How TO MAKE A VILLAGE SWING

# mkthings

The word "Kulakik" translates from Estonian to English as "Village Swing", and means exactly that. It is a large, wooden, multi-person swing that is a traditional Estonian structure. This well-known daytime activity is inspired by Estonian pagan roots and appreciation of communal outdoor activities. Due to the country's far northern location, the winters are cold and dark. This harsh environment has led the Estonians to have a deep gratitude for summer, and the brief period of white nights it brings. The swing offers a platform for interaction, dialogue, and exchange as people take the opportunity to play and work together outside.

While traveling through the Estonian countryside, it is not uncommon to come across a Kulakik and then stop to enjoy it.

The design here is based on "Kulakik - the Village Swing", a permanent installation in Solives Grove, WI, built by the collaborative team of Matt Nichol and Kristina Prabas. With this design, we created from the study of, and participation with Estonian swings. It was executed while at ACRE Residency Program in summer 2012. The plans were never written down until now (Feb 2014, Prabas). Measurements from memory; modify as needed.

**Supplies**
- Wood (pressure treated)
  - 2-6x8x16 (main posts)
  - 6-2”x4”x12 (support beams)
  - 1”x8”x10” (stop bar)
  - 4”x8”x10” (rotating beam)
- Hardware + plus lag screws (50-60)
- Washers (24)
- Concrete (2"
- 2”x3” steel pipe (at least 2” thick)
- 2” metal plates (with pre-drilled holes)
- Wood shop tools, wood glue, shovel, water sealant, gravel, cement

**Please note:** Wires and fence litigation may present difficulties in finding a building site.

**Stop bar** (if the swing doesn't go 360°)
**PA-Frame braces to support swinging platform.**
**Hole drilled into beam that is just slightly larger than the steel pipe.**
**Rotating beam:** Tricky & crucial. There are many options, such as:

1. **Welded metal end caps**
   - OR-
2. **(as pictured)** using a table saw rip the 8” x 8” beam in half, with a router hollow out 2” segment from either end, so that once sandwiched together again the steel pipe fits in snugly.

**D. Sideview**
- pre-drill holes into steel pipe so that it can be drilled into the wood.
- Recombine wood halves with glue and 6” lag screws with washers.

**Dig two holes that are lower than the frost line (4”), hoist main structure up with rotating bar already in place. Begin with support beams, assemble the rest of the swing on the spot.**
- When complete fill all holes with gravel + cement.
- Allow concrete to fully settle for a couple of days. DO NOT USE SWING DURING THAT TIME.
- Once cement is set, fill remaining hole with dirt.