



# MAINE BOARD GATE BUILD INSTRUCTIONS

## INTRODUCTION

The Maine Board Gate is the original and least complex gate plan that we offer. Its simple design and construction make it easy to modify and adapt to your specific location or design style. You can widen or narrow the rails and/or stiles or modify the number of rails to achieve a vast variety of design options, while achieving the same sturdy and effective gate structure.

We specify 1" dimensional lumber (commonly sold as decking lumber) or you're welcome to use any other lumber that is dressed to a 1" thickness. The simple joinery and commonly available materials make the Maine Board Gate an excellent option for handy homeowners.



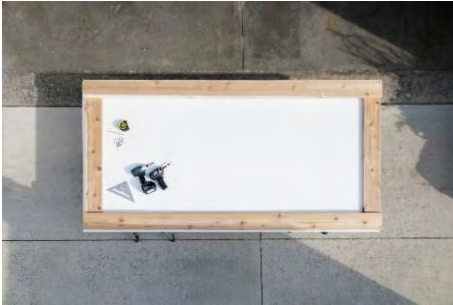
## PRIOR TO STARTING YOUR PROJECT

1. Carefully read to better understand all the available information for your gate build. This will include these written instructions, the three-page gate plan layout (two-page gate plan and component sheet showing hardware and required materials), and the "Tips and Pointers for Installing Gates and Post" information sheet.
2. Ensure all purchased lumber is a maximum of 3" thick when all 3 layers are stacked together. If your materials measure more than 3" thick, pass all boards from the middle layer through a thickness planer to achieve your desired 3" thickness. 3" is the ideal thickness to fit the recommended hardware later.
3. If an excellent, clean finished product is part of your plans, take the time now to remove any pre-rounded factory corners from the lumber you have purchased. By removing the rounded edges, it will allow for a tighter, cleaner fit later during assembly. We accomplished this by running all boards through the table saw and again through the jointer.

## ASSEMBLY

### STEP 1

Lay out two vertical risers (stiles), top rail, and bottom rail in a rectangular shape.



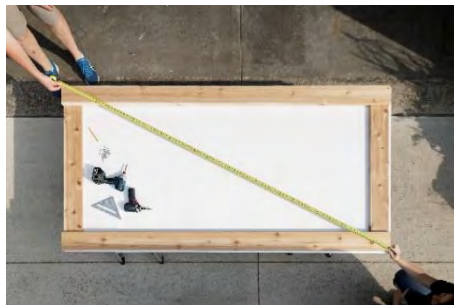
### STEP 2

Align the outside edges of the rails and stiles and fasten them together using a single 1-3/4" wood screw in the outside corner of each intersection.



### STEP 3

Measure the gate from corner to corner both ways and adjust so that both diagonal measurements are equal (this will ensure the gate is square). Install another 1-3/4" wood screw at the inside corner of each intersection.



#### STEP 4

Place the two other mid rails on the gate positioned at the top or bottom and then measure the left-over void space remaining between the rails. Take that measurement and divide by three (for a four-rail design) to give you equal spacing between all the rails. Cut two spacer blocks to this dimension to ensure equal spacing between the rails. Using the spacer block place and fasten each rail using one screw in the outside corner as shown below.



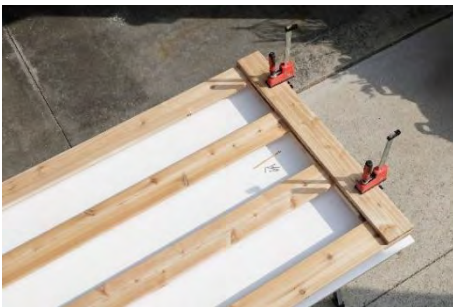
#### STEP 5

Measure the diagonals across the gate corners once more to ensure the gate has remained square. Install more screws in the outside corners of each intersection. This will secure the assembly so that it remains square. Placing screws in the outside corners of each intersection as depicted here helps secure the build while leaving room for a carriage bolt through the center of each intersection in future steps.



#### STEP 6

Align the second stile on each end with the first. Once aligned clamp into position to make holding and drilling easier.





TIP: Think about the placement of the hardware you are using as it can differ from gate to gate depending on your needs and choices. We recommend placing **painters' tape** on the gate where the hardware will sit. This will provide a visual cue to keep you from accidentally installing carriage bolts and screws where hardware needs to go in later steps. (e.g. There is no need to install the center carriage bolt where the top double strap hinge will sit on the gate as it will be in the way when you install the hinge, and installing the hinge will ultimately fasten it together).



#### STEP 7

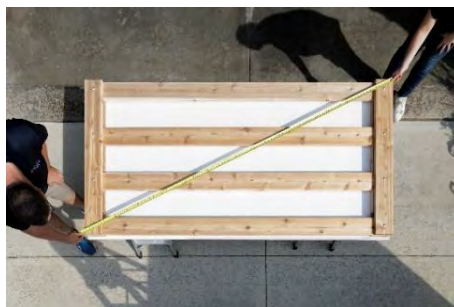
Mark the center of each intersection and drill a 3/8" diameter hole through all three layers of the gate.



TIP: Hold or clamp a scrap piece of lumber on the backside of the gate when drilling your holes to minimize the tear out the drill will cause on the backside.

#### STEP 8

Install carriage bolts through the intersections and tighten with nuts and washers. Once again measure the diagonals from corner to corner to ensure the gate has remained square.



#### STEP 9

Measure distance between stiles and cut the top rail to fit. Place in position but do not fasten at this stage.



TIP: The plan print outs show specific angles to be cut on the diagonal pieces and the top rail. It is best to mark **and cut these as shown below as the angles noted don't allow** for variations in lumber and slight imperfections in the build process. By marking them in place you will end up with a tighter fit and better finished product.

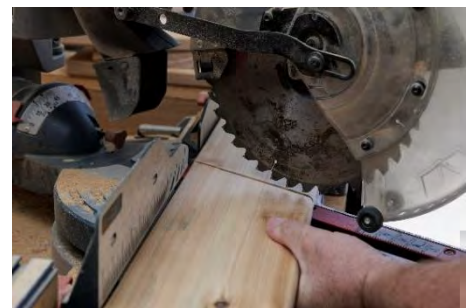
#### STEP 10

Lay the diagonal brace across the gate from corner to corner. We like to measure the top rail intersection of the diagonal to be 1/2" down from the top of the top rail (shown) and the bottom of the diagonal brace to be even with the bottom of the bottom rail. Mark the cut on the top rail with a pencil line.



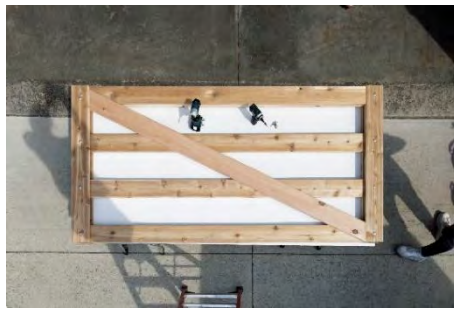
#### STEP 11

Using a straight edge, mark a pencil line on the diagonals even with the inside edge of the stiles. We recommend using a long flexible straight edge, such as a yard stick for this purpose. Mark top and bottom. Remove the top rail and diagonal. Cut along the pencil marks.



#### STEP 12

Lay the cut top rail and diagonal in place ensuring a good fit. Install with 1-3/4" wood screws into each (screwing up from the bottom) to hold top rail and diagonal in place. Keep these screws to the outside edges so that the center of each intersection remains clear for carriage bolts in later steps.



#### STEP 13

Turn the gate over and repeat steps 9 through 12 on the other side. Drill a hole through the center of each intersection point along the diagonal bracing and install a 3/8" x 3-1/2" carriage bolt at each location. It may be necessary to clamp the last diagonal and top rail into position while you drill and install the carriage bolts to prevent movement.

**TIP:** If you read these instructions carefully you will notice that all the screws we put in are installed from the middle layer out leaving no visible screws on the exterior of the finished product. It is easy to screw together the first two layers from the middle out, but we use clamps to temporarily hold the third layer in position while we install the carriage bolts through the center of each intersection. This makes for a clean finished product with the only visible fasteners being the carriage bolt heads. You can choose to do it anyway, but this method is our preference.

#### STEP 14

Before laying out and installing any carriage bolts in the top rail. Consider the placement of the hinge and any latch you have selected. We like to lay these out on the gate and divide up to remaining space to equally space out the carriage bolts on the top rail. This process will vary depending on your gate size, with shorter gates requiring less carriage bolts than longer gates. We typically use 12" – 24" carriage bolt spacing along the top rail. Drill holes through the center of the top rail and install 3/8" x 3-1/2" carriage bolts.



**TIP:** When installing bolts along the top rail and on the diagonals do not install bolts where hardware will attach. It may be necessary to position some of the carriage bolts that would ordinarily be placed where the hardware sits below or above the hardware. It is essential that all board intersections be bolted through but if the bolt location needs **to change from center due to the hardware's placement**, you will have to accommodate it.



## STEP 15

Position and secure all hardware on the gate using supplied fasteners, following the hardware instructions and best common practices.



To order hardware required to complete this gate, please contact...

Snug Cottage Hardware  
Phone (800) 637-5427 or Email [info@snugcottagehardware.com](mailto:info@snugcottagehardware.com)

We would love to see what you build! Please send us photos when your project is complete.

These gate plans and instructions are the property of Snug Cottage Hardware Inc. and they are offered for use by our customers only.  
No one may duplicate these without our expressed written consent. All rights reserved.