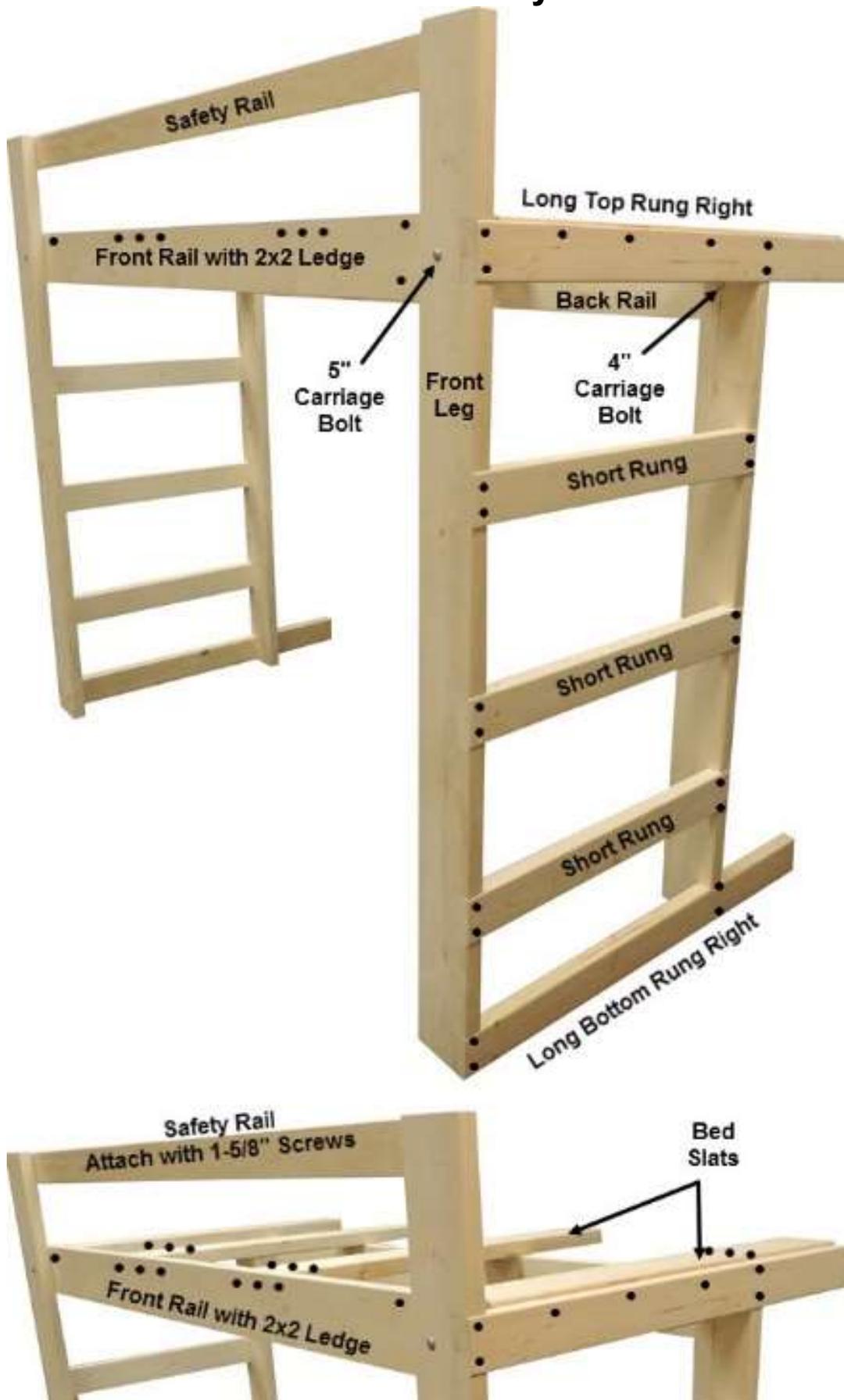


Bolster Loft Bed Assembly Instructions



Notes & Tips

Please read through the entire set of instructions first to familiarize yourself before beginning assembly.

Tools and Supplies Needed: Cordless drill/screwdriver with a Phillips #2 medium head bit. Adjustable (or 9/16") wrench. Hammer or rubber mallet. Note: If you use a regular electric drill, it needs to have an adjustable torque setting so as to not strip the screws into the wood. Optionally you could use a small tube of wood filler to fill in the screw holes and a few sheets of 80 grit sandpaper to sand the wood filler smooth before finishing the bed.

Pilot holes have been predrilled into all necessary pieces, they do not go all the way through the wood.

If you are having a hard time driving screws into the wood you may want to add soap to the screws. Soap acts as a lubricant and makes driving them into the wood easier. If you hit a knot, screw or a carriage bolt you can drive the screw at a slight angle to miss it.

If you strip a screw into the wood, a trick to make the hole smaller is to fill the hole with wood glue and hammer in a few toothpicks into the hole. Once the glue dries cut off the excess toothpicks and you can re-insert the screw into the hole.

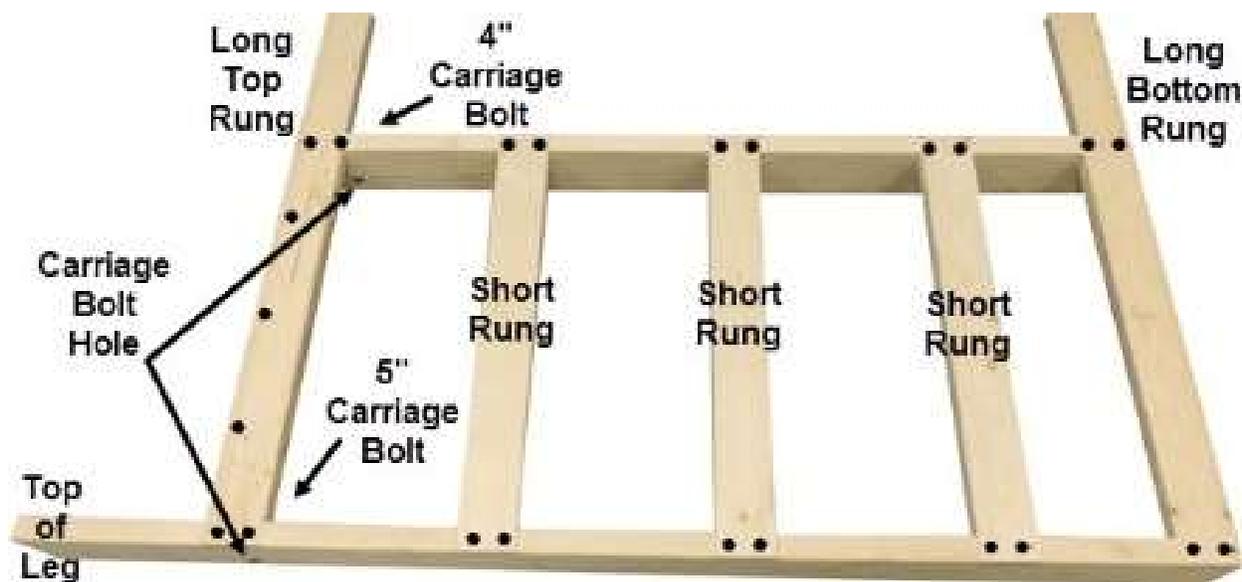
Safety

Think safety when using power tools, hammers and drills. Wear gloves and safety glasses. Watch for splinters near the end grain of the wood. Provide adequate ventilation when sanding, painting or staining.

Assembly

The bed frame is assembled with 2-1/2" Screws wherever you see a black dot on a photo or a pilot hole in a piece of wood. The Safety Rails are attached to the top of the legs with 1-5/8" screws.

Step 1 - Building the Ladder Ends



Assemble the right ladder. Select the legs for the right side, the front leg is taller than the back leg. Using the above diagram as a guide, lay the left front leg and left back leg on the floor with the notches facing up. Make sure the Carriage Bolt Holes on both legs are positioned at the same end towards the top. Note the top and bottom rungs are longer than the (3) middle rungs.

Place a small bead of wood glue at the base and sides of each notch and spread it out evenly covering the entire notch. Insert the 2x4 rungs (**rungs have 2 pilot holes at each end**) into the notches lining them up flush with the outside of the legs. If it is a tight fit, it can be sanded or use a rubber mallet or hammer to gently push the rung into the bottom of the notch. If using a hammer, hammer against a scrap piece of lumber so as to not dent the rungs.

Please Note: The gluing step is required to be able to make a sturdy bed.

Make sure the rungs are square (90° degrees) to the legs and parallel to each other. Use 2½" screws to fasten each rung to the legs. Drive the screws nice and tight. While driving the screws, **make sure there is no gap between the rung and the base of the notch.**

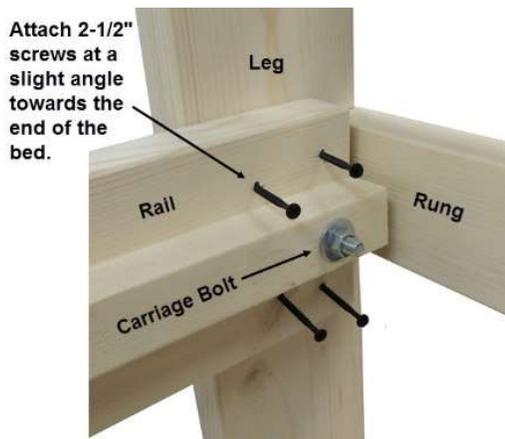
Suggestion. Put your knee tightly on the rung keeping constant pressure on the leg. Slowly drive the screw half-way into the leg, then unscrew it so it is just comes out of the leg, then drive it all the way back in. The screw should recess about 1/8" into the rung to make a nice tight fit. Note, due to temperature and humidity differences the rungs may have expanded and may need to be slightly sanded to fit. Now repeat and assemble the left ladder the same way.

The glue will take about 2 hours to dry. It is important that it completely dries to give you a very sturdy bed. Do not use the loft or put any pressure on the ladder rungs while the glue is drying.

Step 2 - Installing the Rails

Note: The front rail is a 2x6x80" with a 2x2 ledge attached (to support the bed slats) and a hole at each end. The back rail is a 2x6x80" with a hole at each end.

Place the two ends upright. Following the diagram on Page 1 insert one 5" carriage bolt into the hole in each front leg from the outside in. Now insert one 4" carriage bolt into the back legs from the inside out. Slide the front rail on-to the legs with the bolt going through the hole at each end from the inside. Place a washer, lock washer and nut on each of the bolts and loosely hand tighten the nuts. Now position the back rail in the same way to the back of the legs.



You may now completely tighten the carriage bolts. When tightening the carriage bolts the square base will be drawn into the wood and the rounded end should be recessed about 1/16" into the wood. **Fasten the rails to the legs with (4) 2½" screws at each end surrounding the carriage bolt.**

Please Note the (4) 2-1/2" Screws surrounding the carriage bolt are very important.

The carriage bolts provides the weight capacity and the (4) 2-1/2" screws surrounding the carriage bolt provides the sturdiness and corner stability.

Make sure the screws are installed at each end of both rails.

Step 3 - Installing the (4) Bed Slats

Install the (4) bed slats to the top of the rails following the photo on Page 1. Attach with 2-1/2" screws into the rails wherever you see a pilot hole. From the front of the front rail attach it to the edge of the bed slats with 2-1/2" screws.

Step 4 - Installing the Safety Rail

Attach the Safety Rail to the top of the legs with 1-5/8" screws.

The bed is now complete. You can place your dorm room spring frame and mattress on top of our bed slats.

After completing installation, let the bed sit as the wood glue will take about 2 hours to dry. Do not use or put any pressure on the ladder rungs or bed while the glue is drying.

After the wood glue has dried, the bed should be tight and not rock in any direction more than 1/2". If it does rock, try the following. Did you use a cordless drill/screwdriver? Make sure you drive the screws nice and tight, but do not strip the wood. With the 1 1/2" thick softwood, the screws should be recessed about 1/8" to make a tight fit. Try un-screwing them very slowly one at a time and re-tighten slowly. If you use a regular electric drill, make sure it has an adjustable chuck to adjust the tension on the screws, without an adjustable chuck, a regular drill will strip the screws into the wood. If you do strip the wood, you can fill the hole with toothpicks and a little wood glue and give it time to dry, then re-install screws.

If the bed rocks more than 1/2", what direction does it move? When standing at the front rail (the long side) does it move left to right or front to back? If it moves front to back then the rungs are moving inside the notched legs. Did you coat the inside of the notches with the wood glue we provided? **Remember, the wood glue will take about 2 hours to dry. Do not use or put any pressure on the ladder rungs while the glue is drying.** Once the glue sets, the rungs and legs will become basically one piece and there should be no movement between them. Try adding a third screw to the rungs in-between the two existing screws, drive it into the wood slowly at an alternating up and down angle. If you have a small drill bit, use it to drill a pilot hole first to prevent the wood from splitting.

If the loft moves left to right then the screws in the front and back rails should be checked. You may add additional screws to the rails (see picture below), spacing them roughly 2" apart. Also, drive the new screws at an alternating left and right angle, angled screws provides better support. The carriage bolt should be tight and the rounded end should be recessed about 1/16" into the wood. The carriage bolt is primarily used to support the weight and the screws provide the stability.

Example of a Rail with more screws to further stabilize the left to right movement.

Please note that the 2 1/2" screws surrounding the carriage bolt are very important to make the bed sturdy.

The carriage bolt provides the weight capacity and the 2 1/2" screws surrounding the bolt gives it the most sturdiness and corner stability. Make sure the 2 1/2" screws are installed at each end of all bed rails.

