

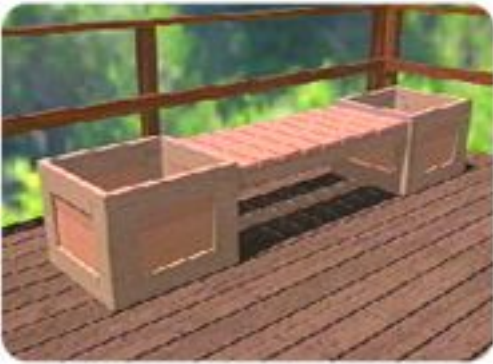


## 1. Create a sketch:

- Donna was hoping that Ron could help her create a bench with a planter box on either side, so they worked up a sketch together. Planter benches can come in all sorts of shapes and sizes but Ron drew up a plan that he thought would work nicely for this particular situation.
- Ron's designed a bench that would be flanked by two end panels joined together by boards called stringers or stretchers. There would be two stringers on top and one on the bottom.



- Seat slats would be nailed to the top stringers.



- They would also construct two planter boxes and attach them to the end panels.



## 2. Cut the wood:

- Donna and Ron selected redwood for the bench and planters. There was a lot of cutting to do so they made a cut list to keep track of it all.



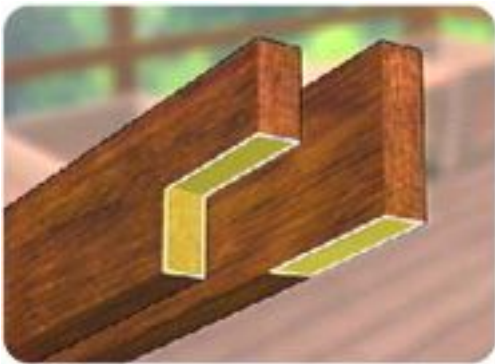
- Ron set up an adjustable stop block on the saw. Since they would be cutting sixteen pieces of lumber to the same length, the stop block would ensure consistently accurate cuts. After a quick lesson on the power miter saw, Donna was comfortable cutting all the lumber.





### 3. Notches:

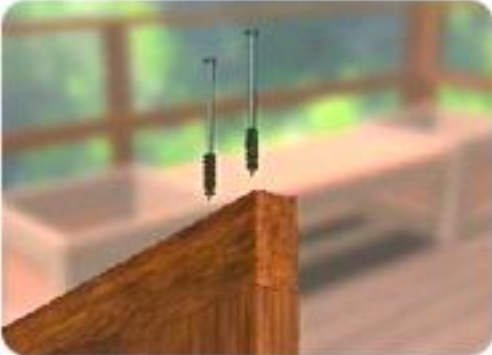
- The next step was to cut notches in the wood to form a strong and attractive connection for the end panels.
- Using a notch joint had several advantages. It would provide more glue surface than a simple butt joint...



#### 4. Positioning:



- it would make assembly easier allowing one piece to nest into the other...



- and it would use more common 3 ½ inch screws rather than five or six inch long fasteners.



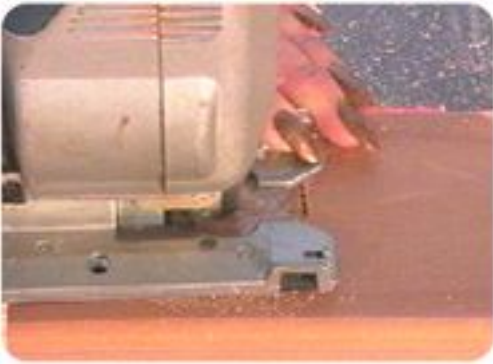
- Ron measured and determined the size of his notch and then created a template by nailing a small piece of wood to a larger piece.



- He showed Jennifer how to push this template up against the piece of wood that was to be notched. When the block touched the edge of the wood, he traced the outline right onto the piece to be cut.



- This gave him an exact area that needed to be cut out.



- Donna used a jigsaw to cut the notches out.

# "How-To-Do-It"

2<sup>nd</sup> Season

Show Description

"How to Do It"

Where can I see  
*HouseCalls?*

Show Summaries

Request a  
Housecall Here

Our Marketing  
Partners

Show Transcripts

"From My Toolbag"

Ron's Travelog

## Build a Custom Planter Bench

Year 2 Show 13: 12/4 - 12/10/00 | 5/21 - 5/27/01

Overview

What You Need

Instructions

### 4. Assembly:



- To assemble the end frames, they attached the pieces together with both glue and screws. For outdoor furniture it's always a good idea to use water-resistant glue. Ron suggested putting the glue in a small container and brushing it onto the surface.



- After applying the glue to both pieces of wood, Donna placed the two pieces together, Ron checked them for square and then they clamped them firmly together and drove in the screws.



- Before driving in the screws, Ron first drilled a countersink hole or clearance hole to allow the head of the screw to be flush with the surface of the wood. Ron drilled the countersink holes and Donna followed behind with the screw gun.



- Once the frames for the end pieces were complete, they filled in the centers with wooden slats, which they laid in place temporarily.



- They attached the slats to a small wooden piece called a keeper. After applying glue Donna laid the keeper on top of the slats and used a brad nailer to attach the keeper to the frame.



- Next she turned the frame over, applied some glue to the ends of each slat and laid them on top of the keeper. She used spacers to distribute the slats evenly and then secured them with brads.



- After completing the two end panels, Ron used clamps to position the end panels to stand up on their own, which would make it easier for them to complete the assembly. Ron also clamped in place a temporary ledger onto each end panel that would help them hold the first stretcher in place while they attached it. The stretcher would connect the two end panels together.



- Once again they drilled clearance holes with a countersink bit so that the rust resistant screws were flush with the wood.



- With the third stringer in place, the bench was beginning to take shape.



Show Description 	"How to Do It" 	Where can I see HouseCalls? 
Show Summaries 	Request a Housecall Here 	Our Marketing Partners 
Show Transcripts 	"From My Toolbag" 	Ron's Travelog 

**Build a Custom Planter Bench**  
Year 2 Show 13: 12/4 - 12/10/00 | 5/21 - 5/27/01

Overview 	What You Need 	Instructions 
--	---	--



**5. Details:**

- They used a router to round the edges of the seat slats to make them more comfortable. These slats were spaced evenly and they were once again attached using a countersink bit so that the screws were well below the wood's surface.



## 6. Planter boxes:

- They completed the construction of the sides of the planter boxes the same way they had made the end panels for the bench. All that remained was to attach these pieces together. Ron had predrilled clearance holes so it was easy to screw these in the same way they'd been doing.



- The planter box was designed so that the height of the bottom could be easily adjusted to suit Donna's needs. Using blocks of 2 x 6s or 2 x 4s, depending on the height they wanted, they laid the blocks up against the insides of the box and then set planks across the blocks to create the bottom.



## 7. Apply wood sealer:

- To keep the bench looking good and to extend its life, Ron strongly recommended that Donna apply a wood sealer. He showed her how to use a garden sprayer or spray bottle to apply the sealer. He suggested that she leave it on for about 15 minutes and then use a rag or a cloth to redistribute the sealer.



## RESULTS:

The bench that Ron and Donna created was a beautiful addition to her deck overlooking the Carmel Valley. As the fog began to roll in, and Ron drove off to make his next HouseCall, he commented to himself ... what was nothing more than a pile of lumber this morning, was now best seat in the house.

