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Building an Outdoor Couch

Basic steps for building an outdoor couch.



Enhance your patio and create more seating areas with a beautiful outdoor couch using the AB Courtyard Collection. With this flexible system you can build an outdoor couch in just a weekend. This project demonstrates how to build on a hard, level surface, such as concrete or pavers.

To build on soil, you must create a foundation pad. (Refer to How-to sheet #220 for more information on alternative foundations.)



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Corner Block



AB Dublin Block



AB York Block



Wall Cap

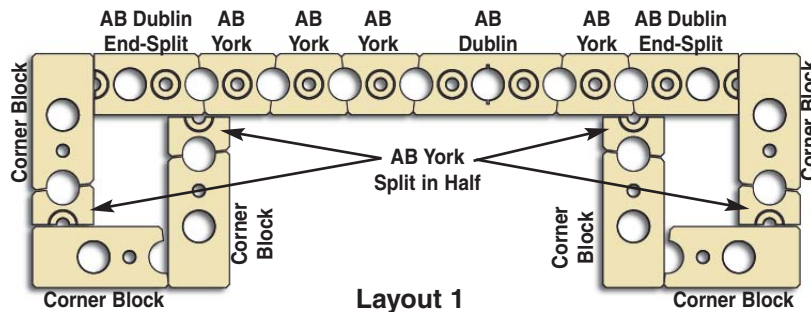
The dimensions of the couch used in this example are approximately: 40 in. H x 27 in. D x 88 in. W (1.01 m H x 0.70 m D x 2.2 m W).

Step 1 Layout

Determine the location of your outdoor couch. Remember to leave enough space around the couch area to accommodate for walking space and any additional furniture or seating. Then draw a guideline using chalk or tape where the back of the couch will be constructed.

Step 2 Layout the First Course

Layout the first course of blocks as shown in Layout 1. Some blocks will need to be either cut or split on each course. Use a square to line up the blocks to ensure your corners are square. Two AB York Blocks and two AB Dublin Blocks will need to be cut or split on this course. Save the second half of these blocks to use on the next course. **For more information on splitting and cutting blocks, see How-to sheet #210.**

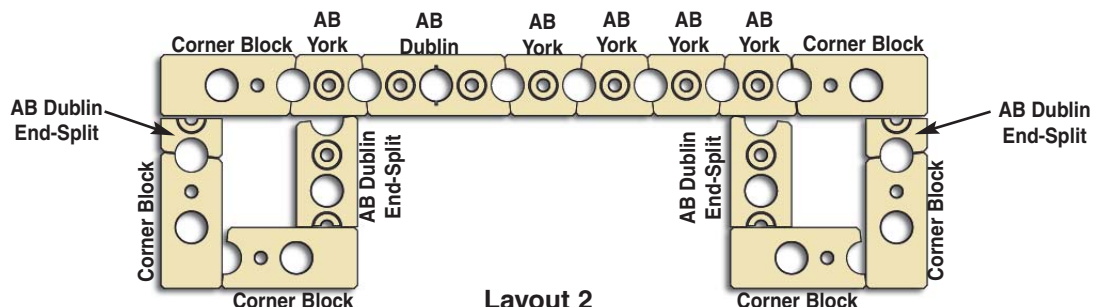


Layout 1

This pattern will be used for courses 1 and 3.

Step 3: Build the Second Course

Begin laying out the second course as seen in Layout 2. Use the remaining AB Dublin End-Split pieces from the first course. You will need to split 2 AB Dublin Block to complete this course. Save the remaining split pieces to use on the next course. The Dublin End-Split pieces will need to be installed upside down or the raised rings will need to be removed to allow placement of the bench.



Layout 2



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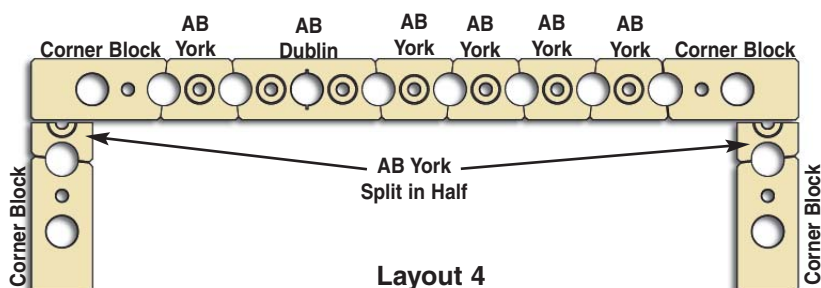
Step 4: Build the Third Course

Continue building by stacking up the third course by repeating the layout from the first course (Layout 1). Use the remaining end-splits from the second course to complete the third course.



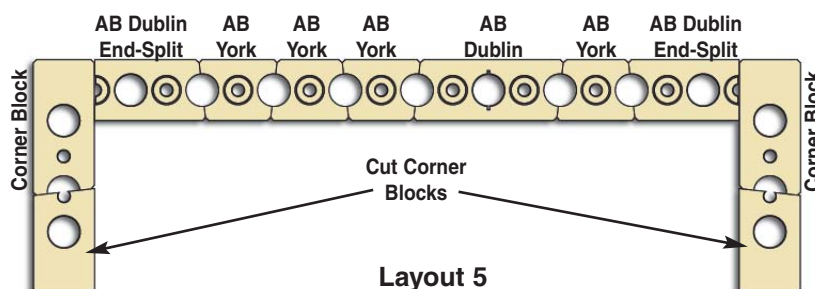
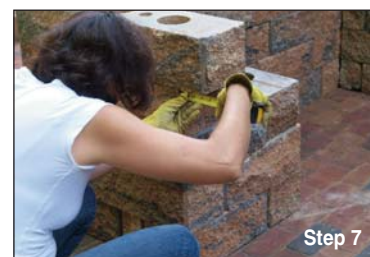
Step 5: Building the Arms and Back Rest

Once you have completed building up to the third course it is time to begin the arms and back rest of the couch. Following Layout 4, stack the fourth course of blocks. You will need to secure these blocks to the course below using a bead of masonry adhesive on each side of the raised rings.



Step 6: Continue the Arms and Back Rest

Continue building the back rest by installing the fifth course (Layout 5). On this course the corner blocks on the ends will need to be cut to complete the arm rests. **For more information on splitting and cutting blocks, see How-to sheet #210.**



Step 7: Cutting Corner Blocks

To cut the corner blocks for the arm rests, begin by placing the corner block in place. With a measuring tape, measure the distance from the end of the corner block to the end of the course below. Mark this measurement on the back of the corner block from the tapered end on each side. Strike a line between the marks and use as a guide line for cutting. Use a circular saw with a masonry blade to cut the corner blocks. Once the piece is cut to the desired length, secure it in place with masonry adhesive.

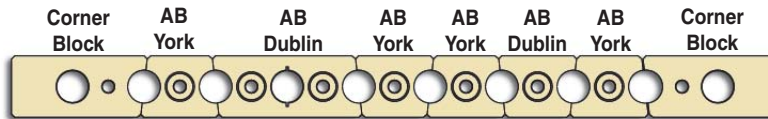


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Step 8: Continue Building the Back Rest

Install the final course of blocks for the back rest using the layout in Layout 6. Adjust the blocks as necessary to ensure a straight back to your couch. Secure this final course to the blocks below using a bead of masonry adhesive on each side of the raised rings.



Layout 6



Step 8

Step 9: Capping the Back Rest

Once you have reached the desired height, it is time to finish the back rest with Wall Caps. Place each Wall Cap, alternating each one as you move down the back rest. Make adjustments as necessary to ensure the Wall caps are straight. Then secure each wall cap in place with a bead of masonry adhesive on each side of the raised rings and along the side of each Wall Cap (optional).



Step 9



Wall Cap Layout

Step 10: Finishing

Now that the construction of the couch foundation is complete, it is time to finish the arm rests and seating area. Choose a material that fits your design. In this example we used wooden planks of cedar to create both the arm rest covers and the seating area.



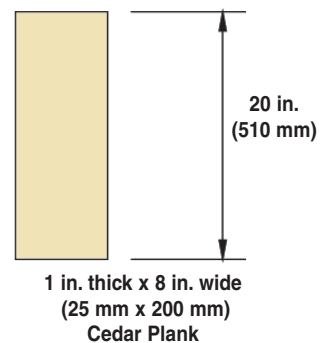
Step 9

Step 11: Constructing the Arm Rest Covers

To construct the arm rests you will need 2 pieces of cedar cut to the dimensions shown in Figure 1. Seal the wood with a sealant designed for the outdoors to protect the wood from the elements. Allow this to dry thoroughly before installing the arm rests.

Place the arm rest covers onto the arm rests. You can secure these in place with a bead of masonry adhesive (optional).

Figure 1: Arm Rest

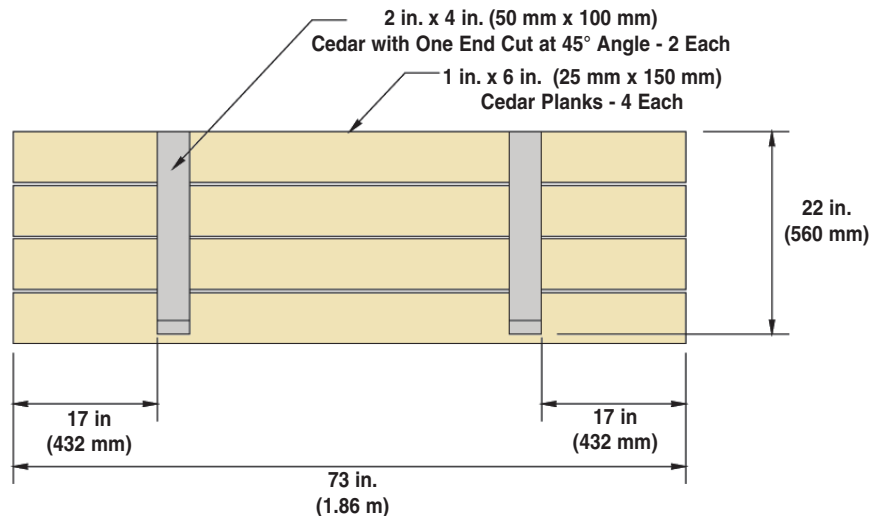


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Step 12: Constructing the Seating Bench

To construct the seating bench you will need 4 pieces of cedar planks and 2 pieces of cedar studs cut to the dimensions shown in Figure 2. You will want to double check the dimensions of your bench by measuring the distance between the arm rests of the couch frame. Like the arm rests you will want to seal each piece of wood with an outdoor sealant designed for wood (prior to construction is recommended).

Figure 2: Seating Bench



Assemble the seating bench as shown in Figure 2 and seal each piece with a outdoor sealant. Then set in place on top of the couch. You can finish your couch off with decorative pillows or cushions to fit your style (optional). Now you are ready to sit back and relax on your new outdoor couch.

Tools Needed:

Tape Measure
Masking Tape
Chalk Line
Hammer & Chisel
Masonry Saw
Safety Glasses
Dust Mask & Work Gloves

Materials Needed: Couch Frame

30 AB York Blocks
14 AB Dublin Blocks
28 Corner Blocks
11 Wall Caps
3 Tubes of Masonry Adhesive



Materials Needed: Arm Rest Covers and Seat

2 Cedar Studs - 2 in. x 4 in. x 22 in.
(50 mm x 100 mm x 560 mm)
4 Cedar Planks - 1 in. x 6 in. x 73 in.
(25 mm x 150 mm x 1.86 m)
2 Cedar Planks - 1 in. x 8 in. x 20 in.
(25 mm x 200 mm x 510 mm)

Outdoor Sealant For Wood

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Additional Layouts TBD

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