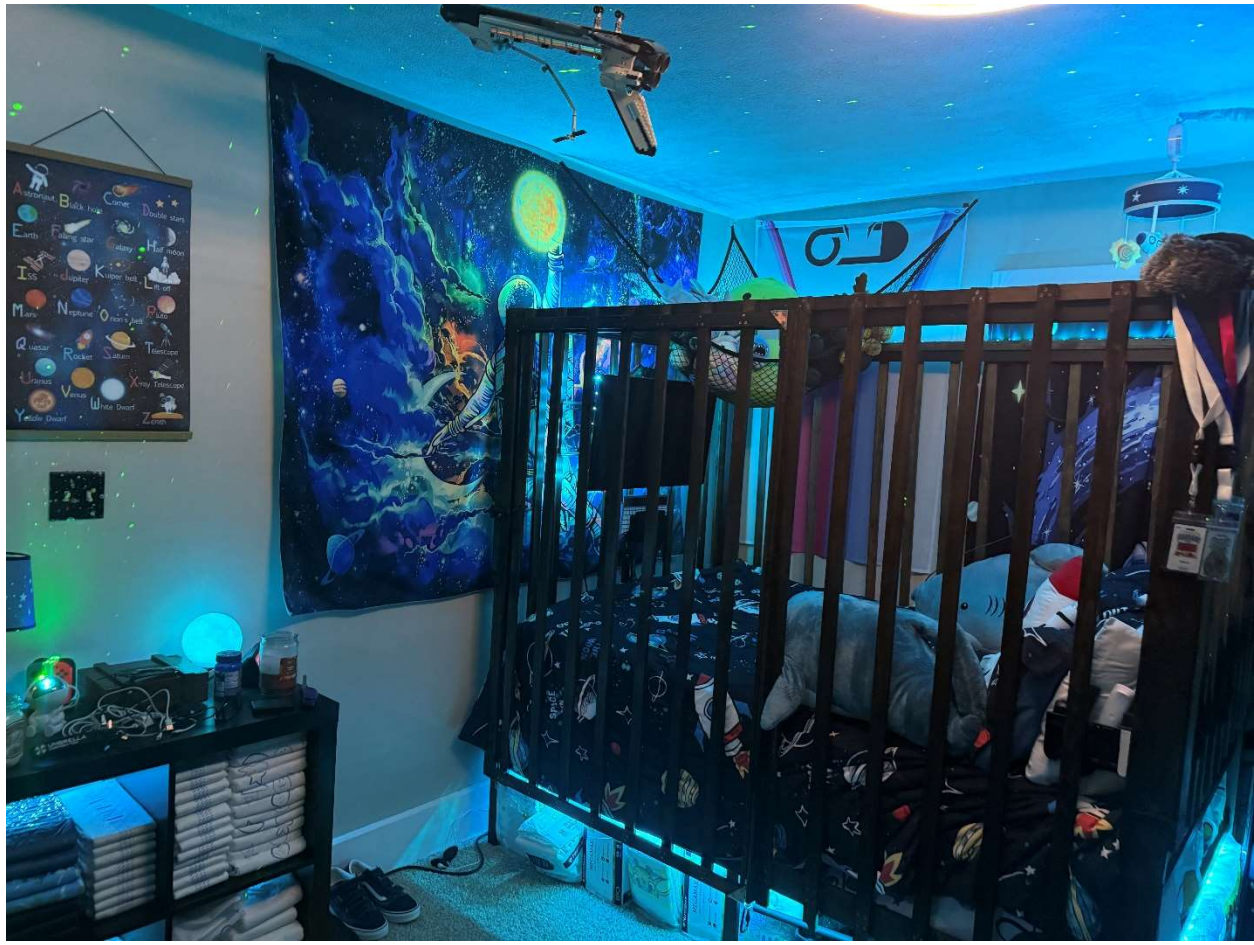


Building an AB/DL Crib



This is my AB/DL crib build. A few things I want to address before I go forward because I have gotten feedback on some of some of my other designs from individuals that do not seem to understand what my designs are intended to be... I have created a design the requires the bare minimum knowledge, skills, and tools and I am releasing all my designs completely free. If you have opinions of how to make it better or things you do not like about the design, then I suggest you design your own nursery furniture set and give it away to the community as I have. I have a full woodshop and space and can design something far more complicated with joinery, engravings, etc. But that is not the intention of my work or these designs. This is so any ABDL with \$500 - \$750 can build a crib of their own. So please understand that and be respectful.

Now, with that out of the way, this crib features a swinging gate rather than the slide rail. Although there are several ways to accomplish a lift up gate design when I did my original research on the crib I looked into and talked to several other AB/DL that I knew have cribs and there were several struggles with it for all of them and although I know I could engineer a design that would work the cost and difficulty of the build would

go up in that sort of implementation, which defeats the whole point of making this crib design simple and as uncomplicated as possible.

I personally have built this crib in a twin size, double size and in a queen size. I have a friend that also built her crib entirely on my design off just pictures and my CapCon presentation, so this is very doable. The crib utilizes a steel curtain bedframe that costs on average \$200 from amazon and is rated for 700 lbs. You will not need to modify the frame, so the integrity is 700 lbs., and the completed rails weigh less than 70 lbs. Another benefit of this crib design is that it is fourteen inches off the ground, which is perfectly suited for storing packs of diapers underneath the crib. I also personally used to underbed Rubbermaid tubs, one for loose diapers and the other is used for booster packs. Installed under glow LED lights both above and below the crib and I hung a TV inside the crib on the footer with a Nintendo switch hooked up as well.

The lumber I used for this build was simple construction lumber from Home Depot. I own a planer and so I ran all the wood through the planer to keep the costs to a minimum, but friends who have built this design substituted lumber from alternative sources that was of nicer quality that did not require that step.

All of that is not necessary, but they are options you could implement if you decide to build the crib. That being said... on to the build!

Note: Although the bedframe advertises that a box spring is not needed to achieve the proper crib height, I highly recommend investing in a box spring. I thrifted for one myself.

Parts List

- Bed Frame



[Amazon.com: ZINUS Patricia Black Metal Canopy Platform Bed Frame, Mattress Foundation with Steel Slat Support, No Box Spring Needed, Easy Assembly, Full : Everything Else](#)

- 52 x 1x2 8-foot pine strip (Rails and Gate)



- 12 x 1x4 8-foot pine strip corners and bottom base boards)



- 2 x 2x3 8-foot pine strip (Width top rails)



- 2 x 1x1 8-foot pine strip (Long Top rails)

Hardware

- 100 x 3/4 in wood working screws.
- 100 x 1 in wood working screws.
- 100 x 1 1/4 in wood working screws.
- 12 x 3-inch corner brace (These are used to hold the crib rails to the bed frame)
- Utility Pull handle (Gate handle)
- 3 x 3 in narrow utility hinge (For gate)
- Locking gate clasp (My crib is lockable but there are a variety of options to secure the gate closed)
- 4 x 2 in corner brace (Used to strengthen the gate frame)



(Above samples of some of the hardware I used to build the crib. I did not use everything pictured but I did list everything that I used)

Tools Required

- Saw
- Drill
- Phillips head drive bit
- 1/4-inch counter sunk bit (These are great for predrilling holes that will counter sink for the screws.)

- Measuring tape
- Cloth measuring tape.
- Several spring clamps in varying sizes (I purchased a lot at harbor fright Recommend at least eight of the largest size and 6 - 8 of the medium size. The more you have the easier some of this is)

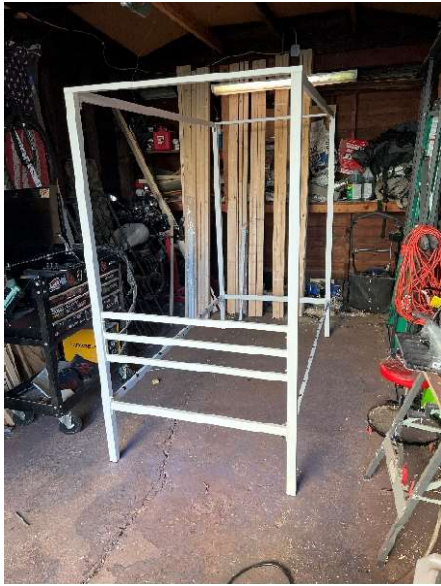


For this build I cannot give direct measurements for cuts because I do not know what size crib you will be using, and I did not keep records when I built two of the three cribs. But the build is very straightforward.

(Important: You should pre-drill and countersink every single screw. Also, it is especially important to make sure you do not over drive or screw and make sure you select the appropriately sized screw, so it does not come out the other side. I believe on average the shorter screws work best on the lower rails and the longer screws work best on the upper rails, but that is something you will need to access and decide on as you are working.

Step 1. Build the bed frame

All your measurements will need to go off the bedframe, so the first step is to build the bedframe. I recommend not installing the mattress slats as it will make moving around in the crib easier.



Step 2. Building the top rails

Cut the 2 2x3 boards so that they run the full length above the Header and footer of the frame. They need to be flushed against the metal so the rails can connect. Next measure the distance length wise between the header and footer and then cut the 2 1x1 boards so that the entire top of the crib has the four boards sitting atop of the upper rails.



Step 3. Cutting the Lower rails

Using four of the 1x4 boards you need to cut lower boards for the header, footer and lengthwise. These boards should be inside of the corners and flush against the bottom rails. Use the medium clamps to secure them in place.

(Note: The Header is shorter I placed the board on the second rail from the bottom as pictured below)



Step 4. Cutting and Enclosing the Crib frames

Using eight of the 1x4 boards you need to measure from the top rail down to the bottom rails and cut the boards. Next, I suggest using clamps and doing one side at a time you are going to create a “Picture Frame” by screwing the side boards to the upper and lowers. Repeat this on all four sides. See pictures below for examples.

(Note: See in the photo below of how the two corners meet. This is important to do the same)



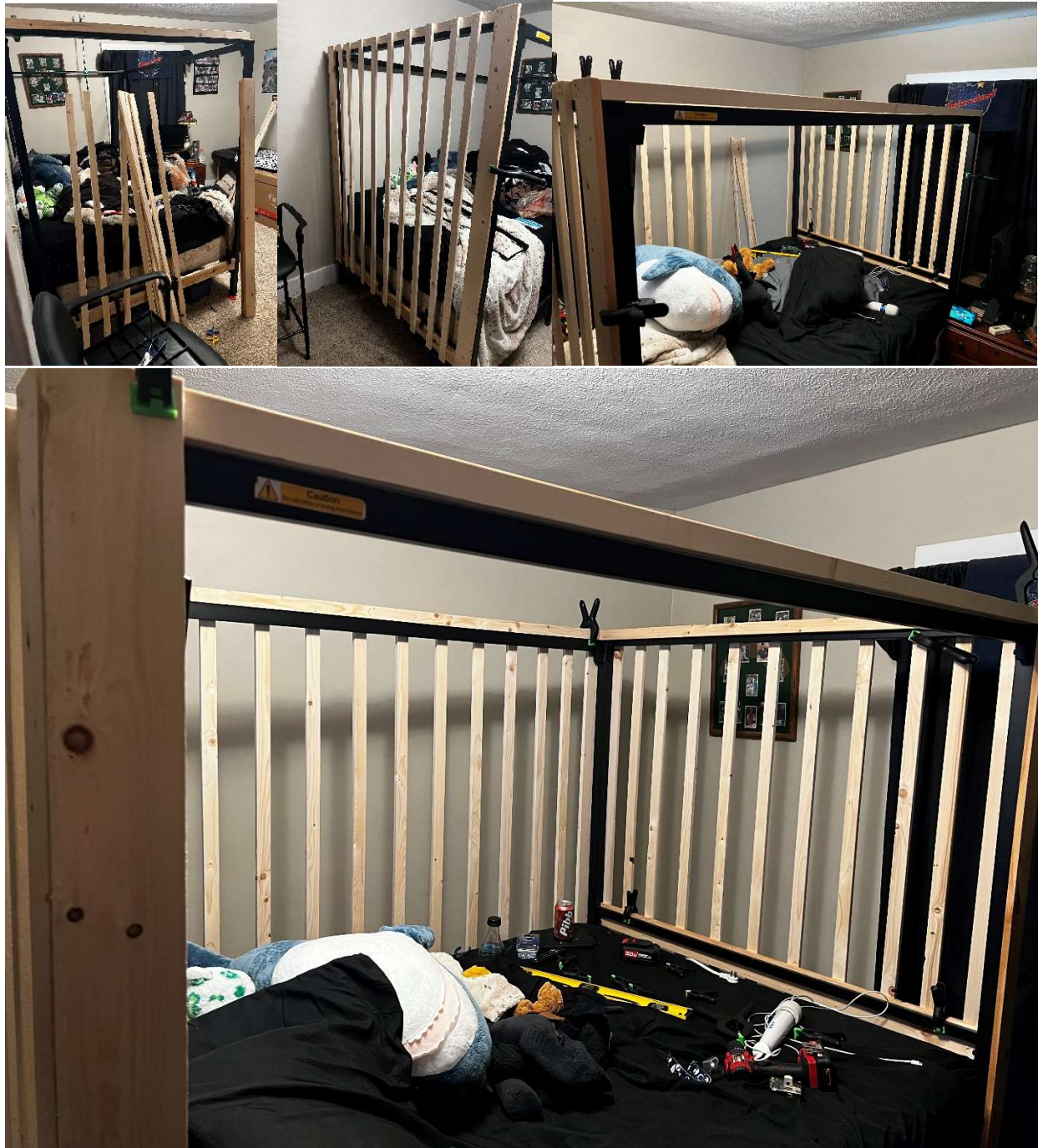
Step 5. The Rails

Now the fun begins! First you need to decide where you want to place the gate. So, you need to know which side of the crib will be against a wall etc. and make sure there will not be obstacles stopping the gate from swinging open. Once that is decided I recommend doing the Header, Footer and then the Lengthwise not gate side rails first. This process is repeated so it is not too technical.

First, cut the rails so that they will extend the length from the top rail to the bottom.

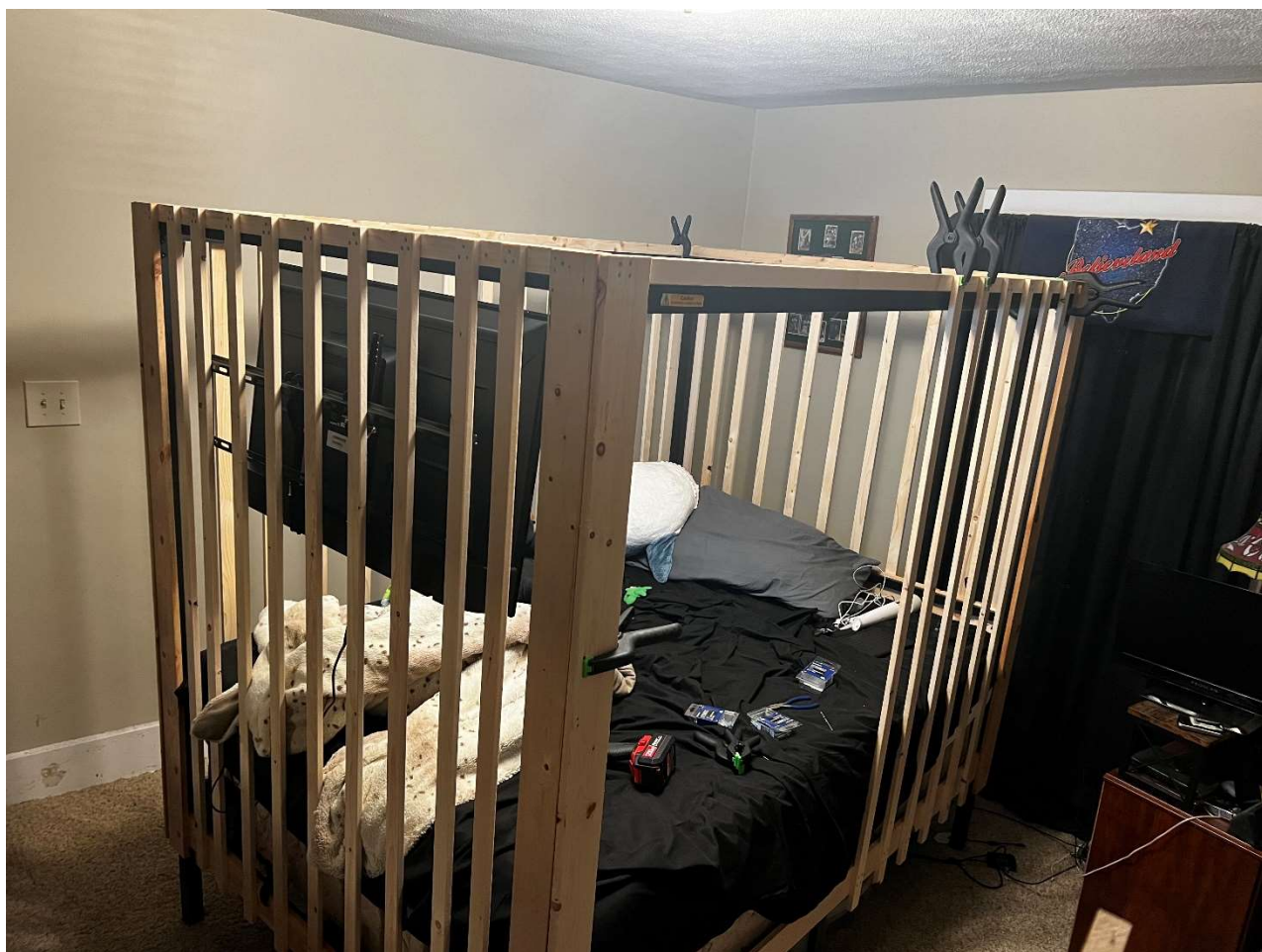
(Remember: The Header is shorter so do not cut all your rails to the header length)

I personally hate math and did not try and figure out the perfect spacing to make them all exactly equal. What I did and recommend if you do not want to do that either is to find the exact center and you will start by placing one rail directly in the middle. Then using the cloth measuring tape you will measure four inches from the end of the middle and place a rail. Repeat that step until there is less than 8 inches from the end and place that final rail in the middle. Depending on the size of the crib you are building, that spacing will be roughly 3+ inches and is not very noticeable and will look like a feature. I am going off memory, but I believe the queen and Double crib sizes have the same number of rails on each side nine on the header and footer and thirteen on the non-gate side. The length side is the same process as the header and footer... just longer.



Step 6. Rails on the Gate Side

As mentioned in Step 5 you need to know what side you want the crib gate to open. In this example the gate is on the left side and swings open to the right. This is something you will have to figure out for yourself but is not too complicated. How I started the gate side is exactly how I did all the other rail sides. I first found the middle and I installed a rail in that spot. I then installed rails on the non-opening side.



Step 7: Installing the Gate Hinge

Taking one of 1x2 rail pieces you need to place them perpendicular to the middle rail. This rail should be cut short so that it is under the top rail (**Note: See in the image the example. Figure out where you want the three hinges to be. I personally cut and recessed my hinges. Some hinges do not need to be done this way, but I thought it looked better doing it that way.)**

Place your hinges and cut an identical rail to match up to the opposite side of the hinge, but do not secure it.



Step 8: Completing the Gate

A way to make creating the gate easy is to first figure out the length of the upper and lower of the gate and cut those two pieces. Then using the clamps and measuring tape, measure out four inches and secure the first rail of the gate, then the second, third etc. This will give the gate rigidity for you to use the four corner braces to finish off the gate. Using a scrap piece of rail place the piece at the end on top of the 1x4 corner piece so that the gate can rest flush. On this piece install your gate lock or latch. Install the gate handle at the end of the gate.





Step 9: Stain or Paint

At this point you should have four completed crib sides. Take each side off, sand, prime or prep, and either paint or stain the rails as to the look you prefer. I personally think stain is easier and looks nicer, but I have friends that painted their cribs as well.

(Note: If you do decide to stain make sure you add a protective coat of Polyurethane or some other finish)

Step 10: Final installation

I recommend putting the box spring and mattress on the bed frame before you even begin to put on the rails for the last time, but you can technically wait until putting on one lengthwise rail. Once you have all four rails on you are going to use the twelve 4-inch corner braces. I just eyeballed their placement, but there will be three on each corner. One at the top, middle, and bottom. These braces will effectively hold the four sides in place and the top bars, thanks to gravity, will keep everything secure.

I hope you found these crib building instructions helpful and straightforward. Below are several other examples of buildings by me and my friends. If you have any questions, please message me on my socials or through my email at babyleprechauncreations@gmail.com

