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Assembly Instructions

Backyard Chicken Coop[™]

Model 2

FOR BOTH STANDARD AND XL MODEL



These written instructions, as provided with your purchase, will always be the latest iteration of the instructions and match the coop shipped and provide the most complete up-to-date information.

We depend on feedback about our instructions to implement changes to future versions. Please know that we value your input to that ongoing process and endeavor to produce instructions that are as effective as possible for a wide variety of customers.



You Tube
Assembly
Overview...

Use your phones camera to read QR Code.
Video overview of assembly.



Standard Model Shown With Optional Smoked Roof, Waterer & Feeder

V1.0

Winter
2023

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Written Parts List

Run

- A1 Left Side
- A2 Right Side (door)
- A3 Right Transom (thin)
- A4 Front (waterer panel)
- A5 Back
- A6 Right Run Floor
- A7 **XL** Sunroom Front
- A8 **XL** Sunroom Back
- A9 **XL** Sunroom Tops (2)

"B" Parts - Roost & Eggbox

- B1 Roost Front
- B2 Roost Mid Wall (egg hole)
- B3 Egg Box Floor
- B5 Roost Left (Door)
- B6 Roost Right
- B7 Roost Bars (2)
- B8 Roost Back
- B9 Roost Arcs (3 same)

Roof

- C1 Roof Panels (3x 58")
- C2 Eaves (2x)
- C3 Support Battens (3)

"D" Parts - Accessories (if purchased)

- D1 Waterer | Cap | 3 Nipples
- D2 Waterer Bracket & Screws
- D3 Feeder & Cap
- D4 Sunroom Shade (Assembly)
- D5 Dust Bathing Box (Assembly)
- D6 Egg Box Liners (2)
- D8 9 Standard Storm Panel Kit (35 Clips) xtras
- D9 12 **XL** Storm Panel Kit (50 Clips) xtras
- D10 Garden Boards Set & Liner
- D11 Feeder Bezel
- D12 Stakes (6x)

"F" Parts - Assembly Kit

- F1 3" Screws (Standard/**#90 XL/#100**)
- F2 1-5/8 Screws (**#30**)
- F3 Hasp Sets w/screws (4X)
- F4 Roof Screws (**#30x1"**) and (**#30 1½"**)
- F5 Gravity Gate Latch w/screws (1x)
- F6 T25 Bit (1x)
- F7 Phillips Bit (1x)
- F8 Bit Holder (1x)
- F9 T-20 Bit (1x)
- F10 Spring Snaps (5x)

Phillips Screw

Extra Screws Are Provided

3" T25 Screw

Color of screws may vary.

Tools you'll need...



A level (or use your cell phone)



Drill... preferably
a cordless drill
with 2 charged
batteries.



Hammer



Phillips Bit



T25 Torx Bit

Bit Holder



 = Colored Arrows
Indicate Type And
Direction Of Screws



Spending the time up front to identify all the parts and lay them all out will pay off in the long run and make assembly go more smoothly. The instructions are intended to be read in page order as, the information builds in that way, then referenced during assembly. Pre-reading the instructions will help immensely.



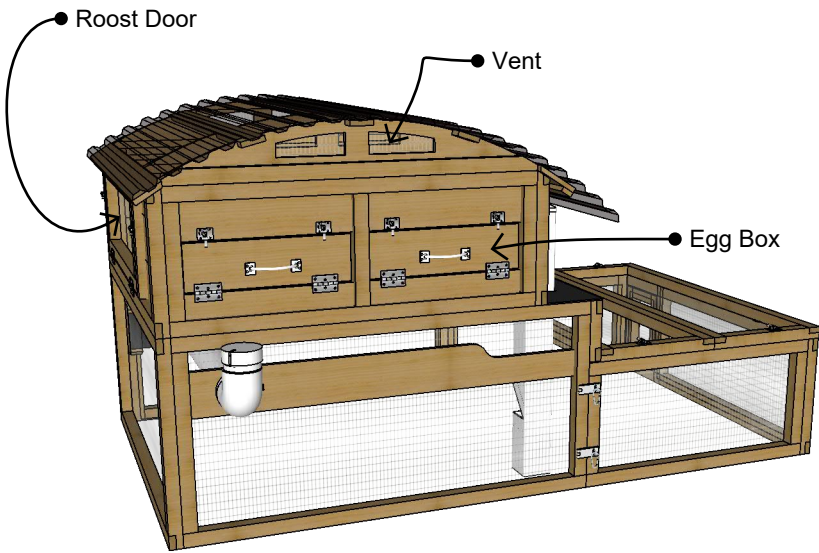
Be careful not to get caught in coop. Children should not play in coop as the doors are not designed to allow easy exit.

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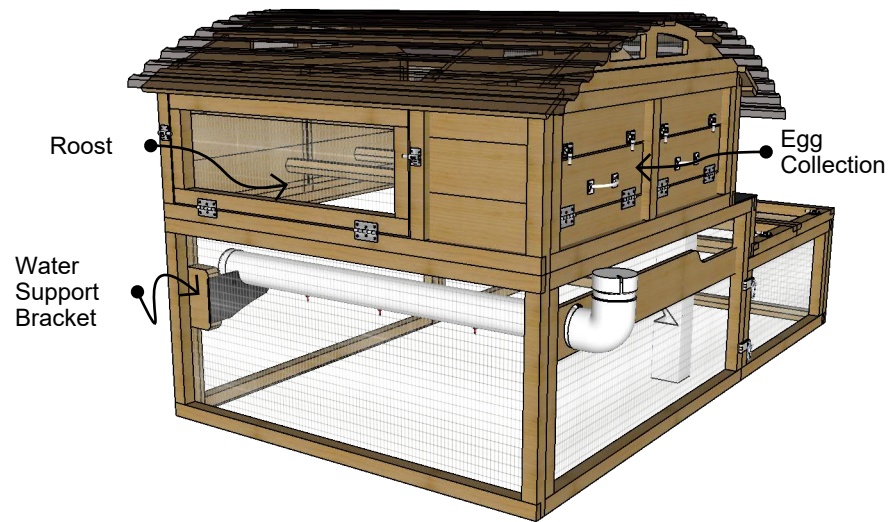
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Parts List

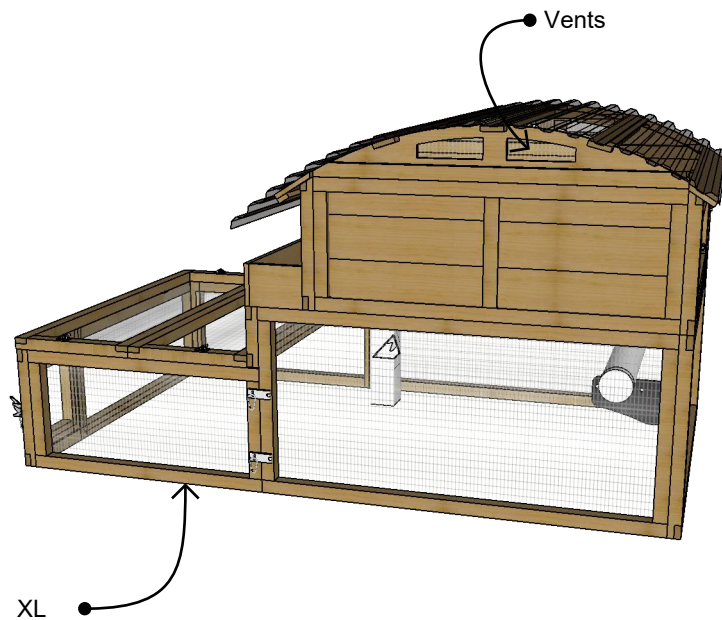
Front



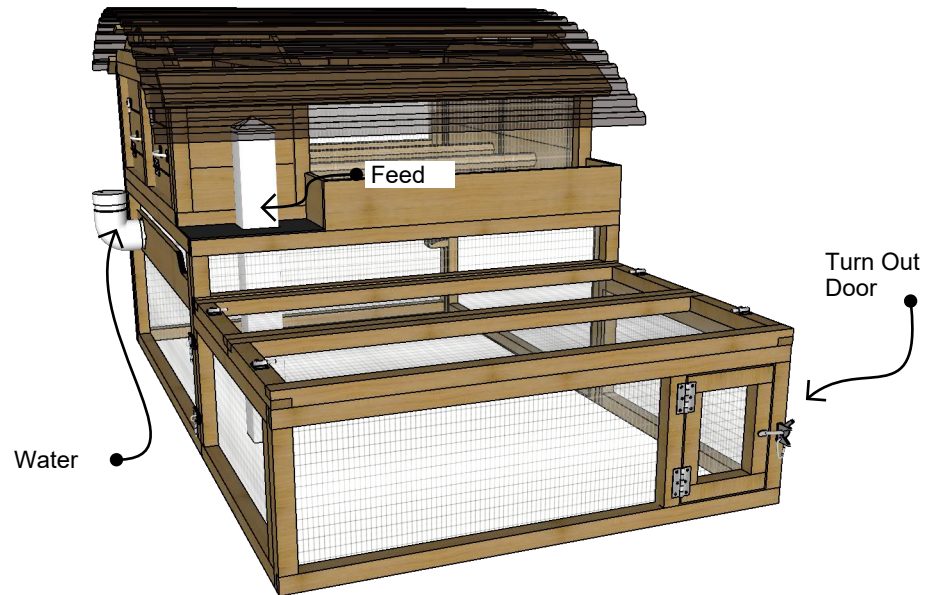
Left



Back (We recommend having the back side of your coop facing North)



Right



XL Model Shown With Optional Waterer, Feeder and Roof.

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Orientation





Sorry... a little reading ;-)

Understanding these concepts / conventions will help guide you through the instructions.

- 1 Mating edges of parts to be flush and tight (when called for) will keep measurements in tolerance as the coop grows in size.
- 2 **CRITICAL:** Having a flat area is required for the coop to assemble properly and operate properly.
- 3 We estimate about 2 hours for someone of ordinary skill to assemble. Two people will certainly make some steps easier.
- 4 You will need a drill (preferably cordless) maybe a tape measure and a hammer. Everything else is provided.
- 5 Drive screws only deep enough to hold parts tight and not bury the heads too deeply as water can sit in the divots and it may cause softening of the wood and prematurely loosen screws. It will also greatly decrease your ability to easily disassemble a part if needed.
- 6 You may end up directly driving in a screw. The provided screws are very aggressive and can drive with no pre-drilled hole. Keep screw entry points in the meat of the wood and not too close to edges. Screws in knots or close to edges should for sure be pre-drilled.
- 7 Rough Cedar may have knots, cracks or frays that are normal. We cull and cut around most imperfections we deem structurally problematic during fabrication. If you get a piece that you feel is not beautiful, please let us know so we can address your concern.
- 8 We hand fabricated your coop with human carpenters. We work really hard to not make mistakes. On the rare occasion that we either misfabricated a part, a part was damaged in shipping, or we forgot to package a needed part, contact us and we will ship out a replacement part for you at no cost.
- 9 We recommend dirt floors in the runs of coops. A trimmed rubber mat can be placed in the bottom of egg boxes and you may wish to put pine shavings or shredded junk mail in them. They are left wire so they can be cleaned in the event of a broken egg.

Sealing & Care:

We recommend you leaving your coop natural. You can stain your coop but should only use a "breathable" low VOC water based stain. You can have color added to these products too...like painting, but it's a wood stain that lets the wood breathe. Cedar will last outdoors in its natural state for many years, better than almost any other wood. Sealing can keep the wood from going grey. That's the main benefit. Clean wood with mild detergent and water or with a commercially available coop cleaner as needed. Glues used in all joints are completely waterproof and all metal parts are galvanized or have exterior rated coatings.

Placement:

Easy access to water/feed and clear access to doors is needed. Sunlight is not all bad, and the roof does provide shade. Sunlight does a good job at disinfecting the ground under the coop. Fifty percent (50%) or more of direct sun is preferred. Good air movement around your coop is more important than anything else. The proper side should face North if at all possible. Remember... High ground is dry ground. **For coop doors to open easily over time, the coop must be level.**

Digging Predators:

Diggers are the prime nuisance to chickens. By far dogs are the most common digger. Other "wild" animals, while more rare, certainly can dig too. If you're worried about diggers, stack heavy block shaped rocks around perimeter of coop to make getting under more difficult. Better yet, bury them around the perimeter just below grade. You can also attach a strip of wire that extends out from the bottom rails, and bury below the surface of the soil. We recommend dirt in bottom of coops that has good drainage. Pine shavings, straw or shredded junk mail can be used in laying areas... but is not recommended in the main run areas.

More About Cedar:

Your coop is built from rough cut domestic cedar. Our 2x2's are actually custom milled. Wood deemed defective is culled during milling, cutting and in fabrication... about 5%-10% does not "make the cut". Knots, blemishes, fraying, coloring variations, minor surface cracking, slight warping and periodic worm marks are normal parts of natural wood products. We try to make it to where a reversible part always has a "pretty side" and take care to make the "pretty side" show on all parts. If you're unhappy with a piece of wood we fabricated into your coop, send us a picture. We want you to love every piece of your new coop.



Staking for Wind:

If you expect your coop to be in winds greater than 35mph (tropical storm force wind) then you will want to stake your coop to the ground in a way that is appropriate for your soil and locale. You can always contact us for guidance related to your particular situation.

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Concepts

See note about "squaring". Corner-to-Corner should be +/- 76 inches...

***Wire goes to inside of coop...**



An extra person while not required, would be helpful for these steps.



= Direction Of Screws

3" T25 Screw



Color of screws may vary.

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Step 1A - Run

:-) Here we go !

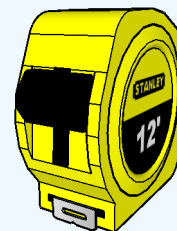
The first step is to attach the left and right sides to the front and back panels to form the "run". The run is where your chickens will live during daylight hours. Your local dirt makes the best surface and will allow chicken poop to decompose more readily and lets your birds get a "dust bath" when they need. It's also easy on their feet.

1A1 Left Front Corner: Using the provided T25 Torx Bit in provided Bit Holder and your drill, drive 3" T25 Screws from panel **A4** into panel **A1** through pre-drilled holes. Panel **A1** overlaps panel **A4** as illustrated. Wire side goes to the inside. Make edges and tops flush. *(The top of the A1 panel will have pre-drilled holes from the underside going up.)*

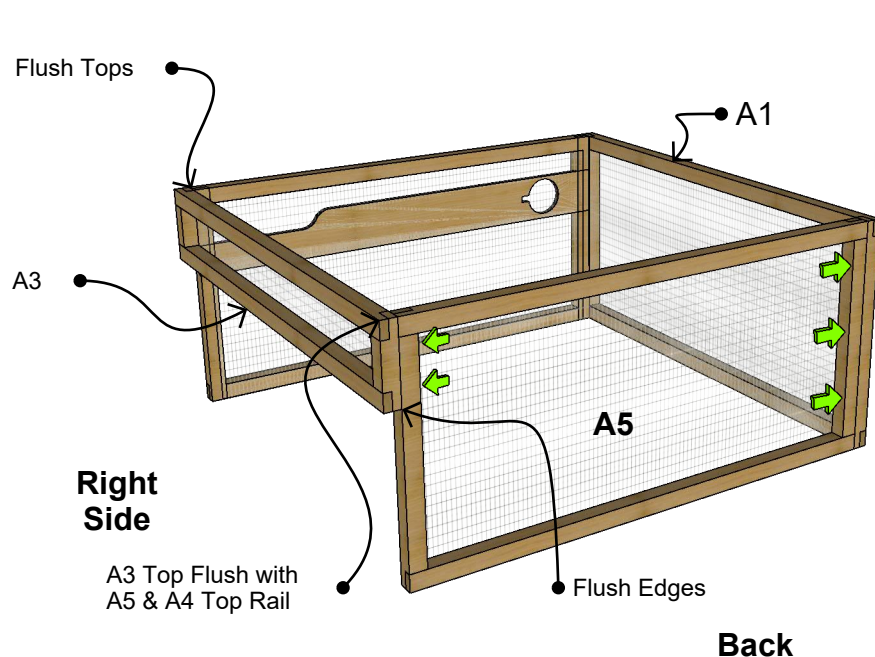
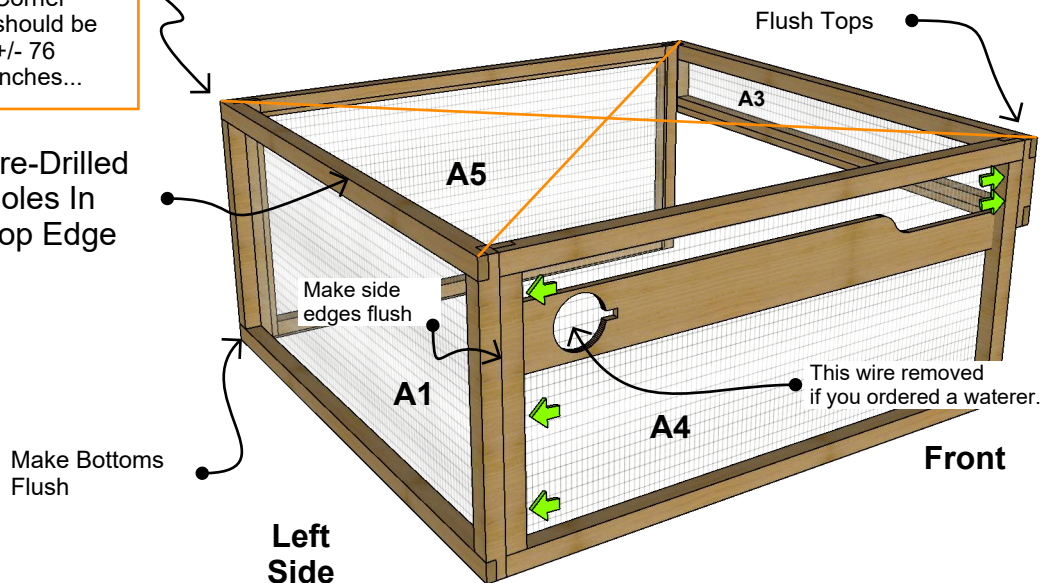
1A2 Left Back Corner: Drive 3" T25 Screws from panel **A5** into panel **A1** through pre-drilled holes. Panel **A1** overlaps panel **A5** as illustrated. Wire side goes to the inside. Make edges flush and top of **A1** flush with the **A5** mid-rail as illustrated by the dashed red line.

1A3 Right Side: Drive 3" T25 screws (2 of them) from inside of **A4** and **A5** panels into the **A3** right side transom panel. Top of **A3** is flush with tops of **A4** and **A5** and attaches onto the outside as illustrated.

Only drive screws deep enough for them to hold. The hole from driving them too deep holds water and causes premature loosening.



While certainly not mandatory, best practice would be to "square" the run by measuring corner to corner as illustrated by the orange lines in the top figure and "rack" (move) the run from corner to corner until the two measurements were the same.



Back

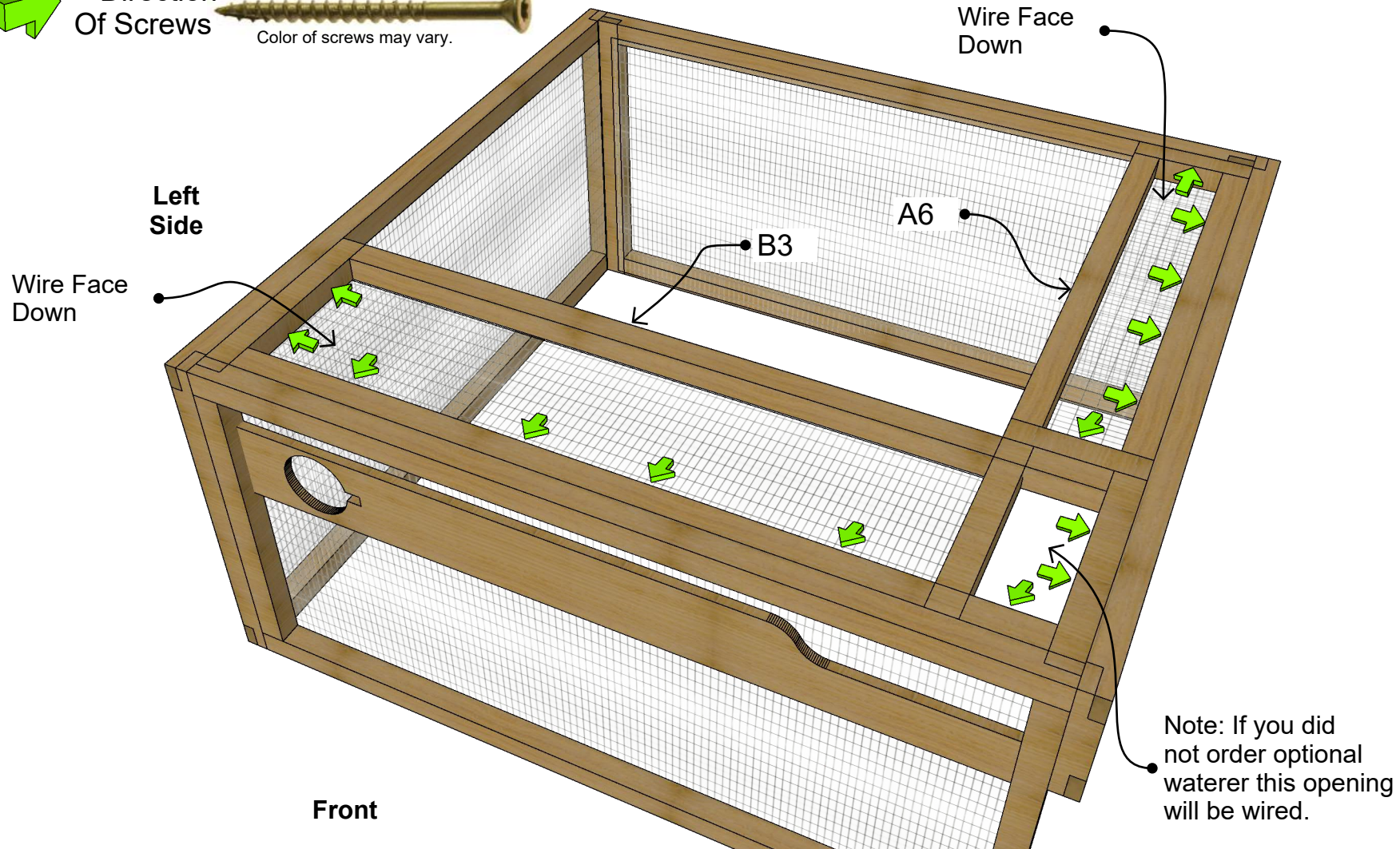


= Direction
Of Screws

3" T25 Screw



Color of screws may vary.



:-) About done with the run !

Next you will install the eggbox floor and planter floor into the run. This will "lock the run into being square.

1B1 Egg Box Floor: Place panel **B3** into place as illustrated. If needed, temporarily loosen screws installed in prior steps to allow for insertion. Tighten all screws together keeping edges flush. Wire side faces down.

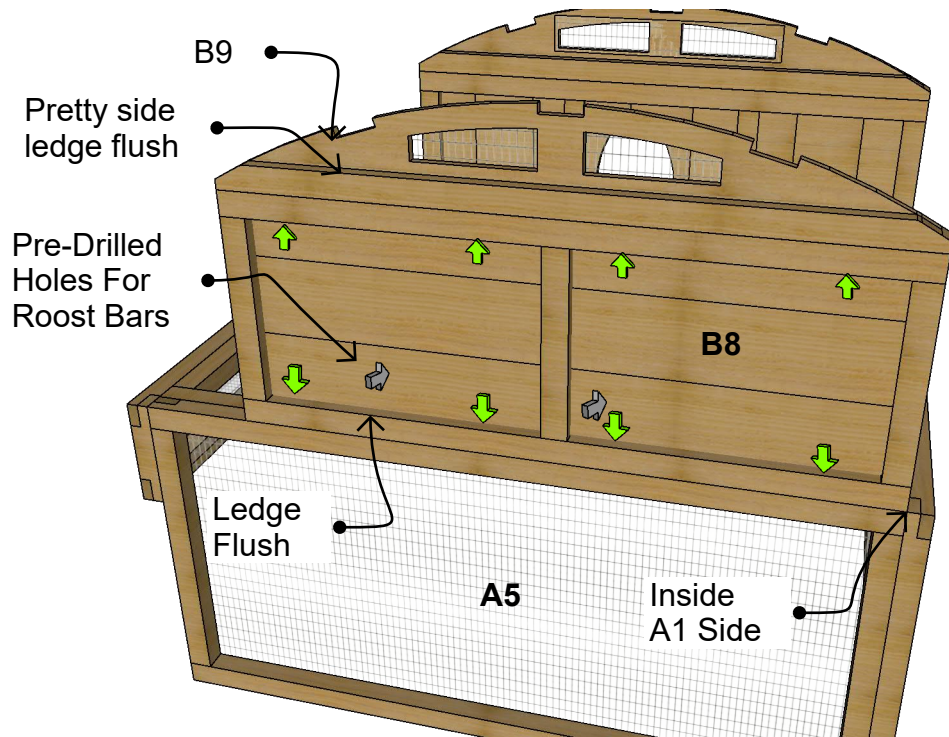
1B2 Planter Floor: Place panel **A6** into place as illustrated. If needed, temporarily loosen screws installed in prior steps to allow for insertion. Tighten all screws together keeping edges flush. Wire side faces down.

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Step 1B - Run

Fig 2A1



Grey Arrow = 1-5/8 T-20 Torx Screw (roost bars)



:-) On to the roost...

In this step you'll start to build out the roost. The roost is where the chickens sleep (roost) at night. It's higher where they feel safer, and has more protection from wind and rain. They will jump up to the roost bars and perch (roost) there while they sleep. We cut roost bars into an octagonal shape to match how chicken feet wrap around the bar.

FIG 2A1 Roost Back Wall: Drive 3" T25 Screws up from panel A5 into bottom rail of B8 making sure back edge is flush and left edge is positioned as indicated... not over A1. Next screw up from panel B8 into arc B9 as illustrated keeping edges flush. Pretty side faces out to the back.

FIG 2A2 Inner Wall: Drive 3" T25 Screws down from the bottom rail of panel B2 into egg box floor edge installed in prior steps. Make sure edges are flush the B2 panel does not overlap the A1 left side panel. See illustration. Driving screws up through the top rail of B2 into the bottom rail of B9, install B9 as illustrated making sure edges are flush.

Roost Bars: The 2 B7 Roost Bars are held in place between the B8 Back Wall and B2 Inner Wall using provided T-20 1-5/8 screws... one on each end of each roost bar. Position the center of the roost bar over the center of the pre-drilled hole to properly position bars. See figures 2A1 and 2A3 for screw positions and Fig 2A2 to see where the bars go...

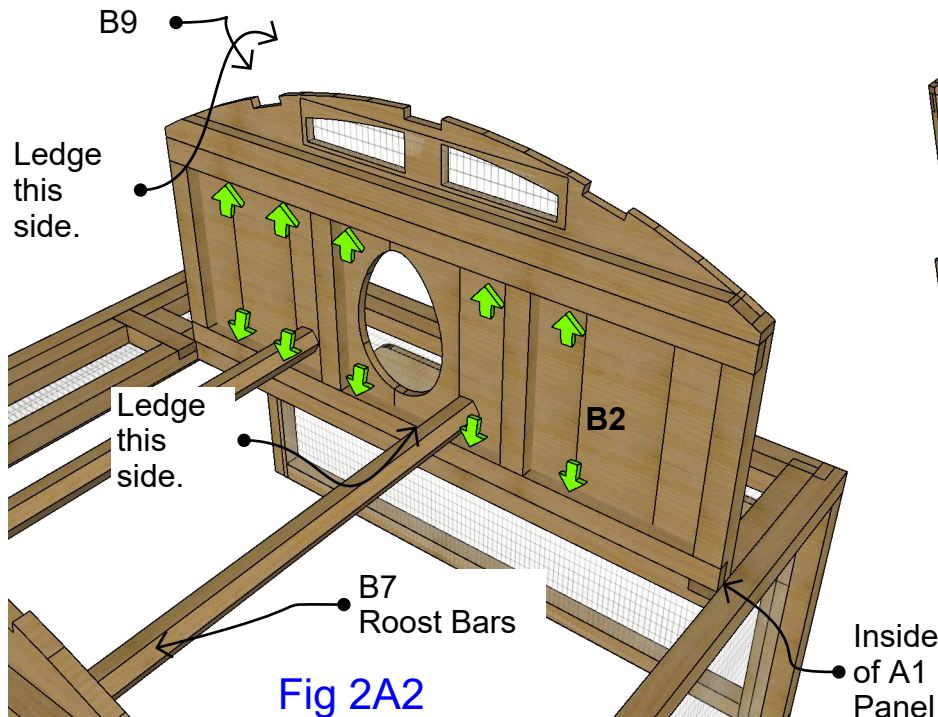


Fig 2A2

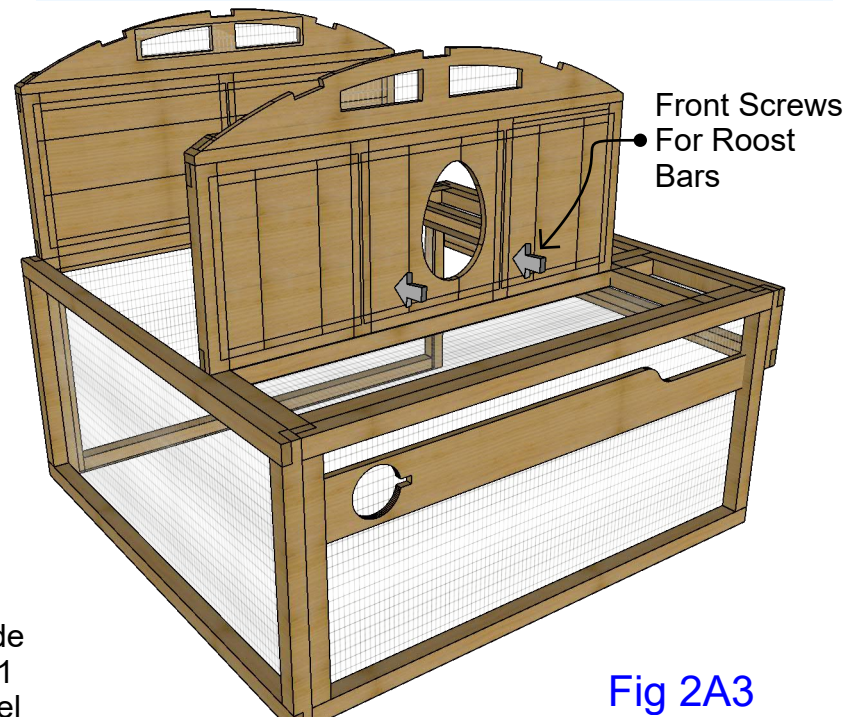


Fig 2A3

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Step 2A - Roost &
Roost Bars

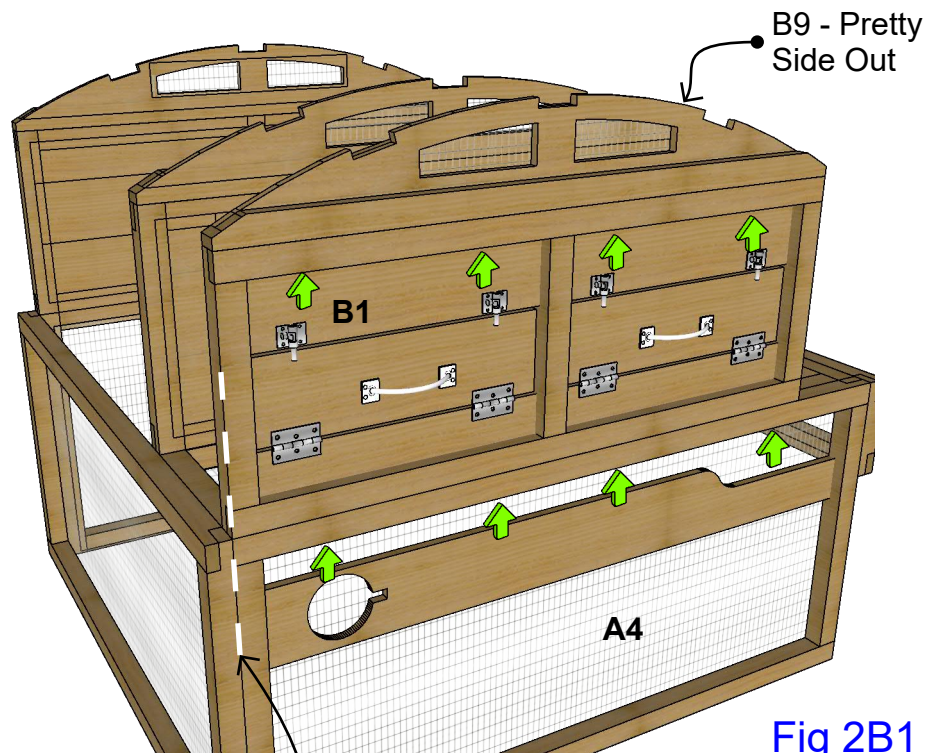


Fig 2B1

• B1 flush with this edge of A4

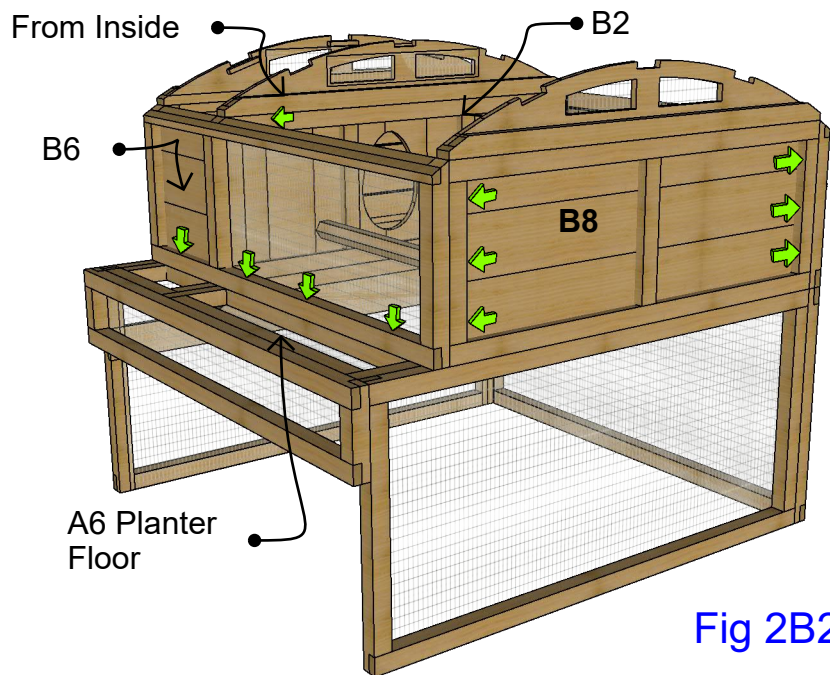


Fig 2B2

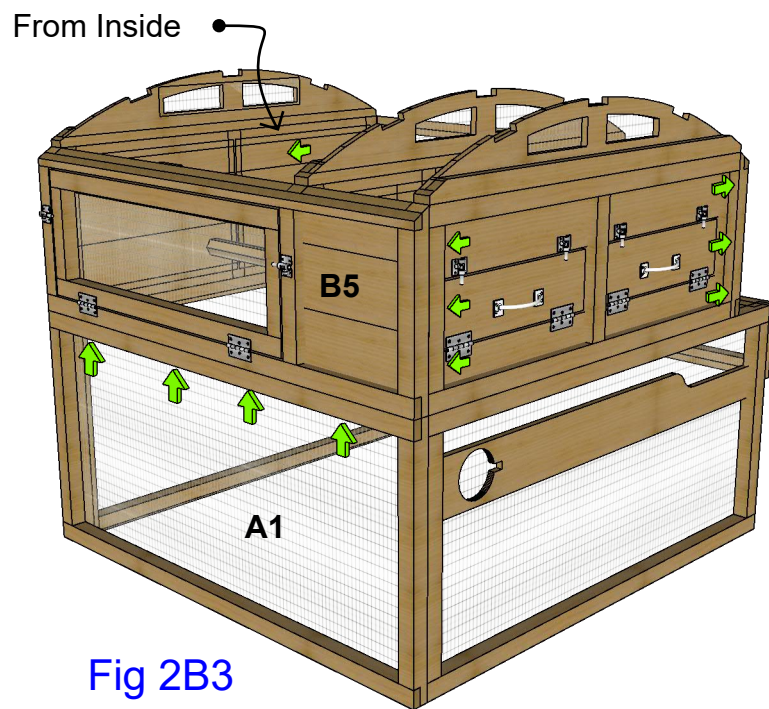


Fig 2B3

:-) Starting to look like something...

FIG 2B1 Egg Box Front: Drive 3" T25 Screws up from panel **A4** into bottom rail of **B1** making sure front edge is flush and left edge is positioned as indicated. Next screw up from panel **B1** into arc **B9** as illustrated keeping edges flush.

FIG 2B2 & 2B3: Install the left side **B5** Roost Wall (has access door) by driving 3" T25 Screws up from panel **A1** into bottom rail of **B5** making sure front edge is flush and ends are flush too.

Finish attaching the sides of the **B5** Panel to the **B1** Front and the **B8** Back by driving three screws through the sides of **B8** and **B1** into the sides of **B5**. See figures **2B2** and **2B3** for guidance.

Drive 3" T25 screws down through the bottom rail of **B6** Right Side into edge of **A6** planter floor and the eggbox floor as shown in Fig **2B2**.

Finish the install by installing the three screws from **B8** and **B1** into **B6** sides as indicated in illustrations **2B2** and **2B3**.

Finally, reaching over, drive screws from sides of **B2** Inner Wall into mid uprights of **B5** and **B6** on both sides to lock the inner wall into place.

Keep all edges flush as required.

Grey Arrow = 1-5/8 T-20 Torx Screw (roost bars)

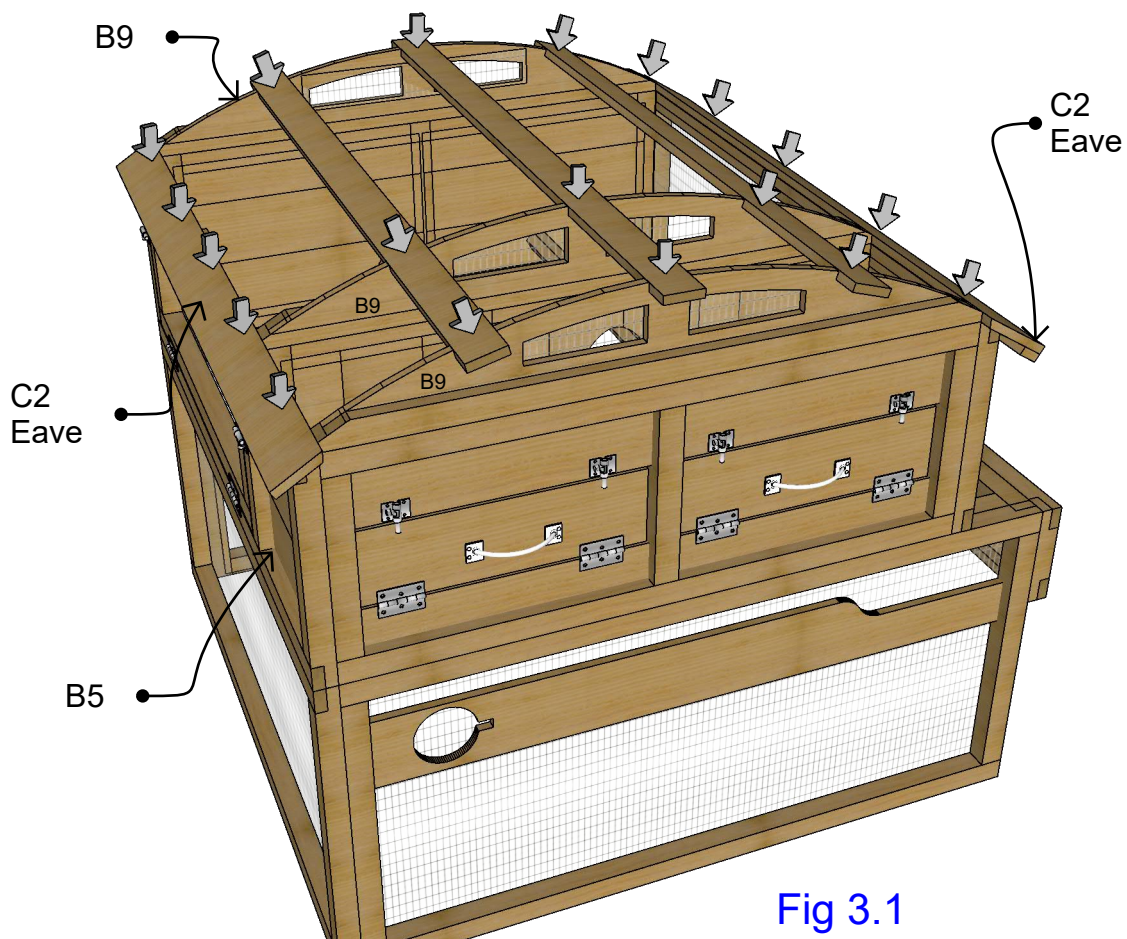


Fig 3.1

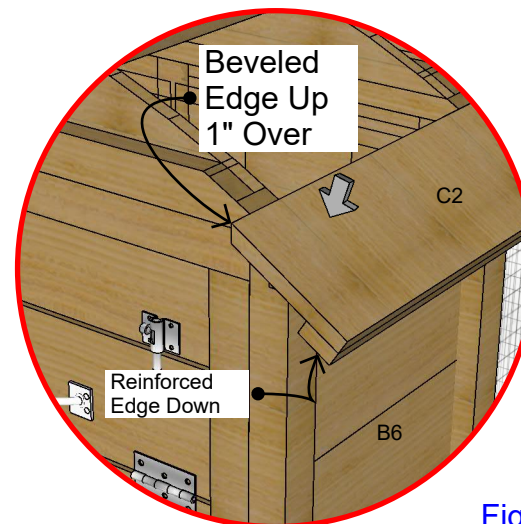


Fig 3.2

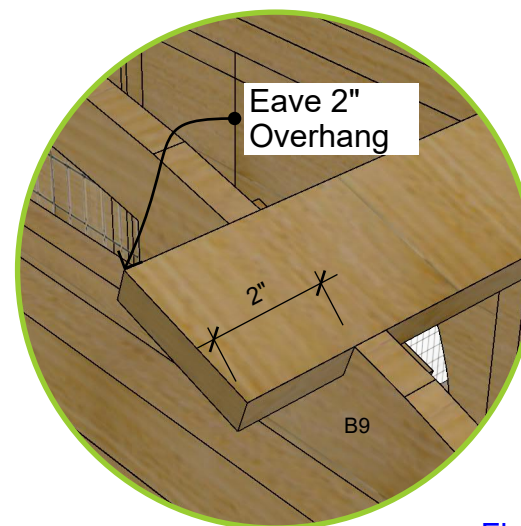
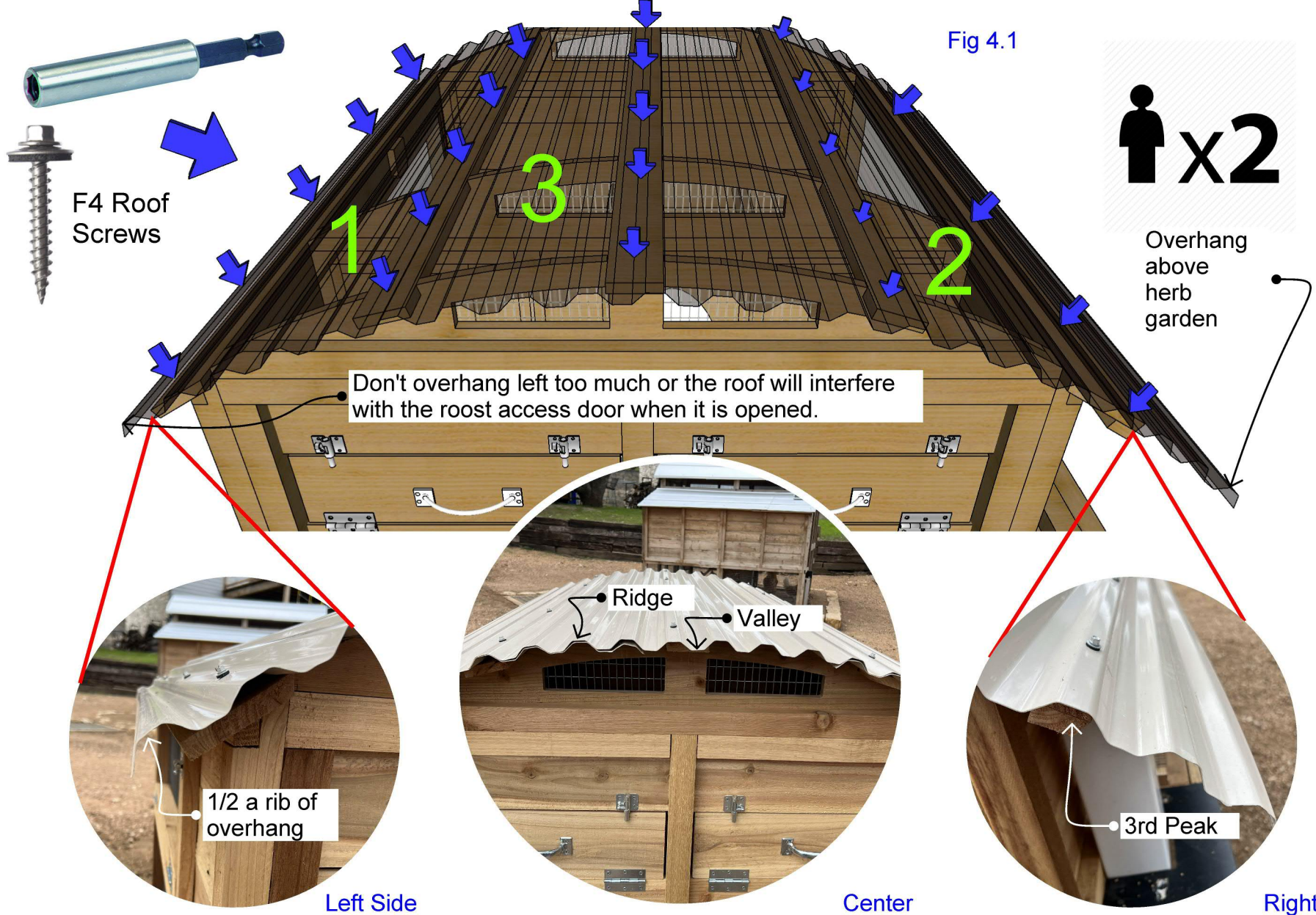


Fig 3.3

;-) No ladder required...

C2 Left & Right Eaves: Identify the C2 eave boards... they are identical. Using the 1-5/8 T-20 screws attach the eave boards to the left and right sides of coop using 5 screws in each eave. Use figures 3.1 and 3.2 as guides. The eave should overhang about an inch on each end. Drive screws down straight into B5 and B6 side tops.

C3 Roof Support Battens: Identify the (3) C3 roof support battens. Use 3 T-20 screws each at the positions illustrated to attach to the tops of the B9 arcs. They will overhang about two inches.



Standard Ultravinyl or Optional Polycarbonate "Smoked" Roof

Make sure your coop is square and level as believe it or not :-) the roof locks it all in place. The roof will also not lay flat and straight if coop is not level and square. We provide both long (best for ridge positions) and short screws (best for valley positions). See below.

All three panels are the same. Panels 1 & 2 go on first and slide into place up or down to leave overhang as illustrated on left and right sides. Panel 3 is a "cap" over the top of the outer two. Panels are screwed into place as indicated by the blue arrows with F4 Roof Screws... 5 screws per line. Screws on outer eaves screw into portion of eave that is double thick. Screws that screw into battens just need solid grip. Screws can go either into a valley or on a ridge but should only be tightened enough to slightly compress the rubber washer and not so much as to overly deform the roof. Have a second person help you position and slide roof until it overlaps well and then start screwing into place piercing the roof (layers) with screws. Center panel 3 "pins down" outer panels.

The procedure for the standard Ultravinyl or the upgraded Smoked Polycarbonate roof is the same.

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Step 4 - Roof

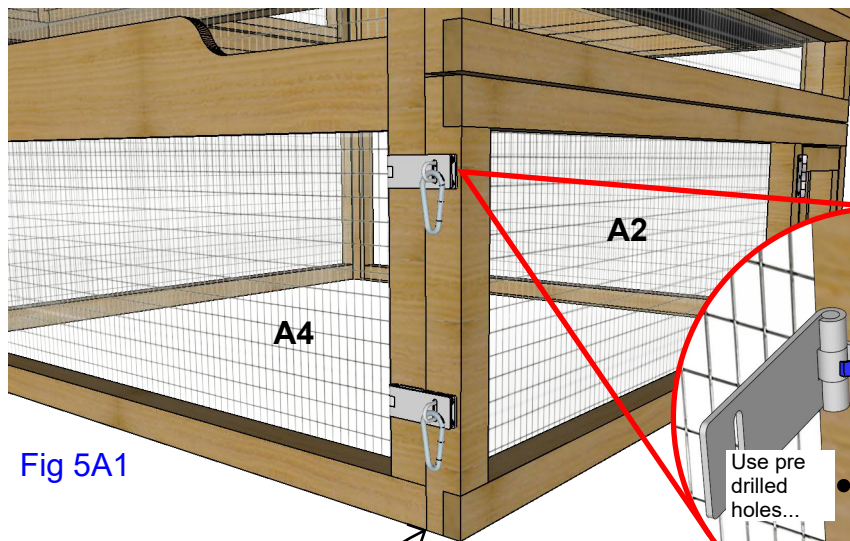


Fig 5A1

Flush Bottoms

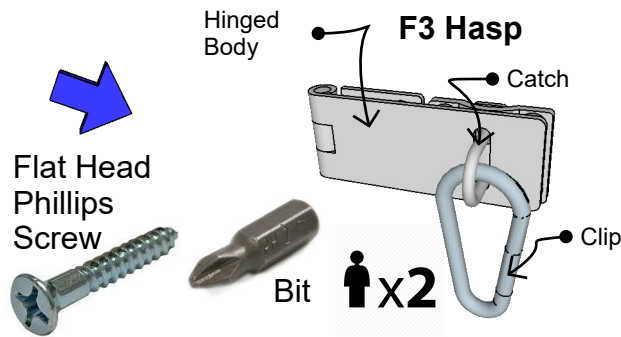


Fig 5A5

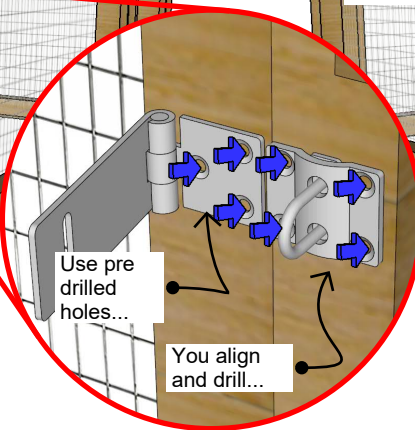


Fig 5A2

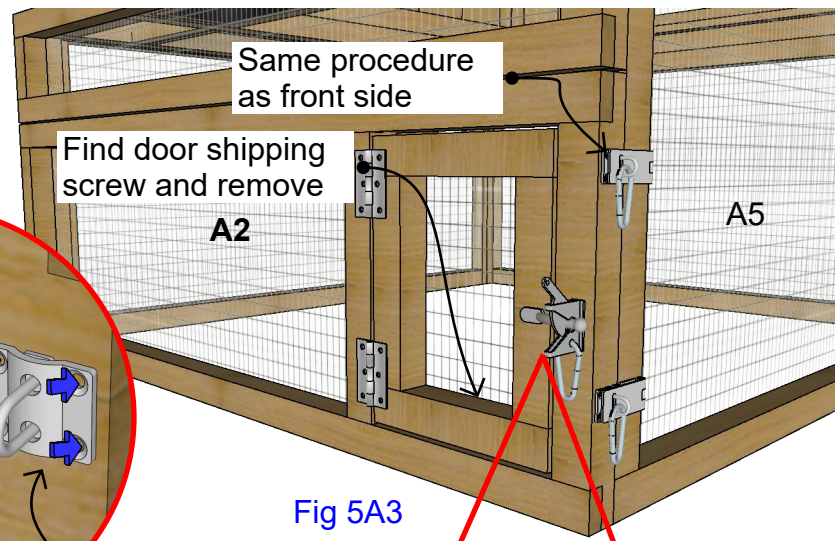


Fig 5A3

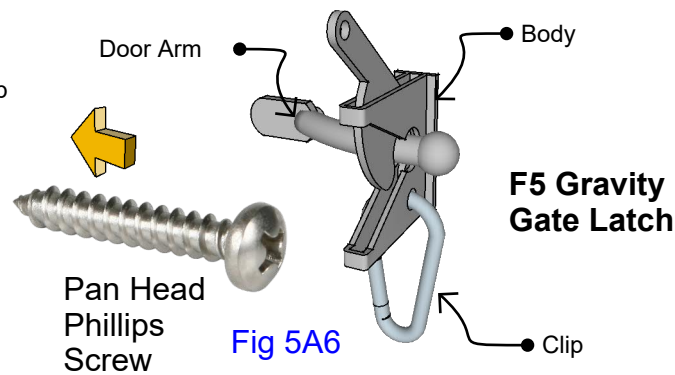


Fig 5A6

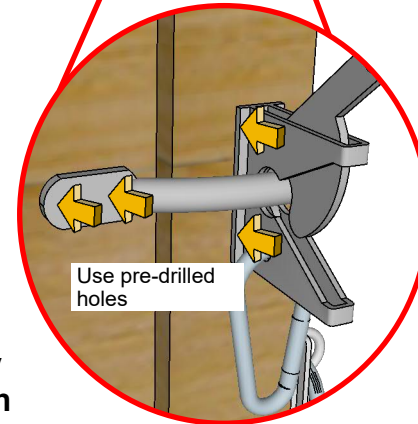


Fig 5A4

:-) Like, you're pretty much done!

The right side of the run is completely removable by 4 locking hasps for easy periodic rake out. It also has a locking integrated turn-out door to let your hens out for daytime foraging.

F3 Hasps: Identify the 4 F3 Hasps and screws as illustrated in Fig 5A5. Using predrilled holes in edges of panels A4 front and A5 back install the hinged body side of hasp. With the A2 panel flush at the bottom, position and install the F3 Catch on edge of A2 so that the hinged body can fold over the catch and a clip can be installed. Repeat for all 4 positions.

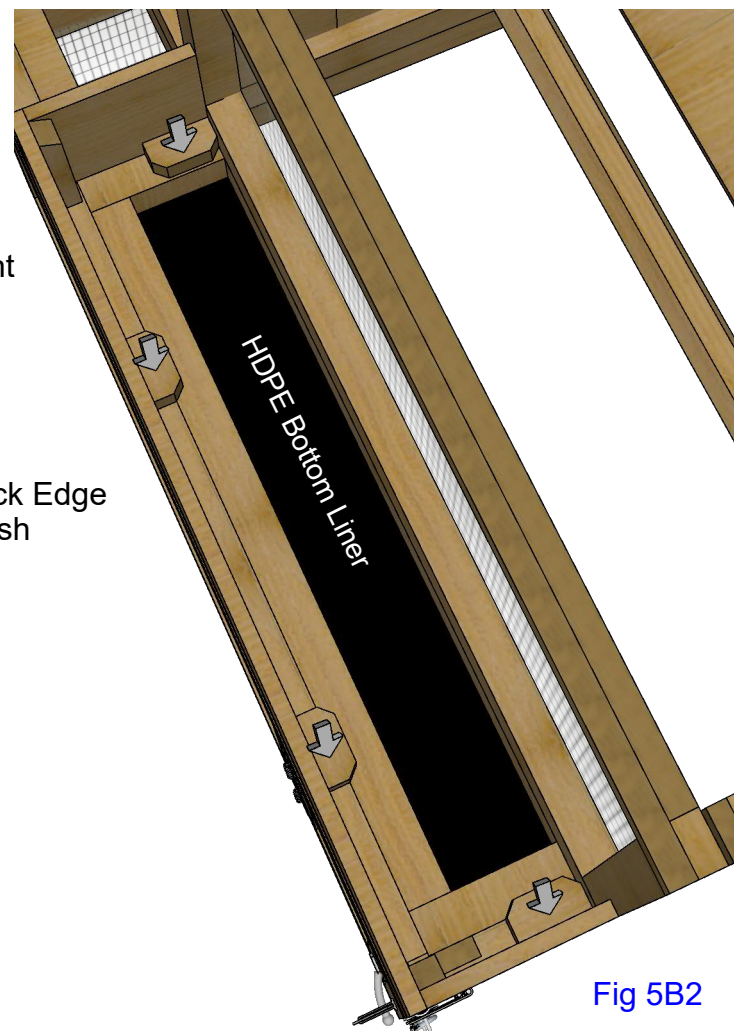
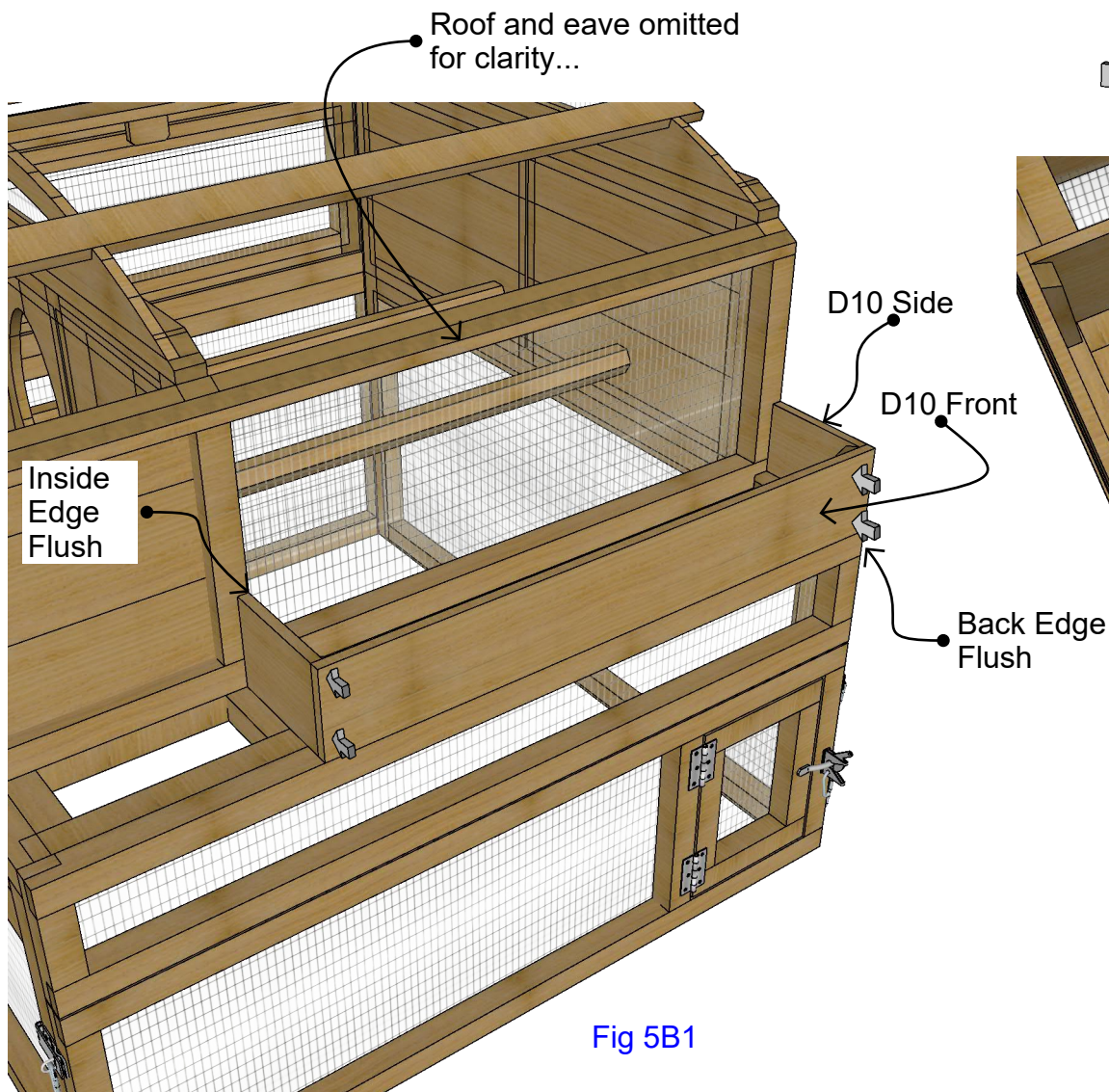
F5 Gravity Gate Latch: Identify the F5 Gravity Gate Latch and screws as illustrated in Fig 5A6. Using predrilled holes in both edge of door frame and side of A2 panel, install latch using illustrated screws. Install clip when done to assure door stays locked. Remove shipping screw from door frame of A2.

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Step 5A - Right Run
Side (turn-out door)

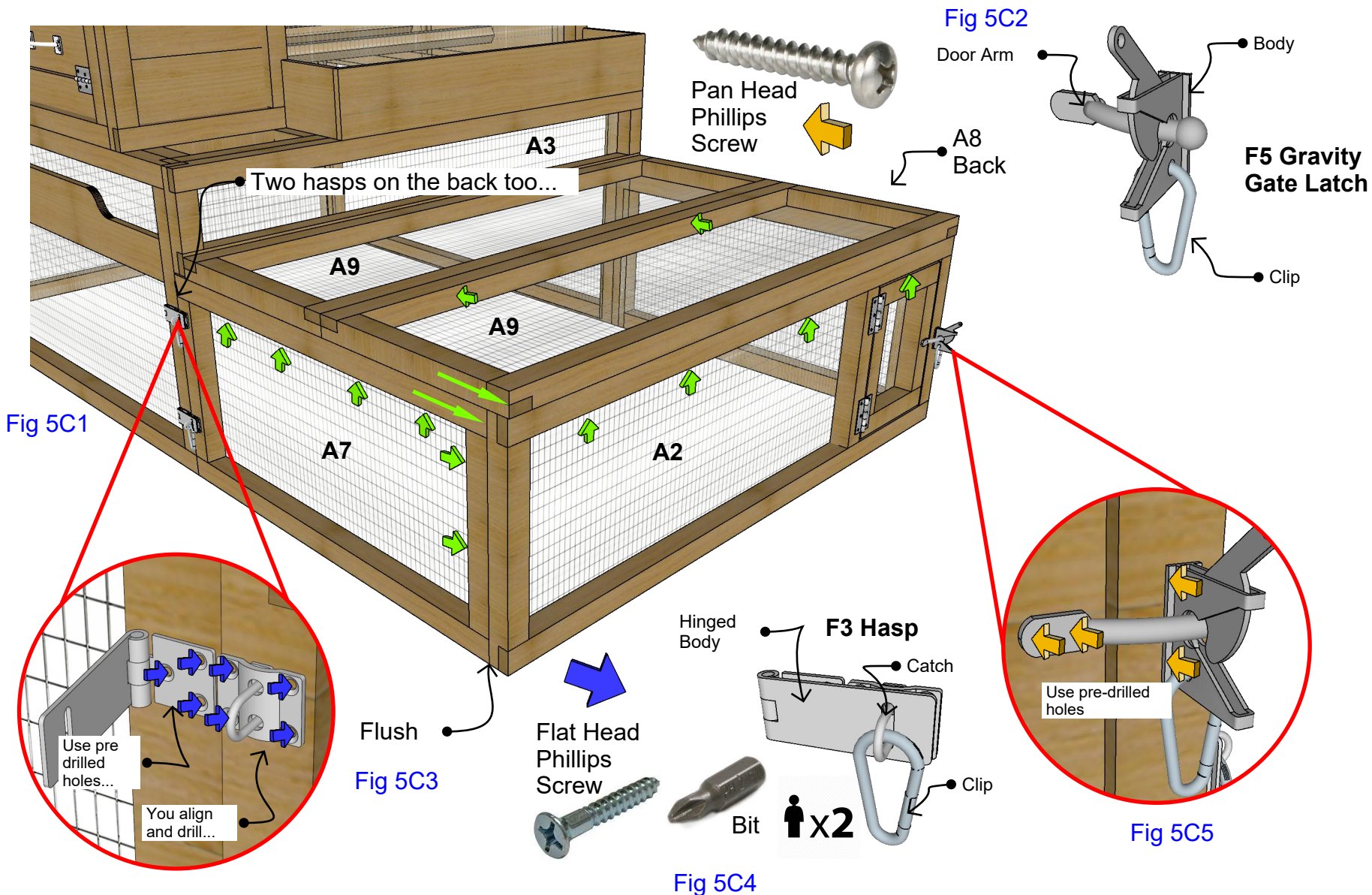
Skip this step if you bought XL model.



Herb garden, or not !

The right side has an optional planter box area where you can keep small potted plants. If you ordered it this is the best time to install it. The roof hangs over to provide more cover on the right side.

D10 Planter: Identify the D10 planter box sides and front. Using the illustrations and the 1-5/8 T-20 screws, install the planter area as indicated. When done, place the thin black HDPE liner in the bottom so that if you place some pots in there they will sit more level... and it could also block out some snow.



:-) Like, you're pretty much done (XL) !

The right side of the run is completely removable by 4 locking hasps (2 on front and 2 on back) for easy periodic rake out. It also has a locking integrated turn-out door to let your hens out for daytime foraging.

A7, A8 & A2: Identify panels A7 & A8 and using T-25 3" screws attach from the inside of A7 and A8 to A2 as illustrated in figure 5C1. Panel A7 is the front and A8 is the back.

A9's: Identify the two A9 panels and using T-25 3" screws first attach the outer A9 panel over the top of A2 and A7 and A8 keeping all edges flush. Attach the inner A9 as illustrated. Inner A9 will fall short of the ends of A8 and A7 so that it can tuck under the A3 panel.

F3 Hasps: Four F3 hasps attach the run assembly to the main coop as illustrated in Fig 5C3. Two on front, and two on back. See Fig 5C4 to identify correct screws.

F5 Gravity Gate Latch: Identify the F5 Gravity Gate Latch and screws as illustrated in Fig 5C2. Using predrilled holes in both edge of door frame and side of A2 panel, install latch using illustrated screws. Install clip when done to assure door stays locked. Remove shipping screw from door frame of A2.

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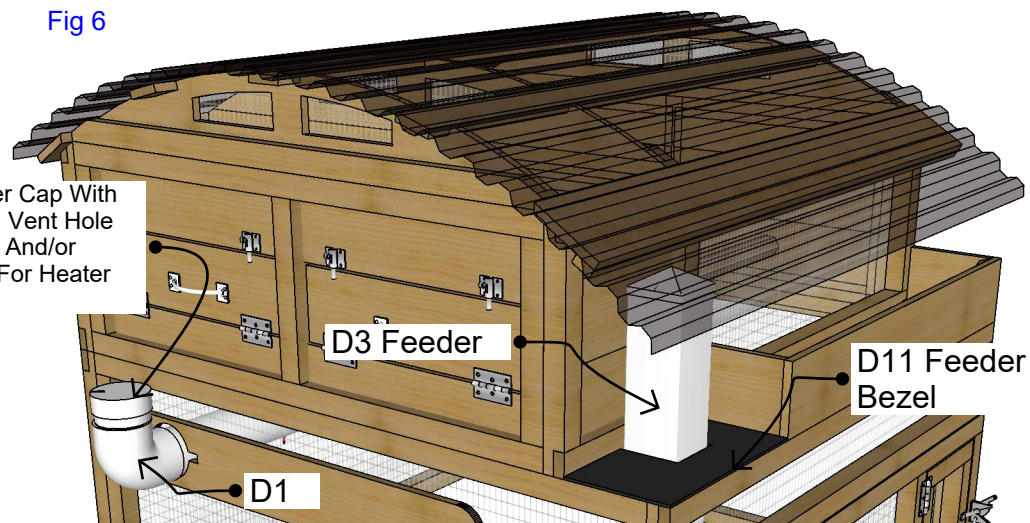
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Step 5C - XL Right
Run Side (turn-out
door)

XL model only.

Fig 6

Waterer Cap With Slotted Vent Hole For Air And/or A Exit For Heater Wire.



6.1 Install D2 Waterer Bracket: Attach the support arm to the support block using T-20 screws. Using a tape measure, attach the support block to the side rail of A5 back panel 11-3/8 inches up from bottom panel edge using T25 screws.

6.2 Install D3 Feeder: Feeder drops in at an angle from the outside and is locked in place by dropping in bezel around the feeder. Face the open cup area of feed delivery towards inside of coop. Feed cap may be inside your feed tube.

6.3 Install Poultry Nipples: Fig 6.3 illustrates installation of the standard poultry nipple. After inserting nipples, insert waterer into position as indicated in Fig 6 roasting as needed for nipples to clear then fill after inserted and resting in the waterer bracket installed in Fig 6.1

Note: Separate instructions are provided with the optional Freeze Guard Poultry Nipple.

Rotate waterer to insert and rest on this bracket.

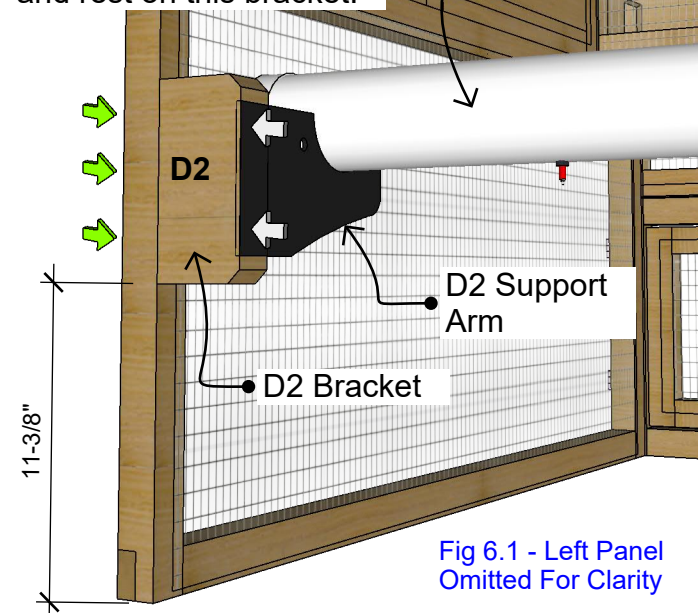
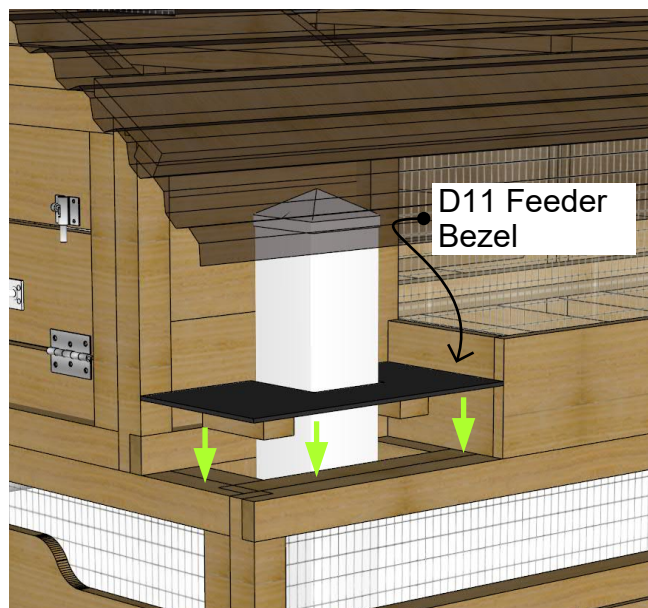
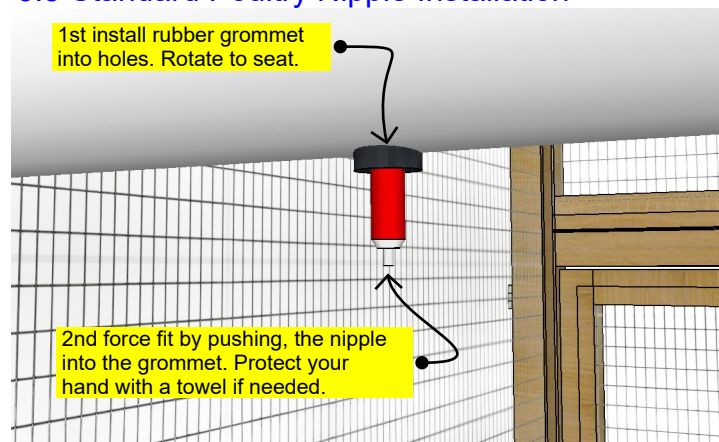


Fig 6.1 - Left Panel Omitted For Clarity



6.2 Feeder

6.3 Standard Poultry Nipple Installation



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Step 6 - Optional
Waterer & Feeder

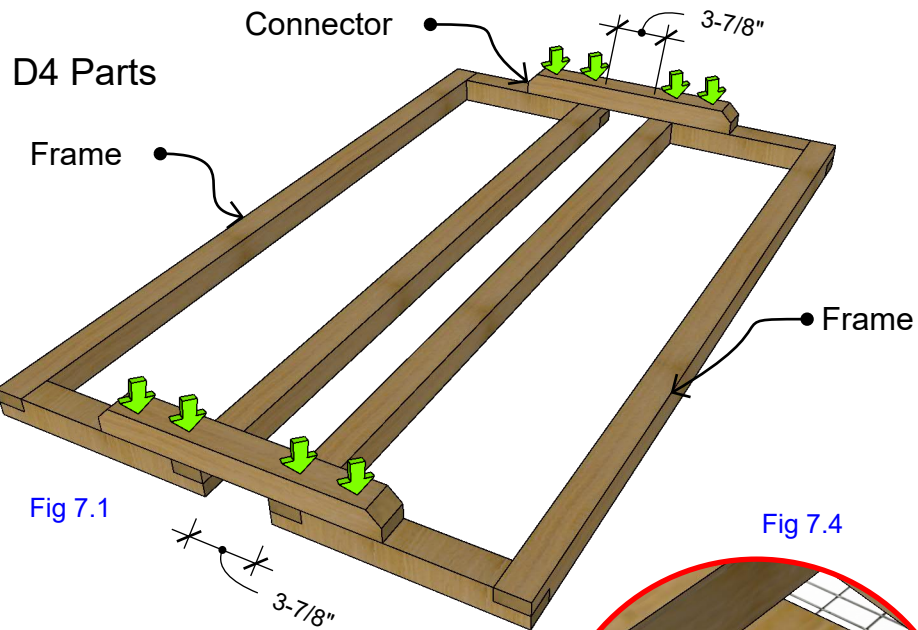
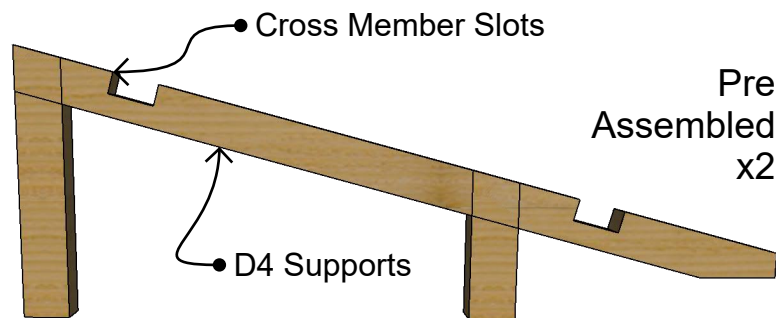


Fig 7.1



7.1 Connect Left & Right Frames: Using T25 screws into pre-drilled holes in connectors, layout two frames with 3-7/8" between them and connect as illustrated in Fig 7.1

7.2 Install Supports: Using T25 screws, screw in each bottom leg of supports into corners of frame assembly as illustrated in Fig 7.2. Two screws go in each corner. Insert cross members into slots and affix with one T-20 1-5/8" screw in each position as indicated by grey arrows.

7.3 Place the Frame: Place the frame into the top of the sunroom allowing it to rest on the wire.

In the approximate positions shown, install four window bolts to hold the frame in place during strong winds but also allow easy removal.

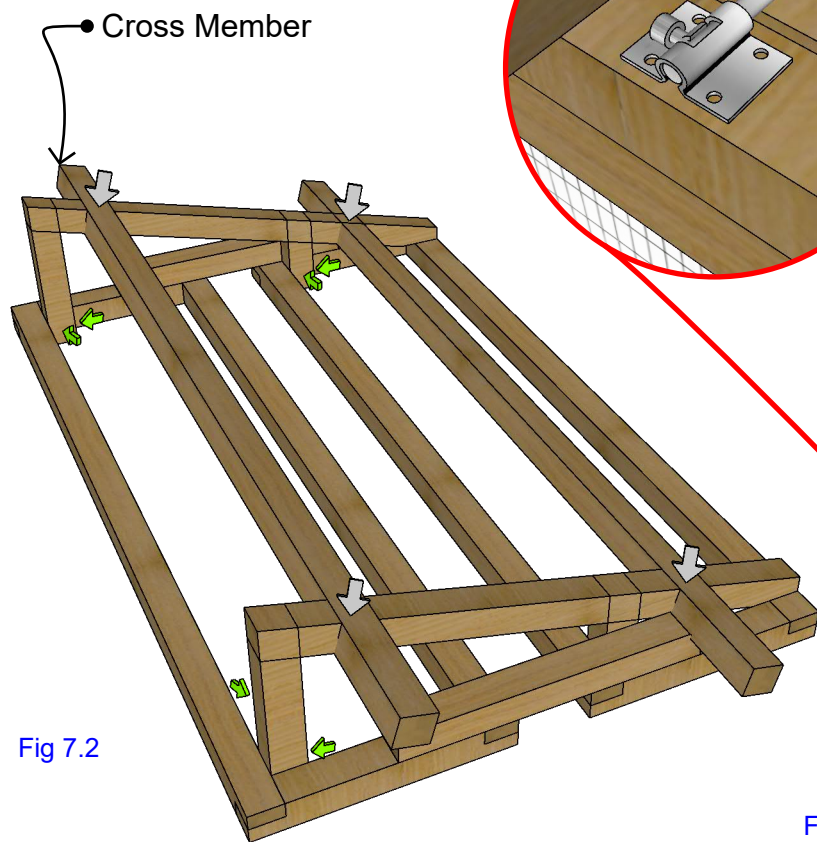


Fig 7.2

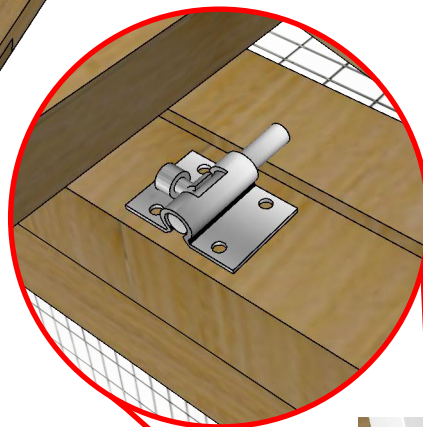


Fig 7.4

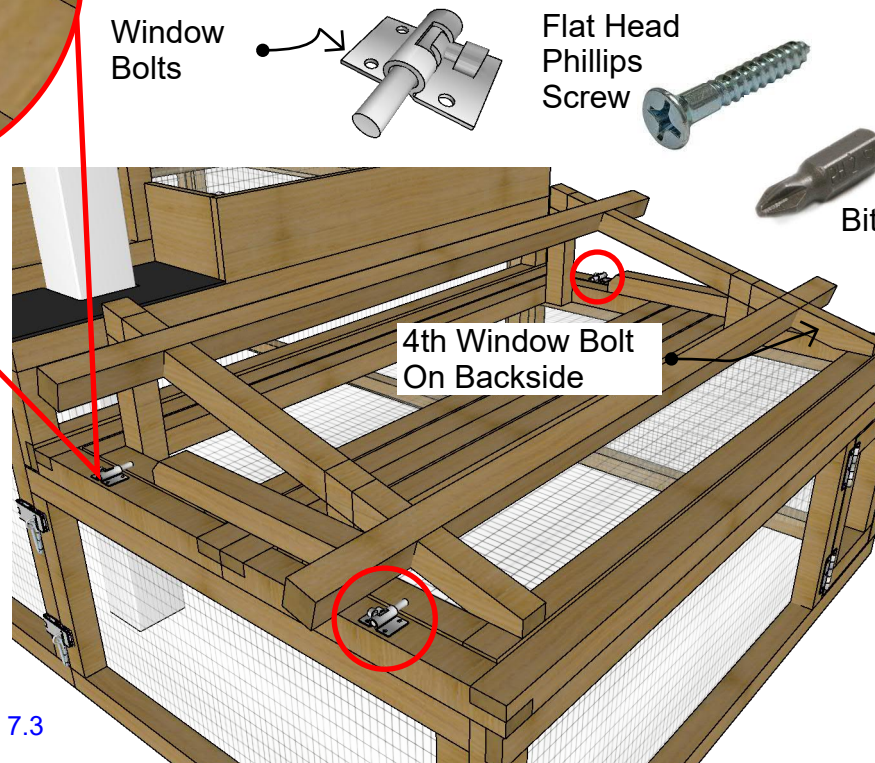
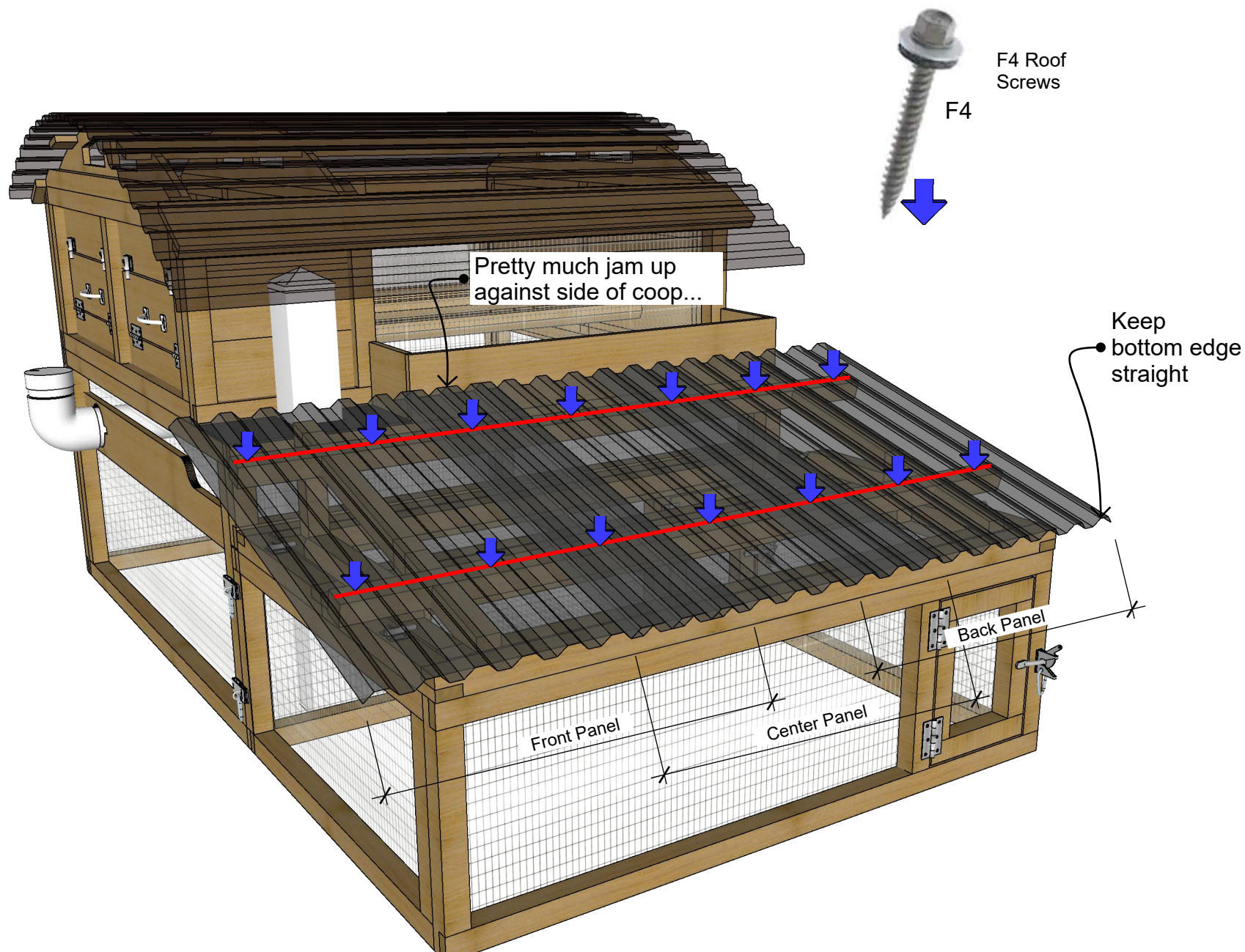


Fig 7.3



7B Attach Roof Panels: Using F4 roof screws, layout and attach each roof panel in accordance with the above diagram. There are three panels... layout outside front and back under the center with the ribs overlapping properly. After positioning, drive screws down through panels in a pattern as indicated (preferably on the ridges, but valleys okay too) tightening the screw only enough to seal rubber washer against roof. Do not crush.

Shade structure is removable for when you would like your hens to get full sunlight. Hens like (and need) sun and will lay better. If it's hotter than 90 outside, then the shade structure is a good idea. It will obviously help with rain and snow too during inclement weather. It is not designed to be "water proof" and you in fact want some moisture on the ground for health of hens feet. Hens can easily walk on a little snow and in mud for weeks at a time without issue.



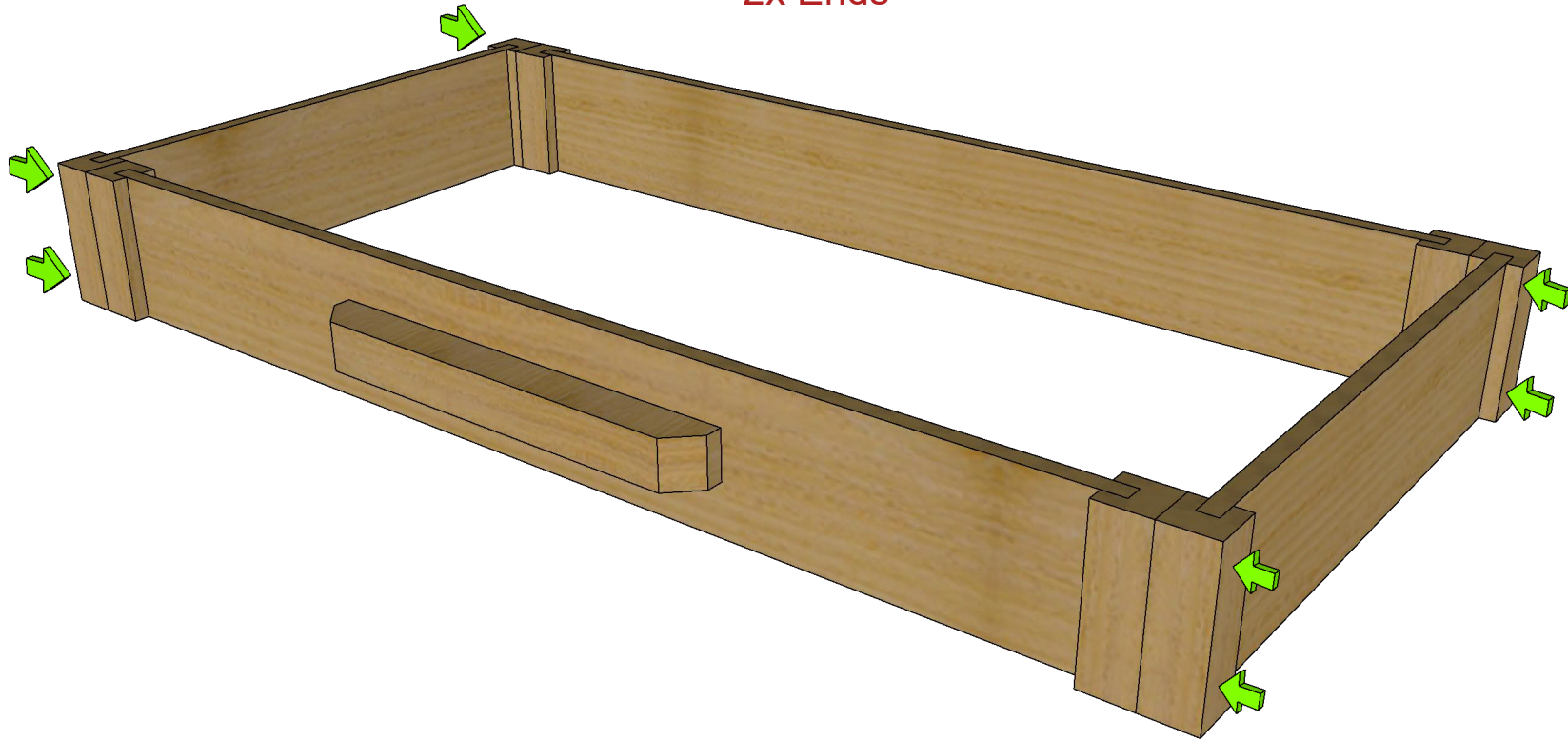
= Direction
Of Screws

3" T25 Screw



Color of screws may vary.

2x Sides
2x Ends



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Step 8 - Dust Bathing
/ Herb Garden Box

8. Build Out Dustbathing / Herb Garden Box: Using T25 3" screws assemble box as illustrated above keeping all edges flush.

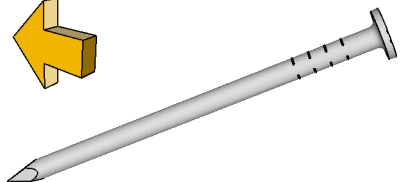
Side stiffeners are placed on the outside in case someone wanted to lift the box up over the soil, as handles. If you prefer they be on the inside, just reverse them and they can be buried in soil just fine.

Sand or very sandy loam is the best soil to use for a dust bath for your hens. They'll figure it out.

Two common ways to anchor your coop...

Your coop itself can withstand even category one hurricane force winds, but it must be anchored for winds greater than about 35-40 mph. The procedure is the same for Standard or XL models.

6X



10" 3/8 Stake
bought at time
of your coop
purchase or at
a hardware store.

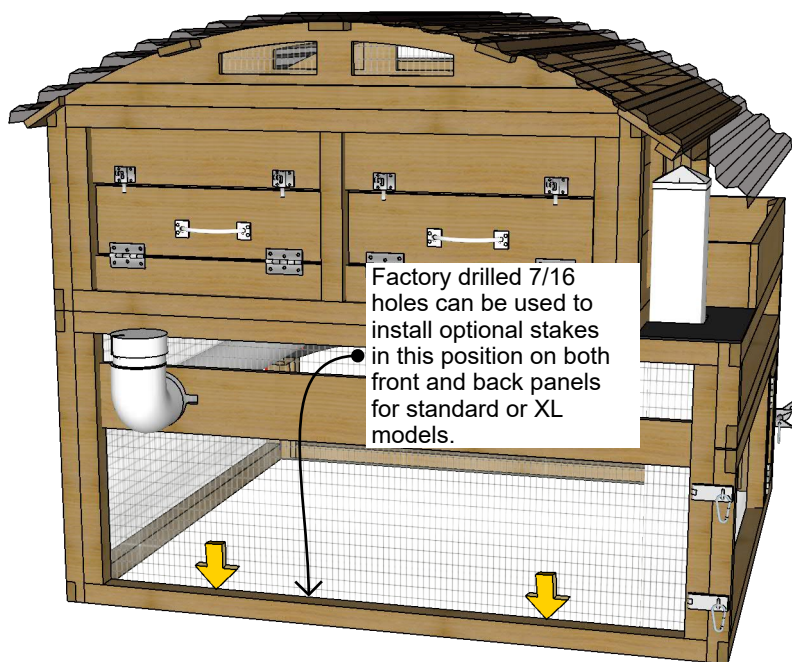


Fig 9.1

Stake at front, left and back sides...
2 stakes on each of the 3 sides.

Anchoring Concept: If you expect that your coop will be exposed to straight line winds in excess of about 35-40 mph (tropical storm force) you will need to anchor your coop to stop it from the risk of toppling over.

If you have hard clay or even rock that a 10" stake can reach into and grab firmly, you can drive a 3/8 inch diameter stake through holes in front, left and back panel bottom rails and this should hold your coop firm in all but hurricane force winds. We make these stakes available for purchase at the time you buy your coop. See Fig 10.1

If you have sandy or sandy loam soils and expect that your coop will be exposed to straight line winds in excess of about 35-40 mph you should pour some sort of concrete footer or pier at the front, left and back edge of coop and starting at least 2 inches away from the factory holes, drive some sort of concrete screw through the bottom rail into the underground concrete anchor. See Fig 10.2 for a typical case. Concrete must be deep enough or heavy enough to withstand lifting.

There are a variety of products and methods that someone who is skilled in these trades could imagine. These are just two good ones. Please call us at 877-741-COOP if you want more guidance.

#2 Concrete screws...

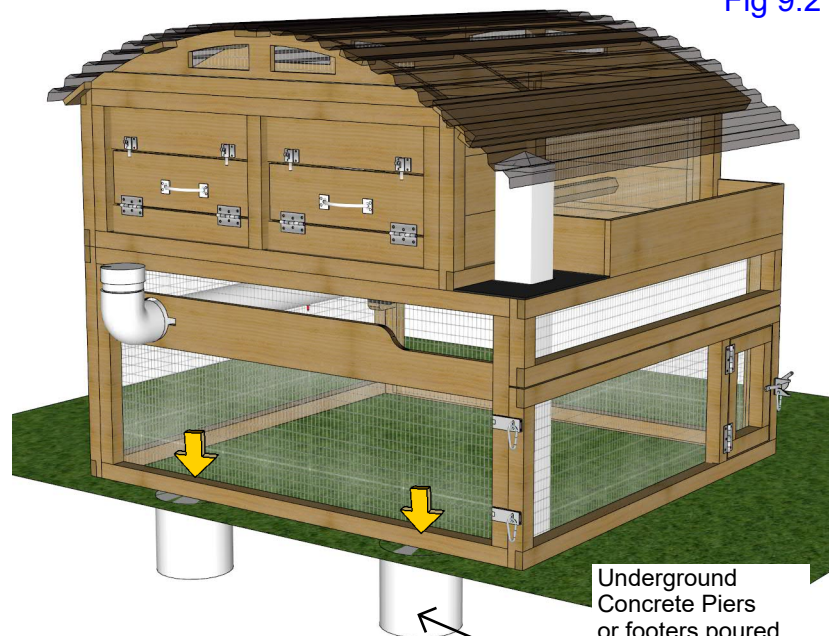
Screw in two Tapcon screws into the bottom rails of the front and back panels into your concrete pier or footer. This is the preferred method for winds greater than ~ 50mph or if you have soft soil that stakes won't hold well.



6X

Available in stores and online
in smaller packs of 8....

Fig 9.2



Screws at front, left and back sides...
2 screws on each of the 3 sides.

Underground
Concrete Piers
or footers poured
flush with ground
surface on front
and back..

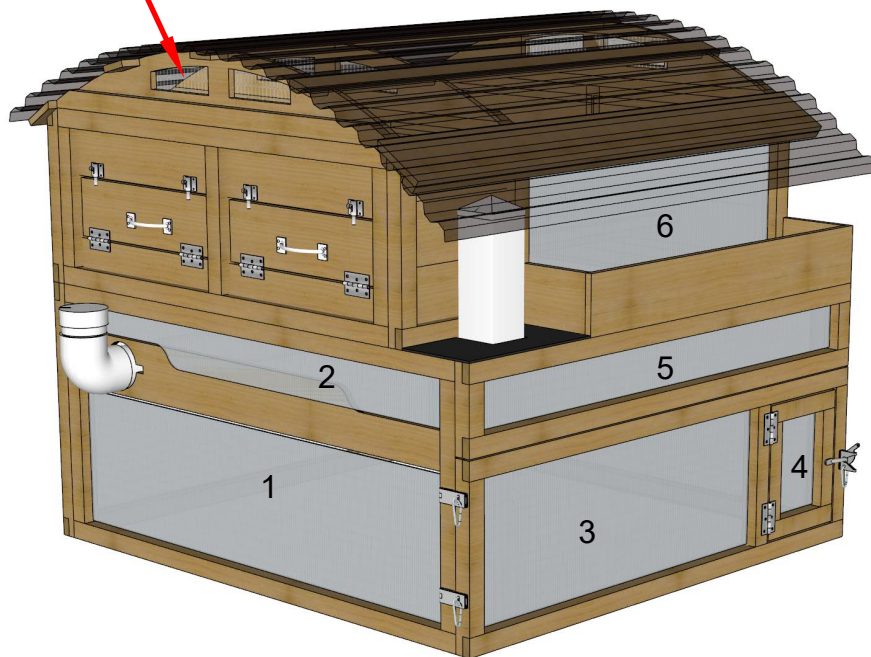
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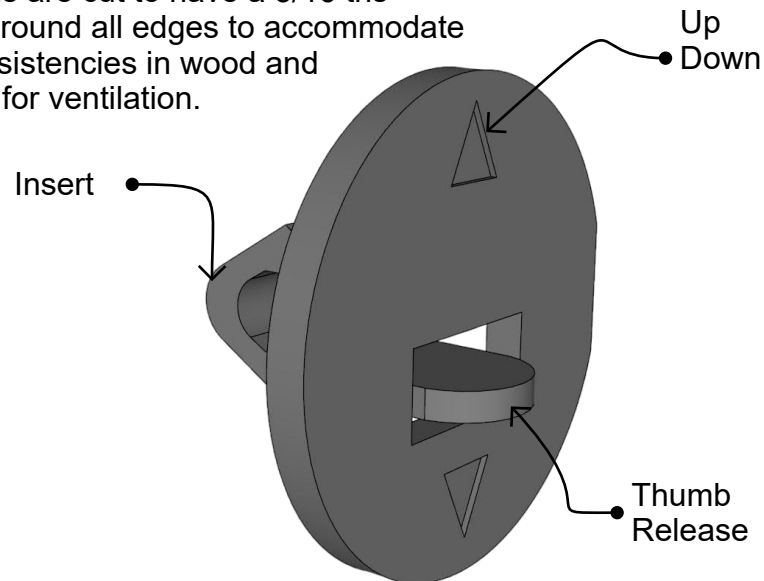
Step 9 - Anchoring

9 Panel Set (if purchased)

Top vent panels are omitted to assure proper airflow.



Panels are cut to have a 3/16ths gap around all edges to accommodate inconsistencies in wood and allow for ventilation.

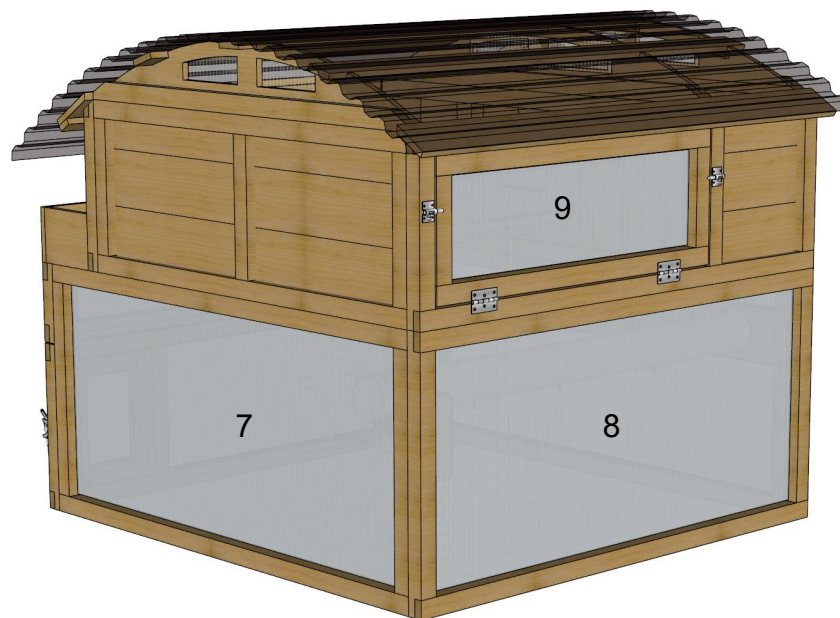


If you have the standard wire, your storm panel set will be delivered with these type of clips. Separate instructions are provided how to attach to the coop.

Heavy Duty Wire Type Clip



If you have the upgraded wire, your storm panel set will be delivered with these type of clips. Separate instructions are provided to install clips onto the panels and how to attach to the coop.



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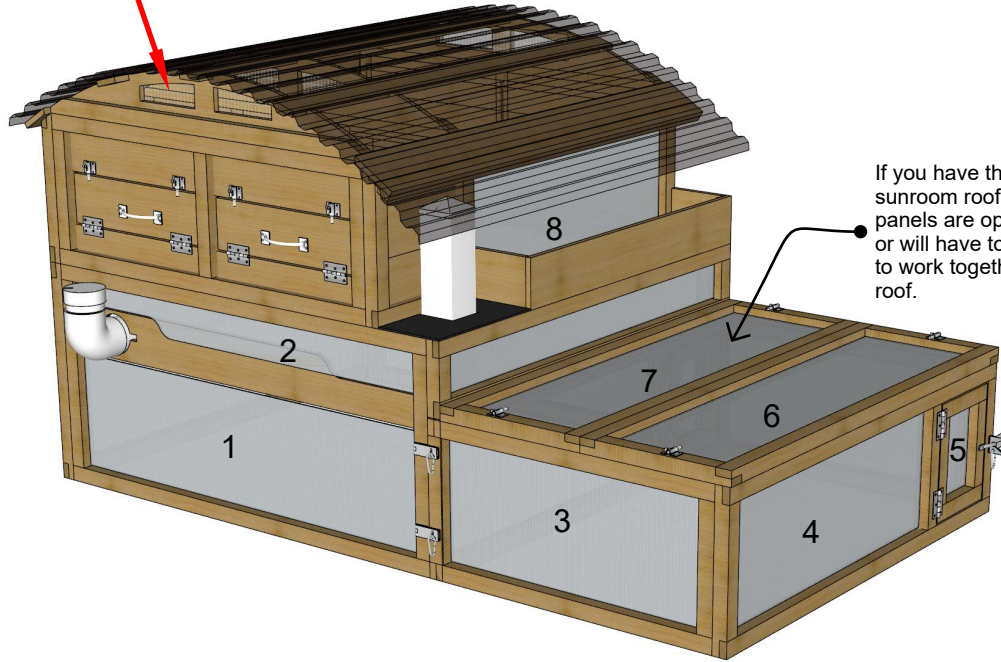
Step 10A - Optional
Storm Panels
Standard Model



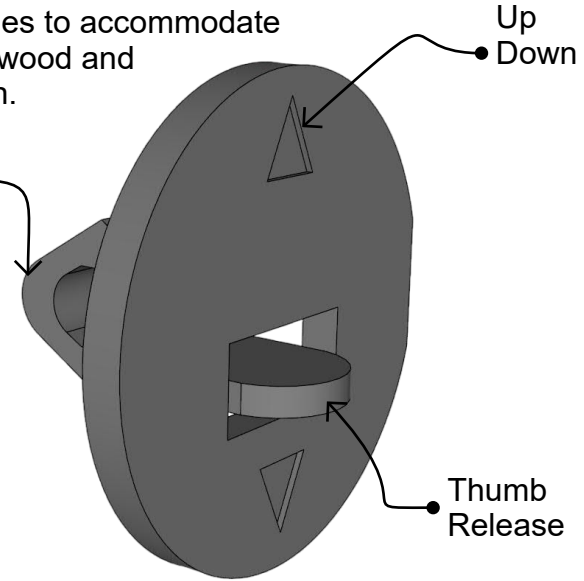
12 Panel Set (if purchased)

Top vent panels are omitted to assure proper airflow.

Panels are cut to have a 3/16ths gap around all edges to accommodate inconsistencies in wood and allow for ventilation.



Insert

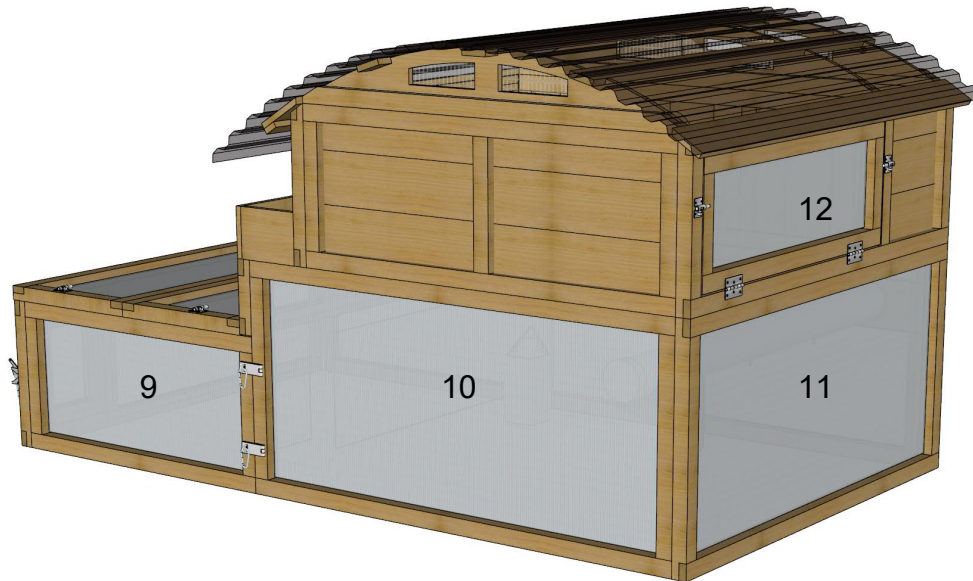


If you have the standard wire, your storm panel set will be delivered with these type of clips. Separate instructions are provided how to attach to the coop.

Heavy Duty Wire Type Clip



If you have the upgraded wire, your storm panel set will be delivered with these type of clips. Separate instructions are provided to install clips onto the panels and how to attach to the coop.



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Step 10B - Optional
Storm Panels XL
Model

Some things to know about using your new Backyard M2 Chicken Coop

Egg Box: You will need to put some sort of a liner in the bottom of the egg boxes. We recommend a cut up door mat that can be washed, or one of our egg box liners that you can purchase. An egg might get broken or some chickens will prefer sleeping in the egg boxes at times in the year, and a liner makes it easy to wash. The egg boxes being dark is what makes a chicken lay there versus somewhere else. Sometimes (some chickens) will be rule breakers :-/

Waterer: If you bought the waterer, you will need to rotate it downward to dump the water and then the nipples can fit through the keyhole on the side of the entry cutout by rotating it. Dump into a bucket if you don't want the ground getting wet. We do this to protect the nipples and the brackets from the weight of the waterer when full.

If you live in a cold area, the cap on your waterer has a slot for an electrical cord that will allow a fish tank style heater to be immersed in the water and help keep it from freezing. We also make a "freeze resistant poultry nipple" that has been proven to work down to about 0F before it starts failing. That can be helpful. Visit our website or call for more.

Feeder: If you ordered the feeder: Feed may clog in very damp climates or when using feeds that do not have clumping agents. Usually, shaking the feeder will dislodge clogged feed. If persistent, the angled chute in the feeder can have some of the material removed from the exit opening...a little at a time until you achieve the performance you want.

Choosing Chickens: You should choose a chicken that is typical for your area... climate wise. The coop is built for average sized adult breed chickens. Some bantam breeds may have trouble using the waterer, getting to the roost bar, or the egg box. We can help you if you want to keep Bantams. You can. Keep in mind that silkies don't do well in cold or wet conditions. Very large breeds such as Jersey Giants are also not recommended.

Climate: Adult fully feathered standard chickens are extremely cold tolerant. Several breeds can easily handle sub zero temperatures... like even down to -15 or -20 below if given protection from wind and moisture. Chickens struggle in 100+ temps and need lots of shade, water and air movement.

Storm Panels: Optional storm panels are primarily for snow and subzero wind sheltering. They should only be installed when temperatures are consistently below freezing and/or to keep snow from accumulating too much in the coop. Chicken don't mind snow but its best that they not get wet from snow... then freeze. That's how frostbite happens.

You should not close up the air vents completely at the top of the roof of the coop as the chickens need ventilation at night while sleeping.

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Usage Tips

