

Make This L-Shaped Bench for Your Porch

Easy Porch Bench Plan
Build It Today!



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Need some color on your porch?

Or a place to put packages while opening the door?

Want something to do with the kids or grandkids?

Help them build this easy bench for fun or as a gift.

This is a *nifty porch project* that only takes an afternoon to make. Use it to hold packages or as a place for pots, plants, and other decorative items on or around your front porch.

Build it from wood scraps you may already have or seek out someone who is building a deck, shed, etc., to see if you could use their scrap material.

If all else fails, you should be able to purchase the wood for a very nominal cost.



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SAFETY FIRST: Because you will be working with tools and power tools, make sure you are well trained in their use.

- Take all safety precautions seriously.
- Anyone not familiar with basic hand tools or power tools, including children, should be supervised by someone who is.
- Follow all manufacturers safety warnings for any tool(s) or products you may use.

DISCLAIMER: If you choose to build this bench, we cannot be held liable for injuries (however minor or major) sustained while working on this project. User assumes all risks associated with purchasing, paying for, cutting, assembling, painting, lifting, transporting materials, moving, and placing bench in an appropriate location.

Users of this document assume all risks associated with working with tools to make this bench. Some instructions contained herein are general in nature so that you can design a bench to your specifications. Your errors in marking, measuring, assembly, or design are not our fault.

This bench is more for aesthetic value than it is functional. We cannot be held liable if someone sits or stands on your bench resulting in an injury.



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You don't need special tools (hand tools will work fine) but using a drill, circular or cut-off saw, and sander will speed up the process.

You should be able to find the wood for free. I used scraps of treated 2x4s and decking board left over from a deck project. You can also scrounge around a home building site and ask if you can use a few of the scrap pieces. It doesn't have to be treated (although recommended) as you'll be painting or staining the finished product.

If you opt to buy the lumber you won't need much and it is relatively inexpensive (a treated 8' 2x4 is only a few dollars). You could also use cedar fencing which is really inexpensive and lightweight.

What you need for this project

Drill (drill bit and screw driver bit)

Tape measure/pencil

1 small box of 2 1/2" or 3" deck screws

Hand saw/circular or cut-off saw

Clamps (optional)

Sander/sandpaper

Paint/stain/brush

2x4s, 1x6s to length



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Read through the directions prior to starting.

Determine the size of the bench by the area you want to fill. In this case, we want our bench to be 36 inches long, 11 inches wide, and 22 inches tall. The L-shape will add an additional 10 inches long by 8 inches deep on one end.



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As stated earlier, I'm using 2x4s and 1x6 decking boards. Calculate the amount of wood you will need. Because my bench is L-shaped let's figure out how much wood I'll need for the basic seat frame, then we'll compute the L-section frame which we will attach to the basic frame.

Basic Seat Frame: 36" X 10" (see frame cutting diagram next page)

I want the decking boards to overhang the frame by an inch so my basic frame must be: 36" long x 10" wide. Once I lay the deck boards on top, the actual seat will be 11" wide. Therefore, I need:

Two (2) pieces at 36"

Two (2) pieces at 7" (a 2x4 is 1 1/2 inches thick. To make the frame 10 inches wide I subtract 3 inches (the thickness of 2- 2x4s) from 10". So, $10" - 3" = 7"$.

L-Shape: 10" by 8" (see frame cutting diagram next page)

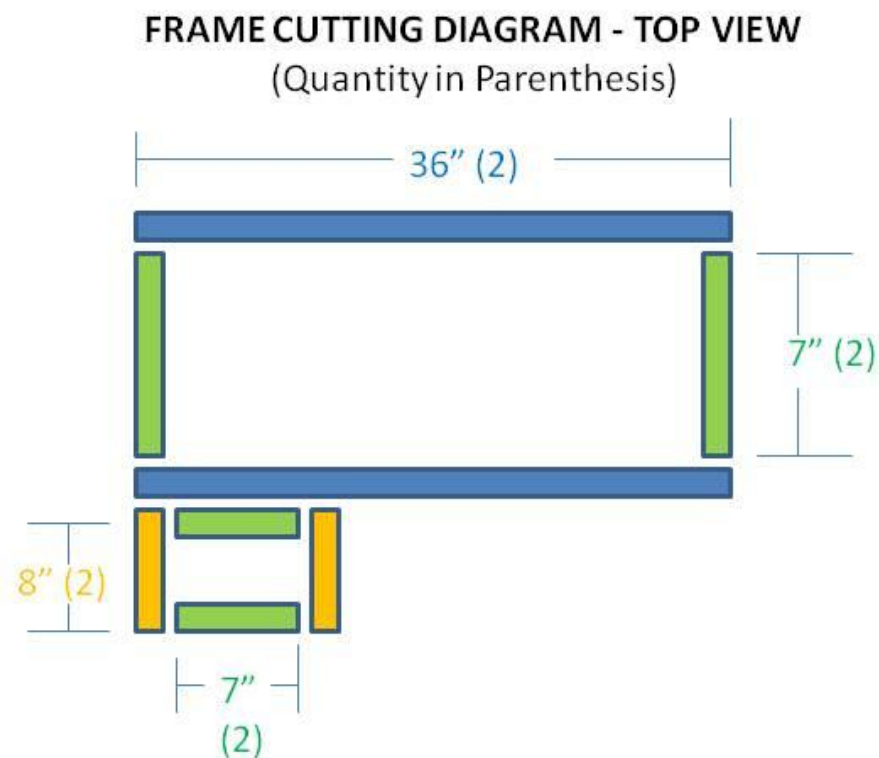
To make the L-Shape I'll need four pieces of wood:

Two (2) pieces at 7" (7" plus the width of two 2x4s (3") = 10")

Two (2) pieces at 8"



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Two (2) pieces @ 36"

Two (2) pieces @ 8"

Four (4) pieces @ 7"

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Legs: To calculate the legs, subtract the thickness of your seat boards (usually 3/4") from your desired height. Since I wanted our bench to be 22 inches high, I needed four legs at 21 1/4".

Seat Boards (1x6s): We'll cut these later in the process.

So, my **2x4 cutting list for the frame** looks like this:

Two at 36"

Four at 7"

Two at 8"

Four at 21 1/4" (for the legs)



Your cutting list may be different based on the length and width of your bench. Just remember to account for the thickness of the wood when making calculations. Cut your pieces based on your cut list.



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Time to assemble the basic bench frame.

Start by dry-fitting the pieces you cut. If cut correctly you should have two rectangles. It is also a good idea to mark the pieces at this time for assembly.

I usually *number the pieces* so I know which board goes where during assembly.

You will want to pre-drill pilot holes for the screws; otherwise, you will split the wood. It is also a good idea to countersink the holes to accept the screw heads. (A counter sink is relatively inexpensive and a good bit to have on hand for other projects as well.)

I like to clamp the wood when drilling and when assembling with screws. Clamps make it much easier to keep the pieces aligned. If clamps are not available, have someone assist you during this process.



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I used 3" deck screws for this project.

You can use shorter ones but they should be long enough to penetrate into the receiving boards at least an inch.

Use two in the ends of each board. Secure all four corners.



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Now attach the L-shape frame.

Begin by attaching the support board first.

To do so use an end board as shown at right to position the support board. You want the end board to be flush with the basic frame.



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Clamp and screw the support board to the basic frame.



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Now attach the remaining boards. I use a clamp to hold the next board in place and screw into the support board.



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Now I attach the other side in the same manner.



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Now I attach the last remaining board.



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Your frame should look similar to this.



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Now is the time to cut the seat material.

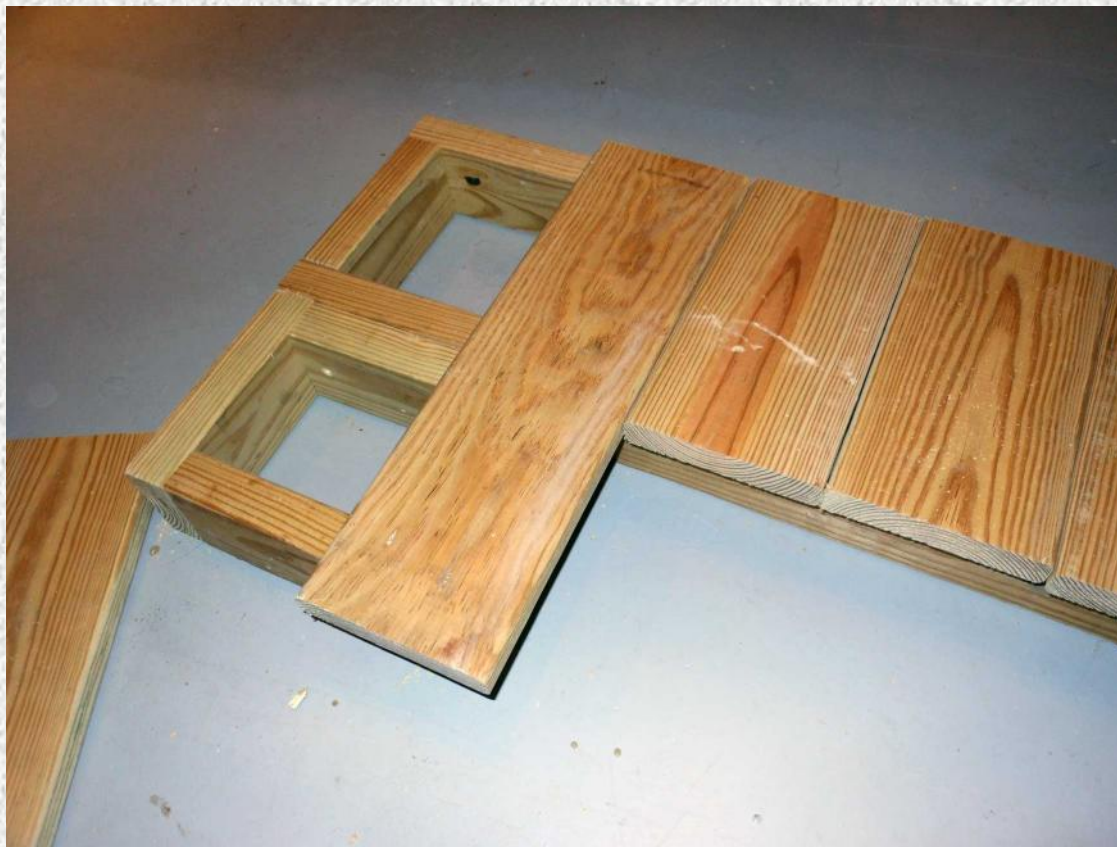
You could have cut this material during the initial steps but I prefer to wait till the frame is made. It won't take much time to cut these pieces. I used regular decking board scraps (or you can purchase an 8' deck board for a few dollars).

Measure the width of your seat material (in this case it was a 1x6" board which is really 3/4 x 5 1/2 inches).

Divide that number into the length (36") and you'll need 6 + pieces. One piece will be a fill piece of about 2 1/2 inches.

Also note, because of the L-shape, the seat boards will not all be the same length. (Some will be longer.)

We want our bench to be 11 inches wide.



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Begin cutting four (4) boards at 11 inches and dry fit them on the bench.



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The next three boards will need to be cut longer due to the "L".

Mine measured 19" in length.

Dry fit two of the long boards. You will note they don't quite cover your bench. You need a fill piece. In our case, it needs to be 2 1/2 inches wide so I rip (cut the third long board lengthwise) a board to that width.



NOTE: To alleviate having to rip a board, calculate the width of your bench using your seat boards. Then make the frame according to those dimensions.



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We won't secure the seat boards to the frame until the legs have been attached.



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Shaping the Legs

You can make the legs a little more appealing by cambering the bottom portion.

You can do this easily by cutting the corners off at 45 degree angles. Gives them a nice finished look.

This is an optional step.



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Attaching the legs

Clamp, align, and screw the legs onto the frame.

CAUTION: Have someone raise the frame and you dry fit a leg or two into its proper position before you begin attaching the legs.

You may have a few options for leg placement and you also want to make sure your legs aren't on backwards!!

Use a level to ensure the leg is perpendicular and squared (or else you'll have a wobbly bench)!



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Use a clamp to hold the leg in position once it is squared. Insert two screws through the frame as shown below; then insert an additional two screws on the face. Each leg will then be attached with four screws.



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Repeat this process with each leg.



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Now is a good time to test the bench to make sure it sits flat. To make adjustments, just sand down the bottom of a leg or two until it sits level.



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Now it is time to attach the seating.

Start from one end and square the board at the back of the frame. It should extend over the front by about an inch.

Pre-drill the holes and use exterior deck screws to fasten. Fasten the boards at the front and the rear.



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Optional: If you have a router, round over the ends of the seat boards before you fasten them. Another option is to use a sander to round over the edges. This step just gives your seat boards a nice finished look.



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Before painting, sand the entire bench to round edges and prevent splinters.



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Time to paint or stain. Be sure to use exterior paint or stain to protect your bench outdoors.



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Enjoy your new L-shaped porch bench. We hope you had fun making it.



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We would appreciate [your feedback](#) on our bench tutorial.

- Was it helpful?
- Did you come up with ideas to vary the design?
- Was anything in our instructions unclear to you?
- We appreciate your [helpful testimonials and feedback](#).

Thank you!

*Our Warm Regards,
Dave and Mary Morris*

Founders of Front-Porch-Ideas-and-More.com



Dave and Mary