

FIRST STEP - Setting up the Frame (Refer to Fig. A, last page)

On a flat surface near the location your new REAListic Tennis Backboard will be set up, start by placing the 2, 12ft. long horizontal channels parallel to each other approximately 8ft. apart. **{Be sure to refer to Fig. A, last page, for appropriate spacing from your support.}** Lay these on top of the packaging cardboard with the flaps to protect the court surface as you are assembling the Backboard. Set aside the labeled cardboard pieces for later use if the sound reduced model was purchased. One of the 12ft. channels is stamped with a 'T' for top in 4 places; the other channel is marked with a 'B' for bottom in 4 places.

Now lay the vertical channels in place. The 2 single wide 8ft. channels are for the outsides. The 2 double wide 8ft. channels need to be centered on the marks that are approximately 4ft. in from either end. You will notice each of the vertical channels is also marked with a 'T' at one end and a 'B' at the other. When laid out properly, all the Ts will be together as will all the Bs. **{Refer to Fig. #1.}**

SECOND STEP - Screwing/Squaring the Frame

Now that you have the frame laid out, you are ready to start screwing it together. While one of you holds the edges flush, the other can twist the long drive screws w/washers through the pre-drilled holes in the horizontal channels, and drill into the ends of the vertical channels. NOTE: Just twist enough to start them into the wood and then use a drill with a Phillips bit to tighten them up. Follow this procedure on all 4 vertical channels, top and bottom. **{Refer to Fig. #2.}**

Now that the horizontal channels are attached to the vertical channels, use your carpenter's square to square the corners.

THIRD STEP - Laying out/Screwing on the Panels

With the frame assembled and square, you are ready to attach the panels. Start with the middle panel. Line up the edges of the panel with the centers of the double wide vertical channels. The cedar grain textured surface w/white stripe is the front and should be facing up when placed on the frame.

Once you have the panel centered and flush on the top and bottom, screw in one of the short drive screws with a washer in each corner. NOTE: If you have a little lippage of the panel over the horizontal channels, have the lippage evenly split. Now lay out the other panels in like fashion. Before you screw the rest in, make sure all the edges fit right and the white net stripe is aligned. When you are happy with the way all the panels fit, finish putting all the screws/washers into the pre-drilled holes.

FOURTH STEP - Installation of the Anchoring Hardware

Begin by flipping the REAListic Tennis Backboard over so that it is face down on cardboard - several thicknesses at the corners would be helpful. Make sure you have plenty of help because the Backboard weighs about 285 lbs. at this point.

While it is face down install the anchoring hardware. The 2 eye bolt assemblies go through the holes in the top horizontal piece. The 2 eye screws go in the bottom horizontal piece. They are ten feet apart and should align with tennis fence posts.

Depending on your particular installation, you will know the best placement for the eye bolts/screws. Feel free to use a 3/8 in. drill bit to move the eye bolts or a 1/4 in. bit to move the eye screws if needed.

FIFTH STEP - For Sound Reduction Option Only (otherwise proceed to the Sixth Step)

Materials:

- 1 - 3.5in. wide guide for trimming the double walled cardboard pieces (the pieces with the shipping label that had been previously set aside).
- 6 - 2ft x 7'9" pieces of insulation
- 3 - 4ft x 93in. closed mesh windscreen pieces with grommets
- 78 - Screws & washers for mounting the windscreen

With the Backboard still face down, lay out the insulation pieces (two per panel) and staple them to the back of the panels using **plenty** of staples.

Using the 3.5 inch guide and your utility knife, trim the length and width of the 3 double walled, labeled packaging pieces and place them over the insulation.

Now place the 4ft x 93in windscreen pieces over the cardboard and secure them to the back of the framing with the screws/washers provided. Anchor each of them by screwing into the 4 corners **first**, then, when you are happy with the fit of the windscreen pieces, continue screwing them through the grommets to the back of the Backboard frame for a snug fit.

NOTE: THE WINDSCREEN SHOULD BE ATTACHED AT THE **BOTTOM** SO THAT THE **ANCHORING EYE SCREWS ARE EXPOSED**.

You are now ready to stand the Backboard up and secure it.

SIXTH STEP - Positioning the REAListic Tennis Backboard

With the help of your friend(s), you are now ready to stand your REAListic Tennis Backboard up and lean it against your wall, fence, posts, etc. With it leaning against your support system, lift one end of the board at a time and slide the wedges (blocks) under the board. This will make it easier to position the board in front of your support(s) by sliding it either direction. The wedges will also protect the bottom horizontal channel from standing water. When you are satisfied with your REAListic Tennis Backboard's position, place the wedges approx. 2 feet in from either end. The wedges should only extend out about 2 inches in front of the Board with most of them placed under the Board. Now secure them with the long screws/washers through the holes provided.

Adjusting the angle or tilt of the Board is accomplished simply by sliding the bottom closer to or further away from your support system. Usually with a little practice on the REAListic Tennis Backboard, you will be able to tell what pitch you like best. The range is approximately 14-18 inches out at the bottom with respect to the vertical support and the top is touching/leaning against the support(s). **{Refer to Fig. #3.}**

SEVENTH STEP - Anchoring the REAListic Tennis Backboard

By now on the top horizontal channel are two eye bolts. They are ten feet apart and should align with tennis fence posts. Using the two foot chain and 1 fastening link each, chain your REAListic Tennis Backboard to the posts and chain **SNUGLY** at the top. Use vice grips to squeeze the fasteners closed.

The eye screws and four foot chain with one fastener each are for the bottom. Once installed, pull the bottom of the board out so that the chain is snug.

ANCHORING THE REALISTIC TENNIS BACKBOARD IS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP TO KEEP THE BOARD FROM BLOWING OVER AND CAUSING INJURY.

EIGHTH STEP - Installation of the Sideboards

Now that your REAListic Tennis Backboard is securely chained, you can attach the sideboards using the screws/washers provided and drive them through the pre-drilled holes. Align the sideboards even with the top of the Backboard. Start screwing from the top to the bottom always keeping the sideboards flush with the front of the Backboard.

NINTH STEP - The Finishing Touches

Touch-up paint has been provided for dabbing over the screws/washers and any other place you so desire. The net stripe has been pre-installed.