

EPISODE #3023 BROKEN WITCH PROJECT

Porch Repair

Go to see an expert like The Wood Source, to get advice on wood types and building techniques

The boys decide on a frame within frame system

- 2x4 support frame
- 1x2 frame with 1x1 balusters
- 2x6 top plate

Getting Started

Remove a section of old railing, and then replace it immediately with the new railing, section by section That way you don't leave an open section - remember safety first!

Check for rotten porch boards and support posts

- Problem: some of George's floor boards are rotten and need replacing, but the support posts rest directly on these rotten boards!
- Solution: A SHORING JACK (Tool of the Day) which holds up the roof while the support posts are removed and replaced

Set up SHORING JACK (see fig. B)

- Nail in the bottom to keep it from twisting
- Insert the pin (may need to be hammered)
- Crank the jack into place to the right height
- Remove old wooden post

Replace & Rebuild

Replace rotten or broken porch boards (see fig. C)

- Cut along the joists with a small circular saw, and finish with a reciprocating saw
- Be very careful not to cut the porch frame or the joists!
- Remove rotten section
- Measure and cut the new board to replace the rotten board
- Screw in the new board
- It's a good idea to pre-drill the screw holes at the ends of the boards as not to crack or split the wood



A. The very broken porch.



B. Setting up the shoring jack.



C. Replacing a porch board.

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Replace the support posts (see fig. D)

- Measure and cut the 4x4 posts
- Pre-drill the holes to screw it in place
 - Screw two screws on opposite sides of the top of the post (i.e. North and South sides) and the two opposite sides on the bottom of the post (i.e. East and West sides) to prevent the post from twisting

Replace water damaged porch boards at the end of the deck (see fig. E)

- Problem: The sub structure was so rotten it broke apart in George's hand
- Solution:
 - Remove all porch boards at the end of the porch
 - Cut out rotten substructure
 - Replace with a 2x10 joist, wrapped in plastic to prevent future water damage
 - Recycle the old porch boards by cutting off the rotten ends and flip-ping them over
 - Allow for a slight overhang over the end of the porch to allow for proper drainage
 - Measure and cut and screw in new boards

Add an end cap (see fig. F)

- Pre-drill and screw an end cap onto the end of the floorboards for extra protection and good looks

Replace railings

- Measure and build a 2x4 frame (top, bottom and sides)
 - Screw it into place between the support posts
- Build a 1x2 nailing strip frame (see fig. G)
 - Insert the balusters 3 inches apart (as per local building code)
 - Nail the balusters into place with a finish nailer
 - Place the smaller frame into the 2x4 frame
 - Make sure it's centered in the frame
 - Nail the smaller frame onto the larger frame (see fig. H)
- Add the 2x6 top cap
 - Place and centre the 2x6 along the top of the 2x4 frame
 - Mark out where the support post hits the 2x6 at the end of the board
 - Cut 2 inches from the centre of the 2x6 with a reciprocating saw
 - It will slide into place around the support post (see fig. I)
 - Screw the 2x6 into the 2x4 frame from the bottom to the top (on an angle) when all the boards are placed onto the frame (see Fig J)



D. Replacing a support post.



E. Replacing water damaged boards.



F. Adding an end cap.



G. Inserting the inner frame.