



# Akambira

## #4273, 5591

### Assembly Instructions

***Please open and inspect all items upon receipt. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us immediately.***



### Quality Commitment

Thank you for your shared commitment to connecting children with nature and your support of children's life-long learning. Nature Explore is dedicated to providing quality, research-based educational materials for your outdoor spaces, as well as outdoor classroom design services and educator workshops.

Our natural products are field-tested by trained educators who observe children using them in play—focusing on safety, educational-value and versatility—prior to being offered in the Resource Guide. Our natural products, such as wooden instruments, tables or balance beams, are hand-crafted by trusted professionals who support our shared mission. All natural products are constructed of materials carefully selected for functionality, safety and durability.

We encourage you to contact us with questions or for more information on our natural products and services. If inquiring about a past or existing order, please have your order number handy (Ex: SO90001234) so we may answer your questions and provide additional information as needed. **All of our warranty, return and exchange policies can be found online or sent by request. Please contact us at [service@natureexplore.org](mailto:service@natureexplore.org) or 1-888-908-8733.**

*All items created by and manufactured exclusively for Nature Explore are done so in accordance with all relevant and applicable safety standards and recommendations as set forth by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and ASTM International. Be sure to consider additional regulations that may be unique to your site.*

# How to Assemble an Akambira

**Recommended Ages: 2-12**

**Recommended Crew: 2 people**

## **Tools Needed:**

1. Hammer
2. Wrench
3. Screwdriver

## **Parts List:**

- 1 - Ipe Frame
- 2 - Cedar Legs
- 11 - Ipe Keys
- 1 - Ipe Mallet Holder
- 1 - Pair Mallets
- 2 - Cam Cleats
- 2 - 4x4 Post Bases
- 2 - Carabiners
- 2 - 8 ft 1/8" sailing line Vectran Core

2 - **Stainless Steel 4 1/2" Carriage Bolts**, Washers & Locknuts



4 - **Galvanized 5" Hex Bolts**, Washers & Nuts



## **Maintenance:**

General maintenance should be performed every few months. This maintenance will help reduce injuries and extend the life of your Akambira:

- Tighten bolts
- Compact dirt around legs
- Check and Replace the sailing line if necessary

## **Inspection:**

Inspect the Akambira each time before it is used.

- Inspect to make sure it is stable in the ground.
- Mallets should be in one piece.
- Make sure the wood is smooth and splinter free.
- Sailing line should be tight.
- All keys should be attached.

- 1 Align the frame and legs to the pre-drilled holes. Allow two people to assure stability.

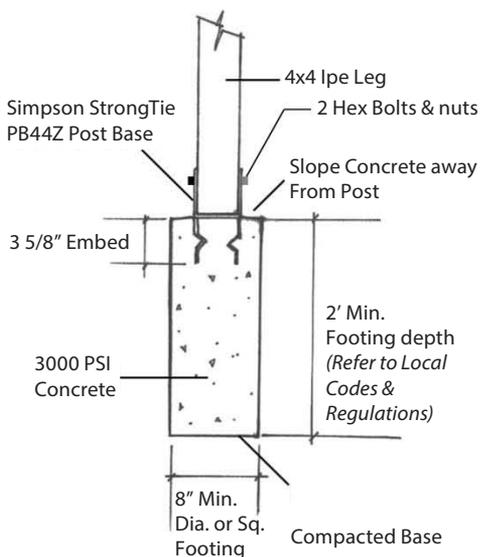


- 2 Insert 4 1/2" Carriage Bolts into the pre-drilled holes at each end. Tighten lock nuts with a wrench, but be sure not to over-tighten as this will crack and/or split the wood.



**Over-tightening screws & bolts will cause the wood to crack and/or split.**

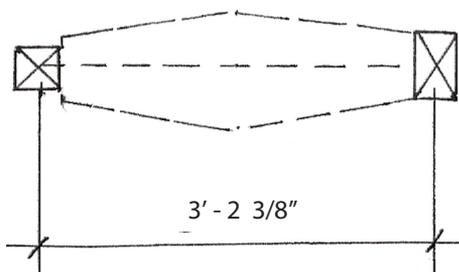
**Note:** Akambira is now ready for permanent installation by a licensed and bonded contractor.



- 3 Site the Akambira in permanent location marking the placement of the legs on the ground. The placement for installation should be flat and level.

- 4 Attach 4x4 Post Bases onto Legs using the provided 5" Hex Bolts, washers and nuts. **Do not place Akambira upside down on pre-mounted eyebolts.**

- 5 Install the Akambira as per the detail above. The top of the Akambira frame must be level so that keys are playable.



- 6 Create tension in the lines by pulling them towards you. Then slide lines into cam cleats as shown.



- 7 Check the tightness of the line by applying gentle downward pressure on the line located on the short end of Akambira. The line should move less than 1".

**Note:** The line will have to be tightened periodically.



- 8 Attach the mallet holder with provided screws to the pre-drilled holes on the short end of the Akambira.



Again, be sure not to over-tighten as this will crack and/or split the wood.



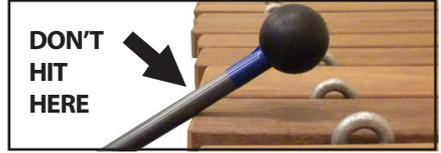
**Over-tightening screws & bolts will cause the wood to crack and/or split.**

**The Akambira is now ready to be played!**

**Helpful Tip:** CAUTION! Improper use will result in damage and/or breakage of your mallets. Use proper supervision when mallets are in use.



**Correct:** Only the head of the mallet is to be used to strike the keys. Strike the center of the key for the best sound.



**Incorrect:** Striking the shaft of the mallet on the edge of the keys will result in damage and/or breakage.

### Important Facts About Natural Wood Products

Nature Explore field-tested components are made of natural materials that bring children in close contact with the beautiful patterns and colors of nature. Due to the nature of raw and untreated wood, you will notice graining, knots, checking (a natural cracking process that occurs as wood releases moisture across the annual growth rings), and in rare instances, insects. This is not a defect in the product, but a natural process that should be expected. Additionally, unfinished wood will naturally develop a beautiful silvery-gray patina over time.

Below are some examples of what you may encounter and can expect with your order:



### Extending the Life of your Natural Wood Products

Nature Explore items such as Tree Cookies, Natural Balance Beams, Marimbas, At-Ease Benches, etc. are natural, untreated wood products that require regularly scheduled, routine maintenance in order to maintain safety and extend the life of the item. Some items will arrive with an initial coat of sealant while others are left untreated (please refer to product overview & specifications). It is our recommendation that you apply an initial sealant and maintain a schedule of reapplication annually to biannually to extend the life of your product. When considering treatment options we advise seeking the expertise of local wood workers, lumber yards, general contractors, etc. to understand which options are most effective and safe for your area. Routine sanding of the tops, sides and interior (if applicable) surfaces of the item will minimize splinters, reduce the chance of mildew and extend the life of your product. As your natural wood product becomes acclimated to your local environment, and sometimes even occurring in the transit process, a mildew discoloration will appear. You can reduce the risk of continued mildewing by making sure your item is installed on a surface with adequate drainage such as mulch or gravel. Installing or placement directly on grass surfaces is not recommended as it allows moisture to be trapped underneath.