

MEDIUM

Mobile Chicken Tractor BUILD PLANS

ALL THE BENEFITS OF FREE-RANGE
WITH NONE OF THE RISKS



MATERIALS

EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO BUILD YOUR
OWN TRACTOR

STEP-BY-STEP

INSTRUCTIONS TO
KEEP YOU ON THE
RIGHT TRACK

TIPS+TRICKS

INSIGHT ON HOW WE
USE THE TRACTOR TO
OUR BENEFIT



Thank you for purchasing the Mobile Chicken Tractor Build Plans!



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PLEASE NOTE:

Some of the links in this eBook are affiliate links, meaning at no additional cost to you, we will earn a commission if you end up clicking and purchasing an item. We worked hard to find our trusted favorites and we want to share them with you so you don't have to deal with all the crappy junk we had to go through.



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Introduction



Thanks for nabbing our mobile chicken tractor build plans! Our homestead and farm have benefitted immensely from this design and we are jazzed to be able to share it with our fellow backyard poultry lovers.

Predator pressure is a non-issue now that we house our production flocks in the tractors. We have yet to lose a single hen when using these tractors in over three years.

Our ladies get to fulfill all their chicken needs by scratching through the grass and clover, searching for bugs and worms to eat. Their yolks are a deep orange and our customers couldn't be more pleased.



Gathering eggs has been a breeze with these tractors. We get about 6 dozen eggs a day and having exterior access to gather them has been essential to our efficient workflow on the farm.

Having a mobile structure to move across the grass that is both aesthetically beautiful and sturdy is a godsend. From the A-frame design to the solid-rubber tires, this baby is made to last.

The chickens fertilize our pasture for us, creating a noticeable difference in the health of our land and every year we continue to reap the benefits..



The medium tractor will comfortably hold up to 10 laying hens or 15 bantams (at maximum 15 hens and 20 bantams). We recommend moving the tractor at least once a day on a 30-day rotation, meaning try not to get back to square one for at least a month.

If your space is a bit more limited, move the tractor just a half space in the morning so the hens don't have to pick through their manure from roosting the previous evening.

So what are you waiting for? Let's build this thing!

Materials List

CORRUGATED METAL

QTY	DESCRIPTION
4	3' x 8' corrugated metal siding (steel or tin)

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
5lb	2 1/2" deck screws (box)
5lb	3 1/2" or 4" deck screws (box)
1lb	1 1/4" deck screws (box)
20	#8 x 2" pan head metal or wood screws
1 lb	1" tin roofing screws
1 lb	2" tin roofing screws
1	Roof flashing 6" x 10' roll
8	5" 90 degree corner brace
40	5/16 x 1 1/2" lag bolts
8	5/16 x 3" lag bolts
48	5/16" washers
8	4" gate hinge
2	Automatic gate door latch
1	Swivel staple safety hasp
1	~8' Rope (1/4" diameter max)
2	2 1/2" Screw hooks
1	1/4 x 2" Screw Eye
1	3/4" pulleys (1 swivel, 1 fixed)
1	~13" light duty chain
1	1/2" aluminum tube
1	4 1/2" Rope cleat
1	JB Weld
2	6" swivel caster wheels Opt 1 , 2 , 3 , 4 , 5
2	10" rear wheels
1	3/4" - 10 x 12" threaded rod
6	3/4" - 10 lock nuts
4	3/4" washers
box	9/16" T50 staples
1	Eco wood preservative Option 1
	Eco wood preservative Option 2

LUMBER (UNTREATED)

QTY	DESCRIPTION
3	2 x 4 x 8
2	2 x 4 x 10
1	2 x 6 x 8
4	1 x 2 x 10
17	2 x 3 x 8
1	1 x 4 x 6
1	1x12x4
1	4 x 8 x 1/2 plywood

FENCING

QTY	DESCRIPTION
2	1/2" x 1/2" x 2' - 25' fencing roll
1	2" x 4" x 6' - 50' fencing roll

TOOLS NEEDED

Circular or table saw
 Miter Saw
 Jig saw
 Drill
 Assorted drill bits
 Stapler - T50 or equivalent
 Tin snips
 Pliers
 Screwdrivers
 Assorted sockets
 Assorted wrenches
 Paint brush
 Square
 Tape measure
 Straight edge
 Pencil and Sharpie
 NOTE: "+" symbol means leftover or excess throughout instructions

OPTIONAL AUTOMATIC COOP DOOR

Over the last few months we've had more and more customers ask us if it's possible to install an automatic coop door on the tractor. The answer is yes! Special thanks to awesome customers Robyn, Jim, Jennifer, Blake, and Steven who've helped us compile this info for you.

Our customers have had the best luck with the [Chicken Guard Extreme Automatic Door Pulley](#) due to the weight of the ramp (4.5lbs) and the need for the door to operate in colder weather.

Across the board, our customers prefer installing the device on the inside of the roosting area (see the picture for reference) for ease of installation. This means that the light sensor isn't engaged as much as it would be if it were installed on the exterior.

If you choose to install it on the exterior of the tractor, you can install metal pulleys to operate the pull wire internally.

What you do need to do is *reverse* the internal wire because Chicken Guard has their programming to be set up *opposite* of what you would need to open the ramp - i.e. opening the ramp on our tractors would actually require the "close function." [Chicken Guard's customer service](#) can walk you through this switch over the phone.

The ramp's weight is about 4.5lbs so you could modify our building specifications to make a lighter ramp and go with a smaller and less expensive Chicken Guard model.



ADDITIONAL ROOSTING OPTION INSTALL AFTER STEP 5 TO PREVENT NESTING BOX ROOSTING

This additional roosting option is highly recommended to prevent hens from roosting (and pooping) in their nesting boxes at night. Hens instinctively like to roost higher than their nesting boxes. **Account for these additional materials.**

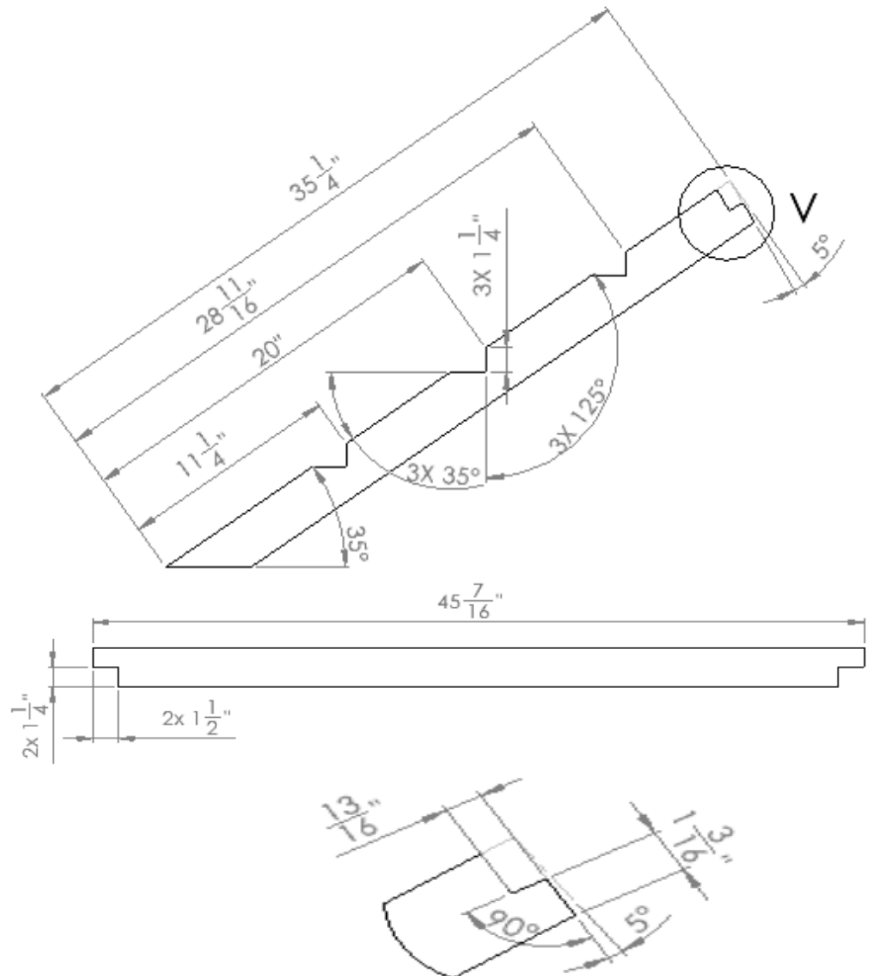
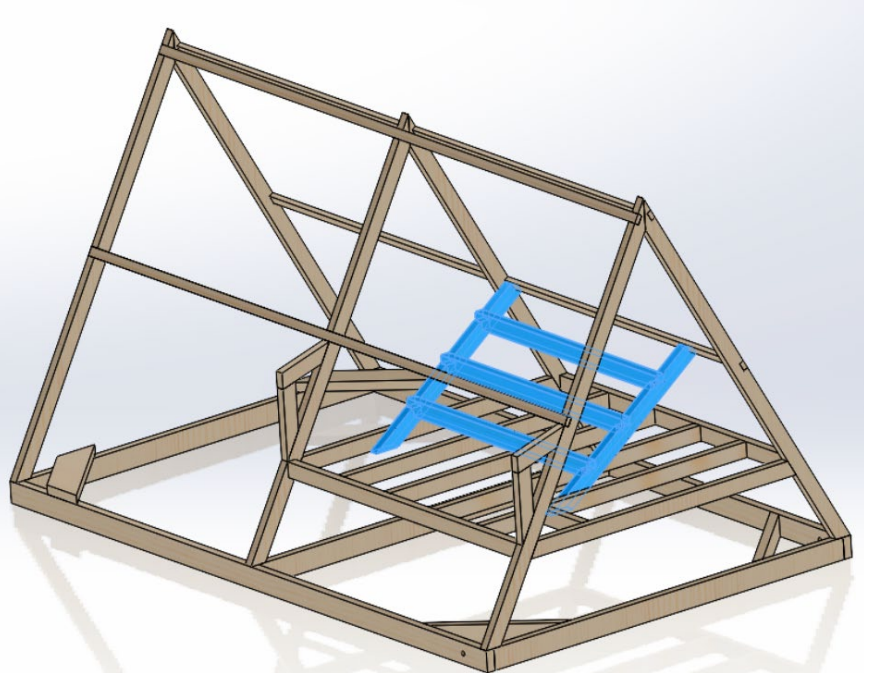
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
3	2x3x8'

HARDWARE

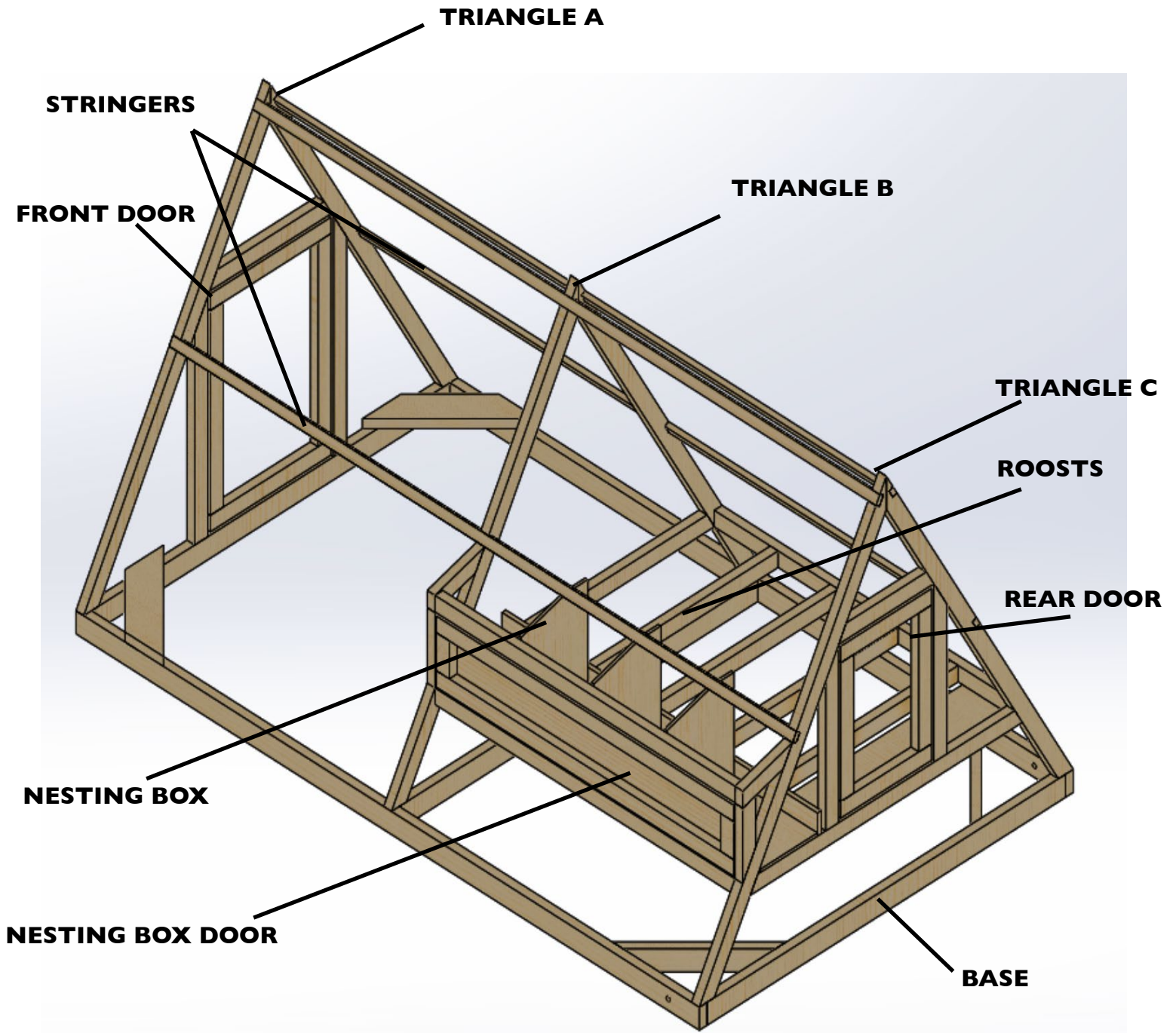
QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2 1/2" deck screws

1. Use a 2x3x8 to cut out the two roost supports.
2. Carefully notch the roost supports per the drawing.
3. Using 2x3x8's cut out and notch the roosts.
4. Pre-drill mounting holes in the tops of the roosts where they mate with the roost supports.
5. Align the inner most roost support with the stringer and bottom of the cross brace.
6. Use a pair of deck screws at the top and bottom of the roost support to secure it to the tractor.
7. Align the second roost support with the stringer and existing horizontal roost. Temporarily clamp the roost support in place.
8. Lay the roosts on top of the roost supports. Check for squareness of the second roost support by using a square or level.
9. Pre-drill then secure the second roost support to the stringer and horizontal roost using deck screws.
10. Secure the roosts to the roost supports using deck screws.



DETAIL v
SCALE 1 : 4

Diagram



Instructions

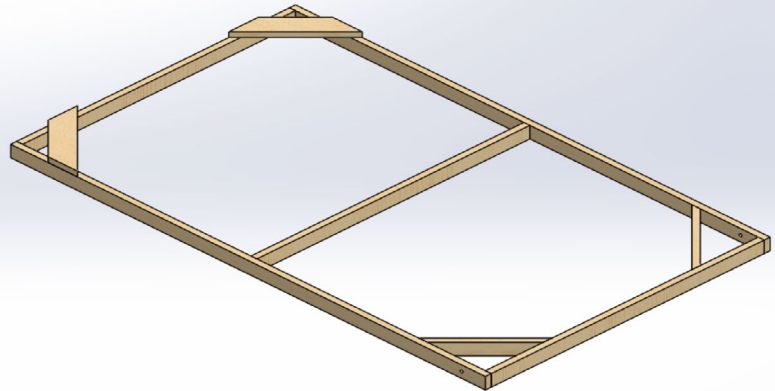
MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
2	2x4x10'
3	2x4x8'
1	2x6x8'

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
5lb box	3 1/2 or 4" deck screws
8	5" 90 degree angle braces
32	5/16 x 1 1/2" lag bolts
8	5/16 x 3" lag bolts
40	5/16" washers

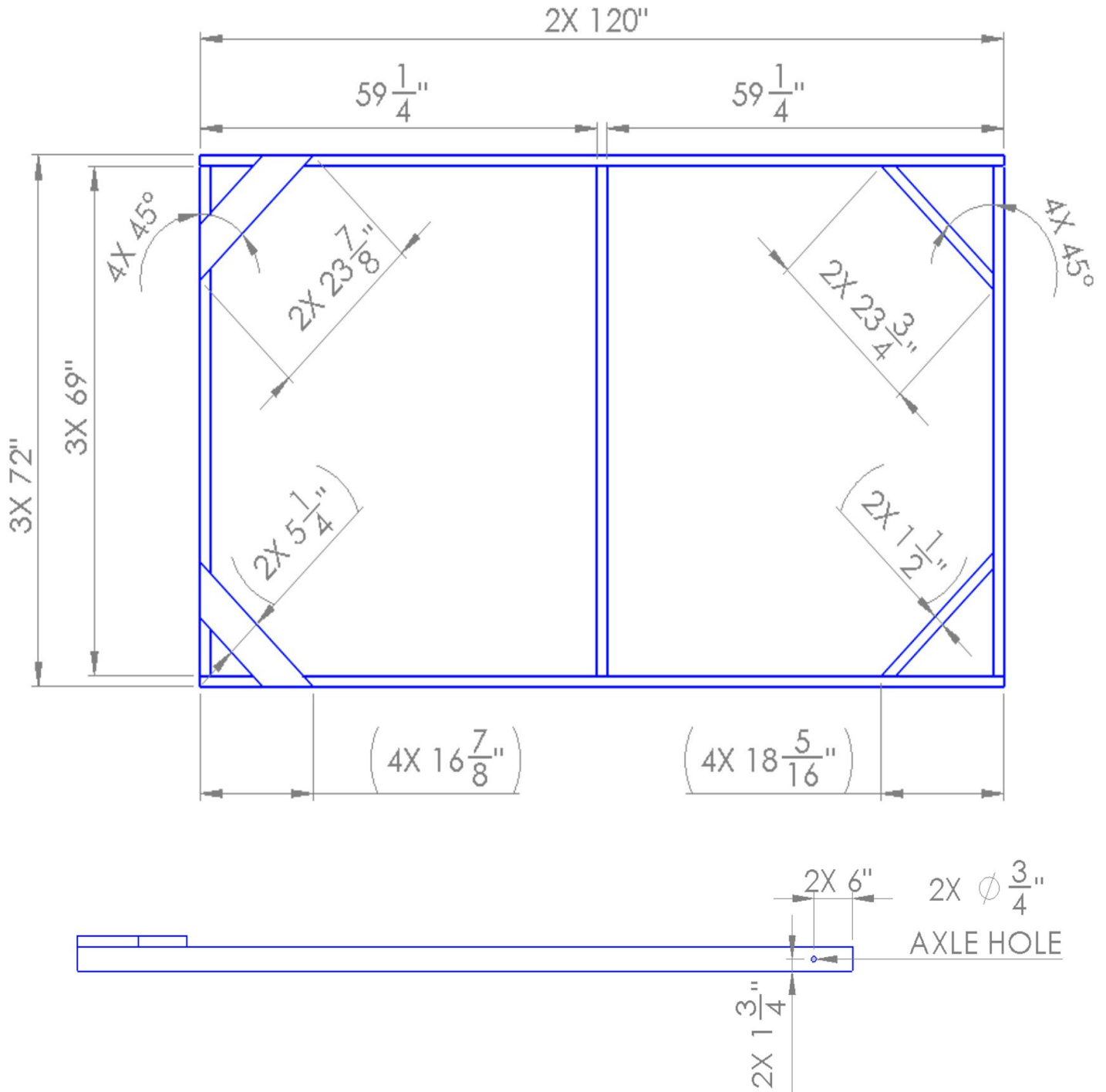
STEP I BOTTOM FRAME CONSTRUCTION



1. Confirm the two 2x4x10's are 10'. Cut off any excess.
2. Cut the three 2x4x8's to length.
3. Cut the rear corner braces out of the excess 2x4x8's used for the frame.
4. Cut the front corner braces out of a 2x6x8'.
5. Drill the axle holes for the rear wheels. Alter the hole diameter if necessary for your specific wheels.
6. Lay out the bottom frame parts on a flat surface. Use a pair of deck screws to join each corner together.
7. Use three deck screws to join each end of the center brace to the frame sides.
8. Check the squareness of the frame by measuring the diagonals of the rectangle and comparing lengths. The measurements should be within 1/4" of each other. Adjust if necessary.
9. Use a pair of deck screws to join each end of the rear corner braces to the frame.
10. Pre-drill each of the front corner braces so that a pair of lag bolts can be used to join each end to the frame.
11. Install four 3" lag bolts with washers into each of the front corner braces.
12. Equispace two 5" 90 degree angle braces in each corner.
13. Pre-drill the corners to accept lag bolts.
14. Secure the corner braces into each corner with 1 1/2" lag bolts and washers.

Instructions

STEP I BOTTOM FRAME CONSTRUCTION



Instructions

MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
2	2x3x8'

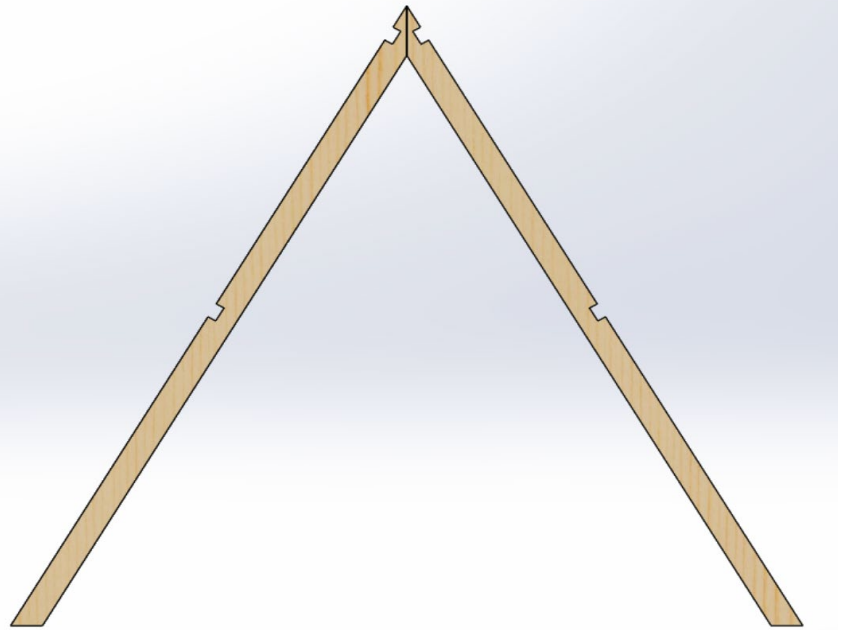
HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
Box	2 1/2" deck screws
+	3 1/2 or 4" deck screws

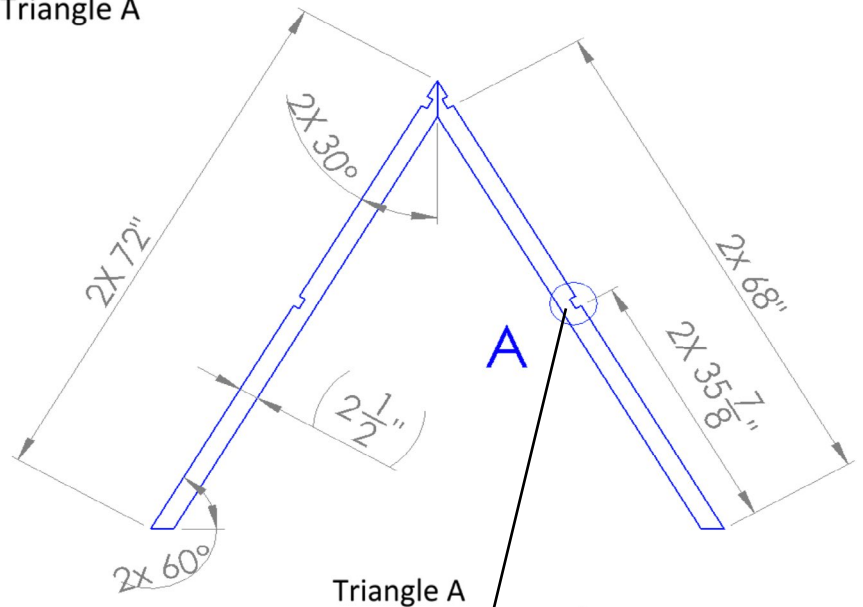
1. Use a pair of 2x3x8's to cut the sides of Triangle A.
2. Carefully notch the sides of the triangle per the drawing. If using stringers with different dimensions than shown, modify the notches accordingly.
3. To join the sides together pre-drill a pair of holes in the top corner that will accept the deck screws. Aim to install screws in locations that will not interfere with screws that will be used to secure each of the stringers to the triangle sides.
4. Use a pair of deck screws to join the two sides together.

NOTE: Notches can be made using a table saw with a dado blade, jig saw, or circular saw.

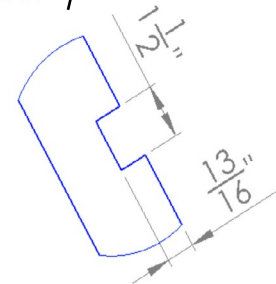
STEP 2.1 CONSTRUCT TRIANGLE A



Triangle A



Triangle A



4 PLACES

DETAIL A

SCALE 1 : 5

Instructions

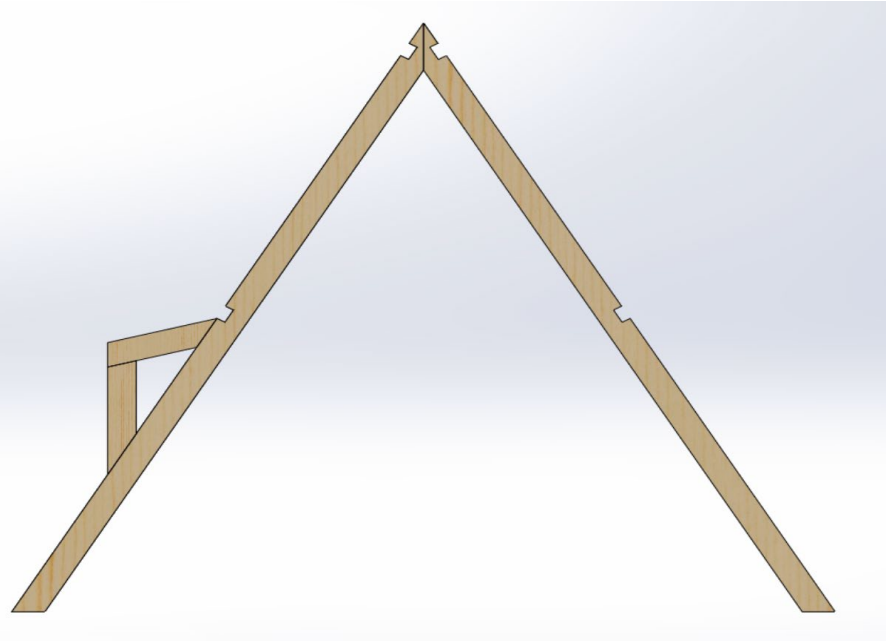
MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
4	2x3x8'

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2 1/2" deck screws
+	3 1/2 or 4" deck screws

STEP 2.2 CONSTRUCT TRIANGLES B & C



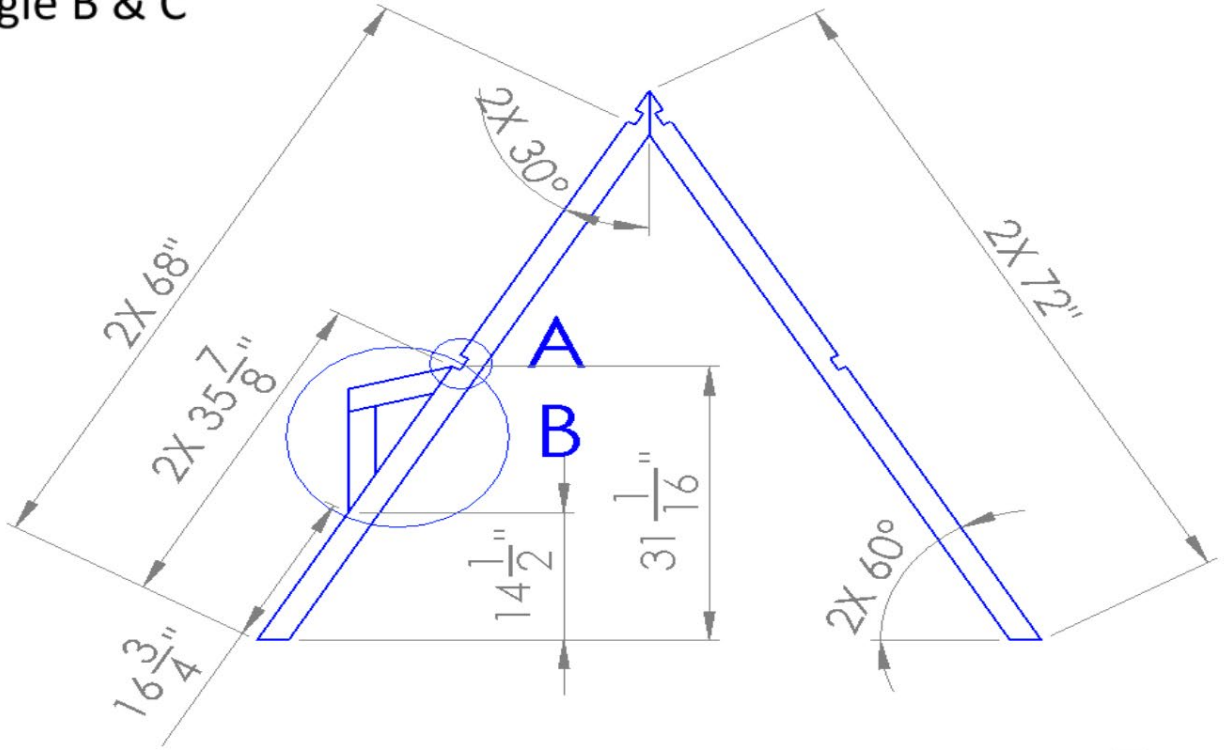
1. Use four 2x3x8's to cut the sides of Triangles B and C.
2. Carefully notch the sides of the triangles per the drawing. If using stringers with different dimensions than shown, modify the notches accordingly.
3. Cut the nesting box side pieces to size.
4. Pre-drill a pair of holes, then use a pair of deck screws to join the nesting box parts together.
5. Locate the nesting box side to Triangles B and C.
6. Pre-drill, then use a pair of deck screws to secure the top and bottom of the nesting box side to the left side of the triangles.
7. To join the sides of the triangles together pre-drill a pair of holes in the top corners that will accept the deck screws. Aim to install screws in locations that will not interfere with screws that will be used to secure each of the stringers to the triangle sides.
8. Use a pair of deck screws to join the two sides together.

NOTE: Notches can be made using a table saw with a dado blade, jig saw, or circular saw.

Instructions

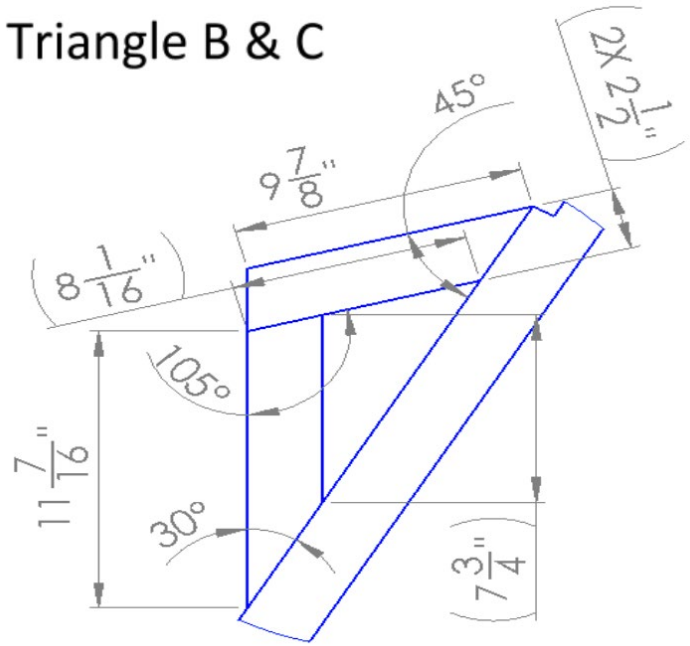
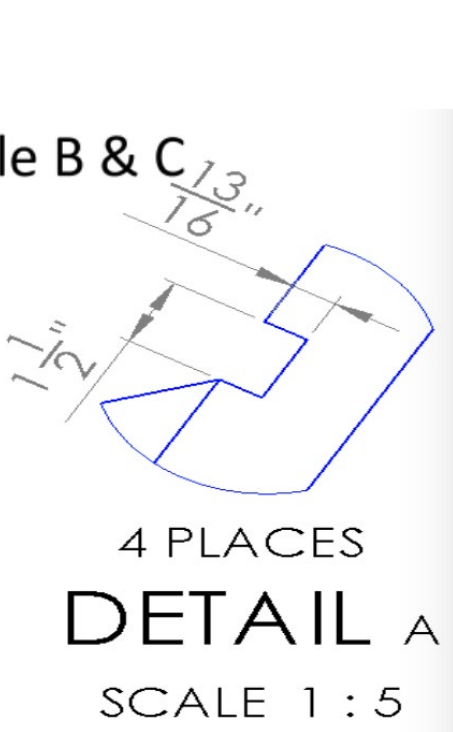
STEP 2.2 CONSTRUCT TRIANGLE B & C

Triangle B & C



Triangle B & C

Triangle B & C



Instructions

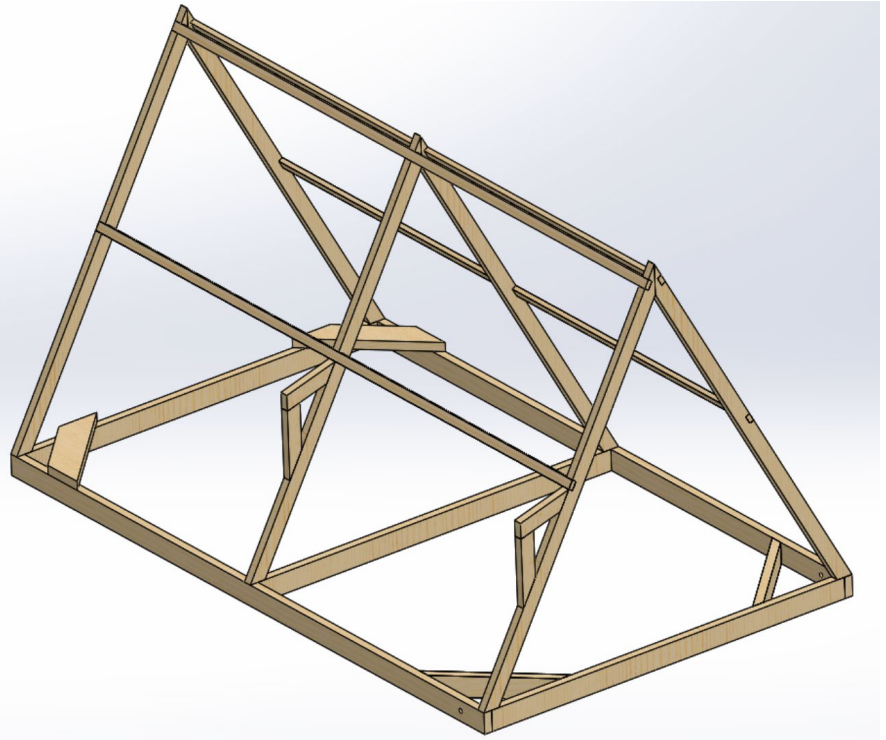
STEP 3 CONSTRUCT BASIC FRAME

MATERIALS

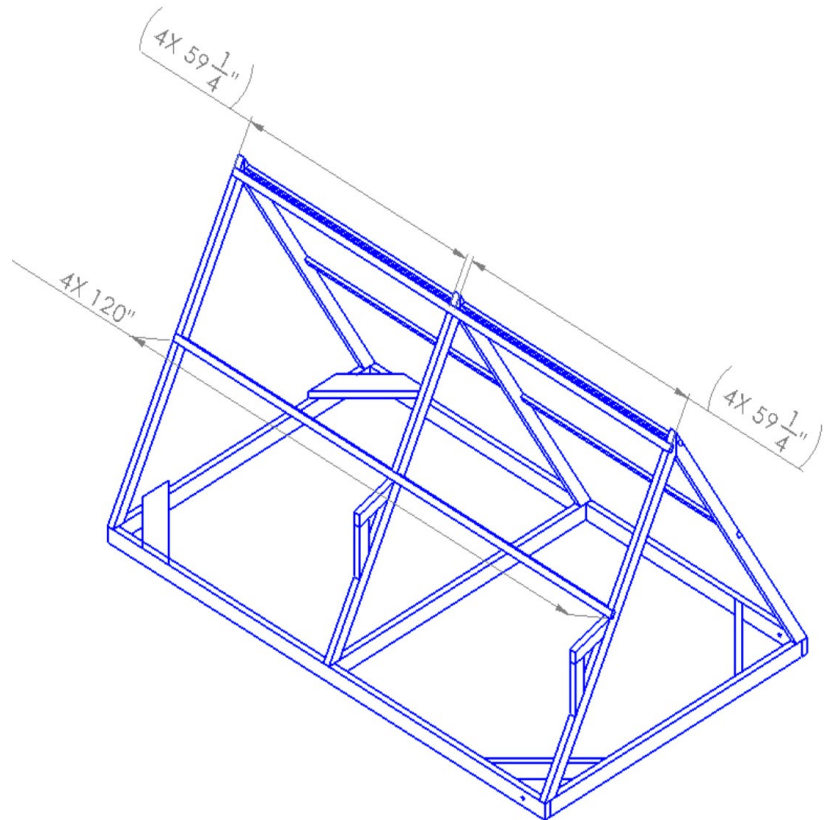
QTY	DESCRIPTION
4	1x2x10' red cedar stringer (13/16 x 1 1/2)

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2 1/2" deck screws
+	3 1/2 or 4" deck screws



1. Confirm the four 1x2x10's are 10'. Cut off any excess.
2. With the help of a second set of hands, position Triangles A, B, and C on top of the frame.
3. Temporarily install one of the 10' stringers into the corresponding notches on Triangles A, B, and C.
4. Use clamps to secure the stringer to each of the triangles.
5. Position the bottom ends of Triangle A to the frame. Each end should sit flush with the front and sides of the base.
6. Pre-drill, then use a pair of deck screws to secure each corner of Triangle A to the frame.
7. Follow steps 5 and 6 to secure Triangles B and C to the frame.
8. Install the remaining stringers.
9. Pre-drill, then secure each stringer to its mating triangles using one screw for each joint. Ensure appropriate triangle spacing is maintained from top to bottom.



Instructions

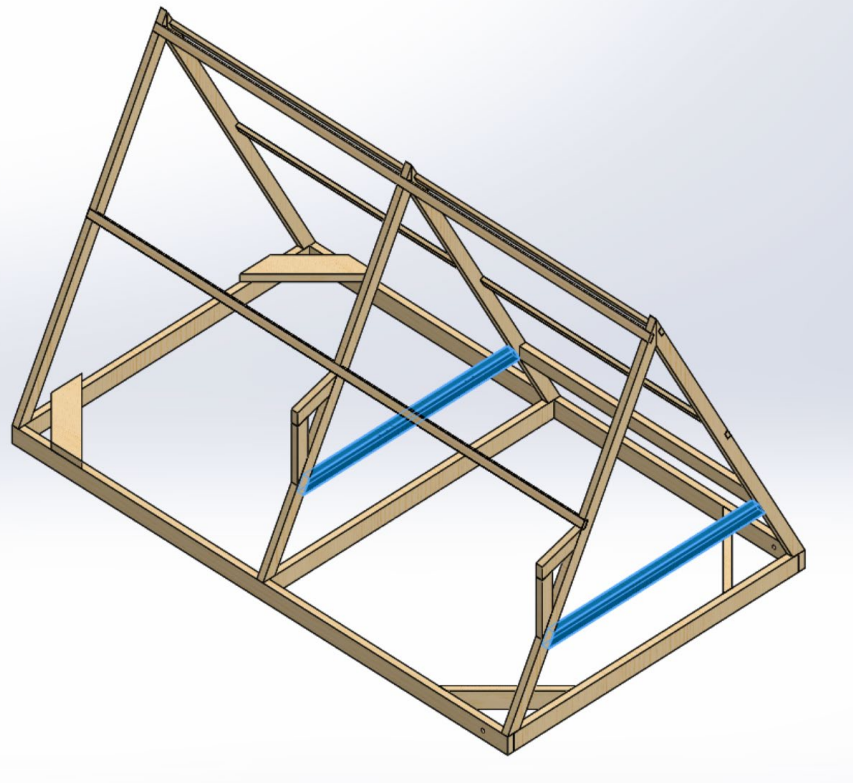
MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
2	2x3x8'

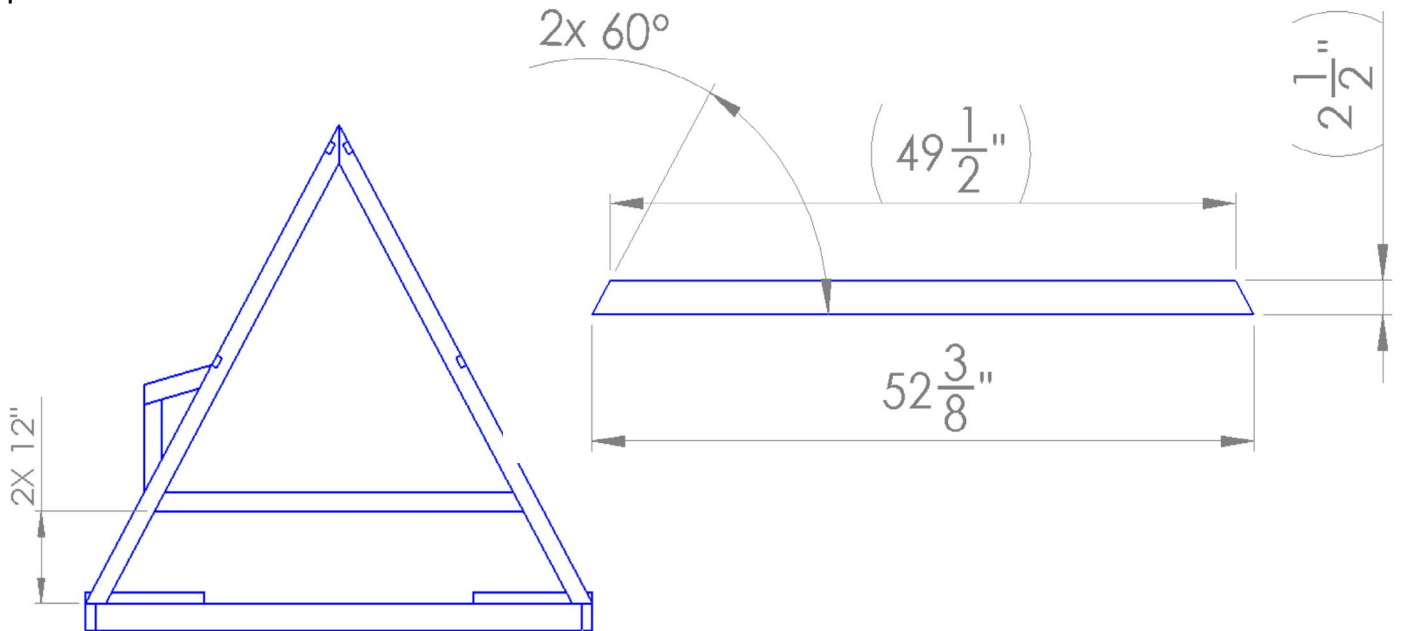
HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	3 1/2" or 4" deck screws

STEP 4 CUT AND INSTALL CROSS BRACES



1. Cut the two cross braces to size.
2. Pre-drill, then install the cross braces using a pair of deck screws in each corner.



SECTION A-A

Instructions

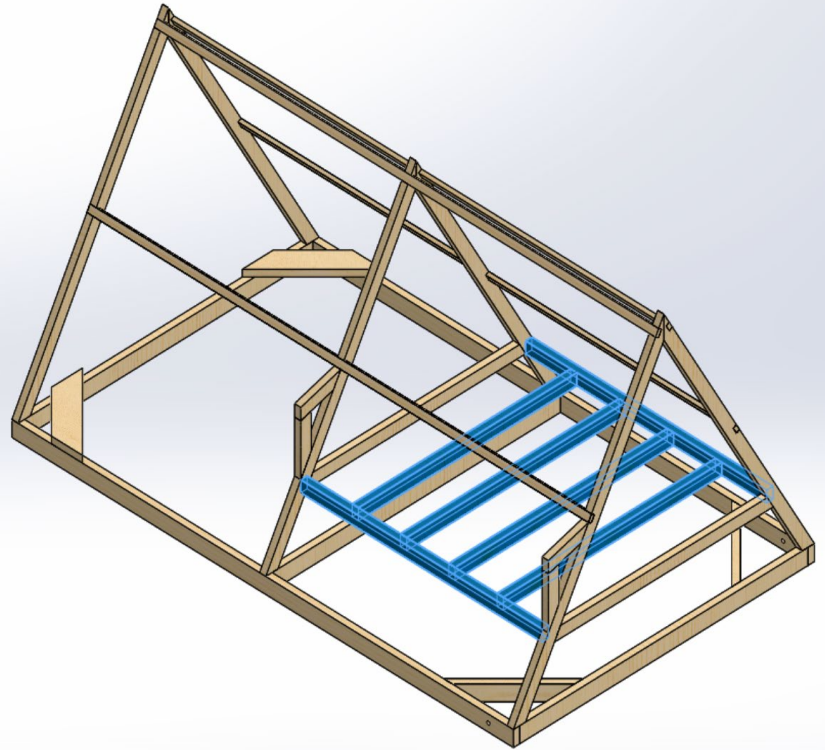
MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
6	2x3x8'

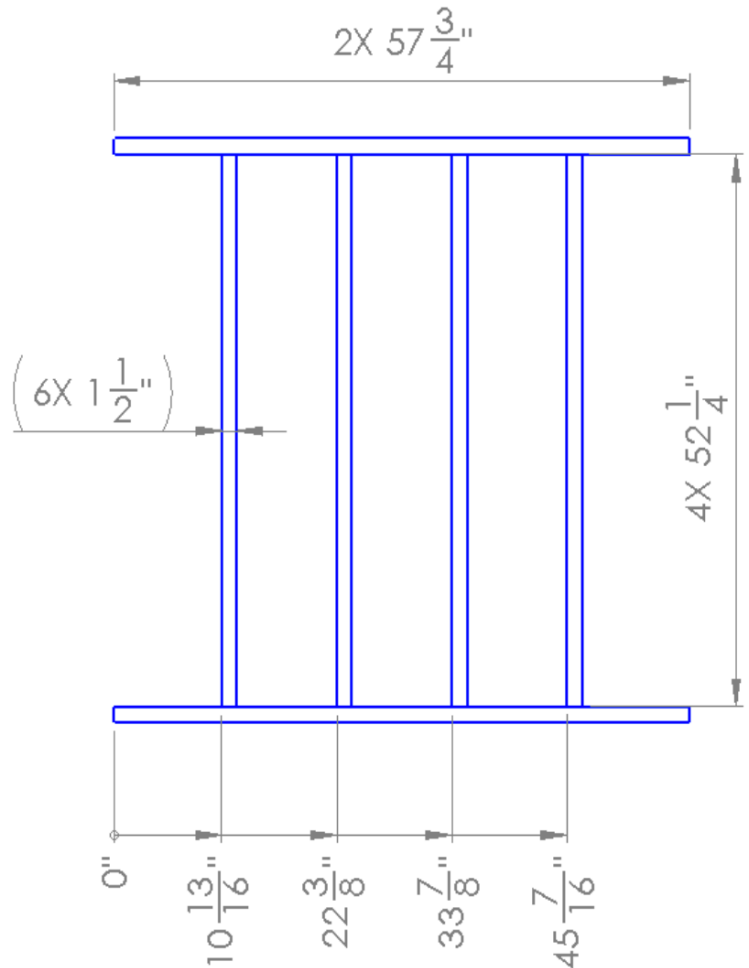
HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2 1/2" deck screws

STEP 5 MAKE AND INSTALL ROOST

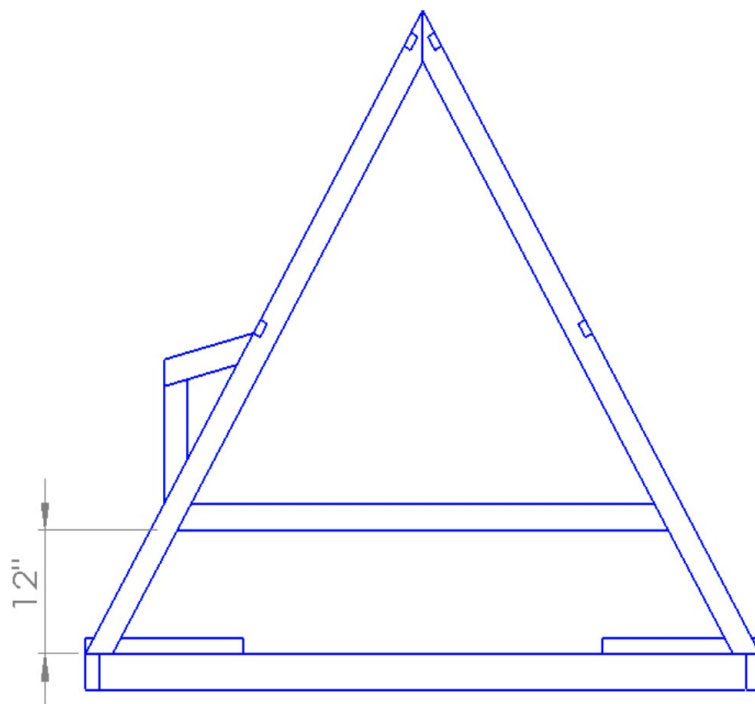
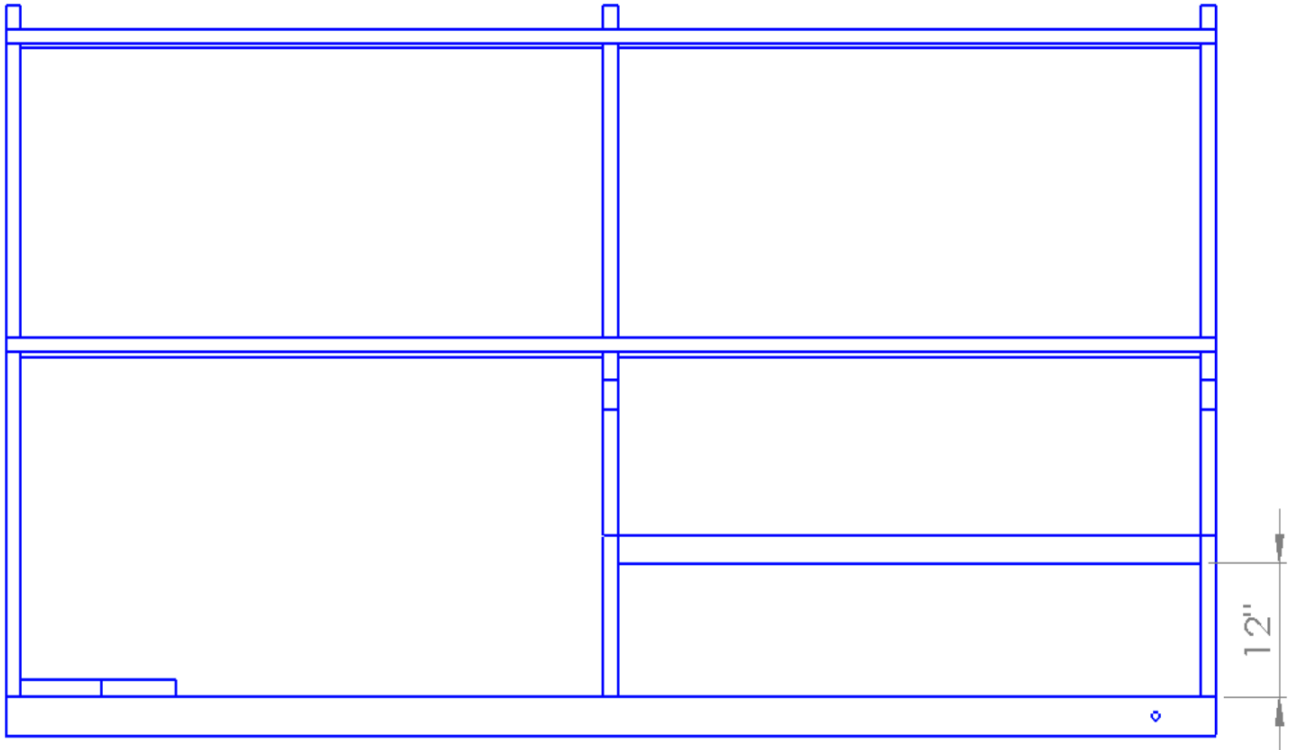


1. Cut the ends of the roost to length.
2. Cut the four roosts to length.
3. Lay out and align the roost pieces.
4. Pre-drill, then use a deck screw at each joint to secure the four roosts to the roost ends.
5. Cut scrap wood or use blocks to position the roost at the correct height in the chicken tractor.
6. Pre-drill, then use a deck screw to secure each corner of the roost to the tractor.



Instructions

STEP 5 MAKE AND INSTALL ROOST



Instructions

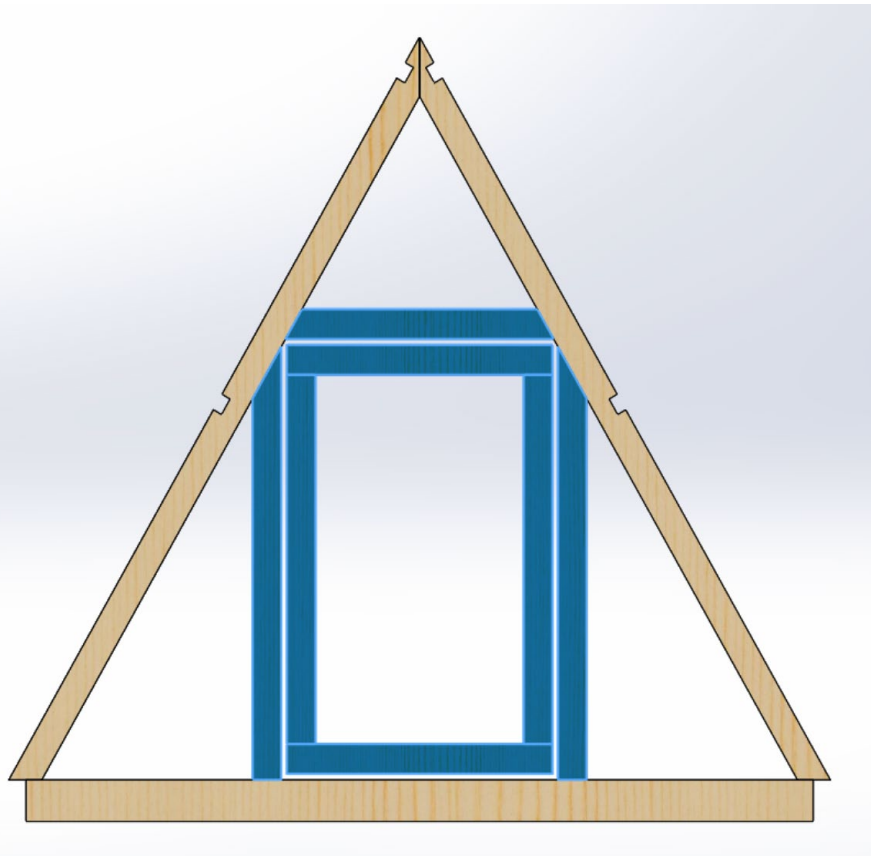
MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2x3x8'

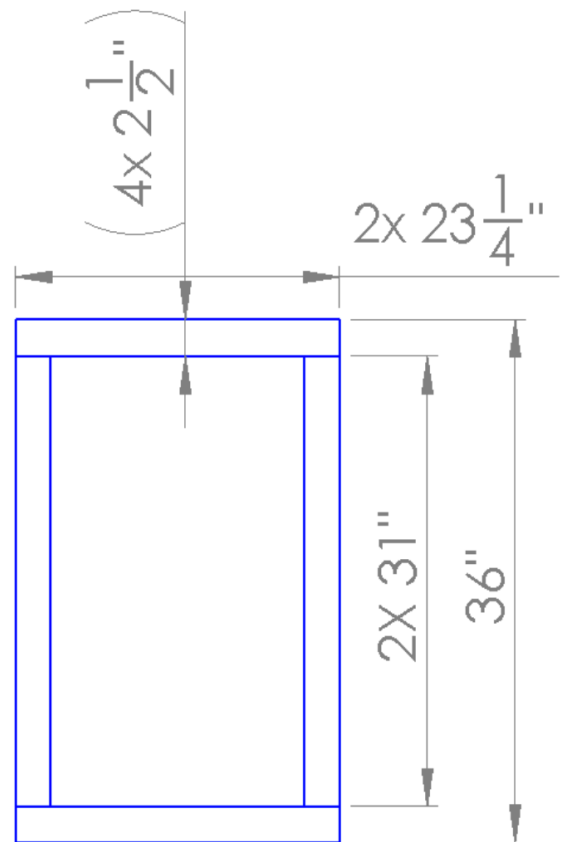
HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2 1/2" deck screws
+	3 1/2" deck screws
1	Automatic gate door latch
2	4" Hinges

STEP 6 FRONT DOOR ASSEMBLY

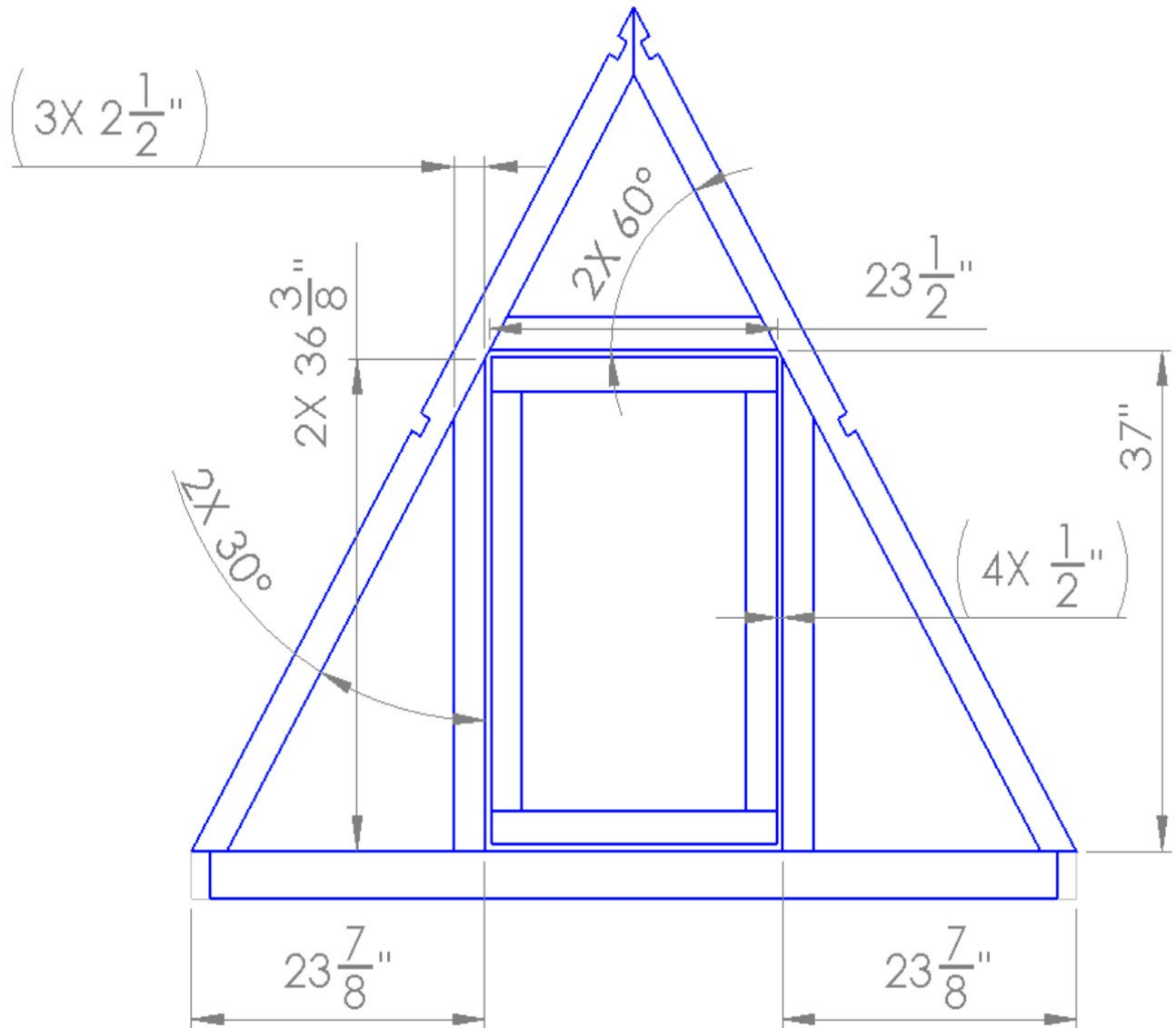


1. Cut the door frame sides and top to size.
2. Cut the door sides, top, and bottom to size.
3. Pre-drill, then use a pair of deck screws to join each corner of the door. Check the squareness of the door by measuring its diagonals.
4. Pre-drill, then use deck screws to join the top and sides of the door frame to the chicken tractor.
5. Use door shims or make 1/2" spacers. Then space the door in its frame.
6. Install a pair of door hinges using the supplied hardware and instructions.
7. Install the door latch using the supplied hardware and instructions.



Instructions

STEP 6 FRONT DOOR ASSEMBLY



Instructions

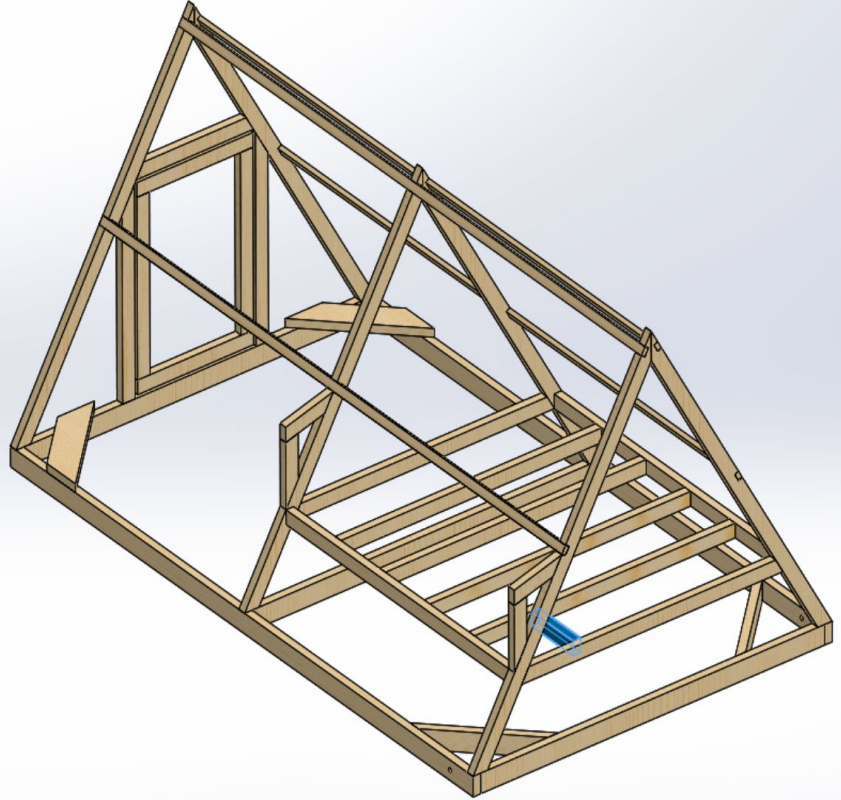
STEP 7.1 NESTING BOX RAMP

MATERIALS

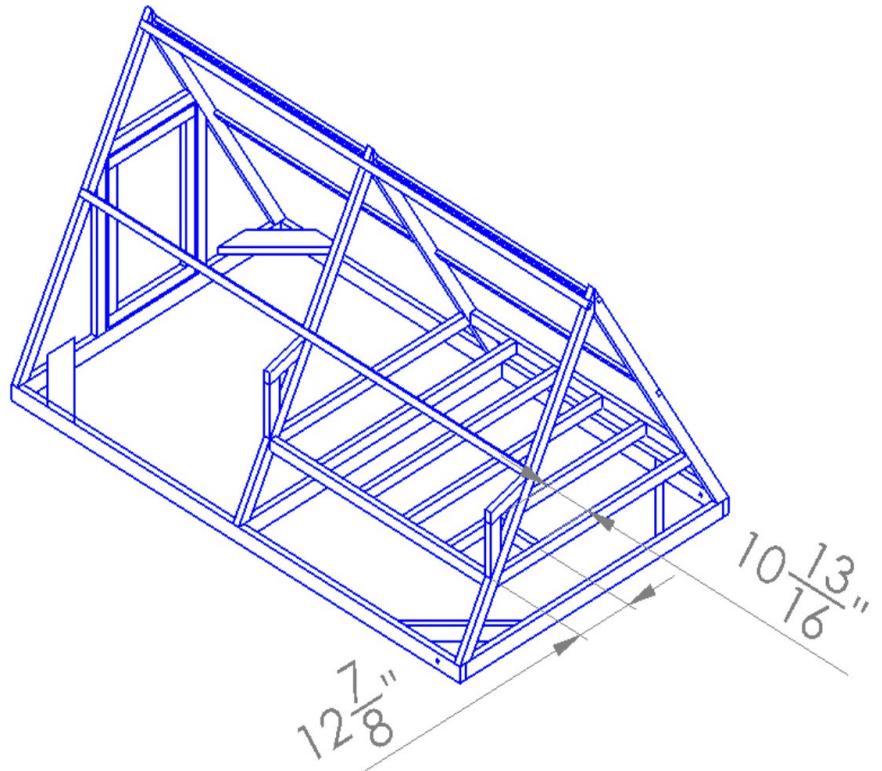
QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2x3x8'
1	1x12x4'

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2 1/2" deck screws
2	4" hinges

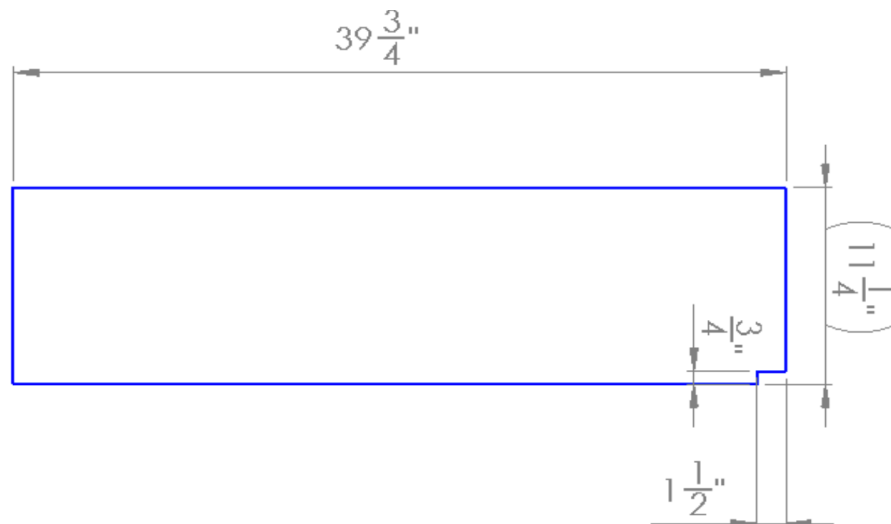
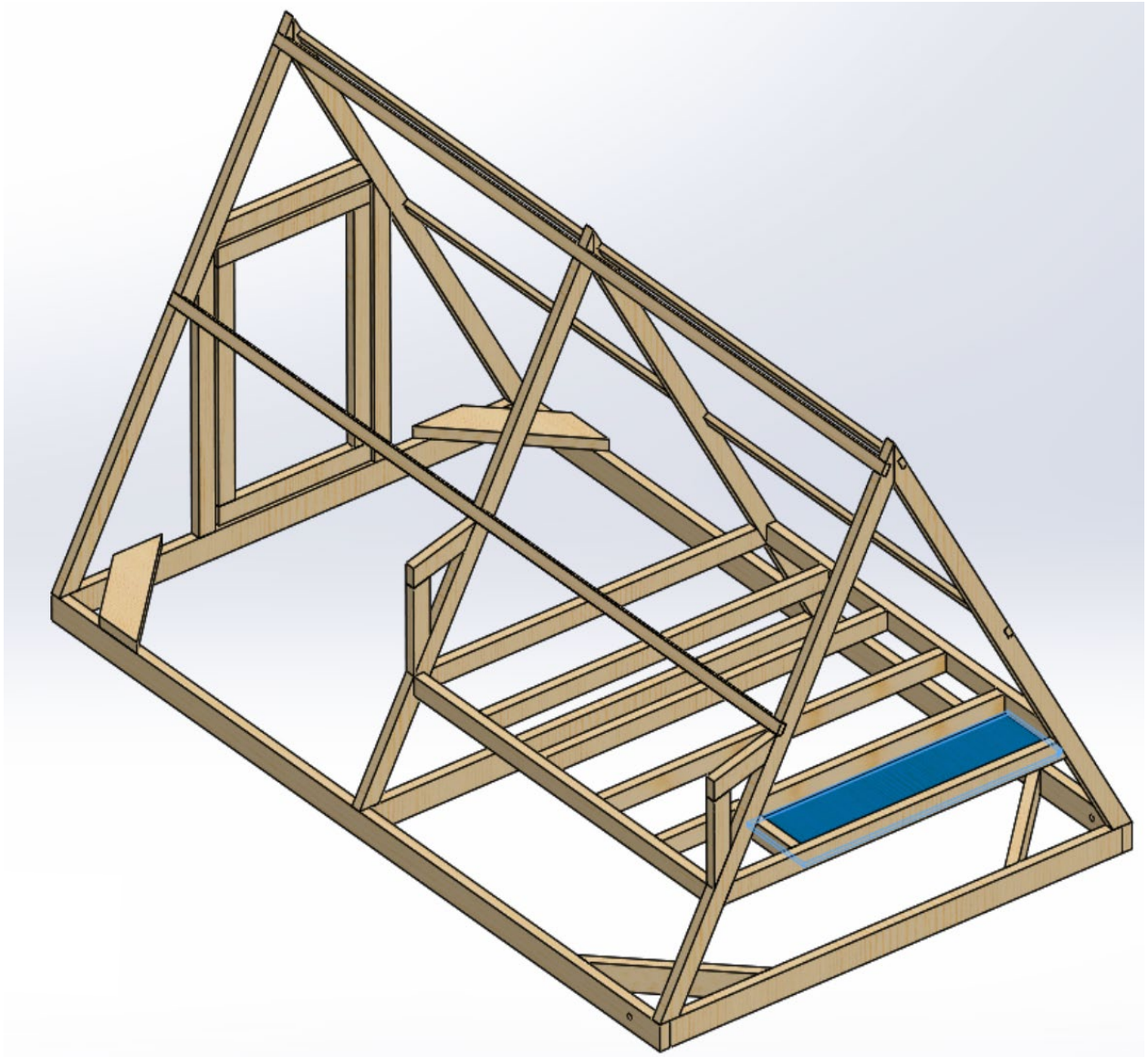


1. Cut the nesting box ramp cross piece to size.
2. Cut the nesting box ramp to length.
3. Cut 3/16" grooves into the ramp every 3-6".
4. Pre-drill, then use deck screws to install the cross piece on the chicken tractor.
5. Center the ramp, then install a pair of hinges to the cross piece using the supplied hardware and instructions.



Instructions

STEP 7.1 NESTING BOX RAMP



Instructions

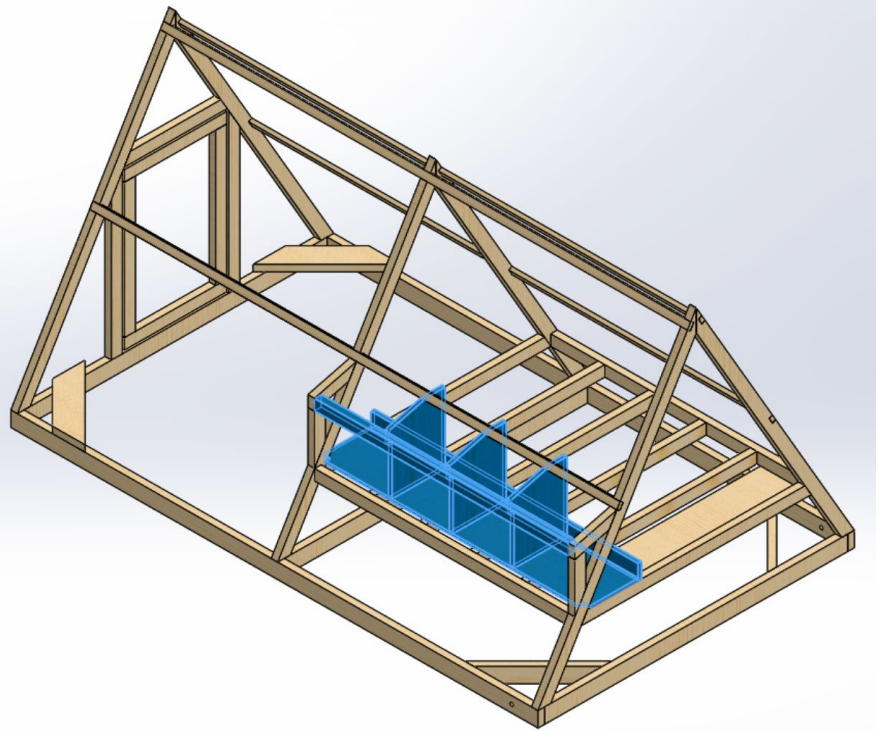
STEP 7.2 BUILDING AND INSTALLING THE NESTING BOX

MATERIALS

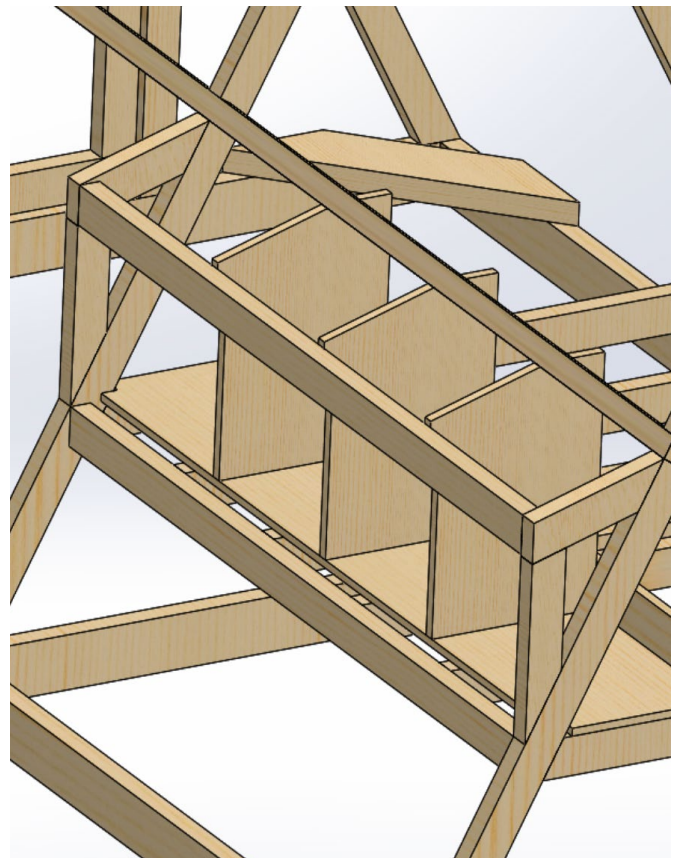
QTY	DESCRIPTION
1	4x8x1/2" plywood
1	1x4x8'
1	2x3x8'

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2 1/2" deck screws
box	#8 x 2" pan head wood screws



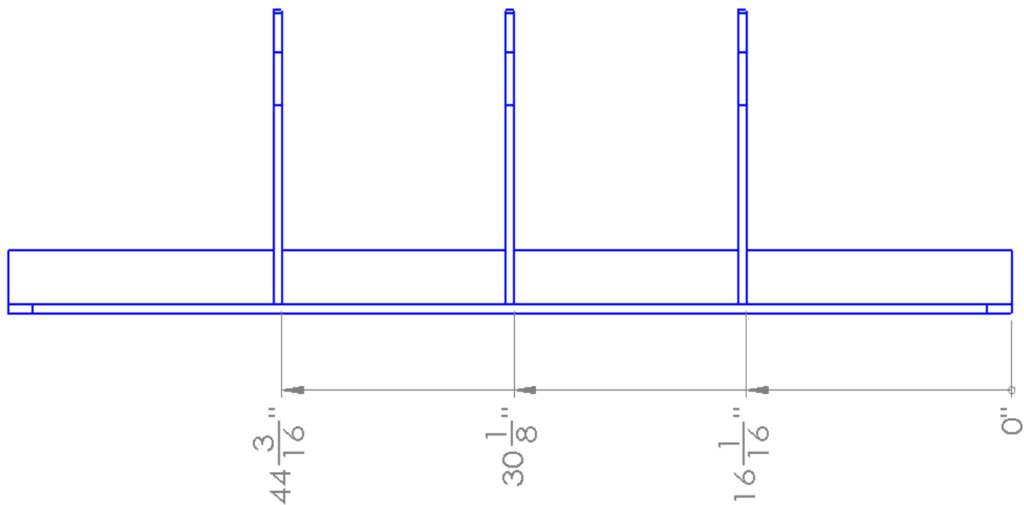
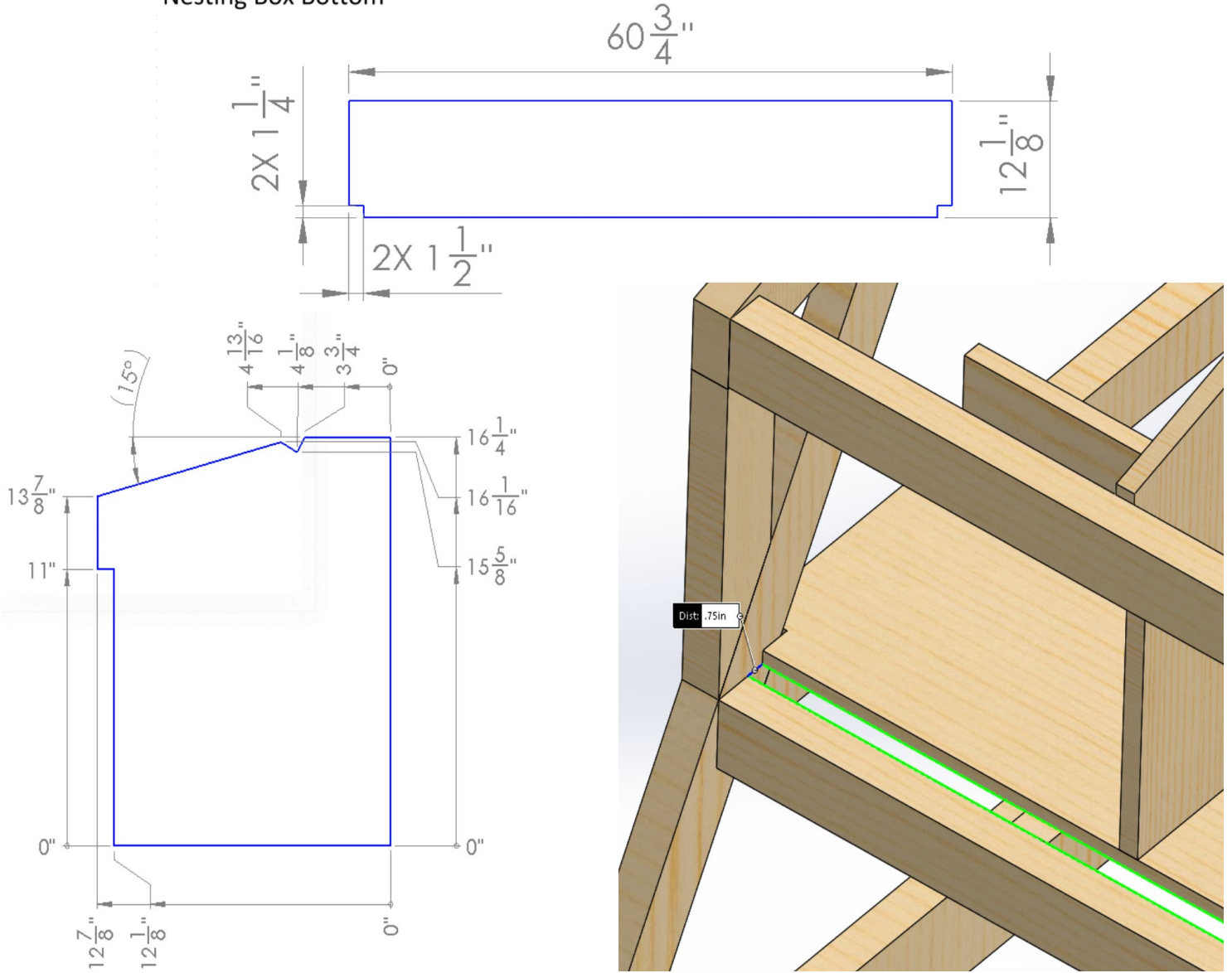
1. Cut out the bottom of the nesting box.
2. Cut out the three nesting box dividers.
3. Cut the nesting box front ledge to length.
4. Cut the top of the nesting box door frame to length using a 2x3.
5. Pre-drill, then install the nesting box top door frame to the chicken tractor using deck screws.
6. Use #8x2" pan or button head screws to secure the front ledge to the bottom of the nesting box. Mark the positions of each nesting box divider.
7. Install the nesting box into the tractor. Reference the drawings and pictures to correctly space the nesting box in the tractor.
8. Pre-drill, then use #8 x 2" pan head screws to secure the nesting box to the cross braces and roosts.
9. Install the nesting box dividers by sliding them in place, aligning the notch in the divider with the cross brace.
10. Pre-drill, then use #8 x 2" pan head screws to secure the nesting box dividers to the top nesting box door frame, cross brace, bottom, and front ledge.



Instructions

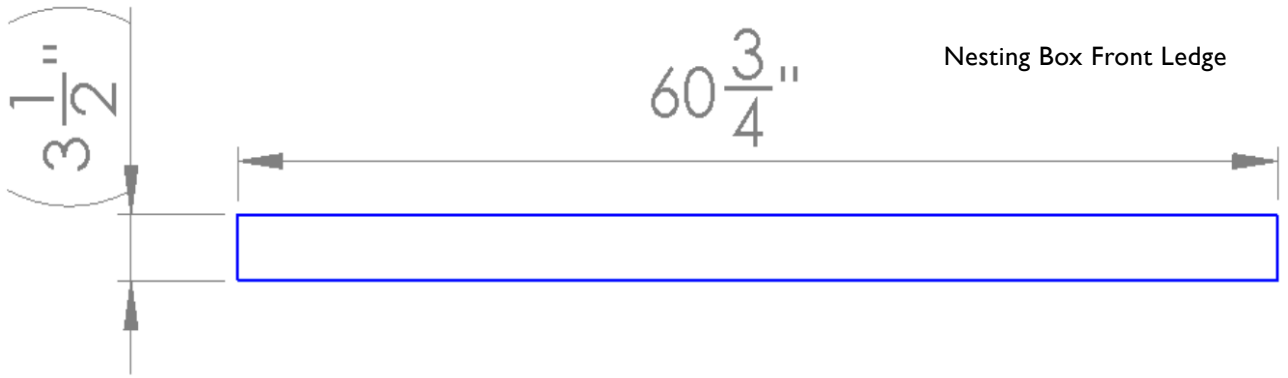
STEP 7.2 BUILDING AND INSTALLING THE NESTING BOX

Nesting Box Bottom

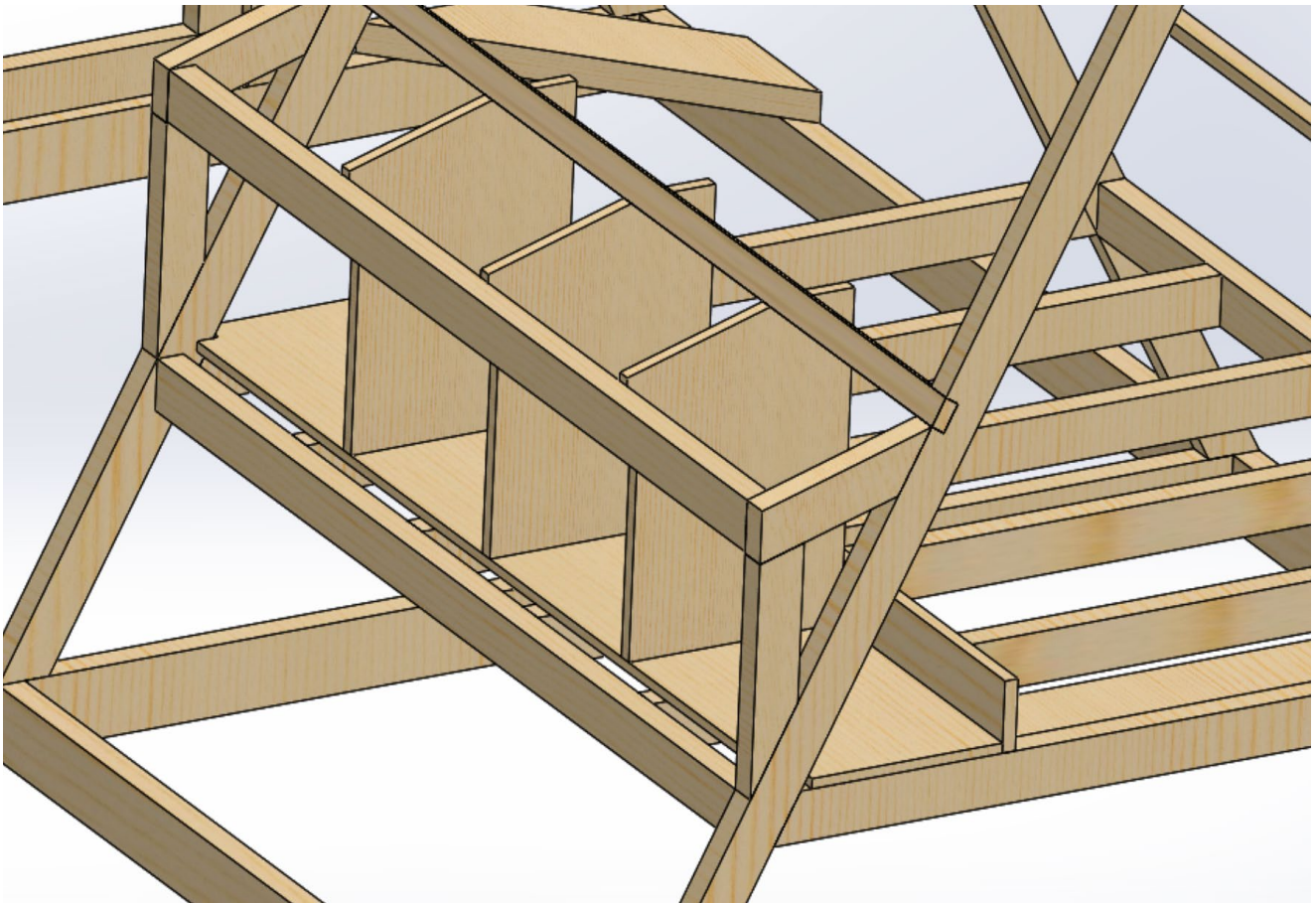
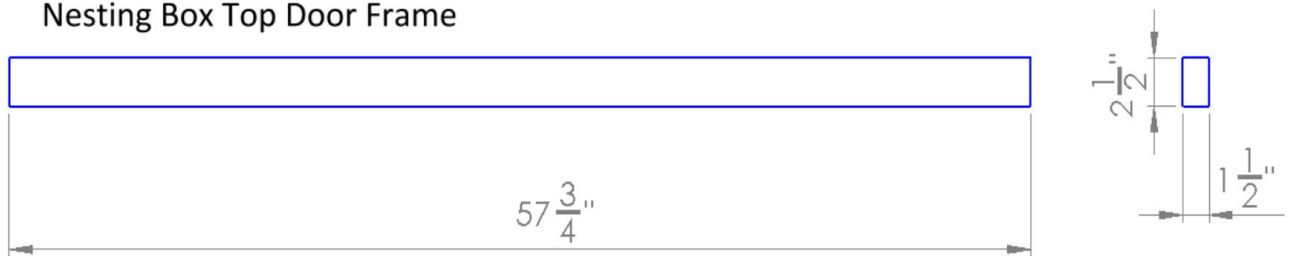


Instructions

STEP 7.2 BUILDING AND INSTALLING THE NESTING BOX



Nesting Box Top Door Frame



Instructions

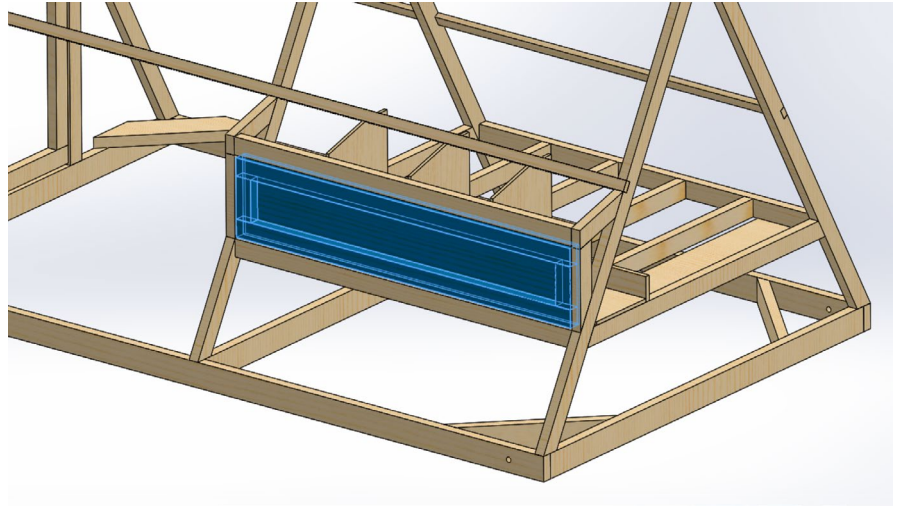
STEP 7.3 BUILDING AND INSTALLING THE NESTING BOX DOOR

MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	4x8x1/2" plywood
2	2x3x8'

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2 1/2" deck screws
1lb box	1 1/4" deck screws
2	2 1/2" Screw hooks
1	~ 13" of chain



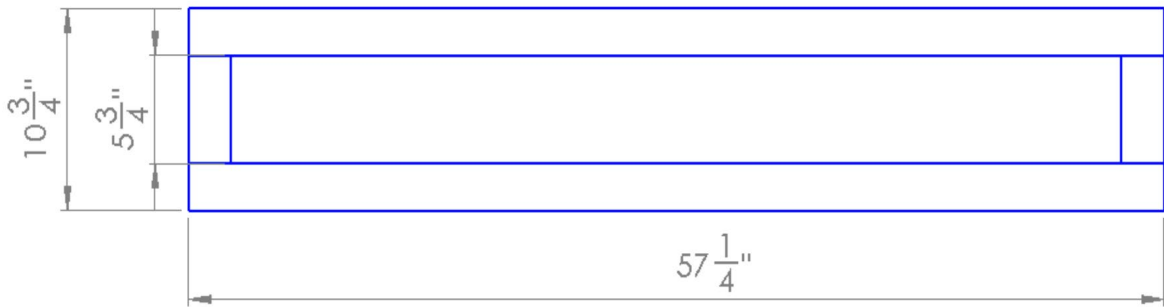
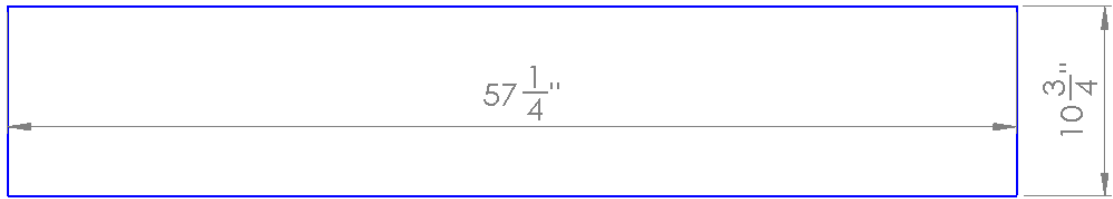
1. Cut the top, bottom, and sides of the nesting box door to length from 2x3 stock.
2. Cut the back of the nesting box door to size.
3. Pre-drill, then use deck screws to assemble the nesting box door.
4. Pre-drill, then use 1 1/4" deck screws to secure the door back to the door.
5. Use door shims or make 1/4" spacers. Then space the door in its frame so that there is 1/4" spacing on the sides and bottom of the door.
6. Install a pair of door hinges using the supplied hardware.
7. Install a pair of eye hooks on either end of the door in locations such that they don't interfere with door travel.
8. Cut a chain to length then install it on the eye hooks.
9. Install the door latch using the supplied hardware.



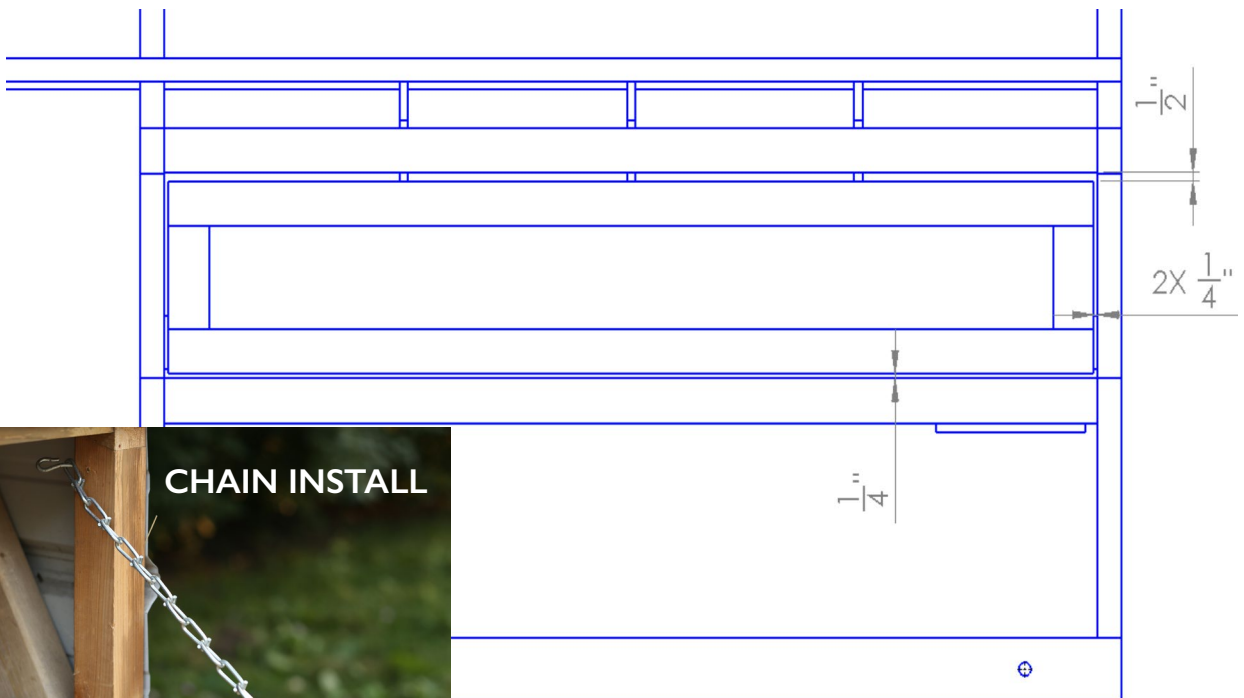
Instructions

STEP 7.3 BUILDING AND INSTALLING THE NESTING BOX DOOR

Nesting Box Door Back



Nesting Box Door



Instructions

STEP 8 REAR DOOR

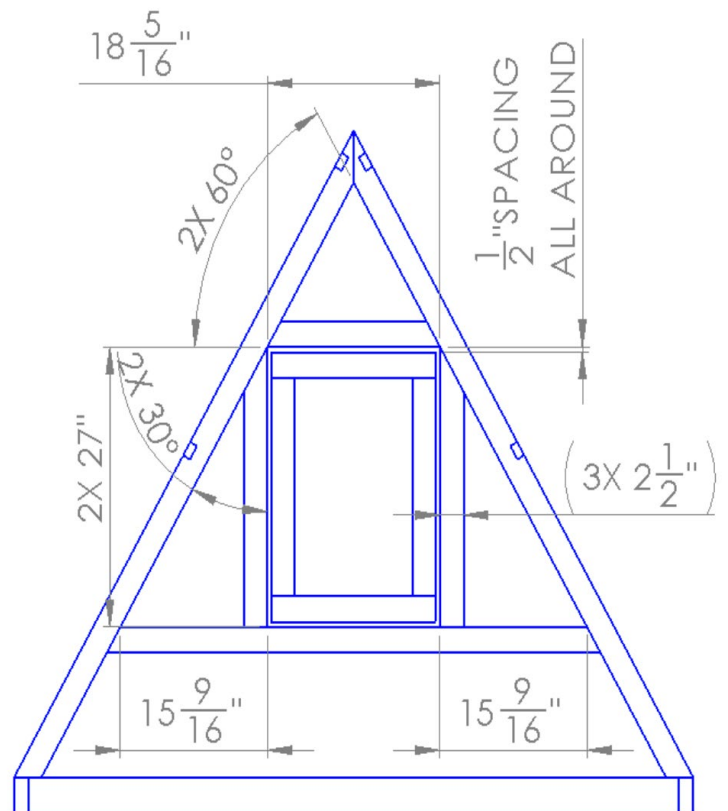
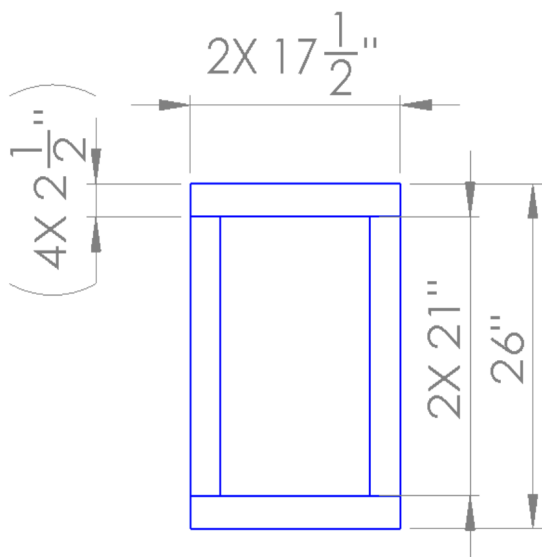
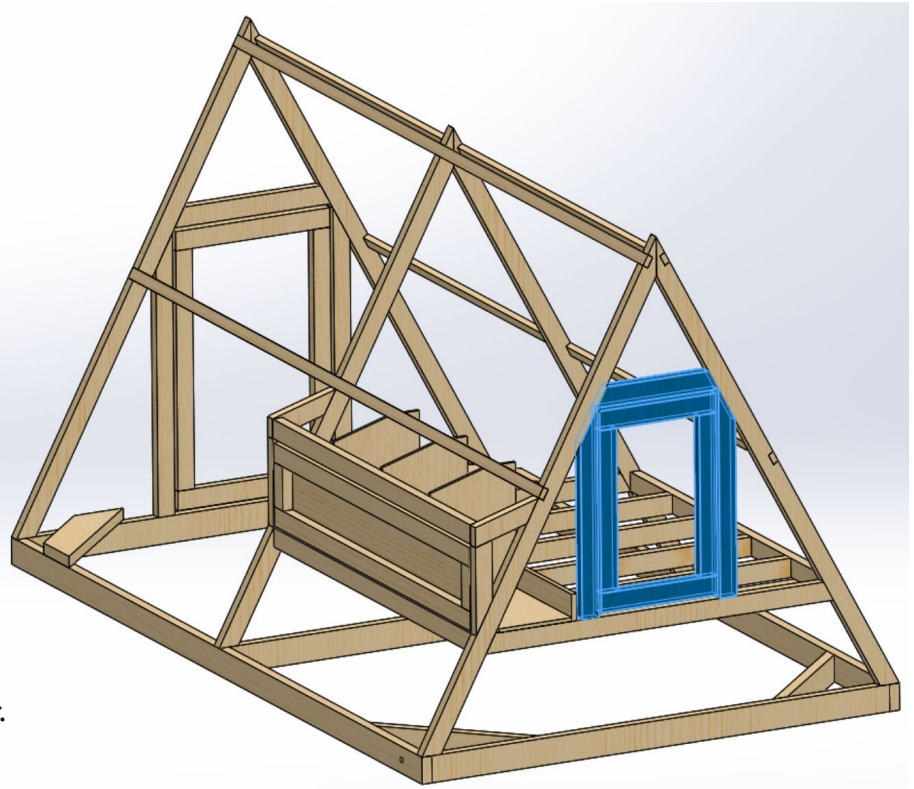
MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2x3x8'

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	2 1/2" deck screws
2	4" hinges

1. Cut the door frame sides and top.
2. Cut the door sides, top, and bottom.
3. Pre-drill, then use a pair of deck screws to join each corner of the door. Check the squareness of the door by measuring its diagonals.
4. Pre-drill, then use deck screws to join the top and sides of the door frame to the chicken tractor.
5. Use door shims or make 1/2" spacers. Then space the door in its frame.
6. Install a pair of door hinges using the supplied hardware.

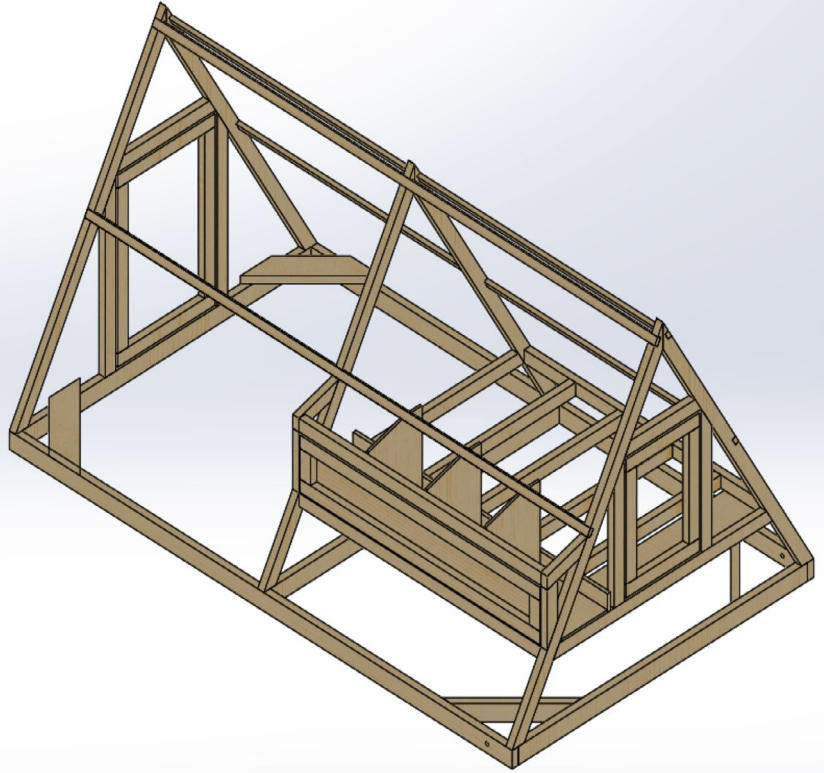


Instructions

MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
1 gal	Tall Earth Eco Stain
1 qt	Non-toxic semi-gloss exterior grade paint

STEP 8.1 PRESERVE + PAINT



1. All of the wood construction is finished and accessibility to the structure will get more complicated from here on out. If you have chosen to use normal untreated construction lumber now is an opportune time to preserve it with Tall Earth Eco-Stain or a preservative of your choice.
2. Apply preservative to all exposed wooden surfaces.

OPTIONAL: Paint interior nesting box surfaces with non-toxic semi-gloss exterior-grade paint to keep surfaces more easily cleanable.



Instructions

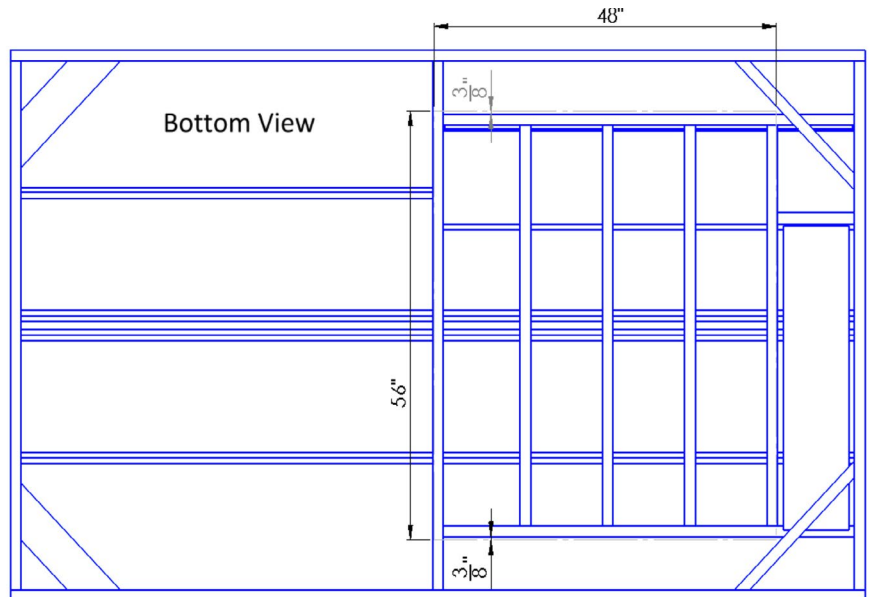
STEP 9 2X4" FENCE ROOST COVERING

MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
1	2" x 4" x 6' - 50' roll of fencing

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
box	9/16" T50 Staples



1. Cut a piece of 2x4x6' fencing 48x56" for the underside of the roost.
2. Carefully set the chicken tractor on one of its sides so that the underside of the roost can easily be accessed.
3. Evening space the fencing over the roost area and tack in place.
4. Staple all around every 4-6".

Instructions

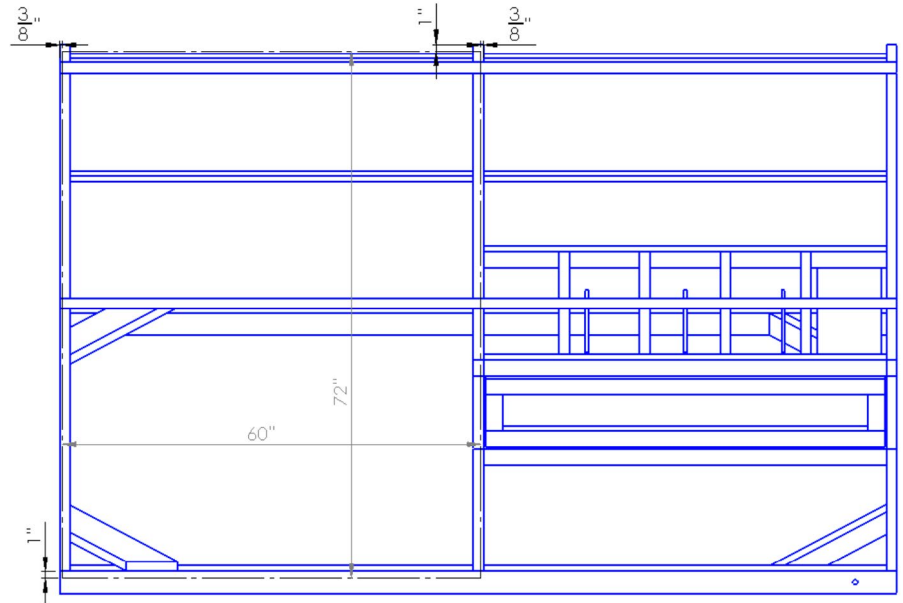
MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
1	2" x 4" x 6' - 50' roll of fencing

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	9/16" T50 Staples

STEP 9.1 2X4" FENCE COVERING



1. Cut two pieces of 2x4x6' fencing 60" long for the left and right sides of the tractor.
2. Starting with the left side, space the edge of the fencing approximately 3/8" from the front edge of Triangle A and 1" down from the top of Triangle A. Ensure the fence covers the bottom of the tractor. Tack in place.
3. Cut and relieve the fencing around the nesting box as necessary.
4. Staple all around every 6-8".
5. Repeat for the right side.

Instructions

STEP 9.2

1/2" FENCE COVERING (FRONT + BACK)

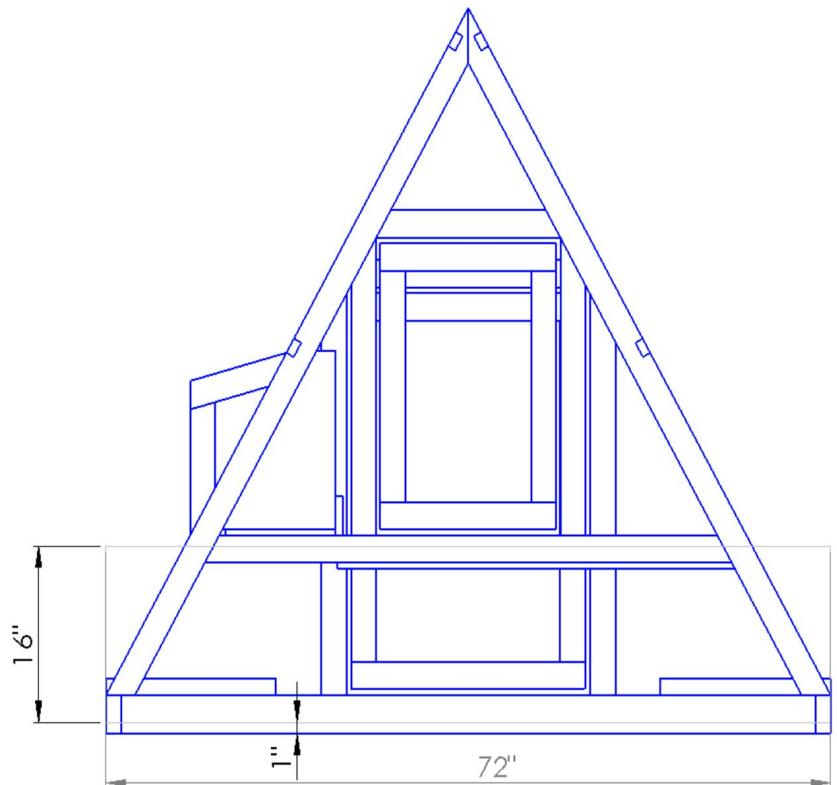
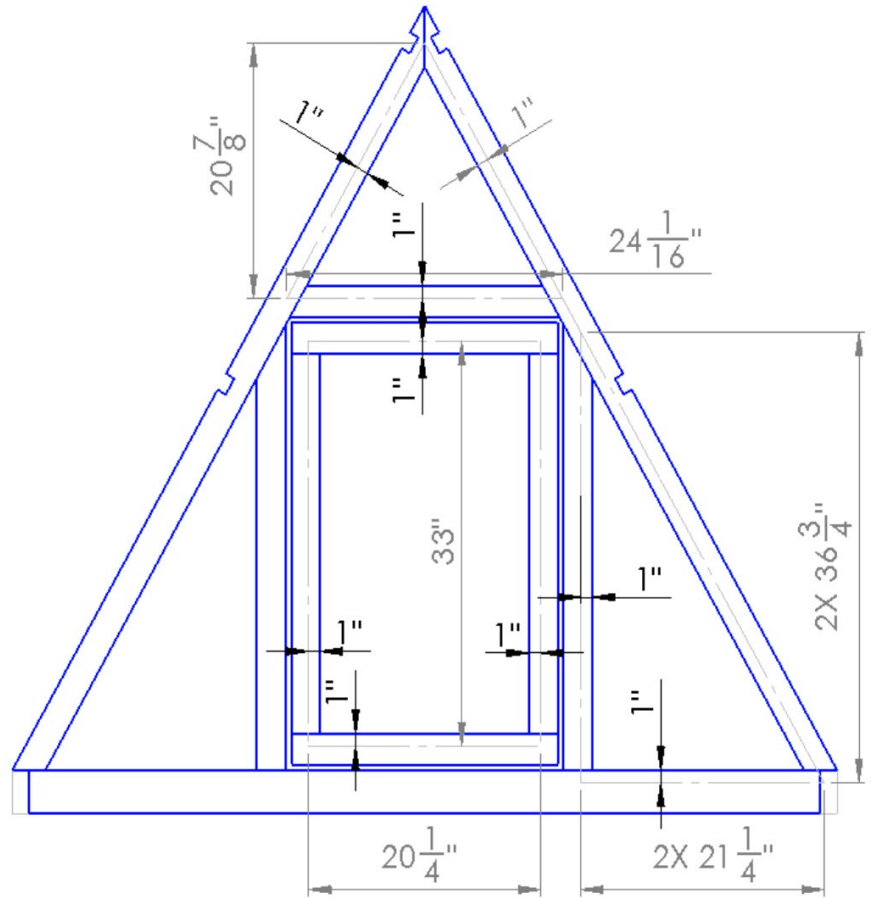
MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
2	1/2" x 1/2" x 24" - 25' roll of fencing

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	9/16" T50 Staples
	Zip-Ties

1. Refer to the diagram and cut fencing to cover the front door, top, and sides. Cut the fencing so that it overlaps the wood by at least 1".
2. Carefully align, pull taught, and tack the pieces in place.
3. Once tacked, staple all around every 6-8".
4. Cut out openings as necessary for door latches, hinges, etc.



Back of tractor

Instructions

MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
2	1/2" x 1/2" x 24" - 25' roll of fencing

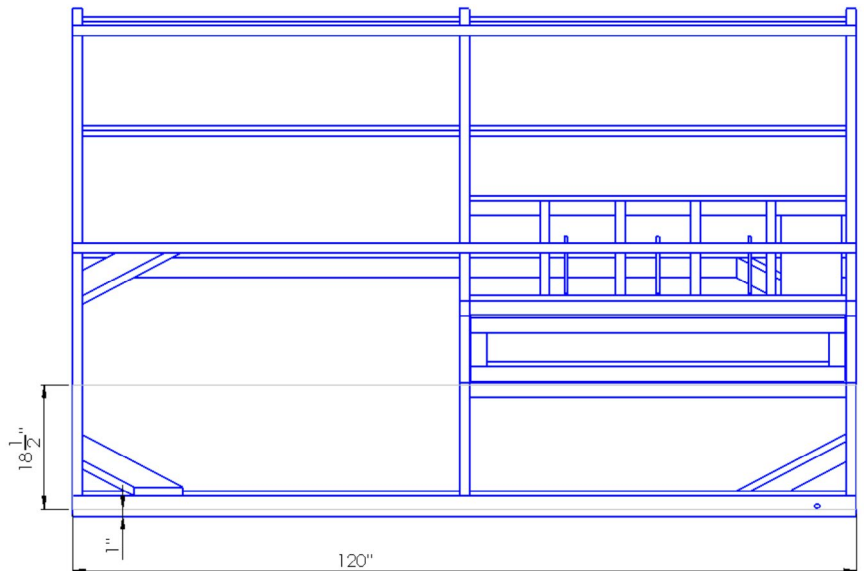
HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	9/16" T50 Staples
	Zip-Ties

STEP 9.3 1/2" FENCE COVERING (SIDES)



1. Cut two 10' lengths of 1/2" mesh fencing.
2. Cut one 8' lengths of 1/2" mesh fencing.
3. Align the top edge of the 10' section with the top edge of the roost door frame. Carefully align, pull taught, and tack in place. Cut the excess away so that there is approximately 1" of uncovered wood at the bottom.
4. Once tacked, staple all around every 6-8".
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for the other side.
6. Reduce the width of the 8' sections to 16".
7. Align the rear section so that it overlaps the bottom frame and roost evenly.
8. Carefully align, pull taught, and tack in place leaving the ends unsecured.
9. Trim the both ends so that they fit nicely to the triangle.
10. Staple all around every 6-8".



Instructions

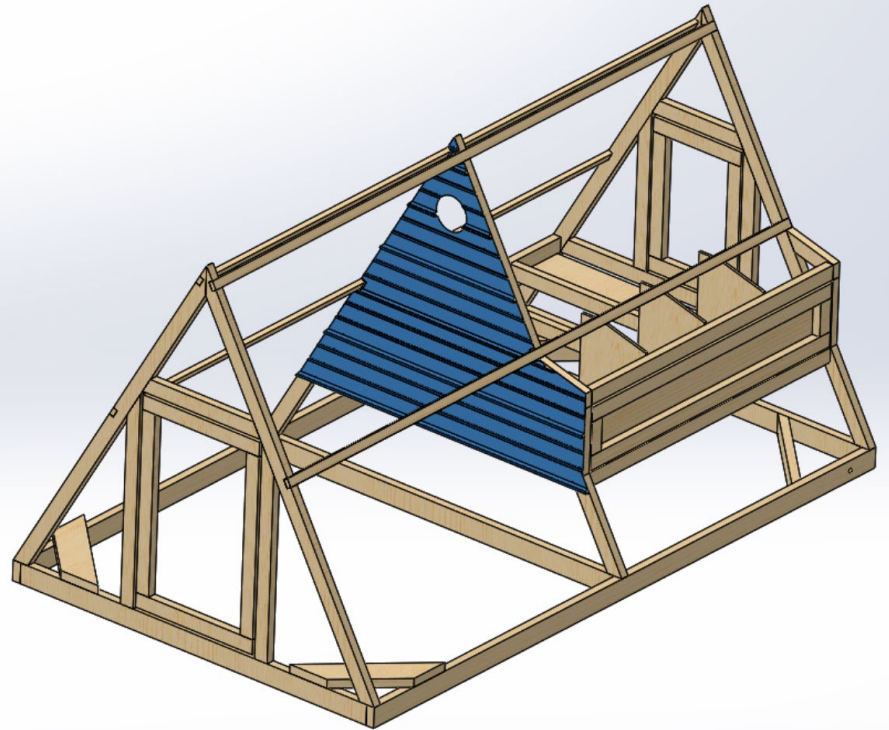
STEP 10 TRIANGLE B SIDING

MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
1	3' x 8' corrugated metal siding

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
box	1" tin roofing screws
box	2" tin roofing screws



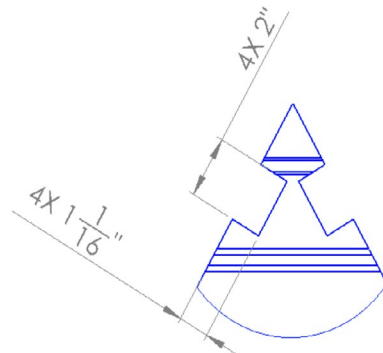
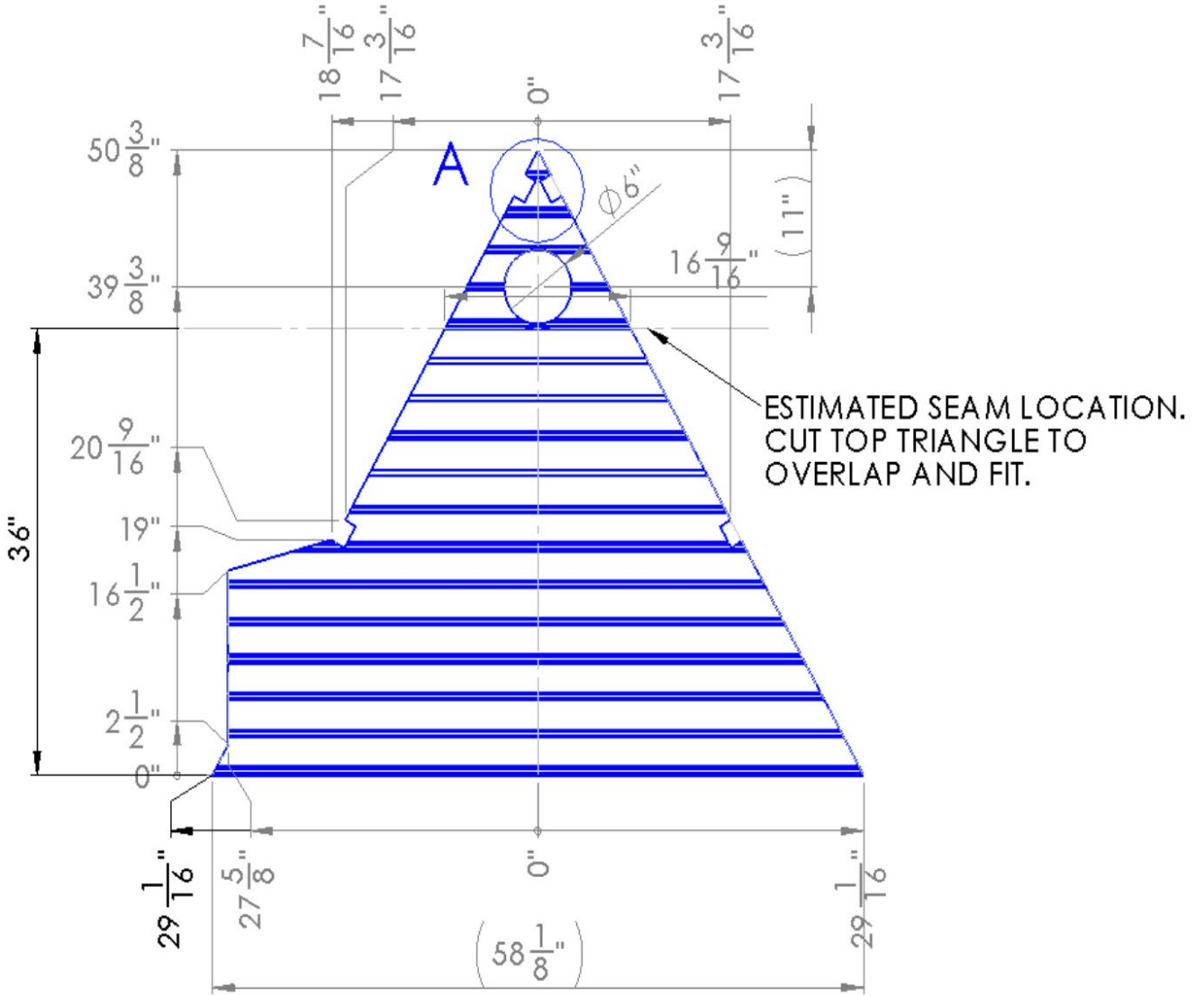
NOTE: Pay close attention to the layout drawing to ensure all roof parts can be cut from the 8' sheet.

NOTE: The drawing depicted shows the area intended to be covered by metal. Due to manufacturing variations the overlap point will have to be determined. Once established the top piece can be cut to fit.

1. Lay the sheet of tin face down. Measure from the left edge and establish a centerline for the piece. From the lower edge and centerline measure and mark all the features to be cut.
2. Use a tin snips or jig saw to cut out the side for Triangle B. Cut carefully and do not waste any excess as it will be used to create other parts of the tractor.
3. Test fit the side and clamp in place once satisfied with fitment.
4. Pre-drill, then use sheet metal screws to secure the side to the tractor.
5. Layout and cut the top triangle.
6. Pre-drill, then use sheet metal screws to secure the top triangle to the tractor.

Instructions

STEP 10 TRIANGLE B SIDING

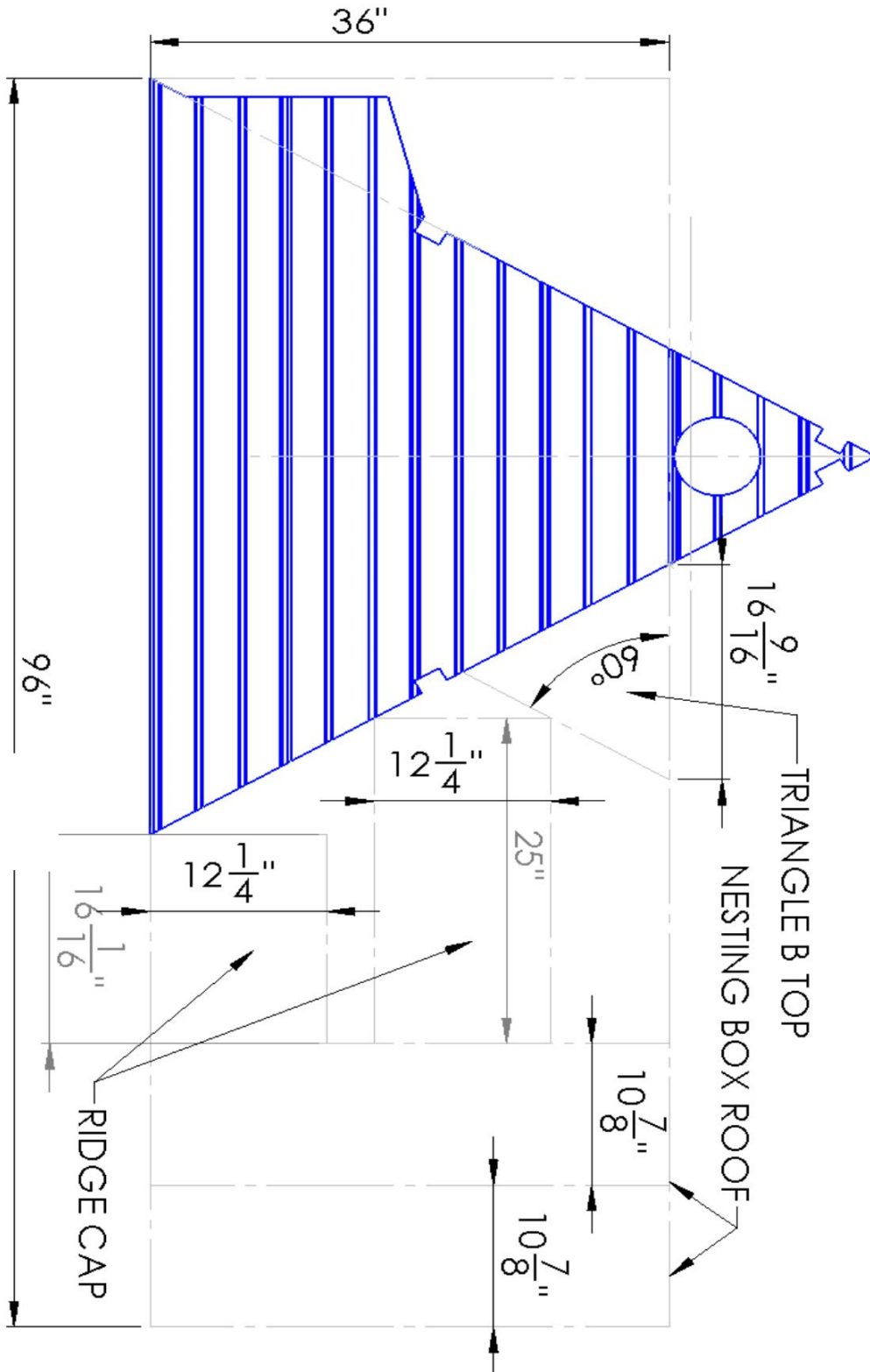


DETAIL A

SCALE 1:5

Instructions

STEP 10 TRIANGLE B SIDING MOCKUP OF COMPLETE CORRUGATED METAL SHEET CUT PLAN



Instructions

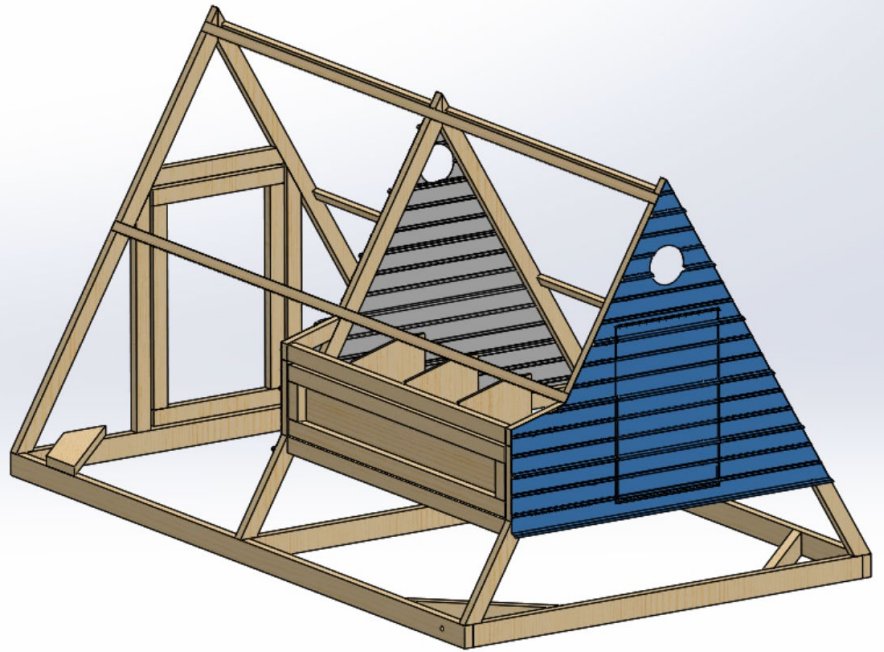
STEP II TRIANGLE C SIDING

MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
1	3' x 8' corrugated metal siding

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	1" tin roofing screws
+	2" tin roofing screws
1	Automatic gate door latch



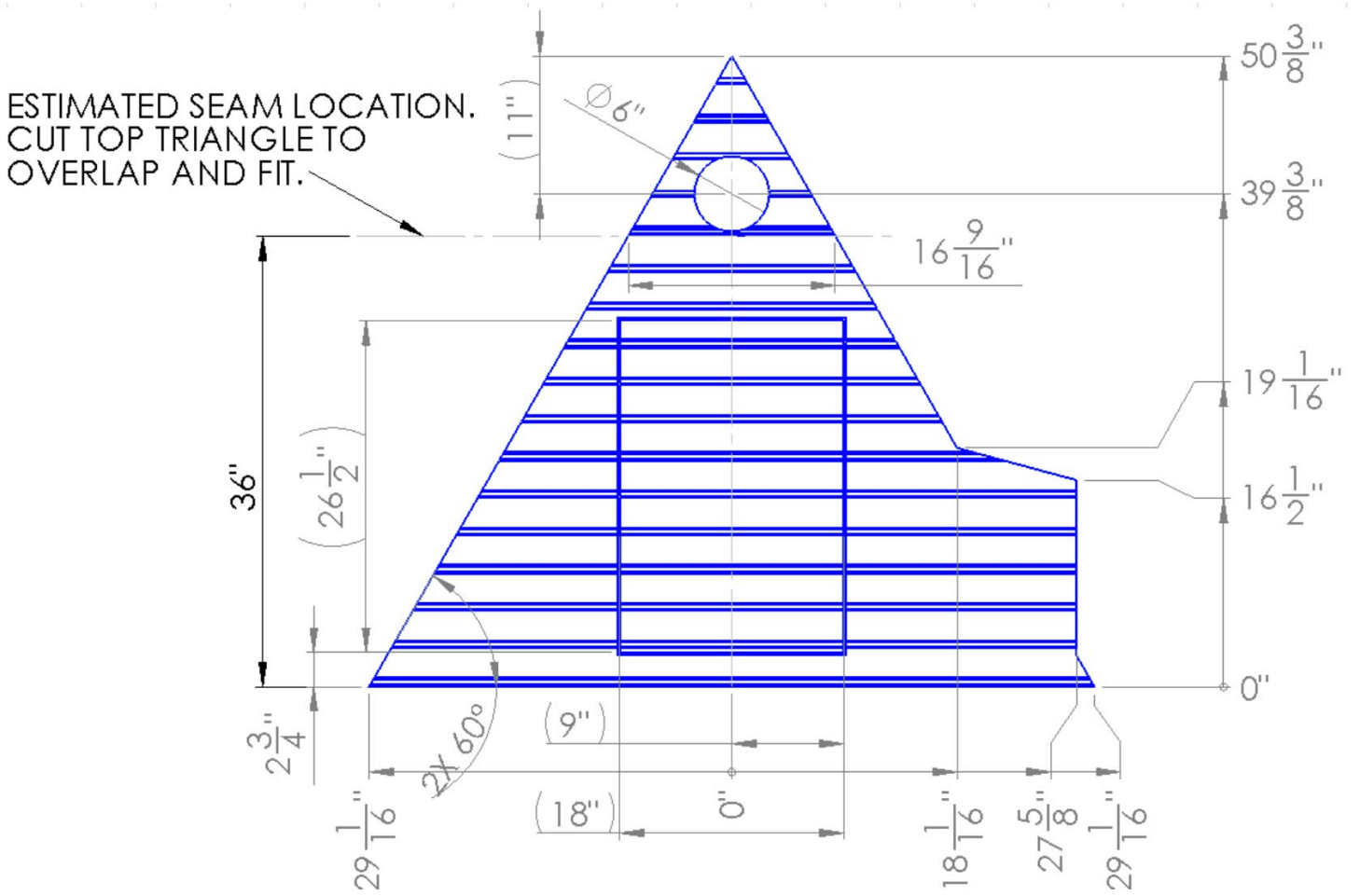
NOTE: Pay close attention to the layout drawing to ensure all roof parts can be cut from the 8' sheet.

NOTE: The drawing depicted shows the area intended to be covered by tin. Due to manufacturing variations the overlap point will have to be determined. Once established the top piece can be cut to fit.

1. Temporarily remove the rear door from the tractor.
2. Lay the sheet of tin face down. Measure from the left edge and establish a centerline for the piece. From the lower edge and centerline measure and mark all the features to be cut.
3. Use a tin snips or jig saw to cut out the side for Triangle C. Cut carefully and do not waste any excess as it will be used to create other parts of the tractor.
4. Test fit the side and clamp in place once satisfied with fitment.
5. From the inside mark the door opening.
6. Remove the side, then cut out the opening for the door.
7. Reinstall the rear door.
8. Test fit and relieve the door skin as necessary until the door opens and closes to your liking.
9. Pre-drill, then use sheet metal screws to secure the door skin to the door.
10. Pre-drill, then use sheet metal screws to secure the side to the tractor.
11. Layout and cut the top triangle.
12. Pre-drill, then use sheet metal screws to secure the top triangle to the tractor.
13. Install the door latch using the supplied hardware and instructions.

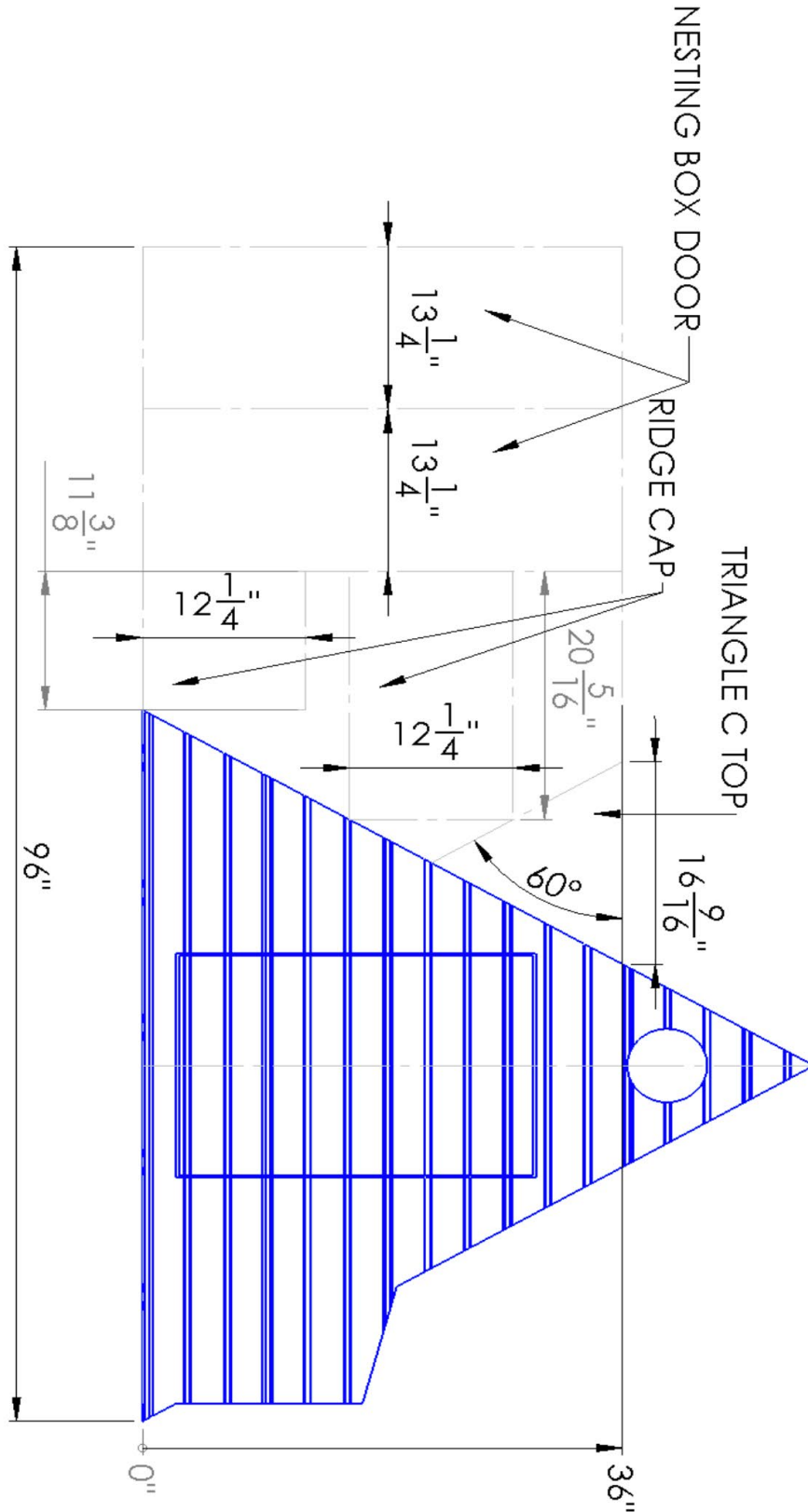
Instructions

STEP II TRIANGLE C SIDING



Instructions

STEP II TRIANGLE C SIDING MOCKUP OF COMPLETE CORRUGATED METAL SHEET CUT PLAN



Instructions

MATERIALS

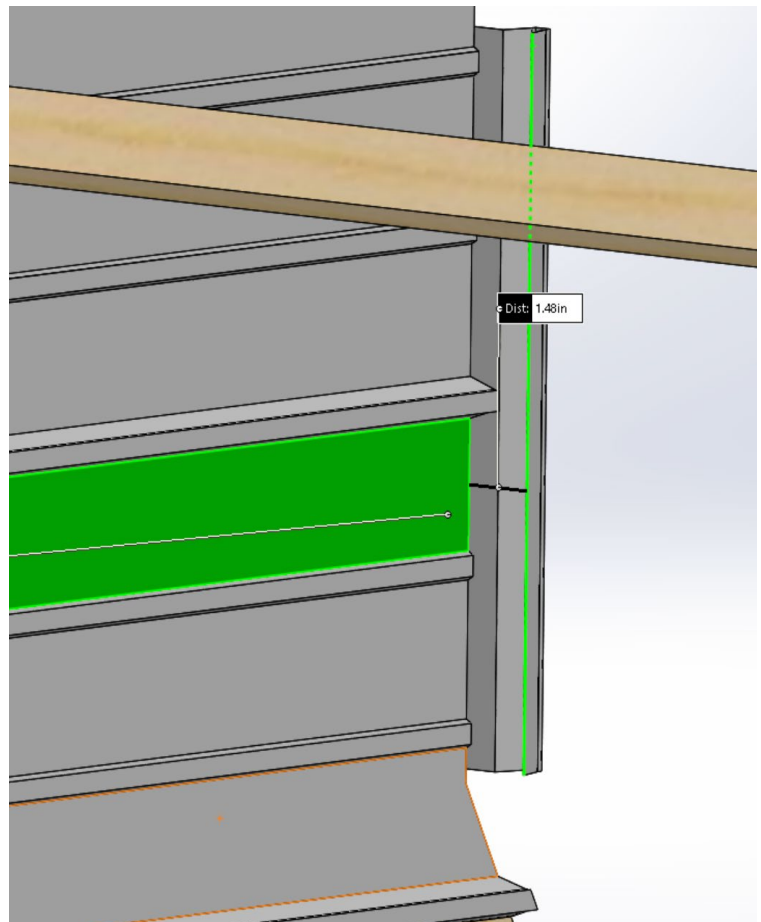
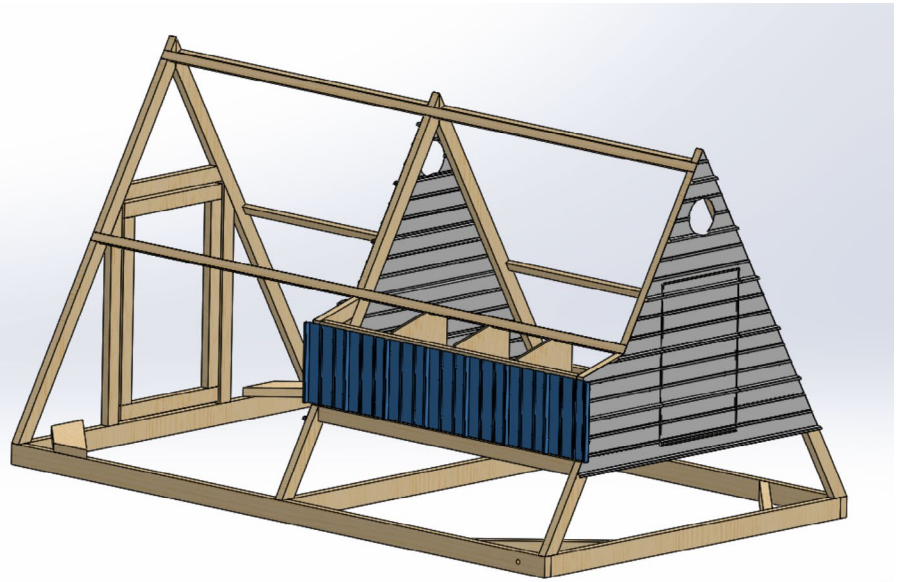
QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	3' x 8' corrugated metal siding

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	1" tin roofing screws
+	2" tin roofing screws
1	Swivel staple safety hasp

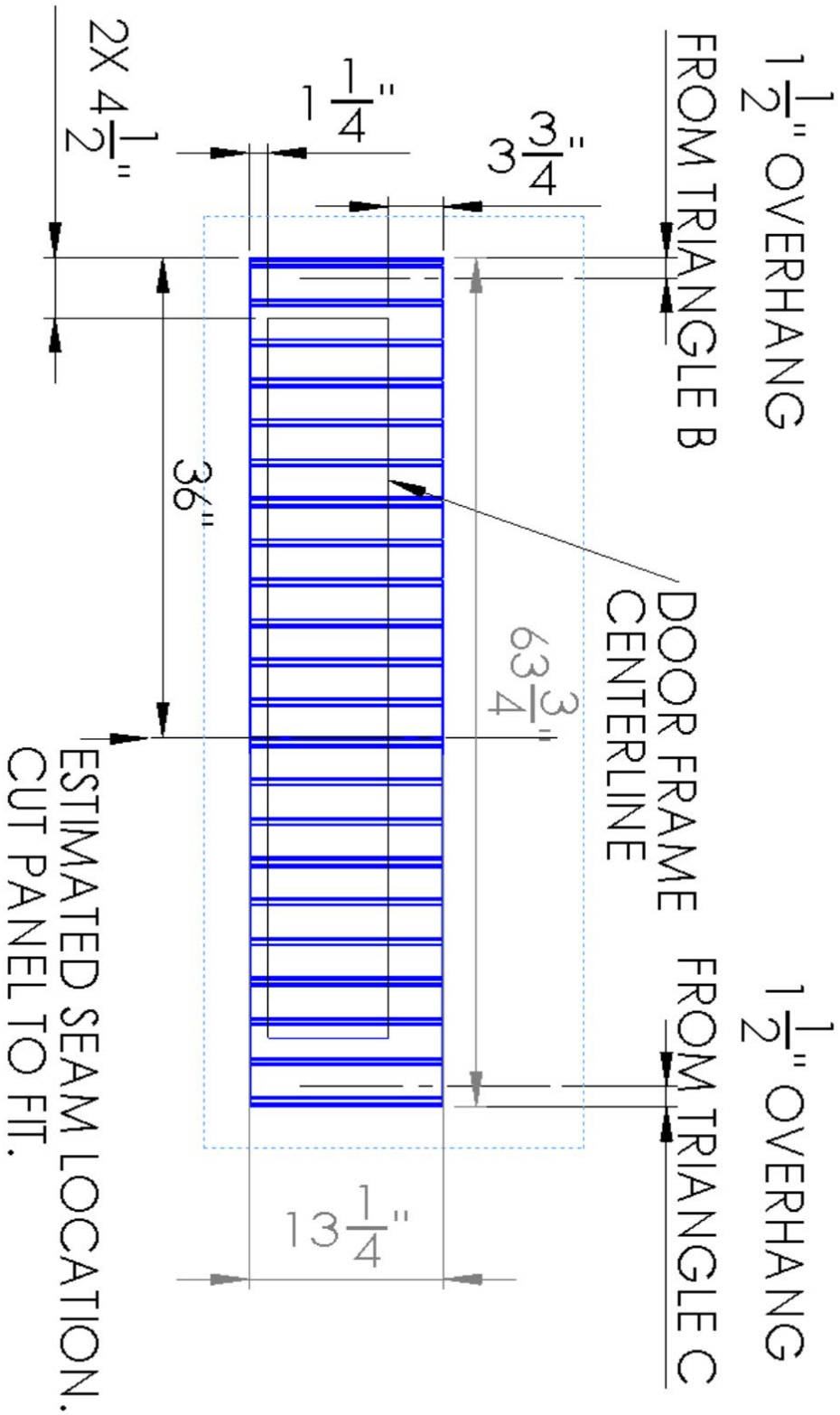
1. Using the remaining material from Triangle C's cutout, layout and cut out the nesting box door panels.
2. Install the first door panel by aligning the bottom of the panel flush to the door frame and overhanging the edge of the panel 1 1/2" from the edge of Triangle B.
3. Cut the remaining panel to size so that a similar overhang is achieved on the other end and the panels overlap in the middle.
4. Pre-drill, then use sheet metal screws to secure the door skin to the door. Be sure to only secure the panels to the door, not the chicken tractor frame.
5. Install a door latch using the instructions and hardware supplied with it.

STEP 12 NESTING BOX DOOR SIDING



Instructions

STEP 12 NESTING BOX DOOR SIDING



Instructions

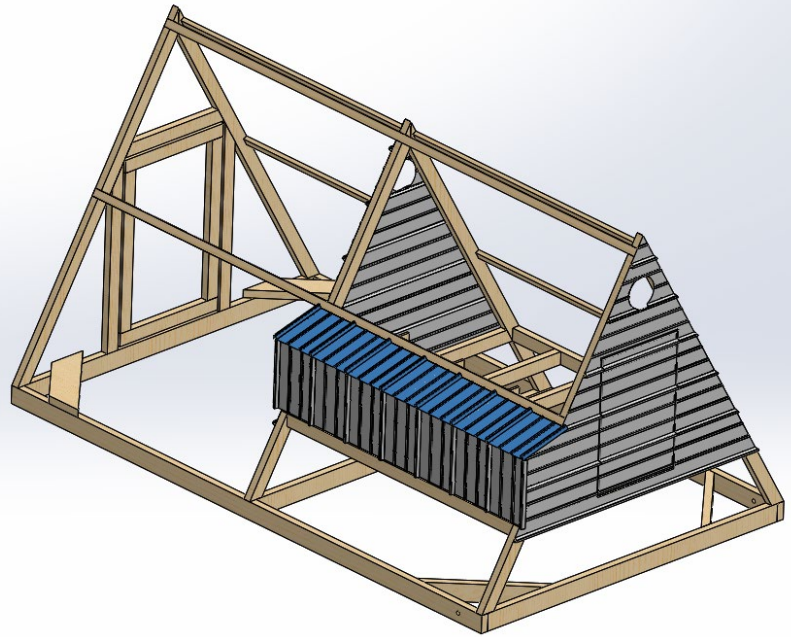
STEP 13 NESTING BOX ROOF

MATERIALS

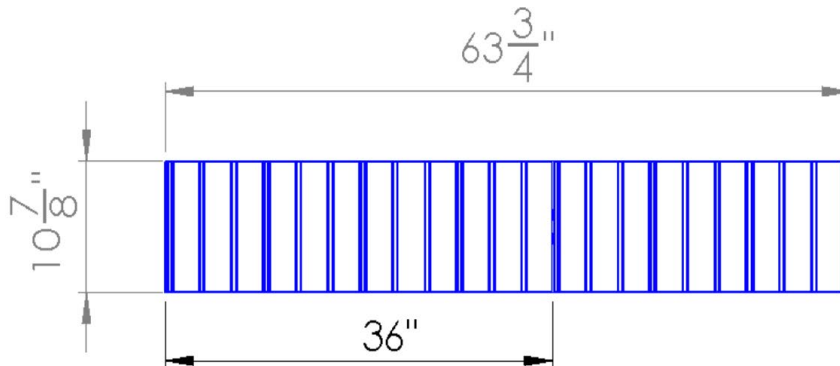
QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	3' x 8' corrugated metalsiding

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	1" tin roofing screws
+	2" tin roofing screws



1. Using the remaining material from Triangle B's cutout, layout and cut out the nesting box roof panels.
2. Install the first roof panel by aligning the front edge of the panel flush to the edge of the stringer. Overhang the end of the panel 1 1/2" from Triangle B.
3. Cut the remaining panel to size so that a similar overhang is achieved on the other end and the panels overlap in the middle.
4. Clearance the roof as necessary so that any door latching hardware used is easily accessible.
5. Pre-drill, then use sheet metal screws to secure the roof skins to the nesting box roof.



ESTIMATED SEAM LOCATION.
CUT PANEL TO FIT.

Instructions

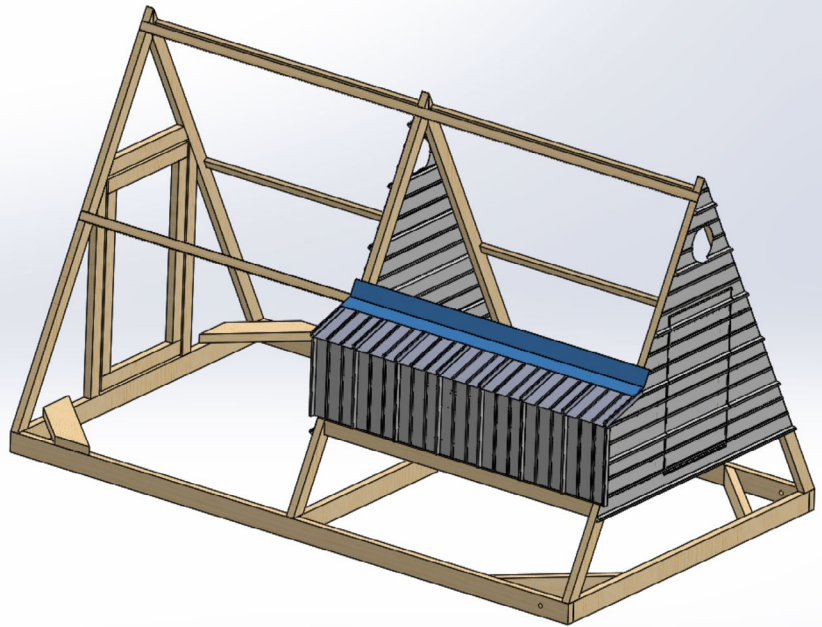
MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
1	6" x 10' flashing roll

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	1" tin roofing screws

STEP 14 NESTING BOX ROOF FLASHING



1. Cut a piece of flashing 63 3/4" long.
2. Bend the flashing in its center so that the bend corresponds to the angle of the nesting box roof.
3. Pre-drill, then use sheet metal screws to secure the flashing to the nesting box roof.

Instructions

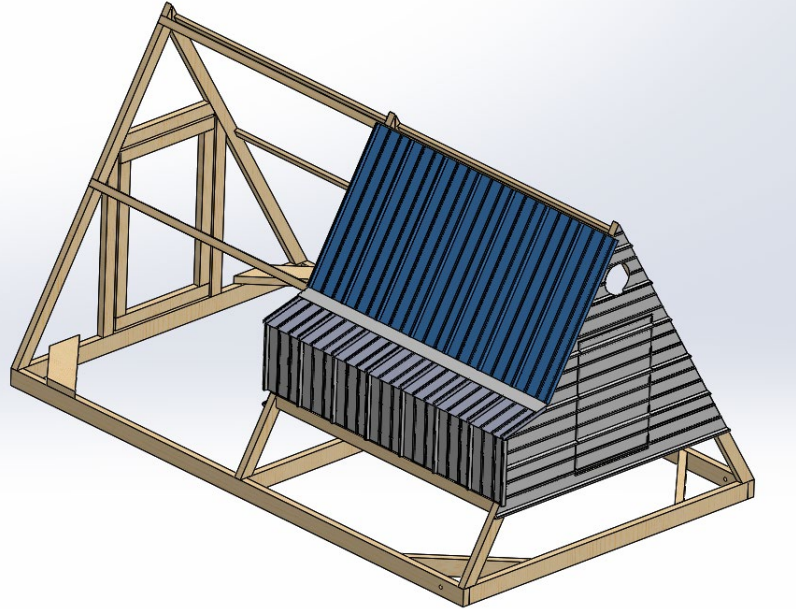
STEP 15 LEFT ROOF PANEL

MATERIALS

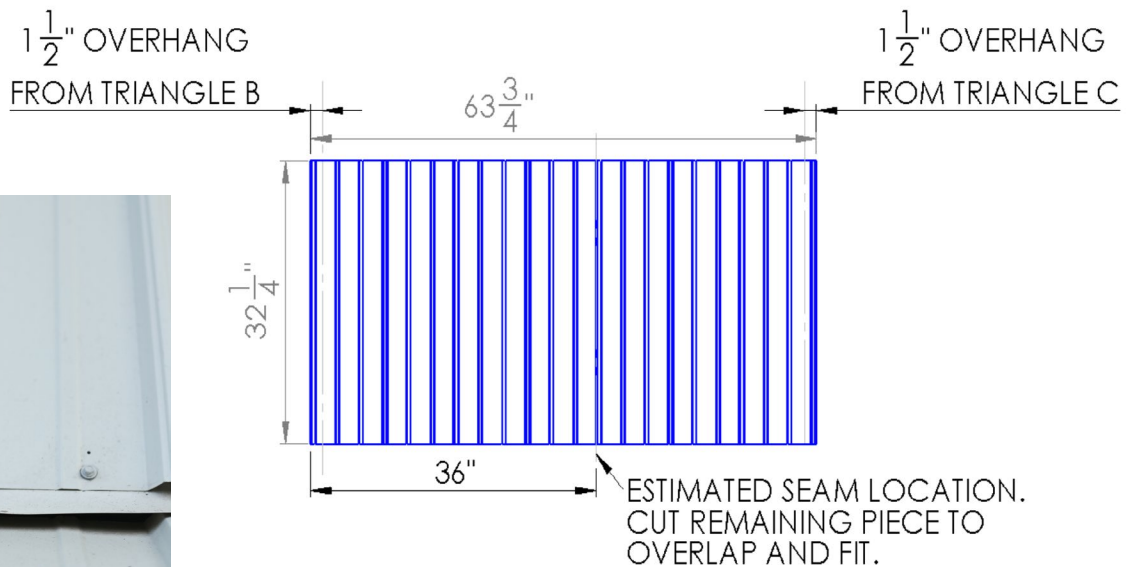
QTY	DESCRIPTION
2	3' x 8' corrugated tin siding

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	1" tin roofing screws
+	2" tin roofing screws



1. Cut the left roof panels from the two remaining 3' x 8' panels. The excess from each will be used to construct the right side roof.
2. Install the first roof panel by aligning the bottom edge of the panel with the crease in the flashing. Overhang the end of the panel 1 1/2" from Triangle B.
3. Cut the remaining panel to size so that a similar overhang is achieved on the other end and the panels overlap in the middle.
4. Pre-drill, then use sheet metal screws to secure the roof skins to the roof.



Instructions

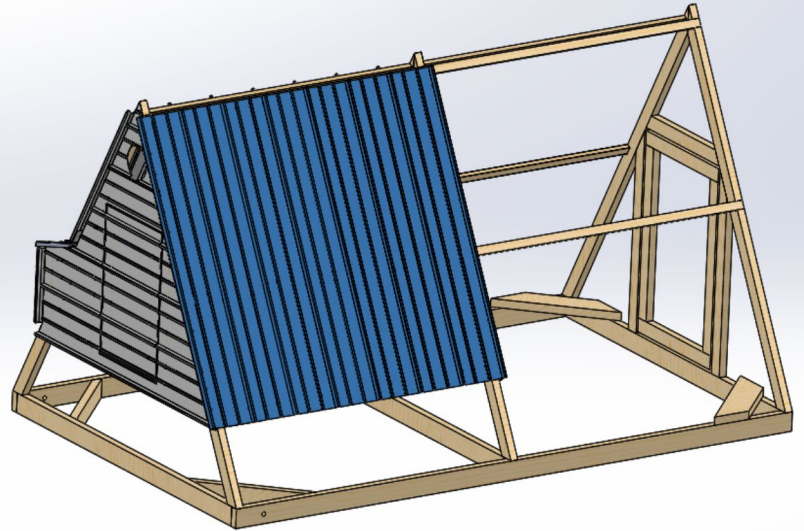
STEP 16 RIGHT ROOF PANEL

MATERIALS

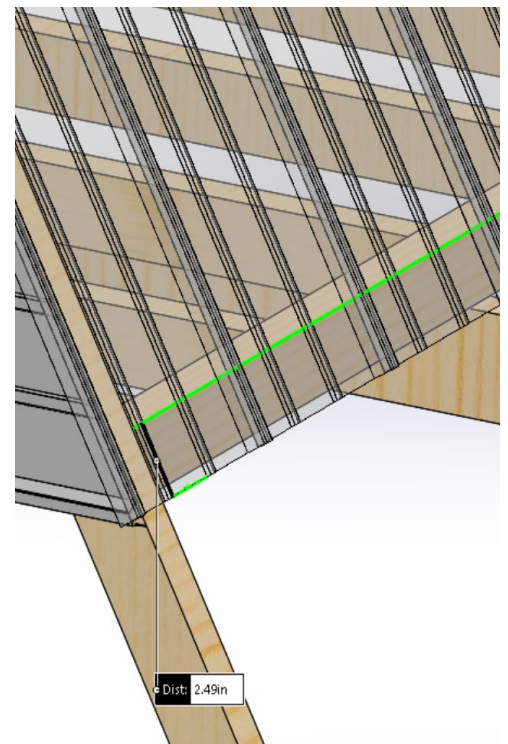
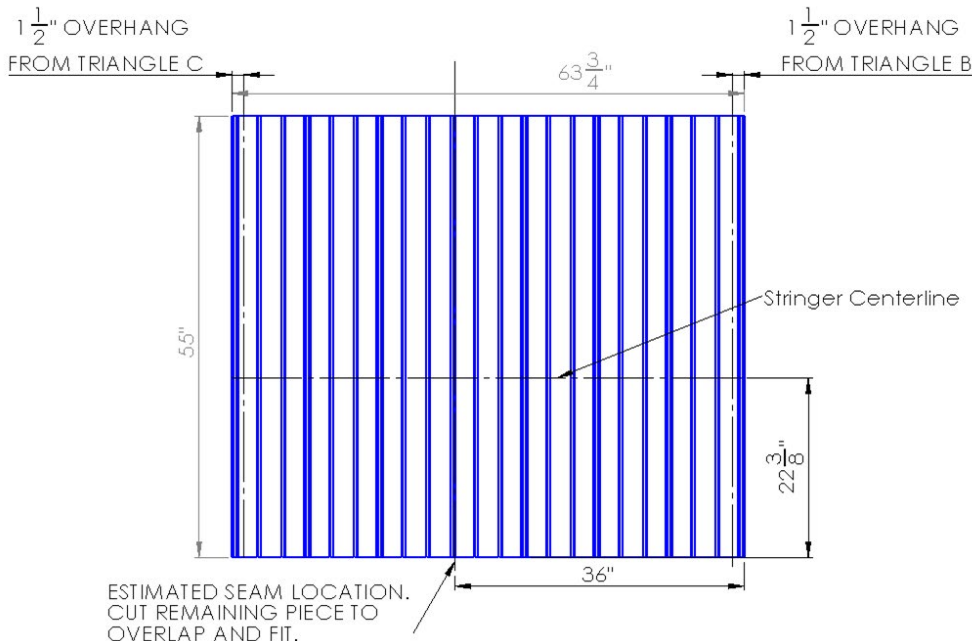
QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	3' x 8' corrugated tin siding

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	1" tin roofing screws
+	2" tin roofing screws



1. Cut the right roof panels from the remaining panel material.
2. Install the first roof panel by aligning the bottom edge of the panel with the bottom edge of the roost side brace. Overhang the end of the panel 1 1/2" from Triangle B.
3. Cut the remaining panel to size so that a similar overhang is achieved on the other end and the panels overlap in the middle.
4. Pre-drill, then use sheet metal screws to secure the roof skins to the roof. Anchor the bottom of the roof skins by securing them to the top edge of the roost brace (approximately 2 1/2" from the bottom of the skin).



Instructions

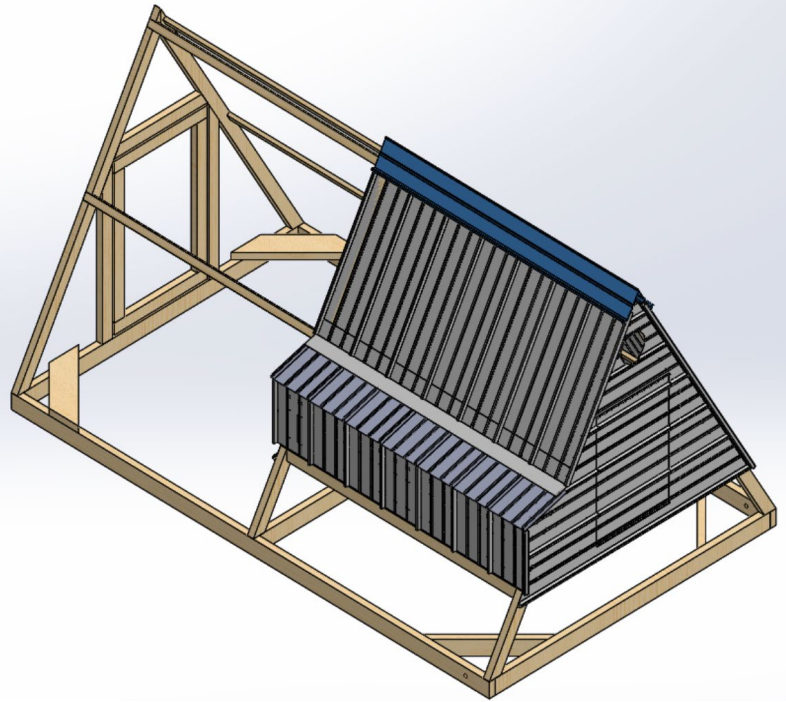
MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	3' x 8' corrugated tin siding

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
+	1" tin roofing screws
+	2" tin roofing screws

STEP 17 RIDGE CAP



1. Cut the ridge cap pieces from excess material. (See Step 10 and 11 for mockup of complete corrugated metal sheet cut plan).
2. Bend the ridge cap pieces down their centers approximately 60 degrees.
3. Pre-drill, then use sheet metal screws to secure the ridge cap pieces to the roof. Align the front edge of the ridge cap so that it overhangs 1 1/2" from Triangle B. Overhang the remaining ridge cap pieces as needed so that the final piece overhangs Triangle C 1 1/2".



Instructions

STEP 18 RAMP RIGGING

MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
1	Rope

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
1	1/4 x 2" Screw Eye
2	Pulley (1 swivel, 1 fixed)
1	1/2" aluminum tube
1	Cleat
1	JBWeld

1. Install the eye hook into the corner of the ramp.
2. Temporarily tie the rope to the eye hook and site out an unobstructed path for it to exit the tractor.
3. Install pulleys as necessary to achieve the desired rope pull.
4. Mark and drill the exiting location for the rope.
5. Cut the aluminum tube to length. Make sure there are no burrs on the edges of the tube.
6. Use JBWeld to secure the tube to the tractor.
7. Tie the rope to the eye hook, feed it through the pulleys, and out the tractor.
8. Test the functionality of the system.



Instructions

MATERIALS

QTY	DESCRIPTION
2	6" front caster wheels
2	10" rear wheels

HARDWARE

QTY	DESCRIPTION
8	5/16 x 1 1/2" lag bolts
8	5/16" washers
1	3/4" - 10 x 12" threaded rod
6	3/4" - 10 x lock nuts
4	3/4" washers

1. Install the 6" front caster wheels with 5/16 x 1 1/2" lag bolts and washers either by raising the front of the tractor up or tipping it on its side.
2. Cut the 12" threaded rod in half.
3. Install lock nuts on the ends of each rod.
4. Use blocks to raise the rear of the tractor off the floor.
5. Install the threaded rods with washers into the axle holes.
6. Add another washer and lock nut to secure the rod to the tractor. Repeat for the remaining side.
7. Install the 10" wheels on both sides and secure in place with lock nuts.

STEP 19 WHEEL INSTALLATION



DOOR LATCH + HINGE EXAMPLES



FAQs

Q: Can I use 2x4's instead of the 2x3's called out in the build plans?

A: The short answer is “yes”. The long answer is if you choose to change up the sizing of the lumber, the measurements in our build plans no longer apply and you are flying solo. We provide build plans, which if followed, will result in a straightforward build of our chicken tractor design. However, as the builder you can do whatever you want. The alterations you incorporate, such as using 2x4's, will influence how much additional work you'll need to do.

By switching from 2x3's to 2x4's you will be creating a heavier tractor than necessary and complexifying some steps. That said, you will need to be prepared to alter dimensions on the following components to account for the additional width introduced:

- front door and frame
- rear door and frame
- Nesting box sides
- nesting box door and frame
- roost cross braces

Alternatively, you can rip the 2x4's down to 2x3 size using a circular saw or table saw. Once this is done the standard plans can be followed. Whether or not you should pursue this alteration will depend on your skill level as a builder.

REMEMBER: Lumber has a nominal size versus an actual size. 2x3s are actually 1.5x2.5” and 2x4s are actually 1.5x3.5” once they are kiln dried. So if you are cutting 2x4s down to 2x3s, cut them to their actual size at 1.5x2.5” so you don't run into issues when building.

Q: I'm having issues cutting the angles for Step 2.1 or 2.2 - what am I doing wrong?

A: We created FAQ Videos that walk you through how to measure and cut the angles with these specific steps. You can access them through your emailed Gumroad Receipt (where you downloaded the build plans). You can also watch them [at this link](#).

As more common questions arise, we will add videos to this website page to help you so please check there first before you email us with your question. Thank you!

Q: I live in a colder climate. How do you winterize the chicken tractor to keep hens safe?

You have a few options for winterizing the coop. **The first option** is to keep the chicken tractor outside and make some adjustments to the materials used during the winter. The spot you set the tractor should be out of the wind with a good amount of sunlight throughout the day to keep it warm. First, add [mylar reflective insulation](#) to the interior of the white metal roof of the enclosed roosting area. Adhere it to the underside of the metal roosting area using [double-sided foil tape](#). If you install our optional diagonal roosting bars, you can close off the roosting area entirely from below and add a thick layer of straw or pine shavings within the roosting area. This will keep the hens warm while roosting at night.

FAQs

Second, to protect hens from the elements when they are active during the day, we suggest using clear polycarbonate plastic sheets cut to size then zip tie them to the fencing to create a sort of greenhouse out of the tractor for your hens. Think wherever there is fencing on the tractor, you are adding polycarbonate over those spots (except under the roosting area). You can also consider installing a [chicken heating pad](#) along the sides of the roosting area for a safe source of extra warmth.

The hens must be kept out of the wind and snow to prevent frostbite. We suggest zip ties because then you can clip them off and take the polycarbonate sheets down during the summer to go back to the open-air fencing. With this winterized tractor scenario, you would add a thick layer of chopped straw to the ground inside the tractor as a boredom buster, insulation, and to absorb manure.

The second option is to park the entire tractor in a garage or barn, add straw to the tractor floor, and turn a light on for them during the day. We've been told this is beneficial for the chicken owner too if the tractor is parked in the garage because they don't have to go outside to feed their hens on the coldest days. The downside is you may have to give up a spot for a car during the winter.

With both scenarios, you need to be sprinkling Sweet PDZ powder (organic) over their manure each day to keep ammonia smells down. Ammonia odor is the biggest issue with **any** coop scenario during the winter. Much more manure in one spot without proper sanitization means more stinkiness for your birds. With the garage scenario, you can roll the tractor out of the garage, sweep the used straw into a pile outside, then roll the tractor back in and add fresh straw. With the winterized tractor scenario, we recommend completely cleaning the straw out from under the roost. With both options, we recommend cleaning 2x per month and adding fresh straw.

To learn more about the DIY Coop Refresher mix we use you can [read my blog post here](#).

Q: Now that we installed the wheels there is a 3-4" gap along the bottom. Will my hens get out or will small animals dig or squeeze under?

A: In five years, we have never had a single predator dig under the tractor. During the day predators are mainly aerial - i.e. hawks. Hawks cannot get to the birds in the tractors thanks to the galvanized metal 2x4" fencing we use. As for night time predators (like raccoons, mink, opossum, coyotes, and weasels), we've found that moving the tractor every day keeps predators on their toes. They can't make heads or tails of the situation when the tractor is in a different spot every night. Plus, your hens are roosting

FAQs

up above the galvanized metal, either on the flat roost or even more safe - the diagonal roost. Closing the ramp every night is imperative to keeping your hens safe.

The 3-4" gap is what makes it possible for the tractor to be mobile across various terrain. Without the height, the bottom frame will get hung up as you are moving it.

You do have additional options to close the gap along the perimeter if it helps you sleep at night. Some customers have successfully retrofitted an additional strip of hardware cloth (1/4" or 1/2") and created a "skirt" around the perimeter to close the gap. This addition does begin to restrict the mobility of the tractor, however, our customers have not reported any major issues.

Another option is to forgo the front casters and let the front of the coop sit directly on the ground during the day. This makes moving the tractor more challenging as you have to lift the entire front of the tractor in order to move it.

Another option is to forgo wheels altogether! You can create wooden "skis" on each side and slide the tractor across the ground. This option is only feasible if you have very flat pasture with little terrain variability.

As for your hens slipping out, the tractor is meant for full grown hens. If you are putting pullets or chicks in the tractor you must keep the gap closed at all times. We recommend waiting to put the wheels on until your hens are full grown.

For additional FAQs that are continually updated please [visit this link](#).

Tips + Tricks



DUST BATHS

Be sure to provide a dust bath for your girls. When you move the tractor every day the hens don't get enough time to dig up the sod (which is a **good thing** for your pasture!). We use old plastic storage totes with heavy-duty lids and fill it with wood ash, [diatomaceous earth](#), and crushed limestone. Be sure to close the lid if rain is in the forecast!



MOBILITY

Feel free to push the tractor from behind or move it around via the front. We installed a rope for turning and pulling, but a rope is not necessary to move the tractor one space by hand every day. If moving the chicken tractor a great distance (say like to the back of your property), the rope can be used to hook it up to a garden tractor so you can pull it with a machine instead of pushing it by hand.



HOUSEKEEPING

To keep mites and lice away, we power wash the entire tractor in the spring and fall, scrub it with Castile soap and a scrub brush, then spray everything down with 2:1 water+vinegar solution with 25 drops [sweet orange essential oil](#) using a [2-gallon pump sprayer](#). We dust the nesting boxes 2x a month with diatomaceous earth.

Tips + Tricks



NESTING BOXES

We've found that the hens kick out the nesting box straw so often that it was becoming too much for our daily workflow to keep adding straw. We now line the bottom of the nesting boxes with cardboard for padding and then set [these nesting box pads](#) on top. These pads last us up to two months and are biodegradable.



THE DAILY ROUTINE

1. Every morning we move the tractor to a fresh patch of grass before we let the ramp down and let the chickens out.
2. We fill their waterers and give them feed.
3. The ramp gets let down and the chickens come out.
4. We gather eggs 2x throughout the day.
5. During the hot days of summer, I'll check water levels at midday and replace them.
6. At dusk once all the birds have gone up to roost, we close the ramp up.

SEASONALITY

Once the temps dip below 20 degrees at night, we move the hens to our barn for the winter (usually early November). Hens need protection from the elements in the wintertime, so unless you winterize the tractor, it is not suitable year-round for USDA zones 1 through 7.

We wish you many years of safe and happy hens! -Kelsey + Paul