

## Outdoor Movie Night

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Fire up the BBQ, make some popcorn and get ready to enjoy your backyard in a whole new way. The toughest question will be, "What movie are we watching tonight?" Like most families, movie night is a weekend staple. Now that summer is here why not make some movie night magic in your backyard. This backyard movie screen project is perfect for breathing new life into movie night, making staying at home with friends and family, a real treat.



[Watch Jenifer's project video and build your own backyard theatre](#)



**Jennifer Tryon** is a craft and DIY television personality. You can find her making things on Global Television, The Shopping Channel and the Home Shopping Network and live streaming from her home craft studio on her [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). You can find all her tutorials, movies and sewing ideas at [www.jennifertryon.com](http://www.jennifertryon.com)

**Finished Screen Size:** 96 x 48"

**Skill Level:** Confident Beginner

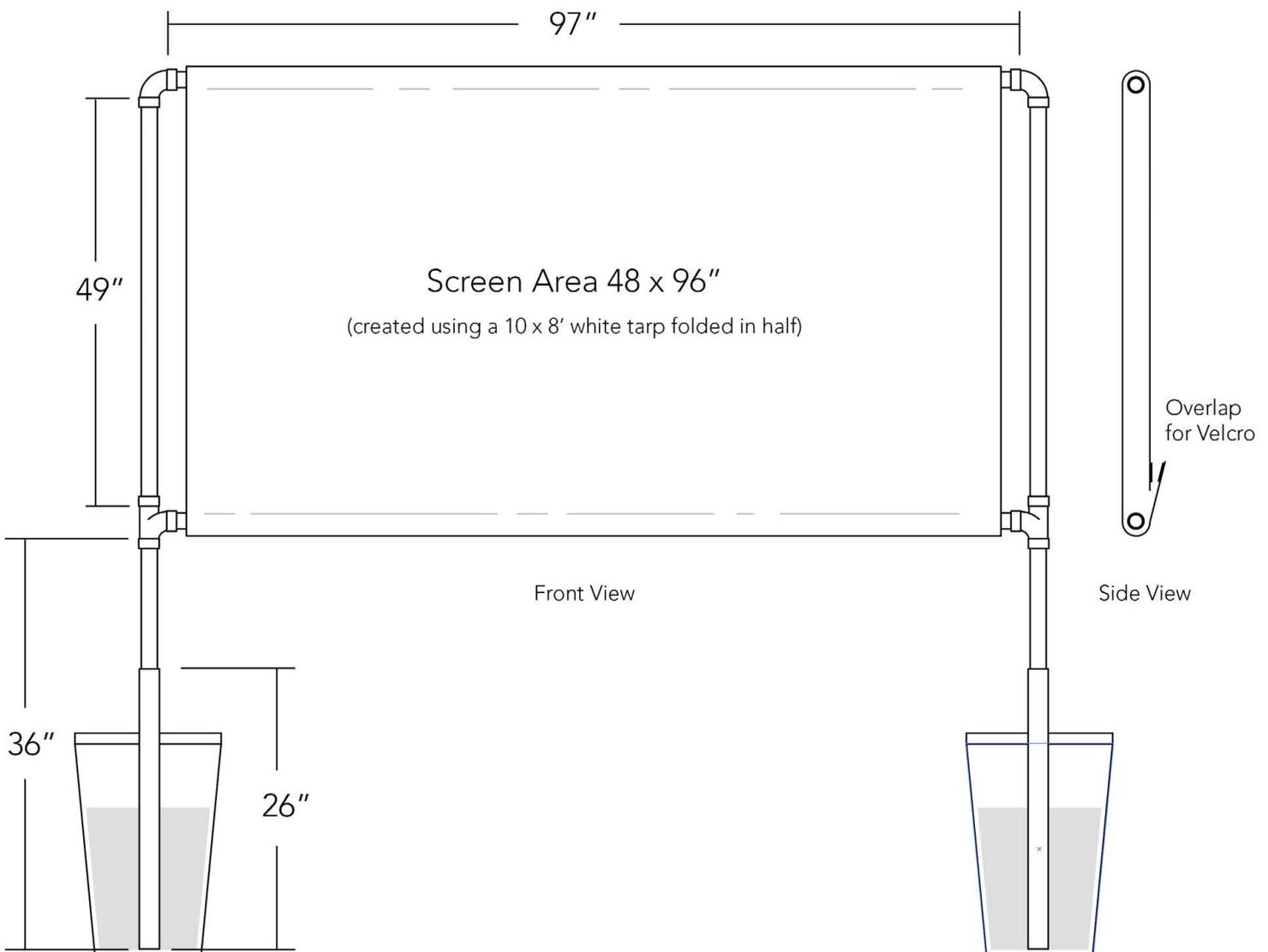
**Time:** A weekend

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## MAKING THE MOVIE FRAME

**Supply list:** Most items can be found at your local hardware store and/or garden centres to build your backyard movie theatre. These are rough measurements. How big or small you make your frame will depend on the size of the screen material using. Careful planning is required before you cut your ABS pipes.

- 2 pcs, 2" ABS pipe (26")
- 2 pcs, 1.5" ABS pipe (36")
- 2 pcs, 1.5" ABS pipe (97")
- 2 pcs, 1.5" ABS pipe (49")
- 2 pcs, 1.5" ABS Tee Fittings
- 2 pcs, 1.5" ABS 90-degree elbows
- 2 pcs, 2" ABS end caps
- 2 Tall and sturdy plastic flower pots
- 4 Bags of limestone or gravel
- Potting soil
- Flowers



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**Step 1:** Start by cutting your larger 2" ABS pipes 4 inches taller than your flower pot. In our case the flower pot measured 22" so we cut our pipes to 26" with a skill saw.



NOTE: When using power tools, please read and follow the manufactures guidelines for safe operation. ABS pipe can also be cut with a standard handsaw.

**Step 2:** Hold the pipe flush against the bottom of the flower pot and fill it with gravel or limestone screenings about 2/3rds of the way up your pot, so your ABS pipe stays nice and sturdy.



Earth Essentials Sand Calculator	
Calculateur de sable de Earth Essentials	
m <sup>2</sup>	ft <sup>2</sup>
0.5	2.3
1.0	4.6
1.5	6.9
2.0	9.3
2.5	11.6
3.0	13.9
3.5	16.3
4.0	18.6
4.5	20.9
5.0	23.2
5.5	25.5
6.0	27.8
6.5	30.1
7.0	32.4
7.5	34.7
8.0	37.0
8.5	39.3
9.0	41.6
9.5	43.9
10.0	46.2
10.5	48.5
11.0	50.8
11.5	53.1
12.0	55.4
12.5	57.7
13.0	60.0
13.5	62.3
14.0	64.6
14.5	66.9
15.0	69.2
15.5	71.5
16.0	73.8
16.5	76.1
17.0	78.4
17.5	80.7
18.0	83.0
18.5	85.3
19.0	87.6
19.5	89.9
20.0	92.2
20.5	94.5
21.0	96.8
21.5	99.1
22.0	101.4
22.5	103.7
23.0	106.0
23.5	108.3
24.0	110.6
24.5	112.9
25.0	115.2
25.5	117.5
26.0	119.8
26.5	122.1
27.0	124.4
27.5	126.7
28.0	129.0
28.5	131.3
29.0	133.6
29.5	135.9
30.0	138.2
30.5	140.5
31.0	142.8
31.5	145.1
32.0	147.4
32.5	149.7
33.0	152.0
33.5	154.3
34.0	156.6
34.5	158.9
35.0	161.2
35.5	163.5
36.0	165.8
36.5	168.1
37.0	170.4
37.5	172.7
38.0	175.0
38.5	177.3
39.0	179.6
39.5	181.9
40.0	184.2
40.5	186.5
41.0	188.8
41.5	191.1
42.0	193.4
42.5	195.7
43.0	198.0
43.5	200.3
44.0	202.6
44.5	204.9
45.0	207.2
45.5	209.5
46.0	211.8
46.5	214.1
47.0	216.4
47.5	218.7
48.0	221.0
48.5	223.3
49.0	225.6
49.5	227.9
50.0	230.2

**Step 3:** Fill the rest of the flower pot with potting soil and transplant some flowers. This will disguise your pipe. Put the 2" ABS cap on the pipe when you're not using your screen. No one will ever know your flower pot is pulling double duty.



**Step 4:** Cut your 2 smaller 1.5 "pipes to 36" and insert them into the larger 2" pipes hidden in your flower pots. Add the Tee fittings on top.



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**Step 5:** Cut another 2 - 1.5" ABS pipes to the width you'd like your screen. Make your width about 1 inch longer on each side that the tarp you're using for your screen. In our case the tarp measured 8 feet by 10 feet when folded in half, so we cut our pipe to 97".

With the Tee Fittings parallel insert the larger 1.5 x 97" foot ABS pipe to make the bottom horizontal strapping of your screen.



Next decide the height you'd like your screen to be (base this on your tarp size). In our case we wanted to be able to fold our tarp 8 x 10 foot tarp in half and wrap it around the top and bottom pipe, so we cut our side pipes to 49".

Remember 36" of the screen legs are going to be inserted inside the larger 2" pipe, so be sure to account for that measurement along with your Tee and Elbow Fittings, when cutting your top side pipes. In our case, we cut the 1.5" pipes to 49".

Add the elbows to the top of your side pipes and insert your last 97" horizontal pipe across the top.



Presto! That's your screen frame.

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## MAKING THE MOVIE SCREEN

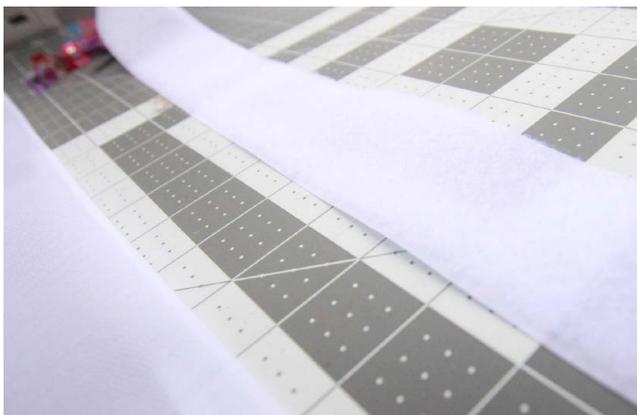
**Supply list:** A white tarp for the screen can be found at your local hardware store.

- White Tarp (10 x 8')
- 2" Velcro strip (96")

**NOTE:** Before you begin measure your assembled frame and cut your fabric (if required). A piece of string looped around the top and bottom of the frame will give you an accurate measurement for Velcro placement.



**Step 1:** Now it's time to turn that white tarp into a movie screen. I sewed a strip of 2" Velcro to the top and bottom and top of my tarp (opposite sides) so I could wrap it around the screen frame.



**Step 2:** I'm sewing on the Janome Continental M7 Sewing Machine. Perfect for sewing heavy duty materials and mismatched fabrics like the tarp and Velcro.



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We didn't glue any of the pipe junctions because we want this to easily come apart when we're not using it. And it was plenty sturdy enough without glue.



When the movie is done the tall skinny pipes are easy to store, and the tarp folds up. Just put the caps on your pipes and leave the flower pots out in your back yard.

Added some patio string lights from your local hardware store for extra ambiance. I attached these string lights onto the grommets on the tarp, they already had hooks built in on the ends. Bonus! So making use of the grommets in the tarp. Double bonus! No one will ever know, it's really your screen stand!



Because the screen is in flower pots you can easily move it where ever you like around your yard.

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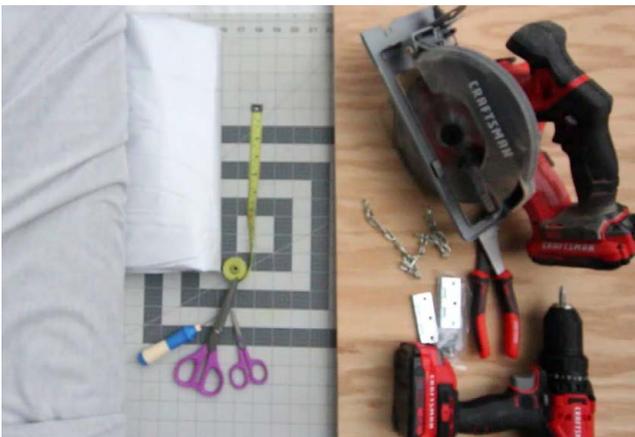
## MAKING GROUND SEATING

Our favorite way to watch is from the lawn, snuggling up on our DIY sandwich board ground seating. Being able to lean back makes for a much more comfortable on the ground experience.



### Sandwich board supply list:

- 1 sheet of 4 x 8' ½ inch plywood
- 6 hinges and screws under ½ inch
- 4' of chain links and chain cutter
- 4 ½ screws and 4 washers
- Tools: Skill Saw, Pliers and Drill or screw driver



**Step 1:** Start by cutting the plywood into 2' sections. You'll need 2 - 2 x 4' pieces for each sandwich board.



**Step 2:** Space out and screw in the hinges, one on each end and in middle.



**Step 3:** Add the chain using your screws and washers. This prevents the board from flattening when leaning back on it.



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## MAKING SEATING MATS

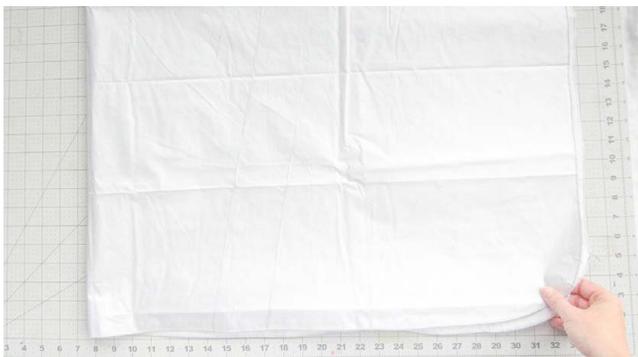
For cushions I sewed my own covers for 1" foam upholstery pads, big enough for two.



### Seating mat supply list:

- 1" Upholstery foam – I used 46 x 22" inch for seat back and 44 x 51" for the ground mat
- This seat is big enough for two adults or a whole pile of kids
- Wipeable table cloths (Dollar Store item)
- Zipper tape (I used Zips on a Roll from Threaders)
- Yardage of comfy fabric, I used French Terry, so the seats feel like comfy clothes.
- Cut 48 x 57" for the ground seat and 50 x 26" for the fabric and table cloth if using my measurements

**Step 1:** Start by squaring up your table cloth. Mine had rounded edges so I trimmed two pieces one for the top back and one for the bottom back. I want the table cloth to be what touches the ground, rather than the nice fabric.



I used comfy French terry (sweatshirt material) for the tops of the seating pads. So it feels like you're lying on pajamas.

**Step 2:** I measured out the zipper tape to 40 inches, leaving 3 inches on either side to add zipper ends.

Cut a 1" by 3.5" piece of coordinating fabric. Sew right sides together on end only. Flip fabric off zipper and top stitch. Repeat on other end. Now your zipper will be lengthened to 46 inches.



**Step 3:** Laying zipper right side down on end of table cloth, sew using zipper foot along the raw edge. And finger press open and top stitch zipper down.

Repeat, attaching fabric to other side of the zipper. Don't forget to top stitch.



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**Step 4:** Open zipper fully. And sew closed remaining 3 sides using a ½ inch seam allowance. I used the Accufeed foot to ensure accuracy as I was sewing together an odd pairing of fabrics – plasticky table cloth and stretchy French terry. The Accufeed foot handled these beautifully, no puckering.



**Step 5:** In fact the Janome Continental M7 is a dream to work with. Heavy duty fabrics were a breeze to work with. And, so much throat space! Once all sides are sewn together, box out each corner 1 inch. And sew across the pointed edge. This will give your 1 inch foam a pocket to fit in.



**Step 6:** Insert your foam. (this is the toughest part as the foam catches on the material. But keep at it, it eventually gets in there.)

Repeat for as many back and ground mats as you need and pair with a variety of matching pillows.



I made big overstuffed pillows to match. Being able to stretch out on the ground, while leaning back makes a movie on the ground so much more comfortable.



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## GETTING READY FOR THE SHOW

We put down inexpensive outdoor carpets. Two layers of protection from the lawn made for a more comfortable night on the ground.



We're projecting using the Epson EF-100 Mini Laser Streaming Projector with Android TV.



This projector blew me away. It has a built-in speaker and remote controls letting you live stream Netflix and other online tv and movie Apps. With the remote we could sit way back on the lawn and still stop, start, pause and turn up the volume.

Sit back and Enjoy the Show! We might never go to the actual movies again!

