

GaGa Pit – Portable Version

(To make it permanent, just screw it together!)

This is not difficult so don't over-think it!

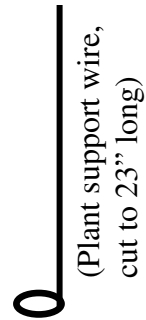
Materials:

- 15 each 2x6"x8' pressure treated deck lumber (This size is good for up to 18 people at a time; for up to 30 at a time, use 2x6"x12')
- A 1/2" diam. drill bit to reach through the 2x6" (so longer than 5 1/2")
- 12 plant support wires – (found in garden dept) about 20" to 24" long (just a 2" dia. loop bent on the end of heavy gauge green wire.) Used upside-down (below, right):
- A one pound box of coated deck screws, 2 1/2" long if you want to screw it together permanently.

Drill First: measure 6" from the end of both ends of all 15 boards. Use a square to draw that line across the board.

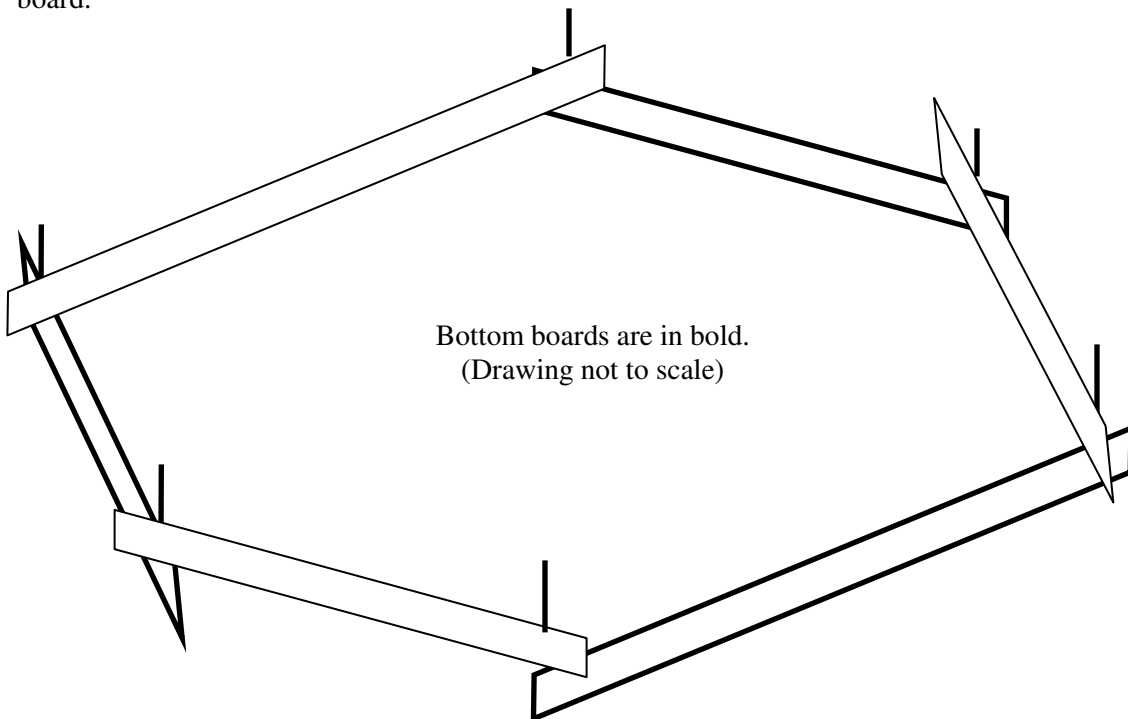
For 12 of the boards, drill the 5 1/2" width where you drew the line, centered on the 1 1/2" side. These make the "walls" and will be stacked vertically.

For the last 3 boards, drill your hole in the 5 1/2" flat side of the board in the middle of your pencil mark. These are the "seats" and will sit flat on top. You're done with tools. Go to where you want it assembled.

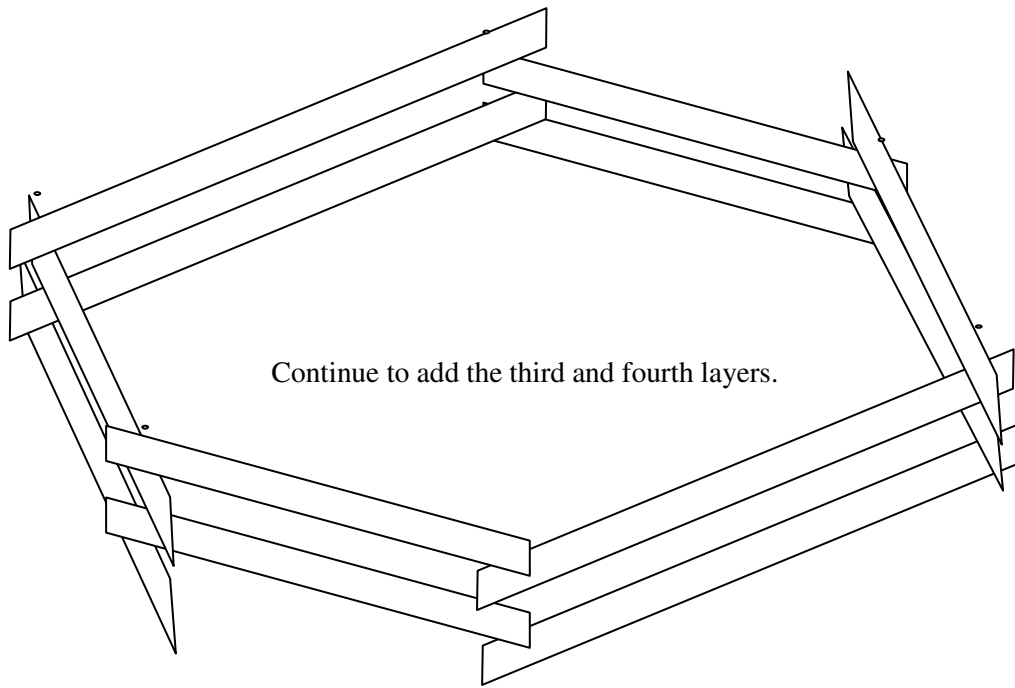


Using the approximate diagram below, lay out the first three "wall" boards far enough apart so that the next level of wall boards will line up with the holes of the ones below.

Place one of the plant support wires into each of the holes of the first three boards and stand them up on edge with the wire's hoop acting as a base, and the pointed wire sticking up through the board.



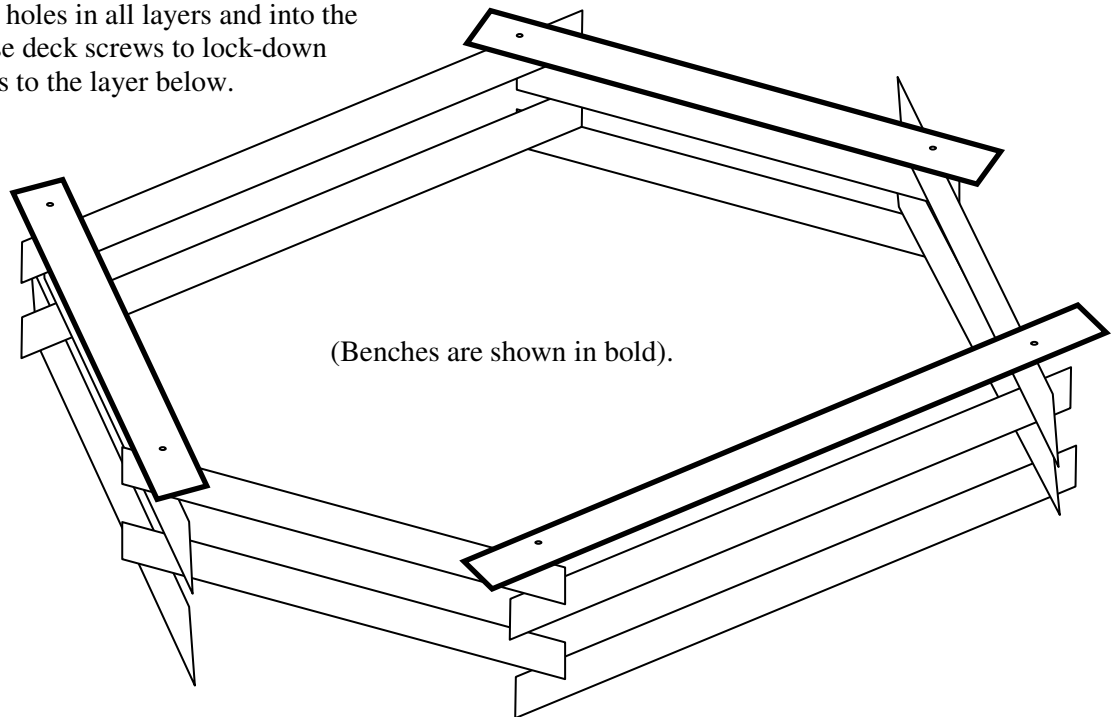
“As seen at Y-USA Expo Jacksonville, February 2009”



The final “bench” layer goes on flat. If the wires stick up above the bench, remove the bench and cut them so they don’t protrude. A hacksaw or bolt-cutters will work. (If the wires were too short, don’t worry, the next step should take care of that).

To lock it tightly together you’re now going to use your last 6 plant-support wires and stick them *down* into the holes from the top (so loop is on top of the bench. If the bottom ones were too long, cut these too match. (At “Expo” we used bamboo plant stakes to do this job so we could hang flags on them; but don’t be surprised if they get broken.)

If this is going to be a permanent installation outside, you can take 3/8 “ concrete reinforcing bar (“#3 re-bar”) about 30” long and hammer it down through the holes in all layers and into the ground. Use deck screws to lock-down the benches to the layer below.



GaGa or “Israeli Dodge Ball”

- #1.) Get into the “pit!” As many kids and adults as will comfortably fit!
(Min 2) Use a normal rubber playground ball.
- #2.) Referee (who helps if there are disagreements) tosses the ball into the air so it drops in the middle of the “pit.”
- #3.) Participants yell “Ga” on the first bounce and “Ga” on the second bounce... then it’s anyone’s ball to hit.
- #4.) Hit the ball with an open hand (no “carries” grabbing the ball).
The goal is to hit someone below the knee before it hits the ground or “the boards.” A person hit is “out” and jumps quickly out of the pit.
- #5.) To keep play going smoothly, a ball that goes “dead” (is difficult to hit because it’s rolling slowly or get’s into a corner) can be picked up without penalty by any player and tossed into the air to bounce in the center for a new “Ga...Ga...” As is also the case for balls that go out of the court. If the ball goes out without hitting anyone or bouncing first, then the last person to strike it is “out.”
- #6.) In “Classic” or “Gladiator” GaGa, the game continues until one person is victorious. Then that person is the next referee and everyone jumps back in for the next game.
- #7.) In “Endless GaGa” the game starts as usual, except when a person is hit with the ball they jump “out” but wait only until the person that got *them* (and anyone else) gets hit, and then *all* of that person’s “victims” can jump back in as that person goes “out!” This is the favorite game at many Y camps.
- #8.) Other variations: include the dodge-ball favorite, “Catch the ball that’s flying at you, and the person that struck it is “out” and you stay “in!”

For more rules and “pit” layouts, Google® “Israeli Dodge Ball.”