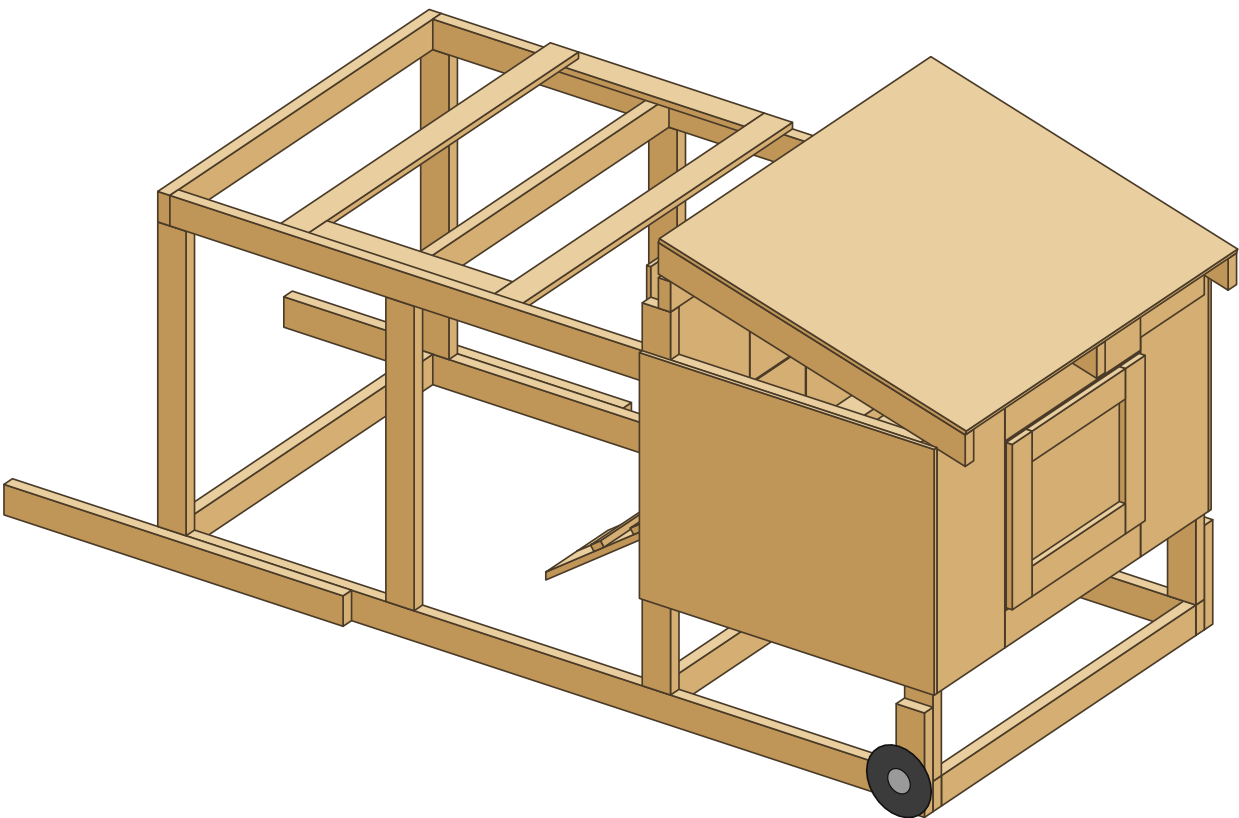


FREE PLAN

4' x 8' Chicken Tractor for 3 Hens

Step-by-step build plan with dimensioned drawings



Flock size	3 hens
Footprint	4'-0" x 8'-0" (32 sq ft of grass)
Overall	9'-10" long (with handles) x 4'-7" wide x 4'-4-1/2" high
Roost box	3'-0" long, floor 18" off the ground, 1 nest box, roost bar
Run	open bottom, 42" tall, hardware cloth sides and top, hatch on top
Moving	2 handles, 2 wheels (8"); lift and roll
Plan ID	CT-48x96

Not engineered. Check local codes. Build at your own risk. These plans show one way to build this project. They are not reviewed by a licensed professional. You are responsible for checking local rules, your materials and your own safety.

Free vs Premium

This free plan has everything you need to build the tractor. The Premium plan adds the shopping list and the cut planning for every board and sheet, so you buy the right materials the first time.

What you get	Free	Premium
Step-by-step instructions	15 steps	20 steps
Cut length for every board (in the steps)	✓	✓
Elevations and framing drawings with dimensions	✓	✓
3-D assembly figure for each build step	✓	✓
Exploded assembly view with part legend	—	✓
Full cut list table (part, qty, length, stock)	—	✓
Board-by-board cutting diagram for 8/10/12 ft stock	—	✓
Plywood and siding sheet layouts (4x8)	—	✓
Shopping list: boards, sheets, wheels, hardware cloth	—	✓
Fastener and hardware counts by size	—	✓
Moving routine, bedding setup and predator check	—	✓

Get the Premium plan — \$19.99

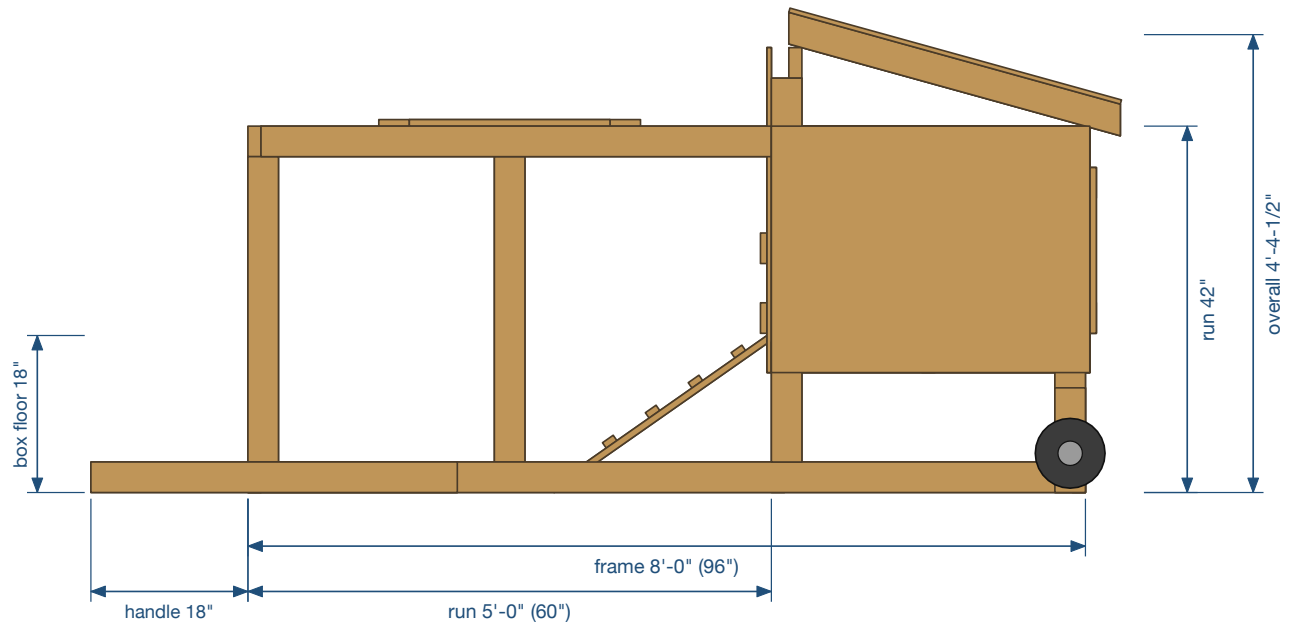
One-time purchase. Instant PDF download.

Need a different size?

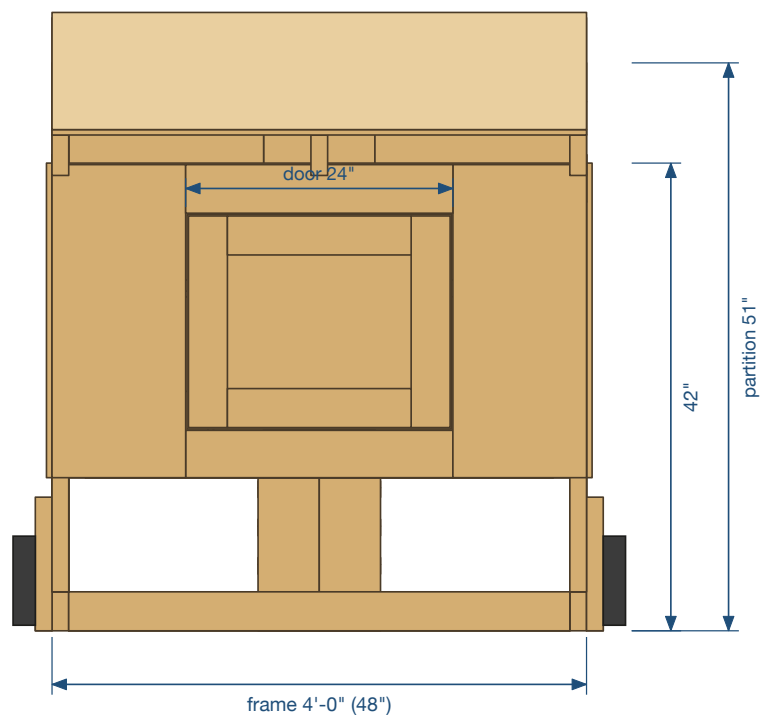
We generate this plan for other flock sizes too, with the cut list and shopping list recalculated for the new size.

Drawings · elevations

NEAR SIDE ELEVATION (hardware cloth not drawn)



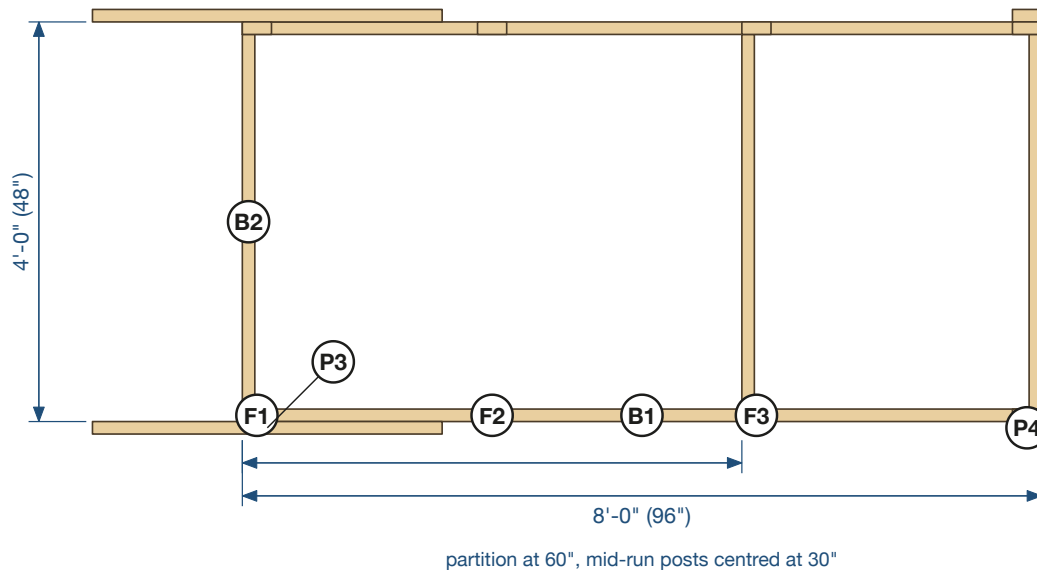
WHEEL END ELEVATION (clean-out door)



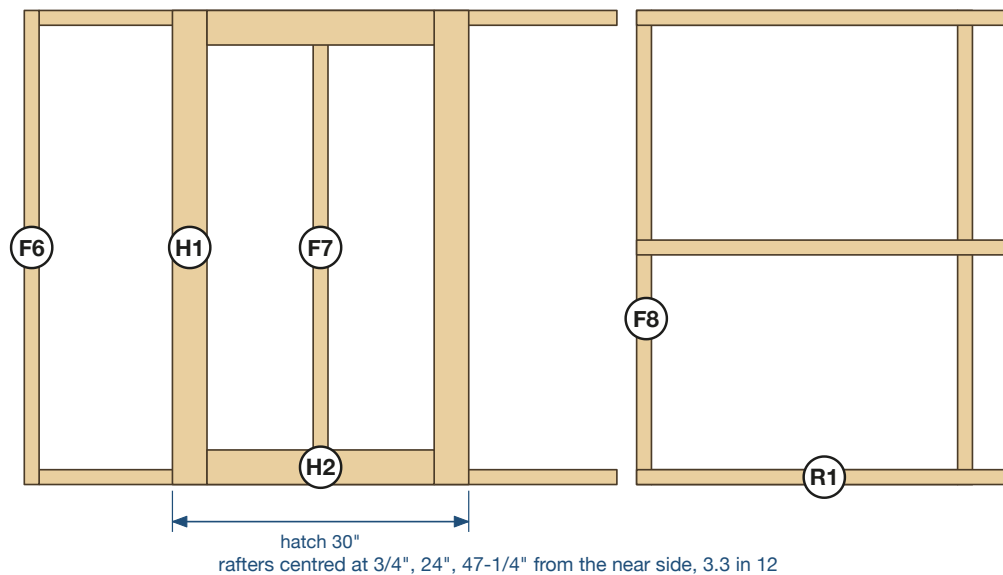
Drawings are not to scale. Build from the written dimensions.

Drawings · base and top framing

BASE PLAN (from above: rails, posts, handles, wheel blocks)

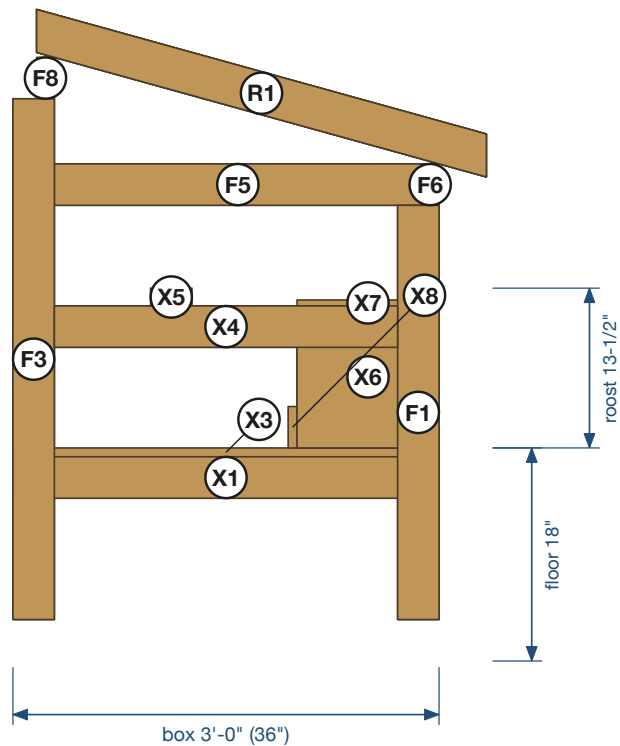


TOP FRAMING PLAN (roof deck and hardware cloth removed)



Drawings · roost box framing

ROOST BOX FRAMING (near side, siding off)



floor joists centred at 60-3/4", 78", 95-1/4" from the handle end

Seen from the near side with the siding off. The roof slopes down to the wheel end.

Part key

Every part has a code. The first letter is the assembly: B base, F frame, X roost box inside, R roof, S siding, D doors, H run hatch, P ramp, handles and wheel blocks.

Part	Name	Stock
B1	Base side rail	2x4
B2	Base cross rail	2x4
F1	Corner post	2x4
F2	Mid-run post	2x4
F3	Partition post	2x4
F4	Run top rail	2x4
F5	Box top rail	2x4
F6	End top rail	2x4
F7	Run top spreader	2x4
F8	Partition top rail	2x4
X1	Floor cleat	2x4
X2	Floor joist	2x4
X3	Box floor	3/4" plywood
X4	Roost girt	2x4
X5	Roost bar	2x4
X6	Nest box divider	1/2" plywood
X7	Nest box top	1/2" plywood
X8	Nest box lip	1x4
R1	Rafter	2x4
R2	Roof deck panel	1/2" plywood

Part	Name	Stock
S1	Near side panel	1/2" exterior siding panel
S2	Far side panel	1/2" exterior siding panel
S3	End panel, beside opening	1/2" exterior siding panel
S4	End panel, below opening	1/2" exterior siding panel
S5	End panel, above opening	1/2" exterior siding panel
D1	Clean-out door	1/2" exterior siding panel
S6	Partition panel, beside opening	1/2" exterior siding panel
S7	Partition panel, below opening	1/2" exterior siding panel
S8	Partition panel, above opening	1/2" exterior siding panel
D2	Pop door	1/2" exterior siding panel
D3	Clean-out door stile	1x4
D4	Clean-out door rail	1x4
D5	Pop door batten	1x4
H1	Hatch stile	1x4
H2	Hatch rail	1x4
P1	Ramp board	1x6
P2	Ramp cleat	1x2
P3	Handle	2x4
P4	Wheel block	2x4

Build steps

1 Cut the framing

Cut every board to length before assembly and label each piece with its part code.

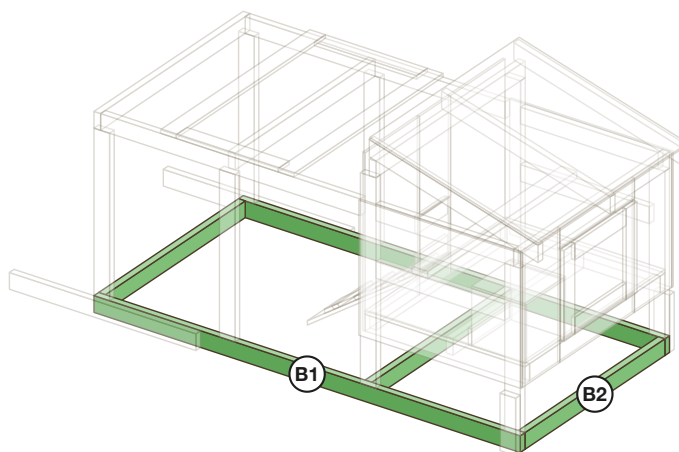
- 2 x base side rail (B1) — 2x4, cut to 96" — a full 8'-0" board
- 3 x base cross rail (B2) — 2x4, cut to 45"
- 4 x corner post (F1) — 2x4, cut to 35"
- 2 x mid-run post (F2) — 2x4, cut to 35"
- 2 x partition post (F3) — 2x4, cut to 44"
- 2 x run top rail (F4) — 2x4, cut to 58-1/2"
- 2 x box top rail (F5) — 2x4, cut to 31"
- 2 x end top rail (F6) — 2x4, cut to 48"
- 1 x run top spreader (F7) — 2x4, cut to 45"
- 1 x partition top rail (F8) — 2x4, cut to 48"
- 2 x floor cleat (X1) — 2x4, cut to 36"
- 3 x floor joist (X2) — 2x4, cut to 42"
- 2 x roost girt (X4) — 2x4, cut to 29"
- 1 x roost bar (X5) — 2x4, cut to 48" (wide face up)
- 1 x nest box lip (X8) — 1x4, cut to 13"
- 3 x rafter (R1) — 2x4, cut to 40-3/8" (plumb cut both ends)
- 2 x clean-out door stile (D3) — 1x4, cut to 19"
- 2 x clean-out door rail (D4) — 1x4, cut to 16-1/2"
- 2 x pop door batten (D5) — 1x4, cut to 9-1/2"
- 2 x hatch stile (H1) — 1x4, cut to 48"
- 2 x hatch rail (H2) — 1x4, cut to 23"
- 2 x ramp board (P1) — 1x6, cut to 30-5/16" (cut both ends at 35 deg)
- 4 x ramp cleat (P2) — 1x2, cut to 11"
- 2 x handle (P3) — 2x4, cut to 42" (round over the end)
- 2 x wheel block (P4) — 2x4, cut to 12"

Square both ends of every board with a speed square before measuring.

Build steps (continued)

2 Build the base

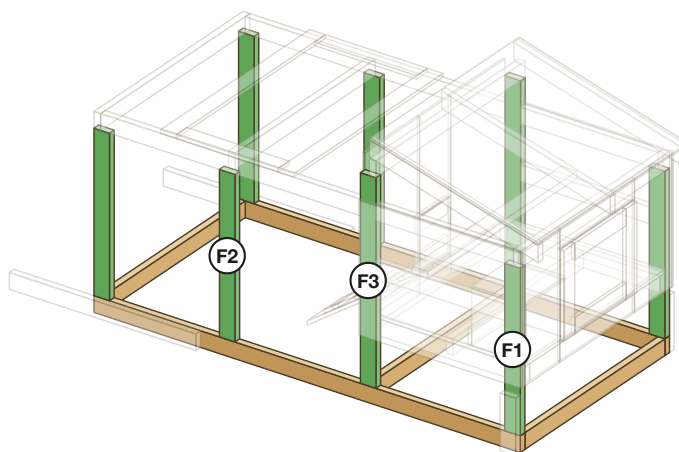
- Lay the two base side rails (B1) on edge, 48" apart outside to outside.
- Fit the cross rails (B2) between them: one flush with each end and one with its run-side face 60" from the handle end. That one sits under the roost-box partition.
- Drive 2 #9 x 3" screws through the side rails into each cross rail end. Check that both diagonals read 8'-11-5/16", then leave the frame on a flat spot.



Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later.

3 Stand the posts

- Stand the corner posts (F1) on the side rails at the four corners, with the wide face along the rail.
- Stand a mid-run post (F2) on each side rail centred 30" from the handle end, and the taller partition posts (F3) with their run-side face 60" from the handle end.
- Screw each post down into the rail with 2 #9 x 3" screws, toe-screwed from both sides. Brace each post plumb with a scrap until the top rails are on.

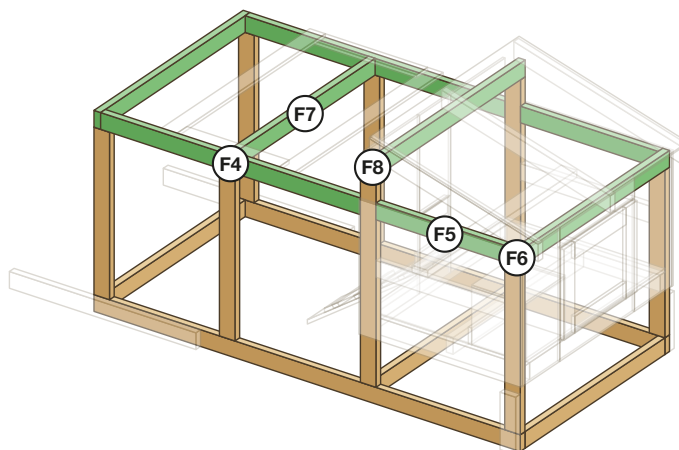


Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later.

Build steps (continued)

4 Fit the top rails

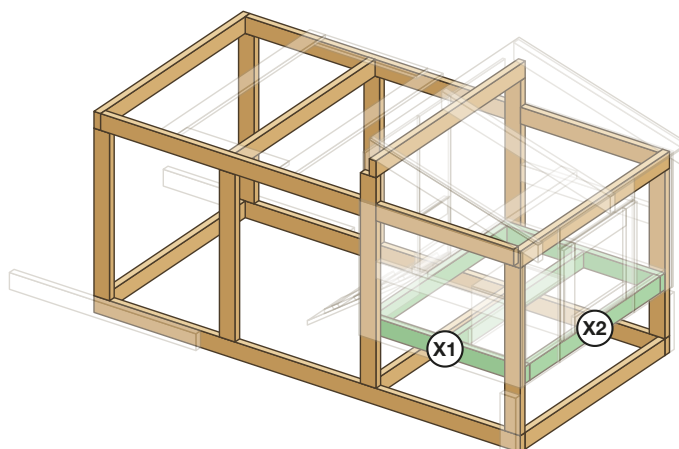
- Screw the end top rails (F6) on edge across the tops of the corner posts, flush with the outside.
- Fit the run top rails (F4) along both sides between the end rail and the partition posts, and the box top rails (F5) between the partition posts and the wheel-end rail.
- Fit the spreader (F7) between the run top rails over the mid-run posts. Set the partition top rail (F8) on edge across the tops of the partition posts, flush with their box-side face.
- Check the frame is square from above and the posts are plumb, then screw every joint with 2 screws.



Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later.

5 Frame the roost-box floor

- Screw a floor cleat (X1) on edge to the inside faces of the partition and corner posts on each side, its top 17-1/4" above the ground.
- Hang the floor joists (X2) between the cleats, flush with their tops, centred at 60-3/4", 78", 95-1/4" from the handle end.
- Screw through the cleats into each joist end with 2 #9 x 3" screws.

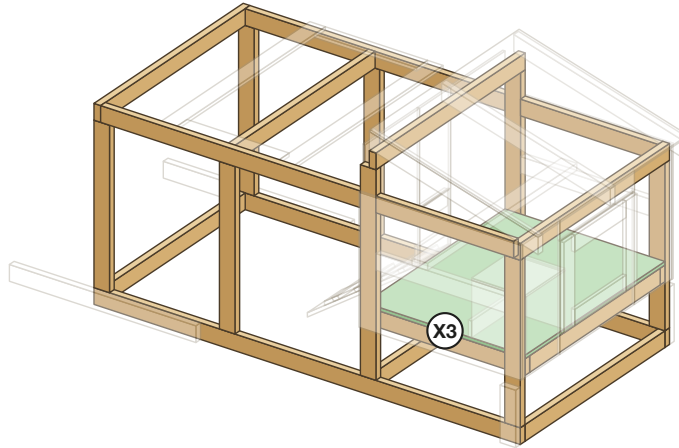


Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later.

Build steps (continued)

6 Lay the box floor

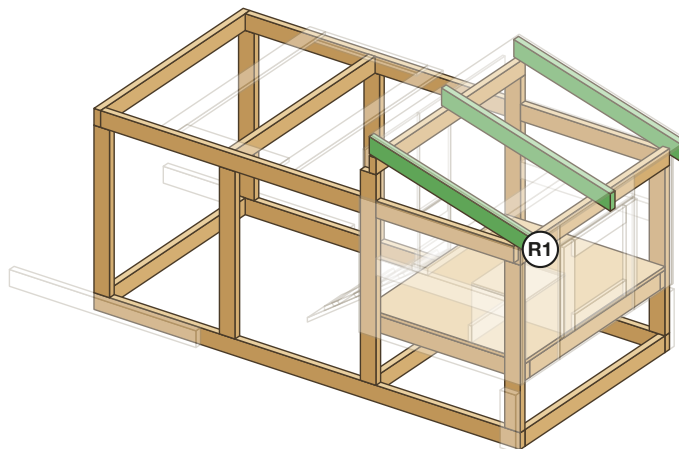
- Screw the 3/4" plywood floor (X3) to the cleats and joists every 8". Its top is 18" off the ground: the hens get shade underneath.



Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later.

7 Set the rafters

- Cut the rafters (R1) with a plumb cut at 15.5 degrees on both ends, 40-3/8" long at the long point.
- Set them across the box from the partition top rail down to the wheel-end rail, one flush with each side and the rest centred at 24" from the near side. They overhang the wheel end by 4".
- Fix each rafter to both rails with a rafter tie and 2 toe-screws.

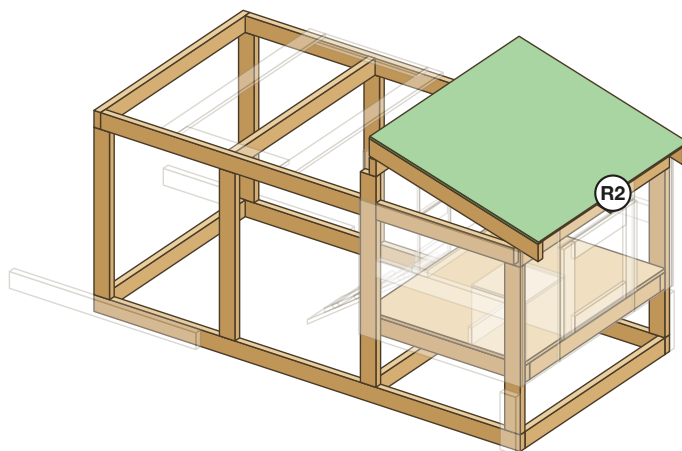


Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later.

Build steps (continued)

8 Deck and roof the box

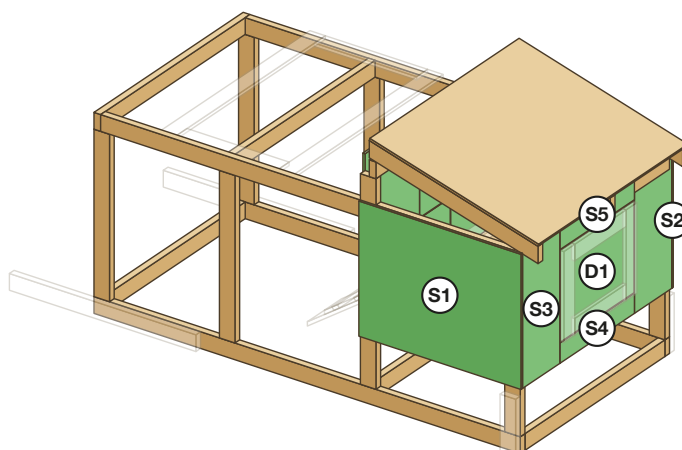
- Screw the 1/2" plywood roof deck (R2) to the rafters, flush with the partition end and both sides.
- Cover it with roll roofing or a corrugated metal panel. The roof is 3.3 in 12; metal is lighter, which matters when you move the tractor every day.



Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later.

9 Side the roost box

- Cut the side panels, the end panel and the partition panel to size.
- On the end panel mark the clean-out door (24" x 19-1/2"), and on the partition panel the pop door (10" x 12"), and cut them out with a jigsaw. Keep the cut-out pieces: they become the doors.
- Fix the side and end panels to the posts, cleats and top rails, and the partition panel to the run side of the partition posts. Nail or screw every 6" along the edges.
- The triangles above the side panels under the roof are the vents. Staple 1/2" hardware cloth over them.

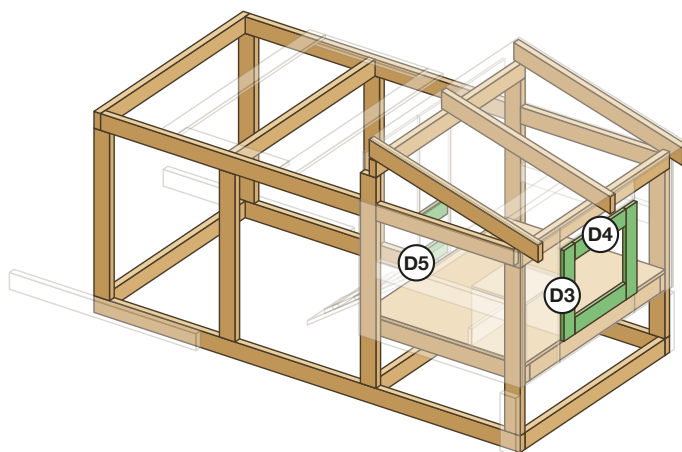


Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later.

Build steps (continued)

10 Build and hang the doors

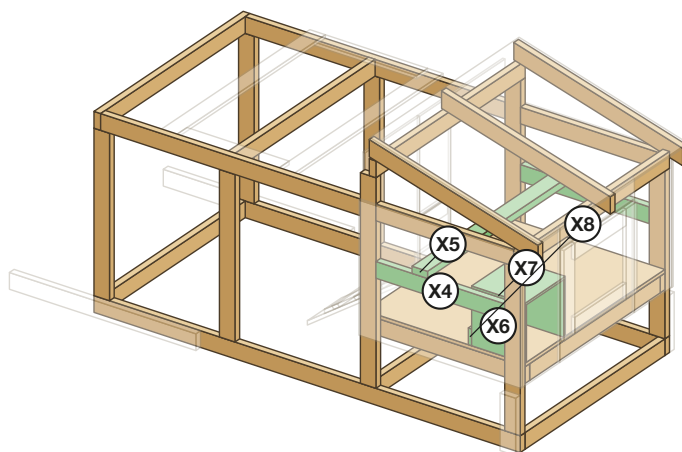
- Trim 1/8" off every edge of each door piece so it swings clear.
- Screw the 1x4 battens (D3, D4, D5) to the outside face of the clean-out door and the run-side face of the pop door, 1/4" in from the edges.
- Hang each door on 2 hinges. Fit a barrel bolt and a hasp with a snap hook to the clean-out door and a barrel bolt to the pop door.



Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later or drawn see-through.

11 Nest box and roost

- Screw the nest box dividers (X6) to the floor against the end wall, 12-1/2" apart, then the top and the front lip. That makes 1 nest box, 12" each way, reached through the clean-out door.
- Fit a roost girt (X4) between the posts on each side, its top 12" above the floor.
- Lay the roost bar (X5) wide face up across both girts, centred 73-3/8" from the handle end, and screw each end down.

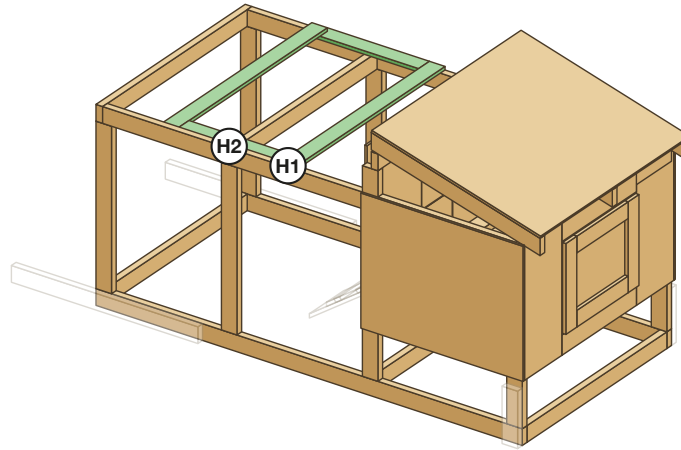


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Build steps (continued)

12 Build the run hatch

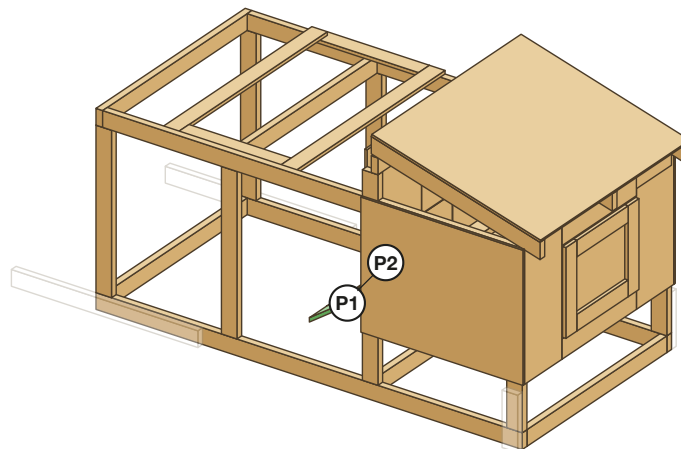
- Screw the hatch rails (H2) between the hatch stiles (H1) flat, to make a 30" x 48" frame.
- Staple hardware cloth over it, lay it on the run top rails centred on the spreader, and hinge it to the far top rail. Fit a hasp with a snap hook on the near side.



Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later.

13 Build the ramp

- Cut both ramp boards (P1) at 35 degrees on each end, 29-13/16" long. Lay them side by side.
- Screw a cleat (P2) across both boards every 6", starting 3" from the top.
- Hook the top of the ramp under the pop door inside the run. Its foot lands about 24-3/8" from the partition.

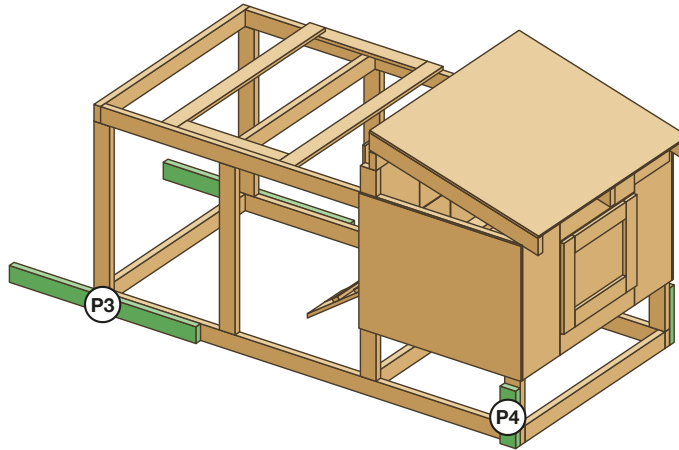


Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later.

Build steps (continued)

14 Handles and wheels

- Bolt a handle (P3) to the outside of each base side rail at the handle end with 2 carriage bolts, sticking out 18". Round over the ends.
- Bolt a wheel block (P4) to the outside of each side rail at the wheel end, flush with the end, with 2 carriage bolts.
- Drill a 1/2" hole through each block 4-1/2" up from the bottom and 1-3/4" in from the end. Bolt a 8" wheel on the outside with washers each side and a lock nut. The wheels clear the ground by about 1/2" until you lift the handles.



Green: parts added in this step. Faint outline: parts added later.

15 Cover the run

- Staple 1/2" hardware cloth over both sides of the run, the handle end and the run top, every 3" into every rail and post. Overlap joints by 2".
- Bend 6" of cloth outward along the bottom of the base rails as a skirt if diggers are a worry where you park it.

Free vs Premium

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What you get	Free	Premium
Step-by-step instructions	15 steps	20 steps
Cut length for every board (in the steps)	✓	✓
Elevations and framing drawings with dimensions	✓	✓
3-D assembly figure for each build step	✓	✓
Exploded assembly view with part legend	—	✓
Full cut list table (part, qty, length, stock)	—	✓
Board-by-board cutting diagram for 8/10/12 ft stock	—	✓
Plywood and siding sheet layouts (4x8)	—	✓
Shopping list: boards, sheets, wheels, hardware cloth	—	✓
Fastener and hardware counts by size	—	✓
Moving routine, bedding setup and predator check	—	✓

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Need a different size?

We generate this plan for other flock sizes too, with the cut list and shopping list recalculated for the new size.

About this plan

Not engineered. Check local codes. Build at your own risk.

All dimensions, the cut list and the shopping list in this plan are calculated from the size you chose. They were not test-built at this exact size. Measure your actual lumber before cutting, because dressed sizes vary between mills and stores.

Lumber and plywood sheets can be heavy. Lift with help, wear eye protection when cutting, and follow your tool manufacturer's instructions.

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