



## **Stages** installation instructions

NOTES: Please check for any damage caused by the shipping company and take appropriate steps to file a claim, if needed. Photos are a critical part of the claim process, so are as many as possible to show the damage.

\*Please call **Digsafe** and check for any underground utilities before digging anywhere.

### **Materials needed (change as needed)**

Cordless driver, star drive bit, Phillips head bit, 1/4" hex drive bit, 1/4"x6" wood drill bit, carpenters square, field marking paint, post hole shovel, 6' level, tape measure, 12" diameter x X" long sonotubes for the footings, 80 lb bags of premixed concrete (not included). Concrete amounts can be easily calculated at <http://www.quikrete.com/Calculator/Main.asp>. Amount required depends on how deep you dig the holes for the footings.

**NOTE: The stage has a 12-1/4" high profile**

**NOTE: If you ordered the steps surrounding the stage, you must make sure that the compacted ground around the stage is flat at least 12" out from the sides of the octagon all the way around.**

- 1) Stages come in 2 parts that fit together like pushing your fingers into each other. That is, the decking is staggered, so that when fit together, they hold the deck together on the framing.
- 2) You'll note that on ends of the sections being joined together, one of the inner perimeter "beams" on one half the stage butts into the matching one on the other half stage, and then a long piece (the final face of the outer perimeter beam), covers the joint of the inner, butted perimeter beam, and is screwed to the inner beam, thus holding the two parts of the stage together.
- 3) The ground on which this stage is to be placed needs to be level/flat, and should be of a material that won't get soggy/muddy which would cause

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the stage to sink and possibly become uneven. Possible level surfaces include asphalt, hardpack, drainage stone, concrete, etc.

- 4) If making a large flat area is too costly, consider concrete footings. Stages are octagons, so you would need 8 footings, the depth of which would depend on the frost line in your area.
- 5) Move both halves of the stage to your preferred location. Orient/turn one of the halves so that one of its flat faces is facing in the direction you wish, then bring the other half over and temporarily join the two halves together so you can mark the 8 points where you want the footings.
- 6) Move the stage from the area. Once the depth of the holes is determined, cut the 12" diameter sonotubes to the desired height so they will be either flush with or slightly elevated above the ground.
- 7) Use the post hole digger/shovel to dig the holes to the desired depth. Make the holes a little larger than 12" in diameter so that the sonotubes can easily be inserted.
- 8) Insert the sonotubes, then level their tops with each other using the 6' level. It's critical that the level's bubble is in the exact middle of the 2 lines, and that you make sure this is the case from one sonotube to the other. If it varies slightly in the same direction as you go around the circle, there's a very good chance your stage will not be level.
- 9) Once the tops are all level with each other, mix the concrete and fill the holes to the tops of the tubes, and smooth out the concrete.
- 10) **Note:** Though the stage is heavy and likely immovable, if you wish to anchor it to the footings, then you will need to determine the method of anchoring in the event you want the footings to include embedded tie-downs, or want them to be a larger diameter so you can use an anchor bracket, or etc.

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- 11) Once the concrete has cured/set, move half the stage to its final position and orientation, then move then other half to the area, and push the two halves together so the inner perimeter beam is butted together. Obviously the eight stage “corners” should be on the footings!
- 12) Find the two, long, outer perimeter beams (they should be marked and either lettered or numbered so you know which goes where), and fasten both of them to the inner beams with the hardware provided.
- 13) Now fasten the decking fingers to the joists below, and your stage will be complete!
- 14) **If you ordered steps:** To install the steps, you’ll have to remove decking so you can access the back faces of each of the octagon’s 8 sides.
- 15) There is a step box for each of the side-profile octagon faces (8 box steps).
- 16) 6 holes have been predrilled into each of these octagon faces. Locate the 3-1/8” structural screws, and place a step box in front of each of the faces. **You must make sure** that the 1-1/2” thick riser under the top of the step is facing the stage, and the thinner, 3/4” riser is facing the user.
- 17) The step boxes are 1” shorter than the length of the faces, so center each step on the face with the step base resting flat on the ground, and fasten the screws through the predrilled holes and into the backs of the step boxes. Pull tight. Mote that the tips of the screws will come through the other side. The tips are hidden inside the box, so as long as the box is intact, they are not a safety hazard, but if you wish to grind off the tips, you’ll have to remove the treads.
- 18) Re-install any decking that was removed, and you’re good to go!!!
- 19) All this pressure treated wood is treated with kid-friendly preservative, but as is the case with all wood facing the elements, it will continue to dry

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out and crack unless it is cared for by applying a good sealer. We have it available in our store if you can't find it. If you find rough spots, splinters, etc, sand them out, and treat with the sealer once or twice a year to keep the wood from deteriorating.

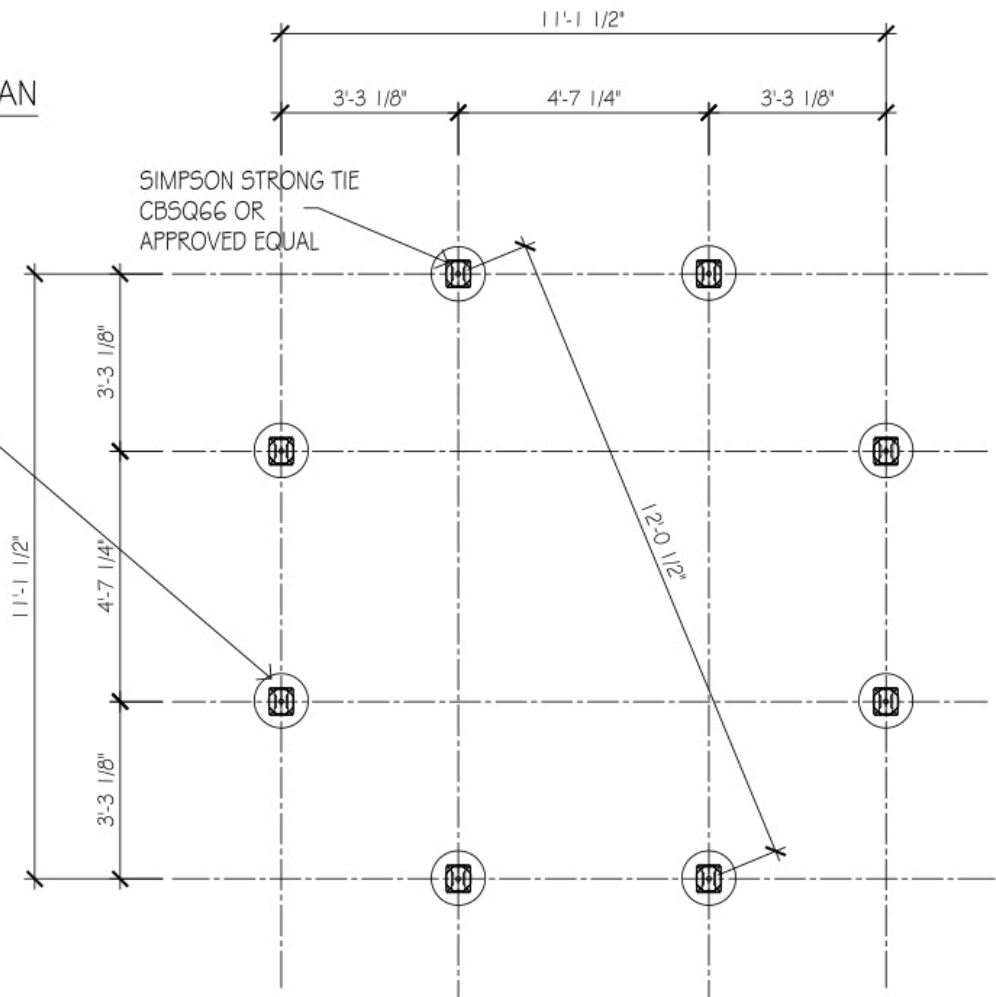
**Measurements will vary depending on the size of stage. Make adjustments accordingly**



## FOUNDATION PLAN

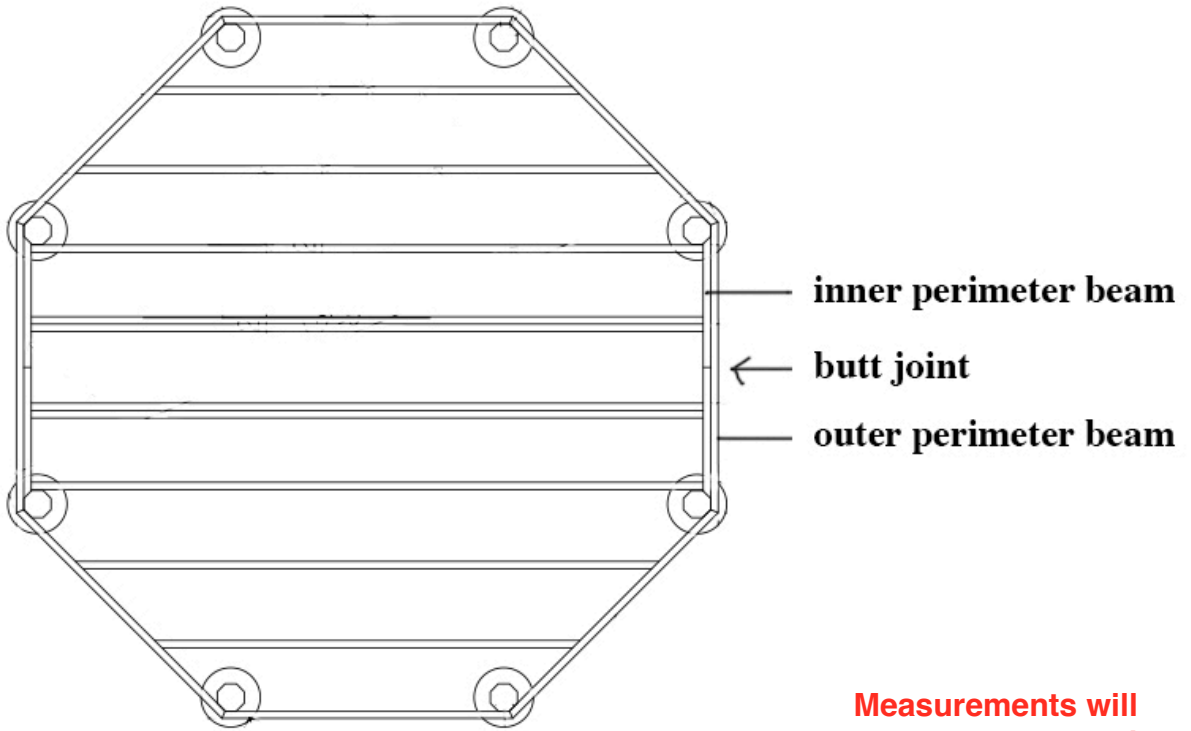
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

EACH POST SITS ON 12" ROUND 24-48" DEEP CONCRETE FOOTING WITH EMBEDDED TIE DOWNS. CHECK LOCAL CODES TO VERIFY FOOTING DEPTH

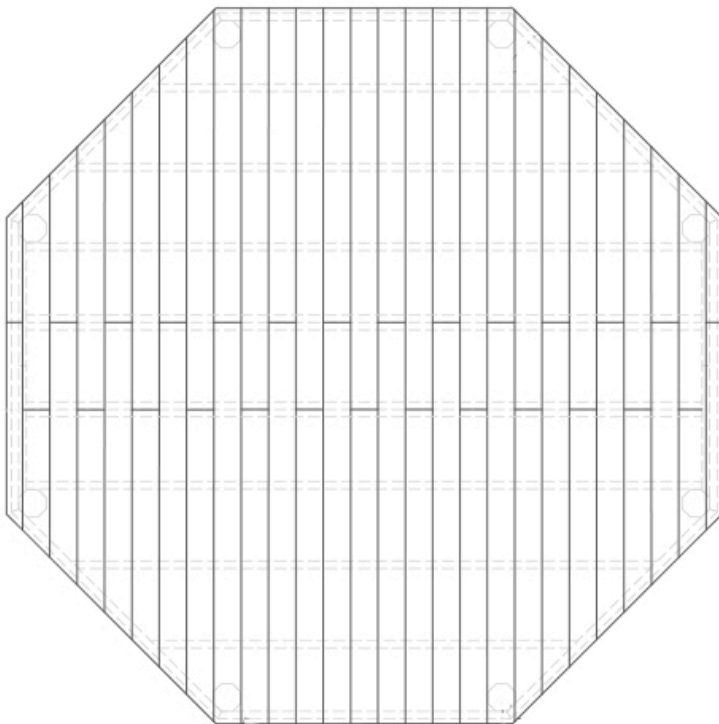


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decking plan