

Trellis Seat

Made of cedar lattice and cedar boards, this trellis seat is ideal for conversation or quiet moments of reading. The lattice creates just the right amount of privacy or shelter for a small garden or patio. It's an unobtrusive structure that is sure to add some warmth to your patio or deck. Position some outdoor plants along the top cap or around the frame sides to dress up the project and bring nature a little closer to home.

The warmth of the cedar contributes a great deal to the overall appearance of this project. The versatility of the design also allows it to fit into just about any backyard environment. If you have a more formal yard with classical elements or a Victoriana feel, a pristine white structure may be more to your liking. Fortunately, lattice panels are widely available in low-maintenance white PVC. The other wood elements of the design are easy enough to paint white, but if you've ever tried to paint lattice you'll be glad you used the PVC product.

For a cleaner appearance, conceal visible screw heads on the seat by counterboring the pilot holes for the screws

and inserting cedar plugs (available at most woodworking stores) into the counterbores.

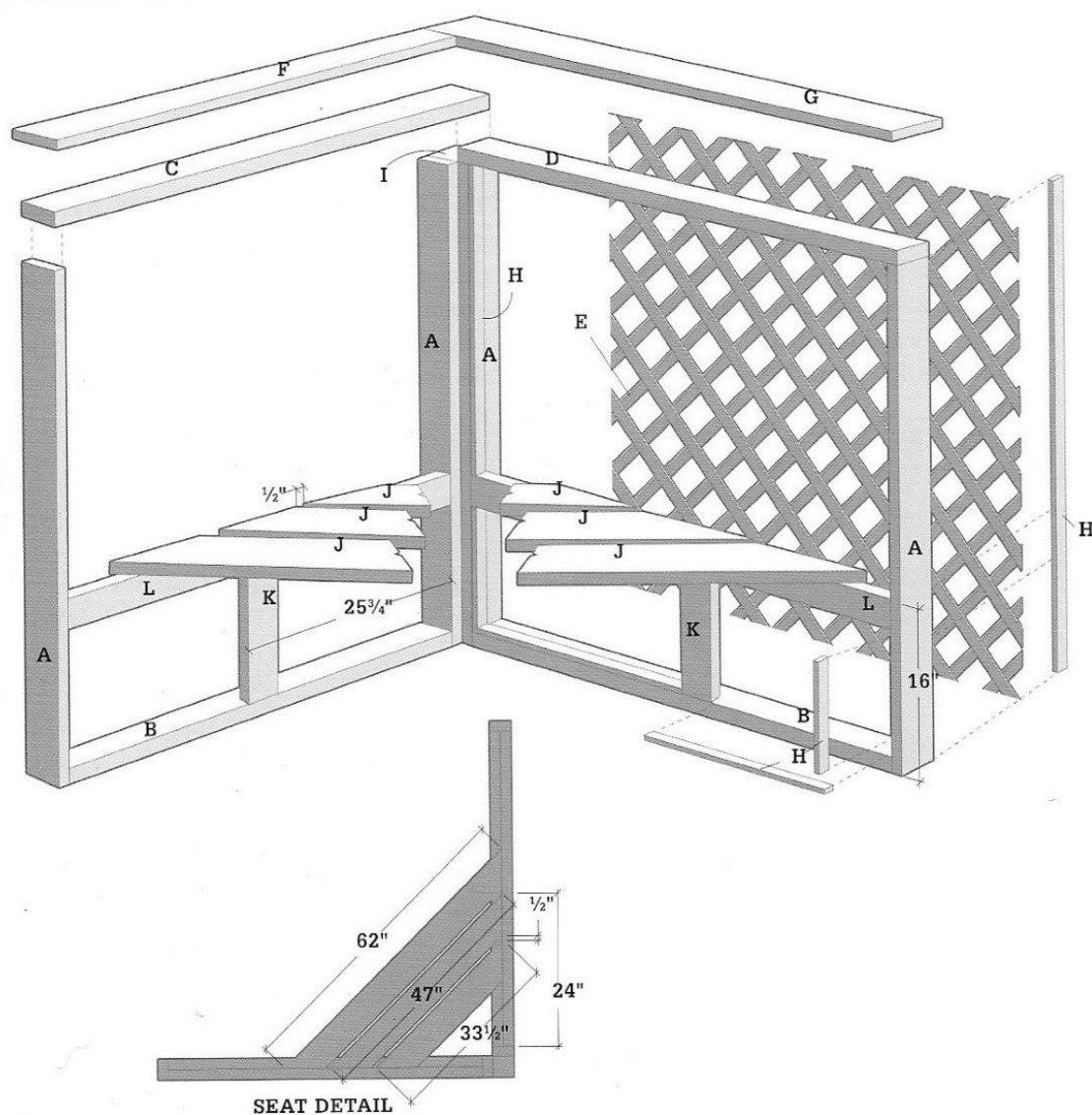
Although the lattice panels provide some shading, wind blocking, and privacy, the effects are greatly enhanced if you plant climbing plants such as ivy or clematis at the base. You can put them in containers if you'd like to be able to move things around. Or you can plant them right in the ground if you have a permanent home for your trellis seat.

Materials ▶

1	4 × 4" × 6 ft. cedar	Moisture-resistant glue
2	2 × 8" × 8 ft. cedar	Deck screws (1¼", 2", 2½", 3")
5	2 × 4" × 10 ft. cedar	
1	1 × 6" × 10 ft. cedar	4d galvanized casing
11	1 × 2" × 8 ft. cedar	nails
1	½" × 4 × 8 ft. cedar lattice	Finishing materials



Spice up your patio or deck with this sheltered seating structure. Set it in a quiet corner to create a warm, inviting space for relaxation.



Key Part	Dimension	Pcs.	Material
A Frame side	1½ × 3½ × 49½"	4	Cedar
B Frame bottom	1½ × 3½ × 48"	2	Cedar
C Long rail	1½ × 3½ × 56½"	1	Cedar
D Short rail	1½ × 3½ × 51"	1	Cedar
E Lattice	½" × 4' × 4'	2	Cedar
F Short cap	¾ × 5½ × 51"	1	Cedar

Key Part	Dimension	Pcs.	Material
G Long cap	¾ × 5½ × 56½"	1	Cedar
H Retaining strip	¾ × 1½" cut to fit	22	Cedar
I Post	3½ × 3½ × 49½"	1	Cedar
J Seat board	1½ × 7¼ × *	3	Cedar
K Brace	1½ × 3½ × 11"	2	Cedar
L Seat support	1½ × 3½ × 48"	2	Cedar

*Cut one each :35", 49", 63"

Trellis Seat

MAKE THE TRELLIS FRAME

Cut the frame sides, frame bottoms, long rail, short rail, braces, and seat supports to length. To attach the frame sides and frame bottoms, drill two evenly spaced $\frac{3}{16}$ "-dia. pilot holes in the frame sides. Counterbore the holes to $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep. Apply glue to the frame sides and bottoms, and then drive $2\frac{1}{2}$ " deck screws through the frame sides and into the bottoms.

Drill counterbored pilot holes in the top faces of the long and short rails. Attach the long and short rails to the tops of the frame sides with glue. Drive deck screws through the rails and into the ends of the frame sides. The long rail should extend $3\frac{1}{2}$ " past one end of the frame (**photo 1**).

Mark points $22\frac{1}{4}$ " from each end on the frame bottoms to indicate the position for the braces. Turn the frame upside-down. Drill counterbored pilot holes in the frame bottoms where the braces will be attached. Position the braces flush with the inside frame bottom edges. Attach the pieces by driving 3" deck screws through the frame bottoms and into the ends of the braces.

Position the seat supports 16 " up from the bottoms of the frame bottoms, resting on the braces. Make sure the supports are flush with the inside edges of the braces.

Attach with glue and 3" deck screws driven through the frame sides and into the ends of the seat supports. Attach the braces to the seat supports by drilling angled $\frac{3}{16}$ "-dia. pilot holes through each brace edge. Drive 3" deck screws toe nail-style through the braces and into the top edges of the seat supports (**photo 2**).

JOIN THE TRELLIS FRAMES TO THE POST

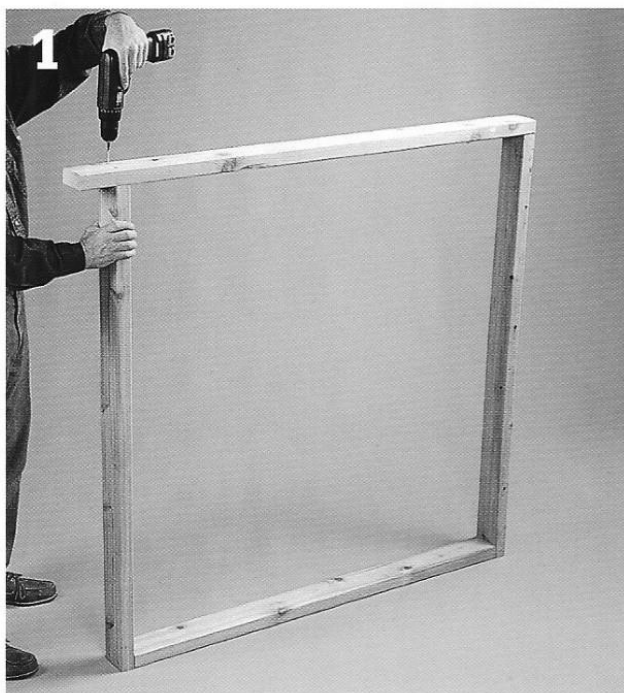
Cut the post to length. Attach the two frame sections to the post. First, drill counterbored pilot holes in the frame sides. Drive evenly spaced 3" deck screws through the frame sides and into the post (**photo 3**). Make sure the overhang of the long rail fits snugly over the top of the post.

ATTACH THE LATTICE RETAINING STRIPS

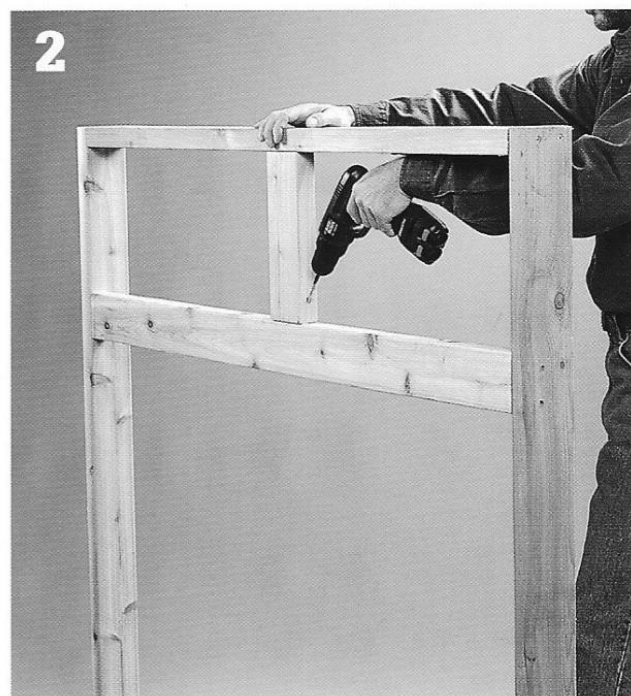
Cut the lattice retaining strips to fit along the inside faces of the trellis frames (but not the seat supports or braces). Nail the strips to the frames, flush with the inside frame edges using 4d galvanized casing nails (**photo 4**).

CUT & INSTALL THE LATTICE PANELS

Since you will probably be cutting through some metal fasteners in the lattice, fit your circular saw with a remodeler's blade. Sandwich the lattice panel between



Attach the long rail at the top of one trellis frame with a $3\frac{1}{2}$ " overhang at one end to cover the post.



Drive deck screws toenail-style through the braces and into the seat supports.

two boards near the cutting line to prevent the lattice from separating. Clamp the boards and the panel together, and cut the lattice panels to size.

Position the panels into the frames against the retaining strips, and attach them to the seat supports with 1 1/4" deck screws (**photo 5**). Secure the panels by cutting retaining strips to fit along the outer edges of the inside faces of the trellis frame. Nail strips in place.

BUILD THE SEAT

Cut the seat boards to length. On a flat work surface, lay the seat boards together, edge to edge. Insert 1/2"-wide spacers between the boards. Draw cutting

lines to lay out the seat shape onto the boards as if they were one board (see Seat Detail, page 55, for seat board dimensions). Gang-cut the seat boards to their finished size and shape with a circular saw. Attach the seat boards to the seat supports with evenly spaced deck screws, maintaining the 1/2"-wide gap. Smooth the seat board edges with a sander or router.

INSTALL THE TOP CAPS

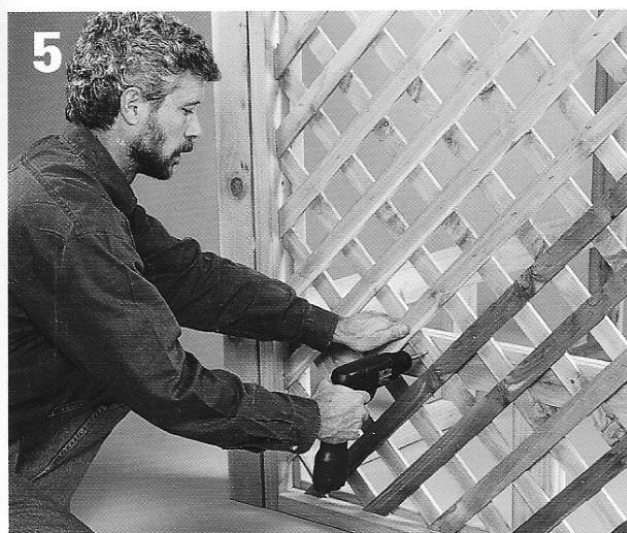
Cut the short cap and long cap to length. Attach the caps to the tops of the long and short rails with deck screws (**photo 6**). Brush on a coat of clear wood sealer to help preserve the trellis seat.



Fasten the trellis frames to the post at right angles using deck screws.



Nail 1 x 2 retaining strips for the lattice panels to the inside faces of the trellis frames.



Fasten the lattice panels to the seat supports with 1 1/4" deck screws, and then attach outer retaining strips.



Attach the long and short caps to the tops of the trellis frames. The long cap overlaps the long rail and the post.