

The Sheltered Swing



The *Porch Swing Of Choice* for those without a porch !

“My wife always wanted a porch swing...”, wrote Bob Thompson, winner of Shopsmith’s (1982) *Woodworking In The Great Outdoors* contest. “...but we didn’t have a porch to hang the thing from.” So, Bob designed and built his own *mini-porch* to shelter the swing. And even after more than 20 years have passed, we think that Bob’s design is as timeless today as it was way back then – and we’ll bet you’ll agree.

The Swing

Bob made the swing-portion of his project out of oak...but you could just as easily make it from almost any wood. Other great choices (for their weather-resistance) would include redwood, Western red cedar, cypress or first-rate pressure-treated lumber. The sizes can also be easily modified. For example, you might prefer a slightly longer swing – or a larger shelter for more protection from rain or ultraviolet rays. The choice is yours.

Start by cutting all of your swing components to size, according to the Bill of Materials. Use a Bandsaw to cut the contours on the seat supports (B), the arm rests (D) and the angled ends of the back supports (F). Once cut, use your Drum Sander to sand these cuts smooth.

Next, assemble the rectangular base of the swing, which is comprised of the five curved-top seat supports (B) and the front and rear rails (C). Attach seven of the slats (A) to the curved tops of the seat supports with 3d galvanized nails and a good quality waterproof glue.

Start by evenly spacing your five seat supports (B) on a benchtop or the floor. When you’re sure they’re aligned properly, attach the front and rear rails (C) to each end of the seat supports (B) using two 3d galvanized nails and waterproof glue. To help prevent splitting, drill 1/32” pilot holes for the nails through the front and rear rails only. **Do not drill pilot holes into the end grain of the seat supports.** Once you’re certain the assembled seat frame is square, set aside to dry thoroughly before proceeding.

Use 1/4" spacers to help you evenly space seven of the slats (A) across the tops of the seat supports and attach them with waterproof glue and 3d galvanized nails. As with the seat frame, it’s important to drill 1/32” pilot holes for the nails. These holes should be drilled **through the slat AND into the seat supports below.**

IMPORTANT: Use an accurate 90-degree square to ensure the precise alignment of each slat prior to drilling your pilot holes... and 1/4" spacers between each slat to aid with proper positioning. Move from the back edge of the seat supports (B) to their front edges, repeating this procedure as you install all seven slats.

Next, the arm rest supports (E) are secured to the front and rear rails (C) with carriage bolts, washers and nuts. **NOTE:** These four bolts with oversized washers will also act as the anchors for the swing chain ends.

Drill holes in the arm rests (D) to allow the chain to pass through. You may have to adjust the hole sizes to accommodate the chain you plan to use. Attach the arm rests (D) to the tops of the arm rest supports (E) with 6d galvanized nails and waterproof glue.

Assemble the rectangular back of the swing using the remaining six slats (A) and the five back supports (F). Follow the same procedure as outlined for the seat, except use 2" spacers when positioning the back slats. Start by attaching the first slat to the top edges of the back supports (F) with 3d galvanized nails and waterproof glue.

This first horizontally-positioned slat will act as a "cap", covering the top ends of the back supports (A) and overlapping the top edge of the first vertically-positioned back slat immediately below it. As with the seat assembly, do not drill pilot holes into the end grain of the back supports.

Attach the assembled back to the rear seat rail (C) with 6d galvanized nails through the bottoms of the back supports (F). You must strengthen this assembly with carriage bolts through each of the rear arm rests (D) where they adjoin the back supports (F).

Finish sand the entire swing assembly and apply the stain or clear finish of your choice.

The Shelter

The stanchion (standing frame) for the shelter structure is assembled from 4" x 6" pressure-treated posts and a 4" x 6" cross-beam.

The rectangular roof frame is made from pressure-treated 2" x 4"s, bolted to the stanchion and covered with exterior grade plywood, roofing felt and shingles. A slotted 2" x 4" extends above the ridge board so the roof rafters will clear the cross-beam. The gable ends are covered in strips of 3" western red cedar...and the fascia boards are 1" x 6" cedar with 1" x 2" cedar furring strips to support a metal drip edge.

The roof assembly is then attached to the stanchion with 3/8" x 5" lag screws...then reinforced with four decorative scallop brackets.

List of Materials

(finished dimensions in inches)

The Swing

A	Slats (13)	1/4 x 1-3/4 x 55-1/2
B	Seat supports (5)	3/4 x 2-1/4 x 14-1/2
C	Front & rear rails (2)	3/4 x 2-1/4 x 60
D	Arm rests (2)	3/4 x 2-1/4 x 17-3/4
E	Arm rest supports (4)	3/4 x 2 x 8-3/4
F	Back supports (5)	3/4 x 1-1/2 x 22

The Shelter Assembly

(See dimensions & materials requirements on Shelter Assembly drawing and alter as required to suit your needs.)

Hardware

Swing

1/4" x 2-1/2" carriage bolts w/ nuts & washers	(6)
1-1/4" O.D. fender washers	(4)
Chain	(18 ft)
6d galvanized nails	(1 lb)
3d galvanized nails	(1/2-lb)

Shelter

3/8" x 6" eye bolts	(2)
3/8" x 5" lag screws	(8)
3/8" x 8" lag screws	(2)
Metal drip edge	
Miscellaneous nails	

