

# Build It: A Modern Bench

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>[Build It](#)> Build It: A Modern Bench

## Sitting Pretty

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Sometimes you see a bench that is so simple – yet so striking. That’s what we love about this modern bench build. It’s made with pressure-treated Southern Yellow Pine, so it’s great for outdoor use. It will last you a long time and is a wonderful addition to a porch, deck, or other outdoor sitting areas.

There are lots of variations you could do with these plans: such as shorten the height, narrow the width by leaving off one or two of the slats, shortening the length of the bench to fit specific areas, etc.

The length of time it takes you to build this project depends on how skilled you are. There aren’t any crazy cuts, so you only need to worry about your ability to measure twice, cut once..several dozen times.

This build is a fairly simple one. And you’ll be thrilled with the results: a super sturdy, modern bench.

Once you’ve made this project, [let us know how it went](#). We’d love to see it and brag on you, OK?

Check out the step-by-step instructions below, or you can print out a cut list and overview of the build [here](#):

## IT’S MODERN BENCH BUILDING TIME

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We recommend getting the following supplies:

### **MATERIALS**

Lumber

- (11) 2" x 4" x 8' Pressure Treated SYP

Other

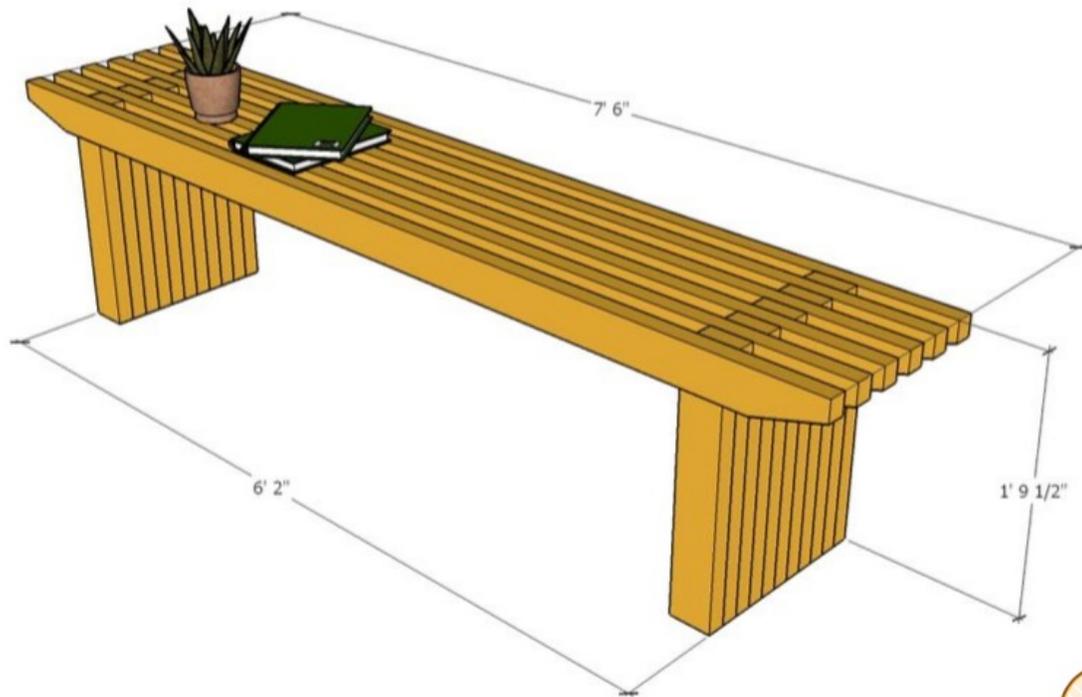
- Exterior Grade Wood Glue
- 1.5" Wood Deck Screws

### **TOOLS**

- Pencil, Measuring Tape
- Straight Edge / Carpenter Square
- Wood File
- Circular saw or Jig Saw
- Electric Drill / Driver

- Radial Sander / Sanding Block
- Safety Glasses / Ear Protection
- Dust Mask / Work Gloves

### OVERALL DIMENSIONS OF THE MODERN BENCH

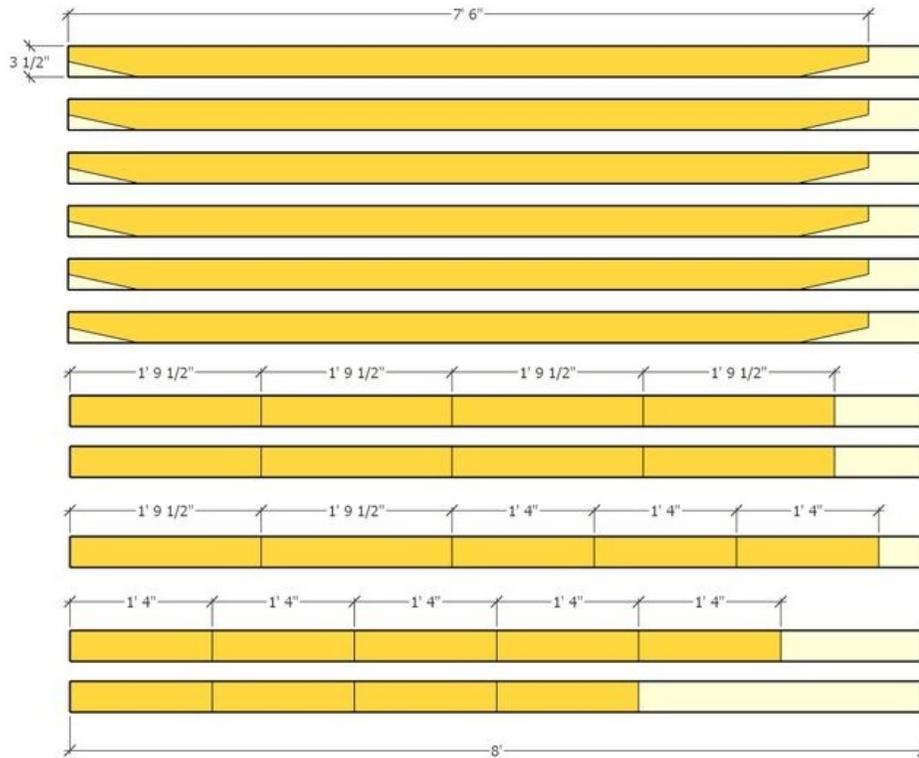


### CUT LIST

Without further ado, here we go with the cut list.

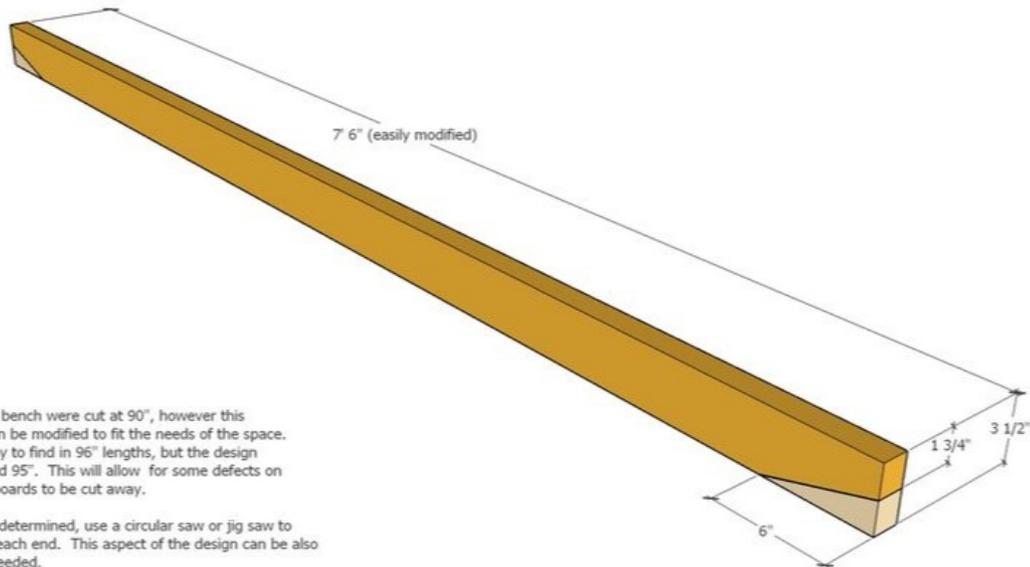
Modern Bench:  
(11) 2 x 4 x 8' SYP boards

\*\*\*Note: actual size is 1 1/2" x 3 1/2". This is typically referred to as a 2x4 at lumber retailers



## AND NOW, TO THE FUN PART: PUTTING YOUR MODERN BENCH TOGETHER.

### Step 1: Cut the Slats



**Slats:**

(6) 2" x 4" x 90"

The slats for this bench were cut at 90°, however this measurement can be modified to fit the needs of the space. SYP 2x4s are easy to find in 96" lengths, but the design should not exceed 95". This will allow for some defects on the ends of the boards to be cut away.

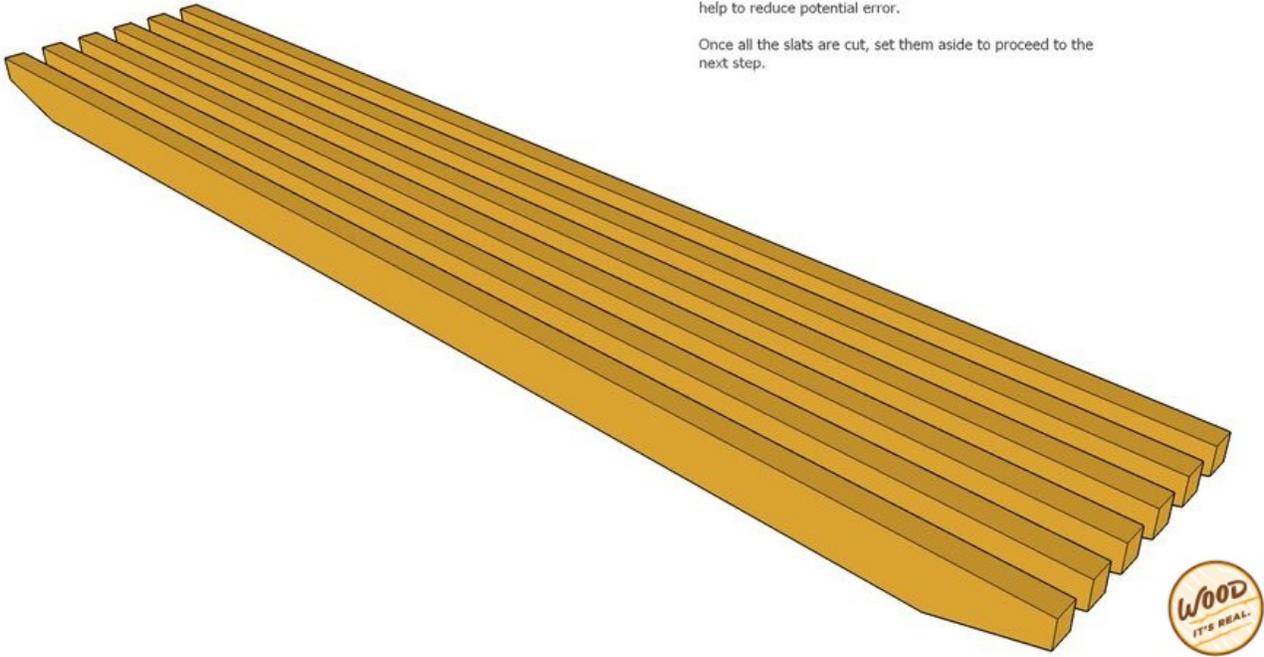
Once a length is determined, use a circular saw or jig saw to cut the taper at each end. This aspect of the design can be also be modified as needed.



1. Cut six boards to your desired length, not to exceed 95 inches – especially if purchasing 8' length
2. Once the ideal length is determined, use a circular saw or a jigsaw to cut the taper at each end to the desired angle.
3. The assembly will use one slat at a time. However, cut all six slats at the same time to save time later and to reduce potential error.

The assembly will utilize one slat at a time. However, cut all six slats at the same time. This will speed up the process and help to reduce potential error.

Once all the slats are cut, set them aside to proceed to the next step.



## Step 2: Cut and Assemble the Bench Legs

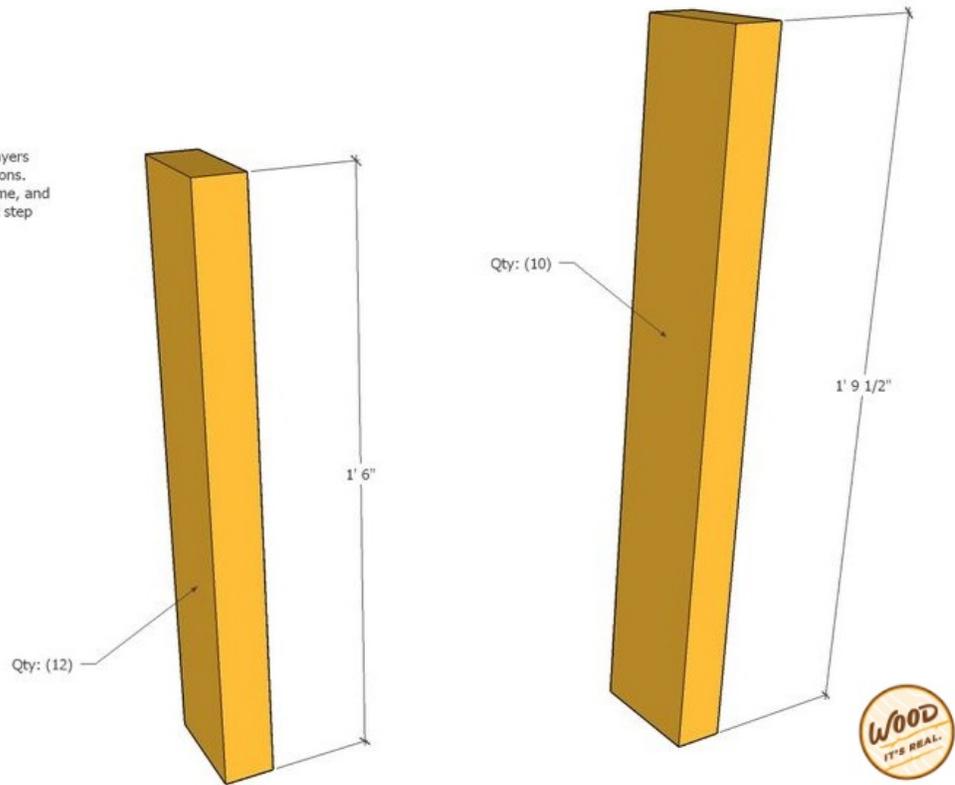
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Legs:

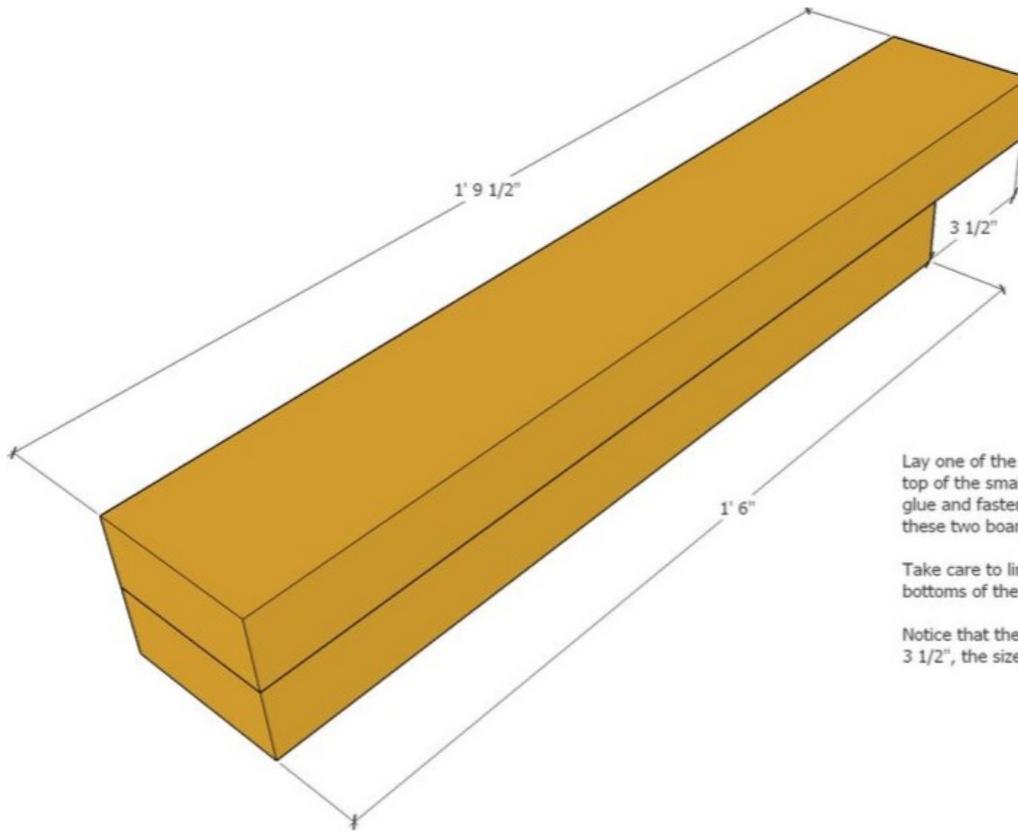
(12) 2 x 4 x 18"

(10) 2 x 4 x 21 1/2"

The legs are a lamination of several layers of boards cut at either of two dimensions. Cut all of these boards at the same time, and set them aside to proceed to the next step



1. The legs are a lamination of several layers of boards cut at either of the dimensions.
2. Cut all of the boards at the same time.
3. Cut 10 lengths at 1 foot, 9.5 inches; Cut 12 lengths at 1 foot, 6 inches



Lay one of the longer cut boards on top of the smaller cut boards. Using glue and fasteners, permanently attach these two boards.

Take care to line up the edges and bottoms of the two boards.

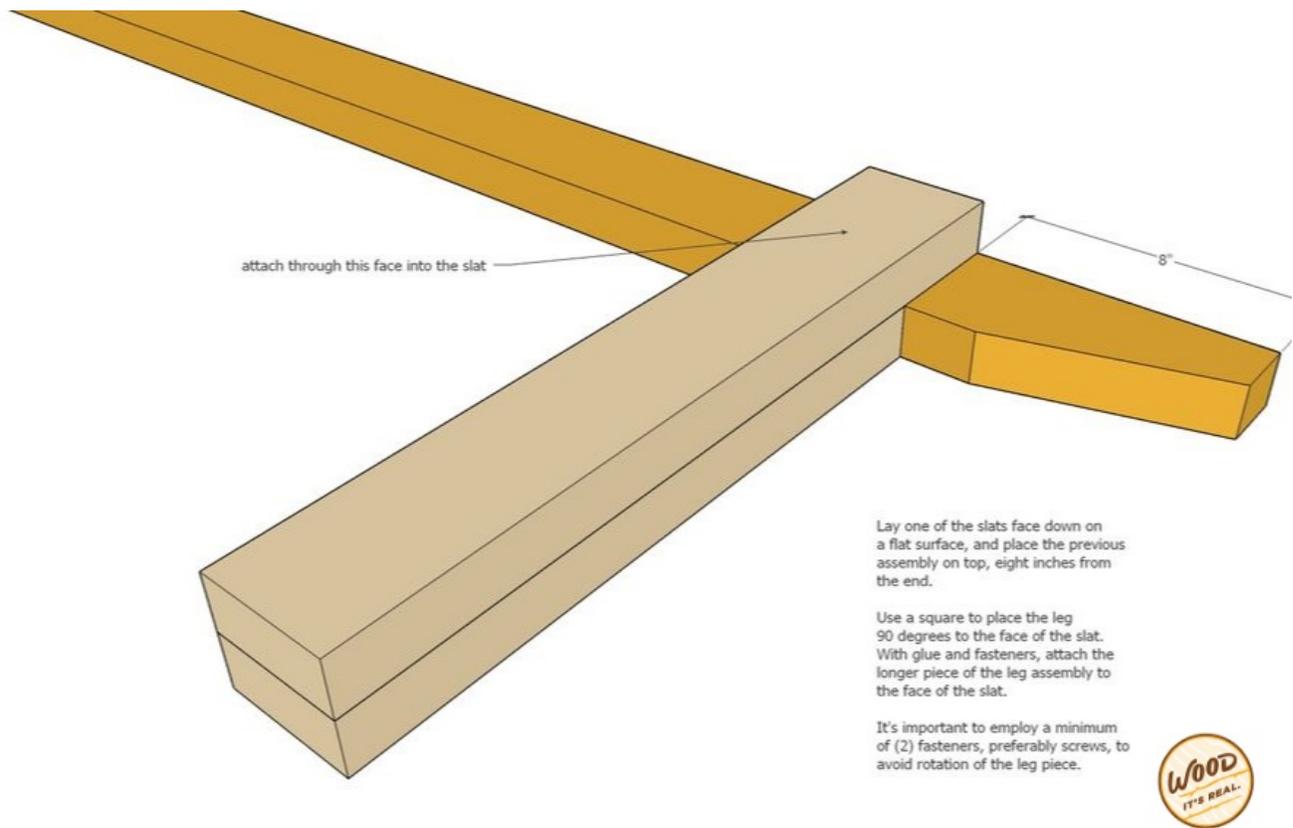
Notice that the gap created at the top is 3 1/2", the size of a typical SYP 2x4.



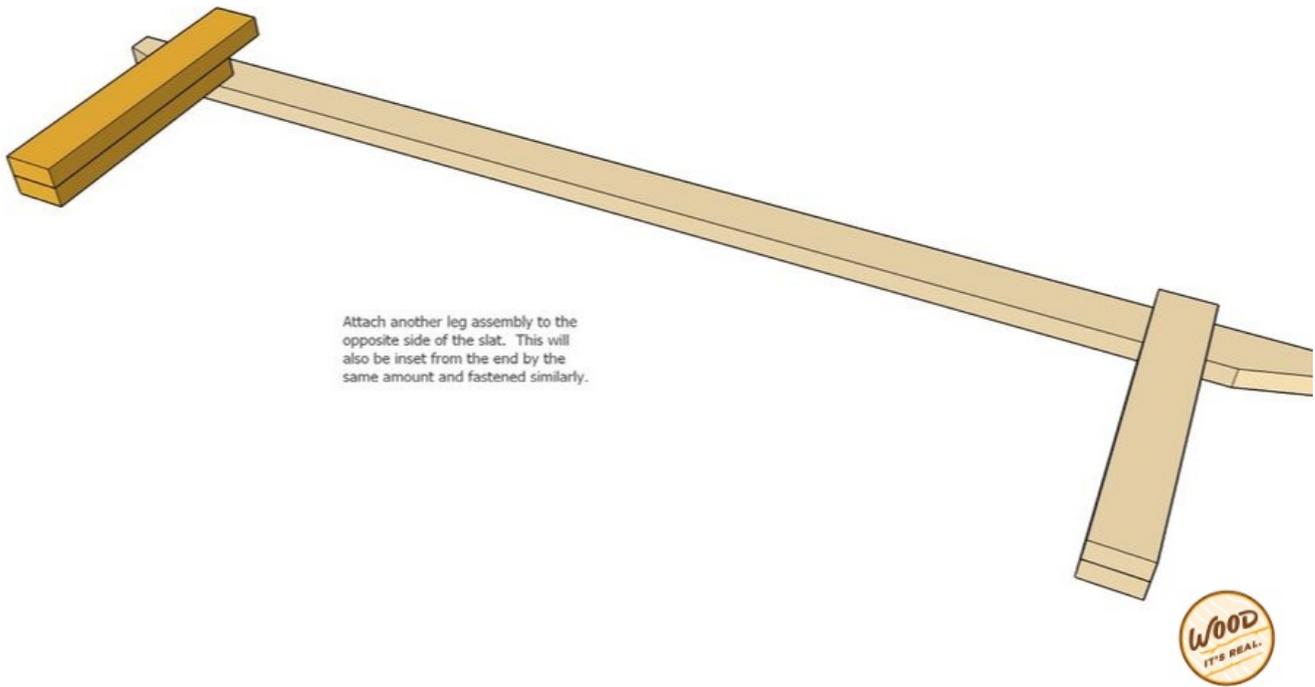
4. Lay one of the longer cut boards on top of the smaller cut boards.
5. Using glue and fasteners, attach these two boards to make a leg assembly, taking care to line up the edges and bottoms of the two boards.

### Step 3: Assemble Bench

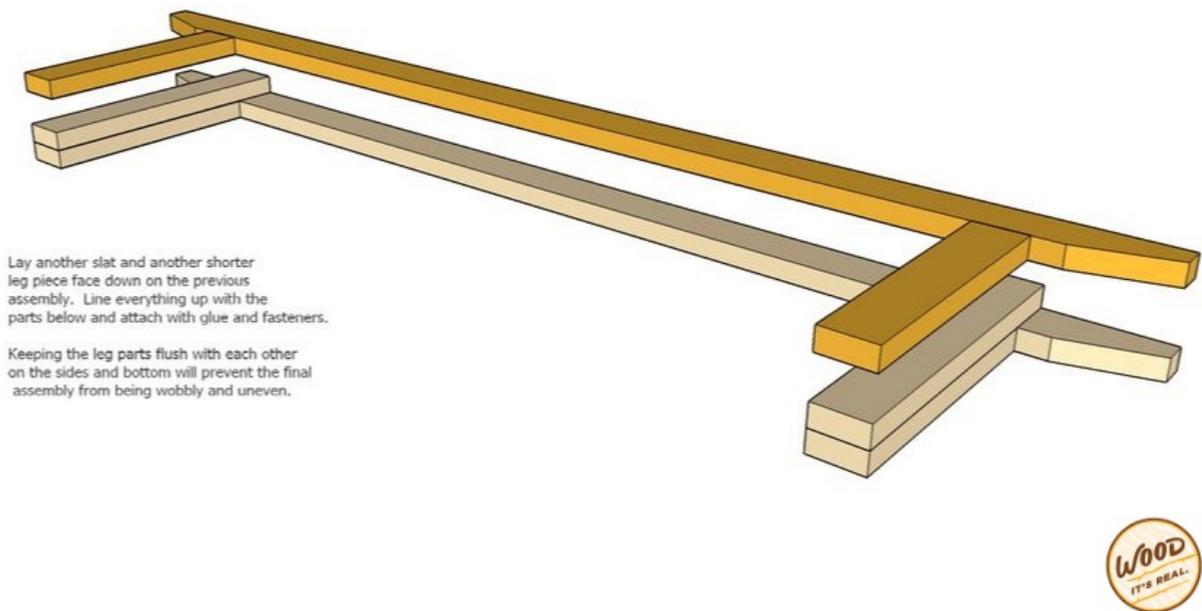
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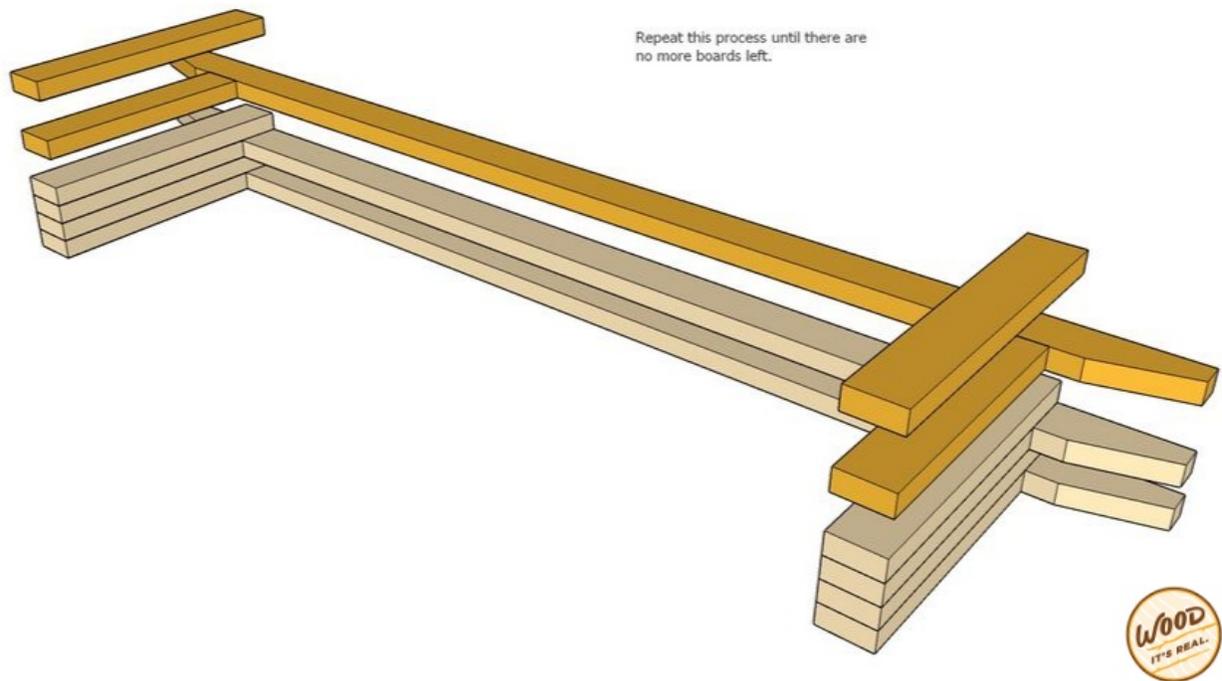
1. Lay one of the slats face down on a flat surface.
2. Place one leg assembly on top, eight inches from the end.
3. Use a square to place the leg 90-degrees to the face of the slat.
4. Glue and screw to attach the longer piece of the leg assembly to the face of the slat.
5. Be sure to use at least two decking screws to avoid rotation of the leg piece.



6. Attach another leg assembly to the opposite side of the slat by 8 inches, just like the other side.



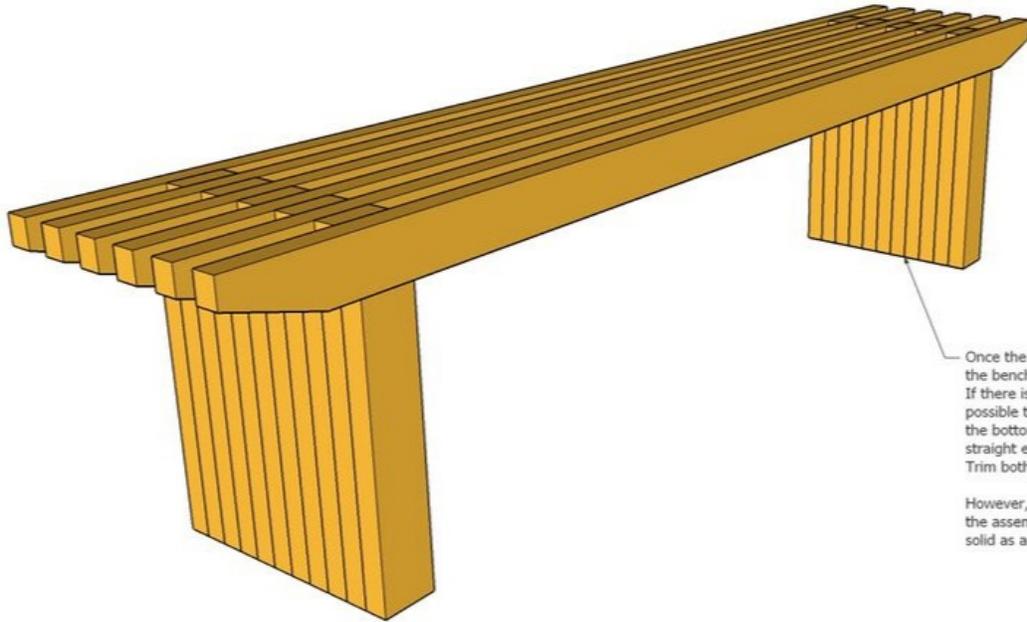
7. Lay another slat and shorter leg pieces face down on the previous assembly.
8. Line everything up with the parts below and attach with wood glue and decking screws.
9. Keep the leg parts flush with each other on the sides and bottom to prevent the final assembly from being uneven and wobbly.



10. Repeat the process until there are no more boards left.

## Step 4: Enjoy!

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Once the glue is dry, inspect the bench for any unevenness. If there is too much wobble, it is possible to take a small sliver off the bottom of the legs using a straight edge and a circular saw. Trim both legs to equal length.

However, if care was taken during the assembly, the bench should be solid as a rock.



1. Once the glue is dry, inspect the bench for any unevenness.
2. If there's too much of a wobble, it's possible to take a small sliver off the bottom of the legs using a straight edge and a circular saw.
3. However, if care was taken during the assembly, the bench should be solid as a rock.

