

Building with 5/4” Deck Boards

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The following are suggestions for building with 5/4” Deck Boards.

A. 5/4” Deck Boards

1. Deck boards will be provided in two lengths, 8 ft and 10 ft.
2. Cutting of the deck boards will be at the build sight. There is enough time to cut the deck boards while the tear down and first module are being installed.
3. Since the modules are exactly 4 ft or 5 ft wide, the boards can be cut 47 ¾ “ or 59 ¾ “ respectively, to avoid needing to trim after install. Team Leader preference to cut exactly 48” or 60”.
4. Each deck board should have 6 screws – 2 on each outer edge, 1 on each support.



5. To prevent the boards from cracking, screws should be placed away from edge by about an inch.

B. Modules

1. Modification was made to the structure of the modules to accommodate support at 16” centers. Modules will only accommodate deck boards cut at 4 or 5 foot lengths. If you want to orientate boards the full 8 or 10 foot, you will need to add additional lumber to your trailer and add bracing at 16” centers.
2. It is important to “square up” the module so that the boards line up correctly. To make sure the module is square, use a tape measure from one corner diagonally to the far corner. Check both diagonals - they should be the same length.



3. On a 5x5 module, be aware of the orientation of the 16" supports. This will determine which direction the deck boards will sit.



For a clean straight edge where the deck boards are orientated 90 degrees from each other temporarily tack up a 2x4 along the edge of the module to use as a stop guide to line up the boards.

4. Attach boards tight against each other.

5. At midpoint of the module, check to make sure the boards are running parallel .

For example, mark the halfway point on both sides of the module, then see if the deck board is even with the marks. Minor adjusts on one end, or the other will bring the deck boards back to being parallel.



6. Wait to attach the final deck board on the module connected to the lander. In most cases, the Lander can be slid up to close the gap so you will not need to rip a deck board.

Measure the gap from the edge of the module to the last installed deck board.

This measurement is used to shorten the leg of the double – T.



C. Lander

1. Double T- support – use for the Lander.
 - a. Use 2x4 or 2x6
 - b. One 4ft stick to be used instead of a cleat. Two legs attach to this cleat to form a double “T” shape, spaced 14” apart.
 - c. The legs need to be at least 2” shorter than the length of the module if using a metal transition piece.

Additionally, shorten the legs by the measurement of the gap mentioned above.

If using a deck board that has been tapered (see picture below), then cut at least 11 “ off the legs before attaching to the cleat. This will accommodate the tapered deck boards that sit flush on the ground. Also shorten the legs per above for the gap.



- d. Attach a 14" piece between the legs to keep the legs parallel.
- e. Once the legs are attached to the 4ft stick, set the support on the top edge of the last module as close to the edge as possible and in the same location of where the Lander will sit.



- f. Using a 1 – 2 ft scrap of stick lumber, same dimension as the support pieces (2x4 or 2x6), put it next to each leg starting from the farthest point away from the ramp and trace a line along the leg. Keep the bottom edge on the ground. This will be your cut line so that it lays flat on the surface. Trace up the leg until the scrap no longer touches the leg.



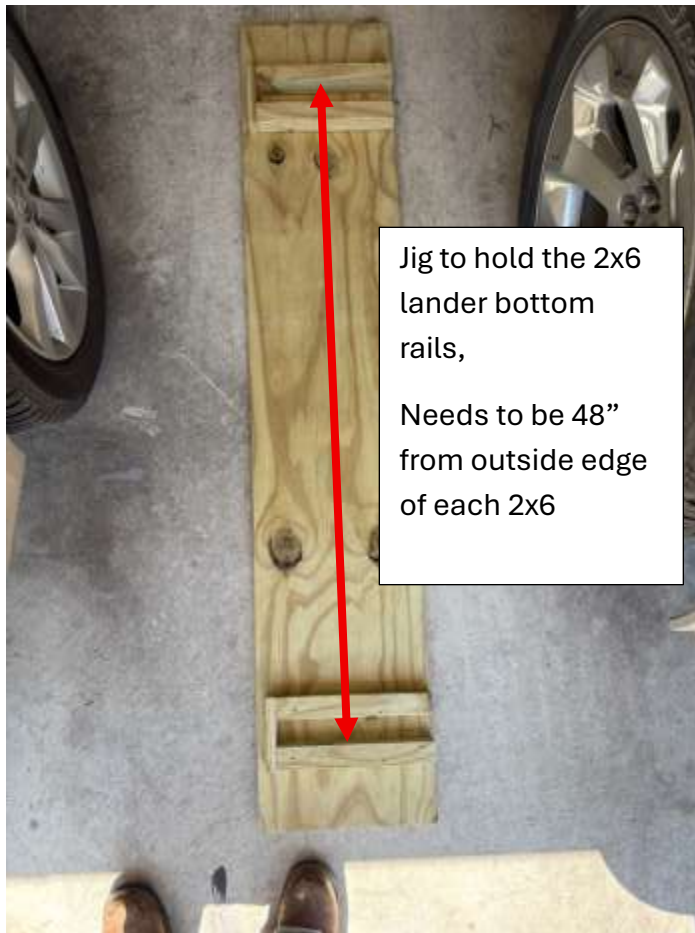
- g. Cut along the line.
h. Attach the double T support to the last module.



i. Now it is ready for the Lander.



2. We built a jig to hold the 2x6 on end. One jig at the tip and a similar one at the end. This also helped with squaring up the lander. Make sure to space the jig pieces so the 2x6 is exactly 48" outside edge to outside edge.



3. Using a set of sawhorses with a 4x8 sheet of plywood as a table works well.
4. Square up the 2x6 Lander bottom boards, then temporarily attach a deck board to hold the square in place. ****Note – Make sure the temp board spaces the 2x6 boards so that they are exactly 48" apart.**
5. Start attaching the deck boards from the beginning of Lander working your way toward where it will attach to the ramp.
6. Like the module, check to see if the deck boards are parallel.
7. When you have installed 3 deck boards 4 ft long, the 4th deck board should be 5 ft long, extending past the edges of the sides. This will be where the upright supports will be attached. **The 5 ft long deck board can be placed at a different location as desired by team leader.**
8. The baluster will be placed flush with the back edge of the 5 ft long deck board. The 2x6 uprights will then tie it together.



9. Team leader choice to install a second set of supports using another 5 ft board 32" from the other end of the Lander (for longer Landers). Complete the remaining Lander with 4 ft boards.
10. Leave the final board full size to extend past the end of the lander (don't rip down to fit).
11. Flip over and place on Double -T support, pushing it up to cover gap, if any, on the previous module.



12. Snap chalk line along the support legs for screw placement.

D. Railing

1. Top and bottom rails are attached per general guidance
2. If the deck boards are cut at 4 ft, there could be deck boards that will need to be trimmed in order to attach the balusters flush with the module.