

## Do It Yourself

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### Rustic Porch Swing: Joining the Sides

From "[Woodworking](#)"

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

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

Posts

Stretchers

Arms

Power tenon cutter

Pencil

Exterior wood glue

Drill with 3/4" spade bit

Rubber mallet

#### Joining the Front Posts and Rails

For the front posts, Johnson cuts two saplings (about 2" in diameter) to 17" long. He rounds the bottom and uses the power tenon cutter on the top edges where the arm will later be attached. Because Johnson chooses to make the swing's front wider than the back (to make it more comfortable), the front rails are cut 4" longer than the back rails.

1. Next, once rails have been cut to correct length, align front post with back post. Mark post where side stretchers will adjoin the two. Use pencil to make four marks -- the first at 4" (on both inner surface and back surface), with a second at 8".
2. Next, drill 3/4" holes with spade bit at marks.
3. Add glue to holes and add front rails to posts in the inner surface holes (**figure A**). Use rubber mallet to drive the pieces together. Wipe away excess glue.

#### Adding the Side Stretchers



Once the side, front and back pieces have been secured, the swing should have strength and durability to last for years.



Figure A



Figure B

1. Cut side stretchers to correct length (Johnson cuts four stretchers 20" long). Use power tenon cutter to trim the end of the dowels (to be used as side stretchers) on both ends.
2. To add the side rungs (stretchers), first drill 3/4" holes (using spade bit) in front surface of back post (**figure B**).
3. Add exterior wood glue to each of the holes and insert the rungs into the holes.
4. Add glue to the holes already drilled on the back surface on the front posts. Add the assembled front rail and post unit to the stretchers (**figure C**) and tap into place to complete the frame.



Figure C



Figure D

### Adding the Arm

1. If the arm has not been not precut, cut it to the desired length (Johnson's are 24" long -- to equal the seat depth).
2. Mark at 17" from the bottom edge of post and use drill and spade bit to drill 3/4" hole.
3. Dry-fit the post to check measurement.
4. Mark arm where front post meets. Remove arm and place in vise or clamp. Drill hole in arm.
5. Dry-fit the arm a second time to check measurements (**figure D**).
6. Add exterior glue to holes and use mallet to tap securely into place.
7. Repeat process for other arm.

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Author: Patrick Spellman

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Model: 1580171354

Author: Laura Donnelly Bethmann

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Author: The Editors of *Wood Magazine*

### 3/4" Power Tenon Cutter

Model: 05J4102

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