How to Build Your Own Tiki Bar

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How To Build A Tiki Bar
First Edition – February 2006 (original)
By Kevin C. Dunn
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INTRODUCTION

I have found many people (such as myself) desire to have a tropical, relaxing atmosphere right in their own backyards. You can create this atmosphere yourself with this do-it-yourself guide for building your own tiki bar!

This do-it-yourself tiki bar building guide will give you all the detailed information you need to build a 8 ft. by 4 ft. tiki bar shown in the picture on the front cover. This bar includes 2 sets of cabinets, outlets, roof and upper and lower bar tops. This bar sells at retail for well over $5,000 but you can build your own for under $700, if you live in an area where palm leaves are readily available. The total material cost for your tiki bar is dependent upon the availability of materials in your area. This is NOT a cheap slap-together do-it-yourself bar that will blow over when you sneeze. You will get many years of use out of this bar if you follow the directions and recommendations carefully.

I highly suggest you read through all of the directions first before attempting to build your bar to give yourself a better understanding of the process and the materials.

All poles used should be either red or white cedar or cypress wood. I do not recommend pressure treated poles due to the chemicals in the wood. The bottom plate of the frame should always be pressure treated due to ground contact. The cedar lumber that will be used to wrap the frame of the bar can also be substituted. You can use pine, bamboo reed (plywood backing is needed), bamboo plywood, T-111, or any other material you feel will enhance the look of your bar. Just remember, it will need to be sealed for outdoor use. The dimensions I talk about in this book for the bar are 8' x 4'. Some of the pictures used for demonstration may be from other bars or huts I have built.

All materials listed should get you to completion, but that also depends on how many times you may make a mistake or you change the dimensions. You can use this book as a guide and build your bar to any size you want.

Electric is optional for your bar. If you do want electrical outlets installed, I will discuss where to install the electrical boxes but I will not tell you how to wire the switches and outlets due to the fact that I am NOT an electrician. I strongly suggest that if you are choosing to put in electric and you do not know what you are doing, call an electrician to wire your bar as soon as the framing is completed and before you put the cedar around it. If you are installing a ceiling fan in the roof of the bar, you will need to have your electrician run a wire from the switch and up the support post coming out of the bar frame.

FOR QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS:

Email to **tikikev@comcast.net**
OR
Visit **www.tikikev.com** to view pictures of finished bars to get your questions answered that way
OR
Call: **1-800-792-TIKI** (8454) and ask for Tiki Kev

By purchasing this e-book you will receive 10% off any online purchase at www.tikikev.com and you will also receive free of charge any updates to this book or added pictures.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Circular Saw
Miter Saw
Cordless or Corded Drill
Jigsaw
Staple Gun (air, electric or manual)
Nail Gun or Hammer
Tape Measure
Pencil
Speed Square
3⁄4" drill bit
4 1⁄2" hole saw or Jigsaw
Wood Chisel
Table Saw (floor model or portable will work)
Bar clamps or grip clamps
Chain Saw or Reciprocating Saw
Chalkline

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THE BAR

2 – 2x3x8 Pressure Treated lumber (this size may need to be ripped down out of pressure treated 2x4s)
20 – 2x3x8 Spruce lumber
1x6x8 cedar (approx. 20)
1x8x8 cedar (approx. 20)
3 sheets of 4' x 8' x 3/4" marine grade oak plywood (regular oak plywood will also work)
2 – 4" x 6' round cedar poles (red or white)
9 – 6" galvanized “L” brackets
7 – 4" galvanized “L” brackets
2 – 3" galvanized “L” brackets
1 roll of outdoor electrical wire and wire nails (if electric will be installed)
Electrical boxes
Outlets and switch (switch is for ceiling fan – optional)
Liquid nails (approx. 10 tubes)
3⁄4" screws for “L” brackets to attach to bar top
1 1⁄2" screws for “L” brackets to screw into frame
3" deck screws (1 – 5 lb. box)
2" staples or 6-penny nails
1" and 1 3/8" staples
2 – 5 lb. boxes of 10-penny nails
Door Hardware (hinges, knobs, catches)
60' of 3⁄4" manila rope
120' of 1⁄2" manila rope
2 gallons of any marine varnish (I personally recommend Man-O-War made by McClusky)
Paint brushes or sprayer

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THE ROOF

3 – 3 1⁄2" x 9' cedar poles (all cedar can be red or white)
10 – 3 1⁄2" x 8' cedar poles
12 – 1 1⁄2" to 2" x 12" cedar poles
300 to 400 palm leaves – (sable, cabbage or key thatch)
2" galvanized roofing nails or staples (staples used with a staple gun)
6' piece of ice shield or felt paper
36 – 6" timber lock screws
40 – 4" timber lock screws
4 – 8" timber lock screws
Black netting (approx. 150 sq. ft. of 3⁄4" - optional)
4 – 50-penny galvanized spikes and 4 beer bottle caps (if netting is to be installed)
Optional– Fireproofing of the leaves (recommended)

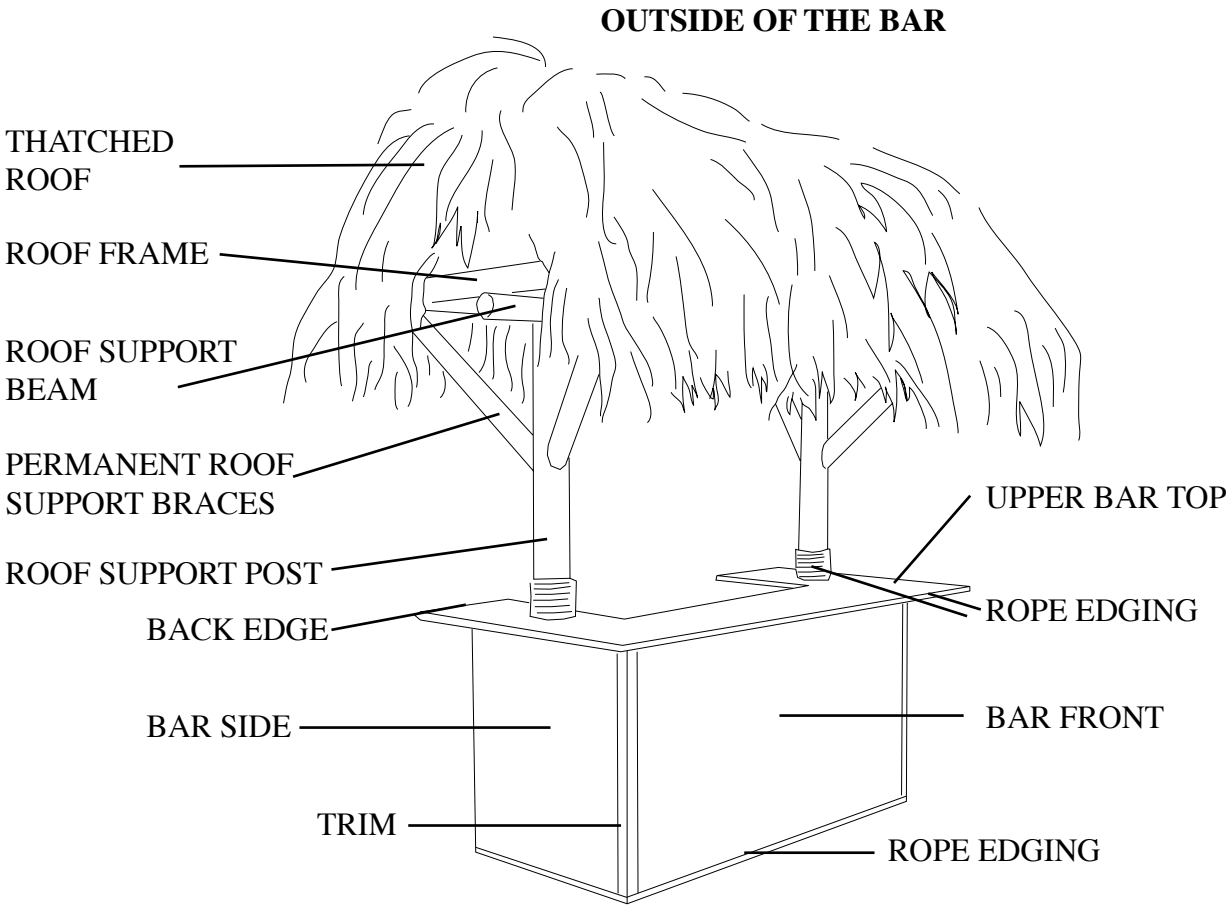
WHERE TO PURCHASE MATERIALS

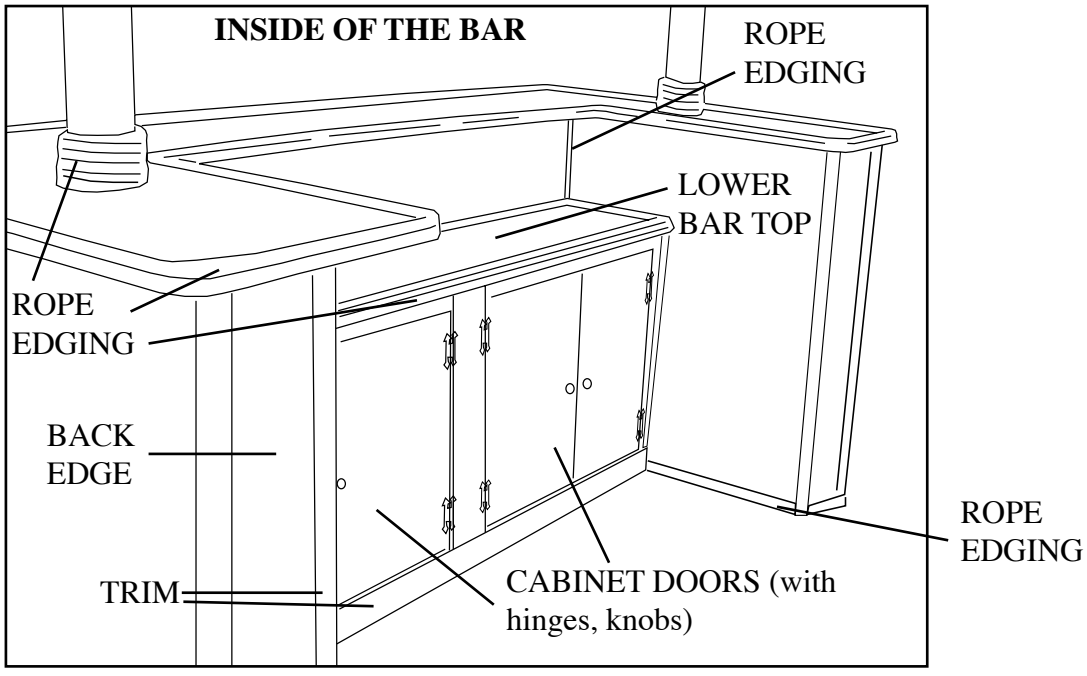
Most of the standard materials that are needed can be purchased from your local hardware store or lumber yard.

The cedar or cypress poles will need to be purchased from your local mill. Some lumber stores may carry the poles – the availability depends on your area.

Palm leaves – if you live in a warm state that has palm trees, contact your local tree arborist for supply. If you live in an area where you do not have access to palm leaves, you will need to find a contact source and have them shipped. Palm leaves are also available for purchase at **www.tikikev.com** for $3.50 each plus shipping. However, leaves are available to buyers of this e-book for only $2.50 each plus shipping. Shipping of the leaves are in large wooden crates made by tikikev.com and usually runs between $150.00 and $350.00 depending on your location and size of order. These are big sable palm leaves, the same leaves used on my own huts and bars that are shown in the pictures and on our site at **www.tikikev.com**.

FREQUENTLY USED TERMS





BUILDING YOUR TIKI BAR

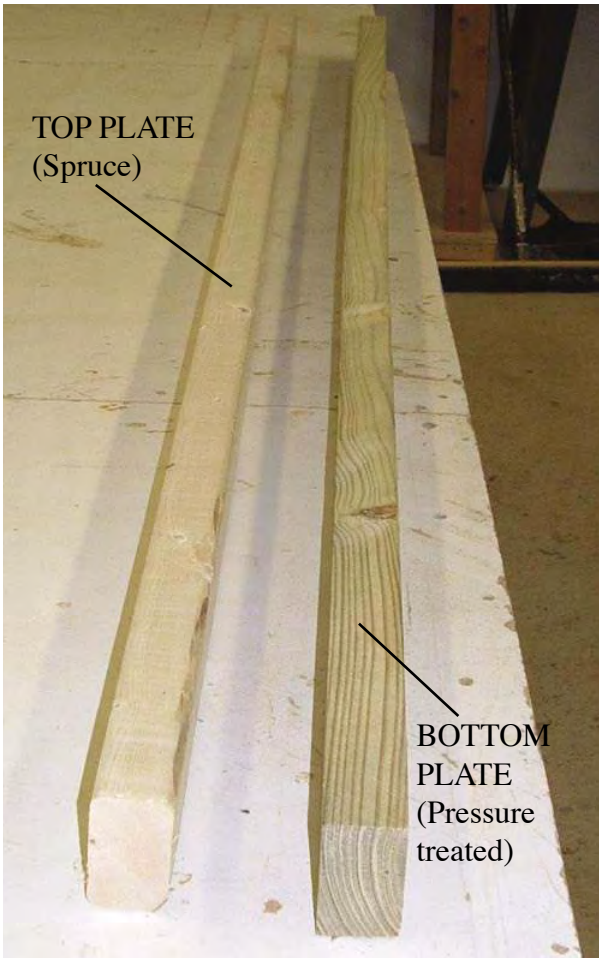
STEP 1. BUILDING THE FRONT BAR FRAME

The bar top dimensions are 8' long by 4' wide. Keep in mind that the bar frame must be smaller than the bar top because you want the bar top to slightly overhang the bar frame. Along the front and sides, the bar top should ideally overhang 6". The bar top back ends should overhang about 4" and the inside will overhang the lower working bar top 5".

In figuring out the front bar frame length dimensions, you must first determine the thickness of the material that you will be using for the outside of the bar to wrap the frame. In this case, you will be using 1" cedar which actually measures 3⁄4".

Use this formula for determining the length of the front bar frame:

Finished bar top length (8 ft.)	96"
Subtract total overhang (6" each side)	- 12"
Front bar frame length	84"
Subtract total material width (3⁄4" each side)	- 1 1⁄2"
Overall front bar frame length to be built	82 1⁄2"



PICTURE 1

You now have your front bar frame length to be built. What you want to do now is cut your top and bottom plates out of the 2x3s at 82 1⁄2". Making sure the bottom plate is pressure treated 2x3 and the top plate is spruce. See **PICTURE 1**.

Next, the height of the front bar frame needs to be determined. Standard total bar height is 42". Determine the thickness of your bar top material. In this case, you will be using 3⁄4" plywood.

Use this formula for determining the height of the front bar frame:

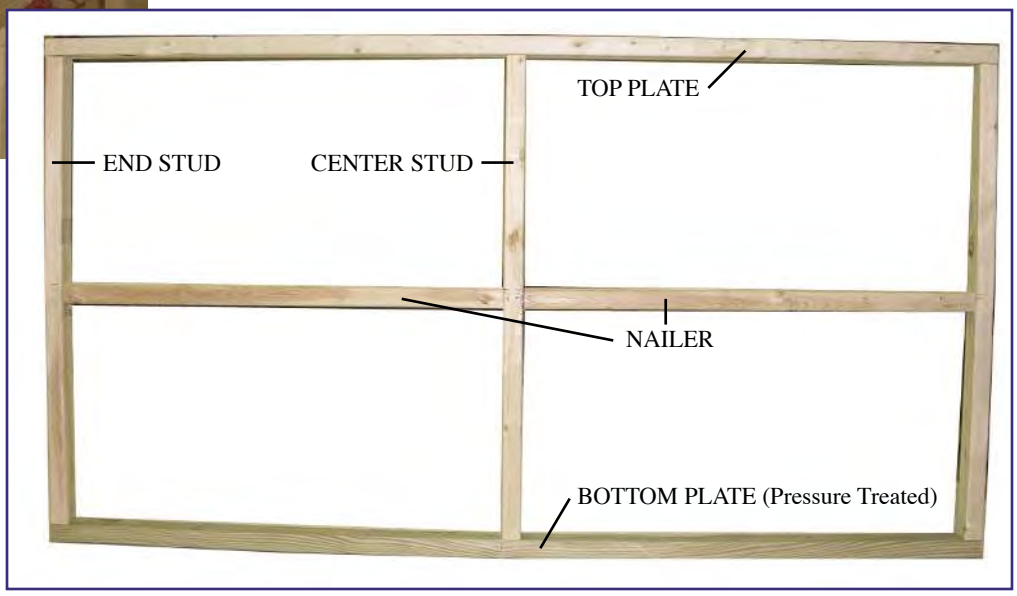
Finished bar top height	42"
Subtract bar top material thickness	- 3⁄4"
Equals overall bar frame height	41 1⁄4"
Subtract top and bottom plates for stud length (1 1⁄2" each)	- 3"
Equals stud length in bar frame height	38 1⁄4"

PICTURE 2

38 1⁄4" is the stud height for the frame. Cut 3 studs at 38 1⁄4" and attach them to the top and bottom plates using 10-penny nails. Studs are to be placed one at each end and one centered in the frame as shown in **PICTURE 2**.

After attaching the studs to the plates, cut the center nailers for the cedar. Measure in between the center stud and the end stud, cut your 2x3 spruce to that size and attach half way up from the bottom. Repeat for both sides of the front frame – measurements should be the same.

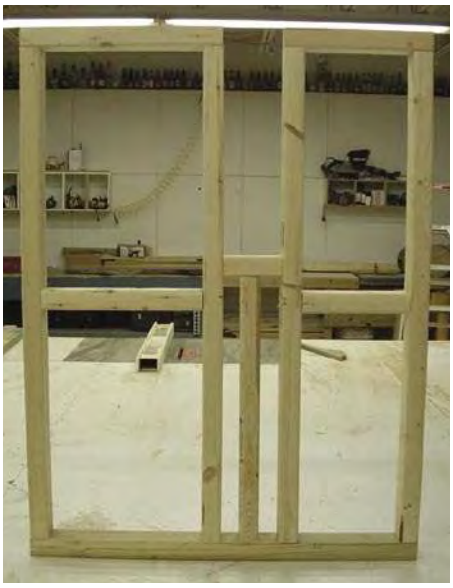
See **PICTURES 2** and **3** for detail.
Measure the finished front bar frame. It should be 41 1⁄4" high and 82 1⁄2" long.



PICTURE 3

STEP 2. BUILDING THE SIDE BAR FRAMES

Constructing the side bar frames are a little trickier because you will need to mount the support posts inside the side bar frames. For the length of the side bar frames you will be using much of the same formula as you did for the bar front frame length.

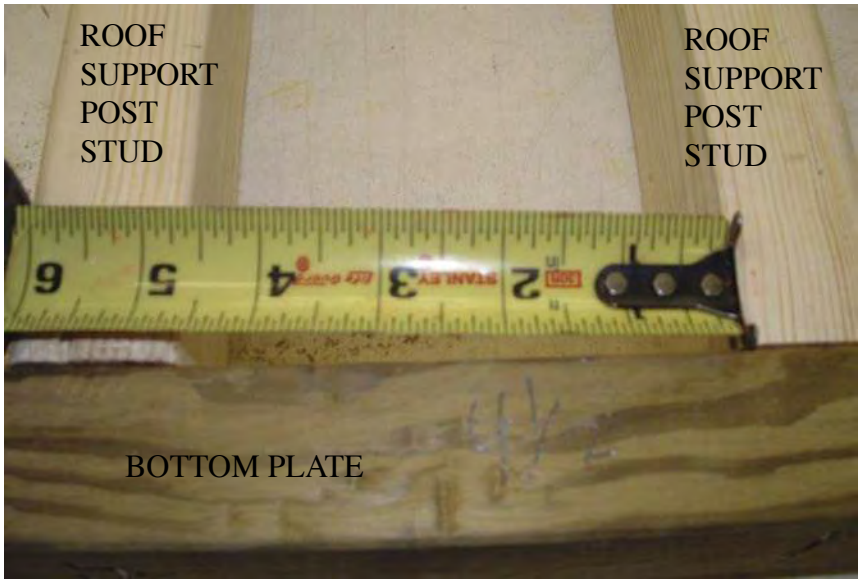


Finished Side Bar Frame

Use this formula for determining the length of the side bar frame:

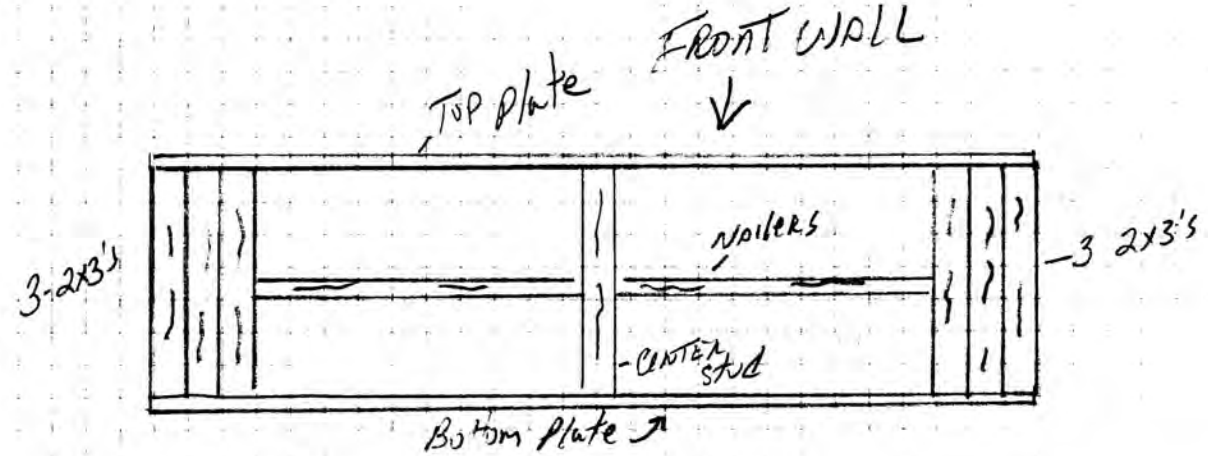
Finished bar top width	48"
Subtract total overhang (6" for front and 4" for back)	- 10"
Equals side bar frame length	38"
Subtract total material width (3⁄4" each side)	- 1 1/2"
Equals overall side bar frame length	36 1⁄2"
Subtract thickness of the front frame	- 2 1⁄2"
Equals side bar frame length to be built	34"

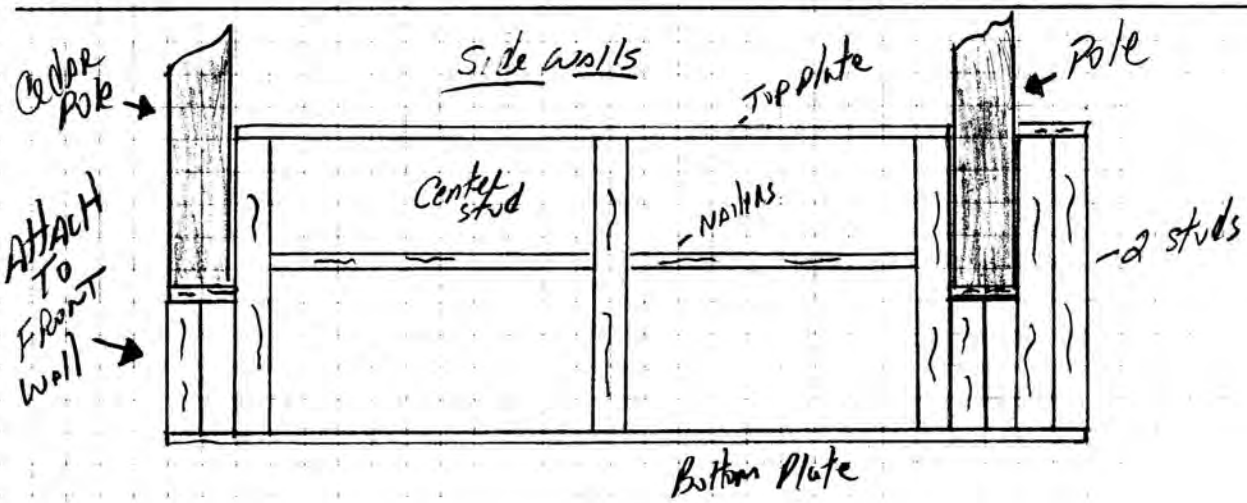
Cut two bottom plates (one for each side) at 34" out of pressure treated lumber. Keeping the front frame upright, take your bottom plate of the side frame and lay it on the table against the front frame making an “L” shape. Your total measurement from front to back should be 36 1⁄2". Repeat for the other side. Your roof support post needs to be in the very middle of the overall side bar frame length (36 1⁄2"). So the post needs to be centered at 18 1⁄4". With the bottom plate of the side bar frame placed against the bottom plate of the front frame, measure 18 1⁄4" from either end and put a mark. The center post used here is the 4" x 6' cedar pole. Measuring the bottom of the pole (make sure you use the fatter end of the pole as the bottom) in the example here is 4 1⁄2" in diameter. On the mark you put on your bottom plate, measure 2 1/4" on each side of the mark and put a line on the board using your speed square. Put an “X” to the outside of each line which will indicate where the studs will go. The result – the measurement in between the 2 studs equals the diameter of the center post. Repeat for the other side – measurements may not be exact depending on diameter of the poles.



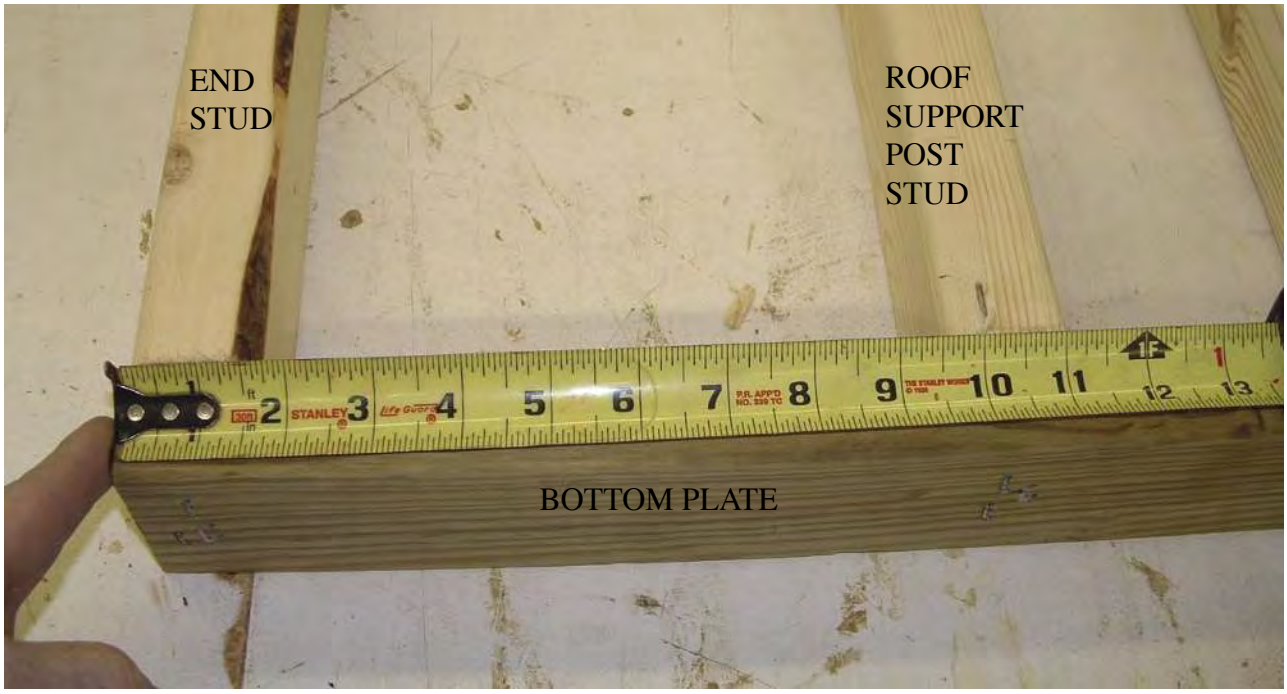
PICTURE 4

The bar shown in **PICTURE 4** has a post that measures 4 1⁄2" in diameter.


FRONT WALL
Top plate
3-2x3's
Nailers
-3 2x3's
-Center stud
Bottom Plate

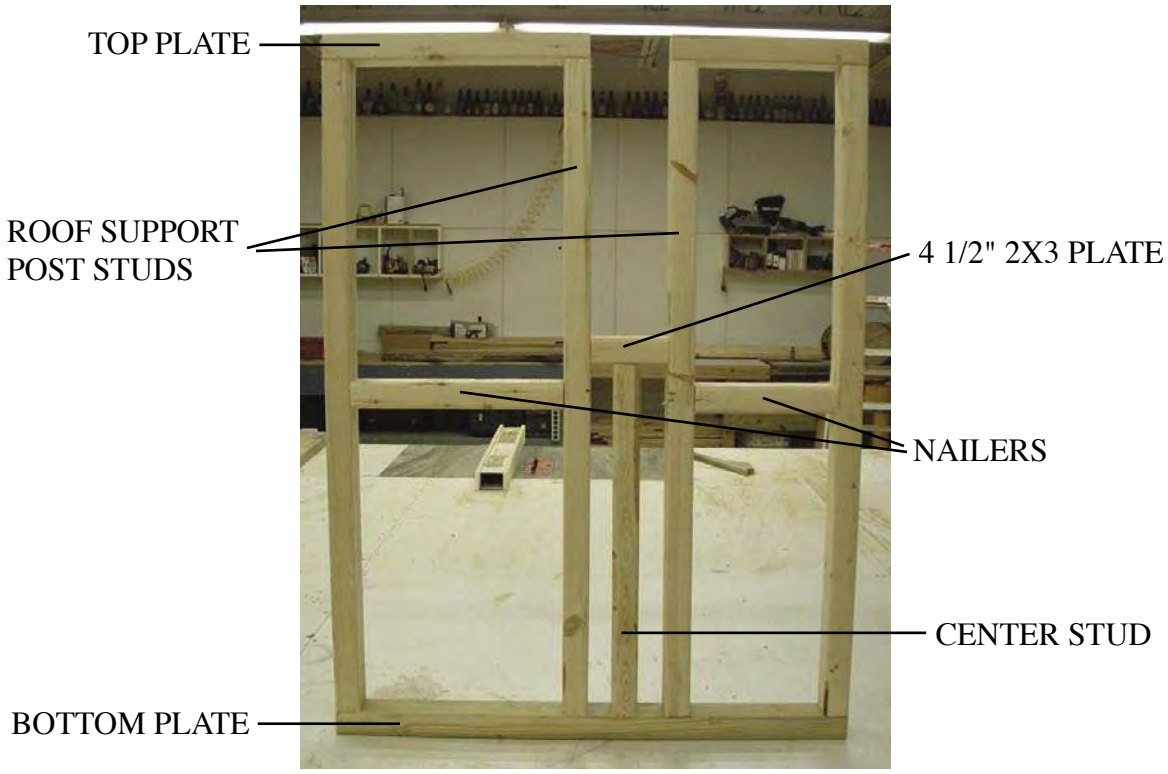

Side walls
Cedar Pole
Top plate
Pole
Center stud
Nailers
-2 studs
ATTACH TO FRONT WALL
Bottom Plate

Cut 4 more studs at 38 1⁄4", put one on each of the “X” marks that you marked on the bottom plate and one on each end of the plates. After you attach the studs, measure from the left edge to the end of the first stud and that will be the measurement of your top plate. See **PICTURE 5**.



PICTURE 5

Attach your top plate. Measure down 16" from your two roof support post studs and put a square mark across the 2x3. Cut a 4 1/2" 2x3 plate and attach this piece between the 2 studs. Measure down from the bottom of the 4 1/2" 2x3 and attach another stud in the center. When you complete that, attach the nailers going across the frame for the cedar. See **PICTURE 6**.



PICTURE 6

Repeat for the other side.
When both side frames are complete, attach the 2 side frames to the front frame with either nails or 3" deck screws. BE SURE YOU PUT THE SIDES ON THE RIGHT WAY. You will notice as you are building the side frames that the post support studs are off center. This is accurate because when they are finally attached to the front frame, the post support studs will be centered within the entire frame. So be careful not to put them on backwards.
You will also want to take some of your 2x3 scrap and attach them to the inside of the end studs of the front frame. This makes the end studs wider for attaching the side frames. I like to use up my scrap this way instead of doubling up on the studs in the beginning. When you are done you should have very little waste.
See **PICTURES 7, 8, 9** and **10** for front and side frame attachment.

PICTURE 7

PICTURE 8

PICTURE 9

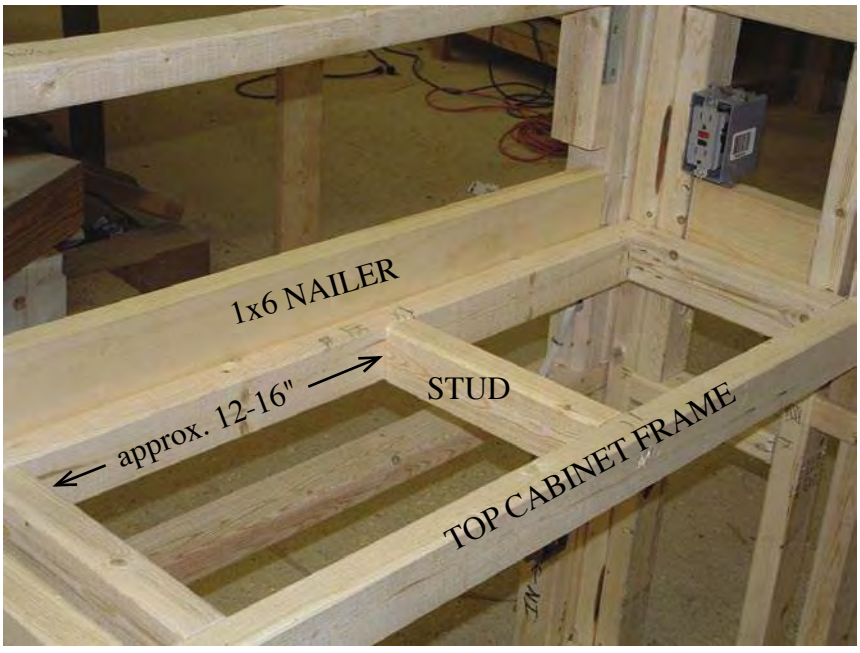
PICTURE 10

STEP 3. BUILDING THE CABINET FRAME

If you don't want to install cabinets you can skip to the next step, installing electric.

PICTURE 11

Standing inside the front frame, measure and mark the inside front frame in both corners at 31" from the floor. These marks will indicate the top of the cabinet frame. Measure from left corner to right corner to calculate the length of the cabinet frame (should be roughly 77 1⁄2"). The depth of the cabinets can be whatever you want but for this particular bar you will be using 14 1⁄4"; the cedar that will go on the outside of the cabinet frame will make it 15" and you need to over hang the lower bar top about an inch or so; that will give you 16" of workable space on the lower bar top.
2 identical cabinet frames need to be made. Construct the 2 frames out of 2x3 spruce at your measured length (roughly 77 1⁄2") by the depth (14 1⁄4"). Spruce joists should be placed about every 12-16" to helps keep the bar top and the floor strong and prevent sagging.
The top frame will lay horizontally at the marks you made at 31", and the bottom frame will lay along the bottom. The bottom of the bottom frame will be even with the top of the bottom plate leaving 1 1⁄2" to the floor. Space is left here so that water does not sit against the frame of the cabinet. See **PICTURE 11**.

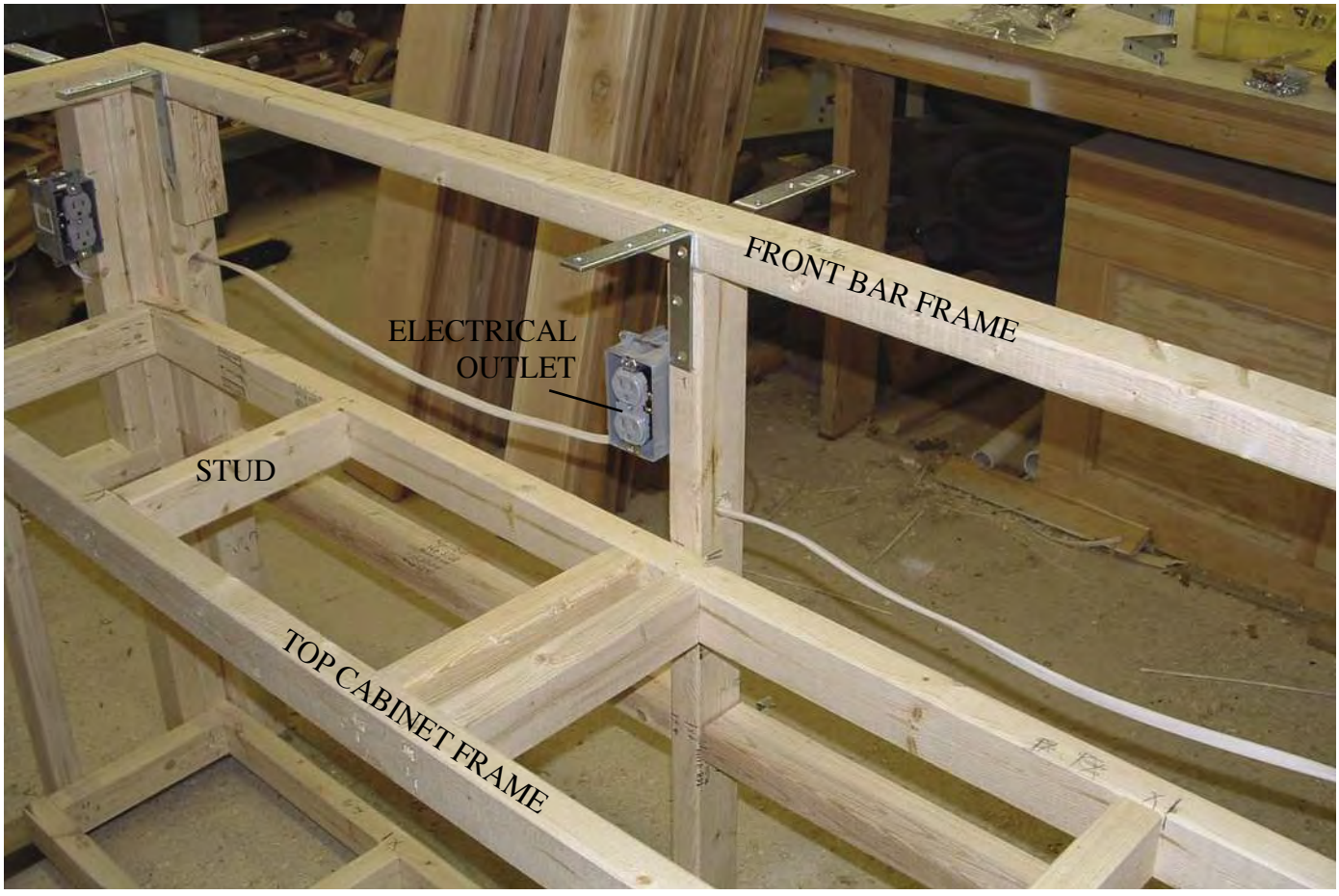


PICTURE 12

With the cabinet frames attached, a nailer needs to be installed along the back and side edges of the top frame. These nailers are needed for being able to attach the cedar to the frames. See **PICTURE 12**.
I used scrap 1x6 that was lying around the shop. As long as the nailer is at least an 1 1⁄2" above the frame and you have enough below the frame to attach it, you can use any kind of wood. Scrap plywood works well too. Use screws, nails or staples to attach the nailers.

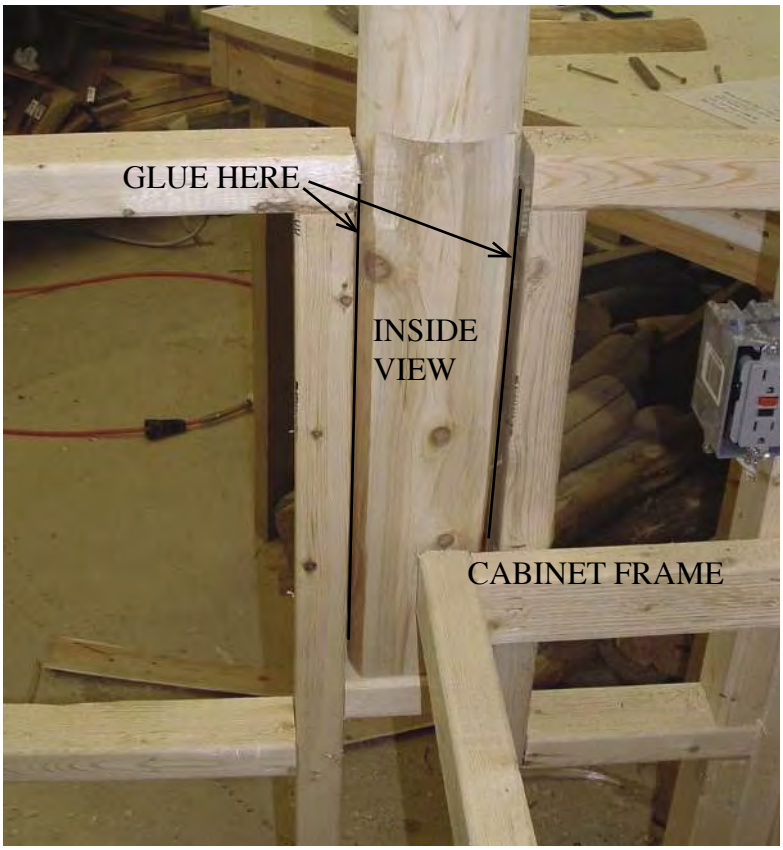
STEP 4. INSTALLING ELECTRICAL BOXES

The bar shown in this example will have 3 outlets installed between the upper and lower bar tops and a junction box installed inside the cabinet. The junction box is where the outlet wires and the electrical wire from your house will connect. A small hole will be drilled on the outside of the finished bar along the bottom into the cabinet area to run your house wire to the junction box.
I strongly suggest having an experienced electrician wire your bar. The placement of your outlets is totally optional.
The bar shown has one outlet installed on each side and one in the middle. Do not put your outlets too close to the corners, you will not be able to get the cover plates on and it will interfere with installing the cedar.
See **PICTURE 13**.



PICTURE 13

PICTURE 14



PICTURE 15

STEP 5. INSTALLING THE ROOF SUPPORT POSTS

The two 4 1⁄2" x 6' cedar poles that you will be using for the roof support each need to be cut to a length of 60".

Make a square cut on the bottom of each and then measure 60" from the bottom to the top. Cut the excess length off of the top of each.

From the bottom of each pole, measure up and mark 16" around the post. Measure the diameter of the bottom of the poles (approx. 4 1⁄2"). To get the support pole to fit within the side bar frame which is 2 1⁄2" wide, you need to cut off about 1" from each side of the post up to the 16" mark. The posts will now be 4 1⁄2" x 2 1⁄2" and flat on 2 sides up to that 16" mark.

Once you make your 1" mark, draw a line up to the 16" mark on both sides of the pole. Take your circular saw and cut up that line to the 16" mark. Using a 7 1⁄4" circular saw, you will have to cut on both sides of the pole to go through the width of the pole.

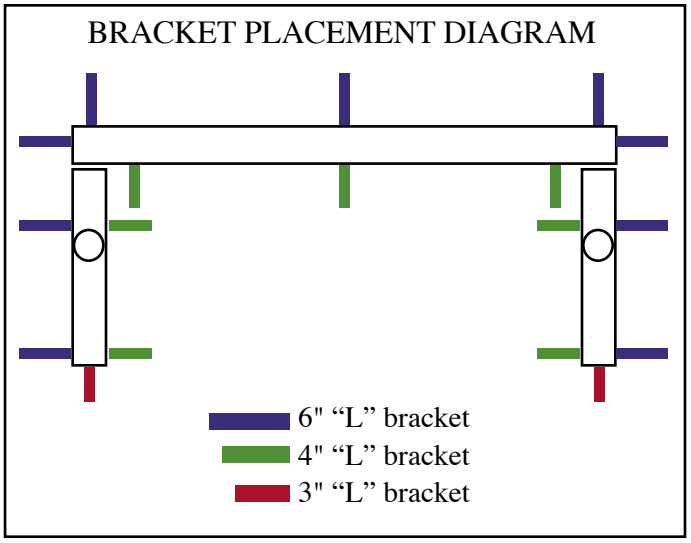
Once you have both poles cut, place them in the frame slots and attach them with your 3" deck screws. 3 screws on each stud will hold the pole nice and tight. Liquid nails needs to be applied all the way up the seam between the pole and the frames to add extra strength and bonding of the pole and frame.

See **PICTURES 14** and **15**.

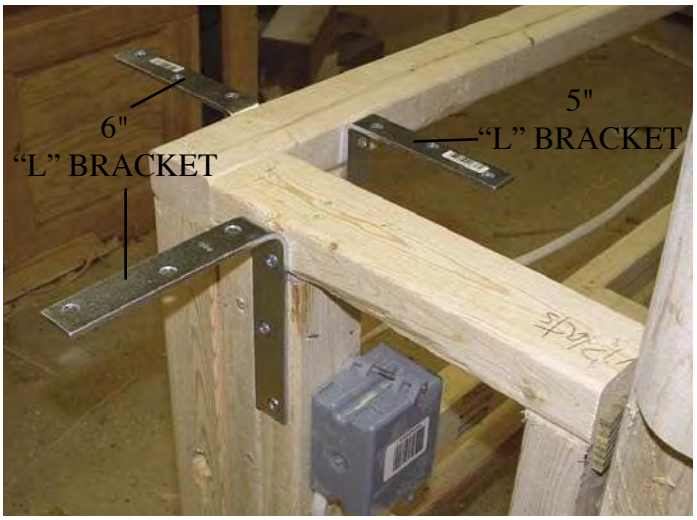
STEP 6. INSTALLING THE BAR TOP BRACKETS

Along the outside of the bar frame, you will be using 9- 6" "L" brackets. Install 3 on each side and 3 along the front. Place the brackets one at each corner and one in the middle.

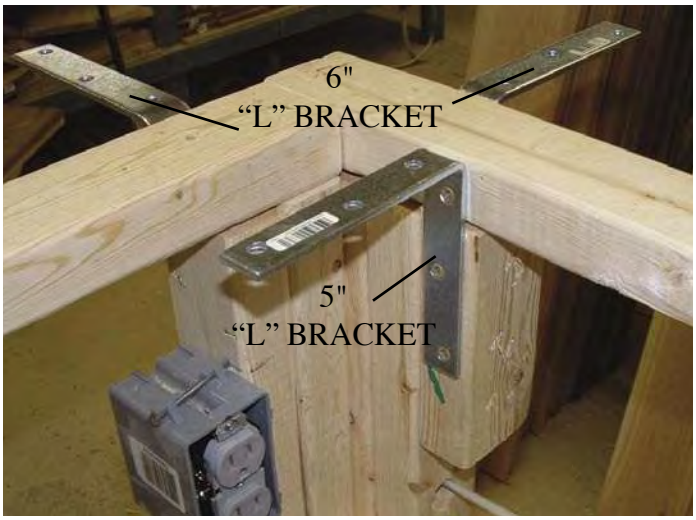
Along the inside of the bar frame, you will be using the 7- 4" "L" brackets. Install 2 on each side and 3 along the front. Place the brackets one at each corner and one in the middle along the front. Place one at the end and one in the middle along the sides. Use 1 1⁄2" screws for attaching the brackets (See Bracket Placement Diagram). Remember to keep the brackets flush with the top of the bar.



See **PICTURES 16**, **17**, **18** and **19**

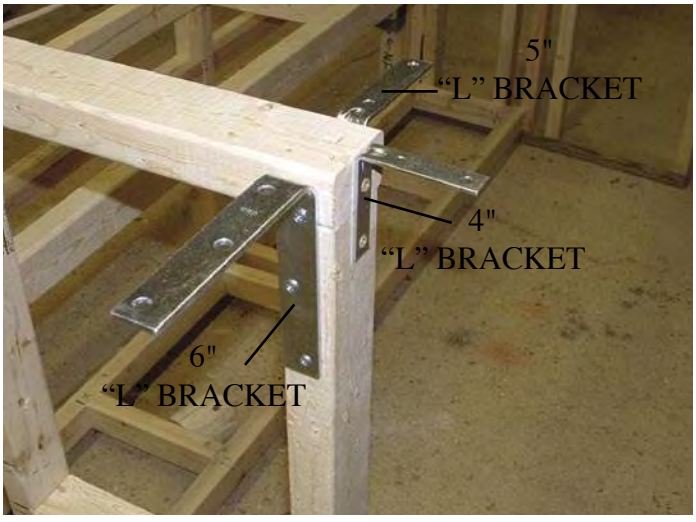


PICTURE 16



PICTURE 17

PICTURE 18



PICTURE 19

STEP 7. INSTALLING THE CEDAR ON OUTSIDE OF THE BAR

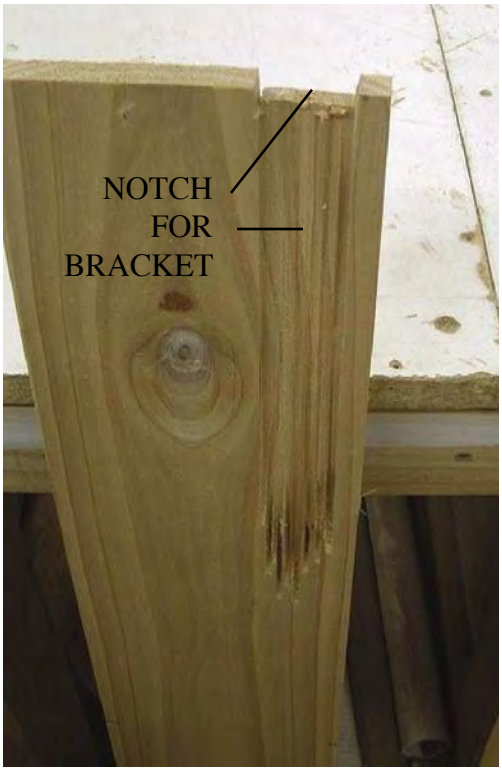
Take a look at the 1x6 and 1x8 cedar you purchased. There is a rough side and a smooth side to the cedar. I personally recommend placing the rough side on the outside, it will give your bar a rustic outdoor look which is authentic to tiki bars. If you don't like the look of the rough cedar, you can choose to place the smooth surface on the outside- the choice is yours.

Cut the cedar into pieces that are 41" in length. Put a bead of glue along all parts of the outside of the frame as shown in **PICTURE 20**.

PICTURE 20

Pick any outside corner to start attaching the cedar with either nails or staples- it doesn't matter which you choose to use. The only difference is that staple holes are harder to see than nail holes. I personally use staples.
Begin with either the 1x6 or 1x8 and alternate as you go along. Since the first piece you will be installing will have a bracket behind it, you will need to notch the back using a table saw and a jig saw to notch the top so it fits properly over the bracket.

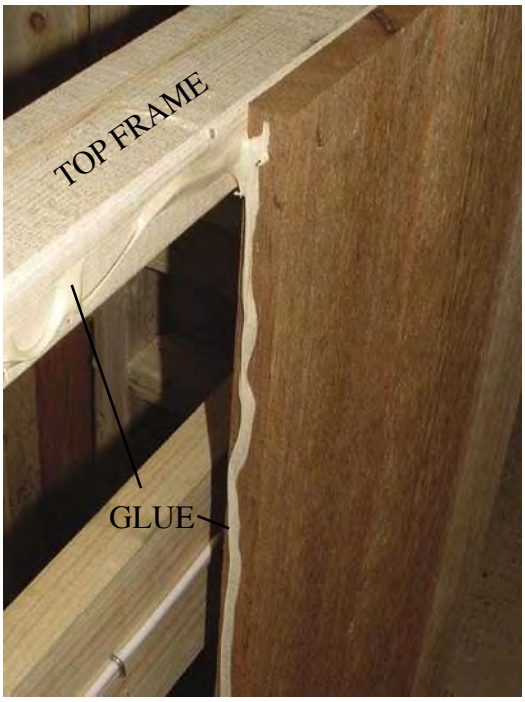
See **PICTURES 21** and **22**.



PICTURE 21

PICTURE 22

A table saw should be used for the notching of the boards. Attach your first board to the frame using nails or staples as discussed previously. Before attaching your next board in the sequence, run a bead of glue along the edge of the first board where the second board will lay against it to help with strength and bonding of the boards.
See PICTURES 23 and 24

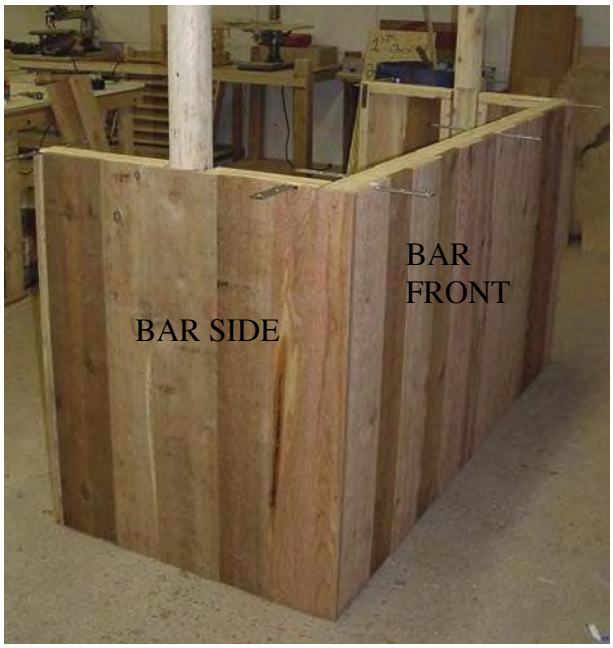


PICTURE 23

PICTURE 24

You can now proceed to finish with the wrapping of the outside of the bar. See **PICTURES 25** and **26**

PICTURE 25



PICTURE 26

STEP 8. SHELVING IN THE CABINETS

If you are installing cabinets, it is recommended to install the floor, the divider and the shelf before you do any finish work to the inside part of the bar.

Installing the floor: Measure the bottom frame and cut a piece of plywood the same size for the floor of the cabinets and attach to the frame using nails or staples.

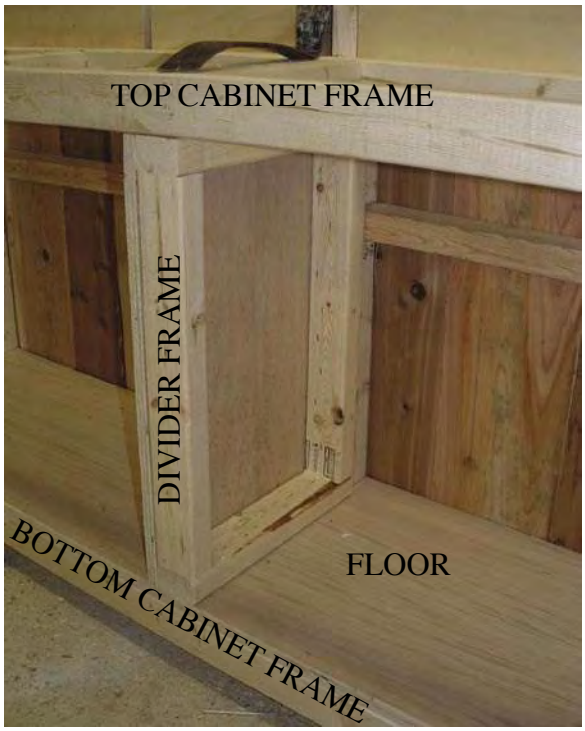
Building the divider: Our cabinets will have one shelf on the left-hand side and remain open on the right-hand side for storing larger items. The divider is placed in the center of the cabinet and is needed to support the shelf on the left-hand side. 2x3 spruce and plywood are used to make the divider. Measure the cabinet opening from the front to back and from the floor to the bottom of the upper frame. Build the divider frame using these measurements and also cut a piece of plywood the same size and attach it to the left-hand side of the frame.

Install the shelf brackets: Cut a piece of 2x3 spruce to be used on the left-hand plywood side of the divider as a shelf bracket. The length of the bracket needs to be approx. 1 1⁄2" less than the width of the divider to allow room for the cabinet door to close. Align the top of the shelf bracket to fall exactly half way up the plywood minus 3⁄4" for the shelf material. Attach the bracket using staples or nails.
Cut another 2x3 bracket to be placed on the left side frame of the cabinet for shelf support.

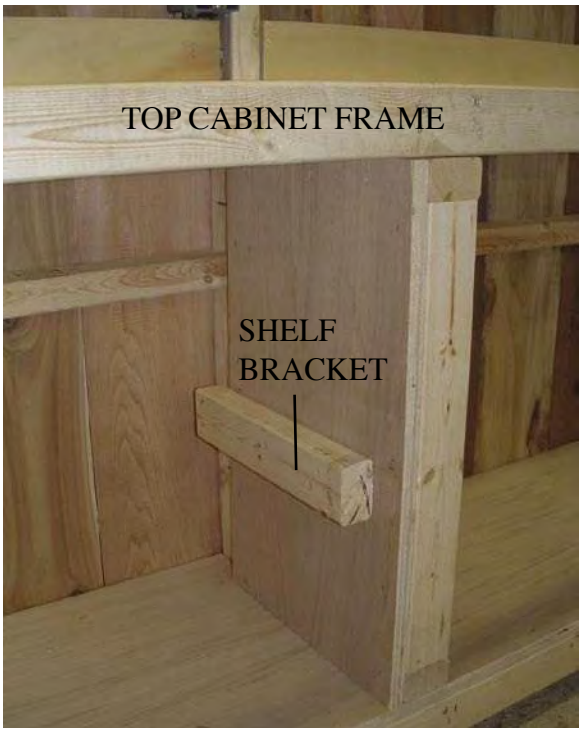
Install the divider: Determine the center of the cabinet for divider installation. Slide the frame into the center of the cabinet and screw the frame securely to the floor and the upper frame. If nailers are needed to attach the frame, add the nailers now.

Building and installing the shelf: Using plywood, cut your shelf to fit the inside area of the cabinet. Do not bring the shelf out beyond your shelf bracket, this allows room for the door to close. The back left corner of the shelf will need to be cut out to fit around the corner stud.

See **PICTURES 27**, **28**, **29**, **30** and **31**

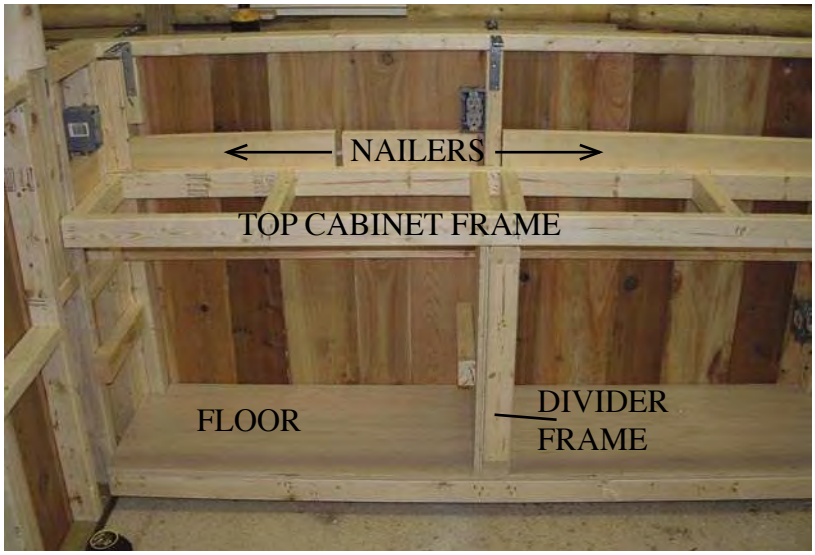


PICTURE 27

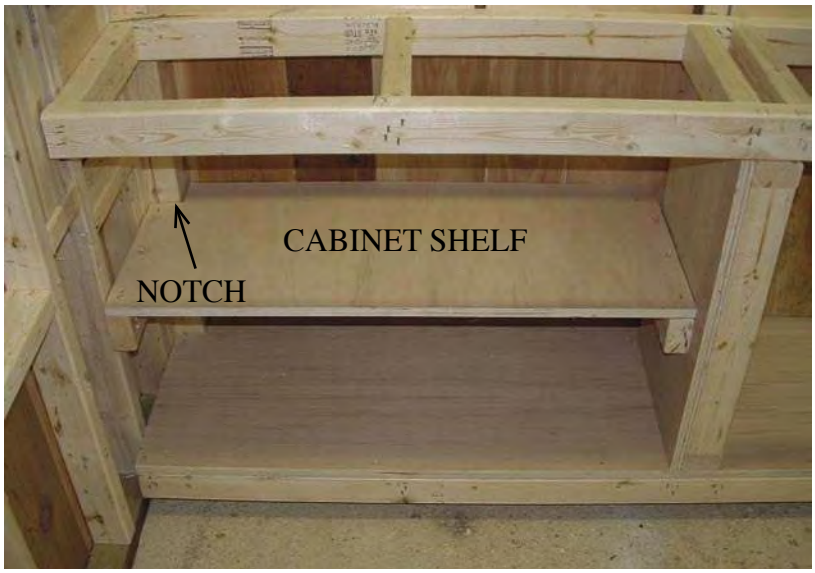


PICTURE 28

PICTURE 29



PICTURE 30



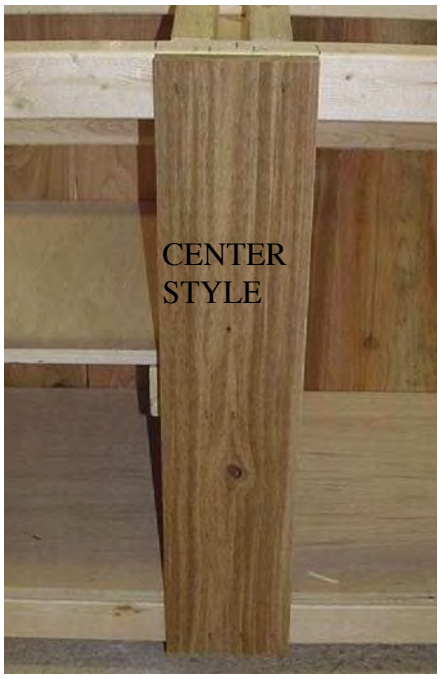
PICTURE 31

STEP 9. INSTALLING THE CABINET DOOR STYLES AND RAILS

The center cabinet style:
At the middle of the cabinet section, measure the distance from the bottom cabinet frame to the top cabinet frame. Cut a piece of 1x6 cedar to this height. Using your table saw or circular saw, rip the cedar down to 4" wide. Next attach this piece along the center front of the cabinet. See **PICTURE 32**.

The left and right side cabinet styles:
Repeat for the left and right sides of the cabinet with the only difference being to rip the cedar styles down to 2" wide instead of 4". When attaching the side styles, keep tight against the left and right sides of the bar. Attach all styles using glue and staples or nails.
See **PICTURE 33**.

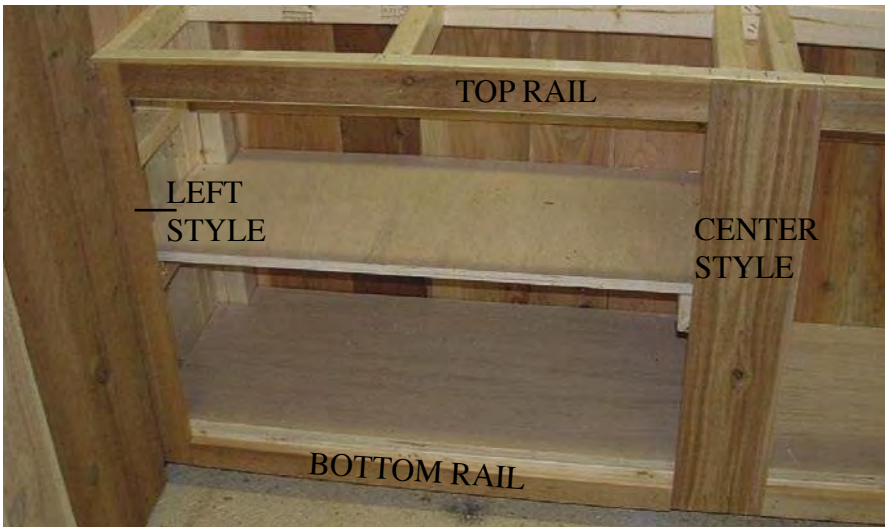
The cabinet rails:
The rails are the horizontal pieces that go between the cabinet styles along the frames. Determine the length of the 4 rails that will go along the top and bottom and left and right sections. For the width of the rails, a minimum 1⁄2" reveal must be allowed for when ripping down the rails. A reveal is the opening between the outer surface and the frame for the cabinet door to hit when it closes.
Cut the top rail 2" wide. Cut the bottom rail 2 1⁄2" wide (this takes into consideration the plywood shelf on the bottom). Cut your 4 rail pieces out of either 1x6 cedar or 1x8 cedar. Attach the top rails flush with the top of the frame using glue and nails or staples. Attach the bottom rails flush with the bottom of the frame using glue and nails or staples.
See **PICTURES 34** and **35**.



PICTURE 32

PICTURE 33

PICTURE 34



PICTURE 35

STEP 10. BUILDING THE CABINET DOORS

For each side of the cabinet there will be 2 inlaid doors (4 doors total).

A. *Determine the width of the cabinet doors for the left side:*

Measure the opening from left to right along the top rail.
Take that measurement and subtract 1⁄2" for spacing around the doors.
Take that measurement and divide by 2.
You now have the width for each of the 2 cabinet doors.

B. *Determine the height of the cabinet doors for the left side:*

Measure the opening from top to bottom along the cabinet styles.
Take that measurement and subtract 1⁄4".
You now have the height for each of the 2 cabinet doors.

C. *Construct the cabinet doors:*

The cabinet doors will be constructed of 3 pieces of 1x6 cedar. Cut 3 pieces of 1x6 to the cabinet height. Lay the 3 pieces side-by-side and mark the width of the cabinet door. You will need to rip down one of the pieces to build the width needed. See **PICTURE 36**.

Lay the 3 pieces side-by-side placing the ripped piece in the middle. Lay the 3 pieces with your outside surface facing down (the outside surface is either smooth or rough depending on how you decided to wrap the bar). Place a bead of glue along the edges of the 1x6 boards and clamp them together using either a bar clamp or grip clamp.

D. *Installing support braces on the cabinet doors:*

Measure 1" from the top of the door and draw a line across the 3 boards. Measure 2 1⁄2" from the bottom of the door and draw a line across the 3 boards. Measure 1" in on the left and right sides and draw a line down the boards. These lines show the outside placement for the door braces.

Rip 1x6 cedar down to 2" wide for the braces. Cut to the size marked on the door and attach to the back of the cabinet doors using glue and staples. Cut 2 additional braces to fit across the cabinet door (see **PICTURE 37**). The additional braces help prevent warping of the wood due to temperature changes.

Repeat step D for the second door on the left side.

Repeat Steps A through D for right side cabinet doors.

CABINET DOOR BACK

PICTURE 36

CABINET DOOR BACK

PICTURE 37

Place the cabinet doors inside the frame to ensure the doors fit properly. If the doors don't fit, shave one of the edges with your table saw until they do. DO NOT attach any hardware at this point because you will have to remove the hardware later when the bar is being sealed.

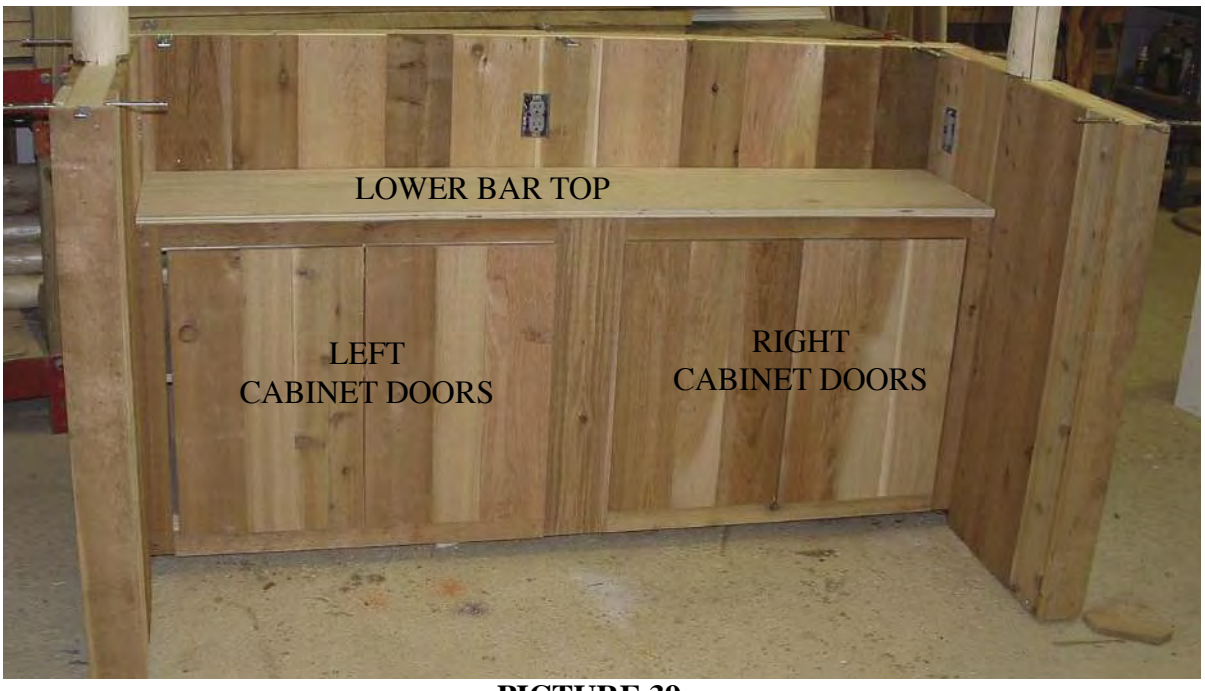
STEP 11. INSTALLING THE CEDAR ON THE INSIDE THE BAR

As discussed in Step 7, start with either a piece of 1x6 or 1x8 cedar and begin to wrap the inside area of the bar; wrapping the sides and above the lower bar top area (do not wrap inside the cabinets). If electric is installed, make sure to cut your cedar to fit around the electrical boxes. When you are finished installing the cedar on the inside of the bar, rip down 2 more cedar pieces to fit on the back ends of the bar and attach. See **PICTURE 38**.

PICTURE 38

STEP 12. INSTALLING THE LOWER BAR TOP

Measure from left to right on the upper cabinet frame to determine the length of the lower bar top. For the width measure front to back and add at least 1" for overhang. Using your table saw or circular saw cut the lower bar top from a sheet of 3⁄4" plywood. Attach the lower bar top to the frame using plenty of glue on the frame and nailing only along the edges (in the finishing stages, rope molding will cover these nail holes). After securing the top, lay something heavy on the top to help keep it tight to the frame while the glue dries, usually about 24 hours. See **PICTURE 39**.

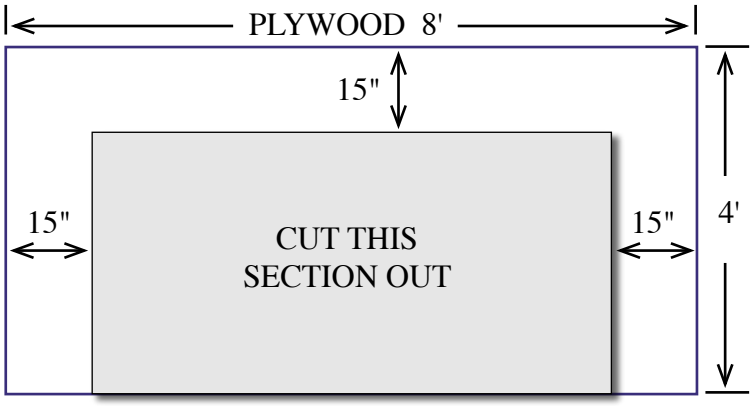


PICTURE 39

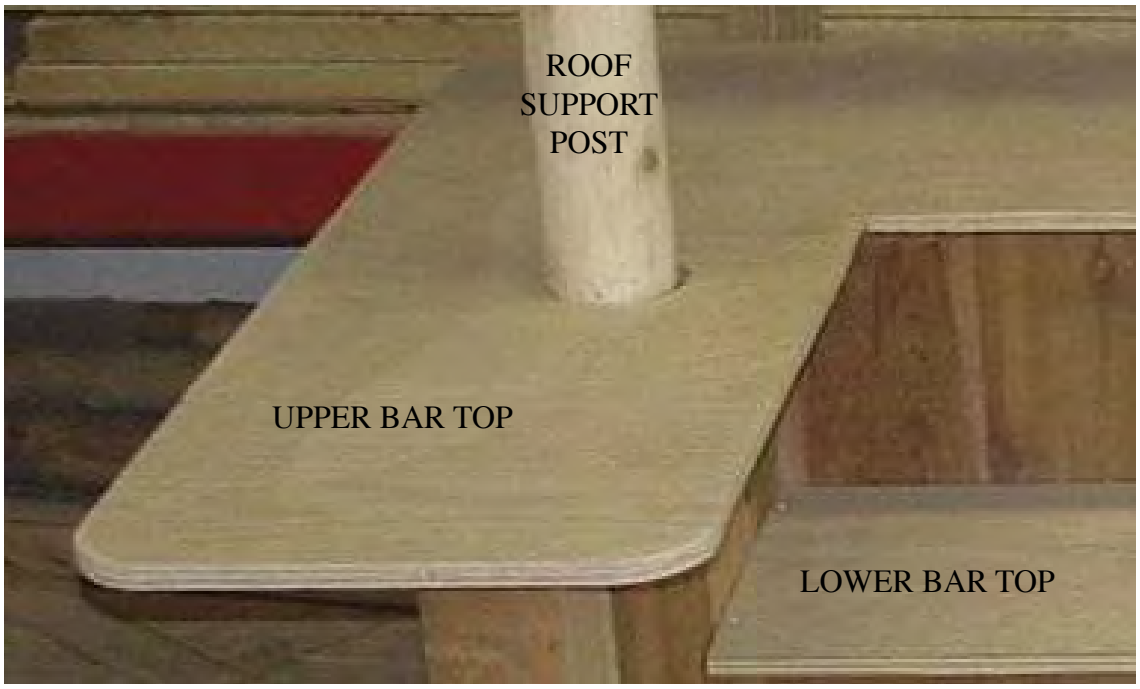
STEP 13. BUILDING THE UPPER BAR TOP

In the beginning I discussed the over hang of the bar top to the frame, which is 6" on the front and sides. Laying the oak plywood on your worktable, the length (96") should be left to right. Measure and mark down 15" from the top. This 15" includes the 6" over hang, the thickness of the bar frame and cedar (4"), and the 5" over hang on the inside of the bar. Draw a line from left to right at 15" from the top.

Now measure in 15" on the left and right sides and draw a line from the bottom to the line going across the top of the plywood. Cut out the middle section using a circular saw. You now have a U-shaped bar top (see Diagram).



For a quality custom-looking bar top, rounding the corners is suggested. The best way to accomplish this is to trace a 5-lb. coffee can along each of the 6 outside corners. Using a jigsaw, cut out the rounded corners. See detail of the rounded corners in **PICTURE 40**.



PICTURE 40

STEP 14. CUTTING ROOF SUPPORT POST HOLES IN THE BAR TOP

VERY IMPORTANT STEP! **Do not make a mistake here or you will waste the money spent on the plywood being used for the bar top.**

Holes need to be cut into the bar top so the roof support posts will fit through the bar top. Standing inside the bar and starting on the left-hand side, hold the tape measure 6" past the outside of the bar and measure back to the center of the pole. Go back to the bar top and hook the tape measure on the left edge of the plywood and make a mark at that measurement.

Going back to the inside of the bar, hold the tape measure 6" past the front of the bar and measure back to the center of the pole. Go back to the bar top and hook the tape measure on the top left hand side and make a mark at that measurement. Connect the 2 marks together and that is the center of the hole to be cut out for the support pole. The roof support pole should be approx. 4 1⁄4" in diameter. Using your 4 1⁄4" hole saw, cut the roof support post hole in the bar top. If you do not have a hole saw, use a jig saw. If you are using a jig saw, find something roughly 4 1⁄4" or slightly larger in diameter and trace it for the hole to be cut.

Repeat this entire process for the right side of the bar top. Refer back to **PICTURE 40** which shows how the top should fit. If the holes are slightly larger, that is fine. 3⁄4" rope will be used to finish around the base of the poles later.

STEP 15. INSTALLING THE BAR TOP

Lift the bar top over the support posts and slide the bar top down over the posts. If the bar top does not fit easily all the way down, take it back off and enlarge the holes slightly until the bar top does fit. Once the bar top is on, raise the top about 12" or so using scrap lumber for support. Glue along the entire top of the frame. Do not use any glue on the frame until you are sure the top fits properly. Move the scrap pieces of wood and drop the top onto the frame. Press down on the top to ensure a tight bond.

Using 3⁄4" screws, attach all the “L” brackets into the bottom of the bar top.

See **PICTURE 41**.

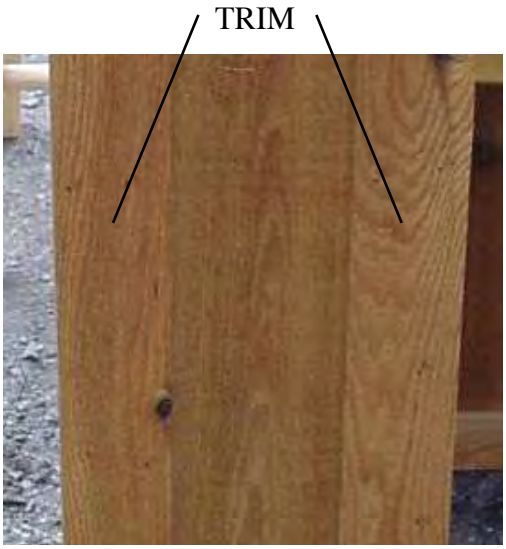
PICTURE 41

STEP 16. INSTALLING THE BAR TRIM

Trim needs to be installed on the 6 outside corners of the bar only. On the inside corners, under the bar tops, along the edges of the bar tops and along the ground, the 3⁄4" and 1⁄2" manila rope will be used.

For the trim: Cut two pieces of 1x 8 cedar to 41". Using your table saw, rip the two 1x 8s down to 2" wide. You now have 6 pieces of cedar that measure 1" x 2" x 41". Rip these 6 pieces in half, leaving you a total of 12 pieces of cedar that measure 5/16" x 2" x 41". Attach these trim strips to the 6 outside corners (2 for each corner) using glue and staples or small trim nails.

The last piece of trim to be installed is at the base of the cabinets. Measure the distance from left to right at the base of the cabinets. Cut a piece of 1x6 cedar to that length. Rip that piece of cedar down to 4" wide. Attach that cedar piece across the bottom of the cabinets making sure that you sit the edge of the board on the floor and attach using glue and staples or small trim nails.



PICTURE 42
A detail of the trim pieces along the back edge of the bar

STEP 17. INSTALLING THE ROOF SUPPORT BEAM

The roof will be 8' long x 4' wide, so the roof support beam needs to be 8' long. Take a 3 1⁄2" x 9' cedar pole and cut a beam to a length of 8'. Attach the roof support beam with four 8" timber lock screws, two on each post. Allow for the same amount of over hang on both sides of the roof support poles. See **PICTURE 43**.

PICTURE 43

STEP 18. INSTALLING THE EDGE ROPING

Place glue along the outside edge of the bar top. Starting at either inside corner, hold the 3⁄4" manila rope flush with the top of the bar top against the edge. Using a staple gun and 1 3/8" staples, attach the 3⁄4" manila rope to the bar top. If you are using a hammer and nails, you will most likely need someone to help hold the rope. Staple (or nail) the rope approx. every inch around the entire edge of the bar top, being careful not to shoot any staples (or nails) through the top of the bar.

Place glue along the top edge of the 3⁄4" rope that was just installed and the bar top. Again, starting at either inside corner, place the 1⁄2" rope onto the top of the bar top against the 3⁄4" rope. Using a staple gun and 1" staples (or a hammer and nails), attach the rope by angling the staples (or nails) into the bar top approx. every inch.

Repeat this process of double rope rows for the front edge of the lower bar top.

Place glue along all the inside corners of the bar, along the bottom of the bar, and under both bar tops. Attach the 3/4" manila rope in the same manner as described above.

Using the 3⁄4" manila rope, wrap the rope around the roof support post approx. 5-6 times going up the post from the bar top and cut the rope. At that point, mark the post and remove the rope. Place glue on the pole up to the mark and wrap the rope around the pole again. Attach the rope with staples or nails. Repeat for the other post.

PICTURE 44

PICTURE 45

PICTURE 46

Refer to **PICTURES 44, 45** and **46** for details of edge roping.

STEP 19. SEALING THE BAR

Use a good quality marine varnish for sealing your tiki bar. Apply a minimum of 3 coats of marine varnish on the entire bar (including the rope), inside the cabinets and on both sides of the cabinet doors. For the upper and lower bar tops, apply at least 7-9 coats of marine varnish. Follow the manufacturer's directions for application instructions and drying time. Only on the bar tops, lightly sand after every other coat. Sanding will help in creating a smoother finish. DO NOT sand the finish coat. The varnish can be applied using a paint sprayer or a brush. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for drying times.

STEP 20. INSTALLING THE HARDWARE– KNOBS, HINGES AND CATCHES

Hardware can be installed once the bar is totally dry. Any style of hardware may be used. The pictures below are examples of the hardware used on this particular bar. Attach the 4 cabinet knobs, 8 cabinet hinges and 4 catches.

KNOBS

HINGES

CATCHES

STEP 21. BUILDING THE ROOF STRUCTURE

PLEASE NOTE:

In building the roof structure, two people may be needed depending on your skill level. With the bracing shown in the example, it is possible to do it yourself, but you may want an extra set of hands if this procedure is new to you.

The pictures used in this section contain several different sizes of tiki bar roofs. These pictures were necessary to illustrate the different steps of this procedure but will not look exactly like the roof structure you will be building. Also, a miniature model roof was built to help better illustrate the demonstrations.

A. Build the 8' long by 4' wide frame for the bottom of the roof structure:

Cut two 3 1⁄2" x 9' cedar poles to 8' in length. Cut a 45 degree angle on both ends of each pole. Cut the 3 1⁄2" x 10' cedar pole into two pieces each 4' in length. Cut a 45 degree angle on both ends of each pole.

PICTURE 47

Screw the frame together using the 6" timber lock screws. Three screws should be used at each corner for fastening the frame together.
See **PICTURE 47.**

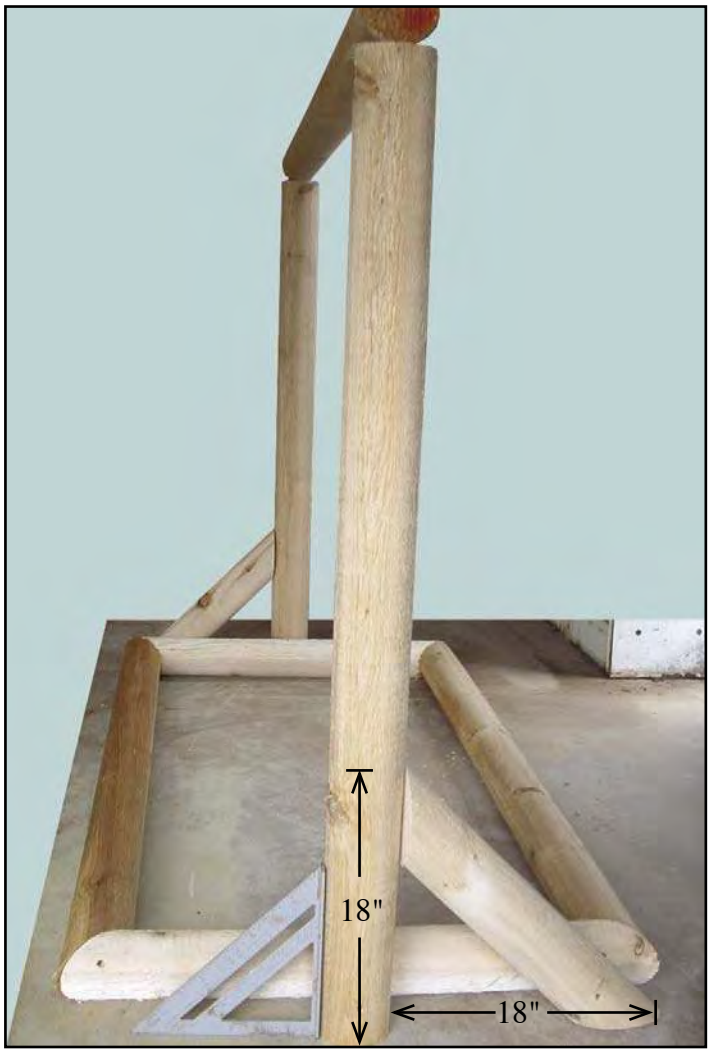
B. Build the temporary braces:
On the 8' x 4' roof structure, the height of the roof will be 4' from the frame to the ridge. The purpose of the temporary brace is to hold the ridge in the correct position, enabling the 4 corner rafters to be installed accurately. Use 2" poles for the temporary brace so that you can use them later as nailers on the roof. Cut 2 temporary vertical ridge braces at 4' long. Screw them into the 2 ends of the frame as shown in **PICTURE 49**. *(Please note: frame shown on this page is a model only, not built to scale.)* Use your square and lay it flat on your working surface and against you temporary vertical ridge brace. Make sure your temporary ridge brace is at a 90-degree angle to the frame. See **PICTURE 50.**

PICTURE 49

PICTURE 50

Cut the support braces for the vertical ridge braces that will fit from 18" up the temporary support post and 18" out to the right of the temporary support post on the frame. Measure the distance between these two points and cut two support braces with a 45-degree angle on each end. Attach one on each support pole with 3 1⁄2" screws to hold in place.
See **PICTURE 51.**

Next cut the horizontal ridge brace as seen in **PICTURE 51**. Cut the horizontal ridge brace the same length as your frame (8') plus the diameters of the two vertical braces being used. Screw the horizontal ridge brace into the top of the 2 vertical ridge braces. This completes the temporary braces.



PICTURE 51

C. Installing the Ridge:

Use a 3 1⁄2" cedar pole and cut a ridge that is 2' in length. Take the ridge and position in on the top center of the horizontal ridge support and temporarily attach with two screws. See **PICTURE 52.**

PICTURE 52

D. Installing the Roof Rafters:

At this point of construction of the roof, it is helpful to set the roof frame at least 15" off the ground with supports (inverted 5-gallon buckets work well).

Measure from the end of the ridge to 12" past the corner of the frame. Cut a 3 1⁄2" cedar pole to this length for the rafter. Cut a 45-degree angle on one end of the pole. Screw the angled edge to the ridge using two 3 1/2" screws and attach the bottom to the frame using one 6" timber lock screw. See **PICTURE 53.**

Repeat these steps to create rafters for the remaining three corners. After attaching the 4 corner rafters, remove the temporary braces.

Measure and cut 4 more rafters, one for the center of each end and each side. There are a total of 8 rafters on the roof. See **PICTURE 54.**

PICTURE 53

PICTURE 54 Side view of a completed roof structure including dummy poles and nailers (Part E)

E. Installing the First Roof Dummy Pole:

After installing all 8 rafters, use a tape measure and measure down the corner rafter from the frame 6", place a mark on both sides of the pole. Repeat on all 4 corners.

See **PICTURES 55** and **56**.

PICTURE 55

PICTURE 56

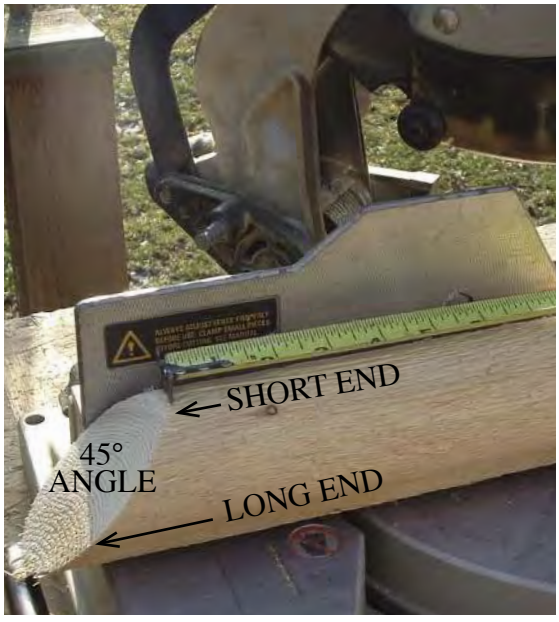
To determine your mark on the center rafters, hold a chalk line on the 6" marks you made from one corner to the next and snap the line. This will give you a line on the middle rafters for the plum cut.

Take your chain saw and make a plumb cut on all the ends of the rafters at those marks. One plumb cut will be made on the 4 center rafters and 2 plumb cuts will be made on the 4 corner rafters (See **PICTURE 57**). You can refer to **PICTURE 54** for a complete view of how your roof will look with those middle rafters installed.

PICTURE 57

The dummy poles are the poles that support the first row of leaves. There are 2 rows of dummy poles to be installed. The first row of dummy poles get attached to the rafters at the ends where you made the plumb cuts.

Measure from corner to corner at the plumb cuts to find the length needed for the dummy pole. You need to cut the dummy pole with 45-degree angles on each end of the pole with the short end of the angle side equaling the length that was measured. See **PICTURE 58** for explanation of long and short parts of the angle.



PICTURE 58

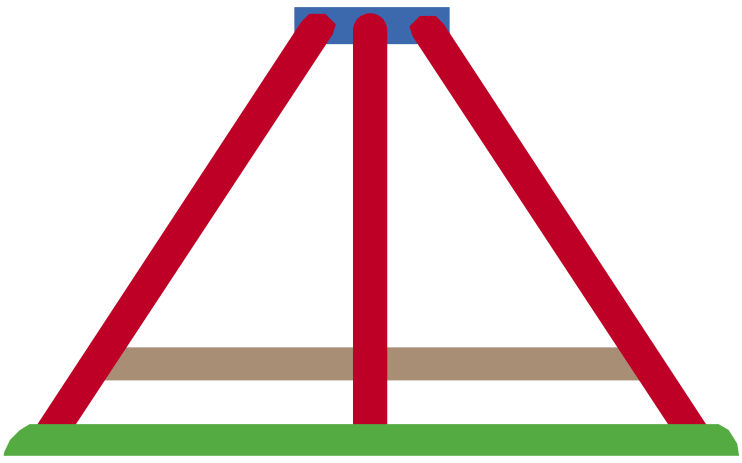
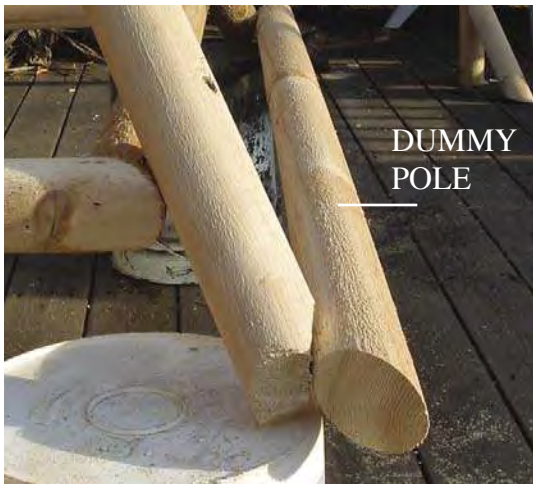


Illustration of one-side of your roof frame showing the dummy pole, frame, rafters and ridge.

Cut a scrap piece of cedar pole about 12" long with a 45-degree angle on the end. While attaching the dummy pole, hold the scrap piece of cedar with the 45-degree angle on it up to your dummy pole making sure your dummy pole is straight for your next piece. Attach the dummy poles using one 6" timber lock screw to each rafter. See **PICTURES 59** and **60**.

PICTURE 59



PICTURE 60

Attach the three remaining dummy poles following these same steps along the rafter ends. See **PICTURE 61** for completed view of the miniature model roof.

PICTURE 61

E. Installing the Second Row of Dummy Poles and Nailers:

On all 4 of the corner rafters, measure up 10" from the first dummy row and place a mark. See **PICTURE 62**.

Using a chalk line, pull from corner to corner along these marks to get your mark on the center rafters. The marks made are the location for the center of the next row of dummy poles.

The second row of dummy poles will be mounted in between the rafters. Refer to **PICTURE 54** to get a full view of a finished roof and a visual on what the second row of dummy poles should look like.

When cutting the second row of dummy poles, use a 45-degree angle on all poles. To find your measurement for the long end length of the poles, hold the tape measure a 1⁄4" past the inside of each rafter. This measurement will be the distance between the long ends of the angles. Attach the second row of dummy poles using 3 1⁄2" screws or 10-penny nails. Refer to detail in **PICTURE 63**.

See **PICTURE 64** for positioning of the second dummy pole and nailers on the miniature model roof. Nailers are explained in the next step.

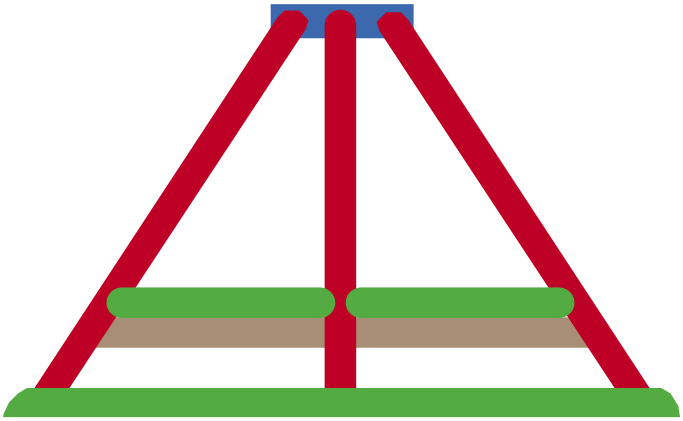


Illustration of one-side of your roof frame showing the dummy poles, frame, rafters and ridge.

PICTURE 62

PICTURE 63

PICTURE 64

Determine the placement marks for the remaining poles (nailers):

After attaching the 2nd row of dummy poles, measure the distance from the 2nd row of dummy poles up to the ridge. Take this measurement and divide it up evenly so the measurements are between 16" and 20".

(*For example:* if the measurement is 60" from the top of the second dummy pole to the ridge, divide 60" evenly (by 3) to get 20". The measurement between every nailer will be 20". Let's say the measurement is 70"– divide 70" evenly (by 3) to get 17 1⁄2". The measurement between every nailer will be 17 1⁄2". Remember to keep the nailers no more than 20" apart and no less than 16".)

Mark all 4 corner rafters at these measurements which are the locations for the centers of the remaining poles to be mounted. The remaining poles to be installed from this point on are referred to as nailers. The nailers will be used for attaching the leaves.

Attach all of the nailers in the same fashion as you did with the second row of dummy poles. Fasten the nailers with either 10-penny nails or 3 1⁄2" screws. Once the nailers are attached, the roof frame is complete. If any of the rafters are sticking up past the ridge, use your chain saw or reciprocating saw to cut them off.

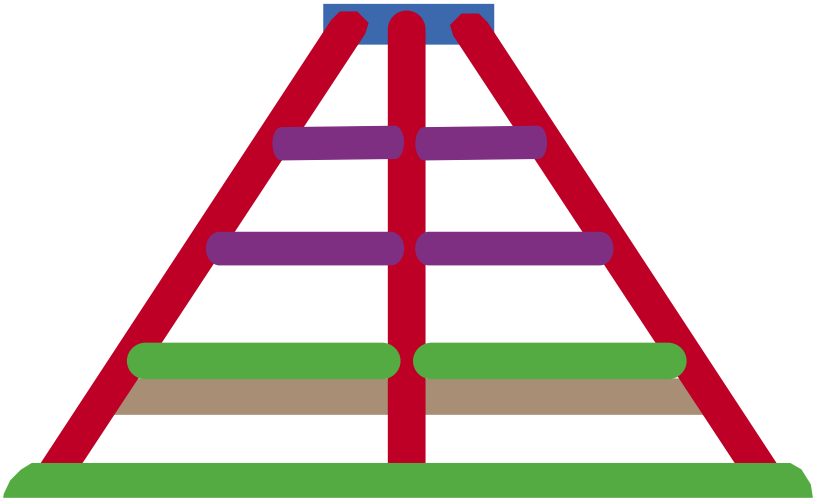


Illustration of one-side of your roof frame showing
the nailers, dummy poles, frame, rafters and ridge.

VERY IMPORTANT

Please Note: The completed roof with leaves will be extremely heavy. You will need to have at least 6-8 people to help lift the thatched roof onto the bar. It is much easier to thatch the roof from ground level than if it were already attached to the bar. If you cannot get enough people to help lift the roof onto the bar, you will need 2 people to lift and attach the roof frame onto the bar at this point and you can then thatch the roof from a ladder.

On larger bars, I recommend installing the roof frame first, thatching from a ladder and then sitting on the roof itself to finish when you can no longer reach from the ladder.

Constructed properly by following the steps in this guide, you will not have a problem sitting on the roof to thatch. The frame of the roof should be strong enough to hold anyone. Make sure the roof braces (STEP 25) are on first if you choose to thatch the roof already attached to the bar.

STEP 22. ATTACHING THE LEAVES

When thatching the roof, only the first row of leaves will need to be folded. To fold a leaf, hold the stalk of the leaf in your hand with the leaf down and the rounded part of the stalk facing out. Take your hand and going from right to left fold the leaf in half. See **PICTURE 65** and **66**.

PICTURE 65

PICTURE 66

PICTURE 67

Take the folded leaf and place it on the roof with the round part of the stalk facing down. See **PICTURE 67**. Make sure to place the base of the stalk onto the nailer and begin placement of the leaves anywhere (except on a corner) and move from left to right. Take a 2" nail or staple and nail the stem of the leaf into the first nailer. See **PICTURE 68.** The leaf itself will be resting on the two dummy poles.

Attach the stalk again at the second nailer using a nail or staple. See **PICTURE 69.**

PICTURE 68

PICTURE 69

Move from left to right when placing the next leaf in line and keep the spacing approx. two-fingers width between the stalks. See **PICTURE 70**. Attach the second leaf the same way you did the first. Repeat this process for the entire first row of leaves that will go all the way around the roof frame. See **PICTURE 71.** When you reach the corners, install the leaves going around the poles slightly tighter together.

PICTURE 70

PICTURE 71

The purpose of folding the leaves for the first row as described previously is because there are no stalks to hold the leaves from falling through the dummy poles here. See **PICTURE 72** for a view from under the roof as to what the leaves should look like. You should see the fold of the leaf and not the ends.

After attaching several leaves, cut off the excess stalks that extend beyond the second nailer with a chain saw or reciprocating saw.
See **PICTURES 73 and 74.**

PICTURE 72

PICTURE 73

PICTURE 74

Once the entire first row of leaves is completely installed all the way around the roof, you are now ready to install the second row of leaves. All leaves installed from this point on, DO NOT get folded– the leaves remain flat.

Starting again from left to right and placing the rounded part of the stalk facing down, lay the stalk of the first leaf directly on top of the stalk installed from the first row. Attach the stalk with nails or staples as you did the first row. Also attach the stalk to the third nailer and cut off the excess as previously described. The spacing of the stalks along the second row is also two-finger widths. See **PICTURES 75** and **76.**

PICTURE 75

PICTURE 76

Complete the entire 2nd row of leaves and you can move on to attaching the 3rd row in the same manner. Remember to cut back the stalks as you move along. See **PICTURES 77** and **78.**

PICTURE 77

PICTURE 78

The top row of leaves will be attached at the ridge. To make attaching these leaves easier, cut the stalks off before fastening. These stalks also need to be spaced and attached in the same manner as the previous rows. Attach these leaves directly to the ridge using nails or staples. See **PICTURES 79** and **80.**

PICTURE 79

PICTURE 80

STEP 23. INSTALLING FELT PAPER OR ICE SHIELD AND SECOND RIDGE

The installation of felt paper or ice shield at this point will help with the waterproofing of the roof. Cut a piece of felt paper or ice shield 2' longer than your ridge. For example, if the ridge is 2' long, cut the felt paper or ice shield 4'' in length. Center your felt paper or ice shield on the ridge and drape over the ridge. See **PICTURE 81**.

Next, cut a piece of 3 1⁄4" cedar pole to the same length as the ridge. Attach the second ridge on top of the felt paper or ice shield directly above the first ridge with two 6" timber lock screws, one on each end. See **PICTURE 82**.

PICTURE 81

PICTURE 82

STEP 24. INSTALLING THE FINAL ROW OF LEAVES

With the new ridge attached, begin installing the final row of leaves. To make attaching these leaves easier, cut the stalks off before fastening. Attach leaves in the same manner as all the previous rows. See **PICTURES 83** and **84**.

After you complete installing the final row of leaves around the new ridge, the roof is complete.

PICTURE 83

PICTURE 84

STEP 25. ATTACHING THE ROOF AND INSTALLING PERMANENT SUPPORT BRACES

Center the roof on the support beam so it is even on both sides of the bar. Use 6" timber lock screws and screw the roof into the roof support beam.

Next, make the four angle braces. The braces are cut with 45-degree angles on both ends and should be approx. 40" in length on the long ends of the angles. One angled end gets attached on the corner of the roof and the other end gets attached to the support post coming out of the bar.

Install the remaining three braces. See **PICTURE 85**.

Congratulations, your custom tiki bar is complete!
Enjoy decorating the tiki bar and mix up your favorite beverage!

PICTURE 85

HELPFUL TIPS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR TIKI BAR

First and foremost, DO NOT cover the leaves for an extended period of time. Moisture will build between the leaves and the tarp causing the leaves to rot and grow mold. Once this happens, the leaves will need replacing. However, it is OK to cover the roof for a few days during bad weather to help protect the leaves. In doing so, this will actually help prolong the life of the leaves.

Never cover the bar and the roof together. This will enable a strong wind to use the tarp like a sail and possibly blow the bar over. If you are expecting severe weather, cover the bar and the roof separately.

During strong windy days you can strap your bar down. Here's how: Screw four eye hooks into the roof support post or beam– two in the front (one on each side) and two in the back (one on each side). Do the same on the floor of your deck or patio. Buy yourself 4 ratchet straps and hook each end into the eye hooks. Tighten the straps and your bar will never go anywhere.

If mold ever grows on the bar from being stored, use a mixture of bleach and water and wipe your bar down thoroughly.

The tiki bar is an outdoor wood product and even though it is sealed for outdoor use, always try to keep the bar tops as dry as possible. Leaving standing water or snow on the tops for any amount of time could damage the top by delaminating the plywood.

If you are keeping your bar near any open flames or anything hot such as a grill, outdoor heater, or any kind of outdoor fireplace, you should fire proof the leaves. Fire Shield may be purchased on our website at www.tikikev.com

Upon completion of your bar, I recommend covering the thatched roof with a large tarp for approx. 2 days. Pull the tarp extremely tight to the ground and anchor it with anything heavy. This tarping will layer the leaves in approx. 2 days instead of taking months for them to layer themselves. If you are using netting on your leaves, you will want to do this tarping. You should not install netting with the leaves still wild.
The PICTURE below is taken minutes after it was finished being thatched. This is what the leaves will look like before tarping them for 2-3 days.

SUMMARY

Whether you're looking for that little piece of paradise right in your own backyard or you need that extra special touch for your business, you've made the first step to accomplishing that goal by purchasing this guide. Take your time and enjoy the process of building your own quality tiki bar–you will be able to enjoy the fruits of your labor for many years to come.

It's a great pleasure knowing that I can share my knowledge and skills and at the same time save you some money. If at any time during the construction process you have any concerns or questions, do not hesitate to email or call. I'm with you every step of the way.

Good luck and just remember . . . it's 5 o'clock somewhere!

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