

Build a Simple Outdoor Bench

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Difficulty: **Beginner**

A touch of contemporary to your outdoor space. This easy to build bench features a slatted top. Use indoors and out, as dining seating or just a bench to rest on outdoors.

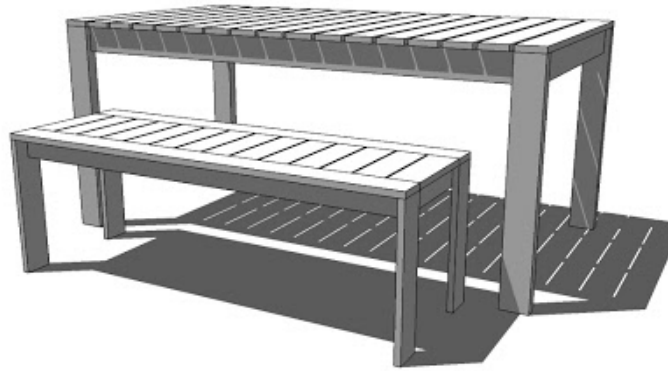
Collections:

[Simple Modern Outdoor Collection \(/woodworking-projects/collections/simple-modern-outdoor-collection\)](/woodworking-projects/collections/simple-modern-outdoor-collection)



Somebody's gonna say it. Somebody's gonna whisper, she's forgotten where she's from. She thinks she lives in Hollywood now. And they are so right. Despite plans for ice fishing this weekend, I'm designing plans for eating grilled fish on in the California sun. I am so loving outdoor furniture right now, I could very possibly have forgotten I live in Alaska.

You've got the table (<http://knockoffwood.blogspot.com/2010/04/plans-simple-outdoor-dining-table.html>), and now it's time for the matching bench. Like the table, I found much inspiration from West Elm's Wood Slat Long Bench (<http://www.westelm.com/products/f244/popup/more-info.html>), loving the modern simplicity of this style. I especially love simple clean lines outdoors because you are contrasting against the natural organic shapes of the outdoors.



(http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_LodZ9etRvTw/S9J8usNvvNI/AAAAAAAAAGb4/1FgVEV14kr8/s1600/simple+outdoor+bench+1.jpg)
If you are intimidated by the size of the table, starting with the bench is a good idea. Not only will you have an opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them, the investment (time and moneywise) is considerably less. Also, the bench could serve a variety of other purposes besides as a dining area seating surface. Think holding planters, elevating plants for sunshine, or just a simple reading spot.



(http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_LodZ9etRvTw/S9KBaFslEnI/AAAAAAAAAGcl/4gUS6YmEppl/s1600/simple+outdoor+bench+2.jpg)

Preparation

SHOPPING LIST

Shopping List

4 – 1×3 Boards

4 – 1×4 Boards

2" Screws

1 1/4" Screws

Wood Glue

Wood Filler or Paintable Silicone Sealant

Tools

Measuring Tape

Square

Drill

Sander

Saw

COMMON MATERIALS

Elmer's Wood Glue (<http://elmers.com/diy>)

Elmer's Wood Filler (<http://elmers.com/products/wood-filler-and-other-repair?filters=construction#>)

120 grit sandpaper

primer

wood conditioner

paint

paint brush

CUT LIST

Cut List

2 – 1×3 @ 49 1/4" (Seat Supports)

2 – 1×3 @ 13" (End Aprons)

2 – 1×3 @ 50 3/4" (Side Aprons)

14 – 1×4 @ 11" (Seat Slats)

2 – 1×4 @ 52 1/4" (Seat Sides)

4 – 1×4 @ 17 1/4" (Legs)

TOOLS



Tape Measure



Speed Square



Pencil



Hammer



Safety Glasses



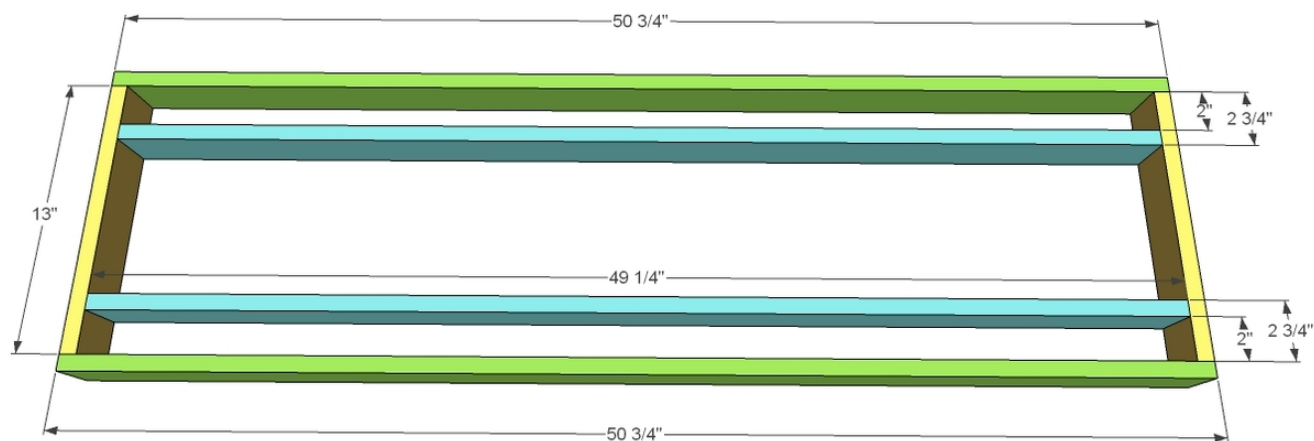
Ear Protection

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

General Instructions. It is a good idea to sand and finish your boards (paint or stain) before constructing to seal all edges. Work on a clean levels surface. Mark out your joints before fastening joints. Pre-drill and countersink your screws before attaching. Use glue unless otherwise specified. Check for square after each step. And please work safe and smart, using proper safety equipment.

Instructions

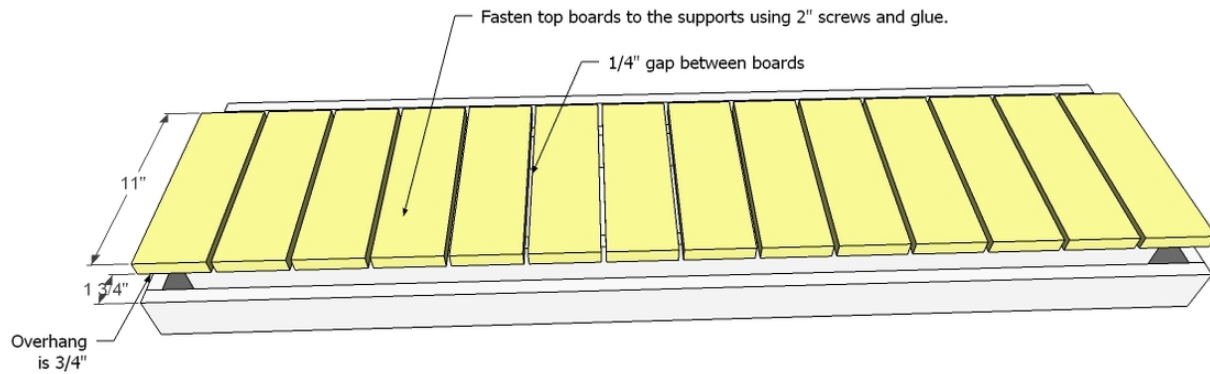
STEP 1



(<https://www.ana-white.com/sites/default/files/simple%20outdoor%20bench%203.jpg>)

Build the Frame. Begin by fastening the blue supports to the yellow ends using 2" screws and glue. Then fasten the green aprons to the yellow aprons as shown above, using 2" screws and glue. Square up your frame by taking a diagonal measurement, and adjusting the square until both measurements are equal.

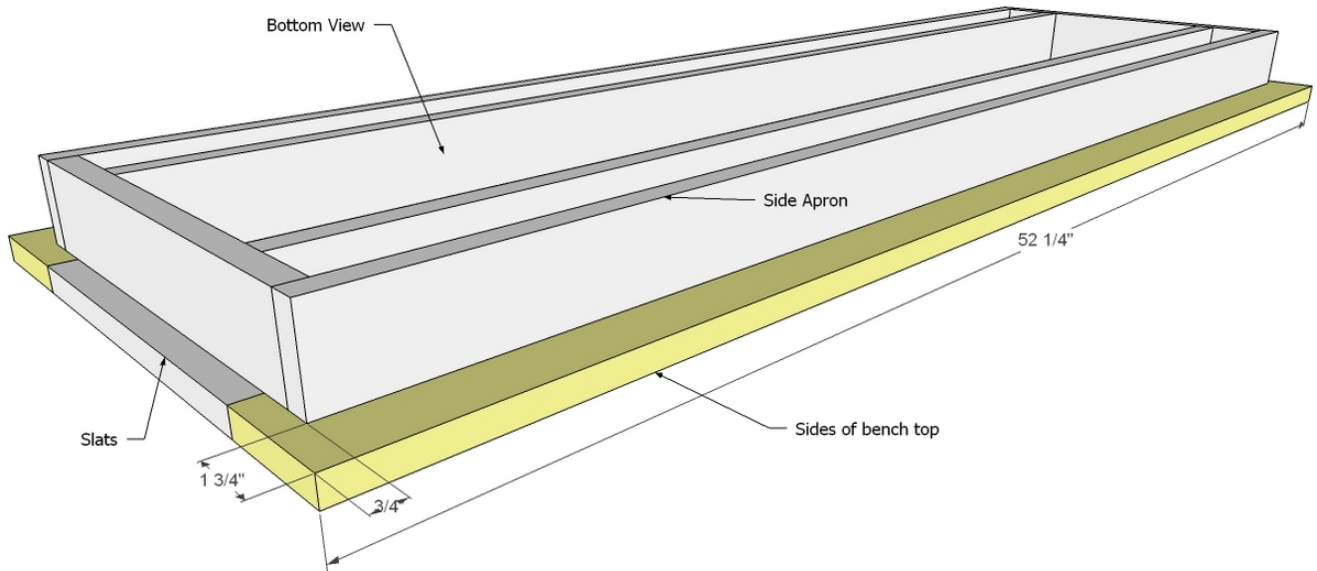
STEP 2



(<https://www.ana-white.com/sites/default/files/simple%20outdoor%20bench%204.jpg>)

Bench Slats. Mark the slat boards 1" from the ends on both ends. Also mark two of the boards 3/4" in on the outer edge. These are your outer boards. Line these boards up on the ends, overhang of 3/4" as shown above and screw to side aprons and supports. Fasten the remaining slats to the top, as shown above, leaving a 1/4" gap between the boards. Use the 1" marks to line up with the outer edge of the support underneath. It may help you to use the board from step 3 as a guide when lining up your slats.

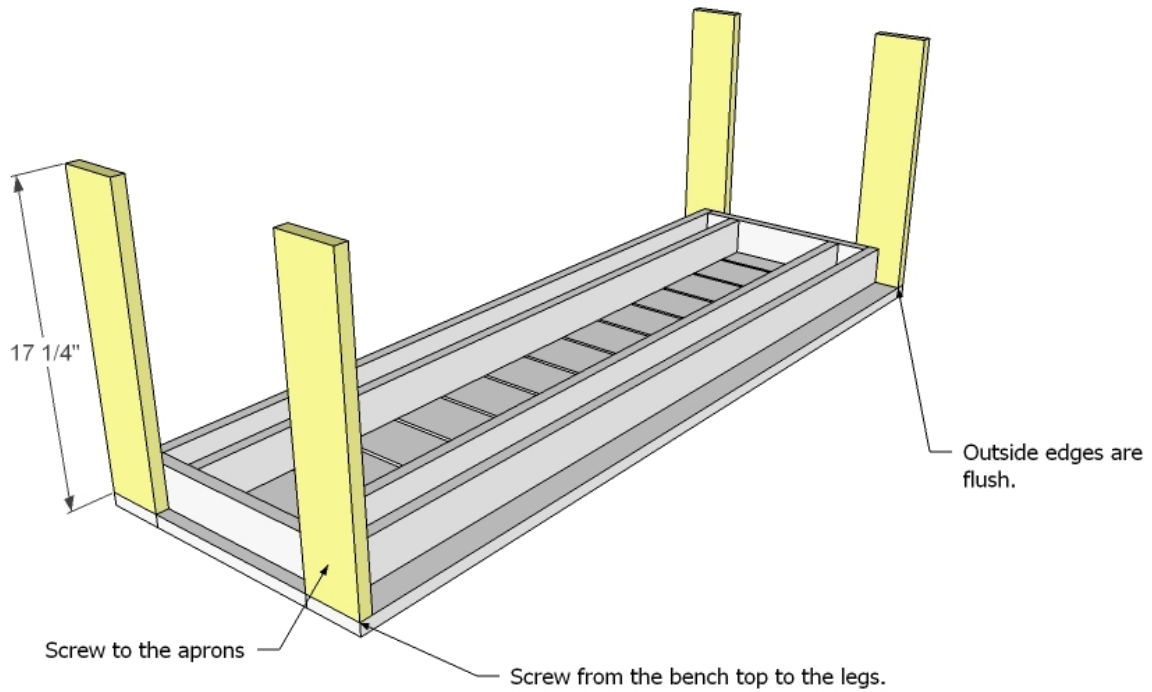
STEP 3



(<https://www.ana-white.com/sites/default/files/simple%20outdoor%20bench%205.jpg>)

Sides of Bench Top. Mark the bench top boards as shown above, 1 3/4" in from the sides, 3/4" from the ends. Use 2" screws to fasten to the side and end aprons.

STEP 4



(<https://www.ana-white.com/sites/default/files/simple%20outdoor%20bench%206.jpg>)

Legs. Use the 1 1/4" screws to fasten the legs to the aprons, as shown above. Then fasten from the seat sides top into the tops of the legs with 2" screws and glue.

Help Improve This Plan

We apologize if there was an error in this plan. Please help us out and report any errors here.