

Do It Yourself

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Rustic Porch Swing: Cutting and Assembling Back Spindles and Frame

From "[Woodworking](#)"

episode DIW-204 -- [More Projects »](#)

Once the spindles have been cut to the correct length and all branches trimmed away, it's time to finish and join all the pieces to create the back of the swing.

Note: [Project plans may be viewed with](#) 

Materials:

Spindles

Top and bottom rails, cut to 50"

Power tenon cutter

Drill

3/4" spade bit

Exterior wood glue

Rubber mallet

Hammer

Pencil

Webbed belt clamps

Stretch cords

Chisel or small fine-tooth saw

Bench vise or large clamps

1. Holding spindle in place with vise or clamp, use power tenon cutter to remove the bark and narrow each end to 1". Repeat for all spindles and posts (Johnson uses a total of 11 for the back).
2. With drill and spade bit drill 3/4" holes about 4" apart across the bottom and top rails (**figure A**). Insert a spindle into each hole in rail (**figure B**). (Don't glue in place in case you want to change them around.)
3. Measure and drill holes in the opposing rail. Insert the ends of the spindles into the holes of the opposing rail (**figure C**).



The swing is strengthened by the use of stretchers (or rungs), holes and exterior wood glue.



Figure A



Figure B

4. Use rubber mallet to tap the top rail so spindles and rails are securely joined. Add stretch cords to secure spindles to rail and hold them in place as you continue to work (**figure D**).
5. Create two back posts by selecting a medium-diameter sapling, cutting it into two 30" pieces.
6. For bottom rail, mark surface of post about 4" from bottom; and for the seat rail, make a second mark about 8" from bottom edge of post.
7. Use a pencil to mark position of the bottom rail attached to spindles. Finally, mark the top position (for top rail attached to spindles), which should be about 2" from the top edge.
8. With post secured in vise, drill four 3/4" holes (for the two bottom front rails and side tenons), about 1" deep.
9. Add exterior wood glue to all four holes, and insert rails into holes. Use mallet to tap outside of posts until all pieces are snug (**figure E**).
10. Apply pressure with webbed belt clamps looped around each end horizontally (**figure F**)
11. Add a 1/4" maple dowel to hold the post and upper rail together.
Tip: Sharpen the end of the dowel to drive it more easily.
12. Drill a small hole into the posts where dowel will intersect the two pieces and strengthen the joint. Add glue to hole and use hammer to drive the dowel into hole (**figure G**).
13. Use chisel or small saw to remove excess dowel so that its tip is flush with the post's surface.
14. Repeat for other corners where posts and rails meet.



Figure C



Figure D



Figure E



Figure F



Figure G

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Woodcraft!

RESOURCES:

Making Country Rustic Wood Projects

Model: 0806972580

Author: Patrick Speilman

Rustic Accents for Your Home: 45 Projects from Vines, Twigs and Branches

Model: 1580171354

Author: Laura Donnelly Bethmann

Rustic Furniture Workshop

Model: 1579902200

Author: Dan Mack

Country Woodworker: How to Make Rustic Furniture

Model: 0811815897

Author: Jack Hill

Making Rustic Furniture

Model: 1887374124

Author: Daniel Mack

The Art of Rustic Furniture

Model: 1579902642

Author: Daniel Mack

Making Twig Furniture. . .

Model: 0881791857

Author: Abby Ruoff

Rustic Style

Model: 0810944324

Author: Ralph Kylloe (Photographer)

Making Bent Willow Furniture (The Rustic Home Series)

Model: 158017048X

Author: Brenda and Brian Cameron

Building for the Lawn and Garden: A Step-by-Step Guide to Making Benches. . .Swings. . .



REAL VIDEO

The power tenon cutter is a round device that simply attaches to any power drill. The circular blade removes the bark in much the same way as an apple peeler works on an apple.< To see Bruce Johnson demonstrate the use of this tool, click t

Model: 0762101644

Author: John Kelsey

Making Twig Garden Furniture

Model: 088179144X

Author: Abby Ruoff

The Rustic Furniture Companion: Traditions, Techniques and Inspirations

Model: 0937274976

Author: Daniel Mack

Shop Tested Outdoor Furniture You Can Make: From the Editors of Wood Magazine

Model: 069620746X

Author: The Editors of *Wood Magazine*

3 / 4" Power Tenon Cutter

Model: 05J4102

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