

 **GARDEN BENCHES**  
DIRECT  
Universal Bench Assembly Guide



This bench assembly guide covers all our Hoggman teak benches and is a great resource if you're looking to achieve the best look possible. Our guide offers handy tips on installation as well as how to troubleshoot common DIY issues in case you get stuck.

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### Best Practice

These tips are designed to help you get the very best finish when it comes to putting your Hoggman bench together:

- Before you begin, look for the labels which indicate how the pieces of the bench fit together. If there aren't any labels, check the quality of the grain so that the sides with the smoothest finish are facing out.
- Don't over-tighten the bolts. It's best to put all the bolts in and partially hand-tighten each section so that all of the pieces come together slowly and evenly. Tightening the bolts as far as they can go can pull parts of the bench in too quickly and will stop you getting the pieces to fit flush.
- Heavier benches are easier to put together with two people as the longer and wider pieces are more difficult to manoeuvre with just one set of hands.
- Using a G-clamp can make it easy to fit the bolts and will ensure the bench pieces are level by holding them tightly in place. To prevent the clamp making any dents in the timber when you tighten it up, we recommend placing some scrap pieces of wood between the teak bench sections and the metal clamp grip.
- When assembling storage benches, put the bottom in before both sides are connected, or else it won't fit!
- It's usually best practice to fit the seat to the backrest before fixing the side pieces. This helps to ensure a flush surface on which to fix the sides.

### Trouble-Shooting

- How do I know which pieces go where?

Each section should be labelled to show how the pieces fit together. Labels with matching letters go together, so 'A' fits to 'A' and 'B' fits to 'B' etc. If there aren't any labels, check the quality of the grain so that the sides with the smoothest finish are facing out. If you've purchased our Gatcombe tree bench, see page 4 for a diagram of how the pieces fit together.

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- What are the screws for?

All Hoggman benches come with bolts to fit the joints together and a selection of screws. The screws are usually optional and allow you to fix the seat onto the frame with more permanence. This can be desirable in public spaces where the bench is likely to remain in situ but it's not mandatory by any means. You may even find it preferable to leave the screws off if you want to move your bench for any reason, e.g. for carrying, storing or cleaning.

- The bolt is not tightening – it just spins in the hole.

This can happen if the nut captured within the joint becomes threaded. We recommend wrapping the bolt in PTFE tape to increase its girth so it can be lodged in the threaded nut.

- I can't get the shoulder bolt to connect two pieces of wood. (Gatcombe & Highgrove)

Firstly, make sure you have the right two bench pieces. Usually the matching joints are shown by labels which are colour coded or lettered. If you have a G-clamp, use this to line up the holes and hold the pieces in place while you fit the bolt (remembering to use two pieces of scrap wood between the clamp grips to avoid causing dents in the teak). Using a podger or screwdriver to clear the hole of any remaining wood splinters may also help.

- I'm missing a screw or bolt – what do I do?

Give our team a call on 0330 880 7007 and we'll arrange to have the necessary replacements sent out to you.

- What types of bolt are provided with the bench?

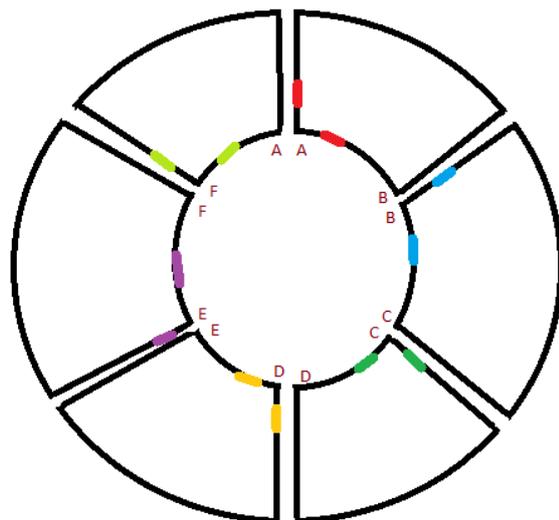
These are the different kinds of bolts we use in our benches range. If you're missing a piece, give our team a call and they'll be able to send out any replacement fittings.

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Flathead bolt with cross dowel	
Flathead bolt (for captured nut)	
Double ended shoulder bolt with flathead caps	

- How do the pieces of the Gatcombe tree bench fit together?
  1. The lettered armrest and leg pieces attach shoulder-to-shoulder and will fit together like so: A-B, B-C, C-D, D-E, E-F, F-A.
  2. The back pieces match to the left arm pieces by colour-coded stickers and need to be matched up as per the diagram. (Please note that the colours in the diagram are just examples).
  3. A G-clamp can help to hold the pieces securely so that the legs can be bolted flush together. If you do decide to use a clamp, we recommend using scrap pieces of wood either side of the metal grip so that it won't cause any dent marks in the teak when tightening.



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