

ROC 'N' PLAYSETS, INC.

Reading, Massachusetts

978.943.6485

Thank you for ordering plans and instructions for building your Roc 'N' Playsets, Inc. Pirate Ship playset. I am sure you will have as much fun building it as your kids will have playing on it.

This package includes:

- Written instructions,
- Drawings of the playset at various phases of construction,
- Detail drawings of certain components of the playset,
- Lumber/supply list.

Be sure to review the entire package before you begin.

The person building the playset should be knowledgeable of basic construction techniques. They should be able to use a variety of power tools, including a circular saw, sabre saw, electric drill/screw gun (cordless preferred), and belt sander. They will also need a level, socket driver, adjustable wrench, hammer, speed square and tape measure. With at least two people working, the project will probably take one to two weekends.

The instructions are based on the construction of a "typical" playset with the specified components. However, you may need to modify the plans as necessary to fit your yard, your pocketbook and your kids. The only caution I render is to keep safety at the forefront of your design and construction.

With the instructions, you should be able to understand what you need to do at each stage of construction. However, if I confused you, or left something out, or if you just have a question about the construction process, please feel free to call me between 10am and 4pm, EST, at 978.943.6485.

Thank you again ... and enjoy your playset!!

Roc O'Connell, Owner
Roc'n'Playsets, Inc.

Instructions for Constructing the Roc'n'Playsets, Inc.

PIRATE SHIP

- Read all instructions carefully before beginning construction.
- Review the enclosed lumber/supply list at the end of these instructions and modify it as needed for the size and configuration of your playset.
- Lay out all lumber, hardware and material by size and type of material. Arsenic-free pressure treated southern pine is most popular and versatile for playsets, but other materials, such as cedar or redwood, can be used because they generally have a natural resistance to the vagaries of exposure to the weather.
- Bolts should be 5/16" galvanized or stainless steel carriage bolts with galvanized or stainless steel washers and nuts. Use 3" bolts to join two 2" thicknesses; 5" to join 2" and 4" thicknesses. Tighten all nuts with socket or box wrench. Refer to: "Typical Cross Member Bolting Detail" drawing.
- For increased safety, countersink the nut end of all bolts (3/4"-1" forstner bit is best; spade bits can also be used). Refer to "Typical Cross Member Bolting Detail" drawing.
- Screws should be galvanized, stainless steel, or "coated" deck screws. (I prefer the coated deck screws. They are slightly more expensive, but more corrosion resistant, and the coating, usually Teflon, makes it easier to screw in and out of pressure treated wood.)
- For increased safety, all screws should be countersunk (recommended) or "driven" just below the surface. Screws should be added to all bolt connections. Nails can be used, but are not recommended. (Screws— vs. nails - will ensure a safer and sounder playset, requiring less maintenance and lasting much longer. Nails will eventually pull out.)
- At the end of construction and before the playset is used by your kids, conduct a comprehensive safety review of the entire playset for situations that might present a safety hazard for your children. Be sure to tighten all bolts and screws, especially for the ladder, slide, and slide support. Inspect all surfaces to ensure safe play. Sand all rough services; round over all corners; test swing chains; secure all swing support legs to wooden stakes driven in the ground to prevent lifting when kids are swinging.

Please Note: These instructions and drawings assume the construction of a "typical" pirate ship playset with a vinyl canopy, a ladder to the upper deck, a "twister" slide, and swings. The size of the "typical" pirate ship in the drawings is roughly 60" wide, 11' long, and 8' to the top of the upper railing (not the canopy). The placement of the slide, the ladder, the ramp, swings, windows, etc., shown in the drawings, are "typical". However, because not all backyards (or kids) are alike, you and your kids may want to configure your pirate ship differently. You may choose to make the ship longer or higher or wider. You may also choose to change the location of the swings, add more windows, attach the ladder on the back of the ship, change the size of the decks, or even eliminate something altogether. If you do make changes, you will need to modify the drawings.

If you do make changes, you may need to modify the drawings. Based on the requests of some of my customers (or their kids), I have made modifications to playsets that included adding a "secondary" tower adjacent to the main tower, placing swings at an angle to the tower, replacing a "conventional" slide with a giant tube slide (which requires a platform height of 84"), and constructing the tower without swings. It is this flexibility in design that makes Roc 'n' Playsets attractive to the weekend warrior looking to build a "custom" playset. Just be certain to adjust lumber dimensions and quantity in accordance with your changes.

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Pirate Ship Playset Instructions

Playset Construction:

1. Mark out on the ground the general location of the playset, including any equipment to be included, like swings, a slide, etc. Try to make the area where the playset will stand as level as possible and remove all rocks, stumps or debris that might present a safety hazard.

Important: If you are going to attach swings to the playset, you will need a minimum of 11 feet of clear space both in front of and behind where the swings will hang, for a total of 22 feet.

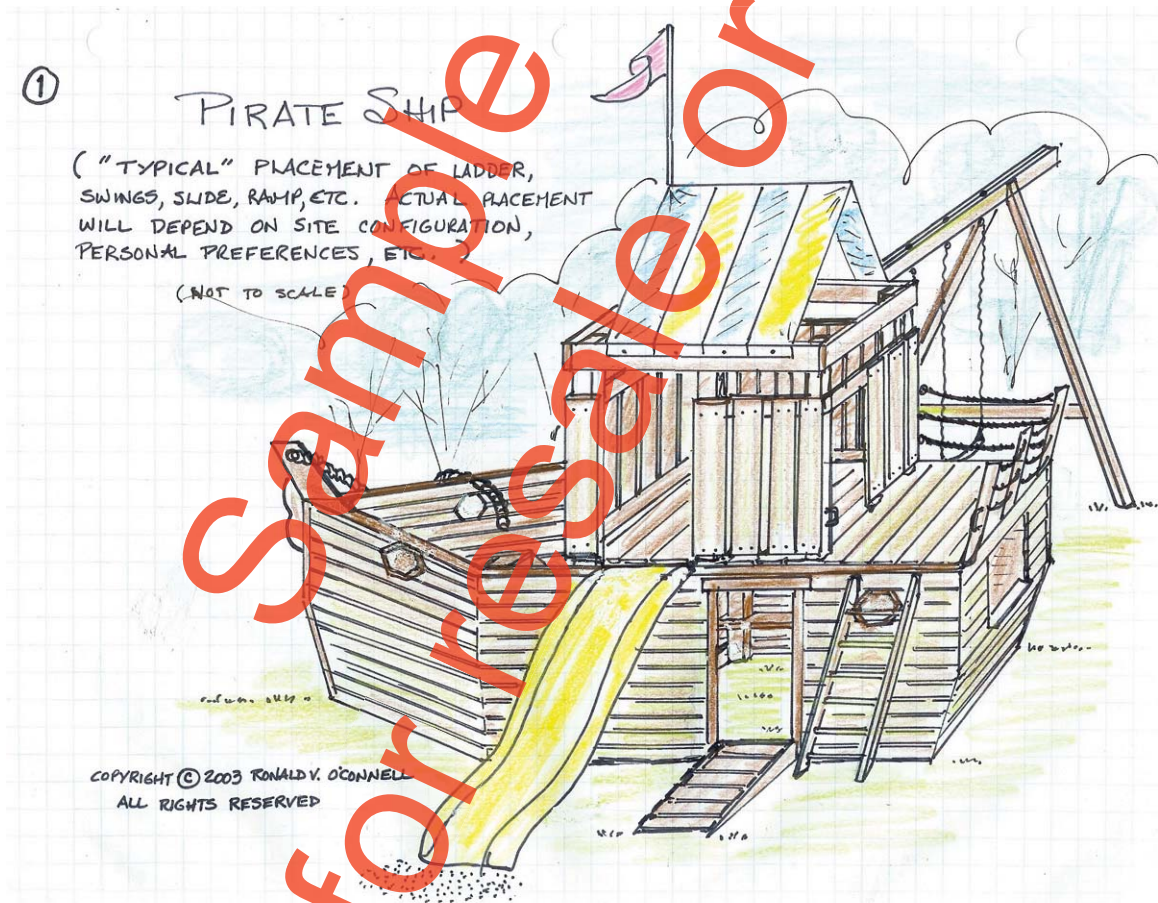


Figure 1 - (P-1) Pirate Ship

If you will be attaching monkey bar ladder type swings, you will need to add an extra 2"x6" horizontal support between two 4x4 uprights at the height at which the swings will be mounted (usually 84").

15. If you will be attaching a slide to the tower, you will need to add an upright (2x4) between the mid level (upper deck) and upper level horizontal supports at the point at which one side of the slide will be attached. Attach it with 3" screws. Note: Most "conventional" slides are around 16" to 18" wide. Add one inch to the width of your slide and measure in that distance from the inside of one of the tower uprights to attach the additional upright.

If you will be using a "tube" type slide, you may need to add additional horizontal supports. In all cases, follow the directions accompanying the slide.)

16. Cut and attach the side boards (1"x4") for the hull, beginning at the top and working down. The first board should be attached flush with the upper deck horizontal support. Cut the front end of the hull boards at an angle such that the hull board will attach flush to the bow upright support. Allow 1/4"-1/2" spacing between boards. The boards should be attached with two 1 5/8" screws in each hull angle support and should extend 1 1/4" beyond the rear hull support. Be sure to predrill before attaching to the bow upright support.

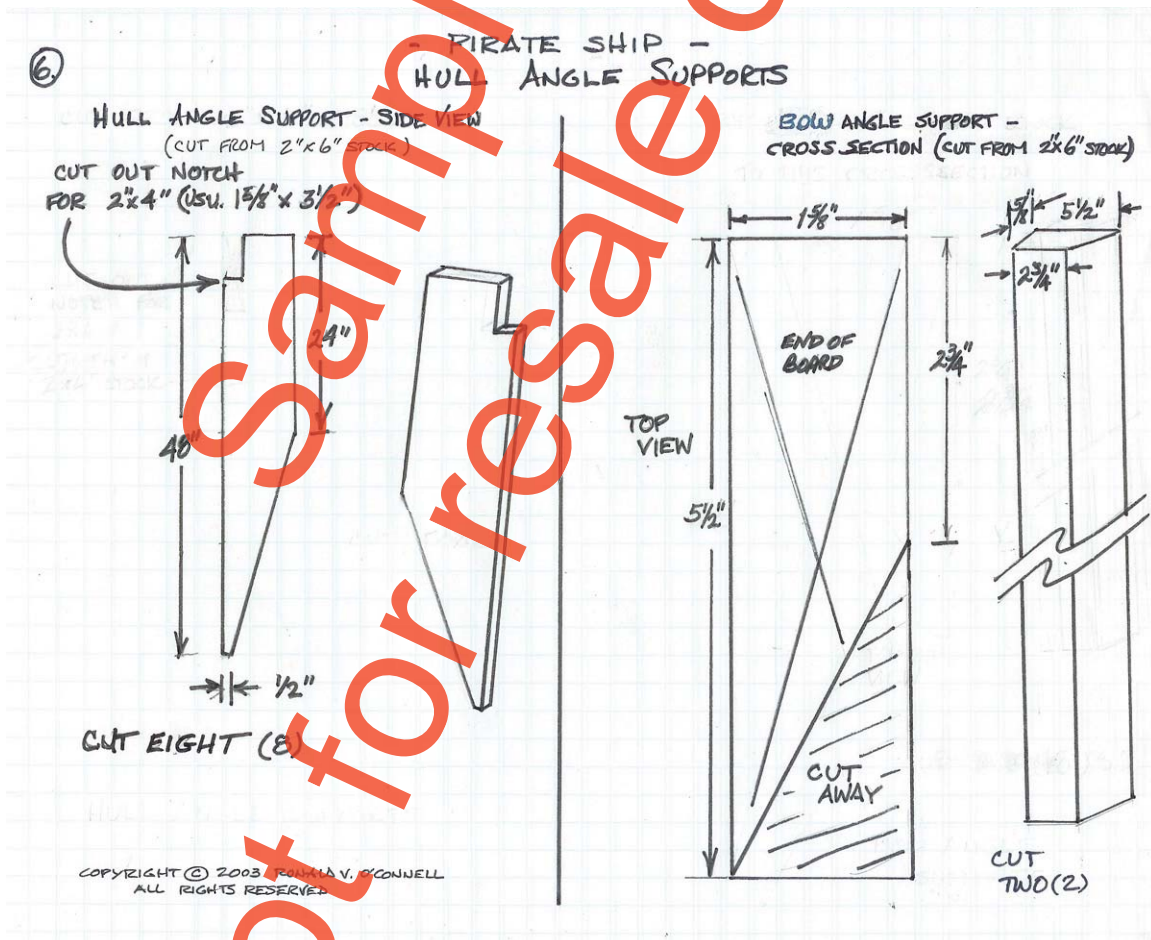


Figure 6 - (P-6) Hull Angle Supports

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32. If your ladder will attach directly against the hull (as opposed to being set at an angle as in step 30, above,) cut the bottom of the ladder legs square, but cut the top at about a 20 degree angle. The bottom of the ladder must rest on the ground. The top of the ladder legs should extend 3-4" above the deck to assist in climbing. Attach the ladder to the hull with bolts through the uprights or the hull boards.
33. Install handles into uprights at the top of the ladder following manufacturer's installation directions. They should be mounted approximately 12" above the top of the deck to which the ladder leads.

Swings Construction:

34. If you are going to include swings in your playset design, you should do that now. You will need to decide what the main "beam" design will be. There are two main kinds of swing designs that I have added to playsets: a single beam with an "A" frame support at the end opposite the tower, and a "monkey bar," or ladder beam, with a climbing ladder and braces at the far end. They are equally strong and the decision will be largely based on what you or your kids want.

Single Beam Swings

35. Assemble the swings unit using instructions accompanying the swing hardware kit. The brackets and hardware for the single beam swing should be purchased at a lumber yard or store where swing supplies are sold. (I generally use the swings and hardware made by the *Swing-n-Slide Co.* (www.swing-n-slide.com), sold by many lumber companies, but also by many *Lowes* and *Home Depot* stores.) For the main beam I use double 2x6's, screwed together with the grain reversed, rather than a 4" x 6" solid beam. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the swing assembly and attaching to the tower.

Note: For 2 swing positions, I use an 8' beam; for three swings I use a 12' beam. The beam can be a single 4" x 6" or a double 2" x 6". The double 2x6 is actually stronger (fasten them together with screws with the grain reversed), but either will provide adequate support. Also, on a number of swingsets, I have extended the beam 2' to 3' beyond the A-beam support and installed a knotted climbing rope.

36. Drill the holes required for the swing hanger hardware (it usually comes with the swings, but can be purchased separately) and attach hardware before attaching beam to tower.

"Monkey Bar" Swing Beam

Refer to "Monkey Bar Swing Set/Ladder" drawing.

37. The upper "ladder" beam of the swing will be made using two 2x6's, 8' for two swings, 10'-12' for 3 swings. Also, on a number of swingsets, I have extended the ladder beam 2' to 3' beyond the beam support and installed a knotted climbing rope.

		swing		
Slide	Slide		1	Straight or angled
	2x4x10' *		1	Slide support
*See instructions with slide				
Miscellaneous				
	1x3x10'	"strapping"	bndl	Bracing
	2x4x8'		5+	Miscellaneous "stuff"
Connection Hardware				
	1 5/8" deck screws		5 lbs.	"Coated" or stainless steel
	3" deck screws		5 lbs.	"Coated" or stainless steel
	5/16"x5" galvanized carr. bolts		24-30	(Include washers & nuts)
	Eye screws		12	With 3/4" eye; rear deck "rigging"
	1/2" rope		30'	Rear deck rigging

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