

These lattice panels are just a simple 1 x 4 cedar frame with pressure treated lattice attached to the back. The frames are constructed using butt joints and a pocket screw jig. The lattice is simply nailed to the back.

I also added black nylon window screening behind the lattice to keep the insects from nesting under the deck and to mask the framing members that would otherwise be visible through the lattice. I also took the opportunity to attach heavy landscape fabric to the panels to keep grass and weeds away from the panels.

Design Considerations

Your porch or deck project will have it's own unique set of circumstances determined by the size, shape, and grade that you're dealing with but here are a few things to consider when designing your panels.

Look at the overall structure and determine where you need or want to locate breaks in the panels. Besides allowing you to work with typical 8 foot lengths of lumber and lattice, the panel joints also visually carry the weight of the structure to the ground. The corners of course will have the visual "support" of a vertical stile of the lattice panel. Other joints should be centred on each post in long straight runs, which carries the vertical elements all the way to the ground. At the square corner, I made the most visible panel long enough to include the 3/4" thickness of the end panel which butts to the back.

If you have to deal with a sloped grade, try to level or terrace the grade and use stepped panels rather than angle the bottom rail. This usually looks more professional and adds more curb appeal too.

In my case I have three different height panels on three sides of the porch. These step up by the 3 1/2" width of the bottom rail. I did some minor leveling on the longest run, digging down a few inches at one end and filling in at the other end in order to have two long panels the same height.

The panels should hang from the structure and be kept about an inch or two above the grade. This should keep them out of harms way from moisture and potential frost heaves.

Building the Frames

Once you've determined the panel sizes, you're ready to make the frames. I used 1x4 cedar, planed on

Lattice Panel

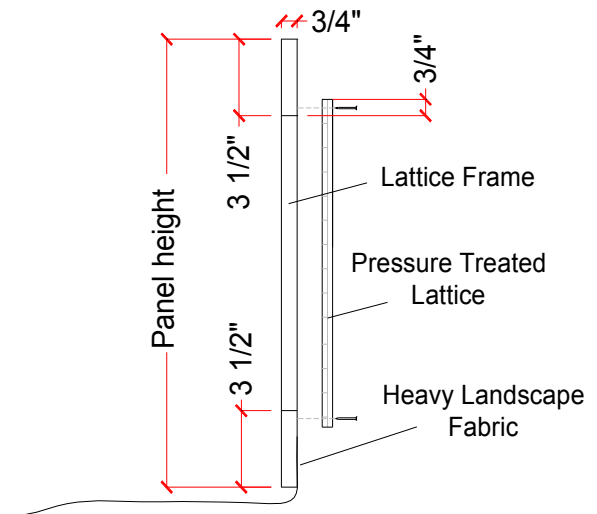


Fig. 8 - Lattice panel construction



Fig. 9 - Panel heights vary to suit grade.

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