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Barbecue Surround

If you cook outside, you've probably had the same frustrations that we've had. When you reach the grill carrying the tray of food, barbecue tools, special sauce, and seasonings, there's no place to put it. This barbecue surround solves the problem admirably. I designed this surround to fit my husband's "irreplaceable" old smoker and grill. You can copy this design exactly, or alter it to fit your own grill. The directions include methods for making modifications.



Materials List

Lumber:

- 20 linear ft. 2 x 4 treated lumber*
- 6 linear ft. 4 x 4 treated lumber*
- 32 linear ft. 1 x 4 treated lumber*
- 9 linear ft. 3-1/2" fluted trim
- 2 pieces of wood from scrap, ea. 1/4" x 1" x 3-1/2" (optional)

Hardware:

- Approx. 75 #6 x 2-1/2" flathead galvanized wood screws
- Approx. 50 #12 x 4-1/2" flathead galvanized wood screws
- Approx. 50 2d galvanized finishing nails
- Approx. 100 3d galvanized finishing nails

Special Tools and Techniques:

- Miters (optional)

*See "Notes on the Materials," below.

Cutting List

Code	Description	Qty.	Material	Dimensions
A	Long Side	2	2 x 4 treated lumber	30" long
B	Short Side	1	2 x 4 treated lumber	12-1/2" long
C	Long Back	1	2 x 4 treated lumber	37-1/2" long
D	Short Back	1	2 x 4 treated lumber	14" long
E	Front	1	2 x 4 treated lumber	54-1/2" long
F	Leg	4	4 x 4 treated lumber	17-1/4" long
G	Long Leg Support	1	2 x 4 treated lumber	28-1/2" long
H	Short Leg Support	1	2 x 4 treated lumber	12-1/2" long
I	Support Block	4	2 x 4 treated lumber	3-1/2" long
J	Long Table Slat	5	1 x 4 treated lumber	56-1/2" long
K	Short Table Slat	5	1 x 4 treated lumber	18" long
L	Trim	3	3-1/2" fluted trim	Cut to fit (Approx. 9' total)
M	Corner Stop (optional)	2	Scrap treated lumber	1/4' x 1 x 3-1/2"

Notes on the Materials

The above materials are sufficient to make the barbecue surround pictured. If you modify the design, you will also need to alter the materials list. Because the surround will be used outdoors, make certain that you use only exterior-grade materials, including your adhesives and fasteners.

Confirming the Design

1. If you want to build the surround exactly as pictured skip down to “Building the Frame.” To modify the design, you must first determine the size of your grill. Measure the width, depth, and height, and note any obstructions that need to be cleared by the finished surround.
2. The easiest way to modify the design is to draw it out on paper. The first step is to draw the dimensions of the frame. The surround should be flush with the grill on the inside, and the top surface should be at least 15 inches wide (enough to accommodate a large platter).
3. The next step is to decide how tall you want your surround. Measure from the ground to where you want the top surface. Subtract $\frac{3}{4}$ to accommodate the top slats, and you have the length of your legs.
4. Total the amount of each of the materials needed for your design, and alter your materials list accordingly. Also, to help you plan your purchases, adjust the cutting list as needed.
5. Read all of the directions below to make certain that you understand them thoroughly. This will enable you to make slight adjustments in the procedures as you build your own unique barbecue surround.

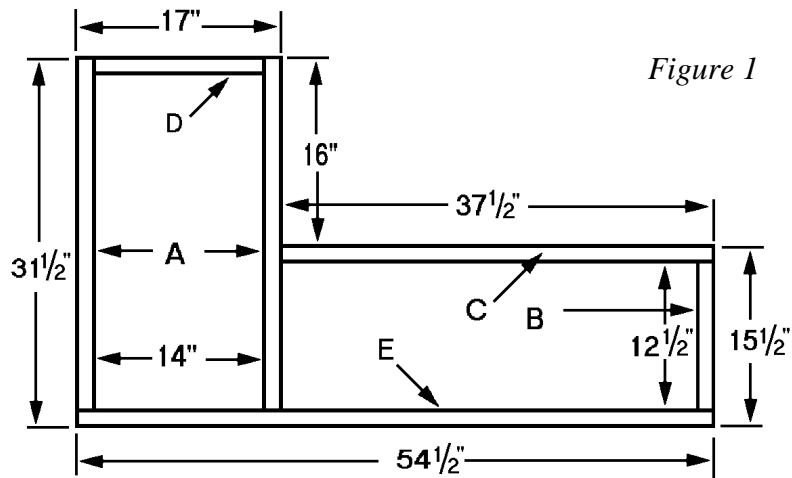
Building the Frame

A diagram of the assembled frame is shown in *Figure 1*. Refer to this when cutting the following parts from 2 x 4 treated lumber:

Code	Description	Qty.	Length
A	Long Side	1	30 inches
B	Short Side	1	12-1/2 inches
C	Long Back	1	37-1/2 inches
D	Short Back	1	14 inches
E	Front	1	54-1/2 inches

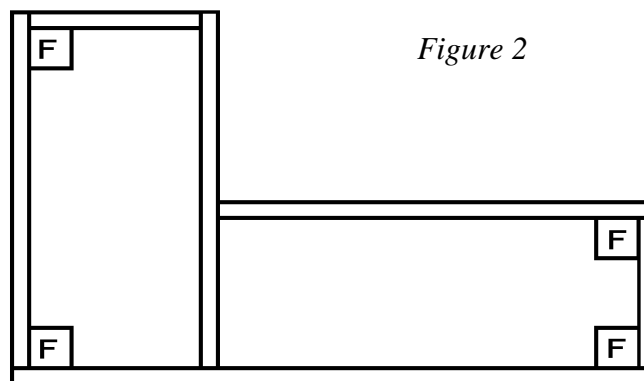
1. Place the frame pieces on a level surface in the arrangement in *Figure 1*. Begin by attaching the two long sides (A) to the front (E). Screw through the front (E) into the ends of the long sides (A). Each joint should be glued and secured with at least two 2-1/2”-long screws.
2. Attach the short side (B) to the front (E). Screw through the front (E) into the end of the short side (B).

- Fit the short back (D) between the two long sides (A). Secure it in place by screwing through the long sides (A) into the ends of the short back (D).



- Attach one end of the long back (C) over the exposed end of the short side (B). Screw through the long back (C) into the end of the short side (B).
- Measure and mark the point on the inner long side (A) that is 16 inches from the end attached to the short back (D).
- Secure the unattached end of the long back (C) to the long side (A) at the mark. Screw through the long side (A) into the end of the long back (C).

Attaching the Legs



- Cut four legs (F) from 4 x 4 treated lumber, each 17-1/4" long.
- Place the frame assembly on a level surface. Fit the four legs (F) in each of the outer corners, as shown in *Figure 2*. Glue and screw them in place on two sides with 4-1/2" long screws. Use three screws through the frame on two sides of each leg.

3. From 2 x 4 treated lumber, cut one long leg support (G) measuring 28-1/2" long.
4. Glue and screw the long leg support (G) to the two legs (F) between the short back (D) and the front (E), as shown in *Figure 3*. Use two 2-1/2"-long screws each through the short back (D) and the front (E) into the ends of the long leg support (G). Use two 4-1/2"-long screws through the long leg support (G) into each of the two legs (F).

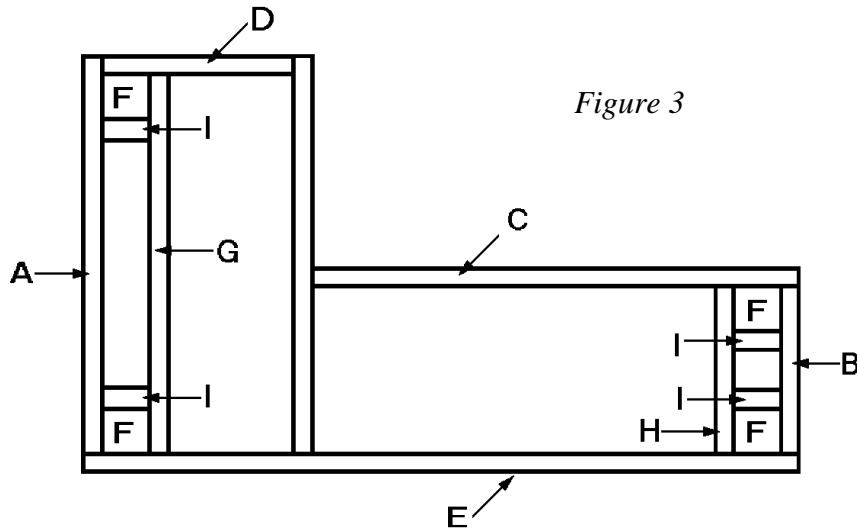


Figure 3

5. Cut one 12-1/2"-long short leg support (H) from 2 x 4 treated lumber.
6. Glue and screw the short leg support (H) to the remaining two legs (F) between the long back (C) and the front (E), as shown in *Figure 3*. Use two 2-1/2"-long screws each through the long back (C) and the front (E) into the ends of the short leg support (H). Use two 4-1/2"-long screws through the short leg support (H) into each of the two legs (F).
7. Cut four support blocks (I) from 2 x 4 treated lumber, each 3-1/2" long.
8. Fit one support block (I) against the back leg, between the long leg support (G) and the long side (A), as shown in *Figure 3*. Glue and screw it in place using 2-1/2"-long screws through the long side (A) and two 2-1/2"-long screws through the long leg support (G) into the ends of the support block (I). Insert two 4-1/2"-long screws through the support block (I) into the leg (F).
9. One at a time, fit the remaining three support blocks (I) against the other three legs. As you did in Step 8, glue and screw the support blocks in place using 2-1/2"-long screws through the sides (A and B) and leg supports (G and H) into the ends of the support blocks (I). Insert 4-1/2"-long screws through the support blocks (I) into the legs (F).

Adding the Table Slats

1. Cut five long table slats (J) from 1 x 4 treated lumber, each 56-1/2" long.
2. Refer to *Figure 4* to guide your placement of the table slats. Glue and nail one long table slat (J) into the outermost position across the front of the frame so that it overhangs the frame by 1 inch on the front and on each side. Drive two 3-penny finishing nails through the long table slat (J) into the short side (B), and two nails through the long table slat (J) into each of the long sides (A).

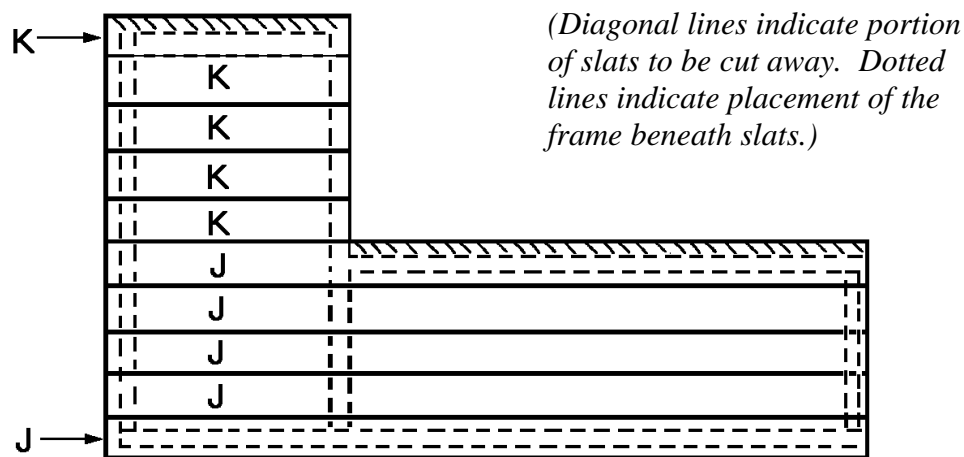


Figure 4

3. Glue and nail three more long table slats (J) to the frame, placing the nails as you did in Step 2. Position each new slat directly next to the previously attached one, and make sure that all of the ends are even.
4. Place (do not glue or nail) the remaining long table slat (J) in the innermost position, next to the four attached slats. Use a pencil to mark the bottom of the slat where it overhangs the frame (refer to *Figure 4*).
5. Cut off the portion of the long table slat (J) that overhangs the frame. The slats need to be flush with the frame so that the surround will stand right up next to your grill.
6. Replace the long table slat (J), and glue and nail it to the frame in the same manner that you used for the four previous slats.
7. Cut five short table slats (K) from 1 x 4 treated lumber, each 18 inches long.

8. Attach four of the short table slats (K) to the frame over the two long sides (A). The short table slats (K) should be flush with the inner long side (A), and overhang the outer long side (A) by 1 inch as shown in *Figure 4*. Use glue and drive two 3-penny finishing nails through each short table slat (K) into each of the long sides (A).
9. Place (do not glue or nail) the last short table slat (K) behind the four previously attached slats. Use a pencil to mark the bottom of the short table slat (K) where it overhangs the frame (refer to *Figure 4*).
10. Because I wanted to be able to put my surround (and grill) up against a wall, I cut off the entire portion of the short table slat (K) that overhangs the frame. If you wish, you can cut the short table slat (K) so that it overextends 1 inch to match the overhang on the front and sides.
11. Replace the short table slat (K), and attach it to the frame with glue and finishing nails just as you did for the four previous slats.

Adding the Trim

1. The front and sides of the surround are trimmed with 3-12"-wide fluted wood molding (L). Rather than mitering the trim, I angled the corners using small corner tops (M). These are pieces 1 inch wide, 3-1/2" long, and 1/4" thick that I cut from scrap lumber. You can miter your trim or use the stops, whichever you prefer.
2. Measure and cut three pieces of fluted trim: one for the front, and one for each of the sides. The exact length will vary depending upon whether or not you wish to miter your corners.
3. If you want to miter the corners, stand the trim pieces on edge, and miter both ends at a 45-degree angle.
4. Nail and glue the trim pieces to the front and sides of the frame. Use glue and 2-penny finishing nails placed every 6 inches.
5. If you did not miter the trim pieces, cut two corner stops (M) from scrap treated lumber, each measuring 1 inch wide, 3-1/2" long, and 1/4" thick. Use glue and 2-penny finishing nails to attach the pieces to the two front corners. Be sure to drill pilot holes before nailing into the three small pieces.

Finishing

1. Countersink all of the nails, and fill them with wood filler.
2. Thoroughly sand the finished project.
3. Stain or paint the surround the color of your choice. I used a maple-colored exterior stain.

4. Place the surround around your barbecue grill, grab some steaks, and start cooking.

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