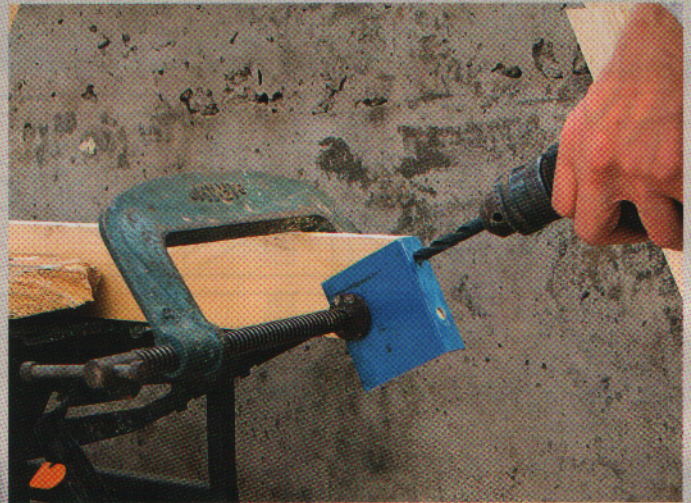


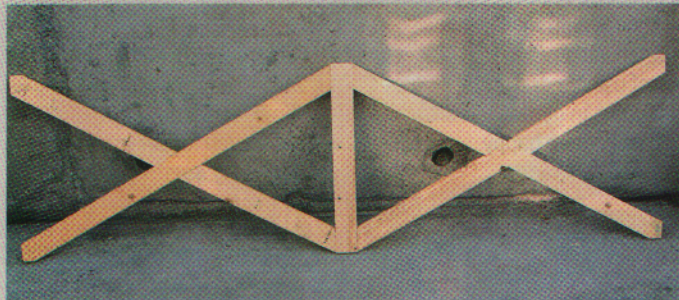
MAKING THE BALUSTRADE STEP-BY-STEP



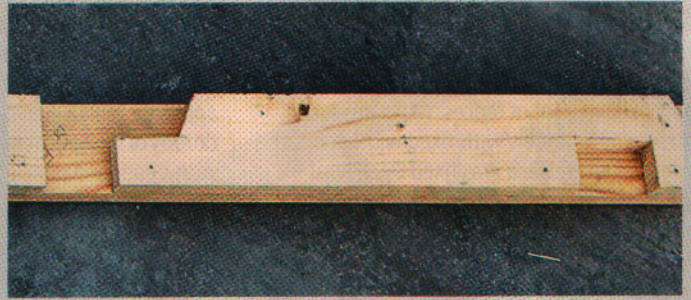
▲ Pic.1 Despite the scale drawings, Phil still likes to lay out the parts and check it's going to work. First stage is to mark out and cut the halving joints for the crosses. Glue and cramp these; leave to dry



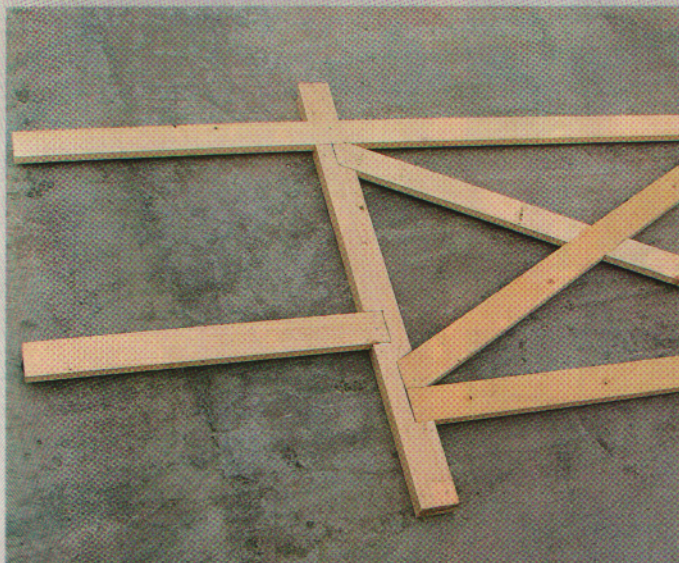
▲ Pic.2 Adjustable dowelling jigs are useful, but a piece of bent metal with a couple of holes is nearly as good. You need an assistant though to make sure the drill is perpendicular to the surface. You also need to make sure you always clamp to the same side of the timber in case the jig is not quite perfect. Phil didn't and some joints are a little out of line



▲ Pic.3 Assemble each pair of crosses together with an upright to create the assembly you see here. A 'Workmate' is invaluable for cramping odd shapes like this while the adhesive sets.



▲ Pic.4 Each post is different but the principle is the same, the front and back are plain timber and the middle layer is designed to create mortises for the rails to fit into, and to protrude at the top to create a tenon for the hand rail. Glue and nail the middle to the back layer



▲ Pic.5 Glue and nail the cross pieces and rails into the post. Cut the lower rail short and fit a stub slightly higher to clear the retaining wall at the end. The upper rail passes straight through for strength. With the rails fitted the front of the post can be glued and nailed on top



▲ Pic.6 Assembled and ready to sand and paint. Phil added the hand rail once the balustrade had been fitted. It is simply 3 x 2in with the corners rounded off and mortised to fit onto the posts.