

ACCESSING THE NEXT LEVEL:

We all know that setting up the second level of scaffold frames is easy. You just get onto the planks on the first level, and start building the next level. But how do you go about building the third?



R Tex Inc. has developed an ingenious method of getting to the next level. It starts with the "Gladder" which attaches to the lower ledger of a Walk-through frame. A U-bracket and pin connection secures the Gladder to the frame, and the bottom edge is nailed to the platform you're working from.

The base of the Gladder carries across three planks, so that no undue excess loading is applied to one plank.

With the Gladder firmly attached, all you have to do is climb.

But there's nothing above you to climb onto.

That's where R Tex's ingenuity comes in. Before you start to climb, you lay out your planks on the upper level. Now you don't have a way to get on top of the upper level unless you have an access ladder attached to the outside of your frame.

BUT – R Tex has also developed an access hatch that works like a trap door platform, but is used when you're working with planks, rather than decks.

The first thing you do is to slide two planks back away from the top of the frame where the Gladder is attached, and install the Access Door. This passes up through the opening, and the frame is nailed to the planks on both sides of the opening.

The frame has tabs that allow you to nail onto the supporting planks and lock the Access Door in its required location.

The frame also provides support for the two "shifted" planks. They are now slid forward onto the lower tube of the Access Door hinge, and get secured in place with nails

The plywood door rests on four planks when it is open, allowing easy access to the upper level. Once you're on top, you close the "hatch" and you can work safely without worrying about falling through an opening in the planks.



But what about going over the edge?

R Tex has that covered, too. This issue of Access Canada magazine deals with Advance Guardrails. R-TEX has designed a new concept of guardrail that applies itself very nicely to an advance guardrail application.



The Guardrail is basically a square tube, with a self-locking hook on one end. By passing the guardrail through the Access Door, while you're standing on the Gladder, you can place the plain end of the square tube onto one of the rungs of the Walk-through frame. Then you advance further up the ladder and fit the hook end onto the corresponding rung of the frame directly above you.



Then you attach a second guardrail the same way, to make a proper top rail and mid-rail system.

By repeating the process on the other side, you now have a guardrail on both sides of you, so you won't have to worry about falling over either side of the platform.

Once you're on top, you use the same type of guardrail to close off both ends of your platform.