



Terry and Denise O'Shea

# CENTENARY LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

## Do it Yourself Landscape Guide



A Timber Pergola

# How to Build a Pergola in 13 Easy Steps

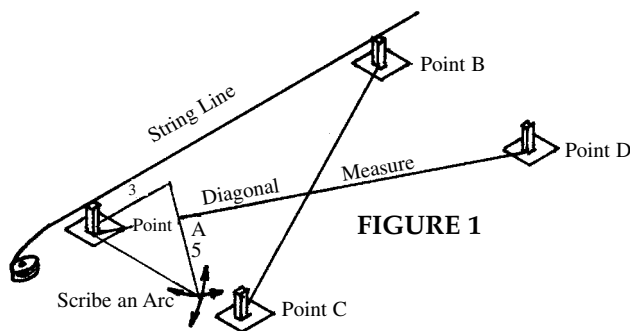
## Step 1 Planning Your Pergola

Draw a simple plan but true to scale on graph paper. The scale might be 1m = 5 squares. Refer to *Decks & Pergolas Construction Manual* on page 67.

## STEP 2 Site Preparation

If the site needs levelling, - now is the time to do it and remember, the Pergola up-rights must not be used as supports for any retaining wall, unless any alterations are submitted to council with plans. The footing timber sizes are only suitable for Pergolas and Decks.

## STEP 3 Setting Out

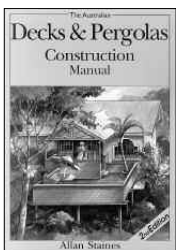


This being a free standing Pergola, your starting point will be one corner, marked with a timber peg- Point A. Use the string-line and tape measure provided, mark Point B, making sure the string is kept 'taut'. To make sure that Points C and D make an accurate rectangle, measure out a triangle that has sides divisible by 3,4 and 5 (as in Figure 1). This ensures a 90 degree angle is formed at Points A and B. Once points C and D are pegged, you can double check the accuracy of your rectangle by: measuring A to B, C to D; and A to D, B to D; they should be equal; and measure A to D and B to C; they should be equal. If these don't correspond within 20mm, start the process again. All these measurements are supplied on your plans. Now you have gone to all the trouble, re-check the measurements and then pull the pegs out. (This is where you start to dig.)

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## STEP 4 Digging Your Holes

Preferably dig your 'holes' square to the dimensions shown on the "footing detail" in your plans.



**For extra information and designs ask for the "DECK and PERGOLA CONSTRUCTION BOOK" - ONLY \$35.50**



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## STEP 5 Concreting in Your Post Supports

Your Post Supports are the galvanised iron leg attachments for your timber posts.

Position your post supports into the ground as in Figure 2, using timber packing to hold it at the required height. (The required height is the height at which the floor is to finish plus 50mm) and repeat Step 3. Once the post supports are positioned using Pre-mix Concrete provided, make up a fairly 'wet or sloppy' mix. Carefully place concrete into the holes not disturbing your post supports. If by chance you happen to bump a support slightly, this can be rectified by adjusting it in the wet concrete.

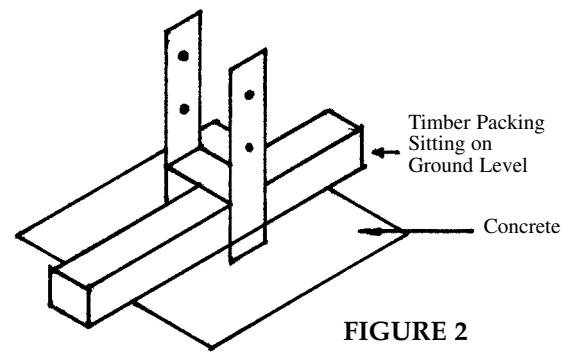


FIGURE 2

## STEP 6 Painting

At this stage while the concrete around your post supports is curing (going hard), it would be advisable to paint the Pergola while it is in pieces.

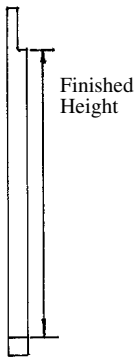


FIGURE 3

## STEP 7 Erecting Your First Post

If on uneven ground, the first post to be erected would be your longest one. On flat ground start with Point A, decide what finished height you want your Pergola and cut this post to length as in Figure 3.

Once the post is cut, position it in the Post Support and clamp it in place. Using the spirit level plumb the post both ways and re-tighten clamp. Drill holes through support and bolt in place.

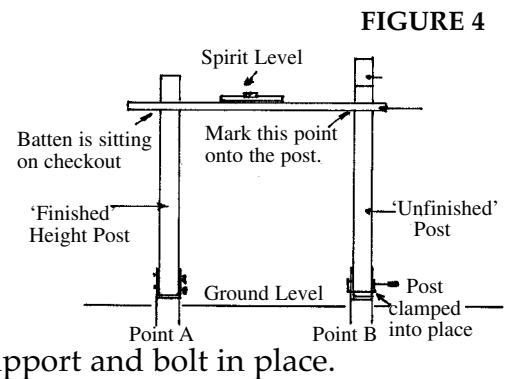


FIGURE 4

Now that the first post is positioned and fastened it is time to project that "finished height" to your next post position (as in figure 4) and you do this by using a batten (supplied).

## STEP 8 Projecting to Your Next Post

Place the post in the post support, plumb and clamp this into place. **DO NOT DRILL THIS AS YET.** Using one of the battens supplied, place one end of your batten onto the "checkout" of the first post and place the other end of the batten onto "the checkout" of the second post as in Figure 4.

Place your spirit level onto the top of the batten and check for level. If this is the case drill, if not, lower the end of the batten until the spirit level is reading level on your second post. When you have achieved this, scribe a line on the underside of the batten onto the post, un-clamp the post and measure the distance between the bottom of the checkout and your pencil line (As in figure 5).

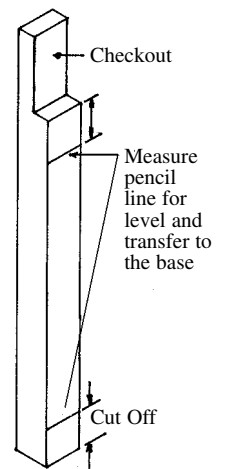


FIGURE 5

Now transfer this measure and mark from the bottom of the post up. Cut this section off. Place the post back into the support and clamp. Check that the batten now sits level from

"checkout to checkout". If not repeat this process again. Once they read level, re-tighten the clamp and drill and bolt into place. If your pergola has more than 2 posts along the "long side", repeat this process for your other posts.

## STEP 9 Placing Main Beams into Checkouts

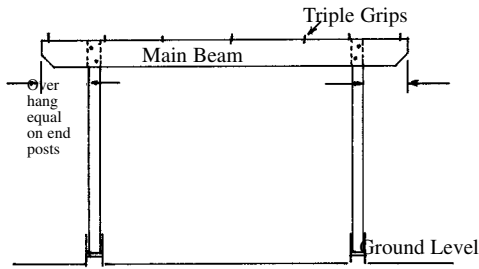


FIGURE 6

Place one of your “main beams” (with mark on top of beam facing inward) into checkouts. Re-check that the posts are still plumb. Measure the overhang on each side of the posts so that they measure equal, as in Figure 6. If they are correct, clamp, drill and bolt the main beam into position.

## STEP 10. Projecting Heights

You can now project the heights of your posts A/B to C/D. To achieve this repeat Step 7 to Step 9.

## STEP 11. Placement of Your Rafters.

The best way to approach this is to place a rafter on each end of the Pergola, making sure the overhang on each side of the rafter is equal. Fix these into position against triple grips and nail them off. Place your string-line on the outside of one of the rafters and pull taut to the same point on the other rafter (As in Figure 8). You can proceed to install the “intermediate” rafters.

When “nailing off” the triple grips, 4 connector nails should be nailed into each side section and 2 nails into top section.

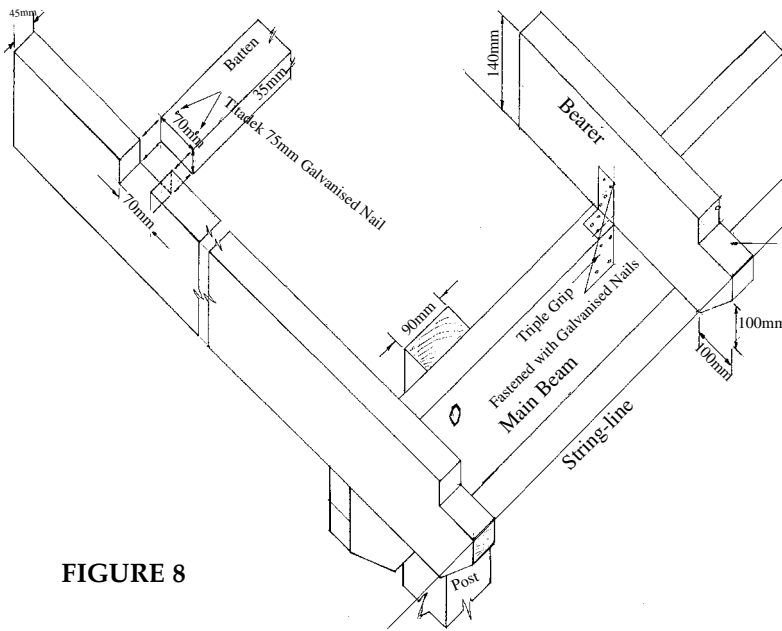


FIGURE 8

## STEP 12. Installing Your Battens

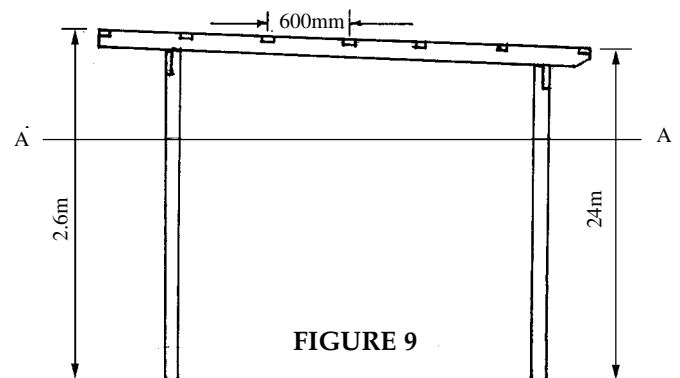
All the rafters have checkouts in them, ready to hold the battens in place. Drill pilot holes in the actual battens, where they cross the rafters and fix in place using the galvanised twist nails provided.

## STEP 13 Bracing Your Pergola.

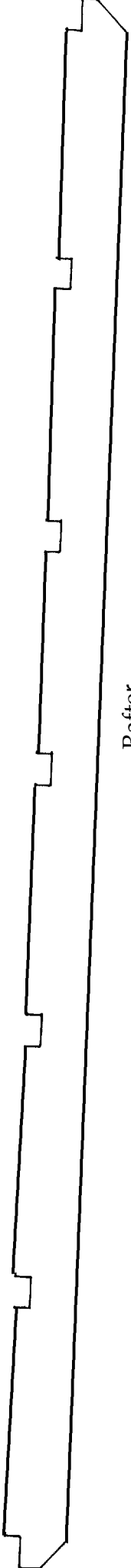
Being a free-standing Pergola, it needs to be braced. With the kit the bracing we provide is of straight timber nature and is to be applied to the corner as per Figure 9. As an alternative there is a range of decorative bracing available. Please enquire in regards to the price of these.

**Believe it or not your Pergola is now complete. Enjoy it.**

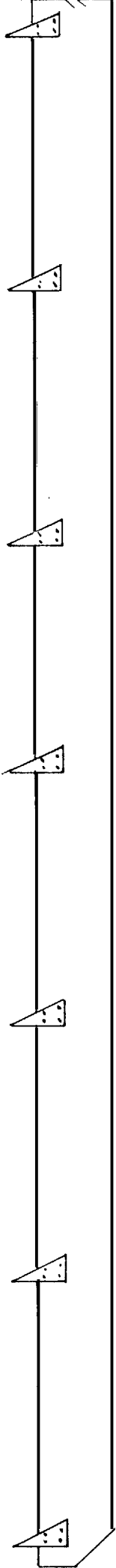
**ROOFING:** Your Pergola is designed to be able to take a fixed roof on it. All timber sizes we use fall into this category but you will need more specifications from the roof supplier in regards to bracing and tying down.



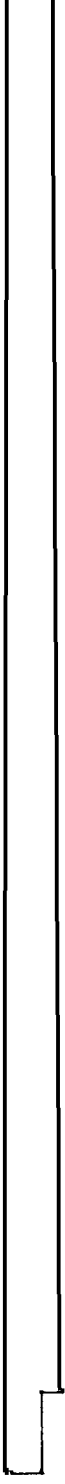
# Timber Parts List



Rafter



Main Beam



Post



Batten