

The Outdoor Deck Chair



Here's a simple, rugged outdoor chair design that you can easily modify to suit your own needs.

If you've already decided that cheap, plastic outdoor furniture isn't for you...and you've already priced well-designed wooden outdoor furniture, you can probably figure out pretty quickly that you'll be way ahead of the game if you build it yourself.

This chair plan gives you the opportunity to do just that. Plus...if you use the right materials, these chairs should provide a lifetime of great service, along with the great satisfaction that comes from having built them yourself.

And, with just a few simple dimension changes, the chair could easily become a lounge chair or even a love seat. Change a few more dimensions and you could even have a bench sofa (but you must increase the thickness of your seat slats to 1-1/8" to ensure adequate strength).

Let's start with a little talk about materials. We built our example chair from (selectively picked) number two white pine. Why?, you ask. First of all, we wanted you to know that with today's finishes, the material you choose isn't as important as it used to be.

There are loads of weatherproof finishes out there that will provide many long years of durable service (with a little or no maintenance). Ours is treated with a transparent penetrating oil stain that's especially formulated for outdoor use. Better quality stains such as ours contain additives that repel water, resist mildew and protect the wood from the harsh Summer sunshine.

As a result, you don't really **have** to buy more costly, weather-resistant woods for projects like this chair. However, good outdoor woods such as redwood, Western red cedar, cypress or teak have a lot to offer beyond mere weather resistance. They can also be stronger with far more attractive natural colors and grain patterns. That's one decision you'll have to make for yourself.

So, let's get started

1. Cut all stock to size, according to the Bill of Materials. **NOTE:** Make any size adjustments now if you're planning to build your own variation of our chair. When selecting lumber, for reasons of strength, care should be taken to avoid knots, especially with treated lumber.

When cutting slats to length, a Miter Gauge Extension Face with an adjustable stop will significantly speed the cutting process and help ensure that all slat lengths are uniform.

2. Use a Shaper or Router set-up to radius two edges of the seat supports (B). A 1/2" radius is preferable, but a smaller radius is also acceptable.

3. Transfer the patterns (from the plan grid) for back supports (A) and seat supports (B) to a large piece of paper. Lay the back and seat supports on the pattern and mark, cut, drill, glue, dowel and clamp the two pieces together at the correct angle to fit your pattern.

4. Using your Bandsaw or Scroll Saw cut the newly created “side” (consisting of the back support [A] and seat support [B] sub-assembly) to shape. Sand and prepare for final assembly.
5. Transfer the pattern for the front legs (C) and back legs (D) to paper. Lay the front and back legs on the pattern and cut; drill for end dowels; and sand for final assembly.
6. Drill, glue and dowel the legs (C&D) to the side sub-assemblies at the proper angles, according to the pattern.
7. Attach the side/leg assemblies to the spreaders (E) with 3/8” dowels (G) and glue. Use extra care at this stage to ensure squareness.
8. Attach the slats (F) to the back supports (A) with screws (H). Use 1/2" wood block spacers to be sure the slats remain parallel to one another and at 1/2" intervals during assembly. Remove the spacers following assembly.

NOTE:

If you decide to add arms to your chair, make the following changes:

- Add 4-1/4” to the 14” length of the front legs (C)
- Add (8) dowels to the Bill of Materials
- Cut out two arms 3/4" x 5” x 22” (remember to flip the pattern over for tracing and cutting out the arms for the opposite sides of your chairs)
- **NOTE:** If arms are installed, legs (C) must be doweled on the **outside** of the seat support (B) rather than the inside...and a couple of seat slats will have to be trimmed to accommodate the arm support.

Bill of Materials

(finished dimensions in inches)

A	Back Supports (2)	3/4 x 6 x 28
B	Seat Supports (2)	3/4 x 6 x 21
C	Front Legs (2)	3/4 x 3-1/2 x 14
D	Back Legs (2)	3/4 x 3-1/2 x 12
E	Spreaders (2)	3/4 x 3 x 18
F	Slats (20)	3/4 x 2-1/4 x 22
G	Dowel Pins (26)	3/8 dia. x 1-1/2
H	Screws (40)	#8 x 1-1/4” Flat Head Stainless Wood Screws

