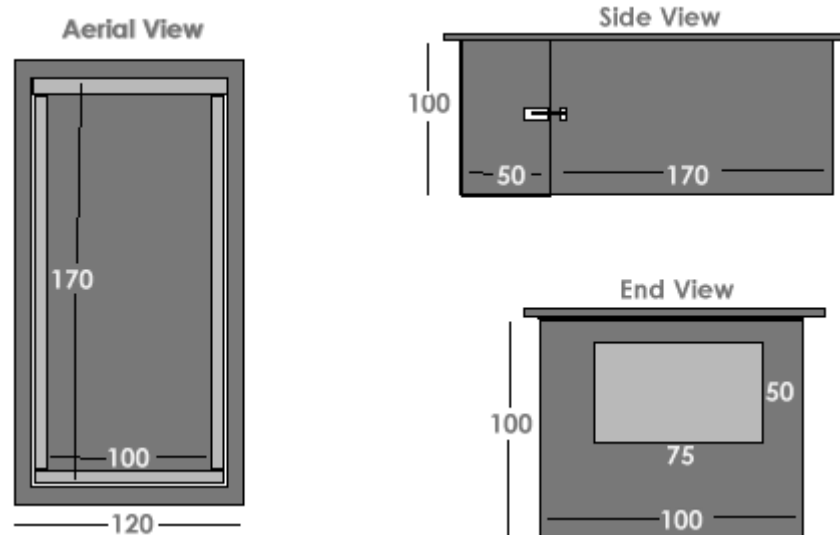


SIMPLE TREE HOUSE

Parts list

This treehouse is very easy to construct using 2"x2" and 2"x1" pine and 3/4" plywood. You will need to build the basic floor supports yourself - I cannot design a universal floor to fit any tree.



Parts list

Lengths are measured in centimetres, cross-sectional dimensions are measured in inches.

- **Roof**
Flat roof: 240x120 (8'x4') 3/4" plywood - this is usually a full sheet
Alternative for pitched roof: 2 of 240x80 3/4" plywood instead
- **Walls**
 2 of 220x100 1/2" plywood (the door will be 50x100 of this)
 2 of 100x100 1/2" plywood
- **Window(s)**
 Any size but about 75x50 recommended. You could have a window at either or both ends.
- **Floor**
 220x100 3/4 inch plywood (or bigger to fit supports)
- **Frame**
 - floor*
 220 (2"x1")
 170 (2"x1")
 90 (2"x1")
 95 (2"x1")
 total = 5.75 metres (2"x1")
 - walls*
 5 of 93 (2"x2")
 total = 5 metres (2"x2")
 - roof*
 2 of 220 (2"x2")
 2 of 90 (2"x2")
 total = 6.2 metres (2"x2")

extra for pitched roof

4 of 71 (2"x2")

2 of 100 (2"x1")

total = 2.84 metres (2"x2") and 2 metres (2"x1")

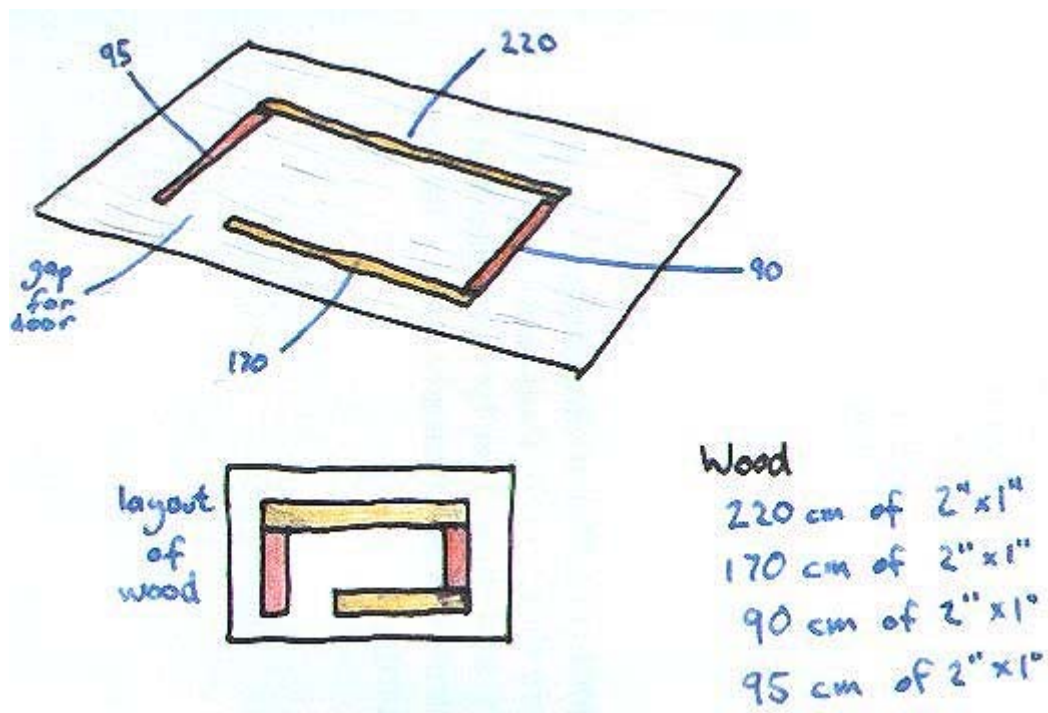
- **Other things you need**
 - Roofing felt (10 metres or more, 1 metre wide)
 - sliding bolt lock with screws
 - 2 x hinges (for door)
 - 4" galvanised nails (for 2"x2" - pre-drill)
 - 2" galvanised nails (for walls)
 - felt tacks
 - 2" passivated/blued/galvanised countersunk screws (for hinges and floor frame)
 - 18 x right angle brackets (optional - for fixing framework together easily)

Get building!

Once you have collected together the parts shown above, you can begin building...

Fitting the base strips

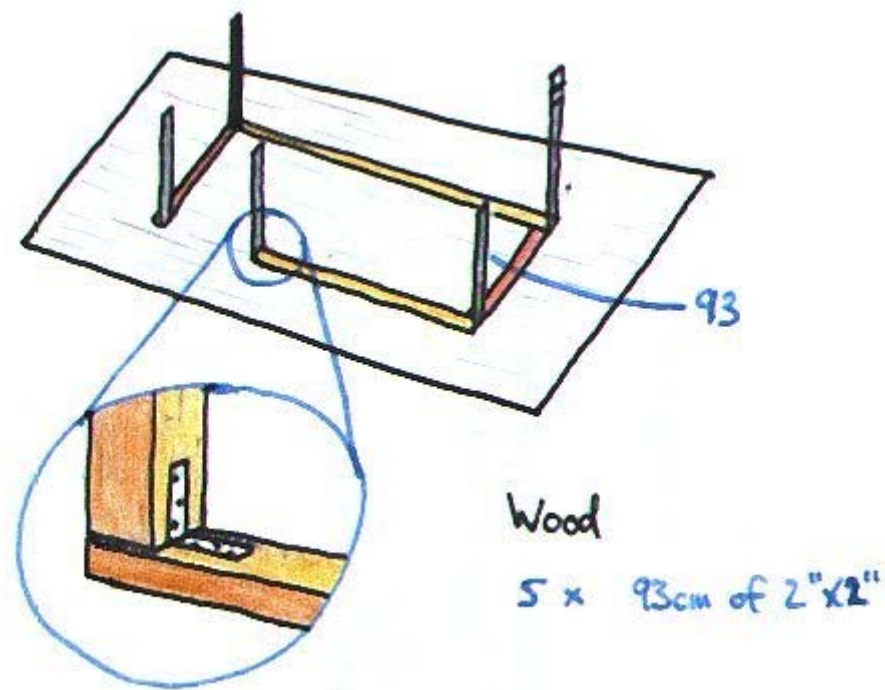
Once you have all the parts listed in the cutting list and a floor already built in the tree, you can start building the house itself. Begin by laying down the 'foundations' for the framework, ie the flat strips of wood which form the base of the treehouse. These are screwed down in the positions shown below. Try to use a set square or right angle to get these strips truly rectangular.



Vertical frame pieces

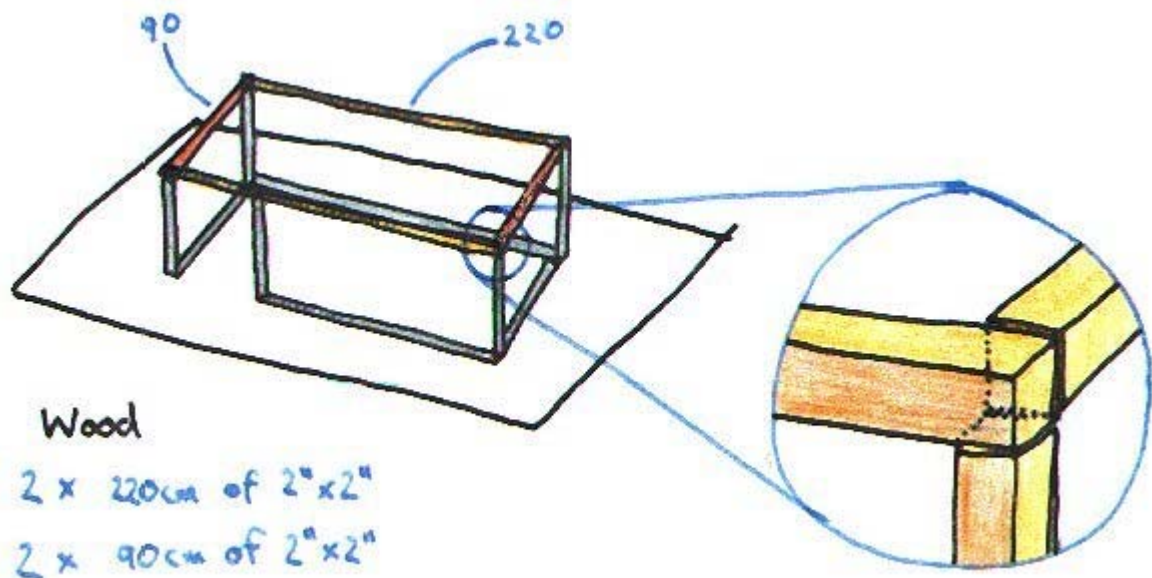
Fix the five vertical pieces to the base of the frame. This is best done with plastic or metal brackets as shown in the detail below. Screw these into the vertical piece first, then position

and screw to the base. You could also nail the verticals in at an angle, but this isn't very accurate.



Roof supports

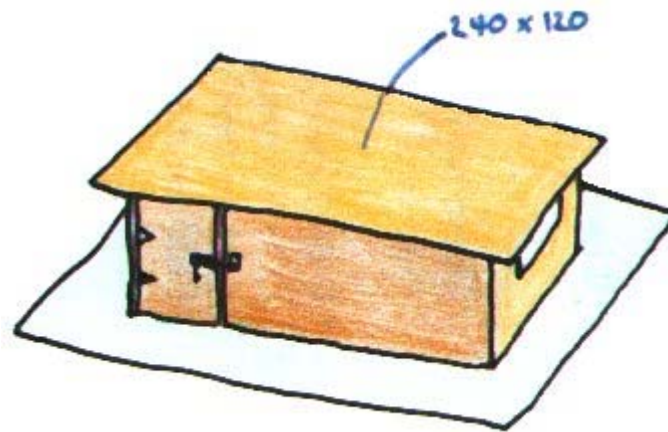
Fasten the roof supports to the verticals using 4 inch nails or screws. To avoid the wood splitting when hammering a nail at the end of a piece, it is important to first hammer the point of the nail so it is blunt. It will then break through the wood fibres in its path, rather than forcing them apart. Better still is to drill pilot holes for the nails with a drill bit slightly narrower than the nail. You may find it easier to nail only the long pieces down, and to attach the short end pieces with brackets as used before for the verticals. Make sure the layout of the joint is followed as shown in the detail below.



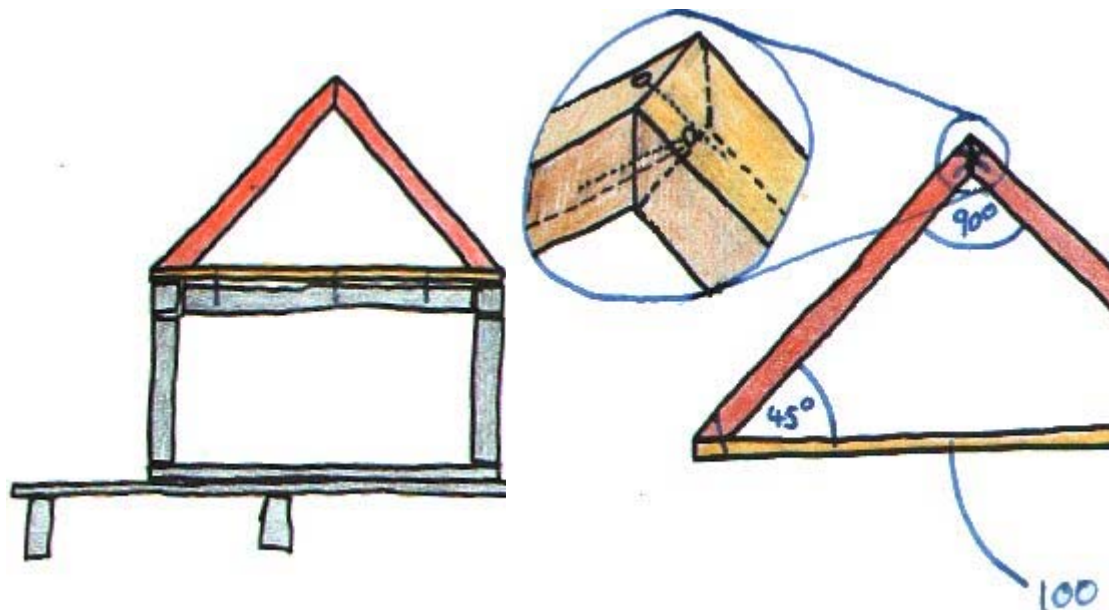
Walls and roof

The frame is finished, so it is time to put up the walls. Nail these on to the frame with 2" nails or use screws for greater durability. This may be awkward to start with, as the frame will be wobbly, but as the first couple of walls are fixed, the frame will become much more rigid.

Notice how the roof overlaps on all sides to shed the rain. To fit the door, screw the hinges to the door first. Then get someone to hold it in place (or use bits of wood) and screw the other side of each hinge to the door frame. Attach the sliding bolt and catch, preferably with security bolts, ie bolts which can only be adjusted from the inside. You can alternatively fit a pitched roof instead of the flat one shown here - see below.



Pitched roofs are much more resistant to rot than flat. Rain will rapidly drain and will be shed more reliably away from the walls, keeping the house drier and better protected.



Waterproofing

To add a degree of waterproofing to your treehouse, lay down some layers of felt (at least three) across the roof. Alternate direction of the felt with each layer and do not nail any layer down just yet. When you have all the layers in position, set down the strips of 2"x1" so they are directly above the roof supports. Fix the strips down firmly with 2" screws.

Once the felt is secured, paint over the whole of the roof with a thick tarry paint to seal any gaps around the screws and to provide a tough finish. Your treehouse is complete!

