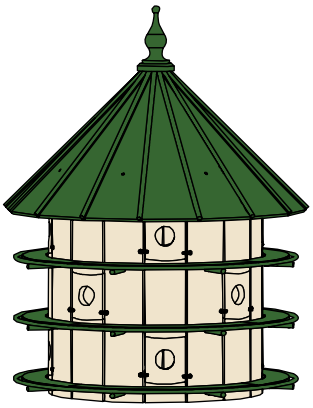
martin house Post



Once you have your martin house complete, you need a way to lift it to a height that works for purple martins. The drawing at right shows the basic structure of the post assembly. It's made up of three parts. Two side posts are buried in the ground (or anchored in a concrete footing). A center post is connected to the side posts with a pair of bolts, some washers, and nuts. The two bolts allow you to remove one bolt and pivot the martin house to lower it for periodic cleaning.

CHAMFERED POST. There's one other detail to note on the center post. The top section of the post features wide, stopped chamfers on the the corners. These chamfers correspond with the ventilation holes inside the martin house. The trick is cutting chamfers on such a long piece.

The solution is shown below in Figure 1. A circular saw can efficiently cut the chamfers. Draw layout lines on the four faces of the center post to guide the saw. Keep in mind that the chamfers don't need to be perfect to work well.

Completing the chamfer requires a little handwork. Due to the curve of the blade, you need to use a back saw to free the waste generated by the circular saw (Detail 'b'). Finish the chamfer by chopping down at the end line and paring away the remaining waste.