

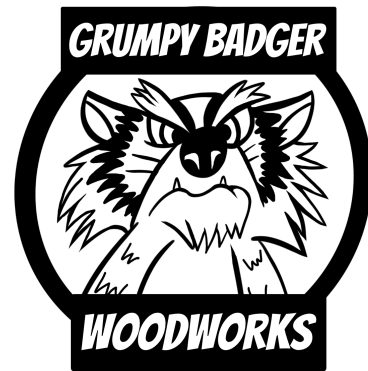
Two Picket Project: Strawberry Tower

Designer: Grumpy Badger

Revision: 1.0

Project Skill: Beginner

Estimated Build Time Less Drying: 1 Hour



Boring Stuff Before Beginning

A few notes before we dig into the meat of the project. It is highly recommended to read all instructions before beginning. Feel free to make any modifications to the plans as you see fit, but realize the piece may not function as initially intended if you do so.

This guide assumes that you have some basic knowledge of woodworking, but will break most things down to keep the project easy to do with limited tools. In the *Tools Needed* section certain processes may be called out in place of a specific tool. This means you simply need a way to do this process, not a specific tool for it. If anything in this guide is unclear please send a message to the Etsy Shop or email us at GrumpyBadgerWoodworks@gmail.com.

The designer of this guide is not responsible for any injuries that occur in the construction of this project or use of this guide. This guide was not designed by a professional engineer, but an enthusiast like yourself. Please use common sense and best judgment for your safety when constructing and using this item. If you do not feel comfortable following the instructions in this guide please do not attempt and seek out professional woodworking help.

Different amounts of wear and tear will happen to the final good as it is used. Please inspect the item for stability and damage before and after each use. If components are damaged or worn, do not use the piece until properly repaired.

Materials Needed

Lumber:

(Qty. 2) Cedar Dogear Fence Pickets 6ft Long (1828.8mm)

Hardware:

1-1/4" Trim Nails (Ideally Stainless Steel, but Galvanized should last as well.) (Approx 32mm)

Landscape Fabric (Optional, but Highly Recommended)

Tools Needed:

Hammer

Tape Measure

Square

Pencil

Titebond III Wood Glue (Or Similar for Exterior Use)

Drill with 1/16" Bit (1.6mm)

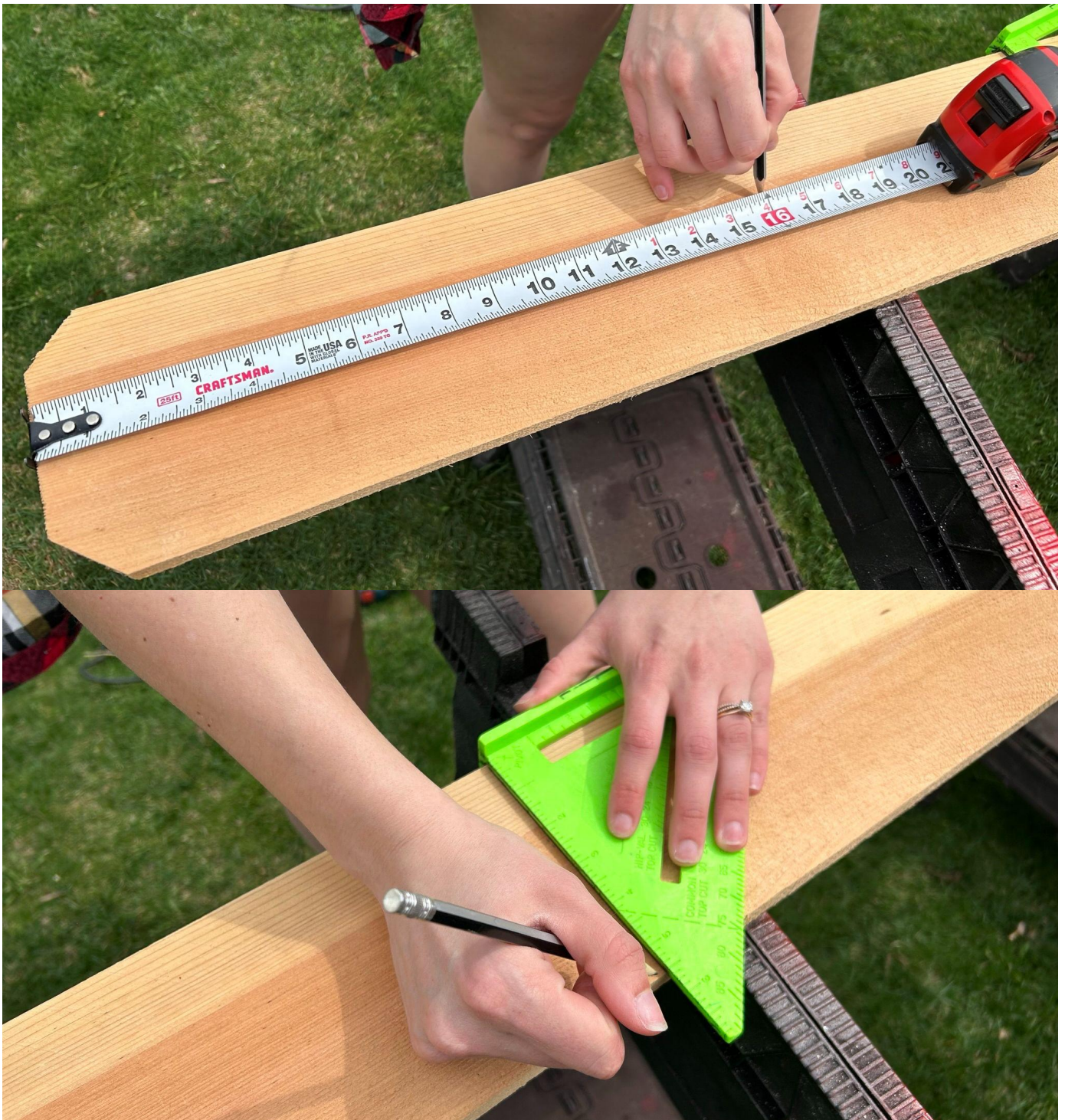
Hole Saw 2-3/8" (60mm)

Jig Saw or Circular Saw



Section 1: Cutting Up the Pickets

The very first step in our project requires us to measure out 16" (406.4mm) from the end of the picket with the dog ear as pictured below. Make a mark here, and then draw a line fully across the picket using your square. You can make this mark on both pickets right away.



Now we will make our first cut. This can be done easily using a jig saw or a circular saw. For this example we used a jig saw. You can use the square to help you align the base of the saw to help get a straight cut. Make this cut on both pickets right away you have two 16" (406.4mm) long pieces with the dog ear on one side.



Now with the two remaining long pieces you should have about 56" (1422.4mm) remaining. We will split both of these in two for our next two cuts at 28" (711.2mm).

Tip: Make sure if you are cutting on sawhorses to move the cut line out of the middle of the sawhorses so the blade does not become pinched when the cut is near completion.

Next up is the trickiest cut to make in the whole project. This requires splitting the two shorter dog ear portions in half. The measurement to mark here will be about 2-³/₄" (69.85mm). Don't worry if this cut is not exact because the project will still function fine even if it is slightly crooked or uneven.



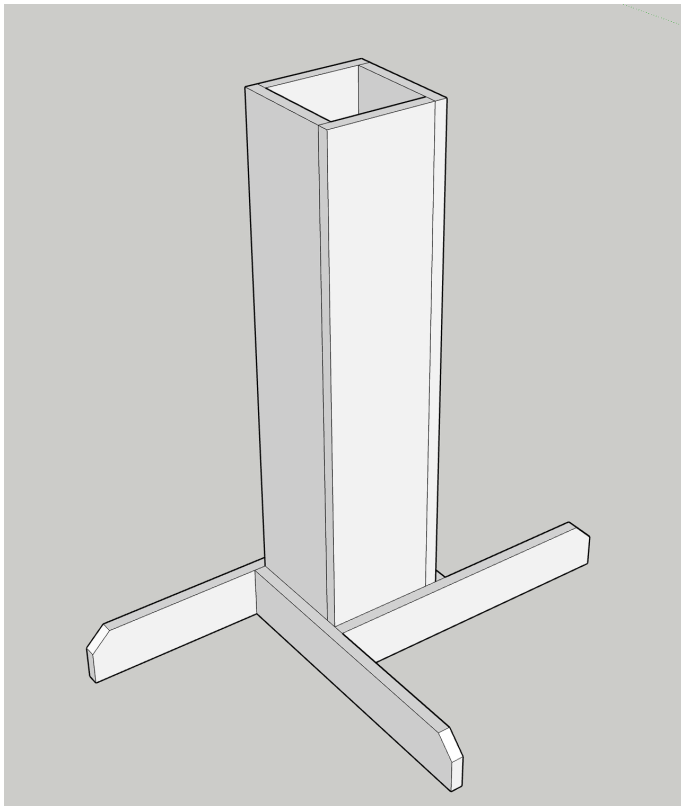
Tip: You can use the longer sections of picket as a straight guide to help you make this cut. If you have clamps, or an extra set of hands now is the time to use them.

Once you have made these two cuts all of our lumber is cut to size, and ready to assemble.

Section 2: Assembling the Strawberry Tower

Now you should have four rectangular pieces 28" (711.2mm), and four smaller pieces about 16" (406.4mm) in length. Right now we can set aside the shorter 16" pieces with the corners cut off. We will just need the four longer pieces. These pieces are going to get assembled in a spiral to make the main body of our tower. On the next page is Figure 1, which will give you an idea of how the tower body goes together.

Figure 1: Tower Assembly

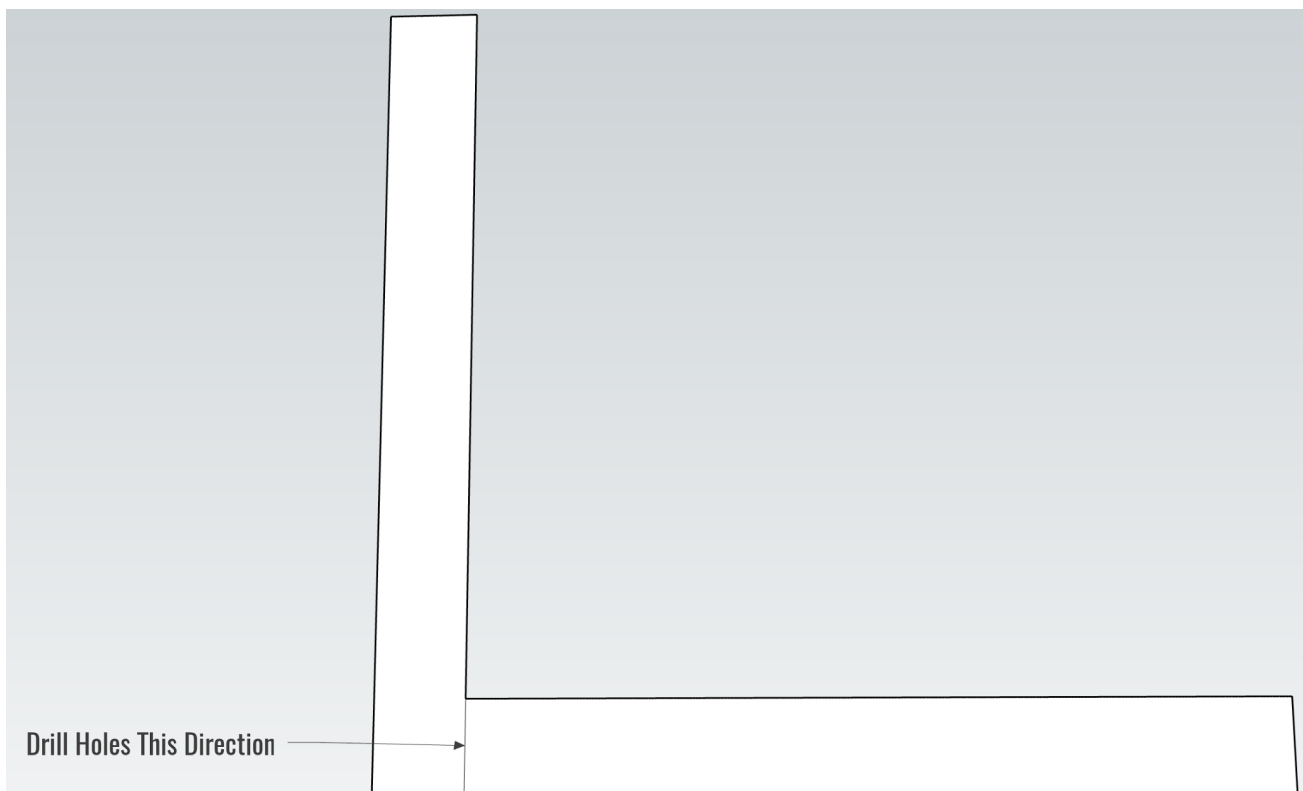


Each of the four sides is nailed to the next in a spiral fashion. This will give us a square interior space for the crops to grow.

We will begin by placing two pieces in an L shape and drilling $1/16''$ (1.5875mm) holes into the very bottom corner of the edge. These will be pilot holes for our nails to go into next.

Tip: Use the square when drilling your pilot holes to help keep the two sides square.

Figure 2: End Profile



Now that you have pilot holes in one side you will want to run a bead of glue down the edge of the vertical board.

Tip: You can spread the glue out to make it easier to place the two surfaces together.



Next you will place the two boards together with the glued edge against the horizontal part. From the Side you will now tap in your trim nails with the hammer. These should go in very easily, so be gentle as the cedar pickets are a very soft wood.



Keep repeating this process until you have all four sides of the tower nailed together. Lastly we need to put the legs on our tower, so it does not fall over in the wind. This is the same process as assembling the sides. You will drill pilot holes into the side for a few nails then spread glue, and finally pin the leg on. The dog ear portion of the leg will go away from the tower, and the non dogeared side will be flush/flat in line with the opposite side of the tower. The bottom should also be flush, or you may end up with a wobbly tower.



Once you are done with this step you should have a tower that looks like Figure 1 on page 6. Now we need to let the glue dry (preferably overnight) before we move on to the last section.

Section 3: Drilling the Final Holes

After the glue has dried overnight we are ready to drill the final holes for the strawberries to grow through. These holes are drilled using a $2\text{-}\frac{3}{8}\text{'}$ (60.325mm) hole saw bit. The first hole on each side is measured from the top right corner. This hole should be about 2' (50.8mm) from the top and side to the center of the hole. From this mark then proceed to mark down the right hand side in $5\text{-}\frac{1}{2}\text{'}$ (139.7mm) increments. There should be a total of 4 holes on this side. Note that some of the holes may cut through your nails. This is ok. At this point the glue is holding the frame together and the nails are no longer needed.

Next we will mark the left side holes. From the top these holes will be $4\text{-}\frac{1}{4}\text{'}$ (107.95mm) down and $1\text{-}\frac{7}{8}\text{'}$ (47.625mm) from the left side. This side will get 4 holes in total as well. Repeat the same process on each side, and then begin to drill all 36 holes.

Congratulations! You should have now completed your build and are ready to plant. Check out the next Document for help with filling your tower. If you plan to sell or give your tower away you are all done! Still itching to build? Check out another of our Two Picket Projects to help grow your skills.

