 2" 6d galvanized finish nail. The side pieces should be held together to form a solid panel with the 22" cleat centered side-to-side along the bottom edges. Repeat this process with the other 22" cleat and three more side pieces to form your fourth panel.

MAKING THE BOX'S BOTTOM

Place the three 20-1/2" long 1 x 8 pieces side-by-side to form the bottom of the planter box. Attach a piece of scrap wood across all three bottom pieces to hold the bottom panel together. Use 1-1/4" #6 galvanized all purpose screws to attach this "cleat." Turn the bottom panel upside down, so that the "cleat" faces down and out of sight.

PUTTING THE SIDES ON THE BOX

Center the two side panels with the 22" cleat on the bottom panel with the cut ends, so that the bottom panel boards touch the side panels. Slide the 22" cleat part of the side panel under the bottom panel, so that the bottom panel rests on the cleat. Set a nail through the bottom panel into your side panel's cleat.

Next, place the side panels with the 17" cleat in place as the other two sides of the planter box. (The side panels with the 17" trim should touch the un-cut side of the bottom panel boards.) Set these side panels in place also using finish nails. All four box

- Materials You Will Need**
- ◆ Nine 8' 2 x 4 ProWood® Pressure Treated Lumber
 - ◆ One 10' 1 x 4 ProWood® Pressure Treated Lumber
 - ◆ One 8' 1 x 2 ProWood® Pressure Treated Lumber
 - ◆ Three 8' 1 x 8 ProWood® Pressure Treated Trim Boards
 - ◆ A Box Of 2" #6 Galvanized Finish Nails
 - ◆ A Box Of 1-1/4" #6 Galvanized General Purpose Screws
 - ◆ A Box Of 3" #8 Galvanized General Purpose Screws

sides and the bottom should now be in place. Attach all four sides to the bottom panel by setting finish nails through the bottom panel into the bottom cleat. Screw the four box sides together with two 1-1/4" #6 galvanized all purpose screws so that the top and bottom trim will cover your screws.

CUTTING TRIM ANGLES

All angles for the outside trim (both top and bottom) are 45-degree angles. Each joint is then 90 degrees. Use a miter box or an angle square to mark and cut 45-degree angles for each of the

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