

Build A Solid-Cedar Screen

Hide backyard clutter behind an elegant solid-cedar screen.

TEXT AND BUILD PHOTOS BY NEAL BARRETT, Lead photo by Burcu Avsar, Illustration by Eugene Thompson

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This lattice screen can boost the look of nearly any house. You can build it in a weekend.

What separates a great-looking home from the run-of-the-mill? You might think it's the BMW in the drive--but look again. Perhaps it's more what you don't see than what you do.

Most homes have stuff outside. Some things are permanent, such as propane tanks and a/c units; other things are more transient, like trash cans, wheelbarrows and gardening tools that huddle by the side of the house. As useful as these things are, they don't add much to your home's looks. Our solution is an L-shaped screen. It's easy to build and light enough to move around, and it can be customized to suit your needs.

LATTICE CONSTRUCTION

We used 1 x 6 cedar for the lattice strips. Cut the boards slightly longer than you'll need them. Then, use a circular saw and edge guide to rip all the pieces to width (1), and crosscut them squarely to exact length.

Clamp together the horizontal lattice strips for one panel, and make sure the strip ends are flush and square. Then, use a square to mark the locations of the intersecting vertical strips on all the pieces at once (2). Repeat the process for the remaining strips.

To assemble the lattice panels, spread out the horizontal strips, position the vertical strips over them and drive one screw at each intersection (3). You don't need pilot holes, but set the clutch on your drill/driver to stop driving when the heads are flush.

We used plate joints to assemble the lattice frames. Clamp each piece to a worktable when cutting the slots and hold the joiner tightly against the table surface to register the slot locations (4). Spread waterproof glue on the plates and in the slots (5), assemble the frames and let the glue set.

Position each frame over its lattice, align the top and bottom edges, and check the overhang at the end that joins the adjacent panel. Nail the frame to the lattice (6), set the nail-heads and fill with an exterior filler.

MAKING THE LATTICE PANELS





SCREEN ASSEMBLY

With both panels complete, clamp them together and secure them with nails (7). However, first check that you can carry the finished screen to your site--you may have to join the panels temporarily, then disassemble the screen for transport.

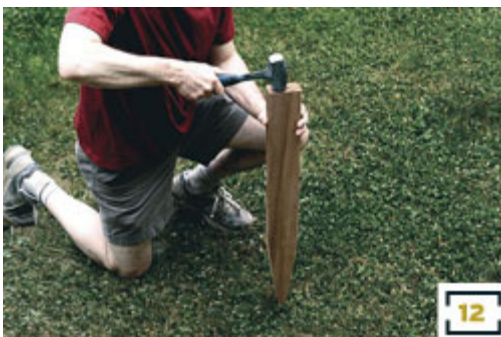
Use clamps to hold the endcaps in place while you adjust the overhang (8) and nail the caps in place. Then, rout the top-cap molding with a 3/8-in. cove bit. Cut the profile on wide stock (9) and rip the molding from the board. Miter the cap molding to length and nail it in place (10). Finally, add the top caps, allowing a 1/8-in. overhang above the molding (11).

To anchor the screen, drive 2 x 4 stakes for the inside of the screen near the ends (12), and a 2 x 2 stake for the inside corner. Use shims to level the screen, then secure it to the stakes with screws.

If you like, you can leave the wood unfinished--it will eventually turn gray. To help preserve its color, we used Cabot Clear Solution No. 3002 (www.cabotstain.com, 800-877-8246). Painting is also an option, and makes sense if you build your screen out of a cheaper wood.

ASSEMBLY AND INSTALLATION



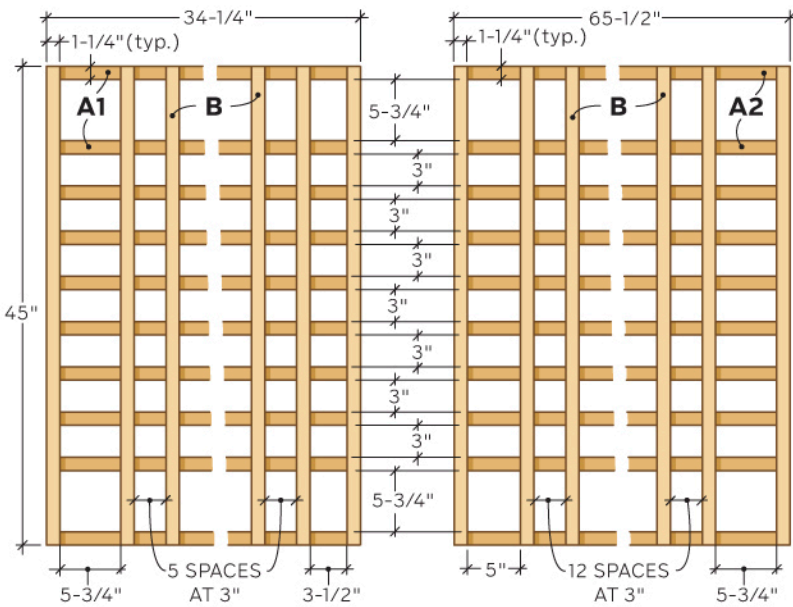
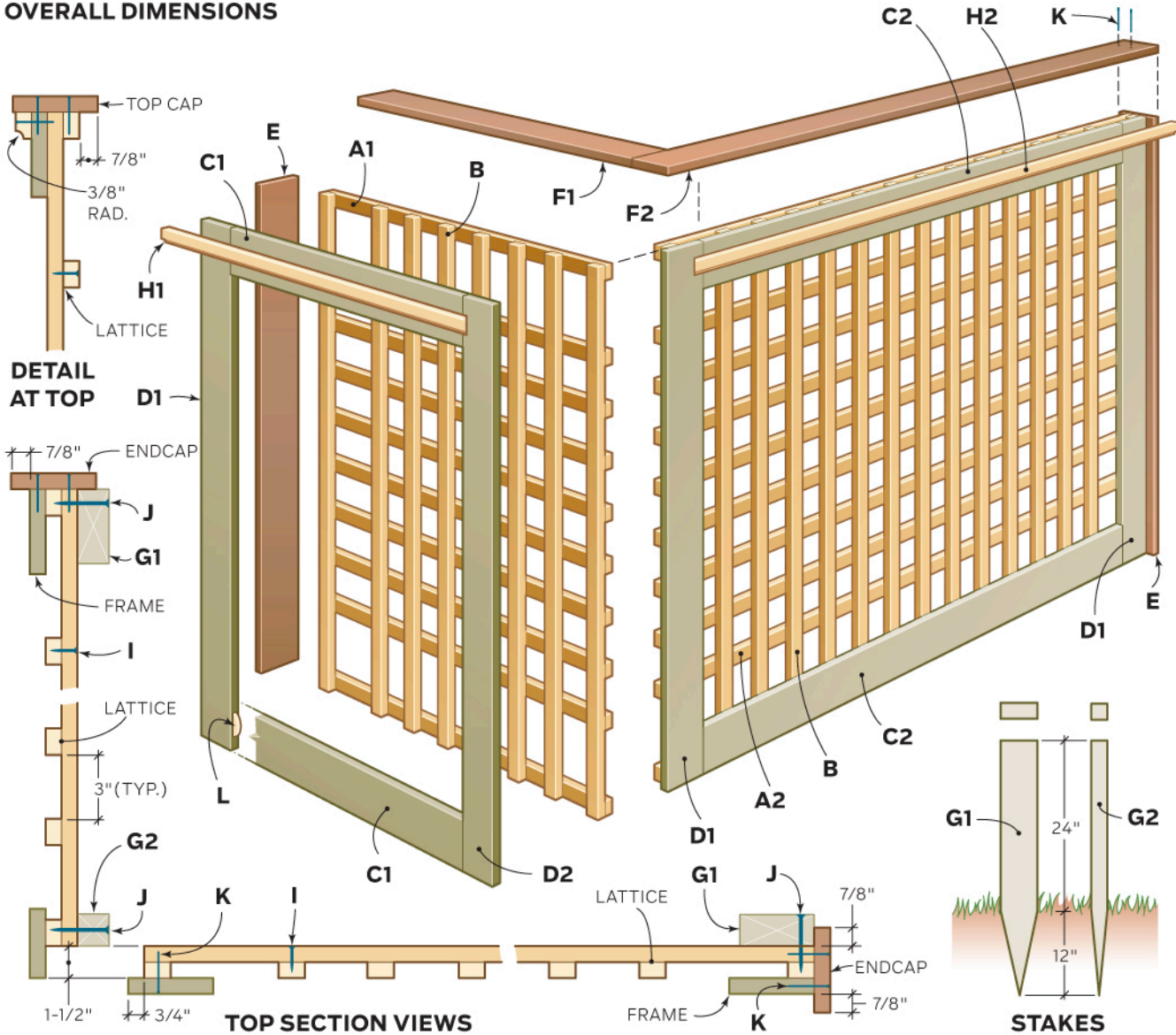


[CLICK HERE](#) to download a free pdf of the screen plans.

MATERIALS LIST			
KEY	QTY.	SIZE	DESCRIPTION
A1	10	3/4 x 1-1/4 x 34-1/4"	horizontal strip
A2	10	3/4 x 1-1/4 x 65-1/2"	horizontal strip
B	23	3/4 x 1-1/4 x 45"	vertical strip
C1	2	3/4 x 4 x 28-1/2"	frame rail
C2	2	3/4 x 4 x 58-1/4"	frame rail
D1	3	3/4 x 4 x 45"	frame stile
D2	1	3/4 x 3-1/4 x 45"	frame stile
E	2	3/4 x 4 x 45"	endcap
F1	1	3/4 x 4 x 34-1/8"	top cap
F2	1	3/4 x 4 x 67-7/8"	top cap
G1	2	1-1/2 x 3-1/2 x 36"	stake
G2	1	1-1/2 x 1-1/2 x 36"	stake
H1	1	3/4 x 1-1/2 x 37-1/4"	cap molding
H2	1	3/4 x 1-1/2 x 67"	cap molding
I	as reqd.	1-1/4" No. 8	deck screw
J	as reqd.	2-1/2" No. 10	deck screw

K	as reqd.	6d	galv. finishing nail
L	as reqd.	No. 20	joining plate

OVERALL DIMENSIONS



SLAT ASSEMBLIES