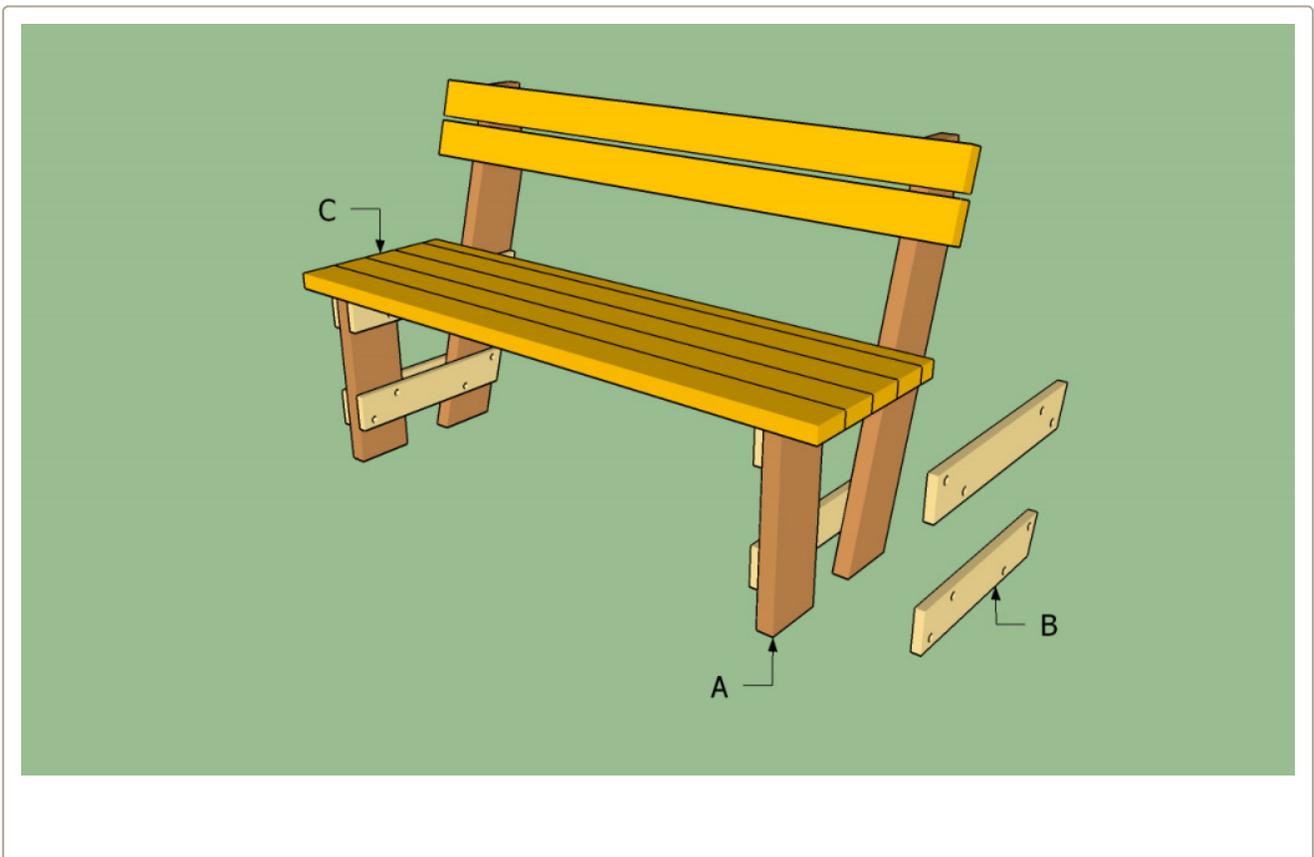


Use a router and a 1/4" bit to round the exposed edges of the 2x4 slats, to give your garden bench a nicer look. Align the components at both ends, before inserting the wood screws. In addition, check the corners for squareness, after every step. If you want to make the wooden bench more rigid, you could add a 2x4 stretcher between the sides and lock it into place with 3" screws.



## Materials

- A – 2 pieces of 2x6 lumber – 17" long, 2 pieces of 2x6 lumber – 37" long LEGS
- B – 4 pieces of 1x4 lumber – 18" long, 4 pieces of 1x4 lumber – 21" long BRACES
- C – 6 pieces of 2x4 lumber – 57" long SLATS

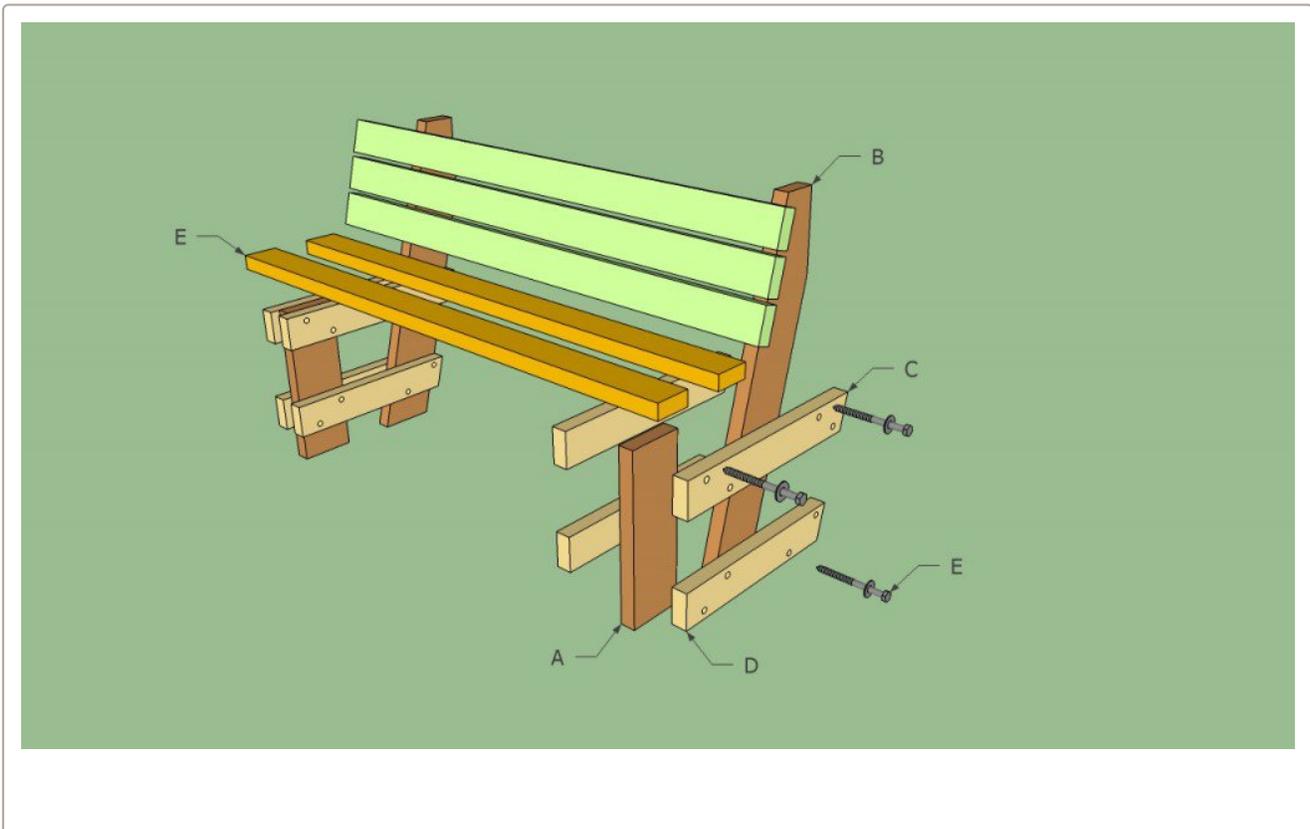
NOTE: Both A front legs need extra 12" for underground section (17" + 12" = 29" long Front legs)

## Tools

- Safety gloves, glasses
- Circular saw, chalk line, tape measure
- Hammer, spirit level, carpentry pencil
- Drill machinery and drill bits

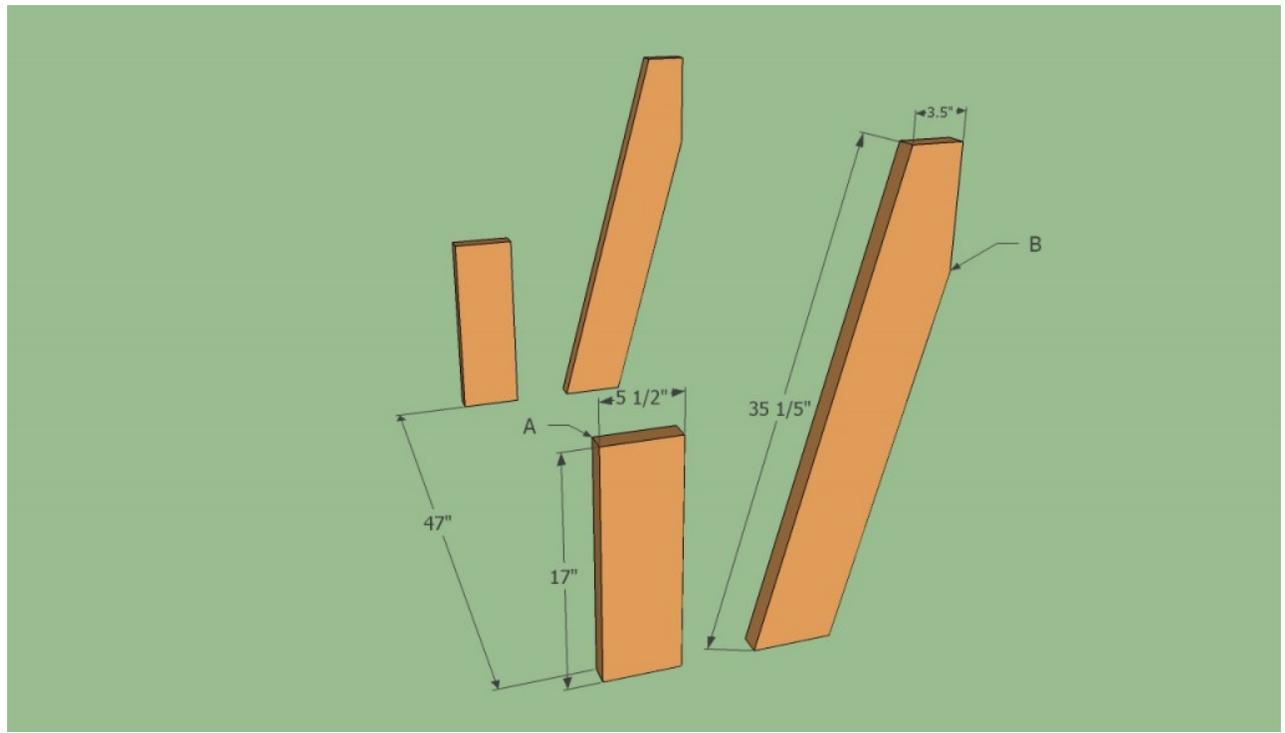
## Tips

- Pre-drill holes in the wooden components, before inserting the screws
- Smooth the edges of the wooden components with sandpaper



Building a nice park bench is a straight forward process, if you use the right plans for your needs and budget. There are many outdoor bench designs to choose from, but in this article we show you how to build a simple bench, at a low cost.

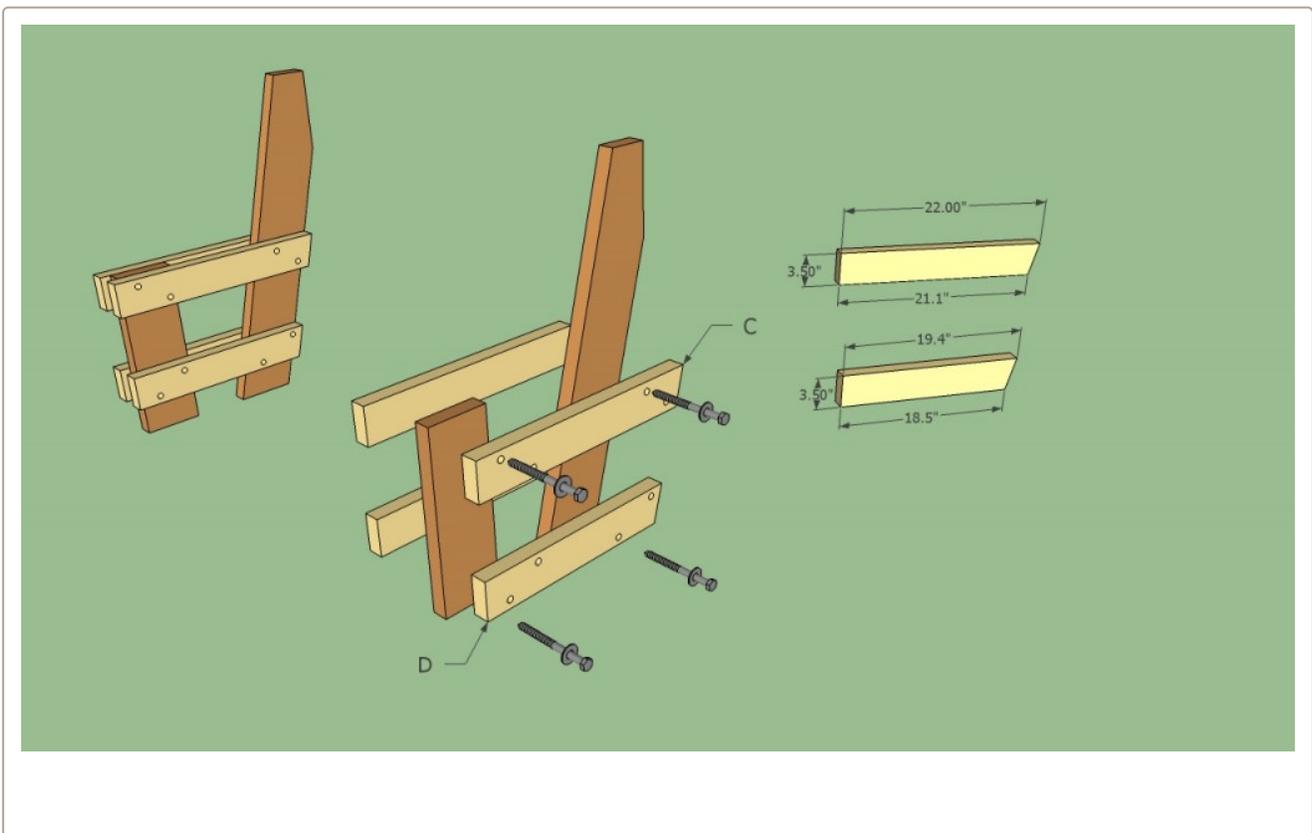
You need to build several wooden components and to secure them together with different types of screws and bolts. You could adjust the size of the bench, according to your needs.



Garden bench legs

First, you need to build the legs of the garden bench. Therefore, use 2×6 wooden boards to build the front leg and the back support, according to our free plans. Cut both ends of the back legs at 75 degrees. If you want to customize your bench, you could adjust the angle of the back support to fit your needs (75° cut).

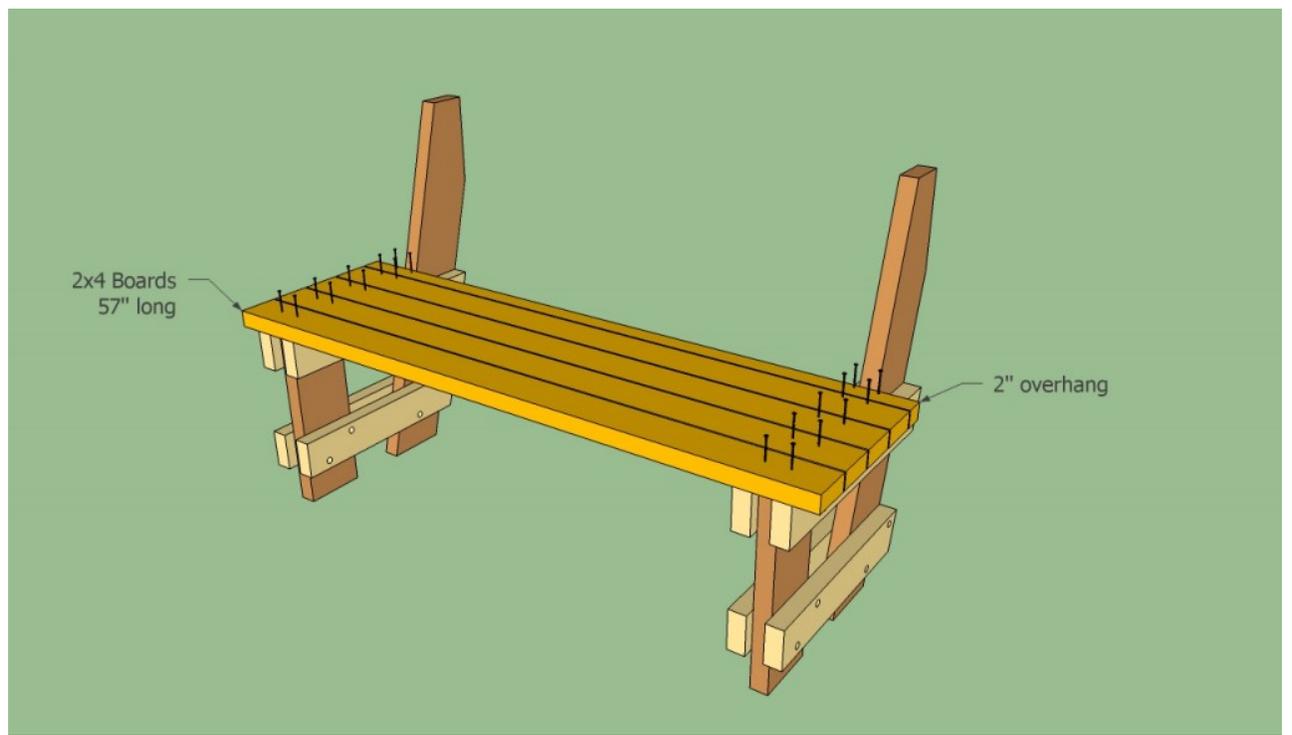
After you have cut the components, we recommend you to smooth their surface and edges with a sand-block.



**Next, build the cross braces, to lock the wooden legs together. In order to obtain a rigid and durable structure, we recommend you to cut the braces from 2x4s or 1x4s. Make sure you cut one end of the braces at the same angle with the pitch of the back supports.**

**Drill pilot holes through the legs and through the cross braces, before inserting the 5-6" carriage bolts, as in the image.**

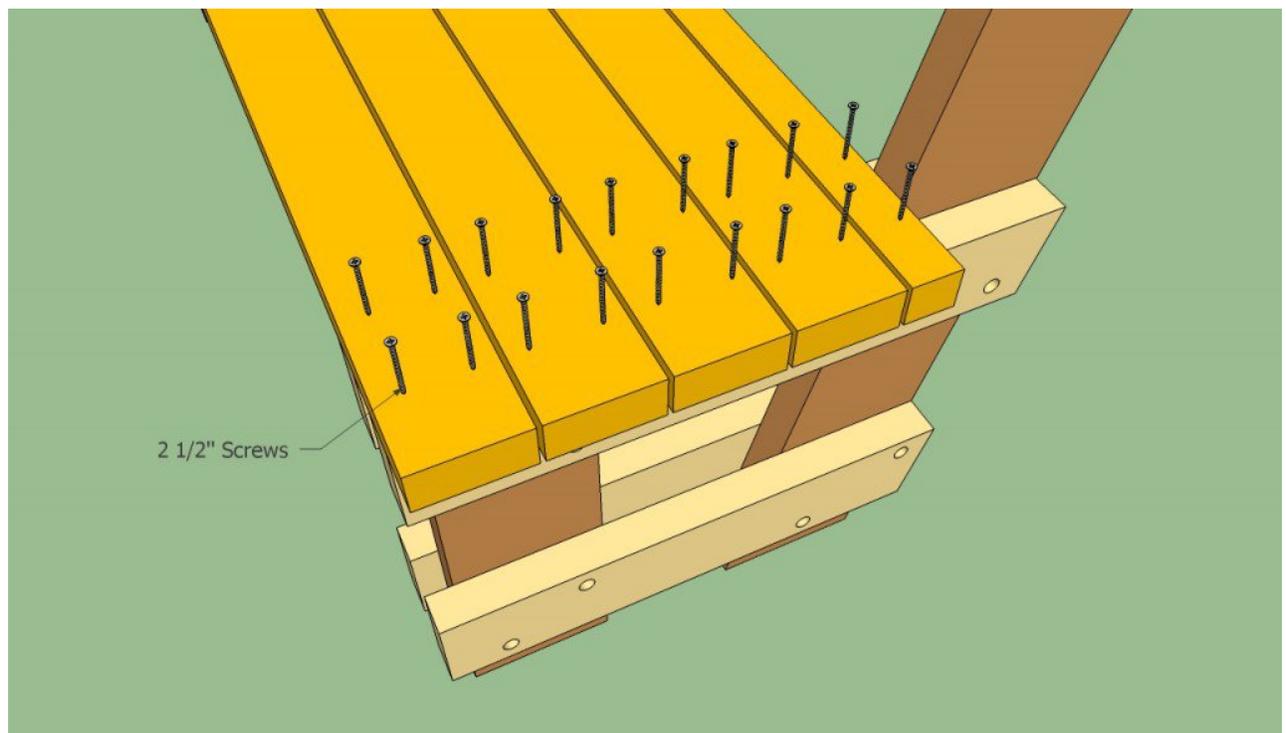
**NOTE: Use 16-6" Galvanized Carriage Bolts**



Installing the slats

**Use 2×4 slats to cover the garden bench, as in the image. Cut the wooden boards at 57” and install them into place, as to overhang 2” on each side. Before locking them into position, we recommend you to sand their edges with a sand block and to cover them with several coats of wood stain.**

**Drill pilot holes in the 2x4s, to prevent the wood from splitting. Use 2 1/2” screws to secure the slats properly.**



Installing the wooden slats

You should notice in the image how to secure the 2×4 slats to the frame of the bench. Therefore, you have to drive in 4 screws in both ends of the slats: 2 in each brace. Draw two parallel lines before drilling the pilot holes, in order to obtain a neat look and consistent results.

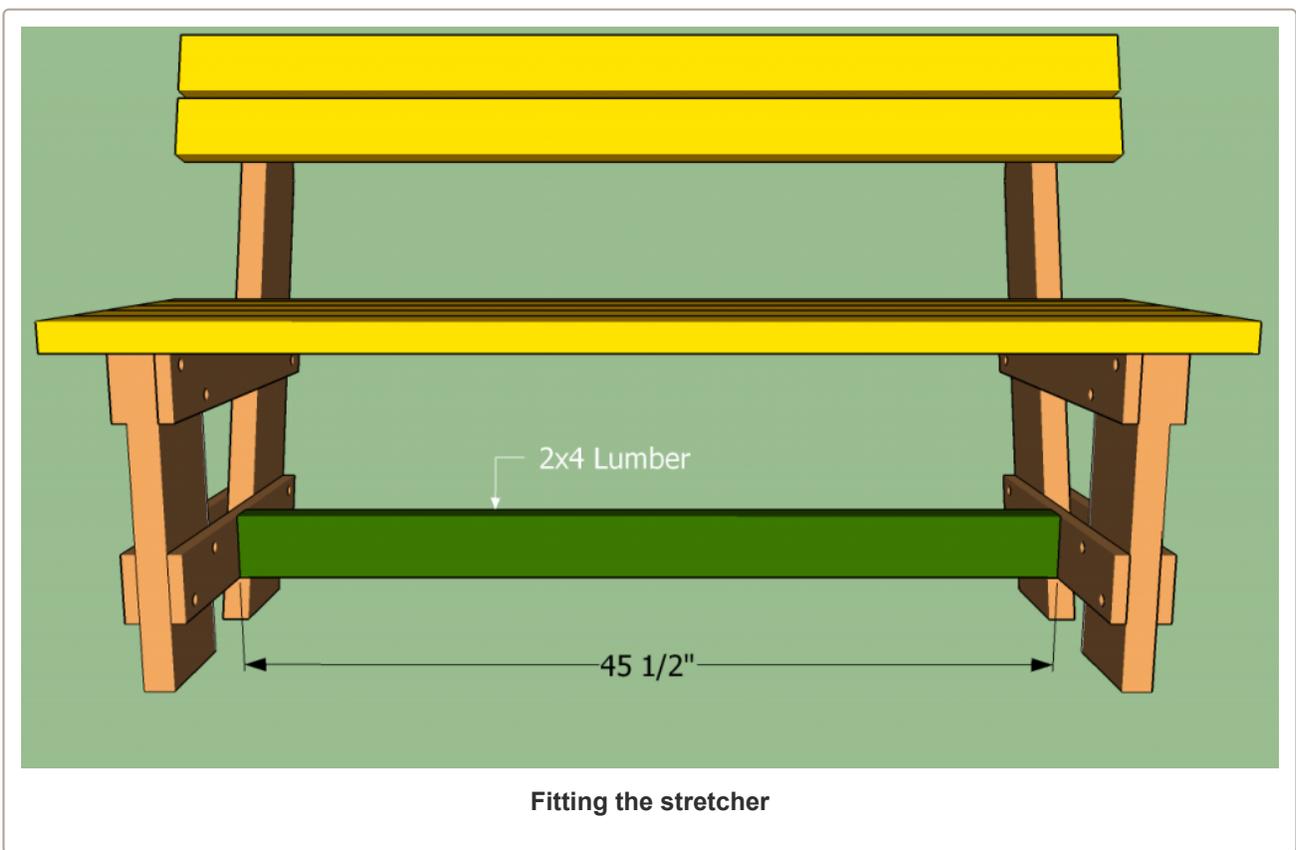
Leave at least 1/2" from the edges of the slats, to prevent wood from splitting. Use a nail to get a consistent gap between the 2×4's.



Installing slats on the back support

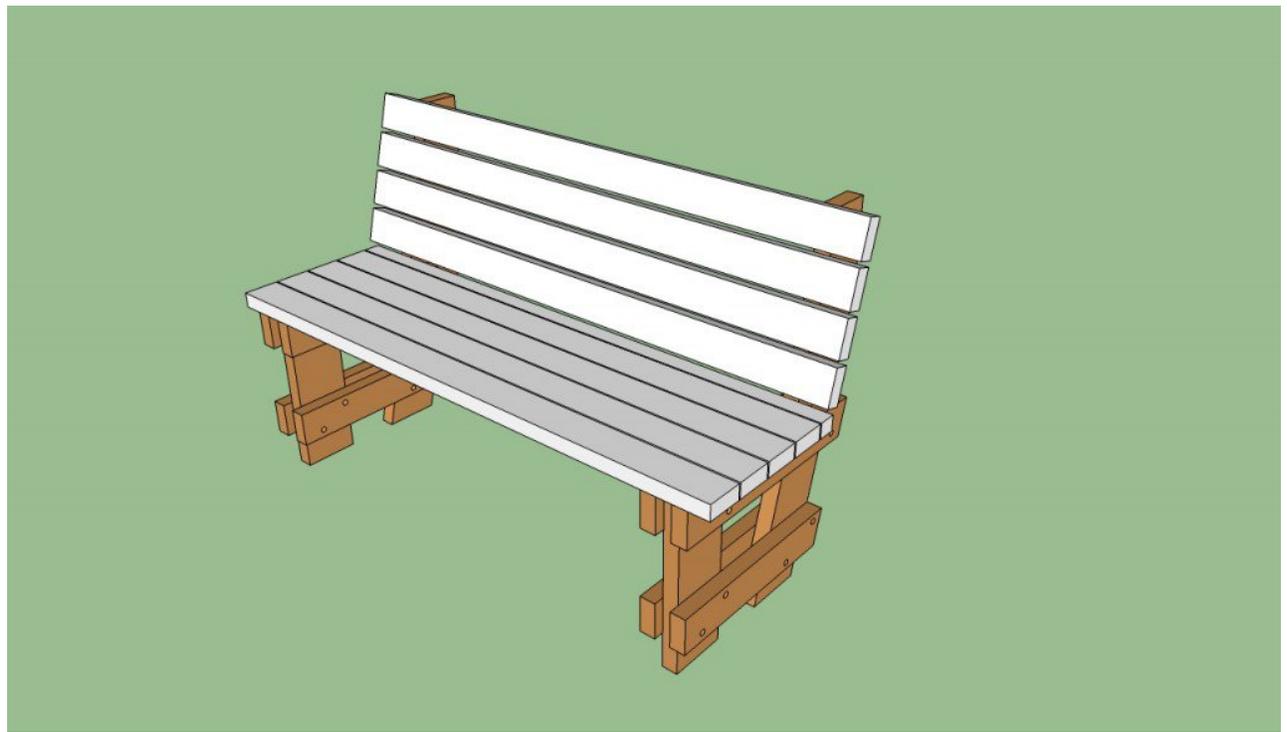
**Next, install the 2×4 slats on the back support of the bench. The technique is straight forward. First of all, you have to measure the size of the back support, to determine the gap between the slats.**

**In our case, you should leave about 1/4” between the wooden boards, if you want to place them equally spaced. Nevertheless, you can adjust the gaps between the boards, to satisfy your needs and tastes.**



Enhancing the rigidity of the garden bench is easy, but essential for your woodworking project. As you can easily notice in the image, you need to fit a 2×4 stretcher between the bottom braces of the bench.

Smart tip: Drill pilot holes through the stretcher at angle, before driving in the 3 1/2" galvanized wood screws. It is also essential to check if the support is horizontal, by using a spirit level.



Garden bench plans

**After you have built and secured the components together, you should sand the surface of the bench with medium grit sandpaper and apply several coats of varnish. If you want to protect it from water damage, you have to freshen up these coats, every few years.**

**Installing a stretcher between bottom cross-braces would add support to the bench. This step is not compulsory, but highly recommended.**