

# Simple Modern Huppah Plans

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Here's a simple huppah that you can build and assemble in a day or two. All materials, except for the fabric, can be found at your local home improvement store. You'll probably have to visit a craft store or an online vendor for the fabric.



## Materials:

10 8 ft. 2in x 2in lumber  
8 1/4" x 3.5" inch bolts  
8 1/4" Nuts  
16 1/4" Washers

16 2 1/2" Wood Screws  
1 Can of Stain (or paint)  
17 Yards of Chiffon Fabric, 60" Wide

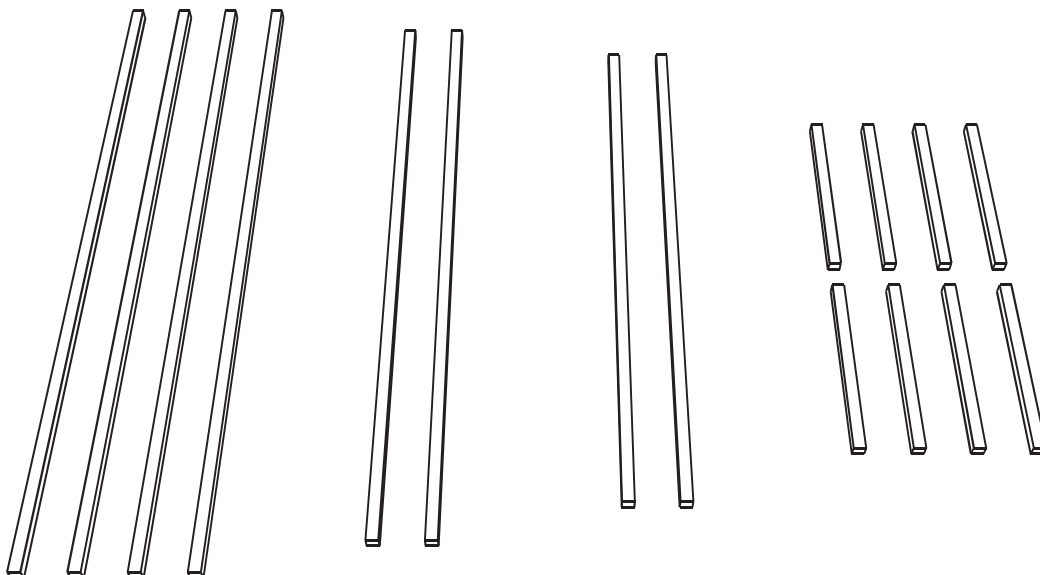
### Optional:

8.5 Additional yards of Chiffon Fabric for Top, 60" Wide

## Step 1: Cut The Lumber To Size

The first thing you need to do is cut the lumber to size. I used a circular saw to cut my pieces as follows:

4 pieces 7'6" in length for the legs  
2 pieces 6'10" in length for the front and back horizontal bars  
2 pieces 6' in length for the side horizontal bars  
8 pieces 2' in length for the lateral supports



## Step 2: Lateral Supports

The short pieces are for lateral supports. Without them, the whole structure is extremely wobbly. The ends of the lateral supports need to have a 45 degree angle cut on the ends. I used my circular saw to cut the angle.

This is what your lateral support pieces should look like. Note the orientation of the cuts. Make sure you don't accidentally flip the angle on one of the ends. It's easy to do.

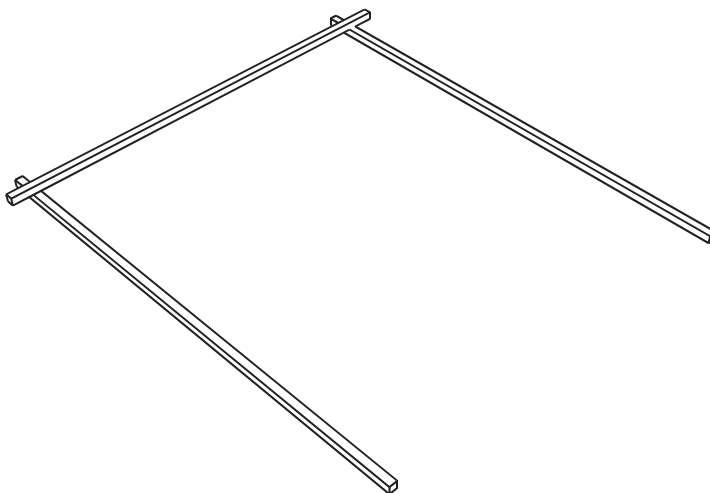


## Step 3: Sand

SAND! Most lumber you get from places like Home Depot and Lowe's is pretty rough to the touch. Also, I didn't particularly like the hard edges. So using a handheld electric sander, I smoothed out all surfaces and edges. I even put a little chamfer on the ends just for extra polish.

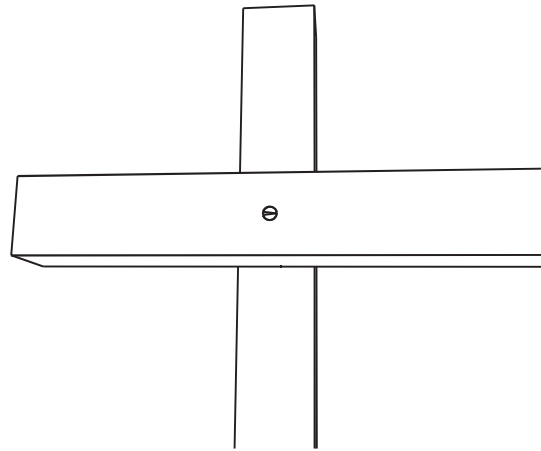
## Step 4: Drilling Bolt Holes (Front and Back Assemblies)

It's time to drill holes for the bolts. I started with the front. The first thing I did was lay out the front legs on the ground and position the topmost bar where it needed to be.



I wanted a 4" overhang on both sides as well as 4" extension of the legs above the top bar.

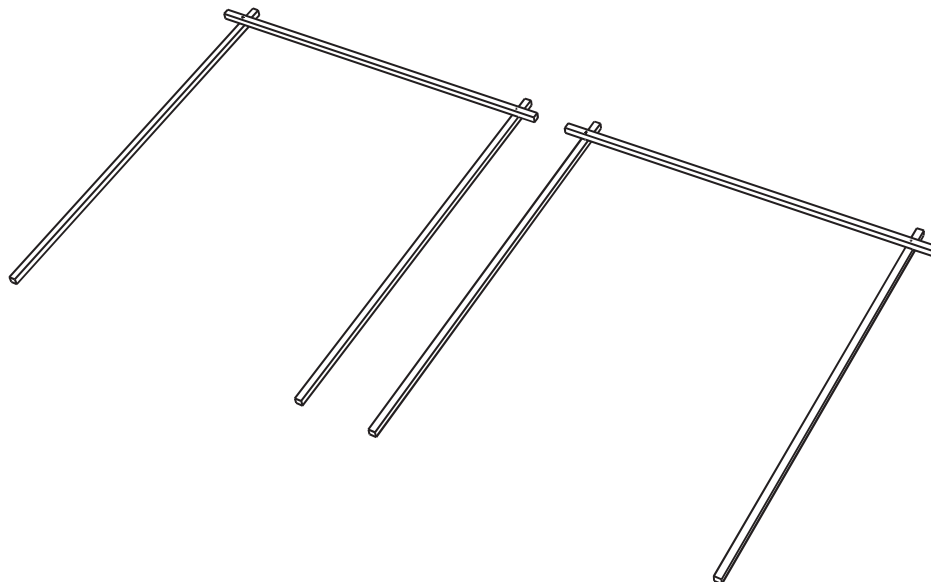
The bolts I used were 1/4". So that's the size of the holes I drilled.



Drill the holes straight through on both left and right sides. Then slide your bolts in to test the fit. It'll probably feel bit a little snug. You might even need to tap the bolts in with a hammer.

Leave the bolts in temporarily, but label the pieces and connections using masking tape and a Sharpie so you know what went where. Lumber has a tendency to warp a little. Just because you measure two pieces exactly the same way doesn't mean they'll be interchangeable. For instance, the top bar used in the front might not fit that well as the top bar on the back.

Once you've done the front, follow the above exact same steps for the back of the huppah.

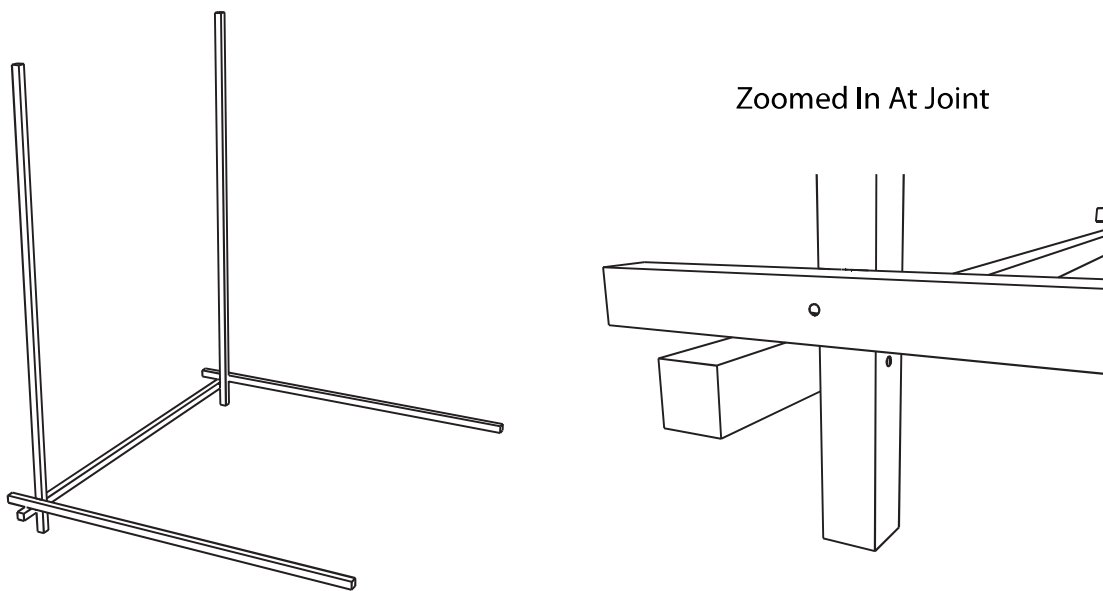


## Step 5: Drilling Bolt Holes (Side Assemblies)

Now it's time to layout and drill the side bars. This is where having someone else to help out is handy. Essentially, what you want to do is flip the front up so it's standing upside down. And then position the side bar for drilling.

When the huppah is oriented right side up, the side bars are meant to go beneath the top bars. So in this orientation they'll be on top. And the top bar is on the OUTSIDE. Again, I wanted a 4" overhang. See the drawing below

It's important to actually position the bar for drilling instead of merely measuring and drilling. As I said before, lumber warps. And even the best measurements can be off by enough to cause you enormous amounts of frustration.



Drill both sides. And then label everything. Then remove all of the bolts and do the same thing to the other ends.

## Step 6: Stain (or Paint)

Now it's time to stain (or paint if you choose). Make sure you've removed all of the bolts and that you know which pieces go where. Stain everything, including the lateral supports which we've not used yet.

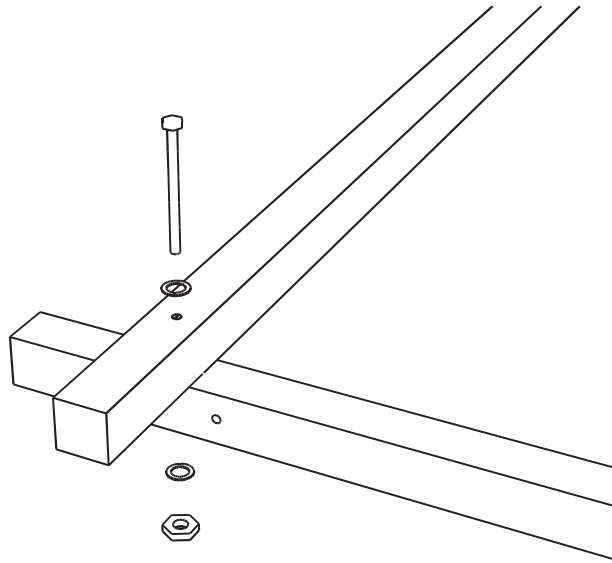
Follow the directions for whatever stain or paint you choose to use. And when you're satisfied with the way everything looks, label all of your pieces again. It's important to not get the pieces mixed up.

For our huppah, we used Minwax Wood Finish - Ebony 2718.

## Step 7: Attaching the Lateral Supports (Front and Back Assemblies)

With the stain dry, it's time to start assembling things again. This time we'll be adding our lateral supports.

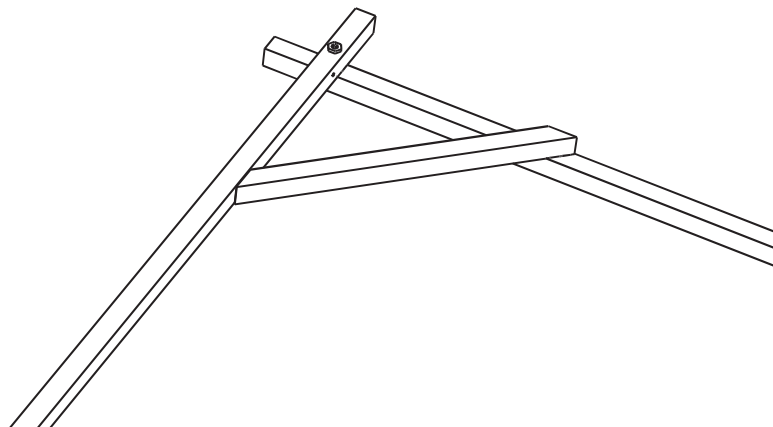
Let's start with the front. Reassemble the front legs and the top bar. Run the bolts through the front, using washers on both the front and the back of the joint.



Once the legs are attached, flip the whole thing so that the horizontal bar is on the ground. You should be facing the backside of it.

Now we're going to attach a lateral support. Pick a leg to start with and, using a square, make sure the leg and horizontal bar are as perfectly perpendicular as they can be. Because we used a single bolt, you should be able to adjust the leg a bit if needed.

Now position the lateral support on the frame such that the top and bottom of the support are resting flush against adjacent pieces.



Drill pilot holes that are slightly smaller than the wood screws you intend to use. The pilot holes prevent the wood from splitting when you drill the screws. Double-check and triple check your work to make sure the horizontal bar and the leg stay perpendicular to one another. Now using wood screws, attach the lateral support.

Do the same thing on the other side.

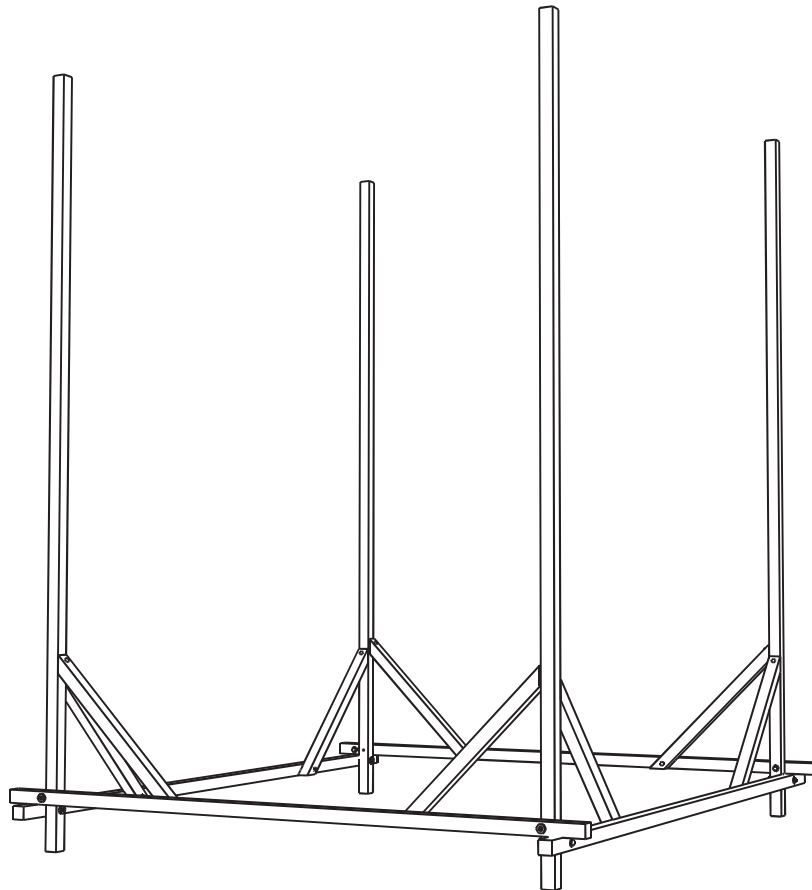
Using the same process, do the same thing to the back assembly.

## Step 8: Attaching the Lateral Supports (Side Assemblies)

Now let's attach our remaining, side lateral supports.

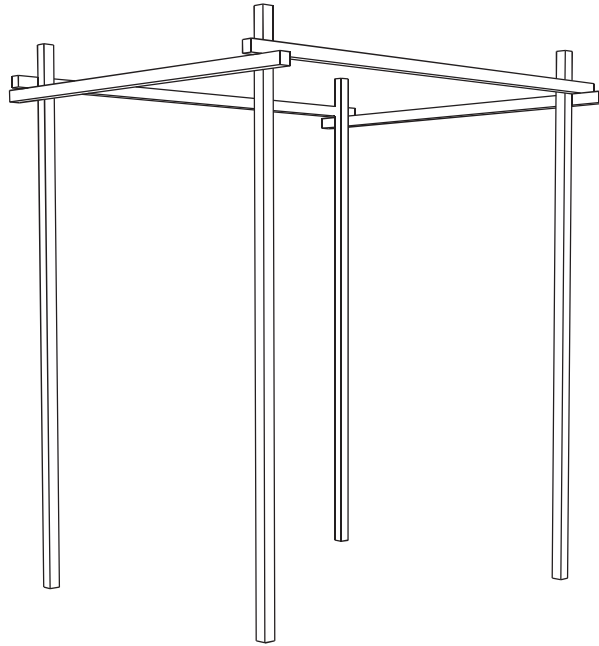
*Note: If you need to transport this thing, I'd advise holding off on this step until it reaches its final destination. The frame will be a little wobbly, but it'll make disassembly and reassembly much easier when it comes time to move the thing.*

Attach the lateral supports as you did the others. You'll notice that because these supports attach to the side bars, they'll sit a little lower on the frame.



## Step 9: Flip It Right Side Up

At this point, the frame is complete. All that's left is to flip it over. Remember, the wider sides are the front and back. They also have the topmost bar.



## Step 10: Drape the Fabric

For the fabric, we used 17 yards of chiffon that we bought online. The nice thing about chiffon is that it's not a stiff fabric. It drapes really, really well. And it also has a nice translucent quality that I really wanted for this project.

Cut the fabric into two equal pieces of 8.5 yards. One will be for the front and one will be for the back.

As for draping and wrapping technique, there's not really a right way. The following photos show what we tried.

Version 1 is what how I thought we'd do it. Version 2 is how it ended up on our wedding day.

Version 1



Version 2





Try a number of different approaches to see what looks best to you.

A note about fabric lengths. I wanted the fabric to “pool” at the bottom of the huppah. So if you’re scratching your head as to why I used 8.5 yards, that’s why

## **Step 11 (Optional): Drap the Top Fabric**

In the materials list, I mention an extra 8.5 yards of fabric for the top. More traditional huppahs have a layer of fabric that drapes over the top and creates a sort of ceiling and walls. I didn’t do that with ours. And because of that, some might even question whether or not our huppah is a real huppah.

If you want to go the more traditional route, or you just like that particular look, go the extra step and drape the extra fabric over the top. 8.5 yards, 60” wide of chiffon should almost be a perfect fit.

***And You’re Done!***

