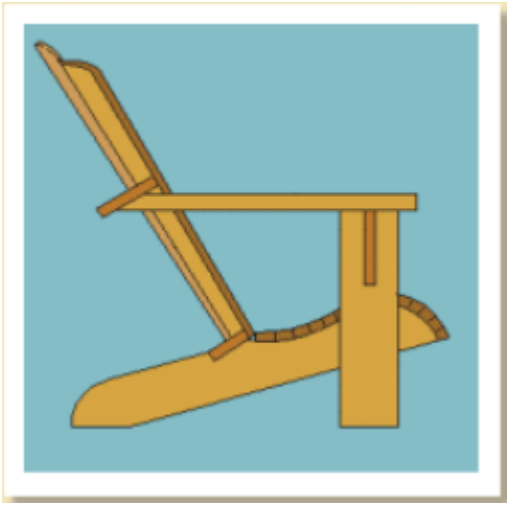
How to build an Adirondack Chair



Introduction and cutting list

This Adirondack chair is certainly one of the more comfortable chair designs around and looks good on any deck or in any garden.

Throughout this project all measurements are given in both metric (mm) and standard imperial (ft and inches).

When selecting the wood for this Adirondack chair project make sure that it is suitable for exterior use.
The wood sizes in this project are common sizes and your local lumber supplier will be able to advise you on the most suitable wood to use.

The chair is made out of 150mm x 25mm (1"x6"), 100mm x 25mm (1"x4") and 150mm x 50mm (2"x6") stock. Note that when the wood is dressed, planed or surfaced (made smooth) the size of the wood is less and the actual size would be approximately 140mm x 20mm (3/4" x 5 1/2"), 90mm x 20mm (3/4" x 3 1/2") and 140mm x 45mm (1 1/2" x 5 1/2") respectively.

The latter (i.e. actual size) is what will be referred to through-out this project.

Cutting list

Part No.	Description	Size	No. req'd
A	Chair frame	140mm x 20mm x 975mm (3/4" x 5 1/2" x 39")	2
B	Back spacer	90mm x 20mm x 580mm (3/4" x 3 1/2" x 23 1/4")	1
C	Leg	140mm x 20mm x 570mm (3/4" x 5 1/2" x 22 3/4")	2
D	Lower back support	90mm x 20mm x 620 (3/4" x 3 1/2" x 24 3/4")	1
E	Back slats	140mm x 20mm x 950mm (3/4" x 5 1/2" x 38")	4
F	Arm brace	90mm x 20mm x 175mm (3/4" x 3 1/2" x 7")	2

		35mm x 20mm x 620mm (3/4" x 1 3/8" x 24 3/4")	
G	Seat slats	Rip the above (cut lengthways) out of 140mm x 20mm (3/4" x 5 1/2") stock	13
H	Arm	140mm x 45mm x 800mm (1 1/2" x 5 1/2" x 32")	2
I	Upper back support	140mm x 20mm x 770mm (3/4" x 5 1/2" x 30 3/4")	1
J	Front spacer	90mm x 20mm x 620mm (3/4" x 3 1/2" x 24 3/4)	1

You will also need an exterior type glue, exterior 50mm (2") long screws and four 10mm x 50mm (3/8" x 2") galvanized carriage bolts and washers

Step 1. Cut the pieces to length

Cut all the Adirondack chair pieces to the lengths as given in the cutting list.

The seat slats [g] will have to be ripped (cut lengthways) out of 140mm x 20mm (3/4" x 5 1/2") stock using a circular power saw or bench saw.

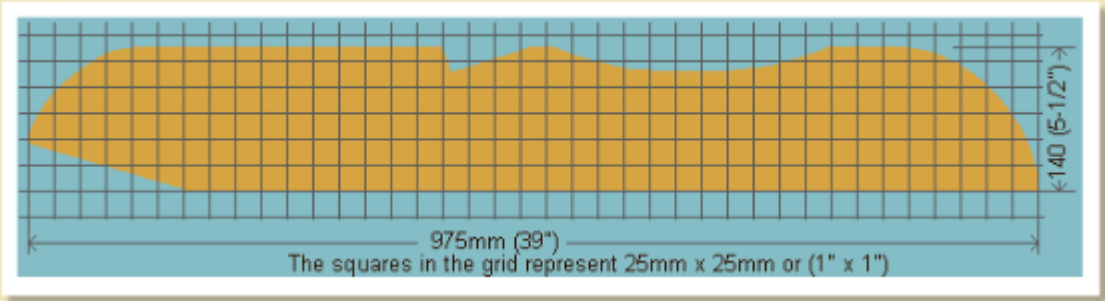
Step 2. Shape the chair frames

Make a card pattern for the Adirondack chair frames using the grid below.

How to make a card pattern using a grid

Each grid is in increments of 25mm or 1" squares so you can work in either metric dimensions or inches.

1) Cut a piece of card bigger than the required piece of wood.
2) On the card draw horizontal and vertical lines 25mm or 1" apart making a grid with 25mm or 1" squares.
3) Using the grid plan below as reference, draw the same outline shape onto the card using the same crossing points on the card grid as on the plan grid.
4) Cut out the outline shape on the card and use that as a pattern for the wood.

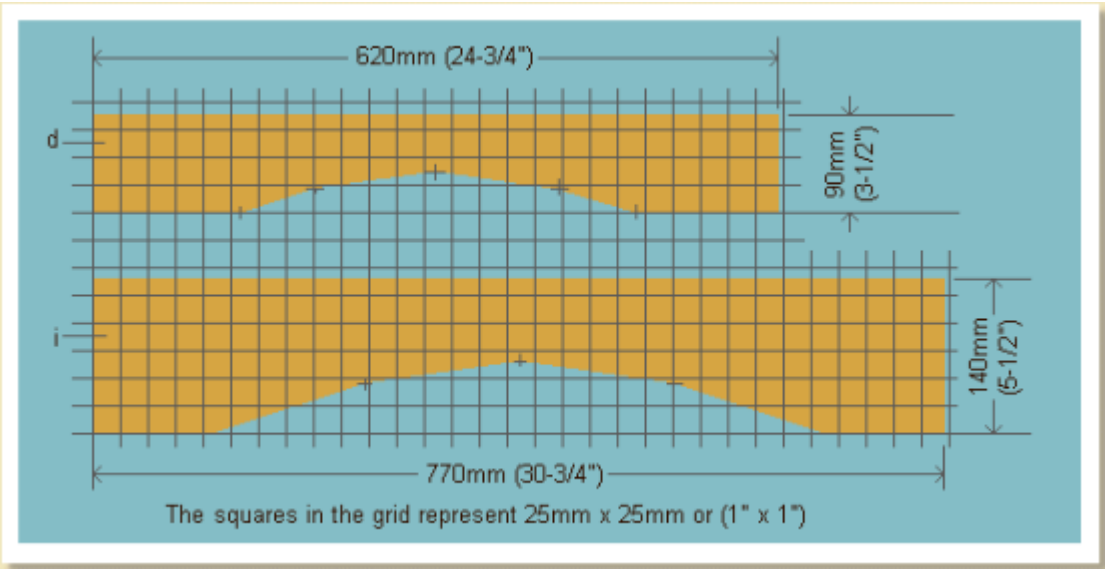


Step 3. Shape the top back support

Mark and cut the Adirondack chair top back support [i] using the grid below to make a pattern.

Step 4. Shape the bottom back support

Mark and cut the Adirondack chair bottom back support [d] using the grid below to make a pattern.
(Scroll below the image to see "how to make a card pattern using a grid")



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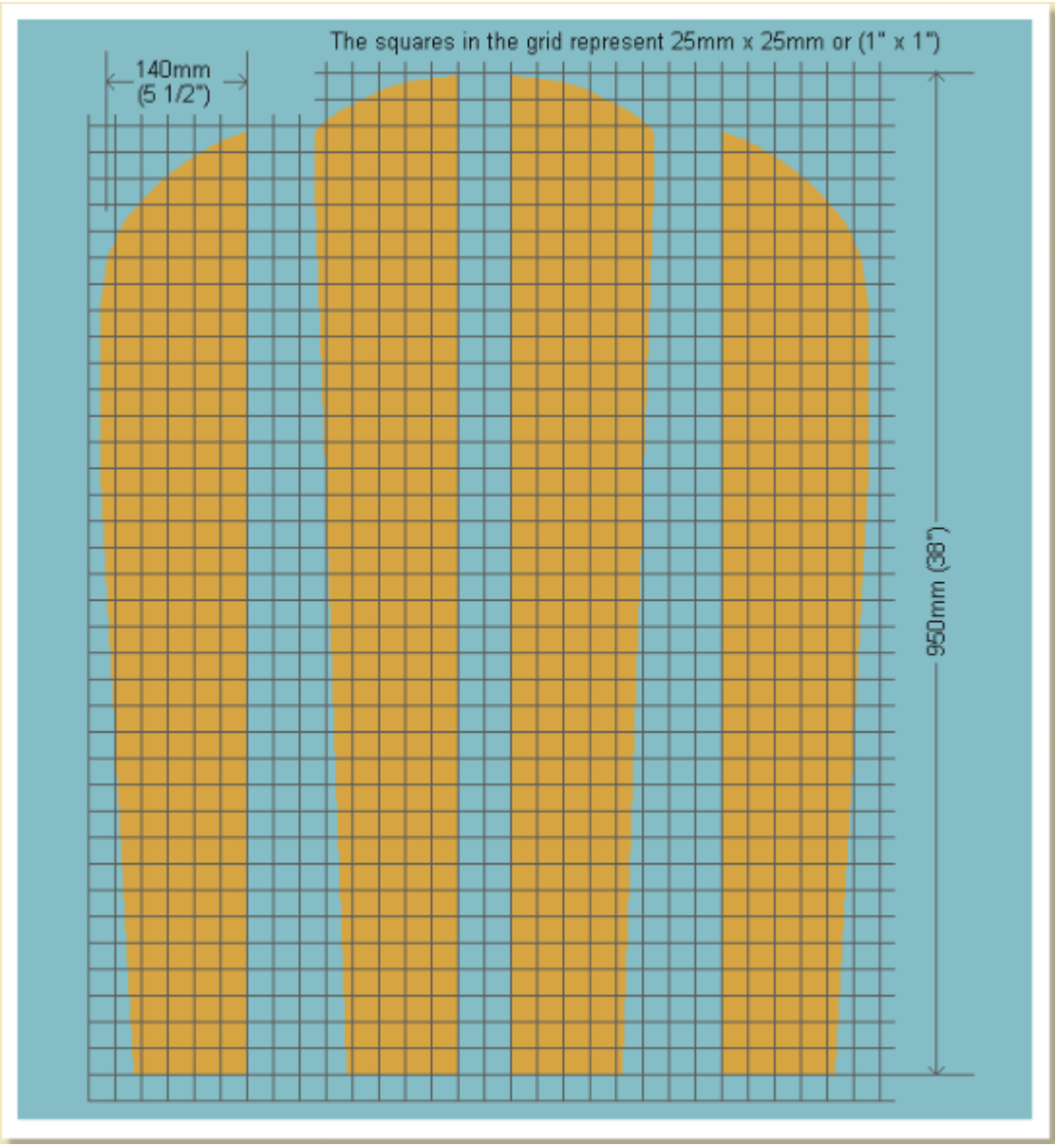
Step 5. Shape the back slats

Mark and cut the Adirondack chair back slats [e] using the grid below to make a pattern.
(Scroll below the image to see "how to make a card pattern using a grid").



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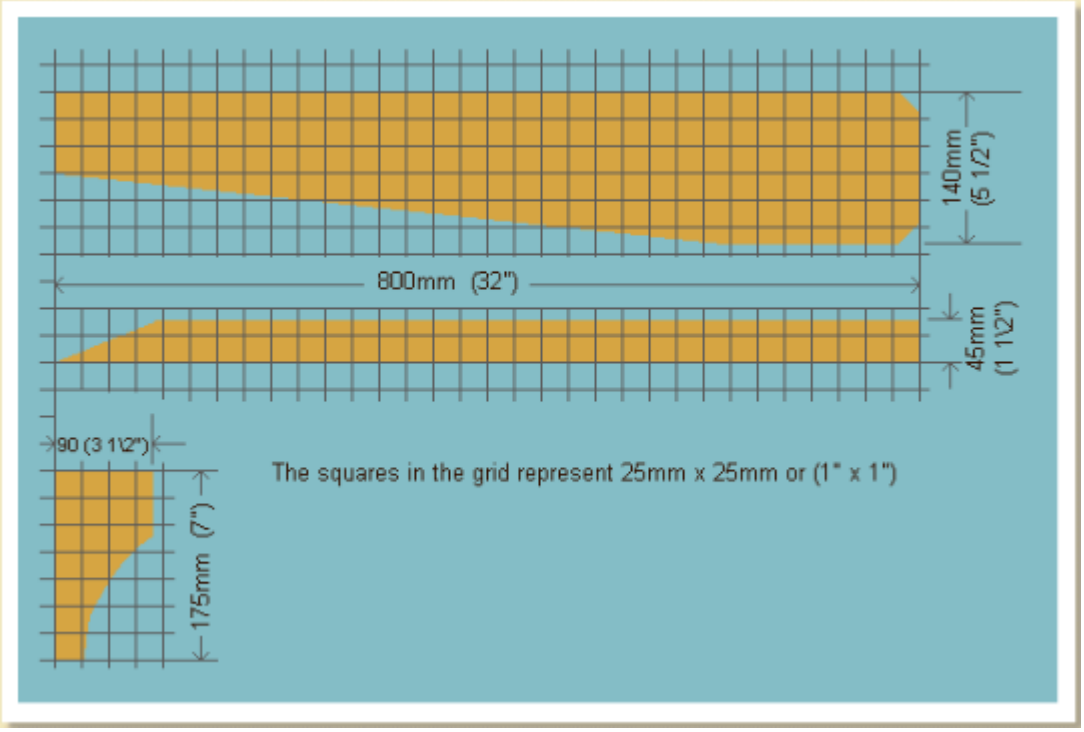
4) Cut out the outline shape on the card and use that as a pattern for the wood.

Step 6. Shape the arms and arm supports

Mark and cut the Adirondack chair arms and arm supports [h, f] using the grid below to make a pattern.
(Scroll below the image to see "how to make a card pattern using a grid").



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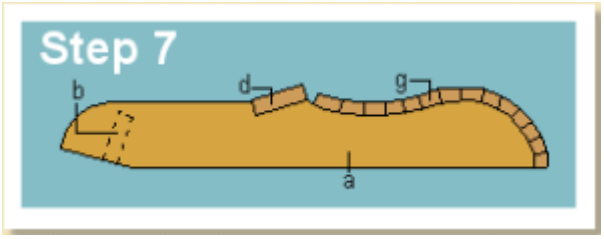
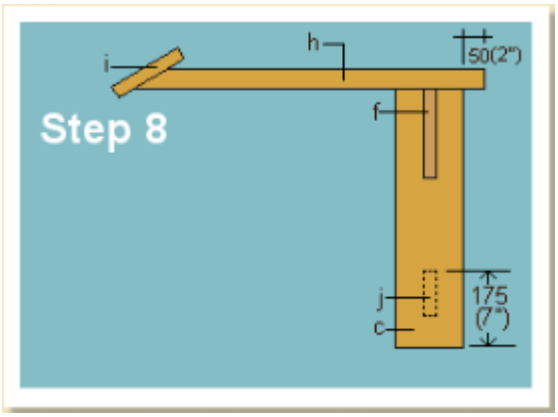


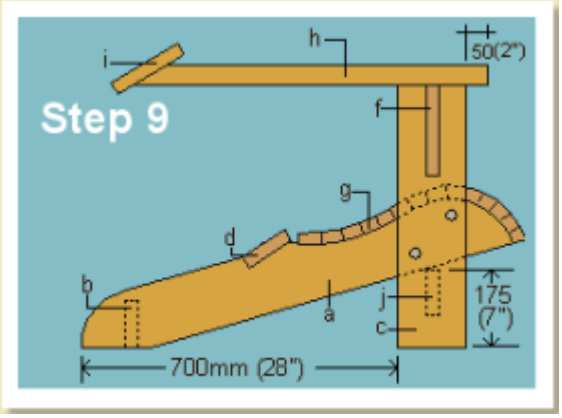
Step 7. Assemble the lower portion

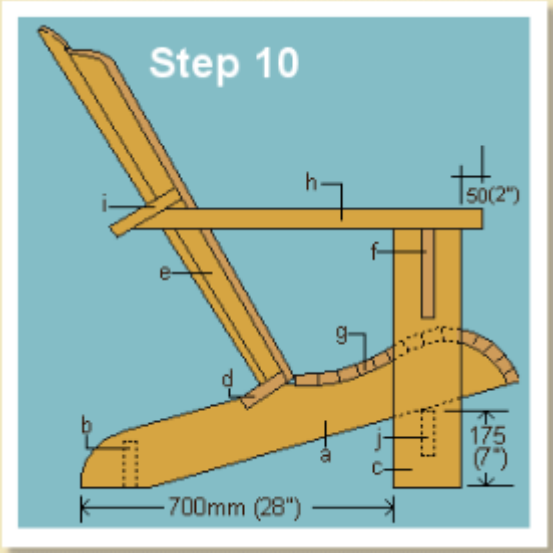
By now all the Adirondack chair pieces should be cut to length and shape. Assemble the lower portion of the chair [pieces a, b, d, and g] on an even surface ensuring that the two side frames (a) are the correct distance apart according to the plans.
Use an exterior type glue and pre-drill all screw holes.

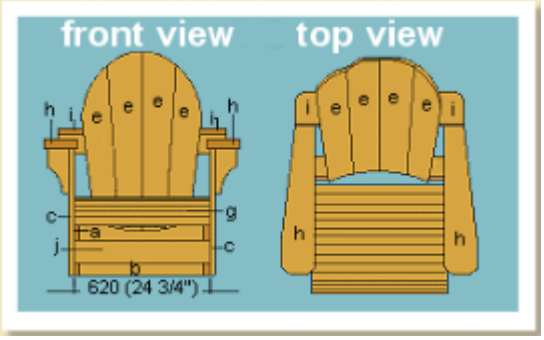


Step 8. Assemble the side portions

Assemble the two side portion of the chair [pieces c, f, h, i and j] ensuring all dimensions are according to the plans.
Use an exterior type glue and pre-drill all screw holes.







Step 9. Join the side portion to the lower portion

Fix the assembled side portion of the Adirondack chair to the assembled lower portion.

Drill and bolt the front legs [c] to the side frames [a] using 10mm (3/8") galvanized carriage bolts.

Step 10. Add the back slats

Now just simply a matter of fixing the back slats [e] to the top and bottom back supports [d, i]

Use an exterior type glue and pre-drill all screw holes.

That's it.

Done!