

# HOW TO BUILD A PORCH SWING



## **SUPPLIES USED**

Tape measure  
Drill  
2.5" Wood Screws  
1.5" Wood Screws  
2" Finishing nails  
Hammer (or nail gun if you're lucky)  
Sand paper/ Electric sander  
Exterior paint  
Safety glasses

## **CUT LIST**

(2) 2' x 4' @ 55" (base frame)  
(5) 2' x 4' @ 21" (base frame)  
(3) 2' x 4' @ 27" (back supports)  
(12) 1' x 3' @ 55" (seat and back slats)  
(2) 1' x 4' @ 25" (I accidentally miscalculated and did 24", whoops)  
(2) 1' x 4' @ 13"

## **HANGING MATERIALS**

(2) Packs of 15' chain link (zinc coated) for 340 lbs, working load  
(4) 1/4" quick links with 880 lb, working load  
(4) Nylon lock nut, coarse  
(2) 5/16" x 4" Screw hook lag thread  
(8) Fender washers 1.5"  
(4) 5/16" x 4" Eye Bolt with Nut

***The entire project cost me about \$90.00, but if you need to purchase essentials link screws, wood glue, etc., you may end up paying closer to \$100.***

## Start with building the frame.

Your frame includes the (2) 55" 2' x 4's and the (5) 21" 2' x 4's. There will be exactly 12" space between each seat support and the next.



I drilled pilot holes before I began gluing or screwing. For pilot holes, you want to use a bit that's at least as large as the smallest diameter of your 2.5" screw. Once that's all the way through both pieces, you should use a drill bit that is the same size of your screw to re-pilot the first piece of wood/ entry point for the screw. The wider pilot hole here will allow the screw to pull the piece you're attaching tightly, this eliminates any gapping in the wood.



Once the pilot holes were drilled, I applied wood glue to the seat support end and attached the screws, 2 for each piece. Then I repeated it on the other side.

## Begin attaching the (3) back supports.

This is where you'll attach the (3) 27" back supports. I used the same method of piloting, gluing and drilling here. Instead of (2) screws, I used (4) for each support.



## Lay your swing on it's back to attach the front armrest support.

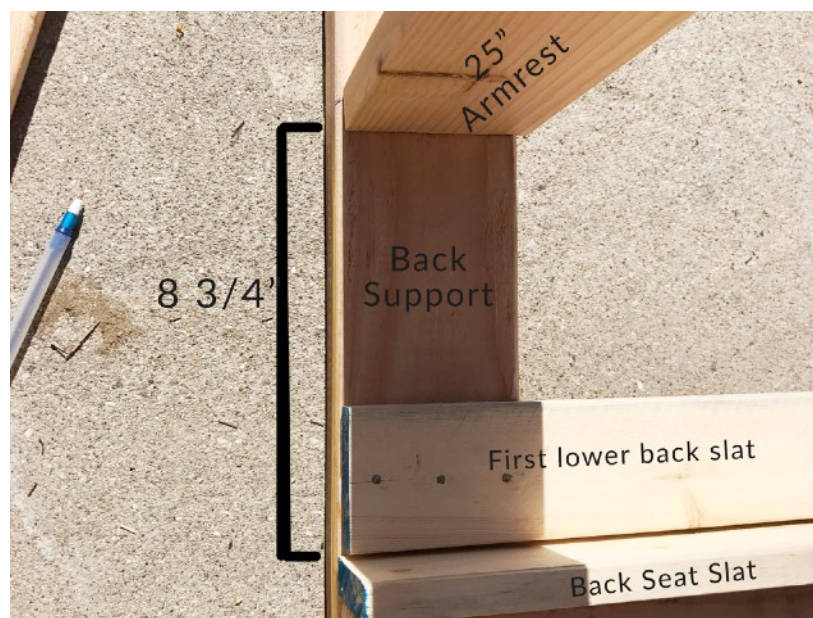


Next, I attached my (2) 13" armrest pieces to the front of each side of the swing using (2) screws and wood glue. Make sure to use your smaller 1.5" wood screws here to avoid hot-points.

## **Begin attaching (7) of the 55" seat slats to your swing with the 2" finishing nails.**

You'll nail them straight into all the base supports beneath them, being sure to keep the sides aligned neatly. I attached the back and front seat slats first, so each was flush with the back supports and front armrests, respectively. Then, I worked inward giving each slat a 1 1/4" gap between them. I used (3) nails on the outside edges, and (2) nails per point of contact for the rest. Use your best judgment; things should be pretty sturdy already.

## **Attach the 25" armrest after nailing in the first two bottom (5) 55" back slats.**



I started again with doing the top and the bottom first. The top slat should be flush with the top of the back supports, and the bottom slat should be flush and on top of the back seat slat. The top of the second back slat from the bottom should be at exactly 8 3/4", this will allow you to rest your 25" armrest perfectly on one of the slats for support.

Once that 2nd back slat is in, attach the 25" armrest using finishing nails. Continue connecting the remainder of your backrest slats with equal spacing.

### **FINISHING**

Use a piece of sandpaper or an electric hand sander to sand down any rough edges or pieces of wood. You want your swing to be splinter-free.

Paint your swing with whichever exterior paint you desire!

## **HANGING**

All of the swing hardware will attach to the swing itself except for the Screw hook lag thread, which will go directly into the ceiling/ beam you're hanging from. If you're drilling into a ceiling, make sure to use a stud finder. Measure your beam to allow at least 2 inches extra on each side of the swing to account for motion. So for a 55" swing, you'd measure 59" total. You'll want to first drill a pilot hole that's slightly smaller than your screw hooks threaded diameter. Then screw in the hook to complete.

For the hardware on the swing itself, you'll want to use the same drill bit to create a pilot hole on the 21" exterior of the swing base on each side. Use a washer as a guide to ensure the washers have room. Once the pilot holes are drilled, put a washer on your eye hook with the nut between the washer and hook, and screw in. You'll cap the eye bolt with a washer and Nylon lock nut on the interior underside of the swing. Repeat on the other side.



**EXTERIOR WHERE QUICK LINK AND CHAIN MEET**



**INTERIOR FASTENERS**

Attach one quick link to each eye bolt. For the chain, I found the center point of each 15' chain and hooked that link onto the Screw hook that I installed in my beam. This gave me two even sides hanging down. Attach the hanging link to your quick link at the desired height. For reference, the front of my swing is suspended 1 link higher than the rear, with 57 links on the rear and 56 links on the front.

