SOFTWARE & TECH

Ikea Sundvik Crib Assembly Instructions

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Introduction: Building Your Baby's Sanctuary with the IKEA Sundvik Crib

Few moments in preparing for a new arrival are as symbolic and exciting as assembling the crib. The IKEA Sundvik crib is a popular choice among parents for its classic, timeless design and solid construction. However, like all IKEA furniture, the assembly process requires patience, attention to detail, and a clear understanding of the instructions. A correctly assembled crib is not just a beautiful piece of nursery furniture—it is a safe haven for your baby to sleep and play. In this comprehensive guide, we break down the **Ikea Sundvik crib assembly instructions** step by step, offering practical tips, safety reminders, and tricks to make the process smooth and stress-free. Whether you are a first-time parent or a seasoned IKEA assembler, this article will help you build a sturdy, long-lasting crib that meets the highest safety standards.

1. Before You Begin: Unboxing and Preparation

Proper preparation is half the battle. Before you open the box, clear a large area on the floor—preferably in the nursery itself. You will need about 6 to 8 feet of open space to lay out parts without them getting mixed up. The Sundvik crib comes in a heavy, flat box, so you may want a second person to help carry it. IKEA does not include tools beyond the necessary Allen wrenches, but having your own **Phillips head screwdriver** and a **rubber mallet** (for gently tapping dowels into place) can speed things up significantly.

What’s in the Box?

Open the box carefully and inspect the contents against the instruction manual. The typical IKEA Sundvik crib package includes:

- Crib side panels (left and right)
- Front and back panels
- Mattress support base (adjustable height)
- Hardware bag containing screws, cam bolts, dowels, and cam locks
- Allen wrench (hex key)
- Assembly instruction booklet

Note: Some versions of the Sundvik crib (e.g., with a drawer) have additional parts. Always start by checking the **parts list** at the beginning of the manual to ensure nothing is missing. If a part is damaged or missing, contact IKEA customer service—never substitute with non-original hardware, as it can compromise safety.

Tools You’ll Need

While the Allen wrench is provided, we recommend gathering these items before starting:

1. A standard screwdriver (Phillips #2)
2. A rubber mallet or hammer with a cloth (to protect the wood)
3. A soft cloth or towel to lay parts on to avoid scratching
4. A small bowl to keep screws organized
5. A flashlight or good overhead lighting

2. Step-by-Step IKEA Sundvik Crib Assembly

The assembly sequence is critical. IKEA designs furniture so that each step builds on the previous one. Do not skip ahead or tighten screws fully until instructed. Follow the **assembly instructions**in the order below, which mirrors the official manual but includes extra tips.

Step 1: Attach the Cam Bolts and Wood Dowels to the Side Panels

Start with the two long side panels. Identify the side that will face the interior of the crib (usually the side with pre-drilled holes for the mattress support brackets). Insert the cam bolts into the designated holes on the ends of each side panel. The cam bolts are metal pegs that will later connect to cam locks on the front and back panels. Also, insert the small wooden dowels into the corresponding pilot holes. Tap them gently with a mallet until they are flush. **Tip:** Ensure the dowels are not protruding, or they may cause misalignment later.

Step 2: Assemble the Front and Back Panels

Now take the front panel (usually the one with the wider gaps between slats, or the one without the fixed side—check your manual) and the back panel (often identical but may have a label). For each, locate the metal cam locks—these are the round metal discs with a slot. Insert them into the pre-drilled holes on the inner sides of the front and back panels, aligning the slot so that it faces the direction where the cam bolt will enter. **Do not tighten them yet.**Also, if your Sundvik crib has a drawer, the lower section of the front panel will have tracks or brackets—install those according to the manual before proceeding.

Step 3: Connect Side Panels to Front and Back Panels

This step requires a helper. Hold one side panel vertically near the front panel. Align the cam bolts and dowels on the side panel with the holes on the front panel. Push the side panel straight in until the cam bolts insert into the cam locks. Then, using a Phillips screwdriver, turn the cam locks clockwise to secure the connection. You should hear a click and feel the cam lock tighten. Repeat for the other side panel with the back panel, then connect the front and back panels to the opposite ends. **Important:**Do not tighten all cam locks fully yet—just enough to hold the frame together. You will do a final tightening after all panels are joined.

Step 4: Secure the Bottom of the Crib Frame

Some Sundvik models include a bottom stretcher bar or a solid base panel that slides into grooves near the floor. This adds structural stability. Follow the manual: usually, you insert the bar or panel from below, then secure it with short screws or additional cam locks. Ensure the crib is square by measuring diagonally from corner to corner—adjust if necessary before tightening anything fully.

Step 5: Install the Mattress Support Base

The mattress support base can be adjusted to different heights depending on your baby's age. For newborns, use the highest setting to avoid bending too low. For older babies who can stand, lower the base. The support base consists of a wire or slatted frame that slides into four brackets—two on each side panel. First, attach the brackets to the side panels at the desired height using the supplied screws. Then, slide the mattress base into position, ensuring it clicks into place or sits flat on the brackets. **Shake the base gently**to confirm it is secure. This is a critical safety point; a loose mattress support can collapse.

Step 6: Attach the Fixed Side (If Applicable)

Some versions of the Sundvik crib have a drop-down side, but the current models typically have one fixed side and one side that remains stationary. If your crib has a fixed side that was not already assembled, attach it now using the provided dowels and screws. This side usually becomes the front of the crib. Double-check that all screws are flush and not protruding.

Step 7: Final Tightening and Stability Check

Go back over every cam lock and screw. Use the Allen wrench to tighten all cam bolts fully. The crib should now feel rigid when you push it from side to side. Place the crib on a level floor—if it wobbles, place a small shim under the legs or adjust the feet (some models have adjustable plastic glides). **Never use the crib if it is unstable.**

3. Common Assembly Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Even experienced assemblers can make errors. Here are the most frequent pitfalls with the **IKEA Sundvik crib** and how to prevent them.

Misaligning the Cam Locks

If a cam lock does not line up with the cam bolt, do not force it. The slot must be oriented correctly—usually facing toward the edge where the bolt enters. If you turn a cam lock before inserting the bolt, it may lock in the wrong position. Always check the diagram in the manual.

Over-tightening Screws Prematurely

Wood expands and contracts. Over-tightening can cause splits or strip the threads. Follow the torque guidance: tighten until the screw is snug, then stop. Use the provided Allen wrench—do not use power tools, as they can easily over-torque the fasteners.

Forgetting the Mattress Support Brackets

It is easy to install the side panels and then realize you did not insert the brackets for the mattress support. The brackets must be installed *before* the side panels are fully assembled into the frame. If you forget, you may have to partially disassemble the crib. Double-check step 5 in the manual before locking the frame.

Using the Wrong Hardware

IKEA packs hardware for multiple products in similar bags. Ensure you are using the correct screws—the manual lists which screw goes where. Using a longer screw in a shallow hole can crack the wood or even poke through the finish, creating a sharp edge.

4. Safety Checks After Assembly

Once the crib is assembled and tightened, perform the following **safety checks** before placing your baby inside:

- Check all corners for sharp edges or splinters. Sand down any rough spots with fine-grit sandpaper.
- Pull the mattress base up from underneath—it should not lift off the brackets.
- Measure the distance between slats. IKEA Sundvik cribs meet standard safety regulations (slats no more than 2-3/8 inches apart), but verify after assembly.
- Ensure that the mattress fits snugly. There should be no gap larger than two fingers (about 1 inch) between the mattress and the crib sides. If there is, the mattress is too small.
- Check that all hardware is flush and that no bolts protrude where a baby could scratch themselves.
- If the crib has a drop-side (older models), ensure the locking mechanism works and does not release accidentally.

For the highest safety standards, do not add bumpers, pillows, or loose bedding. The crib should contain only a fitted sheet and a firm mattress.

5. Maintenance and Care for Longevity

Your assembled **IKEA Sundvik crib**will last for years—and possibly through multiple children—if you maintain it properly. Wipe the wood periodically with a damp cloth (no harsh chemicals). Check the hardware every month: teething and daily use can loosen screws. Re-tighten any that have become loose. If the finish is damaged, use a non-toxic furniture polish designed for baby furniture. Do not paint or varnish the crib unless the product is specifically designed for it, as the paint may contain harmful VOCs.

Converting to a Toddler Bed

When your child outgrows the crib, the Sundvik can often be converted into a toddler bed using a conversion kit (sold separately). Follow the conversion instructions carefully, which usually involve removing the front panel and adding a low guardrail. This extends the useful life of the furniture without needing a new bed.

Conclusion: A Safe, Beautiful Crib for Your Little One

Assembling the **IKEA Sundvik crib** is a rewarding project that sets the stage for countless nights of peaceful sleep. By following the official **assembly instructions**with patience and attention to detail, you ensure that the crib is not only beautiful but also a secure environment for your baby. Remember to prepare your workspace, double-check all connections, and perform a thorough safety inspection before the first use. With proper care and periodic maintenance, this crib will serve your family well into the toddler years. Enjoy the process—you are building more than furniture; you are creating a cozy corner filled with love and safety for your newest family member.

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