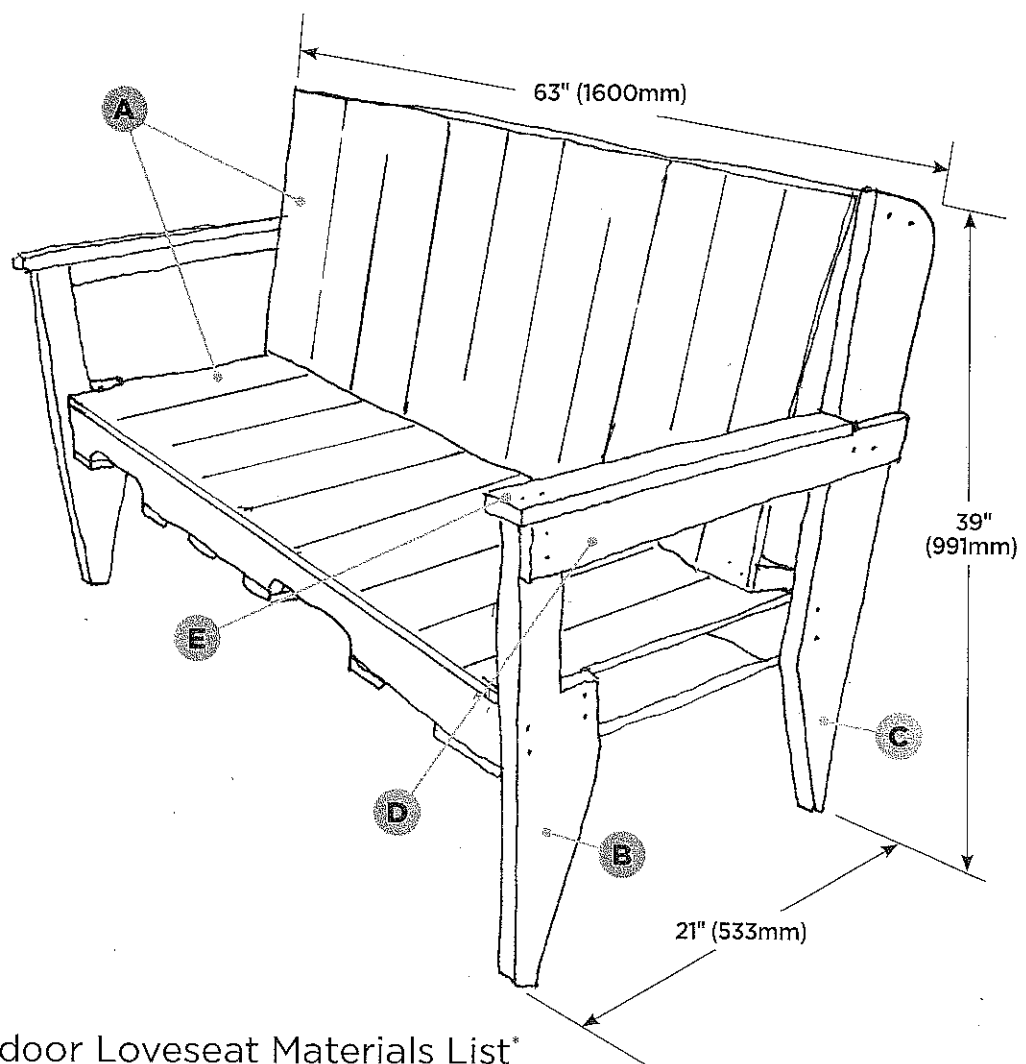


Outdoor Loveseat

Life of the Lawn Party

When the weather is nice, my family and I do a lot of entertaining outdoors, which means there is a premium on seating. No matter how many chairs and benches we have, we occasionally host a get-together where we run short of chairs. This year, we decided to add a funky loveseat to our motley outdoor seating collection. The fact that it is made from an old pallet will probably make it among the most popular seats outside the house.





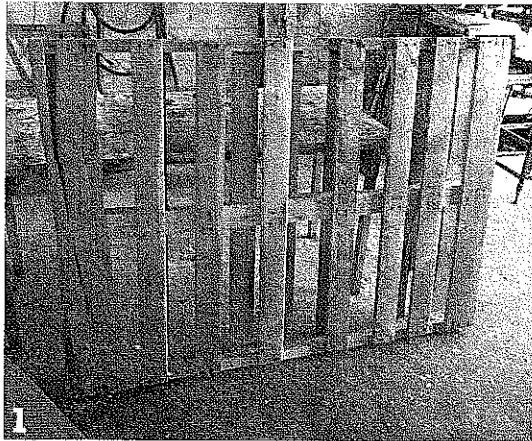
Outdoor Loveseat Materials List*

Item	Quantity	Materials	Dimensions
A Seat/back pallets	2	5" (127mm)-thick pallet	21" x 60" (533 x 1524mm)
B Front legs	2	1½" (38mm)-thick stock	5½" x 27" (140 x 686mm)
C Rear legs	2	1½" (38mm)-thick stock	5½" x 39" (140 x 991mm)
D Side stretchers	2	1" (25mm)-thick stock	3" x 21" (76 x 533mm)
E Arms	2	1" (25mm)-thick stock	4" x 17" (102 x 432mm)

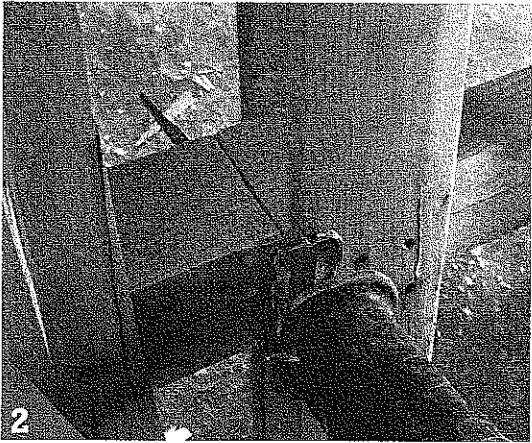
*Overall project dimensions are approximate

Fact

Pallets are manufactured from a variety of materials, but wood pallets are the most popular because they are durable, green, and inexpensive.

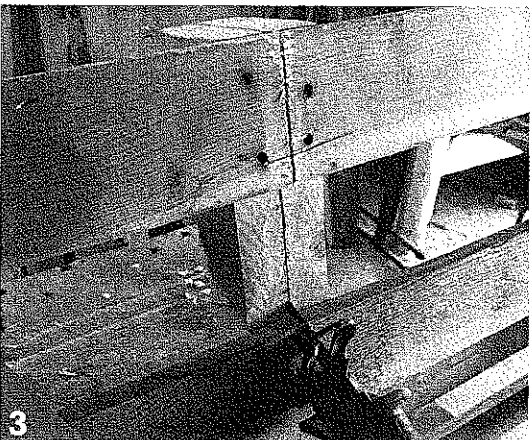


1 Select the seat/back pallet (A). While most of the projects in this book are made from individual pieces of lumber harvested from pallets, this loveseat takes advantage of a fully assembled pallet. I noticed that this particular pallet was unique in the way that it was built; instead of having one center 2x4, it had two. I was able to use this to my advantage to create this project.



2 Trim away any damage. Because my pallet (A) had sustained some damage on one end, I decided to trim away that portion.

3 Cut the pallet in half lengthwise (A). The unusual construction of this pallet—I haven't seen another one like it—made me realize I could use a reciprocating saw to cut the pallet (A) lengthwise into two mirrored halves.

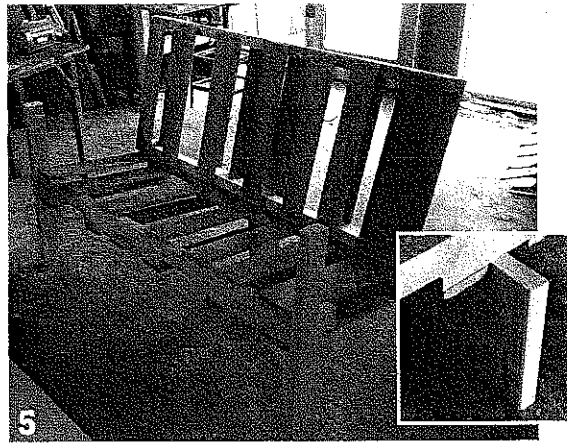


»» THE PERFECT LOVESEAT PALLET

The pallet I used to construct this project was a great find, and you might not be able to locate one just like it right away. Don't worry, though, you can still build this pallet loveseat! Instead of using a 21" x 60" (533 x 1524mm) pallet, look for a pair of 42" x 42" (1067 x 1067mm) pallets. Cut the pallets in half to make the seat and back portions (giving you two pairs of mirrored halves instead of one as described in Step 3 of the instructions above). Bolt two of the pallet sections together to create the seat and the remaining two sections together to create the back, which will result in an 84" (2134mm) long loveseat. If you want something a little smaller, just trim the ends of the pallets to achieve the desired dimensions. To provide support below the joint on the seat, add a center leg.



4 Begin designing the loveseat. With the pallet cut in two, it became clear that I would be able to use each half as an intact unit: one for the seat, and one for the back (A).

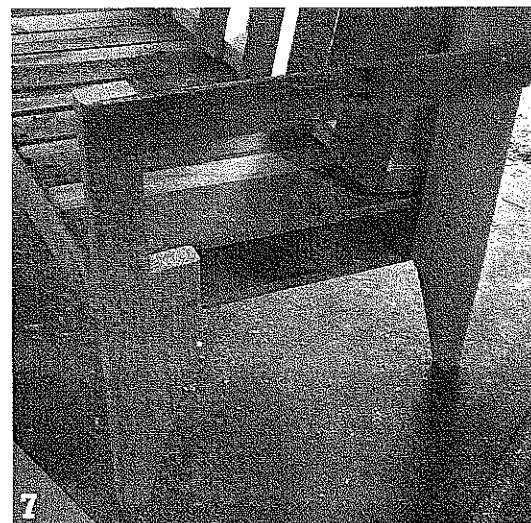


5 Attach the seat and back (A), then cut the front legs (B) to shape and attach. I used $3\frac{1}{2}$ " (89mm)-long screws to fasten the back to the seat (A). Then, I used a jigsaw to cut the front leg blanks (B) into an interesting shape. I nailed the legs into place on either side of the seat (A), attaching them to the front edge of the pallet. To temporarily hold the loveseat up so I could continue working, I inserted a scrap wood riser block under the back edge.



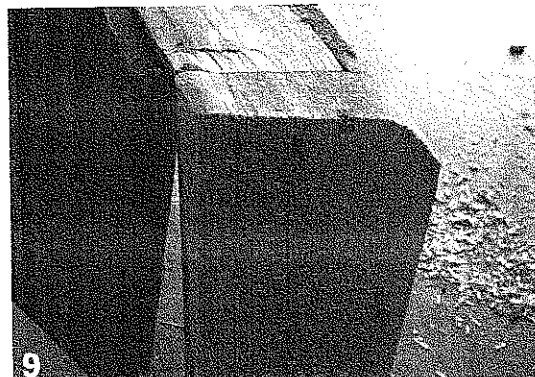
6 Fill the gaps in the seat (A). In an effort to keep the seat (A) as comfortable as possible, I filled in the gaps between the boards of the original pallet with wood pieces I scavenged from another pallet.

7 Cut and attach the rear legs (C) and side stretchers (D). I tapered the base of the rear leg blanks (C), and then nailed them into the thicker parts of the back and seat sections (A) to attach them. I also attached the side stretchers (D) to connect the front and rear legs (B and C) and provide a base for the arms (E). I aligned the top edge of each stretcher piece with the tops of the front legs.





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8 Attach the arms (E). To create the arms (E), I installed a board on each side of the seat, attaching them to the side stretchers (D). It created a comfortable armrest as well as a good place to set a beverage.

9 Curve the tops of the rear legs (C). To soften the corner at the top of each rear leg (C), I used a jigsaw and created a curve in its place.

10 Finish the loveseat as desired. By painting the legs and arms (B, C, D, and E) of the loveseat gray, the wood tones of the seat and back really popped into prominence.