

Tree Guard Tutorial



Materials List:

Top Rail.

Pressure-Treated 2 in. x 3 in. x 6 ft. Pine Molded Rail Insert Lumber

Pickets.

2 in. x 2 in. x 36 in. SE #1 Syp Treated

Back support.

2 x 2 x 8 #1 Pressure-Treated Lumber

Capping for top rail.

1 x 2 x 8 Pressure-Treated Pine Strips

Screws for top rail corners.

2-1/4 in. x 7 1 lb. Stainless Steel Trim Head Screw

Screws for picket to top rail and back support rail.

Deck Mate #8 x 2 in. Polymer-Plated Steel Flat-Head Star Wood Screws

Nails for top rail cap.

Maze #13 x 2-1/2 in. 8D Splitless Wood Siding Nails
(or use galvanized finish nails)

Corner posts.

Veranda ArmorGuard 2 in. x 2 in. x 36 in. Composite Capped
Brazilian
Walnut Baluster

Steel Rings.

3-1/2" STEEL TUBING CIRCLE
1" x #4 brass _at head screws

Exterior Grade Gloss Spar Varnish

Ebony Stain

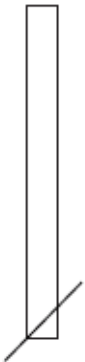
Gloss Black Rustoleum

Dep Strong Stick Construction Adhesive

Post setting cement, stones, brick pieces or gravel

Post should be set 1/3 of the overall length in the ground, put a couple of screws in the lower end to help hold to the cement. The cement should be installed in a mushroom shape around the post.

Questions, Email Tom Mazzone. (tmazzone@gmail.com)
Or call tom at 347 276 3872



Cut one end of pickets on a 45 degree angle.
Make each one 12" finished length.
Split Pressure treated 2 x 2 x 8's in half for bottom back support rail.

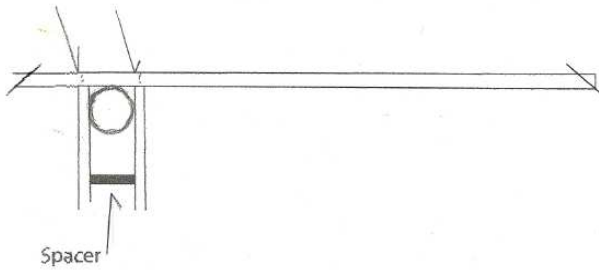
Be sure to pre- drill all boards before assembling to avoid splitting.

(I've also used Gorilla Glue to help stiffen up the joints.)

Carefully measure the placement of the pickets being sure they are spaced to accommodate rings using spacer block.

Measure from the center of the rail out, leaving any space where a ring won't fit on the ends.

Pre-drill top rail. Small bit through the rail, larger bit as a countersink.



Cut the top front rail to size with a 45-degree angle cut on each end.

Attach the pickets to the top rail by driving screws through the pre-drilled holes in the top rail into the pickets. I

used 2" coated desk screws.

Use a spacer cut to the exact width of the ring to preset spacing of the pickets.

Now that the pickets are attached to the top rail you are going to attach the 2 x 2 corner posts by top screwing through the top rail.

Next step is screwing together the top rails using 2 1/4" stainless steel trim screws, no pre drilling necessary, glue would be desirable.



The Pressure treated 2x2 x 8 you split 9 (or had split for you) can now be attached to the pickets for further support.

Pre-drilling the back support will prevent splitting. Carefully mitre your corners for a tight fit. The end facing the street side can be cut with a 25 degree fade.

Almost done.

Drill the rings, three holes, they don't have to be perfectly aligned, but it is easier for you if they're drilled straight.

Pre painting them is helpful. Attach the rings using brass #4 x 1" fat head screws. Sand anything that needs it, fill and gaps with the Dep Adhesive.

The capping for the top rail is a 1 3/8 x 1/2 x 8' pressure treated trim board, split to 1/4" attached with maze ringed, galvanized shingle nails, cut to 3/4" or so. A bit of gorilla glue helps as this is the most vulnerable part of the guard.

Also advised is to use a dab of DEP strong stik exterior grade construction adhesive on top of the nails to give them a good seal before staining.

Ebony stain mixed with some black rustoleum to strengthen the pigment is applied liberally to the entire guard, let it set overnight then finish with spar, exterior gloss urethane.

When installing the guards mix some post setting cement and have some small stones or broken brick pieces to use, put the cement in the hole using a mushroom shape.

8" is the minimum to have in the ground and is typical. Putting some screws in the bottom of the posts helps secure them to the cement.