

Bedford Standard Seat Bench

Basic Steps for Building a Seat Bench.

Add an accent and seating to and landscape. Build it on an existing hard surface or add to a newly designed space.



Step 1: Layout

Determine the location of the two posts and lay the first course of Bedford Standard block to establish where to dig the foundation. Make sure the posts are directly across from one another and are appropriately spaced to accommodate your desired seating material. If building on an existing hard surface, skip ahead to Step 3. Reading Rock recommends using masonry adhesive on every other course to add stability to your project.

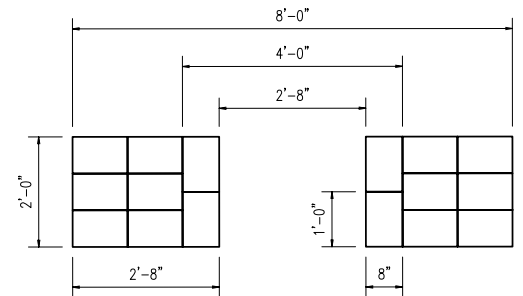
Step 2: Build Foundation & Fill

Mark the location of the posts with a shovel. Remove the blocks and dig a 26" x 34" x 8" hole. *Note:* The soil beneath the foundation pad must be a good quality compactable material. If soft top soils are encountered, they will need to be removed and replaced with additional crushed rock. A good foundation will ensure a stable bench for years to come. Using a hand tamper, compact the bottom of the hole, then place 6" of crushed rock in the hole and compact again. Check for level.

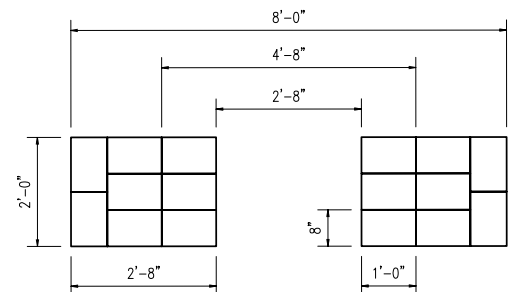
Step 3: Build First Post

Install the base course of the first post using 8 Bedford Standard blocks on the crushed rock foundation, or on the existing hard surface. Use the pattern for Course 1 shown. Square up the blocks, tamp into place and level. If building on an existing hard surface, shims can be used to help level the blocks.

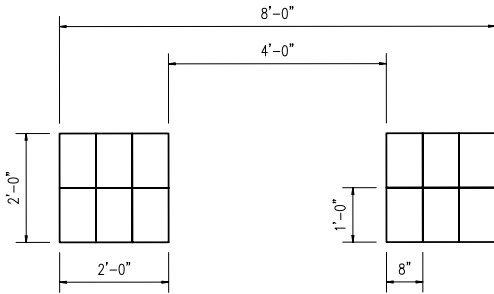
Courses 1, 3 and 5



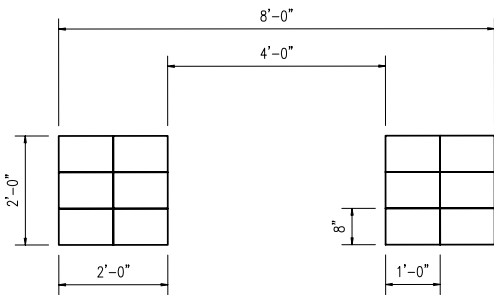
Courses 2 and 4



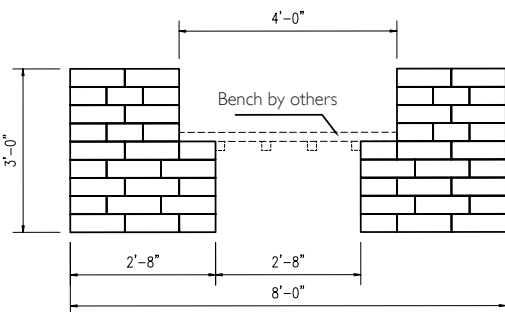
Courses 6 and 8



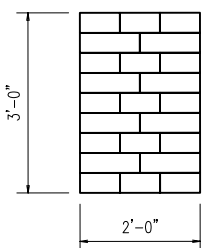
Course 7 and 9



Front Back Elevation



Side Elevation



Step 4: Build Second Post

Install the first corner unit of the second post. Use a level and a 2x4 to span across to ensure that the corner of the second post will be level with the first post. This will ensure the seating area will be level. Make adjustments as needed by adding or removing the crushed rock or installing shims if building on an existing surface. Install remaining blocks to complete the first course, check again for level with first post.

Step 5: Continue Building

With both posts level, continue stacking two more courses, alternating between the patterns shown to offset the seams from the course below. Do not stack the blocks up using only one pattern (seams should not create a straight line the full height of the post). On the sixth course, change the pattern to create the area for the seating material to rest. Only six blocks will be needed for the next four courses.

Step 6: Capping

Finish each post with two Slate Paving Stones or RockCast Caps. Secure them in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along the outside edge of the blocks. Then set the caps in place.

Step 7: Bench Material

Measure and install the seating material. Cedar deck boards or a slab of natural stone make good seating materials.

For additional support, please visit readingrock.com or contact Reading Rock customer service at 513.874.2345.

Materials needed:

- 52 Bedford Standard units
- 2 24" x 24" Slate Paving Stones or 2 RockCast Caps
- 8 50 lbs bags of Crushed Rock (use only if building on soil)
- 2 Masonry Adhesive 10.5oz.
- 1 Seating Material 30" wide

Tools needed:

- Square
- Measuring Tape
- String Line
- Level
- Dead Blow Hammer
- Safety Glasses and Work Gloves