

BASIC BUILD STEPS

1. Make the plywood cuts.

- See the Cut Diagrams below for dimensions.
- The plywood cuts are crucial for getting everything to line up right later on, so try to be exact. For a circular power saw, there's the old trick of making a "fence" for the saw: After you've marked the line you want to cut, clamp or screw a long straight piece of wood as a fence, i.e., a guide that will keep your saw straight and true to the line as you push the saw.
- To save time, you can ask the hardware store (Lowes or Home Depot, for example) to cut your plywood. They may do it free or may charge you a little for each cut. (NOTE: I've had mixed success with this service. Sometimes the sales associates make exact cuts, sometimes they're off -- and you end up taking home mismatched pieces. Perhaps you could tell them ahead of time what you're making. It should get their attention, and win you some precision!)

2. Make the 2"x4" cuts.

- See the Cut Diagrams below for dimensions.
- HINT: When cutting the POSTS, measure and cut the first one, then use this first one to measure the next. Cut that one, then measure the next (again using the first one to measure), and so on.

3. Screw POSTS to SIDES.

- In this step you are attaching the structural POSTS to the upper corners of the SIDES.
- Before you start, note that plywood generally has a nicer, smoother face and also a rougher face that often has printing. Always arrange things so the nicer face ends up as the outside face of the coffin.
- We want the screws to go in from the outside, so lay two POSTS beneath a SIDE and align them flush with both edges of the top corner. Attach each POST with 6 of the 2" screws, as in Fig. 3.
- Repeat for the second SIDE.
- You should now have two SIDES with POSTS attached flush with the upper corners.

