

## Traditional Woodworking Dovetailed Post

This post joined together with dovetails requires no braces anywhere to help support the horizontal arm from sagging.

Your post needs to have square edges. The length of a 4x4 you need will depend on how you're going to use it. The plans will give you everything you need to make the post except the length you need.

I suggest that you use only a dry post, especially if you have to use pressure treated. Anytime I make one with a pressure treated post, I put the post in my shop on stickers and let it dry for at least 2 weeks before I start machining it. I also turn the post every few days.

You want a very tight joint and not loose due to wood shrinkage once the post is together and keep it from being sloppy looking.

Once you have the joint together, you'll want to counter sink 4 holes for lag bolts and flat washers, and then plug the holes with a 3/4" plug. Leave about 1/4" of the plug higher than the post. Doing that will give it the look of a post being pegged together. The plans show the lag bolts locations.

We use a band saw to cut the dovetail and the scrolled ends on the horizontal support arm and the end of the horizontal arm support brace.

It's very important that you cut the joints square and tight fitting. The dimensions on the plans are a reference to build the post and will most likely be different once you start machining the post. Take your own personal measurements. We've built so many of these post since the 1960's we can have one ready for primer usually in a little over a hour.

Cap off the top of the post with a finial and you've got yourself a fine looking mailbox post with a handmade sign hanging under it. We usually paint the finial a different color.

This post is fun to build, and with the same full size templates we use, the build should go smoothly for you.