Congratulations on the purchase of your Floating Dock kit. This kit includes all the aluminum frame parts, and all the fasteners. You need only provide the 55 gallon poly drums and the decking.
These instructions will show you how to assemble your floating dock. If you ordered a Gangway kit, the assembly instructions will be in a separate document. If you ever have any questions or find anything that is not 100% clear, please call us. We almost always have someone available (evenings and weekends too!). 503-631-7539
Note: All ½” bolts should be torqued to 80 ft/lbs and all 3/8” bolts to 25 ft/lbs. The rule is “tight but not too tight” as these bolts will snap if over torqued. Spares have been provided for you to make a few mistakes 😊.
The basic building block of your dock or gangway we call “frames. They have a front and a back as shown above and below.
Lay the frames out as shown above. Note that all the frames are facing the same direction except the frames in the first row. It is important that you lay the frames out as shown above.
The A1 parts are the cross bracing along the rails. Bolt all the A1 parts together in pairs as shown above. Hand tighten only.
Let’s start with one side. The A1 parts are cross braces. Install them as shown with the bolt head facing out and the nut on the inside. You can insert a bolt through the cross brace ends and into the frame to hold the cross braces in place but don’t put a nut on it.
A2 is a square washer that must be inserted at the end of every rail. The A2 is the same thickness as the A1 cross brace and it keeps the width of the frame consistent.
All the rails are identical. Put a rail on top and bottom. Put a round washer on the outside and a “cut washer” (washers that have one edge trimmed) on the inside with a nyloc nut and hand-tighten.
If you ordered piling guides, install them now.
The Piling Guides are designed to use 2” galvanized pipe as a piling. This pipe has a standard outside diameter of 2.375”. Notice that the bolt is offset slightly to make room for the pipe. Normally the piling guides are installed so they do not hang out over the end of the dock.
Use “cut washers” (washers that have one edge trimmed) on the inside of the frames. This is necessary because the bolts are a little too close to the inside edge of the frame for a full washer.
Insert a spacer at the top and bottom of each dock end as shown above. These are very important and keep the width of your dock consistent across the entire length. *Only hand tighten the bolts right now.*
Add the next row of rails, then cross braces, then frames as shown above. Make sure the frames are facing the same direction as shown above. *If you don’t assemble in the proper order, the deck support brackets and barrel support brackets will not fit.* Use bolts at least 1.75” long, nyloc nuts, and “cut washers” on both sides. The A2 square washer spacers are used at the ends of the middle sections also.
Put the next row of frames making sure that the rails face the same direction as shown above.

The cross braces should always be on the inside of the rails.
Now add the next row of rails, rail cross braces, and frames. As mentioned earlier, the order is very important.

Use 1.75" bolts or longer, and don't forget the A2 square washers and the ends of the dock.
Assemble the other side just like you did the first side. Use bolt lengths shown above and be sure and install the square washer spacers at the top and bottom of each corner. You are now ready to tighten the bolts. 1/2” bolts should be torqued to 80 ft/lbs, and 3/8” bolts to 25 ft/lbs. If you don’t have a torque wrench, then just get them tight, but not too tight. Aluminum bolts will snap if you get them too tight. We have provided spares, in case this happens.
At this point you have a decision to make. You can either deck the dock, and then flip it over and install the barrels while the dock is upside down, or you can raise the dock on blocks and install the barrels from the top. Installing the barrels while the dock is upside down is easier, but your dock will be very heavy with the deck and barrels installed and this could be dangerous to flip back upright. For safety sake, these instructions will show you how to complete the assembly without flipping the dock over.
The next step is to square up your frame. This is done by making sure that the corner to corner distance is within 1/8” as shown above. If it is out of alignment, you should be able to push the long ends together. If this doesn’t work, then pull them together with a ratchet strap. If you are more than one inch or so out of alignment, you are probably not measuring correctly.
Barrels will not be installed in the center squares of your dock. Instead you are going to install two C8 “Stiffeners”. These are not required, but will significantly increase the stiffness and stability of your dock.
You will need to drill four $\frac{1}{2}''$ holes in the rails in the locations shown above.
Drill only one hole first, at the location shown above. The first hole you should be able to drill from the top.
After you drill the first hole, bolt C8 in place and use it to mark the second hole as shown above. The second hole you may need to mark and drill from the bottom, or just clamp the C8 in place and drill from the bottom using the C8 hole as a guide.
Install both C8 stiffeners and tighten all four bolts.
On the barrels that will be installed in the dock, you need to attach the brackets as shown above and below. Make sure the barrel bung holes are positioned as shown above. This keeps the bung holes out of the water, reducing any chance of water leaking into the barrel if the bung plug is not sealed correctly.
The attachment of the bracket will depend a lot on the barrel but try to keep the top of barrel even or just below the bracket.
We have found that if you set the barrel upside down and on blocks as show above, it is pretty easy to drive the screws through the barrel lip and into the aluminum angle. Just be sure not to screw into the wood block too 😊 Also, it is easy to drive the screws right through the barrel lip, so be careful!
You will attach the barrel to the underside of the deck with this bracket and three ¾” stainless steel wood screws later in the assembly process.
The next step is to set the barrels in place. The brackets should face away from the ends of the dock as shown above. Just set the barrels down inside the frame. You will bolt them into place later. Set the frame up on blocks just high enough so that the top of the frame is even with the top of the barrels.
It’s now time to install the C2 & C3 deck supports. The C2 parts are shorter and fit between two frames that are facing the same direction. The C3 parts are a little longer and they go at the one end where the frames are facing back to back.
The deck supports use 3/8” aluminum bolts that should be torqued to 25 ft/lbs. These bolts will snap pretty easily if you get them too tight. We have provided spares, but be careful.
Notice that the back to back deck supports share the same bolt. Install all the C2 & C3 deck supports and tighten all the bolts.
It’s time to start installing the barrels. Start at one corner pushing the barrel to the outside of the frame and then making sure that the top of the barrel bracket is even with the top of the frame. This bracket will be screwed into the bottom of the deck after the deck is in place.
You will be installing the C4 and C5 barrel lockdown brackets. The C4 fits between two rails that are opposing, the C5 fits between to rails that face the same direction.
Start on the side where the two rails face each other. Set a C4 on the rails and push it up against the barrels driving the barrels up against the frames. Clamp it, and then drill the two 3/8” holes shown above. After drilling the holes, install 1” long bolts and nuts (no washers required). Tighten the outside bolt, and add then add the C5 below the frame over the inside bolt and hand tighten the inside bolt. See next page:
Now move to the other side of the dock and install a C5 part. You need to drill another 3/8” hole as shown above. For eight foot wide docks, you will use a total of three bolts for the two brackets. Four 12’ wide docks, you will use four bolts for three brackets and so on. Tighten all the bolts as soon as you are done with a row of brackets.
C4 always has both ends on top of the rails.

C5 always has one end that is below the rail, and one end on top of the rail.
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C5 always has one end that is below the rail, and one end on top of the rail.
Install the C4 & C5 brackets in front of all the barrels as shown above.
Before we put the decking on, you need to check the square of the frame by making sure that the distance between the corners is within 1/8” as shown above.
Now lay all the boards on the deck. Adjust the gap so that the end boards are even with the edge. Typically a gap of 1/8” to 3/8” is used. We suggest laying all your boards out and evenly spacing them before you start to screw them down.
When you are satisfied that everything is in place, you need to space the deck screws out as shown above with each board getting 9 screws. Make sure that you put deck screws in the center deck supports. You should be able to see the deck supports between the gaps in the deck boards. Your deck will be holding the barrels down so it must be fastened securely.
The last step you need to do is screw your barrels in place. You must raise it up high enough to crawl under it. You can raise it with a floor jack and block it up as shown above.
First screw the barrel bracket into the bottom of the deck as shown above. If the pre-drilled holes line up with a gap in the boards, you will need to drill your own holes making sure that you catch the board. You can put the pan screws through the bracket and into the deck at a slight angle to avoid the board gap (if necessary).
Next drive two self-drilling screws through the lip of each barrel and then into the barrel lockdown bracket (one screw on each side). Each barrel will have two self-drilling screws holding it to the bottom barrel lockdown bracket.
Drive a deck screw through the lip of the barrel and into the barrel locking bracket.
Be careful not to drive the screws through the plastic. They should sit flush with the edge of the plastic barrel rim.

When you have added all these screws, your dock is ready to float!
We expect your RollingBarge.com gangway and dock to provide you a lifetime of enjoyment. Please send us some pictures of your dock with you and your family. Thanks!

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