

How To MAKE A VILLAGE SWING

#mkthings

THE WORD "KÜLAKIK" 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 PASTIME HARKENS BACK TO ESTONIAN'S PAGAN ROOTS AND APPRECIATION OF COMMUNAL OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. DUE TO THE COUNTRY'S FAR NORTH 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 KÜLAKIK - AND THEN STOP TO ENJOY IT.

THE DESIGN HERE IS BASED ON "KÜLAKIK - THE VILLAGE SWING", A PERMANENT INSTALLATION IN SOLDIERS GROVE, WI, BUILT BY THE COLLABORATIVE TEAM "WITH" (MATT NICHOLS & KRISTINA PAABUS). WITH'S DESIGN WAS CREATED FROM THE STUDY OF, AND PARTICIPATION WITH ESTONIAN SWINGS. IT WAS EXCLUDED WHILE AT ACRE RESIDENCY PROGRAM IN SUMMER 2012. THE PLANS WERE NEVER WRITTEN DOWN UNTIL NOW (FEB. 2014. PAABUS). * MEASUREMENTS FROM MEMORY - MODIFY AS NEEDED.

METAL PLATE WITH DRILLED PIPE HOLE TO PREVENT WEAR ON WOOD

HANDLE BAR MADE FROM A RIPPED 2" X 4" WITH SANDED AND ROUNDED CORNERS.

PLATFORM + SWINGING STRUCTURE MADE OF 2X4'S

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH CLEARANCE BETWEEN SWING PLATFORM AND GROUND - BUT LOW ENOUGH THAT PEOPLE CAN STILL CLIMB ON (APPROX 22")

WIDE ANGLE AT LEAST 80°

AT LEAST 10' SIDE SUPPORT AT WIDE ANGLE AT LEAST 45°

- SUPPLIES**
- WOOD (PRESSURE TREATED) -
 - 2- 6" X 8" X 16' (main posts)
 - 6- 2" X 4" X 12' (support beams)
 - 1- 1" X 8" X 10' (stop bar)
 - 1- 8" X 8" X 10' (rotating beam)
 - 26- 2" X 4" X 8' (all other pieces)
 - HARDWARE + PLUS
 - LAG SCREWS - (20-7", 20-6", 12-3")
 - WASHERS (20-7", 20-6", 12-3")
 - OUTDOOR SCREENS (2 1/2")
 - 2- 3" steel pipes (at least 2" thick)
 - 2- metal plates (with pre-drilled holes)
 - WOOD SHOP TOOLS, WOOD GLUE, SHOVEL, WATER SEALANT, GRAVEL, CEMENT

* PLEASE NOTE: WORRIES OF FUTURE LITIGATION MAY PRESENT DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING A BUILDING SITE.

STOP BAR (so the swing doesn't go 360°)

A-FRAME BRACES TO SUPPORT SWINGING PLATFORM.

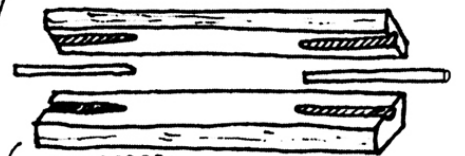
HOLE DRILLED INTO BEAM THAT IS JUST SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE STEEL PIPE.

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 SNUGGLY.



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. BEGINNING 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.

