

The Community Loft

L220 / MODEL 1 CLASSIC

PRODUCT GUIDE

Model 1 Classic



for your safety...

▲ WARNINGS

Failure to follow these warnings and the assembly instructions could result in serious injury or death.

- ▲ This Product Guide contains important information. Please save for future reference. You may want to move your loft or change your loft configuration later on.
- ▲ This product is intended for use by children of immature judgment; therefore supervision is required at all times.
- ▲ This Model 1 loft is appropriate for children 2–5 years old.
- ▲ Children should not be in the room during setup.
- ▲ If your room has a sprinkler system for fire protection, you should have your loft placement checked by a local fire inspector.
- ▲ Your loft should be placed where hanging ceilings, ceiling fixtures, windows or skylights are not accessible to children.
- ▲ Do not attempt to build or take apart your loft by yourself. You need at least two adults working together to do this safely.
- ▲ Use the patterns supplied in this Product Guide. We cannot take responsibility for free-form structures.
- ▲ Railing must be less than 3½" away from the wall of your room, or more than 9". Anything in between is an entrapment hazard.
- ▲ Test the joints for stability before allowing children to play on the structure.
- ▲ Do not provide anything on the top level of your loft which children can use to climb over the sides.
- ▲ Changing a lower level panel or splicing an addition to a standing loft is not recommended as it is not possible to keep the structure stable while lifting weight-bearing rings.
- ▲ Each platform should be held down on at least two sides by panels and/or plugs to prevent the possibility of a child pushing up the floor from below.
- ▲ Each platform section, whether 2' x 2' or 2' x 4', will bear a load of 750 lbs., or the equivalent of one teacher and fourteen average five-year-olds.

▲ CAUTION

- ▲ This product is intended for indoor use only.
- ▲ Build the loft right where you want it. Do not reposition assembled lofts by dragging.



community playthings®

The first pages show what each piece looks like, and how many of each come with this kit. Then come the Basic Skills: the real nitty-gritty techniques you need to build your loft. The best part is next: choosing which one of the configurations fits your room and your ideas. Each configuration has three drawings of the loft as it looks while you are building it. You can see which panel goes where from these drawings. You will probably want to flip back and forth from these drawings to the basic skills as you build your loft.

When you are finished you might have some parts left over. **Keep the parts for possible future use.**

We have also included instructions for taking your loft apart and trying a new configuration.

Important maintenance and cleaning information is in the back. You'll find you can extend the beauty and life of your loft by following these simple tips. And of course, keep in mind the "**for your safety**" information on the facing page.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Customer Service at 800-777-4244. We'll be glad to help you!

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GETTING STARTED

Lay the pieces of your Model 1 Classic on the floor. You will see there are short panels and tall panels. The short ones are for the first layer of the loft; the tall ones are for the second layer.

Lay panels of the same size together so you can find them easily. Make sure you have all the parts shown on these pages before beginning to build your loft.

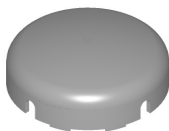
If any parts are broken or missing, do not try to assemble your loft. Call Customer Service right away (800-777-4244) and we'll send you replacement parts.



3 Short Posts



9 Long Posts



12 Caps



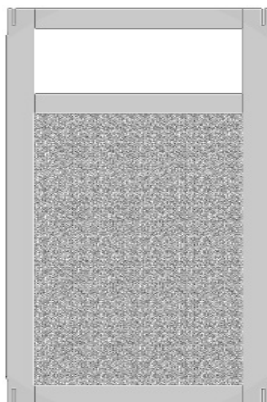
42 Connector Rings



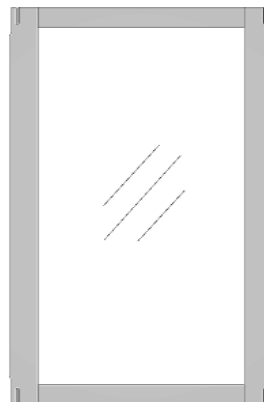
2 Circular Plugs



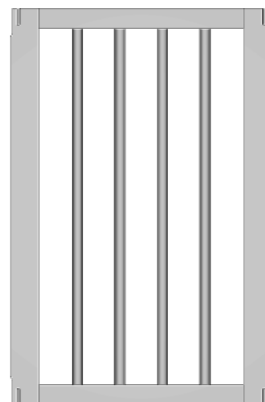
1 Half-Circle Plug



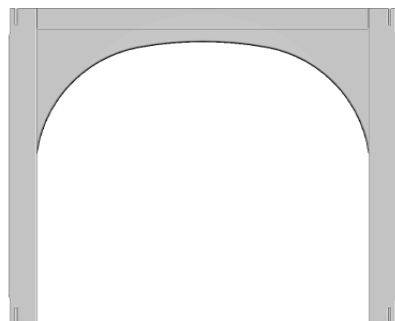
2 Carpet Panels



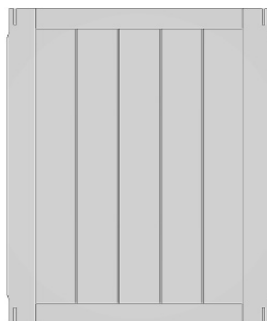
1 Tall Clear Panel



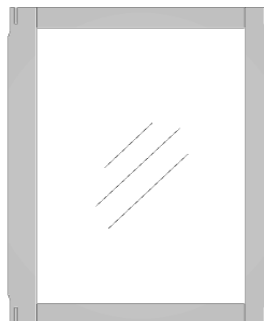
3 Single Dowel Panels



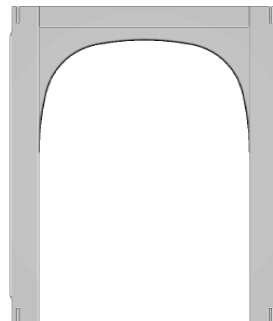
1 Diagonal Arch



2 Single Solid Panels

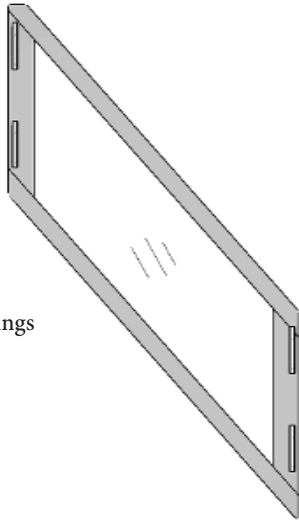


1 Short Clear Panel

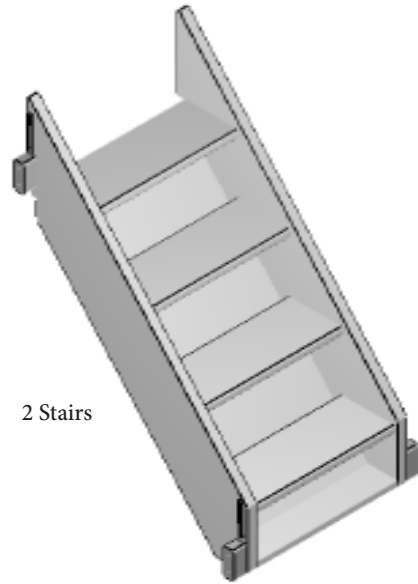


5 Single Arches

2 pairs of Stair Railings



2 Stairs



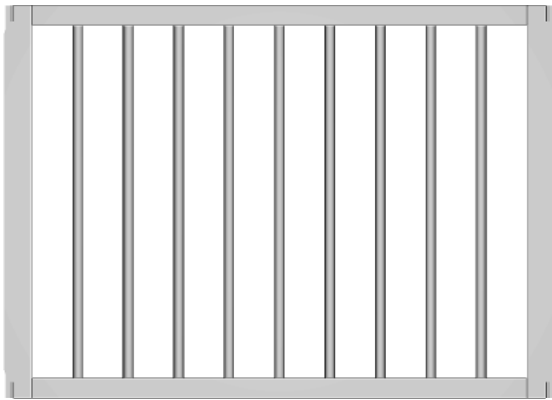
4 Couplings (29")



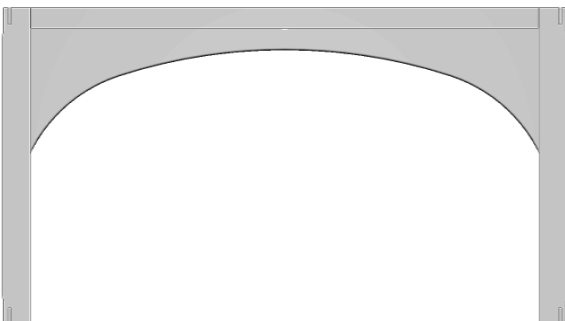
4 Couplings (22")



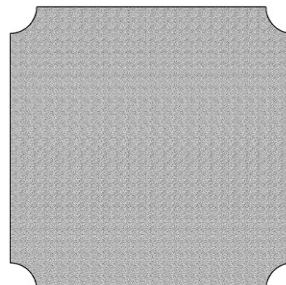
1 Double Dowel Panel



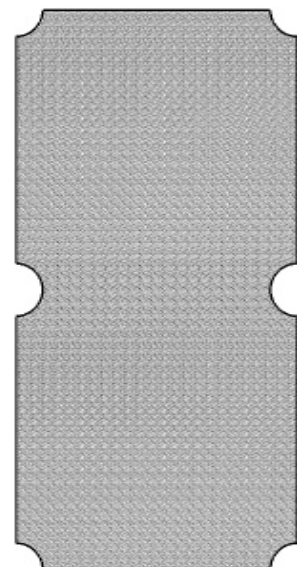
2 Double Arches



1 Single Platform



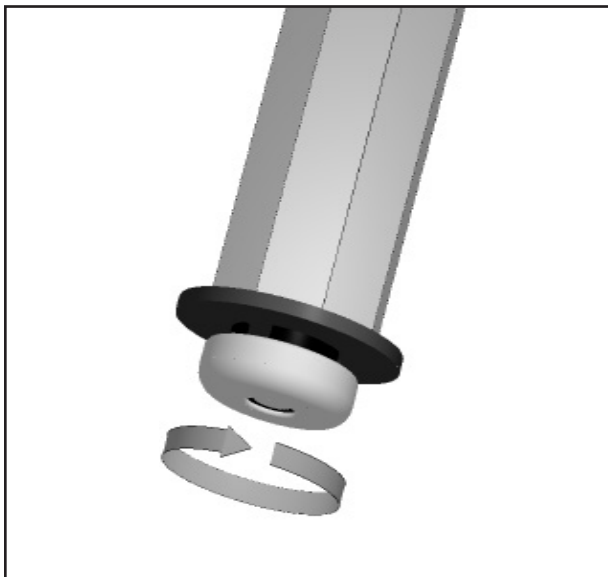
2 Double Platforms



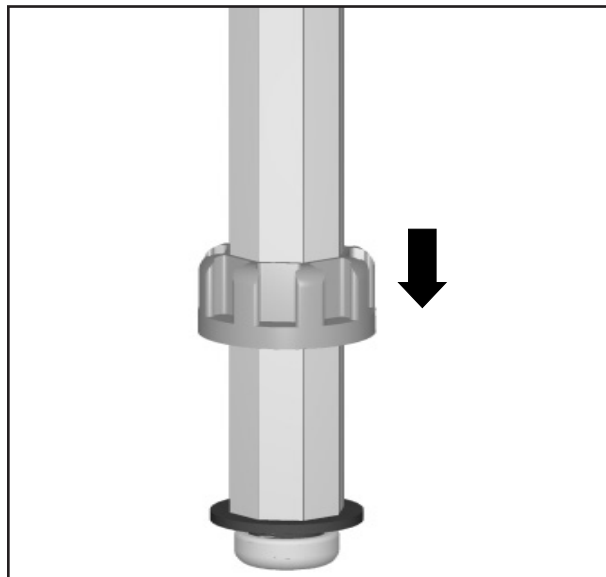
BASIC SKILLS

We said no-tools assembly and we meant it. But you will need a friend to help you. It takes four hands to build a loft, but no tools at all!

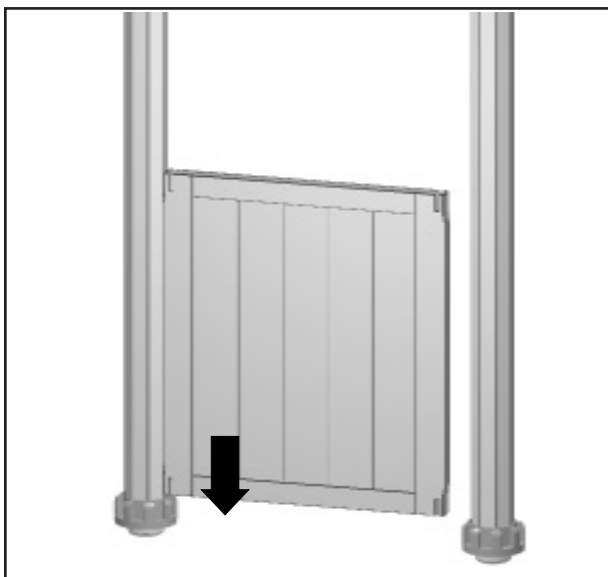
These basic skills are for building any of the loft patterns in this book. After you have read them through, choose the loft you would like to build (see pages 12-14) and follow the pattern provided.



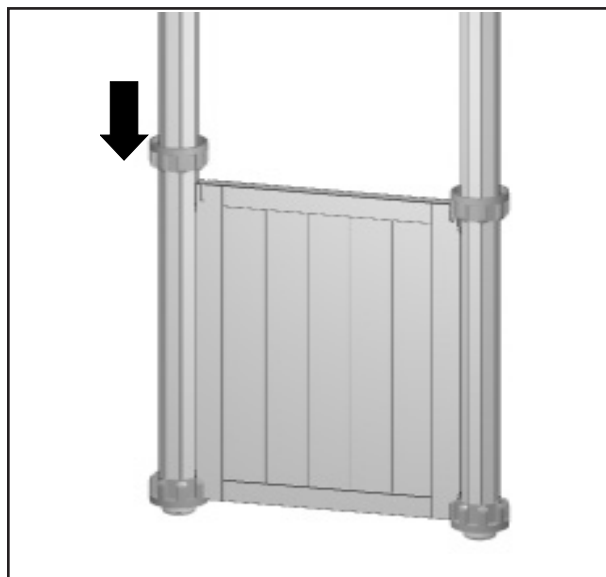
1 Screw rubber feet into posts until they are snug.



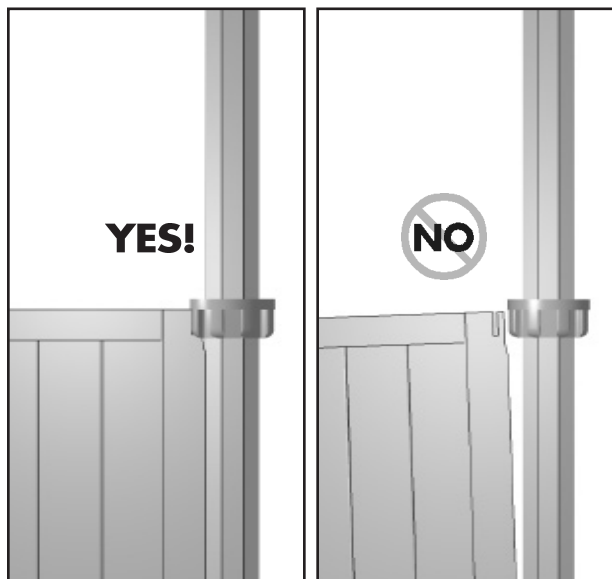
2 Slide a connector ring onto each long post, flat side down.



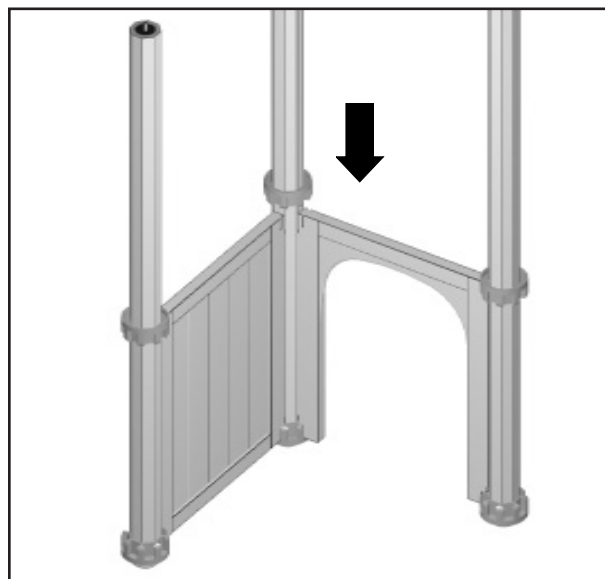
3 Stand two long posts and slide a short panel into the connector rings.



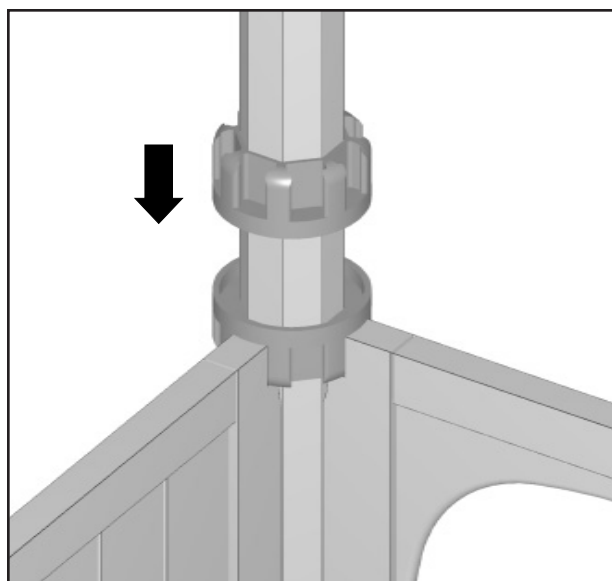
4 Capture the panel by sliding another connector ring onto each post, flat side up.



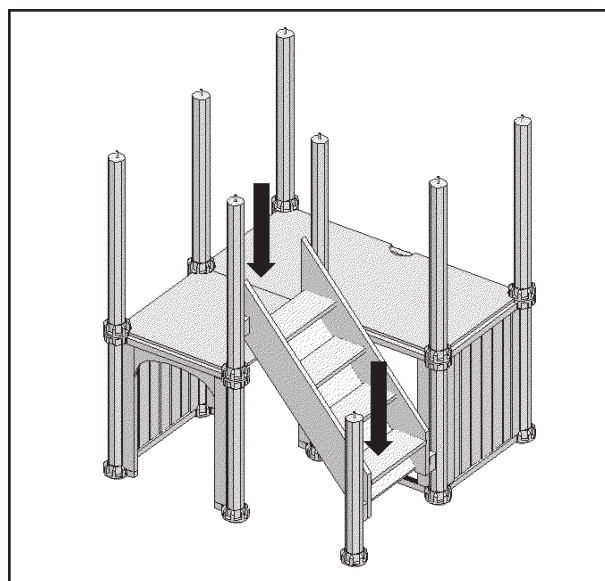
- 5** Check the joints. Every panel should be locked in place by four connector rings. Repeat this step for each panel as you build your loft.



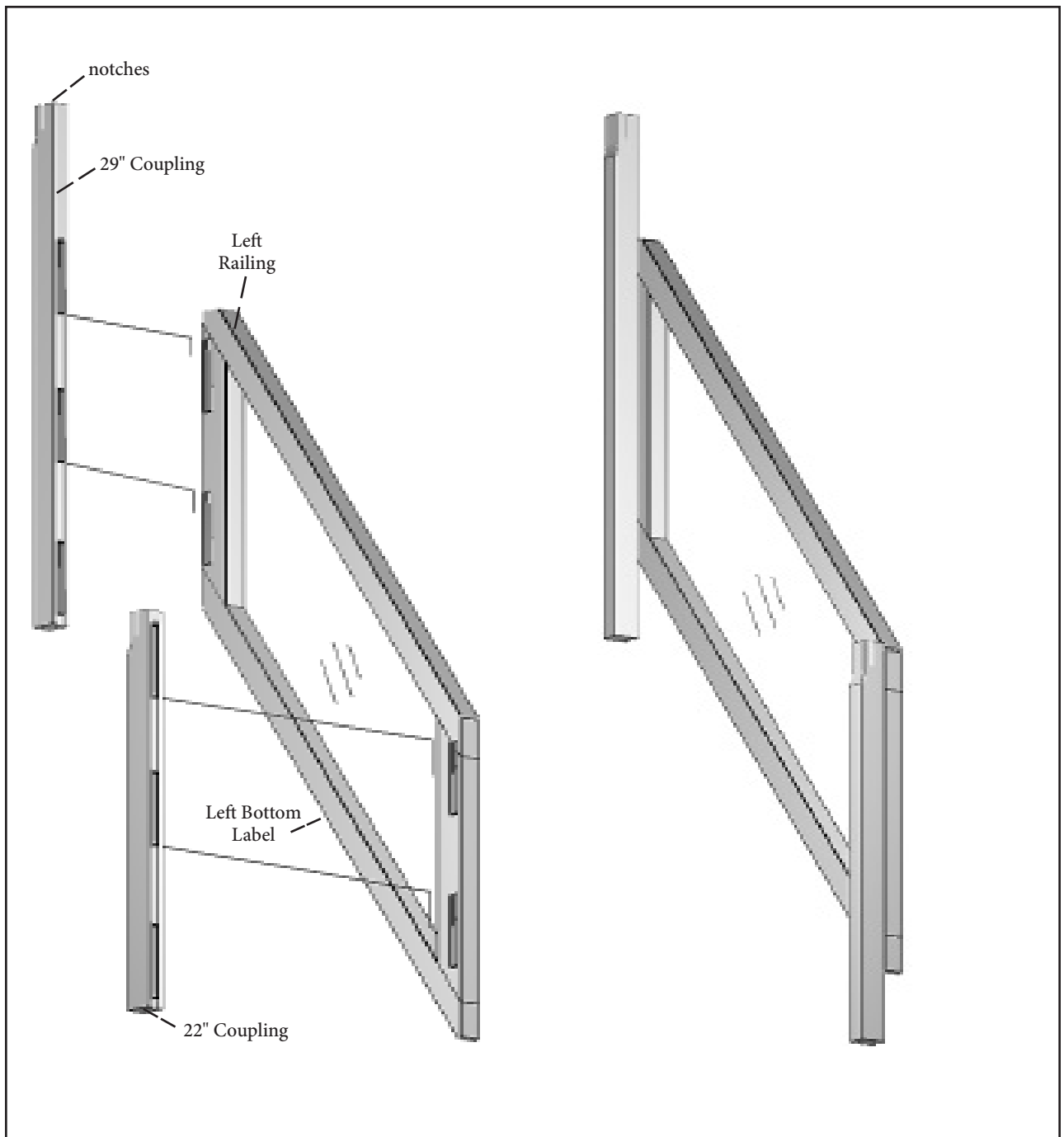
- 6** To add the next panel, lift one of the connector rings and use it to capture the new panel. Assemble the first layer of your loft by following the pattern (see page 12-14). Go slowly; it is not easy to replace a panel after a layer is placed on top.



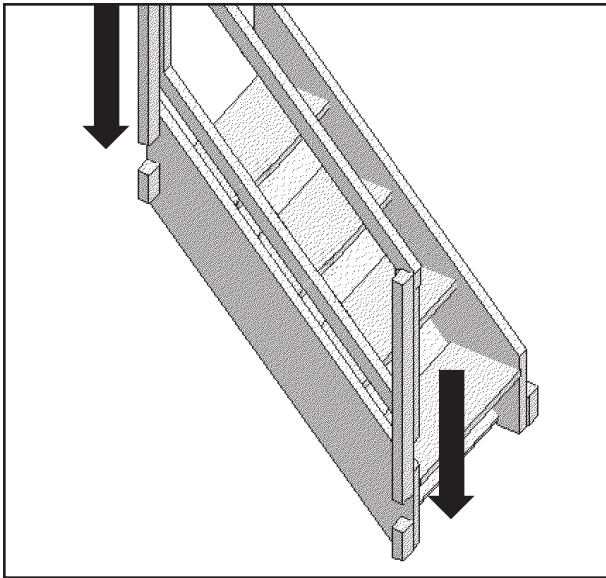
- 7** Slide another connector ring onto each post, flat side down.



- 8** Lay platforms in place. Add the stairs. All four corners of each stair should fit into connector rings.

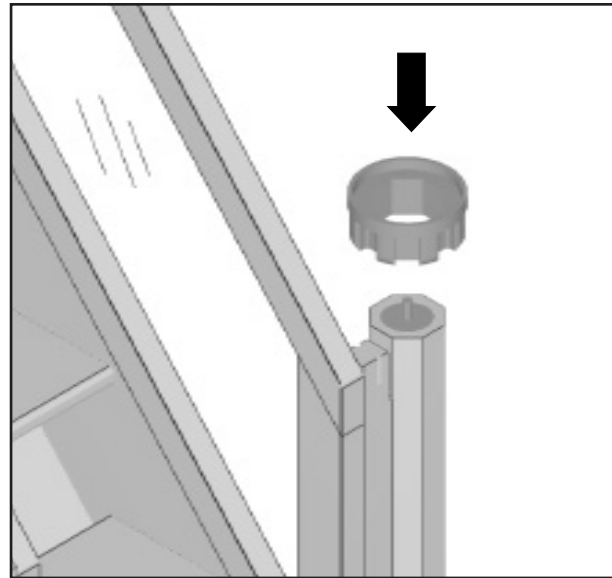


- 9** Lay the left stair railing on the floor. (Railings are labeled on their underside.)
 Affix a 29" coupling (with the shaped end up) to the top end of the railing, by sliding the metal connectors over their mates on the railing.
 Attach a 22" coupling in the same way to the bottom end of the railing.
 The sub-assembly should appear as in the picture above.
 Repeat this procedure for the right stair railing.

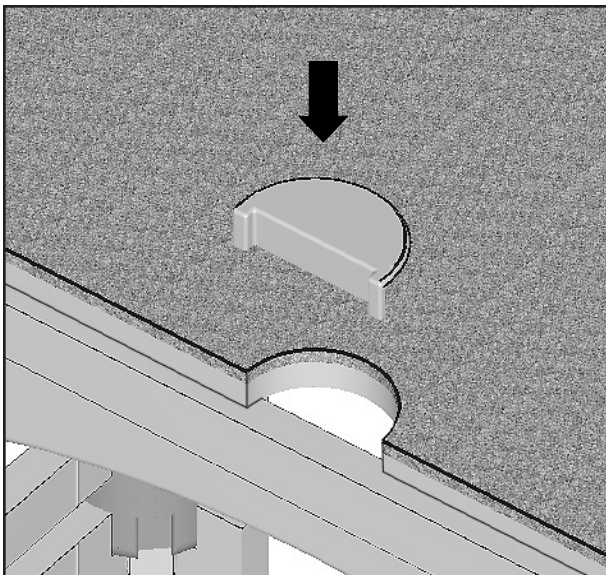


10 Add the railings. The railings slide into slots on the stairs with the 'bottom' label down.

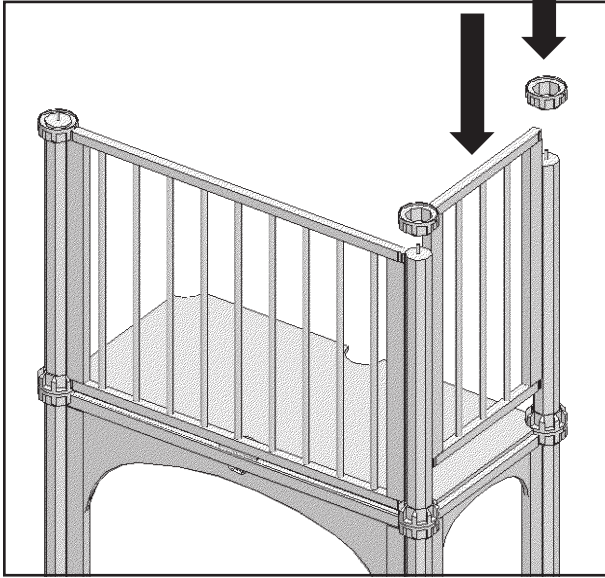
Hint: Hold couplings and press down.



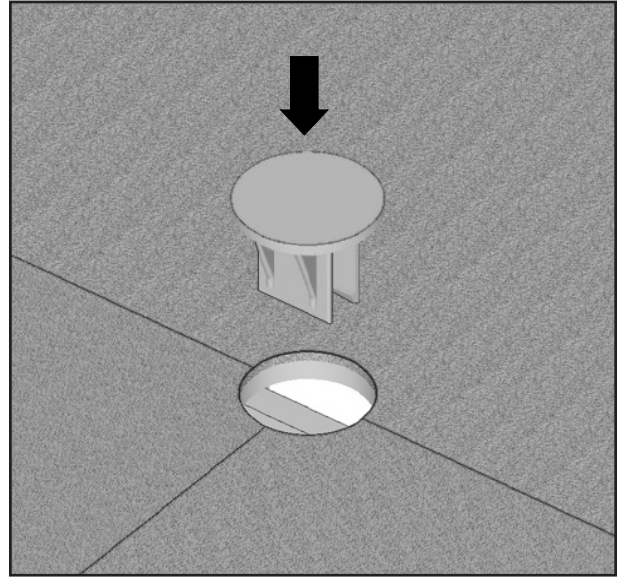
11 Capture the railings using connector rings.



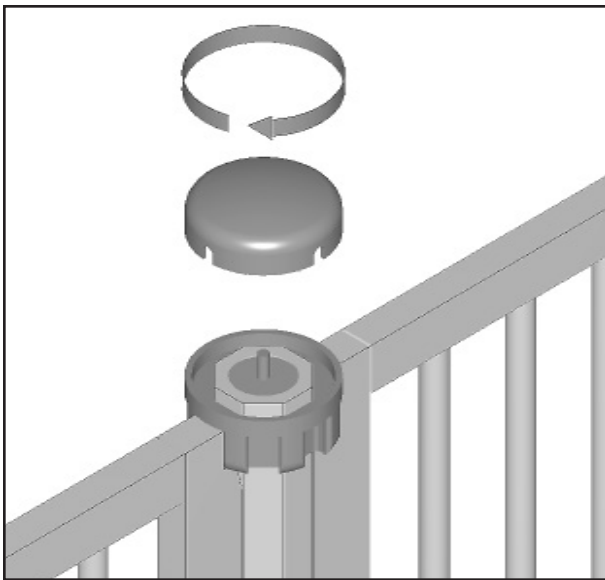
12 Any half-circle holes should be filled with the half-circle plugs at this time.



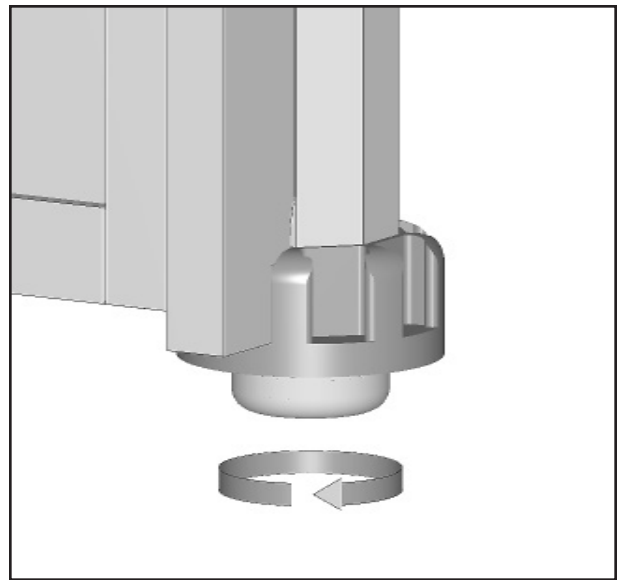
- 13** Use tall panels to create the second layer, following the pattern you have chosen. Add connector rings as you go so each panel is captured by four rings and will not fall down. You may want to stand on the platform to do this.



- 14** Check all joints. Make sure all panels are where you want them to be. Then fill hole between two platforms using a circular plug. Step on the plug to lock it in place.



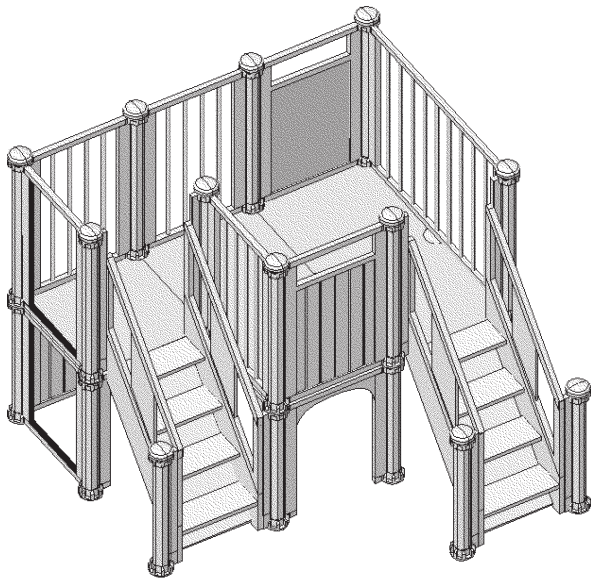
- 15** Screw a cap onto each post to lock construction together. You will hear a clicking sound as you turn the cap; screw it all the way down.



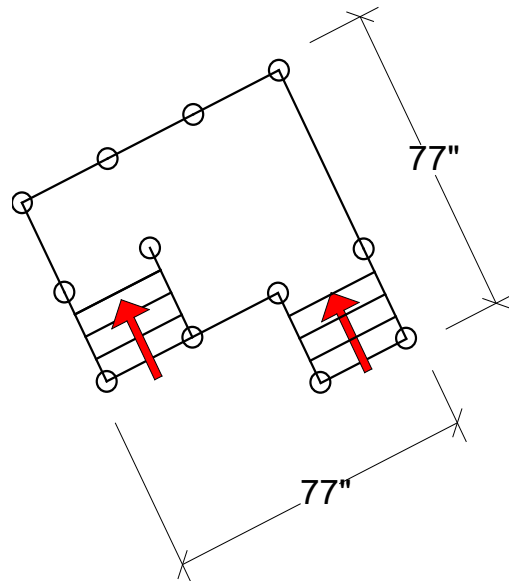
- 16** Check that all post feet are firmly on the floor. If a post needs lengthening, turn the rubber foot clockwise until the post is anchored.

CHOOSING YOUR CONFIGURATION

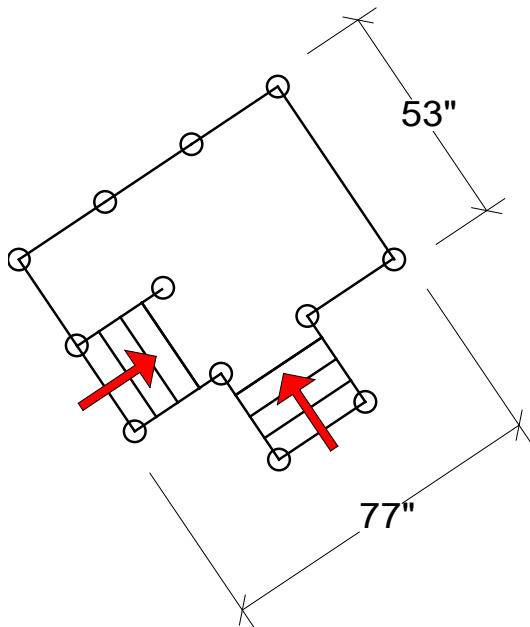
Which loft would you like to build? It may depend on where you want your loft to stand. Near windows so the children can look out? Far from the windows so it is cooler in summer? Build the loft right where you want it. Do not reposition assembled lofts by dragging. The pages indicated have step-by-step drawings of the lofts, so look at them to see what the first floor is like.



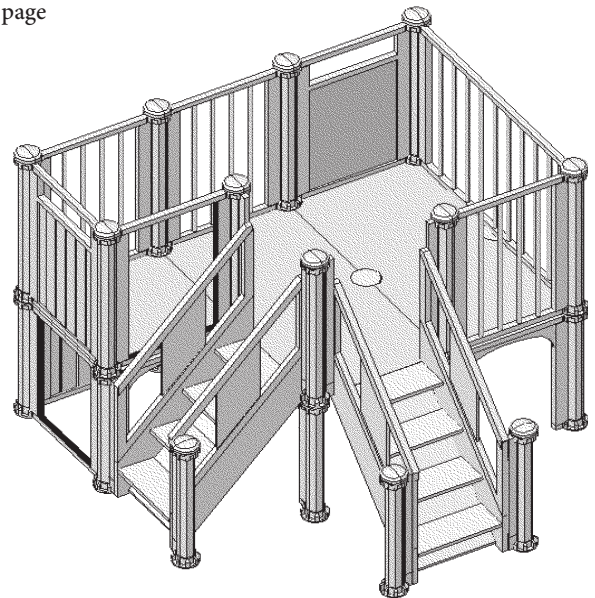
Simon's loft
page 16-17



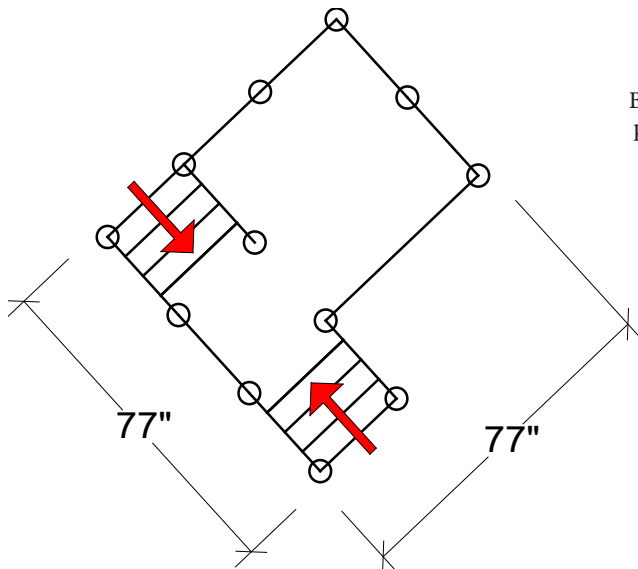
Simon's loft works well anywhere in your room. In a right-hand corner, the bottom becomes a secret maze of corners and tunnels. Or try it in a left-hand corner and the double arch allows you to see everything that's happening underneath.



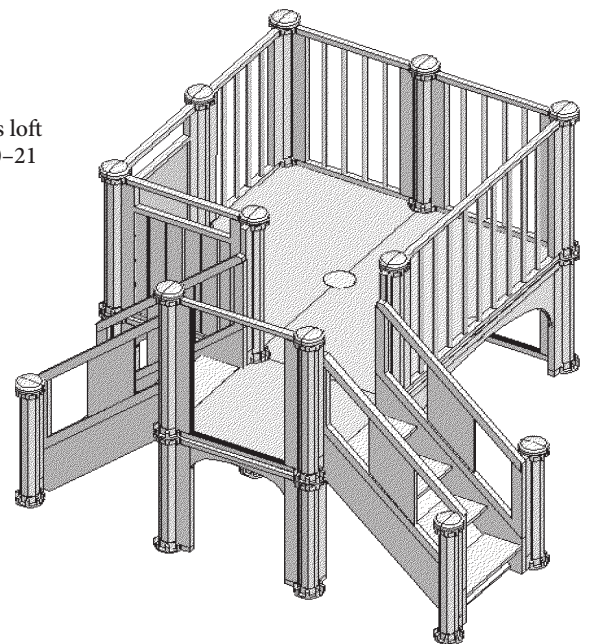
Rachel's loft page
18-19



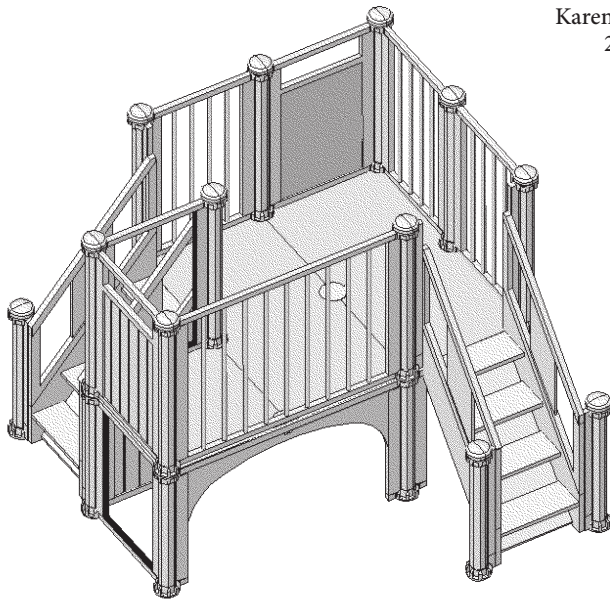
Rachel's loft has an intriguing stair arrangement that keeps traffic flow off of the loft area. The spacious top invites whole group activities like story time, finger games, or a teddy bear picnic.



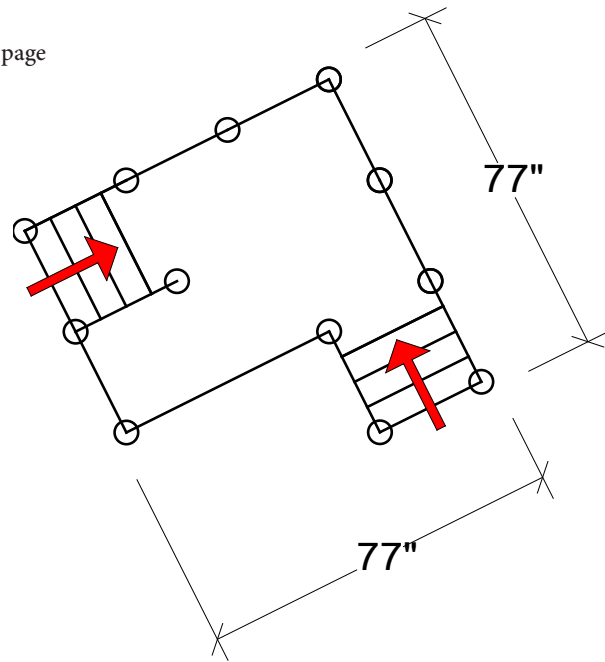
Bonnie's loft
page 20-21



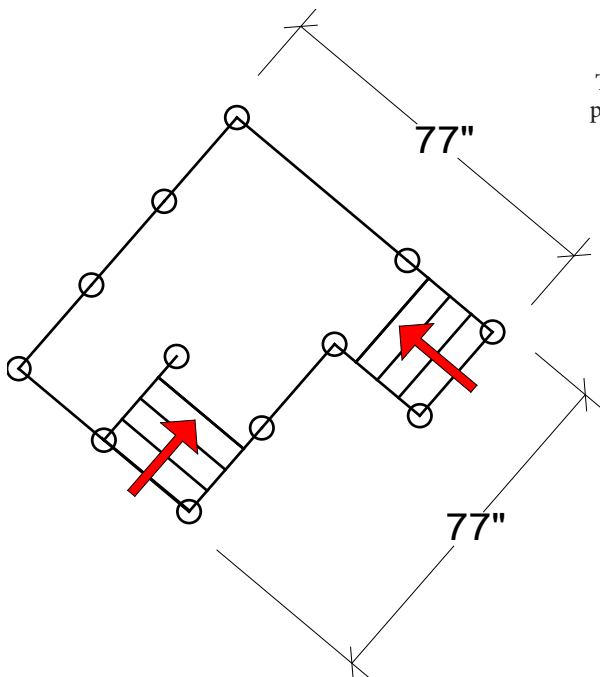
Bonnie's loft has a stair design that begs for dramatic play. The Three Billy Goats Gruff will cross the bridge with no trouble from the ogre underneath, or will they? You will be able to keep an eye on your local ogre with all the open arches underneath.



Karen's loft page
22-23



Karen's loft has a little balcony where Rapunzel can let down her hair, or Sherlock Holmes can scan the area for clues. It also has lots of room underneath for a whole convoy of trucks and cars to rumble through the tunnels.

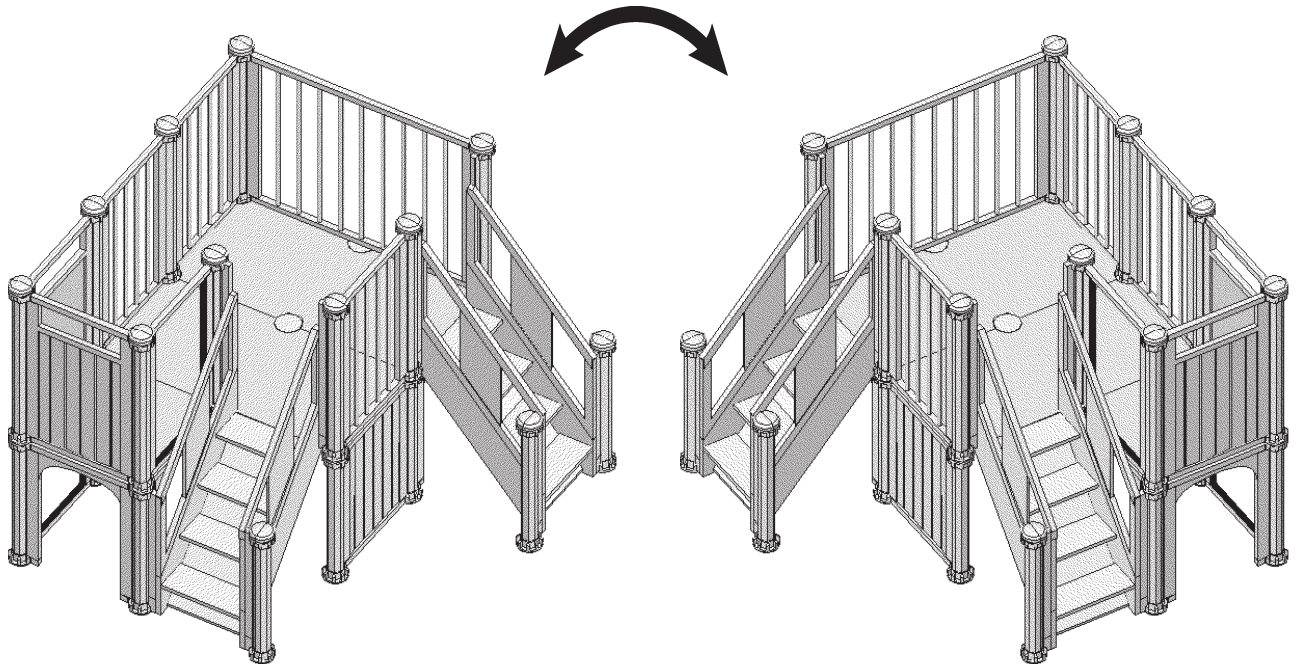


Tony's loft
page 24-25



Tony's loft. Are knights and princesses your theme for the month? Your kings and queens will be able to see far if you place their castle near the classroom windows. Dragons with six or eight legs will emerge from the double arches, but watch out for the small ones simmering under the stairs!

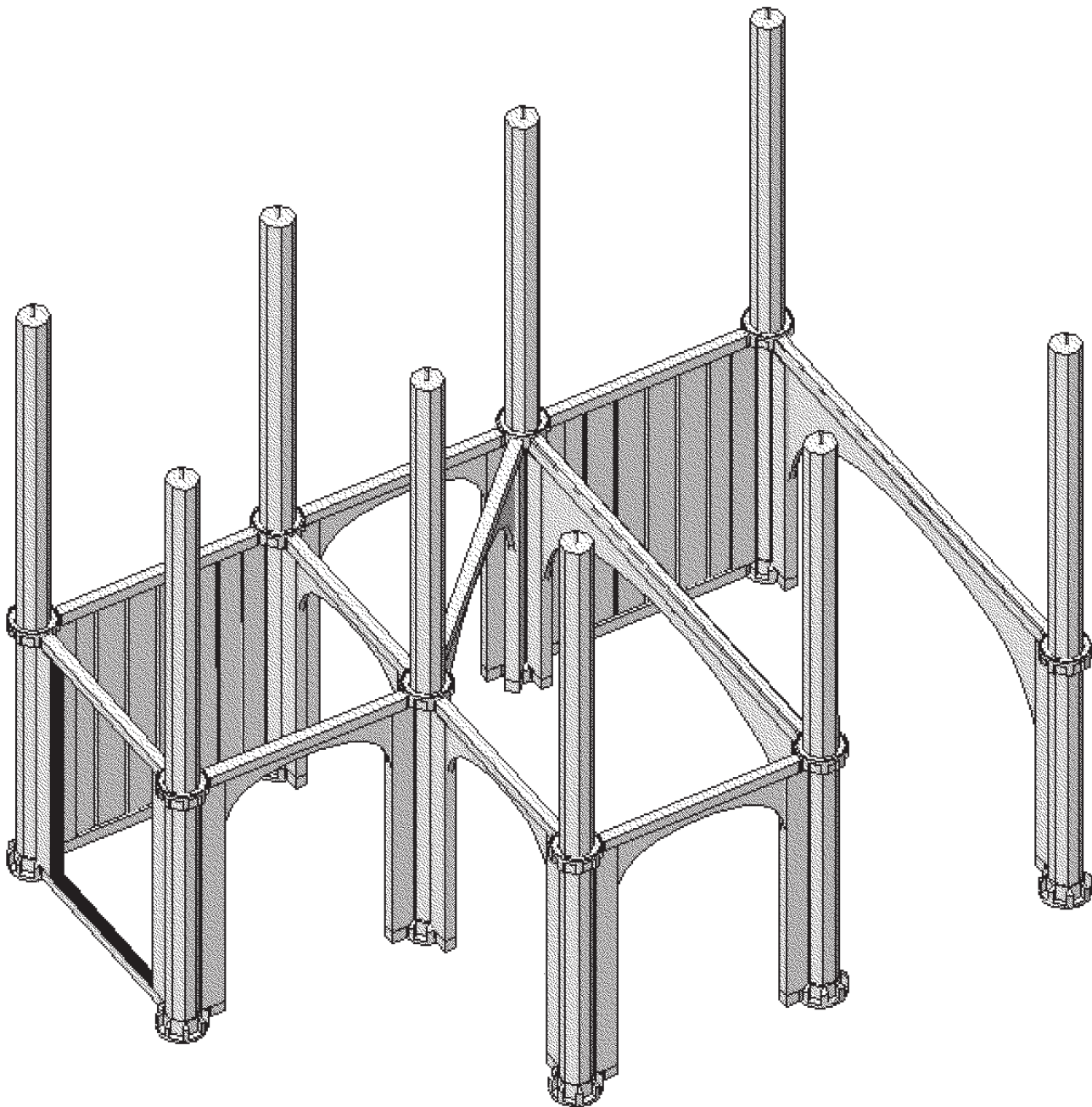
For more variety... Try customizing your loft by rearranging the panels. Any panel can be substituted for another panel of the same size, except never put an arch next to stair railing. Did you know you can flip a pattern and build it facing the other direction? It's easy if you photocopy the plan on a sheet of transparent overhead material. Turn the transparency over on top of a piece of white paper to work from.

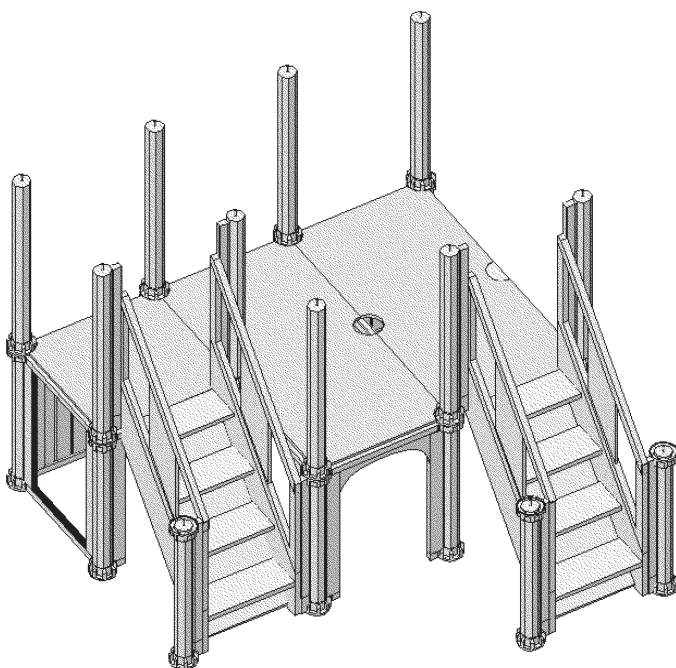


1 Simon's loft

Checklist in order of installation:

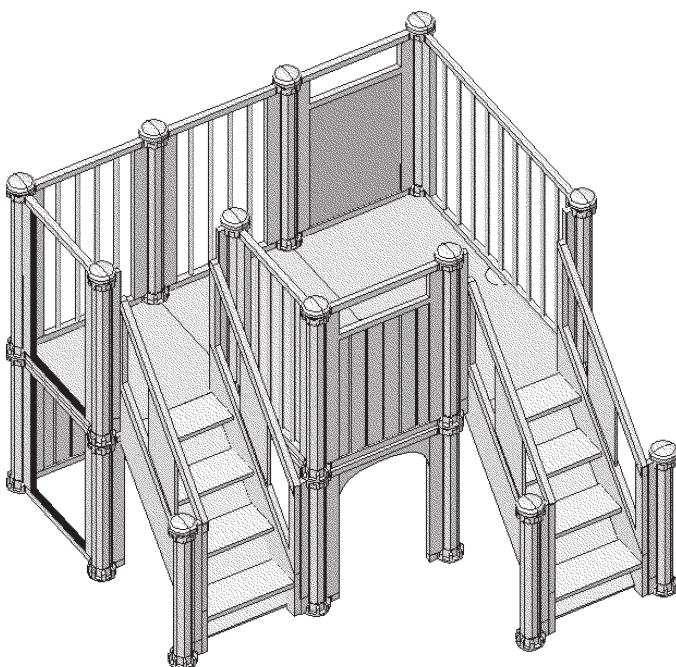
- ↕ 9 long posts?
- ↕ 2 single solid, 1 clear panel?
- ↕ 1 diagonal, 2 double and 5 single arches?
- ↕ All panels properly held by connectors?





2 Checklist in order of installation:

- ⇅ 1 single and 2 double platforms, 1 half and 1 circular plug?
- ⇅ 2 sets of stairs with 3 short posts?
- ⇅ 2 pairs of railings with 2 short couplings at bottom and 2 long couplings at top?



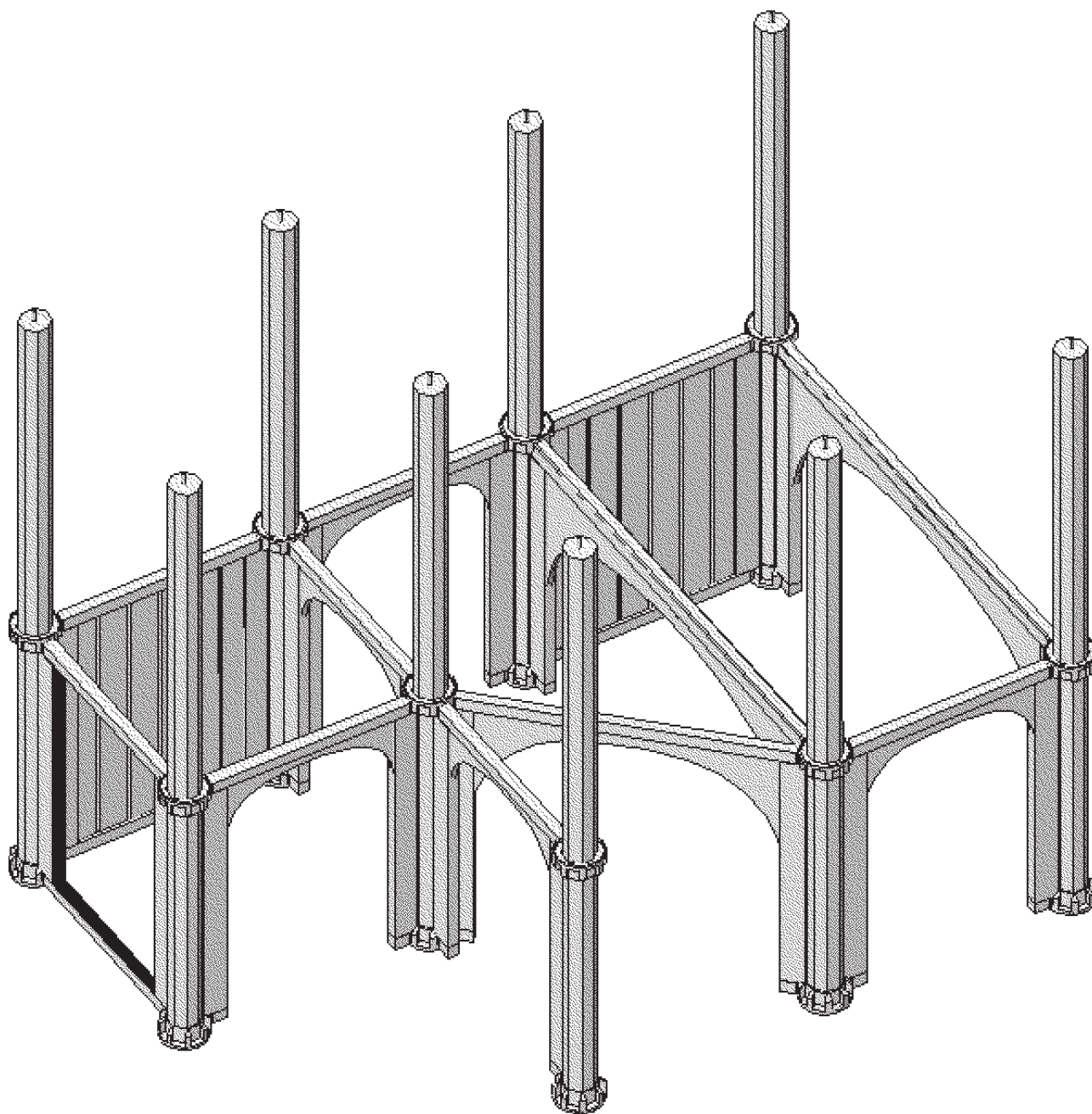
3 Checklist in order of installation:

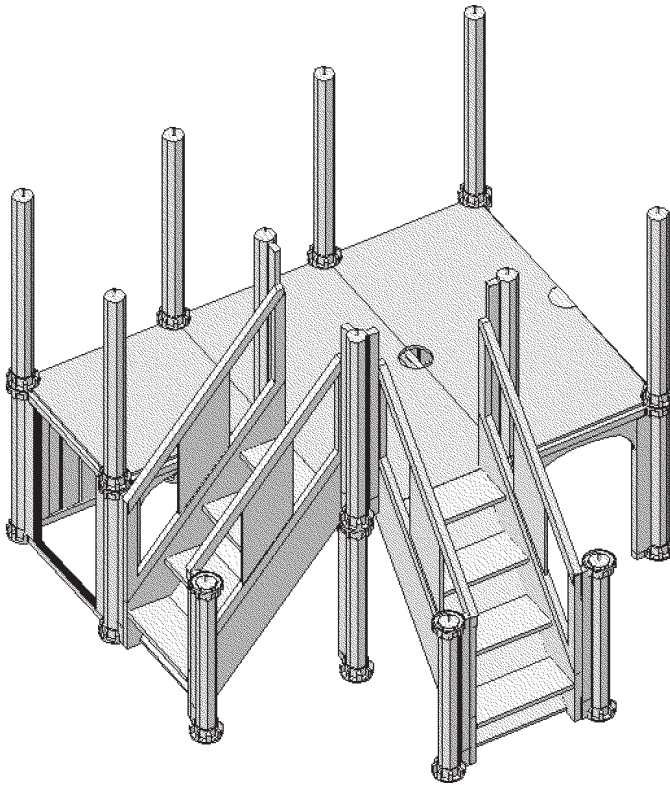
- ⇅ 7 upper panels?
- ⇅ All panels and couplings held properly by the connectors?
- ⇅ 12 caps screwed down tight?
- ⇅ Move against the wall, or move away from the wall for a passageway behind.
- ⇅ ▲ Refer to safety page.
- ⇅ Levelling feet adjusted?

1 Rachel's loft

Checklist in order of installation:

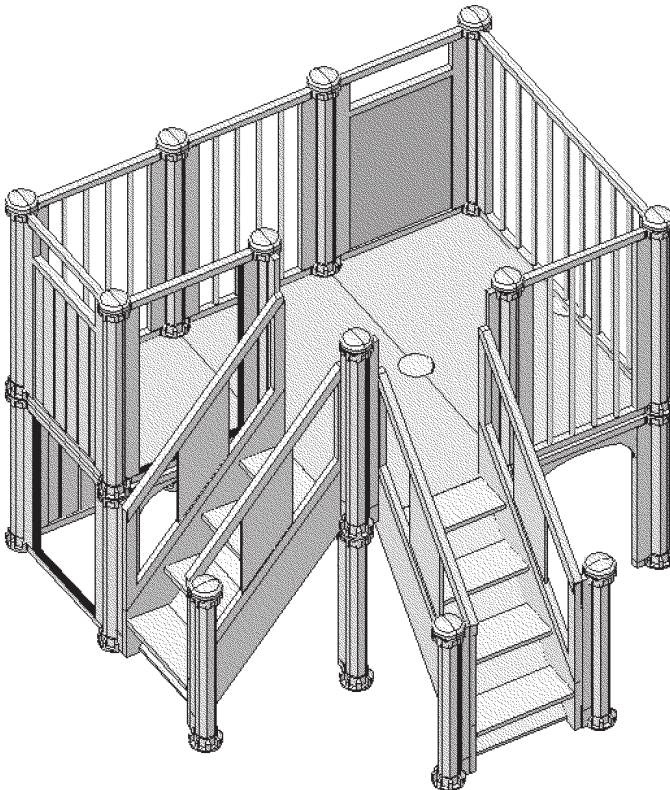
- ↕ 9 long posts?
- ↕ 2 single solid, 1 clear panel?
- ↕ 1 diagonal, 2 double and 5 single arches?
- ↕ All panels properly held by connectors?





2 Checklist in order of installation:

- ⇅ 1 single and 2 double platforms, 1 half and 1 circular plug?
- ⇅ 2 sets of stairs with 3 short posts?
- ⇅ 2 pairs of railings with 2 short couplings at bottom and 2 long couplings at top for each set?



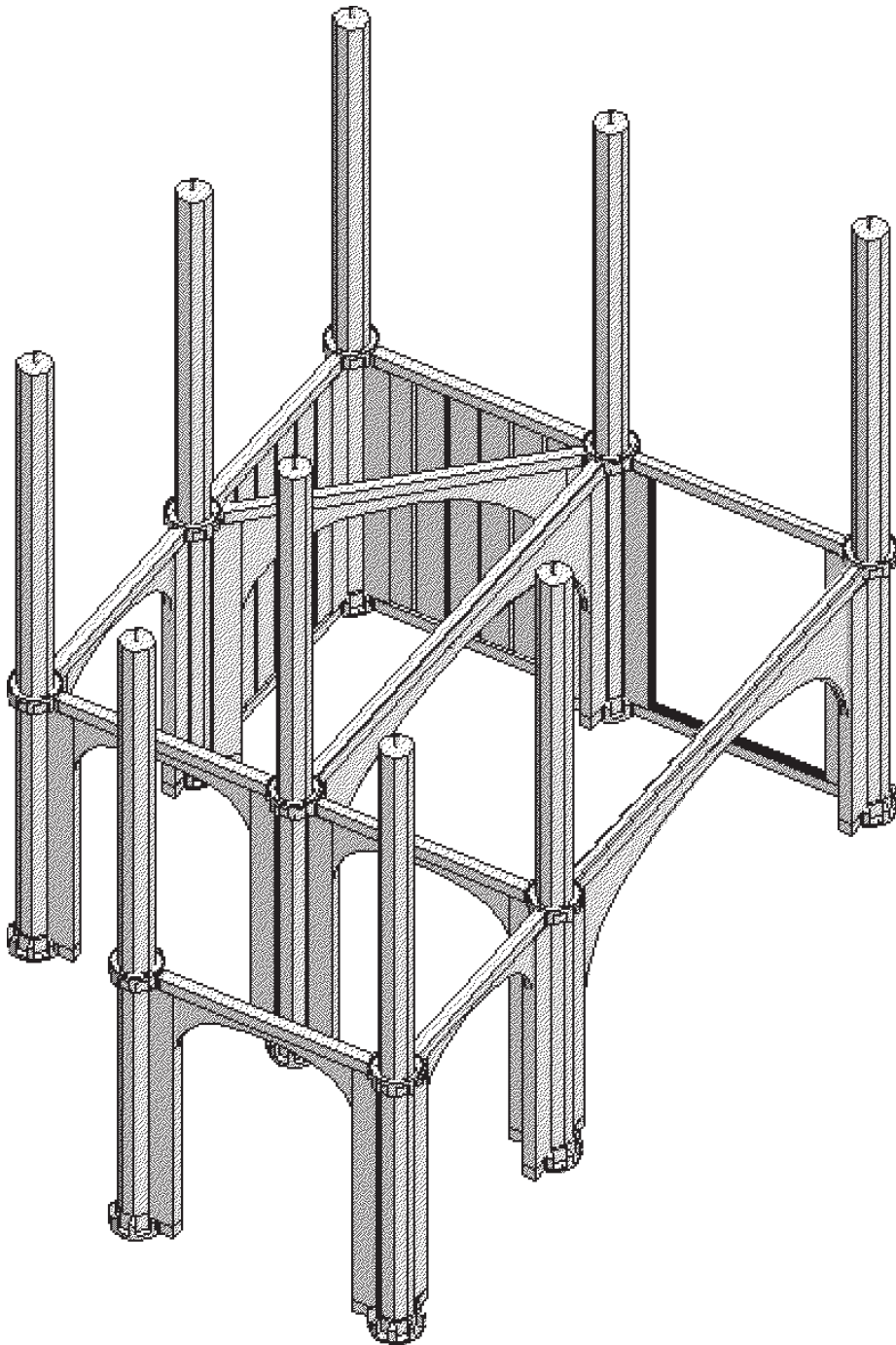
3 Checklist in order of installation:

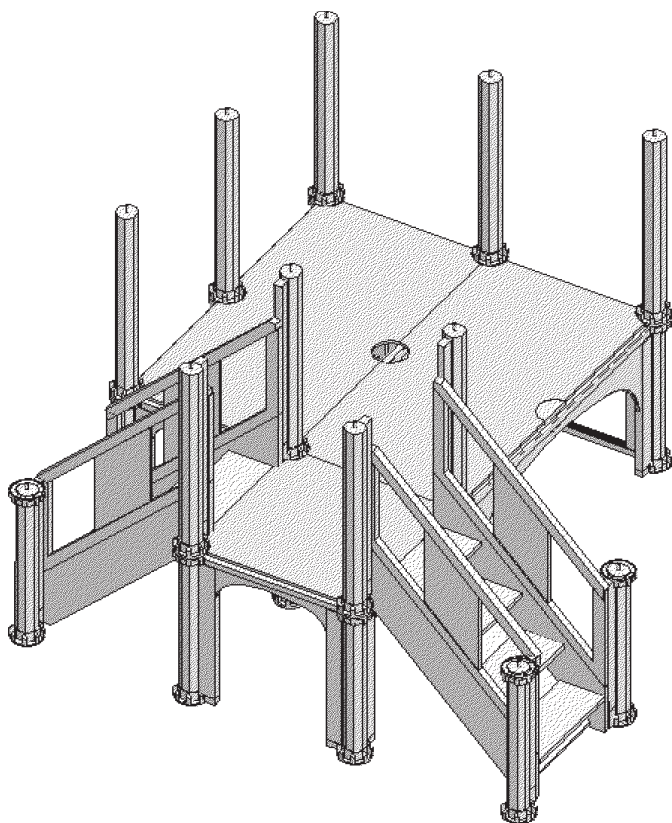
- ⇅ 7 upper panels?
- ⇅ All panels and couplings held properly by the connectors?
- ⇅ 12 caps screwed down tight?
- ⇅ Move against wall or move away from wall for a passageway behind.
- ⇅ ▲ Refer to Safety page.
- ⇅ Levelling feet adjusted?

1 Bonnie's loft

Checklist in order of installation:

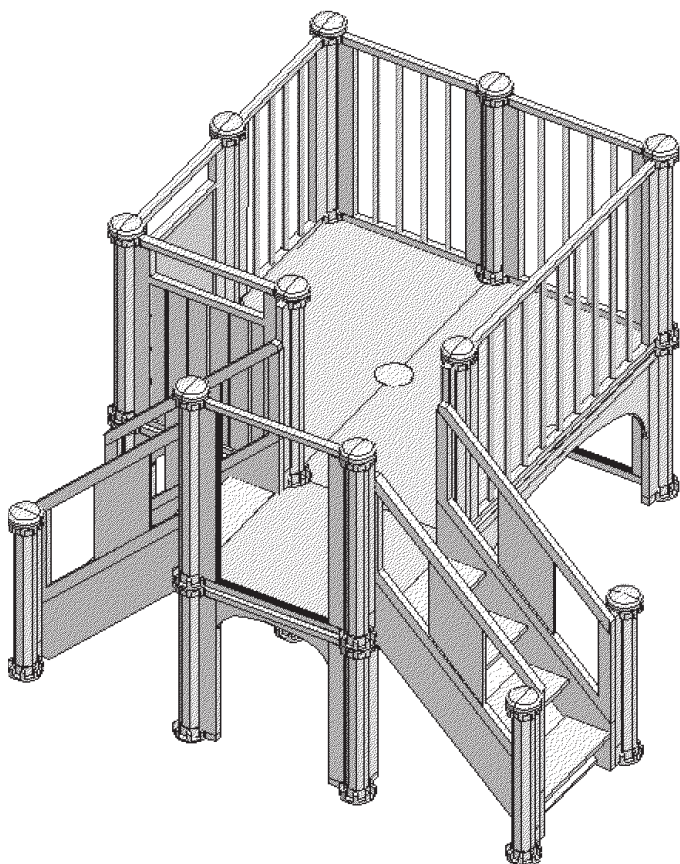
- ⇅ 9 long posts?
- ⇅ 2 single solid, 1 clear panel?
- ⇅ 1 diagonal, 2 double and 5 single arches?
- ⇅ All panels properly held by connectors?





2 Checklist in order of installation:

- ⇅ 1 single and 2 double platforms, 1 half and 1 circular plug?
- ⇅ 2 sets of stairs with 3 short posts?
- ⇅ 2 pairs of railings with 2 short couplings at bottom and 2 long couplings at top for each set?



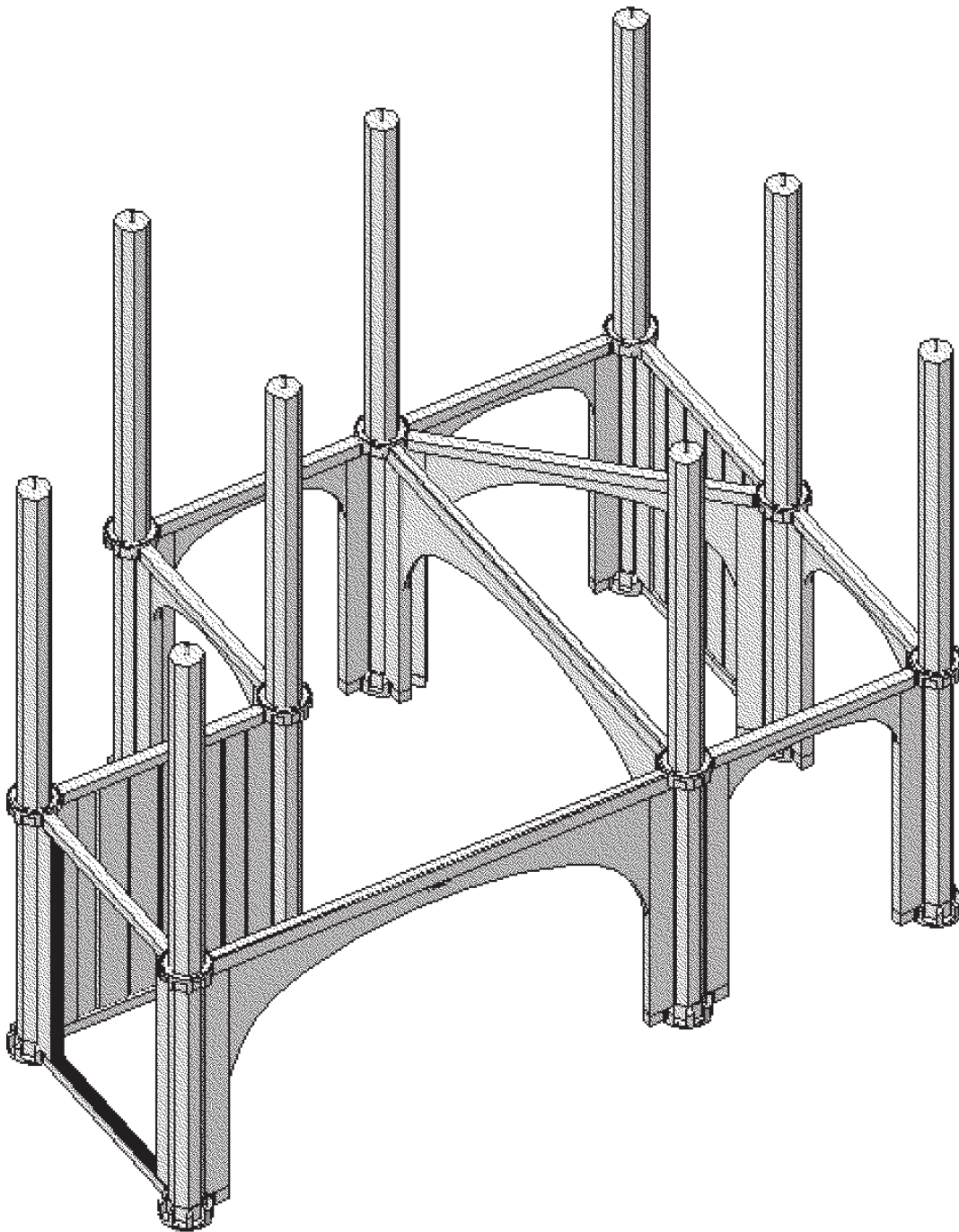
3 Checklist in order of installation:

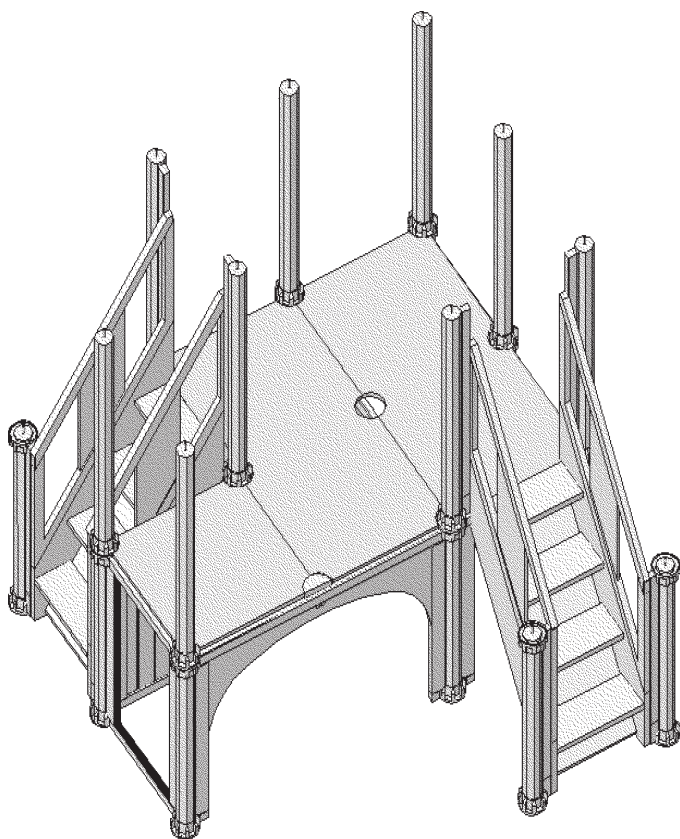
- ⇅ 7 upper panels?
- ⇅ All panels and couplings held properly by the connectors?
- ⇅ 12 caps screwed down tight?
- ⇅ Move against the wall, or move away from the wall for a passageway behind.
- ⇅ ▲ Refer to Safety page.
- ⇅ Levelling feet adjusted?

1 Karen's loft

Checklist in order of installation:

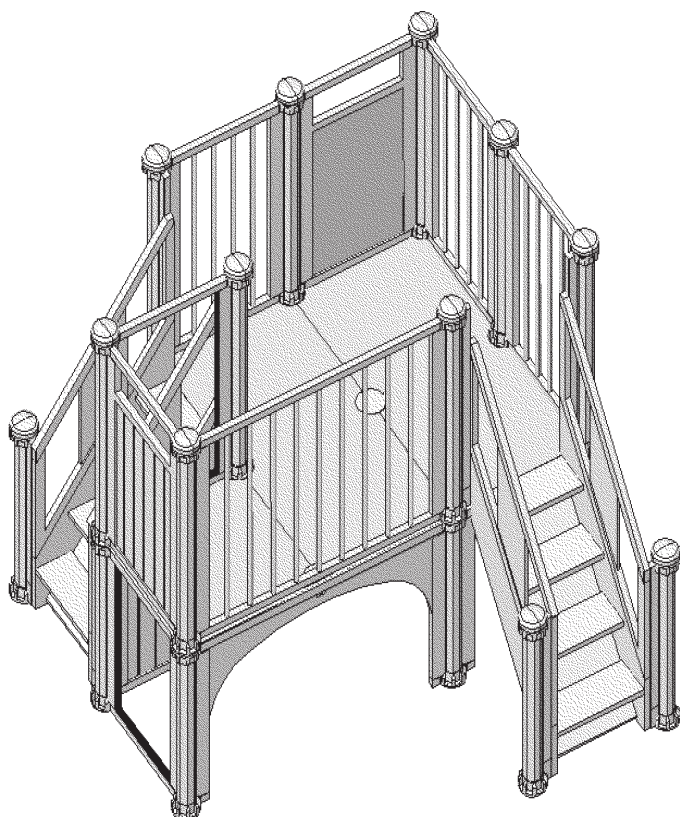
- ↕ 9 long posts?
- ↕ 2 single solid, 1 clear panel?
- ↕ 1 diagonal, 2 double and 5 single arches?
- ↕ All panels properly held by connectors?





2 Checklist in order of installation:

- ⇅ 1 single and 2 double platforms, 1 half and 1 circular plug?
- ⇅ 2 sets of stairs with 3 short posts?
- ⇅ 2 pairs of railings with 2 short couplings at bottom and 2 long couplings at top?



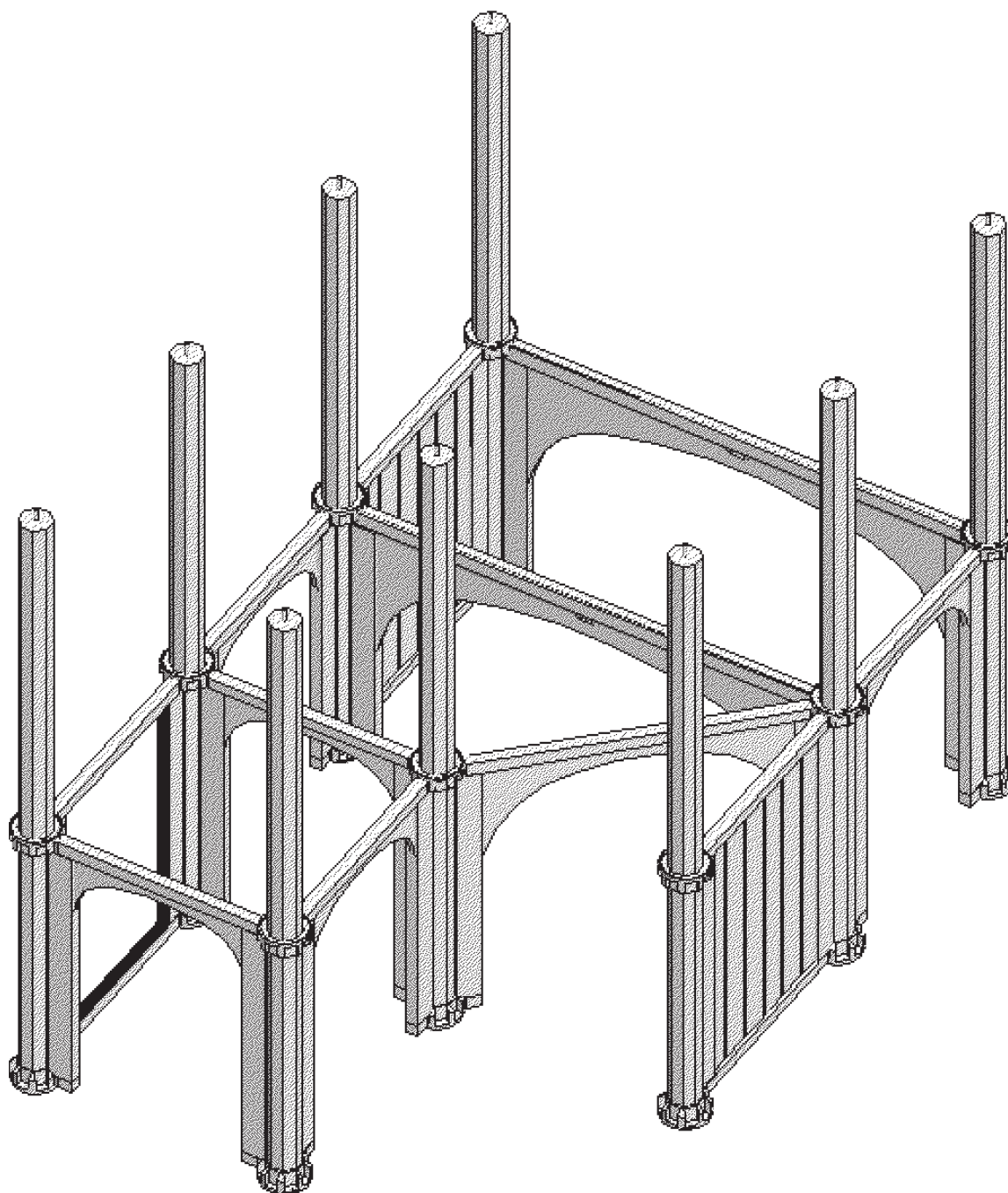
3 Checklist in order of installation:

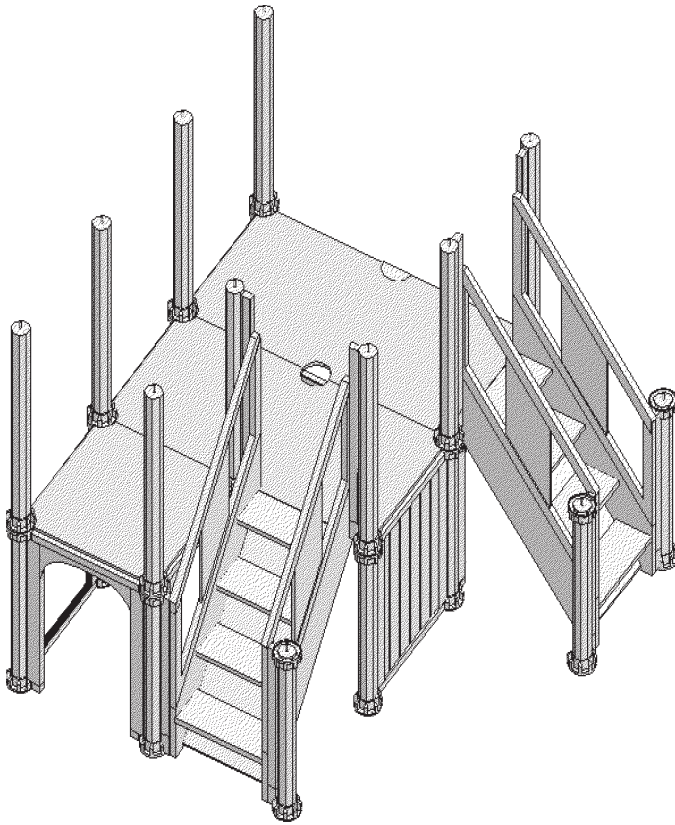
- ⇅ 7 upper panels?
- ⇅ All panels and couplings held properly by the connectors?
- ⇅ 12 caps screwed down tight?
- ⇅ Move against the wall, or away from the wall for passageway behind.
- ⇅ ▲ Refer to Safety page.
- ⇅ Levelling feet adjusted?

1 Tony's loft

Checklist in order of installation:

- ↕ 9 long posts?
- ↕ 2 single solid, 1 clear panel?
- ↕ 1 diagonal, 2 double and 5 single arches?
- ↕ All panels properly held by connectors?





2 Checklist in order of installation:

- ⇅ 1 single and 2 double platforms, 1 half and 1 circular plug?
- ⇅ 2 sets of stairs with 3 short posts?
- ⇅ 2 pairs of railings with 2 short couplings at bottom and 2 long couplings at top?



3 Checklist in order of installation:

- ⇅ 7 upper panels?
- ⇅ All panels and couplings held properly by the connectors?
- ⇅ 12 caps screwed down tight?
- ⇅ Move against the wall, or move away from the wall for a passageway behind.
- ⇅ ▲Refer to Safety page.
- ⇅ Levelling feet adjusted?

MAINTAINING YOUR LOFT

Periodically inspect for cracks, breaks, loose parts, missing parts, and/or malfunctions. Check caps to be sure they remain tightly screwed down. Remove the product from service when any condition develops which might make operation unsafe.

You can wash the wooden parts of your loft, but remember, wood and water are natural enemies. Don't soak; work fast, use a stiff brush with soap and water (or a detergent, as you would for washing dishes).

When cleaning plastic surfaces, do not use harsh detergents or cleansers. These may scratch or mar the surface. Nontoxic household plastic cleaners should work well. Test a small patch of the plastic surface before full application.

If you plan to store your loft, remember it is made of wood, and needs to be stored in a dry place.

CLEANING YOUR CARPETS

You will not need to wash your carpets as often if you vacuum them frequently. When you do need to wash them, however, they are designed to come off for cleaning. Give the corner a gentle tug to remove it from the wooden platform or panel. Clean by hand or with a carpet cleaner. Do not machine wash. Replace the carpet when completely dry.

The carpets are made of a nylon fiber weave. Just use the methods below to clean common spills. If you have a spill that is not described, call Customer Service at 1-800-777-4244 for more information.

For berry, blood, chalk, fruit juices, ice cream, ketchup, milk, plant food, or water-base paint stains...

- 1) Apply carpet cleaner sparingly, rubbing gently. Blot, rinse with water, and blot again.
- 2) Mix one tablespoon ammonia and one cup water. Rinse with this solution. Rub gently. Blot, rinse with water, and blot again.
- 3) Apply white vinegar to remove the cleaning solution. Blot, rinse with water, and blot dry.

For butter, candle wax, chocolate, crayon, felt-tip marker, glue, grease, ink, oil, or oil-base paint stains...

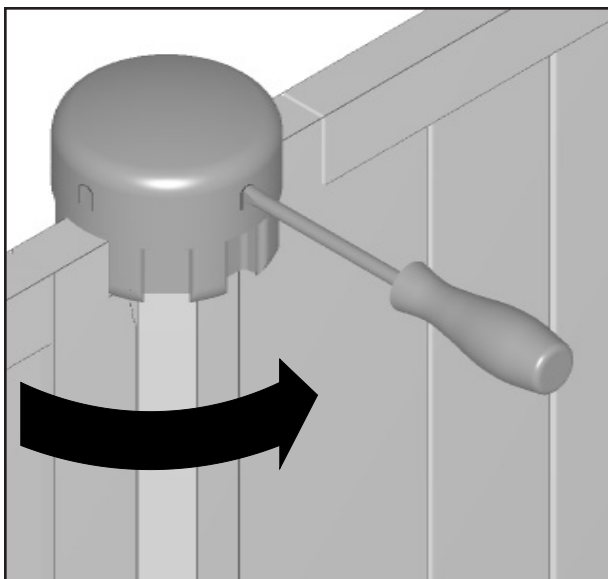
- 1) Apply only enough dry cleaning fluid or alcohol to dampen the stain. Blot dry. Repeat as long as the stain transfers.
- 2) If stain is still visible, apply carpet cleaner sparingly, rubbing gently. Blot, rinse with water, and blot dry.
- 3) Apply white vinegar to remove the detergent. Blot, rinse with water, and blot dry.

For coffee, mustard, tea, urine, vomit, or water color stains...

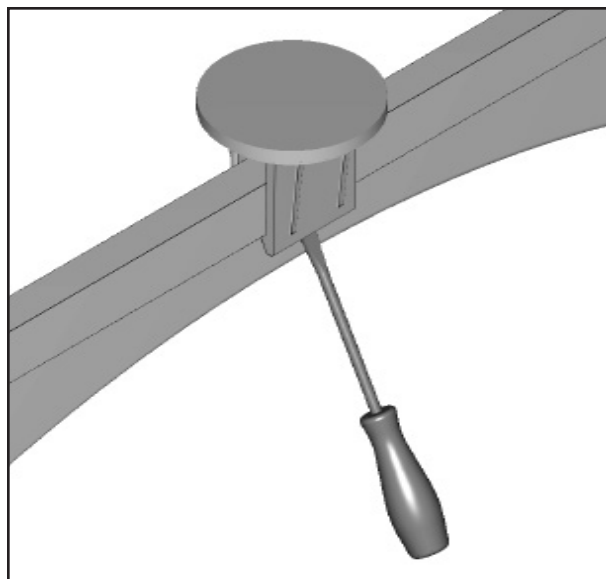
- 1) Apply carpet cleaner sparingly, rubbing gently. Blot to remove stain and rinse with clear water. Blot dry.
- 2) Apply white vinegar to remove the detergent. Blot, rinse with water, and blot dry.

TAKING APART YOUR LOFT

Before taking apart your loft, read *all* of the instructions, and get a friend to help. If you plan to store your loft, remember it is made of wood, and needs to be stored in a dry place.

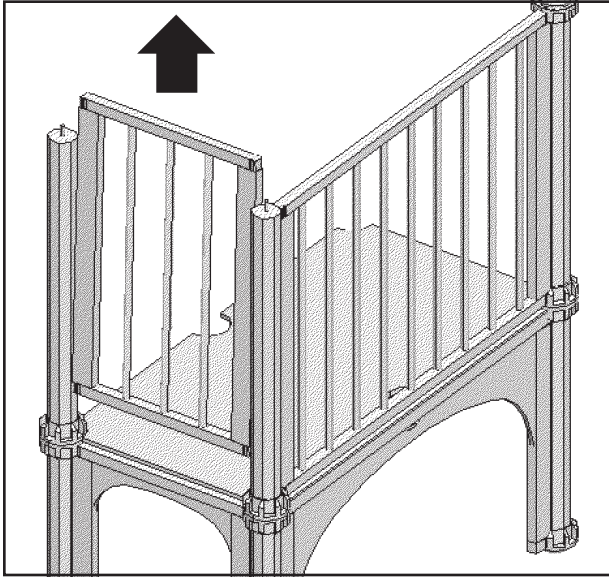


- 1** Start at the top of the loft and work downward. Unlock the childproof caps on the posts by putting a flathead screwdriver all the way into any hole on the cap. Use the screwdriver, pointed slightly up, as a handle to crank counterclockwise. You will hear a clicking sound as it turns.

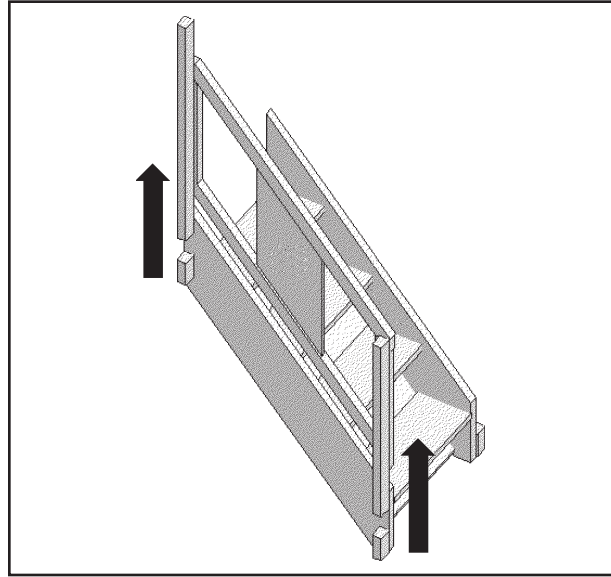


- 2** If you have circular plugs between platforms, insert a flat screwdriver from below to pry up the plug. Then remove any half-circle plugs.

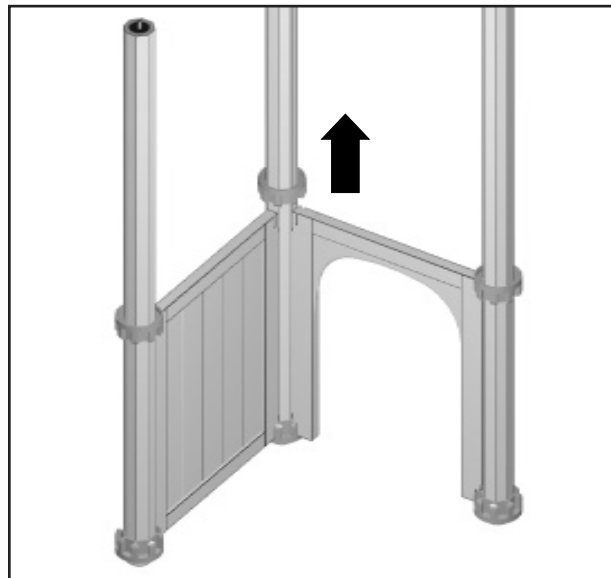
This picture shows platforms removed for clarity. Remove platforms only after plugs have been removed.



- 3** Remove the top connector rings from one panel and lift the panel out of the bottom rings. Do not take all the top rings off at once; this could cause instability and falling panels. Continue around removing one panel at a time.



- 4** Take the stair railings off by lifting straight up. Then you can remove the stairs. A sharp tap on the bottom of the couplings will loosen them from the railing for storage.



- 5** Remove the platforms and stairs. Then take apart the bottom layer of the loft. Now you can try another pattern, and give the room a whole new look!



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