

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Outdoor Dining Bench Plans

By Jonathan Warshaw





SHOPPING LIST

- 2 pieces of 2x4, each 8 feet in length
- 2 pieces of 1x4, each 8 feet in length
- 20 exterior screws that are 2-1/2 inches long (opt for the ones with a star bit)
- 50 exterior screws that are 1-1/2 inches long (again, look for the ones with a star bit)

Here are some hacks you should use when buying the materials

- Ask the hardware store to pre-cut lumber to size.
- Buy screws in bulk for savings; hardware stores often discount.
- Opt for weather-treated wood if placing the bench outdoors.

CUTTING DIMENSIONS

- Frame Ends: Cut 2 pieces of 2x4 lumber to a length of 12-7/8"
- Frame Sides: Cut 2 pieces of 2x4 lumber to a length of 44-1/2".
- Legs: Cut 4 pieces of 2x4 lumber to a length of 17-1/4".
- Bench Slats: Cut 12 pieces of 1x4 lumber to a length of 15-7/8".

Cutting Guidance:

- **Measure Twice, Cut Once:** Always double-check your measurements before cutting to ensure accuracy.
- **Use a Straight Edge:** Utilize a straight edge or carpenter's square to make sure your cuts are straight and true.
- **Safety First:** Wear protective eyewear and follow the safety instructions of your cutting tools. Utilize clamps to hold the wood securely in place.

Tools



Tape Measure



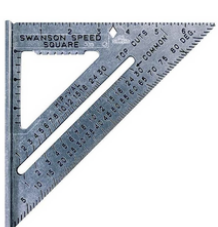
Pencil



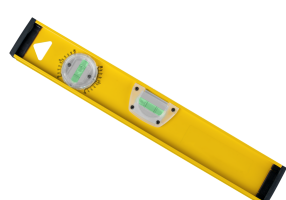
Safety Glasses



Ear Protection



Speed Square



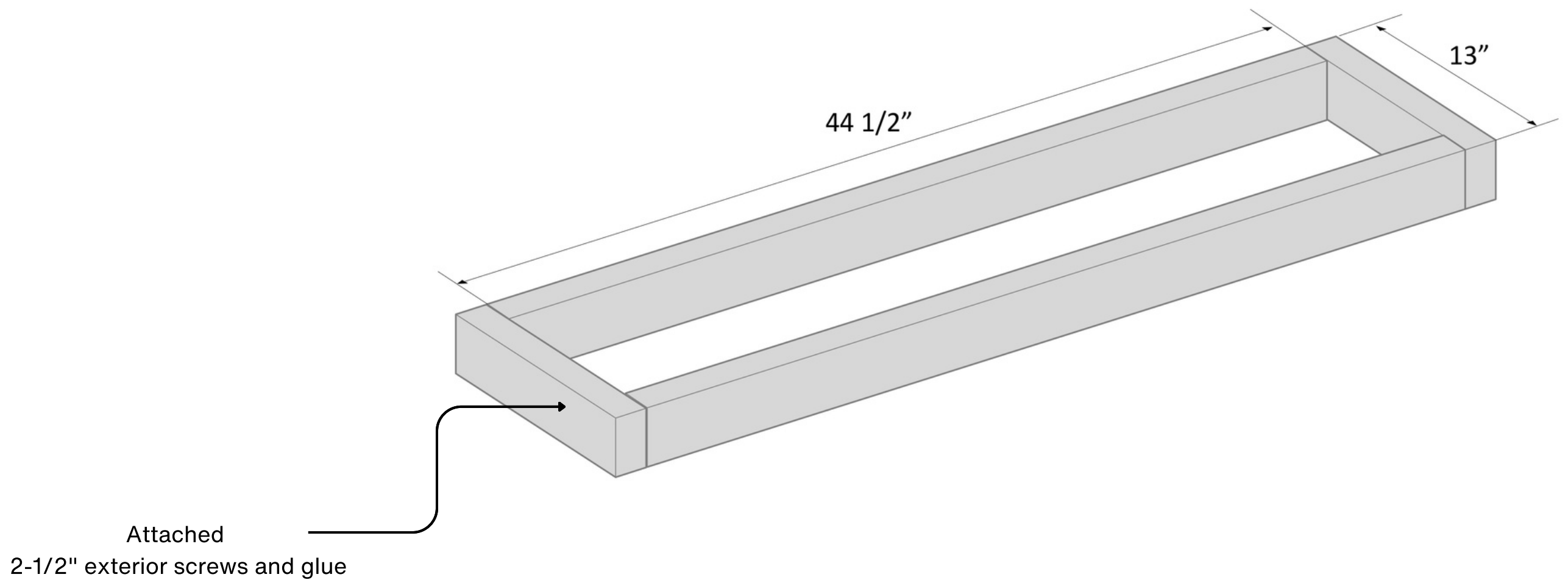
Level



Sander

INSTRUCTIONS

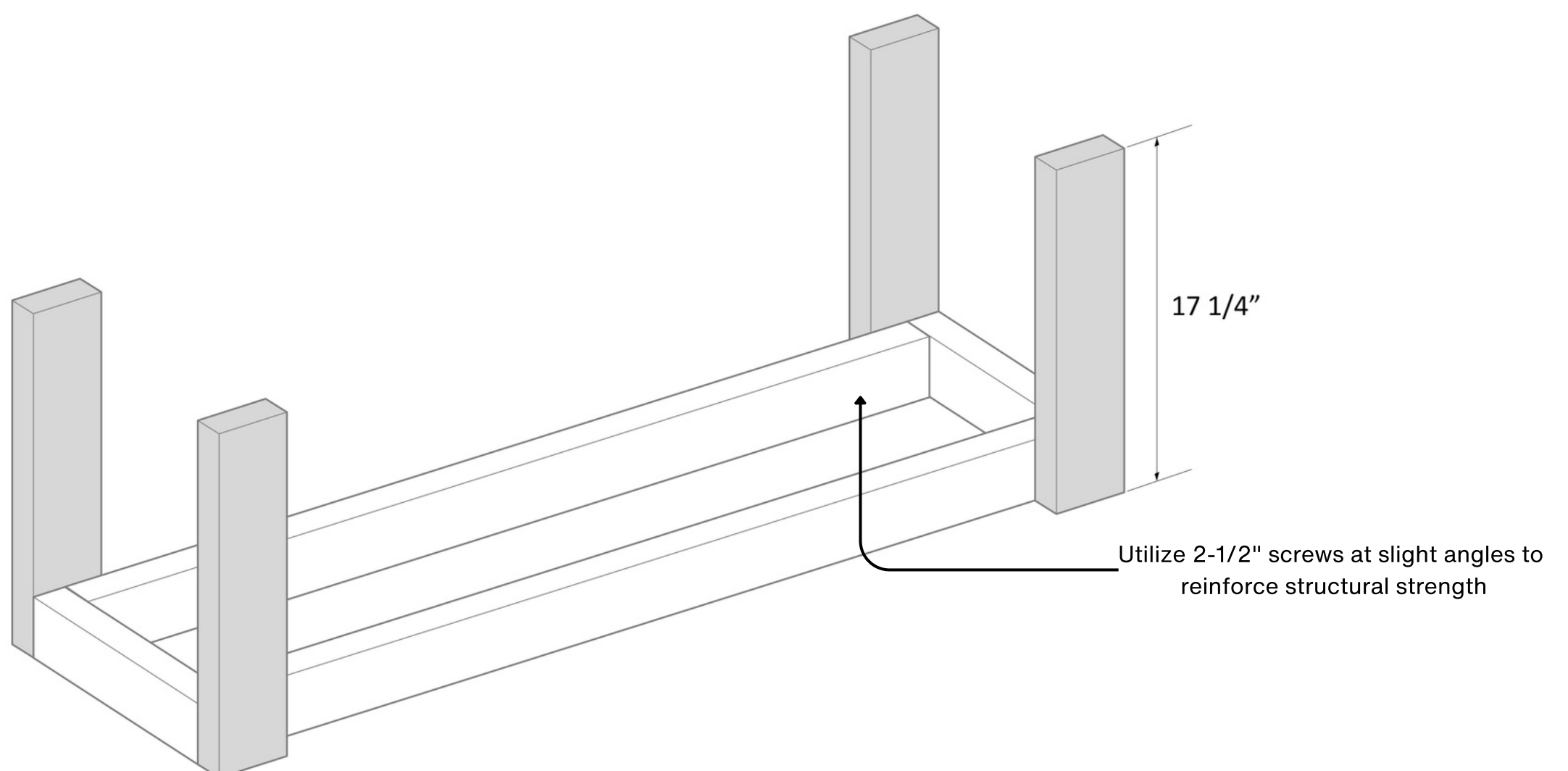
Step 1



Building the Basic Frame: Build the basic frame for the bench using the longer screws, ensuring that each connection is secure and robust. The cut list provided is precise, with the ends at 12-7/8". Follow the cutting guidance meticulously to create pieces that fit together seamlessly. Using accurate measurements and careful assembly, the frame's foundation will be sturdy and reliable.

Adjusting the Frame for Square: Adjust the frame for square by taking opposite diagonal measurements and making sure the two opposite diagonals match. This step is crucial for ensuring the entire bench is level and uniformly aligned. Compare the diagonal measurements, making adjustments as needed to achieve an exact match. A carpenter's square or other precise measuring tools can assist in this process. Ensuring that the frame is square at this stage will lead to a more professional finish and a stable, wobble-free bench.

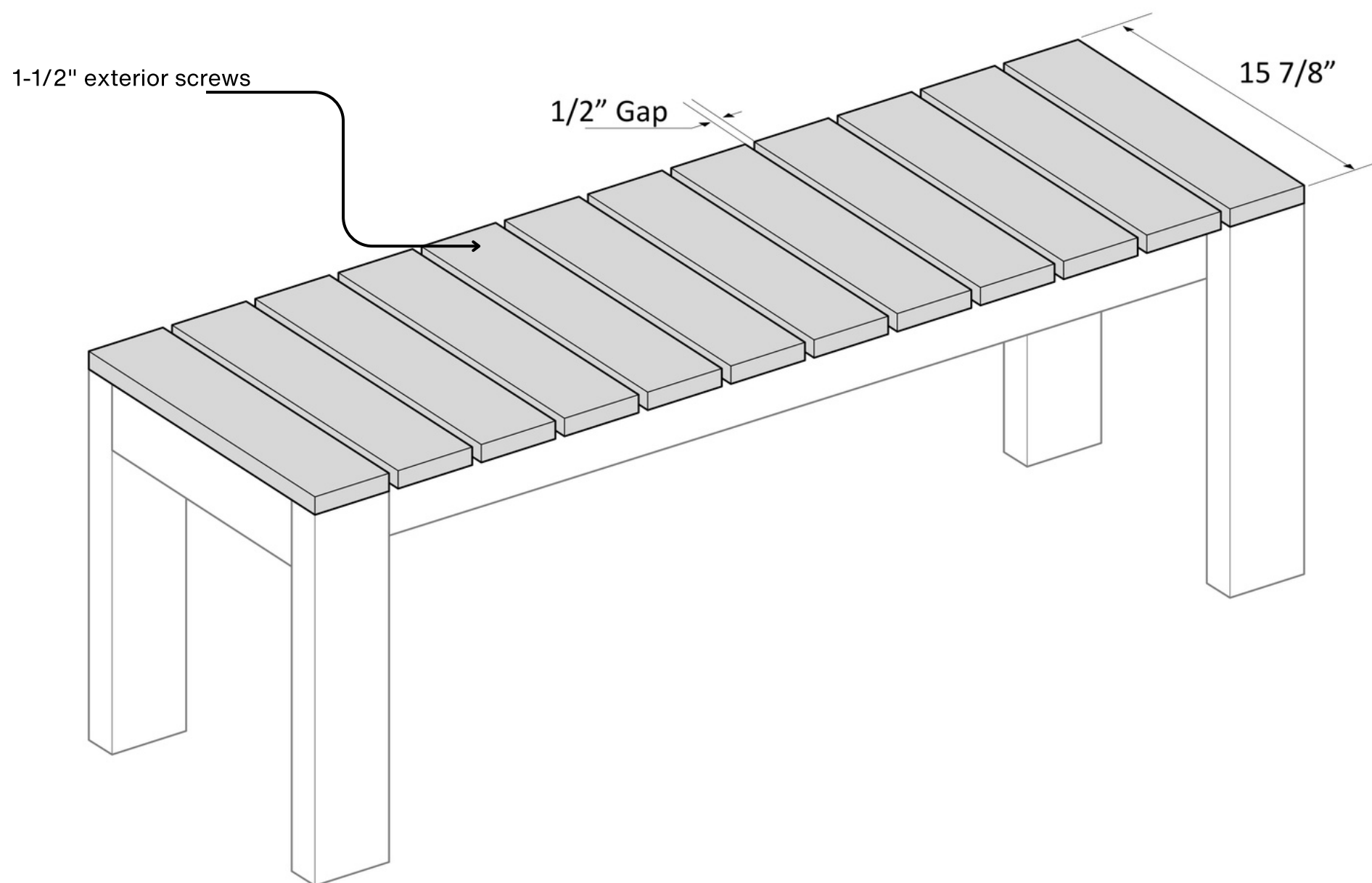
Step 2



Attach the legs to the frame using the longer screws. Ensure that the legs are positioned evenly and at the correct angle before securing them in place. Utilize a level to verify that they are straight, and double-check all connections for stability. For added strength, you may wish to use a pilot hole for the screws, which will help guide them into the wood without splitting it.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 3



Slate Assembly

Position the slats on the top of the frame, ensuring a consistent 1/2" gap between each slat. This spacing allows for expansion and contraction of the wood and provides a visually pleasing appearance.

Secure the slats in place using the shorter screws, taking care to align them properly with the underlying frame. It might be helpful to use a spacer, such as a small piece of wood or a ruler, to maintain equal distances between the slats as you work. Pre-drilling the screw holes can prevent the wood from splitting and ensure a smoother assembly process.

Additionally, double-check the alignment and level of the slats as you proceed, making adjustments as necessary. Finally, give the bench a thorough inspection to ensure that all parts are secure and the overall structure is robust and ready for use.