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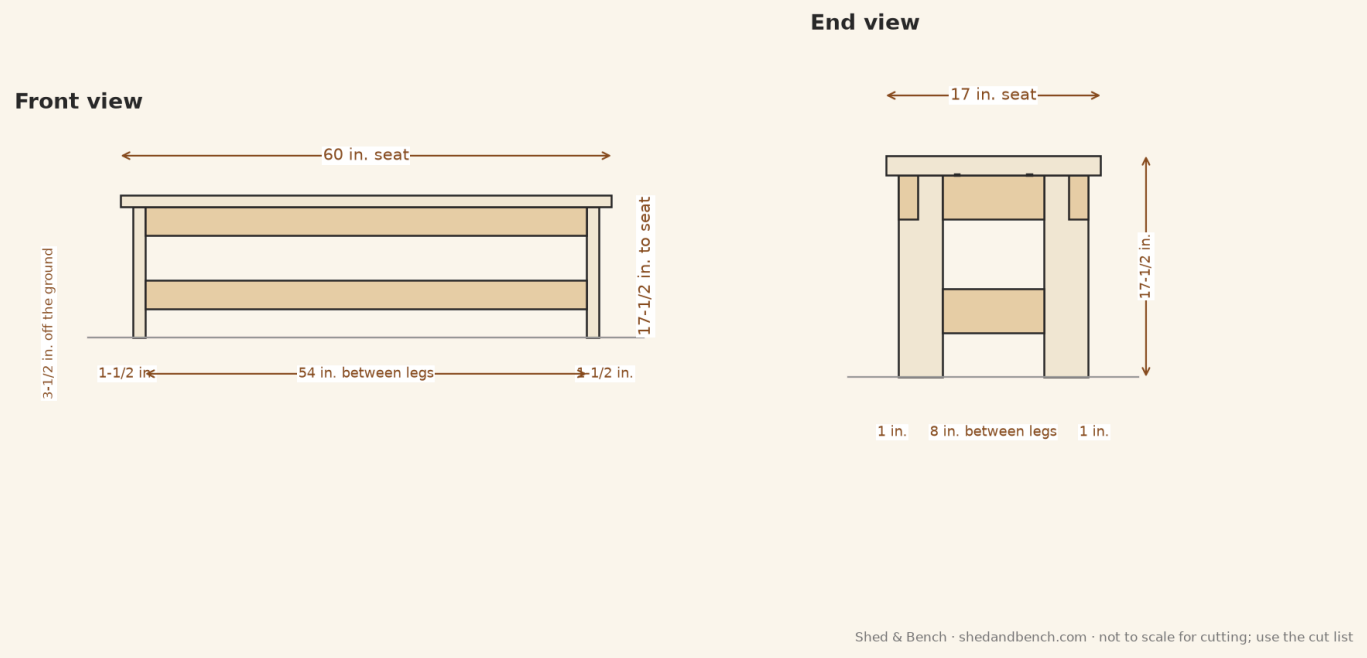
Outdoor Bench: Printable Plan

Materials list, cut list, key steps, and diagrams. Free to print and use.

Not engineered or load-tested. No engineer has reviewed this plan. Shed & Bench worked out the dimensions and checked that the parts fit together on paper, but strength depends on your lumber, fasteners, and how the bench is used. Don't treat the sizes on this page as a rated capacity or a seating rating.

At a glance: backless outdoor bench, seat 60 in. long × 17 in. deep × 17-1/2 in. high; three 2x6 slats with 1/4 in. gaps; base 57 in. × 15 in. outside to outside; legs 16 in.; mid support 12 in. at mid-length. Buy three 8-ft 2x6s and three 10-ft 2x4s. Hardware: about 75 exterior-rated screws (a shopping estimate, not a rated schedule). All sizes are actual lumber sizes. Full instructions: shedandbench.com/outdoor-bench-plans/



Overall dimensions, front and end views

Materials list

Buy	Size	Qty	Used for
2x6	8 ft	3	Seat slats
2x4	10 ft	3	Legs, stretchers, end rails, and mid support
Exterior-rated screws, 3 in. and 2-1/2 in.	—	about 75	3 in. for the frame joints; 2-1/2 in. for the seat slats (60 counted; buy-rounded)
Optional pavers or patio blocks	sized to the legs	4	If you want the legs up off wet soil

Use fasteners the maker rates for exterior use. For copper-based pressure-treated lumber, stay with hot-dip galvanized or stainless fasteners unless the preservative supplier specifies something else.

No prices are listed. Lumber prices change by region and by week. Price this list at your local store on the day you buy.

Cut list

Part	Material	Qty	Length / size	Notes
Legs	2x4	4	16 in.	Square ends; all four the same length
Upper long stretchers (front and back)	2x4	2	54 in.	On edge, flush with the top of the legs, outer face flush with the front or back of the legs
Upper end rails	2x4	2	8 in.	On edge, flush with the top of the legs, between the two legs of each end
Lower long stretchers (front and back)	2x4	2	54 in.	On edge; bottoms 3-1/2 in. above the ground, outer face flush with the front or back of the legs
Lower end rails	2x4	2	8 in.	On edge, between the legs, bottoms 3-1/2 in. above the ground
Mid support (under the seat)	2x4	1	12 in.	On edge, at mid-length, between the front and back upper stretchers
Seat slats	2x6	3	60 in.	On the flat; 1/4-in. gaps between slats; grain along the 60 in. length

Cutting plan

2x6 (seat slats)	Cut from it
2x6 x 8 ft #1	seat slat (60 in.)
2x6 x 8 ft #2	seat slat (60 in.)
2x6 x 8 ft #3	seat slat (60 in.)

2x4 x 10 ft (long stretchers)	Cut from it
2x4 x 10 ft #1	upper long stretcher (54 in.) + upper long stretcher (54 in.)
2x4 x 10 ft #2	lower long stretcher (54 in.) + lower long stretcher (54 in.)

2x4 x 10 ft (legs, end rails, and mid support)	Cut from it
2x4 x 10 ft #1	leg (16 in.) + leg (16 in.) + leg (16 in.) + leg (16 in.) + mid support (12 in.) + upper end rail (8 in.) + upper end rail (8 in.) + lower end rail (8 in.) + lower end rail (8 in.)

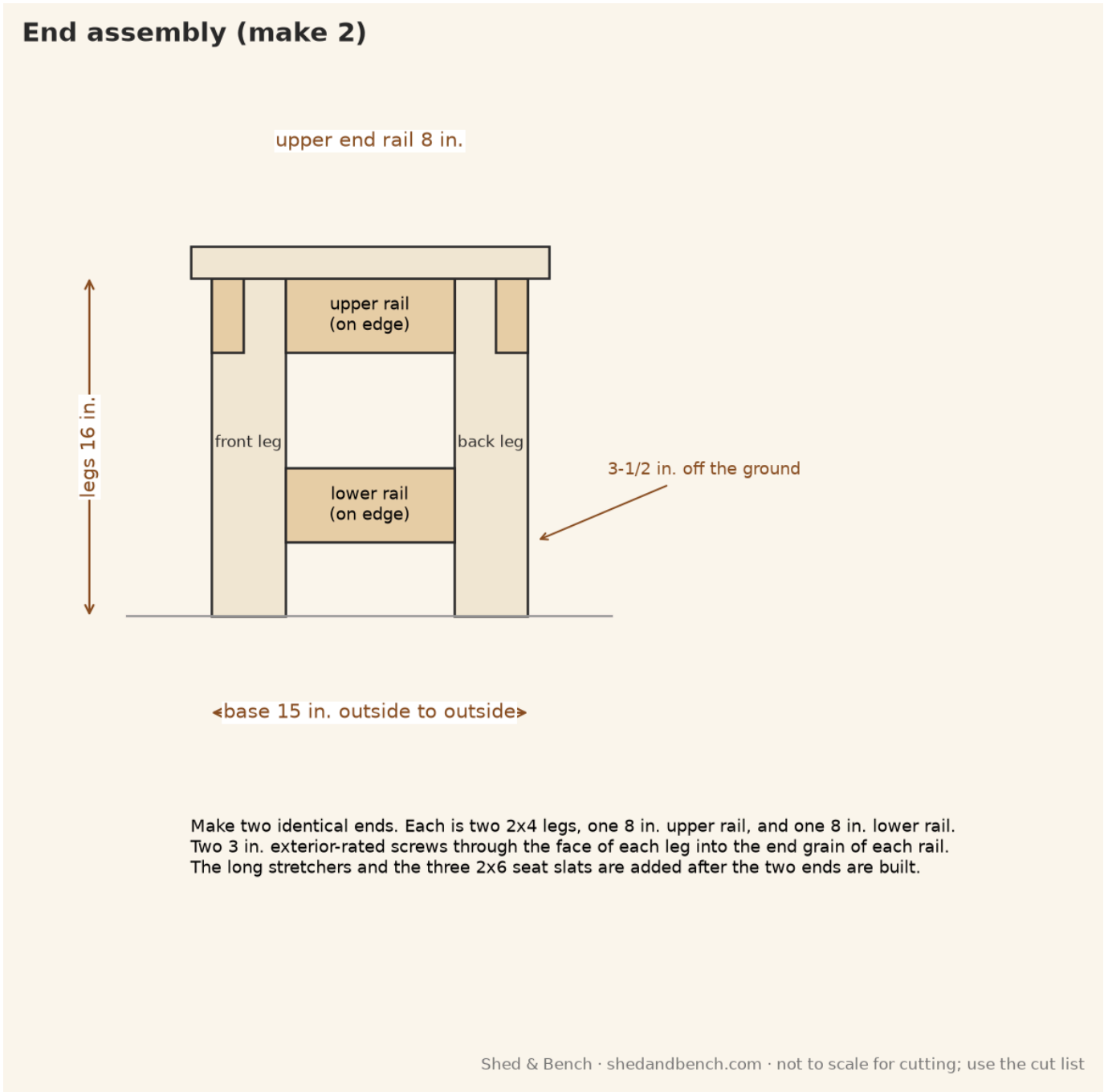
Each 8-ft 2x6 has about 35-1/2 in. left after one seat slat. Each 10-ft stretcher board has about 11-3/8 in. left. The third 10-ft 2x4, which holds the legs, end rails, and mid support, has about 10-1/2 in. left — long enough for a spare 8 in. end rail if you want one.

Key steps

1. **Cut and label the parts.** Cut the three 60 in. seat slats from the 8-ft 2x6s, and cut the 2x4 parts from the three 10-ft boards, following the cutting diagrams: four 16 in. legs, two 54 in. upper stretchers, two 54 in. lower stretchers, two 8 in. upper end rails, two 8 in. lower end rails, and one 12 in. mid support. Label each part. Square the ends, and ease the top edges of the seat slats if you want a softer sit.
2. **Build the two end assemblies.** Each end is two legs, one upper rail, and one lower rail. Lay two legs 15 in. apart outside to outside. Set the upper rail between the legs, flush with the tops, on edge. Set the lower rail with its bottom 3-1/2 in. off the floor, on edge. Square the assembly, clamp it, and drive two 3 in. exterior-rated screws through each leg into the end grain of each rail. Build the second end the same way.
3. **Connect the ends with the long stretchers.** Stand the ends 54 in. apart inside to inside (57 in. outside to outside). Clamp the upper long stretchers flush with the tops of the legs, outer faces flush with the front and back of the legs. Check the diagonals (about 59 in. each). Drive two 3 in. screws through each leg into each stretcher end. Fit the lower long stretchers the same way, with their bottoms 3-1/2 in. off the floor, and screw them the same way.
4. **Add the mid support.** Set the 12 in. mid support on edge between the front and back upper stretchers at mid-length (centerline 30 in. from each end of the seat), flush with the tops of those stretchers, and drive two 3 in. screws at each end. The mid support shortens the span under the seat slats. It is not a rated beam.
5. **Attach the seat slats.** Lay the three 2x6 slats on the frame, with a 1/4 in. gap between slats, a 1-1/2 in. overhang at each end, and a 1 in. overhang at the front and at the back. Screw each slat down with 2-1/2 in. exterior-rated screws: two at each end, two into the mid support, and three along each outer slat into the front or back upper stretcher.
6. **Set the bench and check it.** Set the bench on a reasonably level, firm surface. Pavers or patio blocks under the four legs keep the feet up if the soil stays wet. Confirm the bench sits flat and every screw is tight. Do not climb or stand on the bench. Recheck the screws after the first season outdoors.

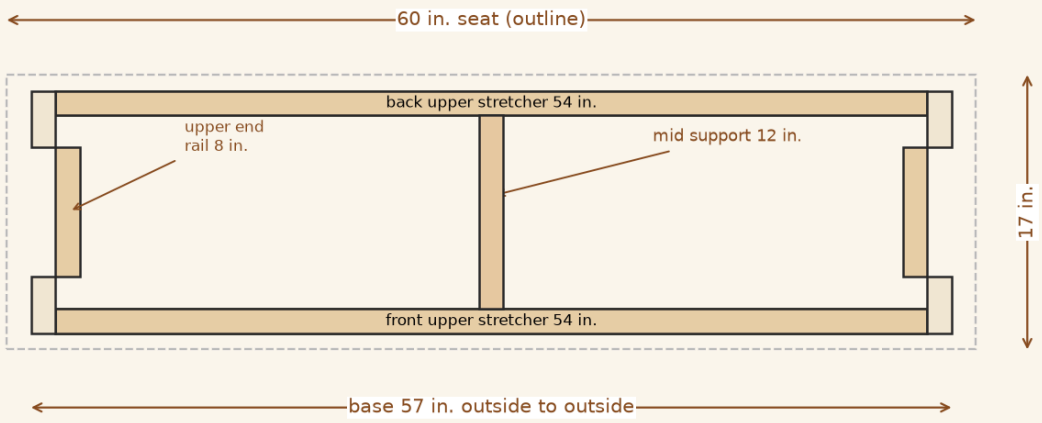
Wear eye and hearing protection. Pre-drill near board ends. This design isn't engineered or load-tested. Square each assembly as you go.

Diagrams



End assembly (make 2)

Framing plan (looking down, seat removed)



Looking down, seat slats removed. Lower stretchers sit under the upper ones (same plan outline).
The mid support is on edge at mid-length, between the front and back upper stretchers.

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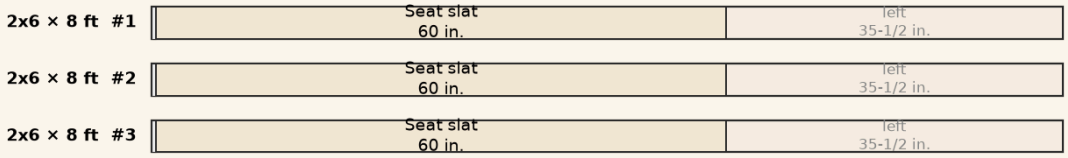
Framing plan, looking down with the seat removed

Cutting diagram (three 8-ft 2x6s)



Each 8-ft 2x6 gets a 1/2 in. trim to square one end. One 60 in. seat slat comes from each board.
About 35-1/2 in. is left on every board. Nothing is a tight fit. Keep a leftover as a spare block or a stake.

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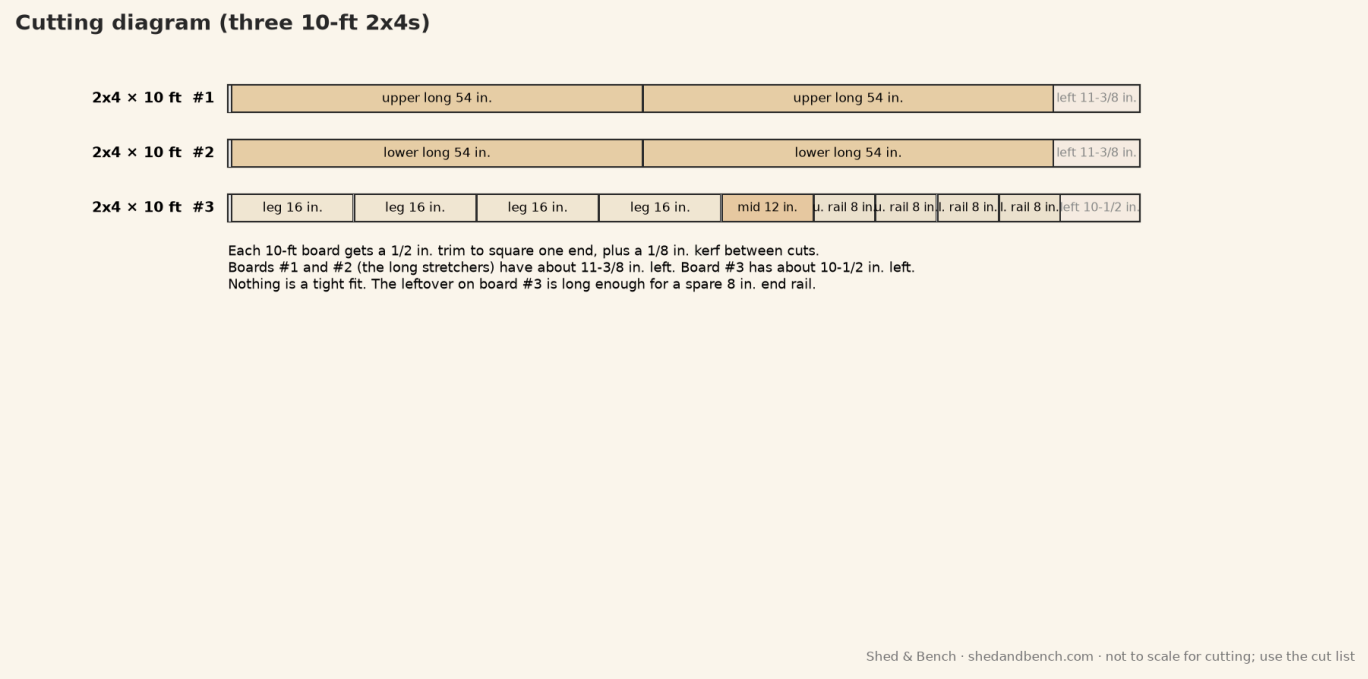
Cutting diagram: three 8-ft 2x6s



Cutting diagram: three 10-ft 2x4s