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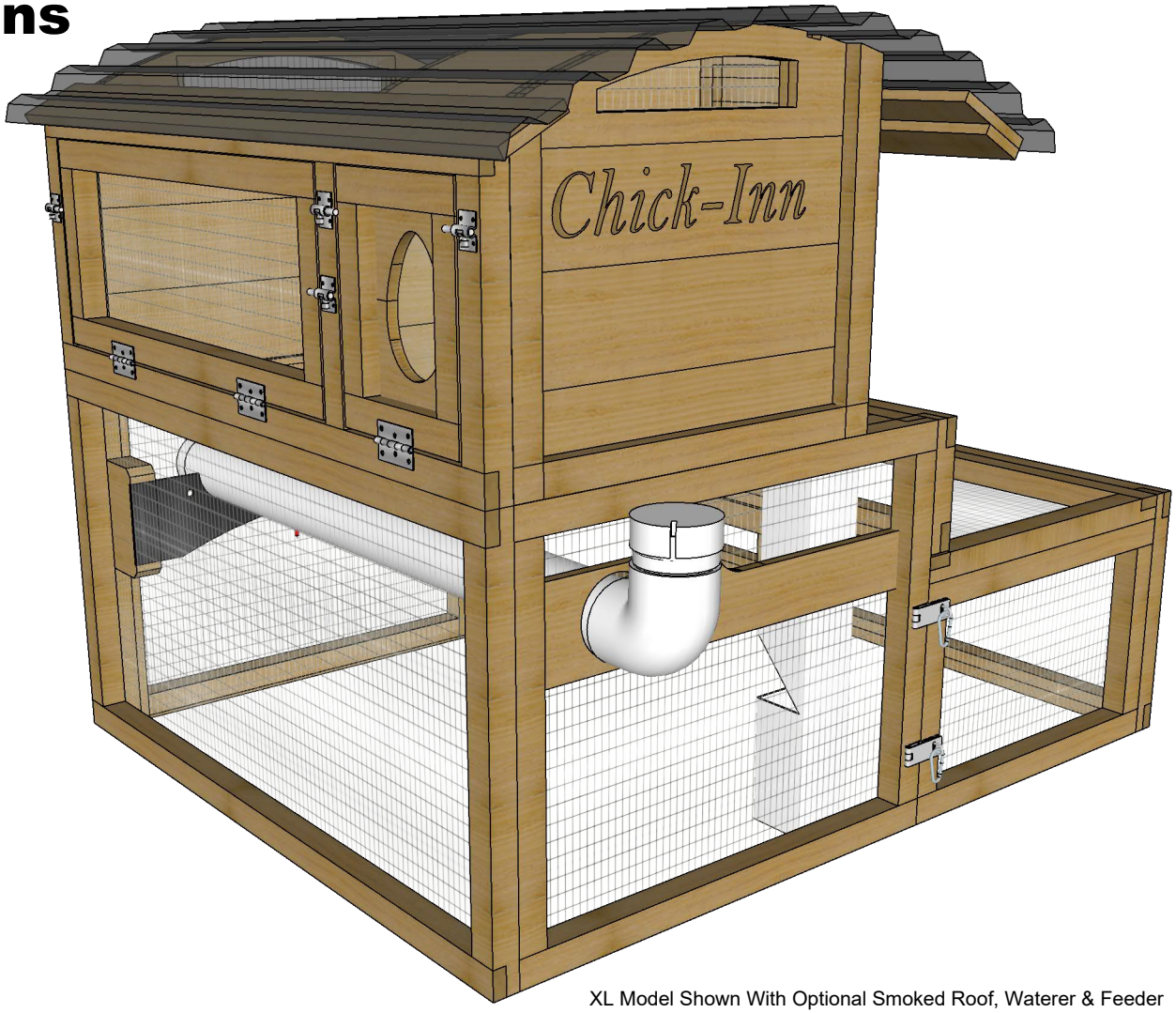
Assembly Instructions

Starter Chicken Coop™

Model 2



XL Model Shown With Optional Smoked Roof, Waterer & Feeder

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.

YouTube **Assembly Overview...**

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

V1.5 | Spring 2024

Written Parts List

Run

A1 Left Side
A2 Right Side (door)
A3 Right Transom (thin)
A4 Front (waterer panel)
A5 Back
A6 XL Sunroom Front
A7 XL Sunroom Back
A8 XL Sunroom Top

"B" Parts - Roost & Eggbox

B1 Roost Front
B2 Roost Mid Wall (egg hole)
B3 Egg Box Right Wall
B4 Egg Box Floor
B5 Roost Left (2 Doors)
B6 Roost Right
B7 Egg Box Landing
B8 Roost Bar

Roof

C1 Roof Panels (2x 54")
C2 Eaves (2x)
C3 Seam Support

"D" Parts - Accessories (if purchased)

D1 Waterer | Cap | 2 Nipples
D2 Waterer Bracket & Screws
D3 Feeder & Cap
D4 Sunroom Shade (Assembly)
D5 Dust Bathing Box (Assembly)
D6 Egg Box Liner
D8 Standard Storm Panel Kit (25 Clips)
D9 XL Storm Panel Kit (35 Clips)

"F" Parts - Assembly Kit

F1 3" Screws (300/#60 301/#75) extras incl
F2 1-5/8 Screws (15) extras incl
F3 Hasp Sets w/screws (4X)
F4 Roof Screws (10x long 10x short) extras incl
F5 Gravity Gate Latch w/screws (1x)
F6 T25 Bit (1x)
F7 Phillips Bit (1x)
F8 Bit Holder (1x)

Tools you'll need...

A level (or use your cell phone)

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

Hammer

Phillips Screw

Phliips Bit

T25 Torx Bit

Bit Holder

= Colored Arrows Indicate Type And Direction Of Screws

3" T25 Screw

Color of screws may vary.

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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Assembly Instructions
Starter Chicken Coop
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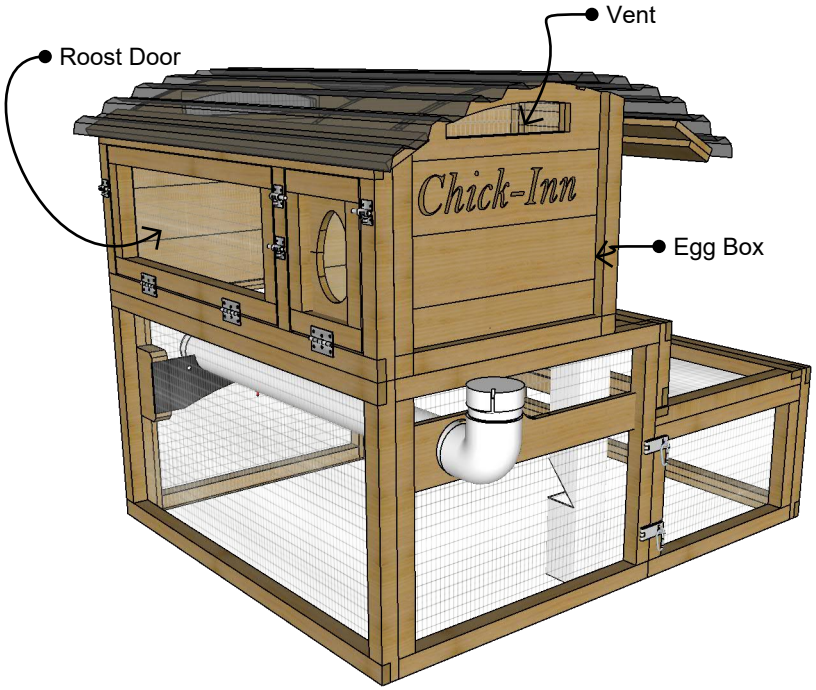
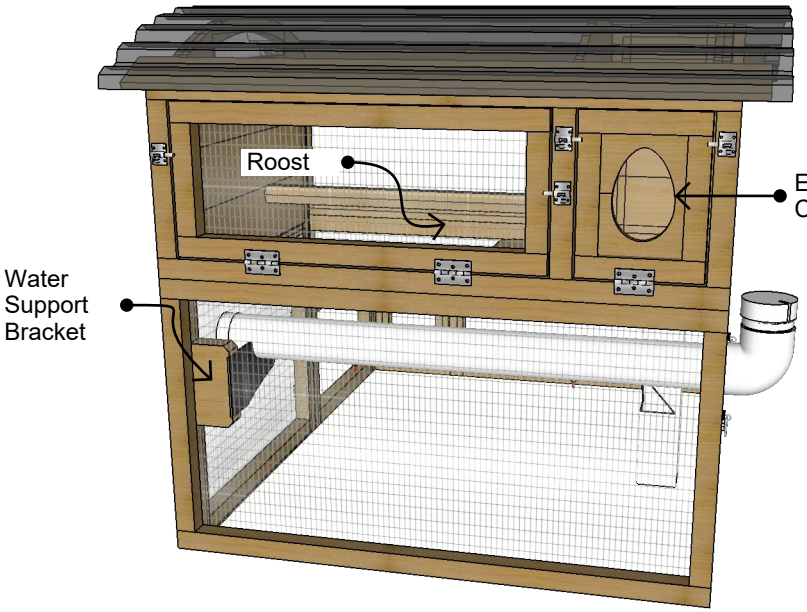
Parts List

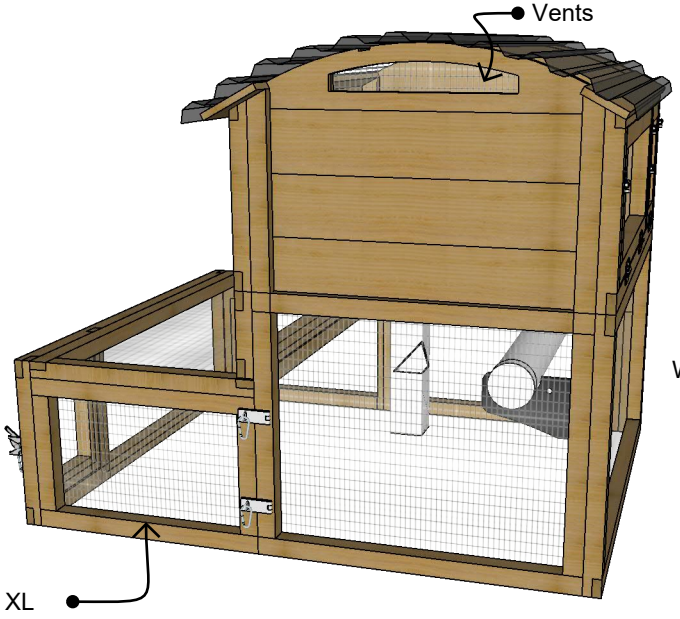
Front



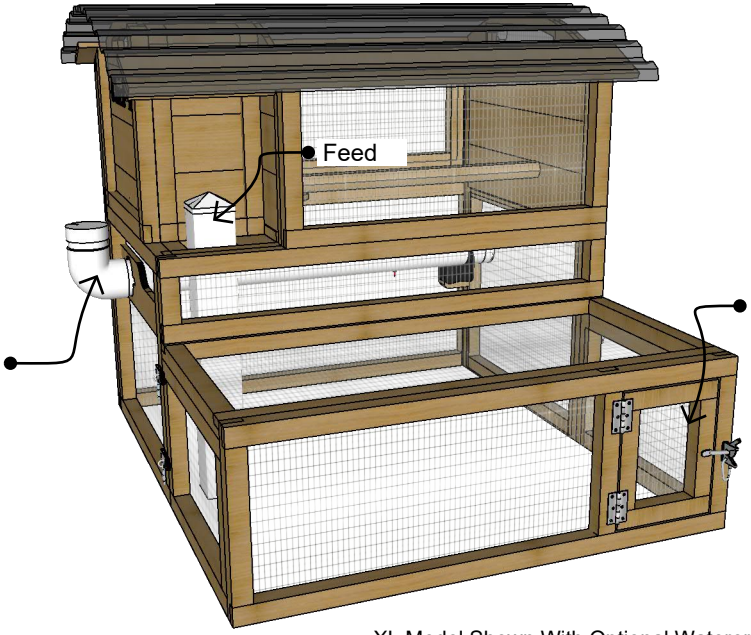
Left



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



Right



XL Model Shown With Optional Waterer & Feeder

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Assembly Instructions
Starter Chicken Coop
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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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Assembly Instructions
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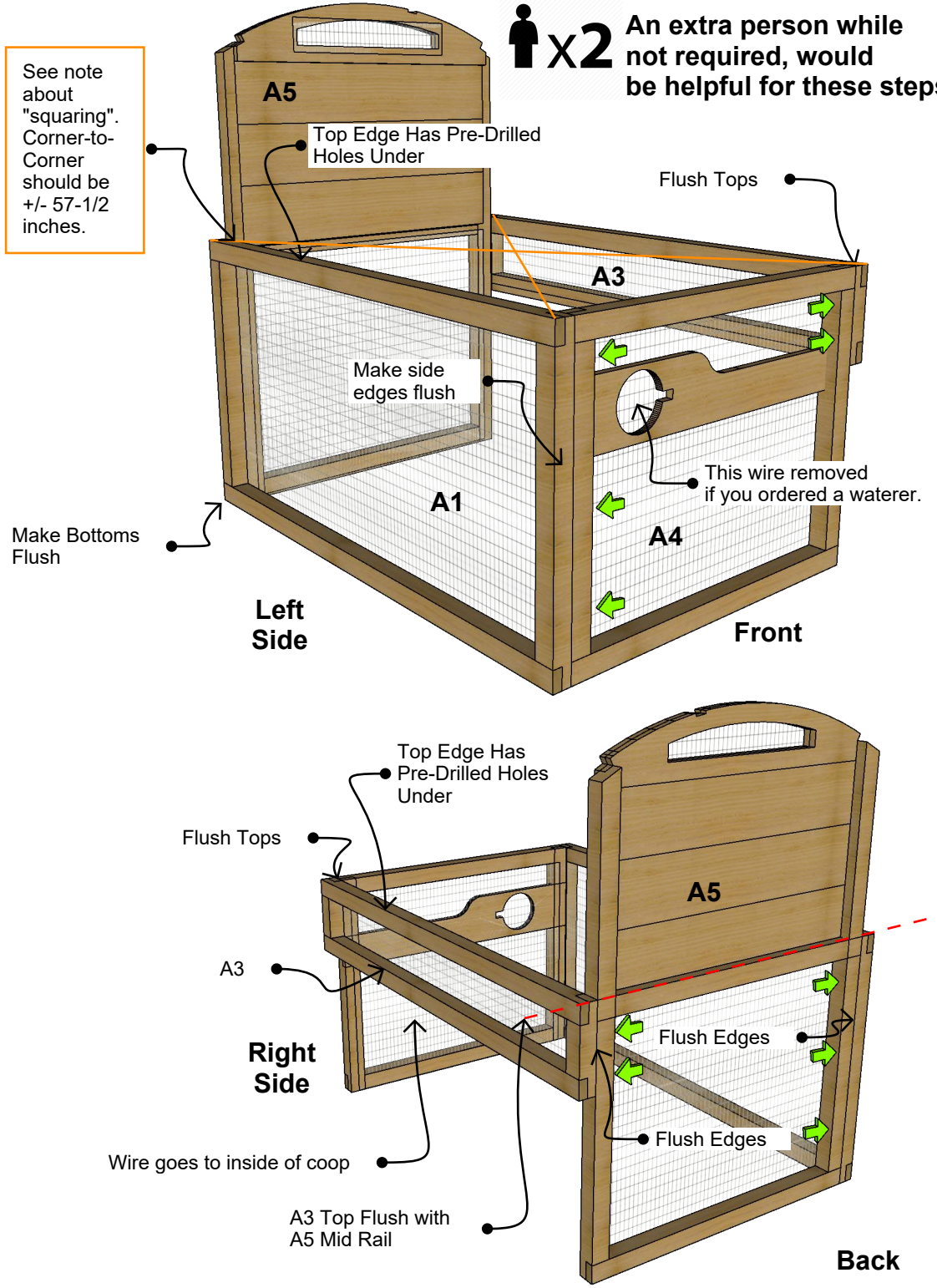
Concepts



x2 **An extra person while not required, would be helpful for these steps.**

= Direction Of Screws

3" T25 Screw

Color of screws may vary.

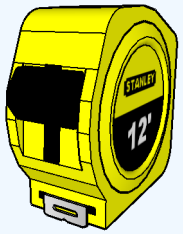
:-) Here we go !

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.

1.1 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 inside going up.)*

1.2 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.

1.3 Right Front Corner: Drive 3" T25 Screws from panel **A4** into panel **A3** through pre-drilled holes. Panel **A3** overlaps panel **A4** as illustrated. Wire side goes to the inside. Make edges flush and top of A4 flush with the **A5** mid-rail on the back and top of the **A4** on the front. It will be easier if you could have someone hold up the other end of this panel while you screw in place. *(The top of the **A3** panel will have pre-drilled holes from the inside going up.)*



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.

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Assembly Instructions
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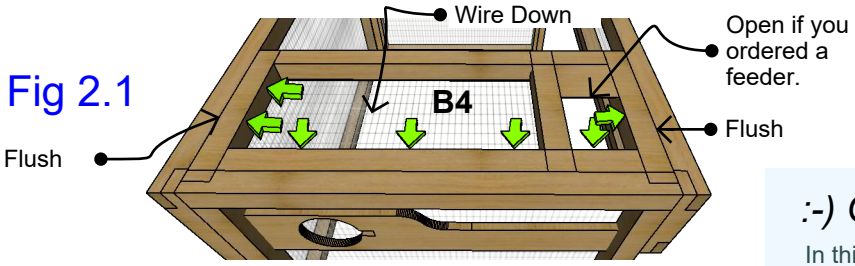
Step 1 - Run Assembly

Fig 2.1



= Direction Of Screws

3" T25 Screw

Color of screws may vary.

:-) On to what's next...

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 bar and perch (roost) there while they sleep.

FIG 2.1 Egg Box Floor: Drive 3" T25 Screws from panel **B4** into surrounding panels as illustrated making top edges flush with front and sides. Tap to front if needed so it sits in tight, Putting in front screws first will help this. Make top edges all flush.

FIG 2.2 Left Side: Drive 3" T25 Screws from panel **A1** top up into bottom of **B5**. Make front edges and sides flush. See **FIG 2.3** for screw pattern to attach back **A5** into back side of the **B5** panel.

FIG 2.3 Right Side: Drive 3" T25 Screws from panel **A3** up into panel **B6** through pre-drilled holes as indicated keeping edges flush.

FIG 2.4 Right Side: Position panel **B2** in position between panels **B5 & B6** using figures 2.4, 2.4a and 2.4b as a guide. Drive 3" T25 Screws from panel **B2** into panels **B4, B5 and B6** as indicated.

X Red X indicates a screw hole used in next step.

Fig 2.2

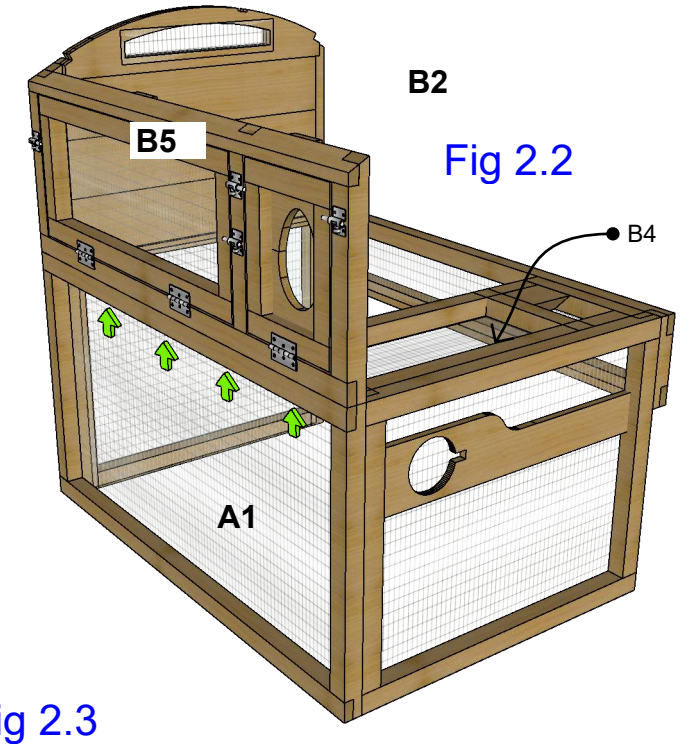
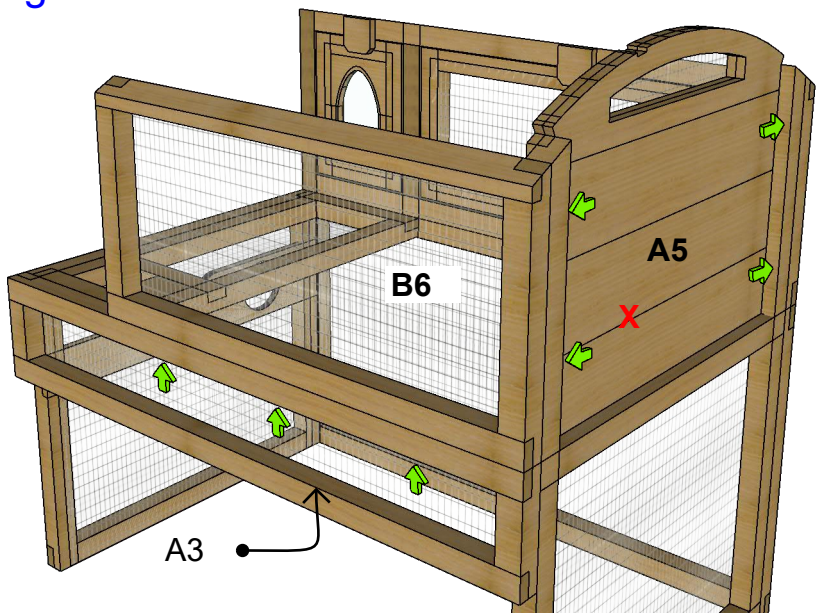


Fig 2.3



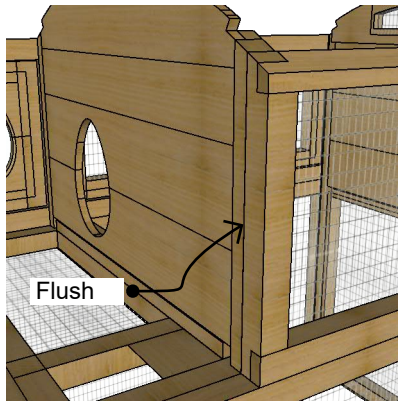


Fig 2.4a

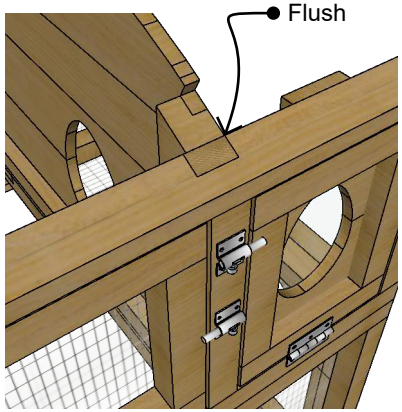
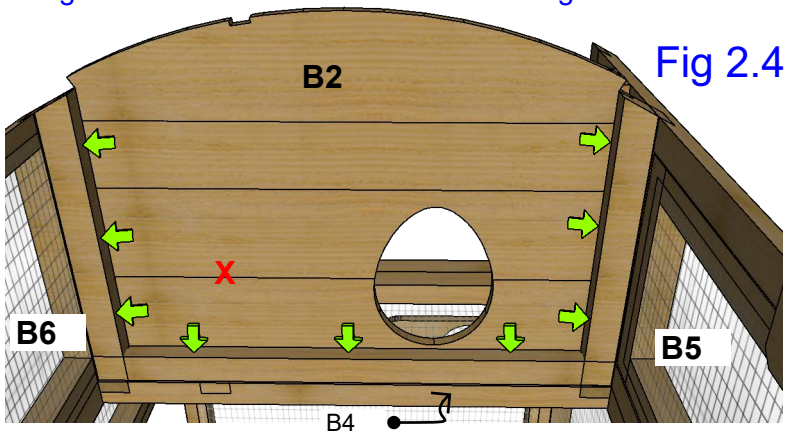


Fig 2.4b

Fig 2.4



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Assembly Instructions
Starter Chicken Coop
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Step 2 - Roost

Fig 3.1

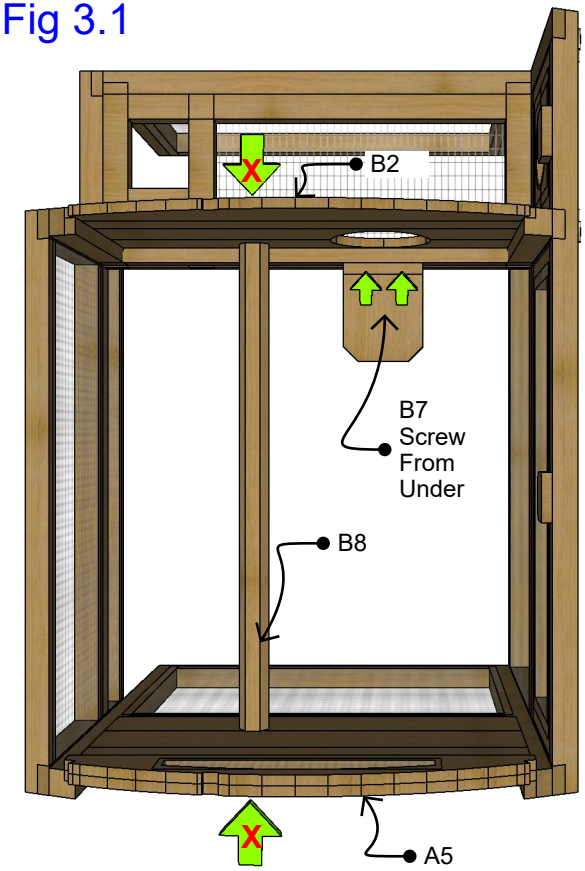
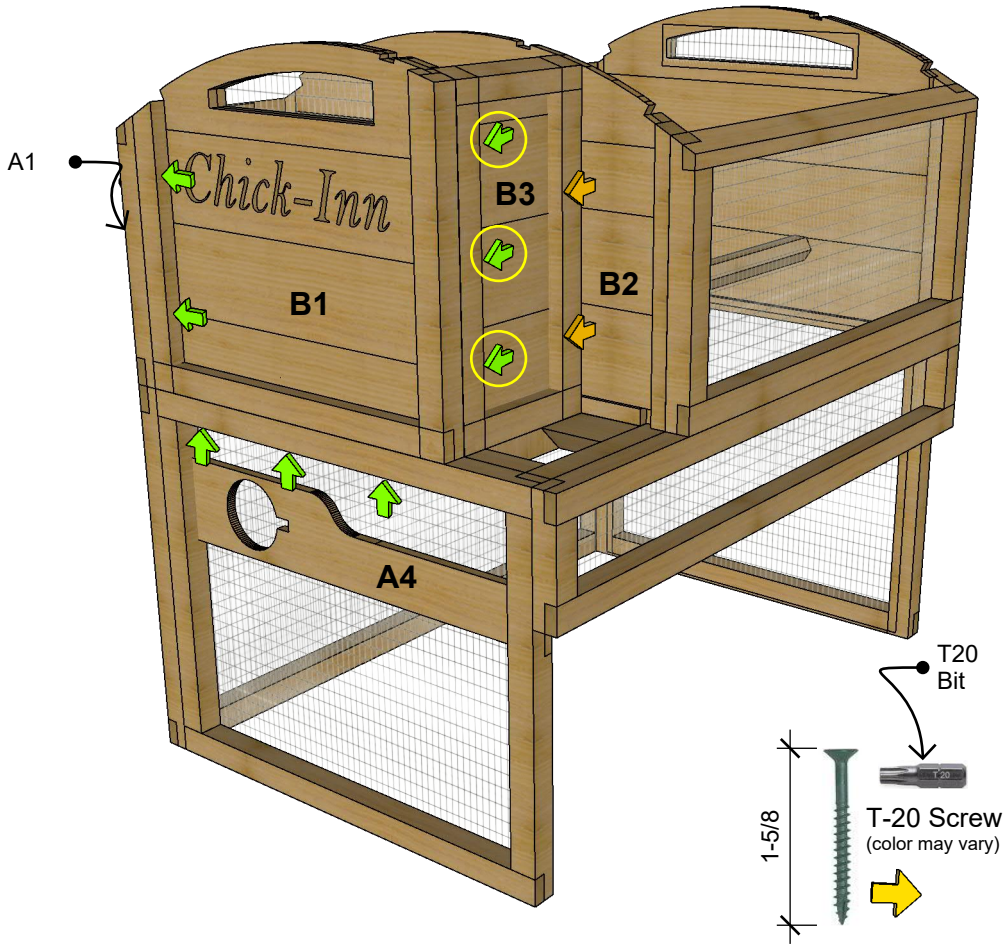


Fig 3.2



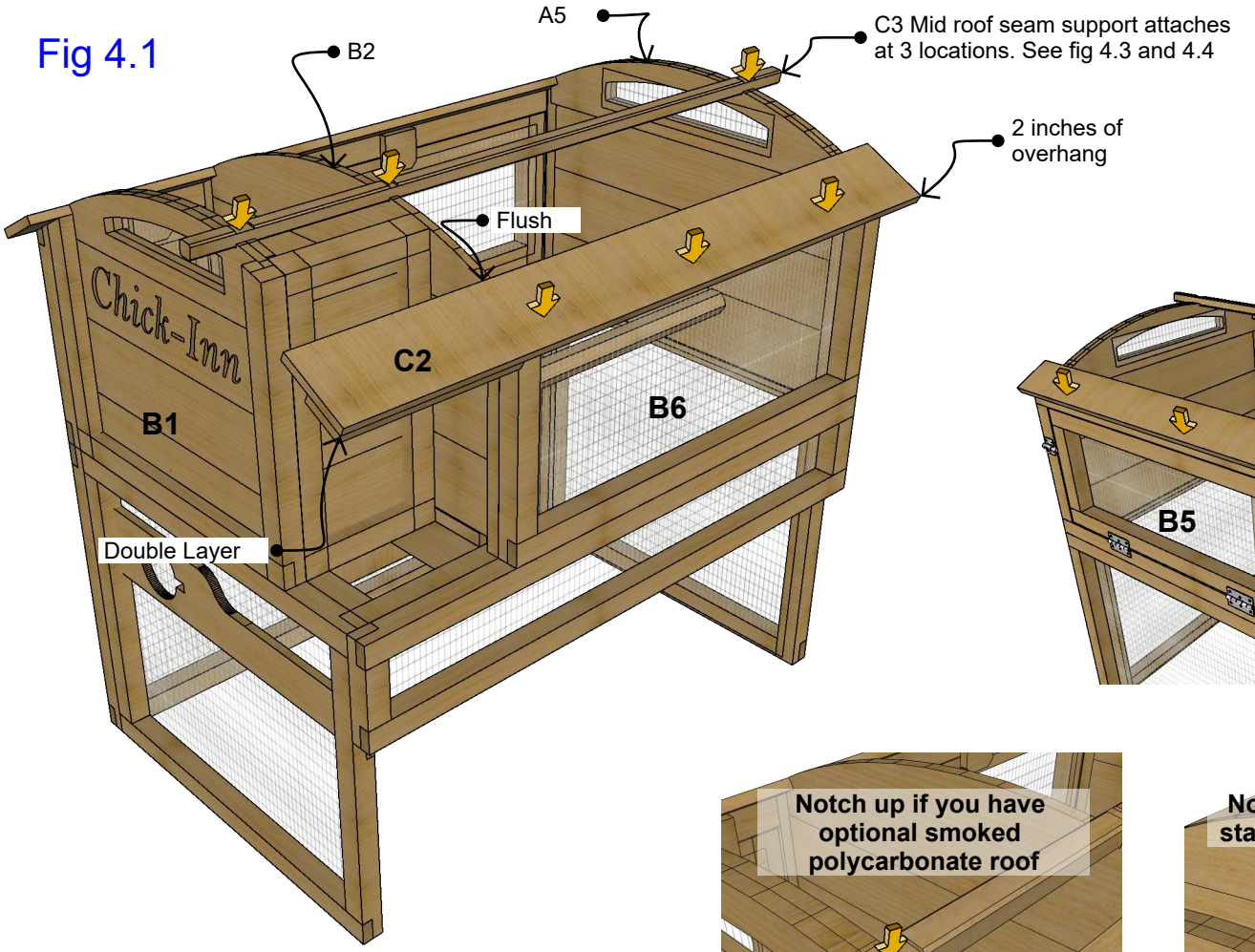
:-) Starting to look like something...

3.1 Roost Bar & Egg Box Entry: Locate predrilled hole in the back **A5** and **B2** mid panels as indicated by the red X on the **Step 2** previous page. Depending on your height, either reach over the top, fold down the roost access door or with someone else's help, position the **B8** Roost Bar such that the screw when driven through the holes in **A5** and **B2** would go through the middle of the **B8** Roost Bar. Repeat procedure on both ends of the Roost Bar. Don't drive screws too deeply, only enough to firmly hold the bar in place.

Using 2 screws, attach the **B7** Egg Box Landing front and center and on bottom edge of **B2** Mid Panel. Drive screws through bottom part of Landing into bottom rail of the **B2** mid divider.

3.2 Egg Box Front & Side: Using figure 3.2 as a guide, position the **B1** and **B3** panels as shown and attach **B3** to **B1** using pre-drilled holes shown by yellow circle around green arrows. This will make accessing the screw holes easier. Place the **B3 B1** assembly onto the front of the coop as illustrated and finish attaching first with screws from under the top rail of **A4** into the **B1** panel, then B1 into the **B5** side panel and finally two shorter 1-5/8 T-20 Screws that screw in from behind the **B2** mid wall panel into pre-drilled holes and then into the back side of the **B3** Right Wall Panel. These two shorter screws are indicated by the two gold arrows.

Fig 4.1



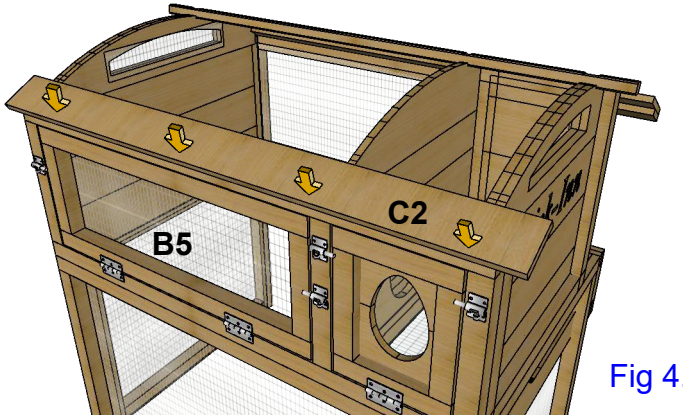


Fig 4.2

;-) No ladder required...

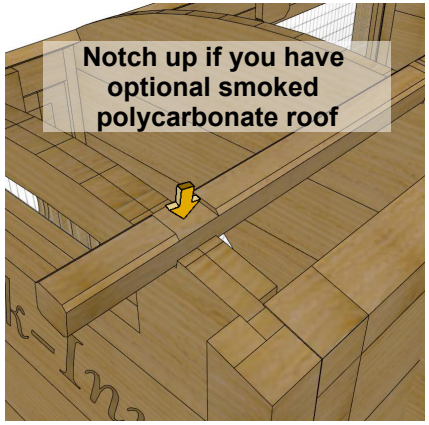


Fig 4.3

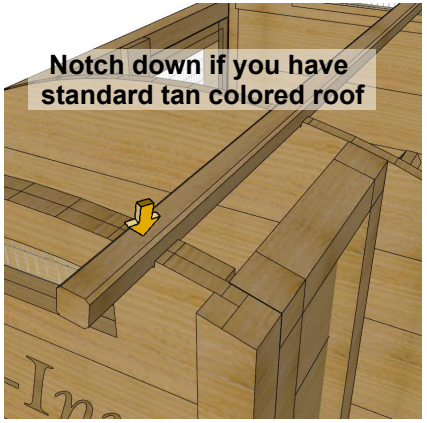


Fig 4.4

4.1 Right Eave: Identify the **C2** right eave board (has a double layer front underside) and position as shown on **B6** top right side of coop with 2 inches of overhang at the back. Jam top edge of **C2** Right Eave up and into notch in back **A5** and mid **B2** arcs and use 3 T-20 screws drilled at approximate angle of eave into top of **B6** right side panel.

4.2 Left Eave: Identify the **C2** left eave board and position as shown on **B5** top left side of coop with 2 inches of overhang at the back. Jam top edge of **C2** Left Eave up and into notch in back **A5**, mid **B2** and front **B1** arcs and use 4 T-20 screws drilled at approximate angle of eave into top of **B5** left side panel.

4.3 Mid Roof Seam Support: Using guidance from figures **4.3** and **4.4** as to what style of roof panel you have, position the **C3** mid roof seam support over the top of the arcs aligned with the notches in the arcs and using T-20 screws attach the mid roof support onto **B1, B2** and **A5** using pre-drilled holes. Do not tighten screws so much that it splits the Mid Roof Seam Support.

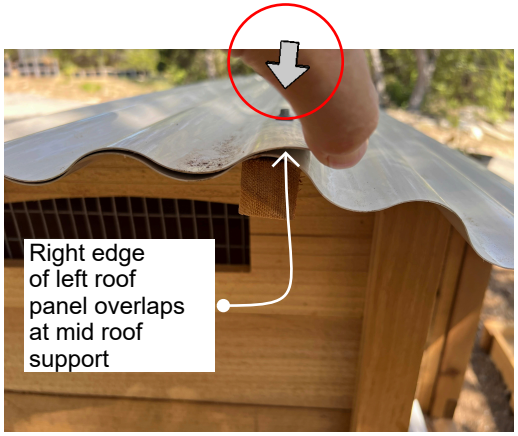


Fig 5.1

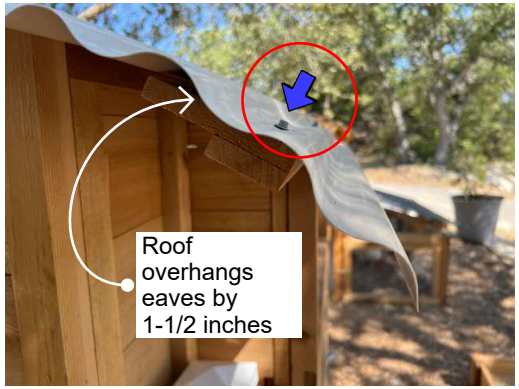


Fig 5.2

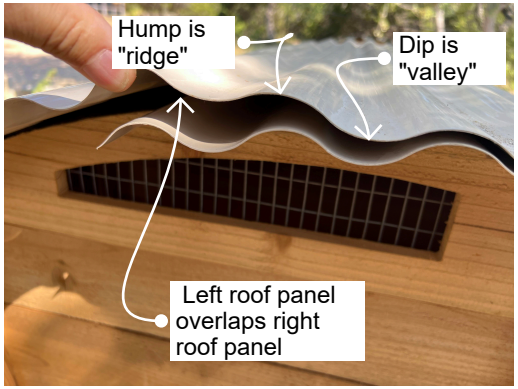


Fig 5.3

Fig 5.4

Fig 5.5

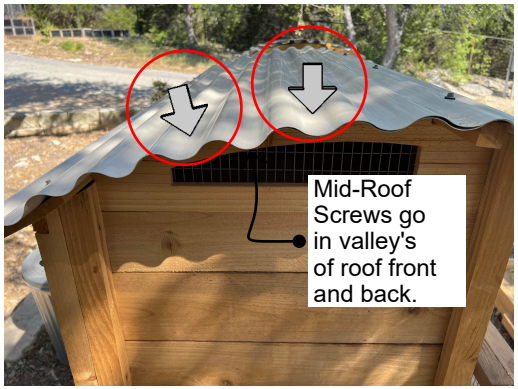
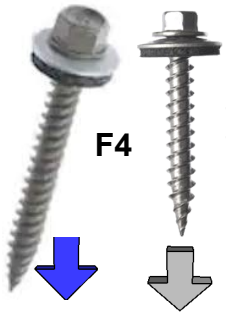


Fig 5.6



Standard Ultravinyl 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.

Position Roof: Using the photos to the left, familiarize yourself with the general position of the two roof panels and lay them on top of the coop left panel over right panel.

Slide right panel under left panel until you have an overhang on the right side similar to **Fig 5.2** and roof extends beyond ends of eaves by about 1-1/2 inches.

Install Center Screws: Using the shorter roof screws put in 4 screws down the ridge (see fig 5.1) that goes over the center roof support board starting at the front and aligning things as you go towards the back. Front and back screws are 3 or 4 inches in from edge of panel and middle two screws are just equally spaced. The screws fit into the bit holder with no bit and with downward pressure will pierce the roof and screw into middle roof support. **Only tighten roof screws just enough to compress the roof washer and not so tight as to deform roof too much or split wooden support.**

Right Edge: Roll down roof to the right and using the longer roof screws put in 4 more screws in approximately the same front to back position as screws you just installed, and position in the ridge of panel as shown in **Fig 5.2**. Angle screws to where they will tighten flat against the roof panel and drive into the meat of the wood below. Again, no need to overtighten and crush roof.

Right Edge: Roll down the left edge and repeat the same procedure as you did on the right.

Front and Back Mid Roof Screws: Using **Fig 5.6** as a guide, screw in two of the shorter roof screws into the valleys of the mid roof area as illustrated in **Fig 5.6** to where the screws bore into the center of the top edge of the front roof arc (about 5 inches from edge of roof) to keep the leading edge of the roof from flapping in the wind. Repeat this at the back in the same manner.

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Assembly Instructions
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Model 2 Summer 2023 V1.5

Step 5 - Standard Ultravinyl Roof

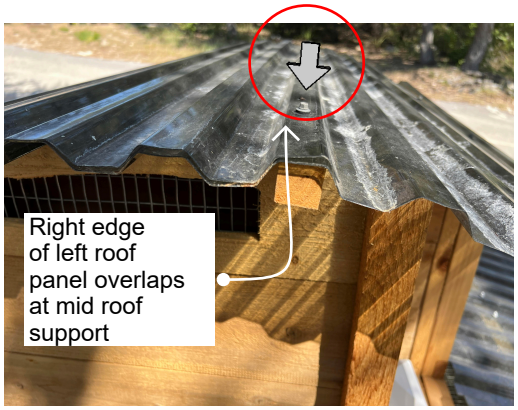


Fig 5.1

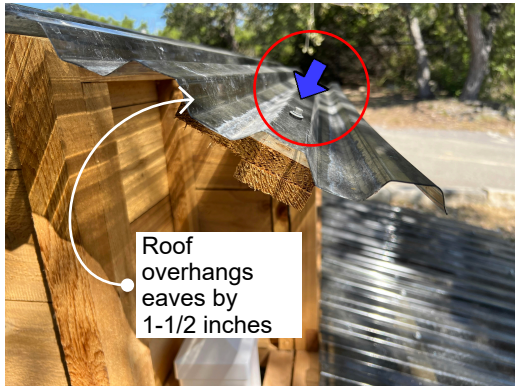


Fig 5.2

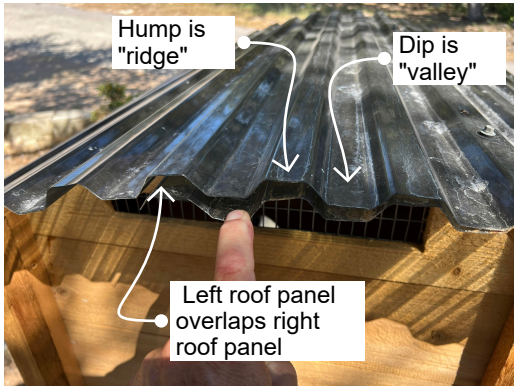


Fig 5.3

Fig 5.4

Fig 5.5

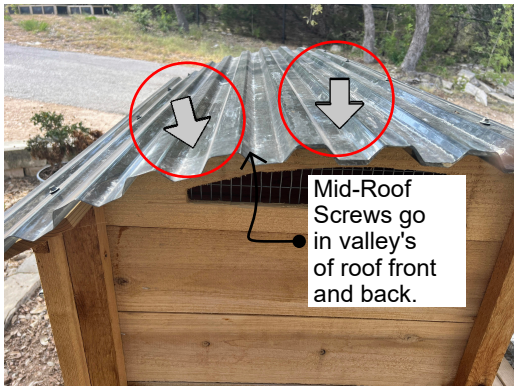
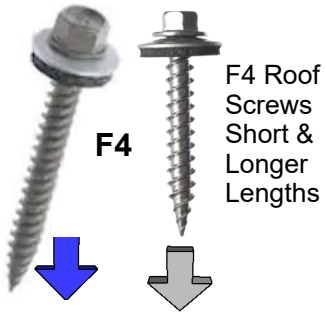


Fig 5.6



Upgraded Smoked Polycarbonate 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.

Position Roof: Using the photos to the left, familiarize yourself with the general position of the two roof panels and lay them on top of the coop left panel over right panel.

Slide right panel under left panel until you have an overhang on the right side similar to **Fig 5.2** and roof extends beyond ends of eaves by about 1-1/2 inches.

Install Center Screws: Using the shorter roof screws put in 4 screws down the ridge (see fig 5.1) that goes over the center roof support board starting at the front and aligning things as you go towards the back. Front and back screws are 3 or 4 inches in from edge of panel and middle two screws are just equally spaced. The screws fit into the bit holder with no bit and with downward pressure will pierce the roof and screw into middle roof support. **Only tighten roof screws just enough to compress the roof washer and not so tight as to deform roof too much or split wooden support.**

Right Edge: Roll down roof to the right and using the longer roof screws put in 4 more screws in approximately the same front to back position as screws you just installed, and position in the ridge of panel as shown in **Fig 5.2**. Angle screws to where they will tighten flat against the roof panel and drive into the meat of the wood below. Again, no need to overtighten and crush roof.

Right Edge: Roll down the left edge and repeat the same procedure as you did on the right.

Front and Back Mid Roof Screws: Using **Fig 5.6** as a guide, screw in two of the shorter roof screws into the valleys of the mid roof area as illustrated in **Fig 5.6** to where the screws bore into the center of the top edge of the front roof arc (about 5 inches from edge of roof) to keep the leading edge of the roof from flapping in the wind. Repeat this at the back in the same manner.

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Assembly Instructions
Starter Chicken Coop
Model 2 Summer 2023 V1.5

Step 5 - Upgraded Smoked Polycarbonate Roof

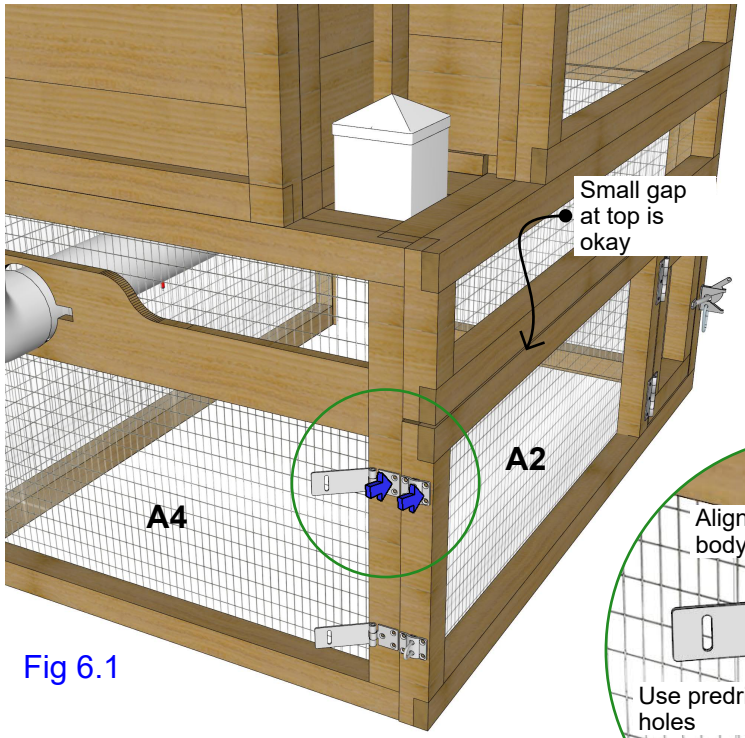


Fig 6.1

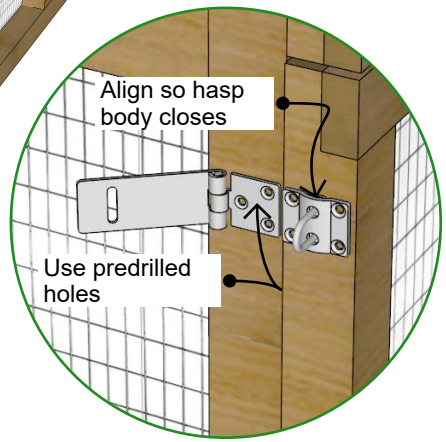


Fig 6.2

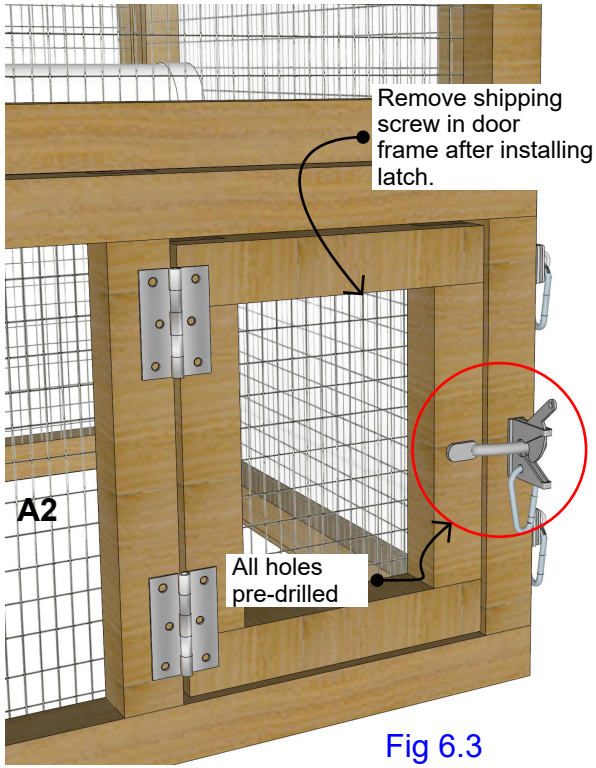


Fig 6.3

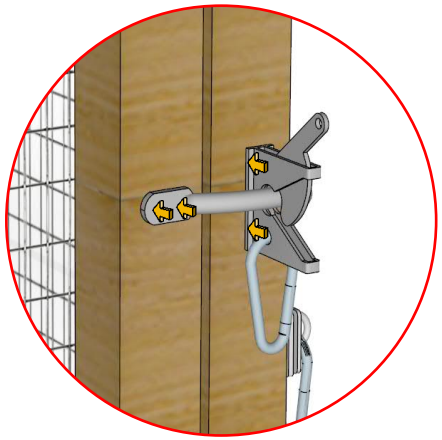
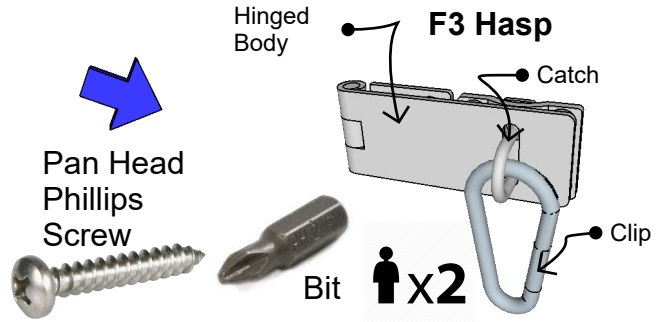


Fig 6.4



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

Another set of hands will be helpful...

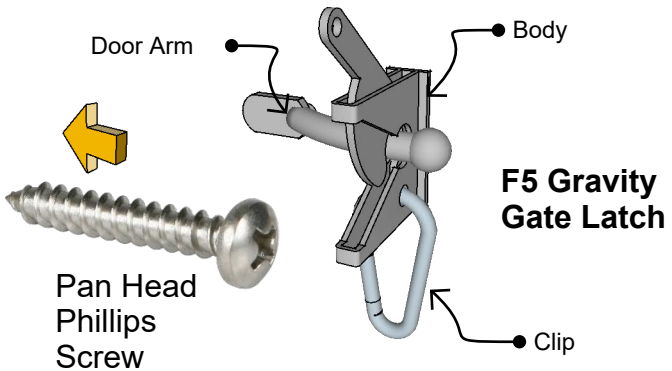
6.1 & 6.2- Install A2 Panel: The A2 Panel attaches to and is removable by 4 F3 Hasps that are locked in place with Spring Clips. Install the hinged body portion of the hasp onto the A4 Panel using figures 6.1 and 6.2 as guidance using the provided flat head Phillips screws. Position the catch onto the A2 panel such that when the hinged body is folded over, it captures the catch. Install both upper and lower hasps on front and back of the A2 panel.

The entire A2 Panel is removable by unlatching all 4 F3 Hasps for purposes of raking out your coop.

6.3 & 6.4 - Install Gravity Gate Latch on Turnout Door: Chickens are let in and out of the coop for free range time via the small door in the A2 Panel. It is securely locked by a gravity gate latch and a locking clip.

Using provided Pan Head Phillips Screws attach both the door arm and the body of the gravity gate latch into the pre-drilled holes. Remove the shipping screw from the door and check for smooth operation.

Use clip at all times to secure this latch.



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Starter Chicken Coop
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Step 6 - Standard
Model Right Run Side

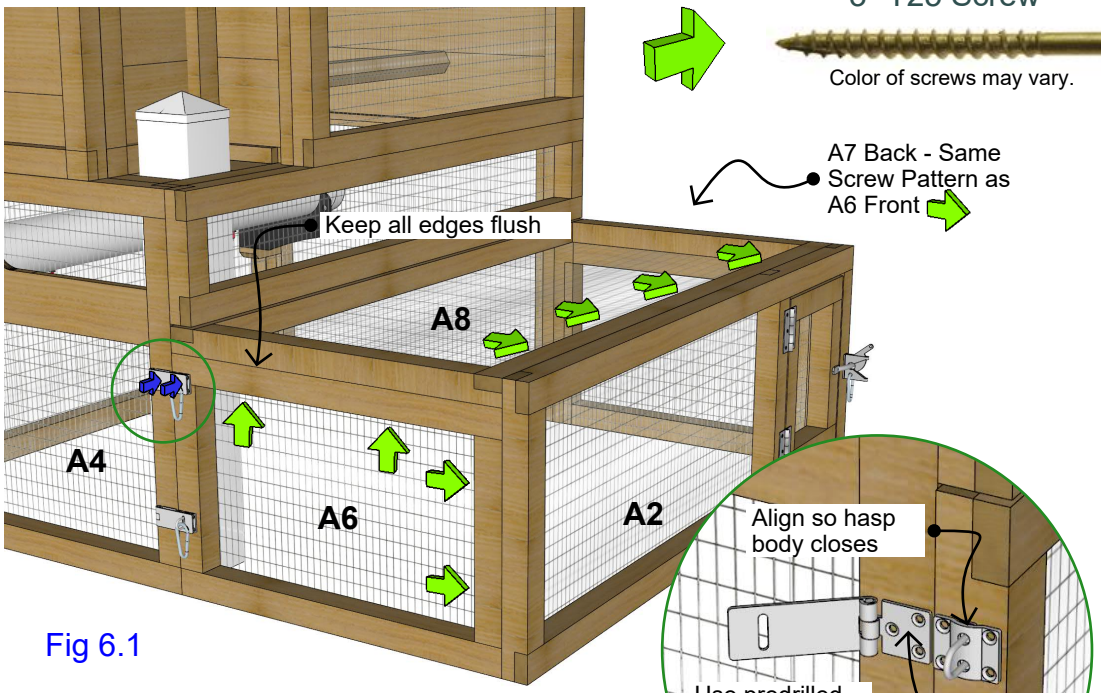


Fig 6.1

Fig 6.2

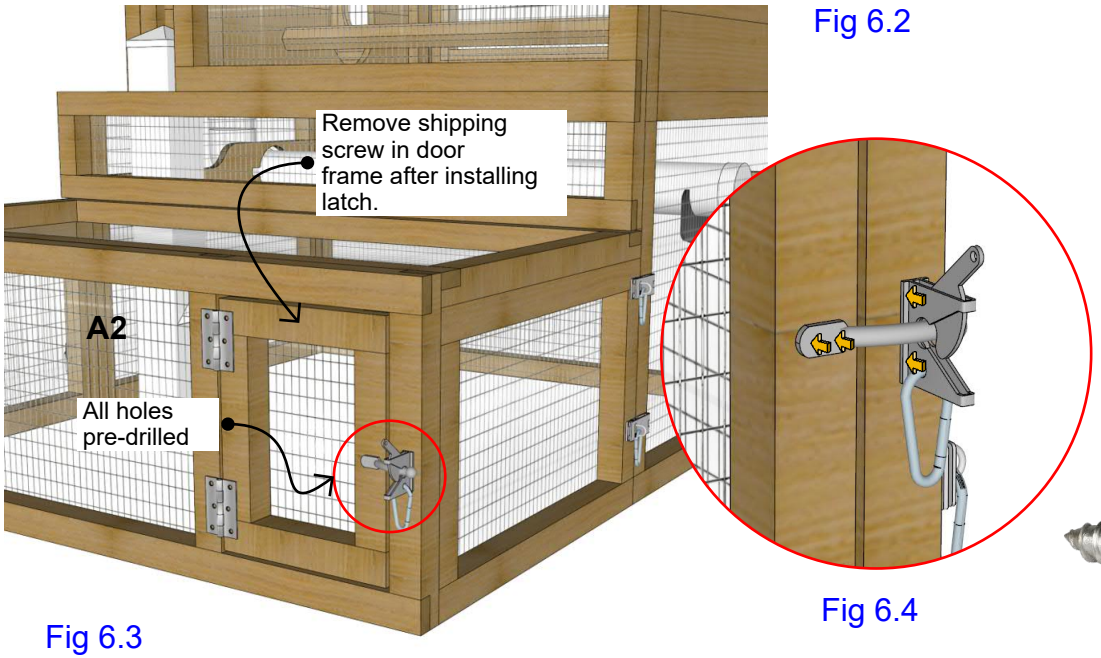


Fig 6.3

Fig 6.4

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

Another set of hands will be helpful...

6.1 & 6.2- Assemble Sunroom: The XL Sunroom is an assembly that attaches and detaches off from the side of the main coop removable by 4 F3 Hasps that are locked in place with Spring Clips.

Position and assemble the A2, A6, A7 & A8 panels as shown in figure 6.1 keeping all edges flush using 3" T25 Screws.

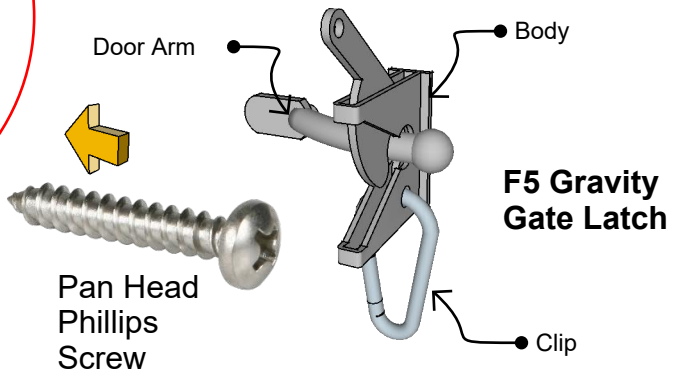
After assembling, lodge the assembly into the side of the coop and install the hinged body portion of the hasp onto the A4 Panel using figures 6.1 and 6.2 as guidance using the provided flat head Phillips screws. Position the catch onto the A6 panel such that when the hinged body is folded over, it captures the catch. Install both upper and lower hasps on front and back A7 panel.

The entire Sunroom is removable by unlatching all 4 F3 Hasps for purposes of raking out your coop.

6.3 & 6.4 - Install Gravity Gate Latch on Turnout Door: Chickens are let in and out of the coop for free range time via the small door in the A2 Panel. It is securely locked by a gravity gate latch and a locking clip.

Using provided Pan Head Phillips Screws attach both the door arm and the body of the gravity gate latch into the pre-drilled holes. Remove the shipping screw from the door and check for smooth operation.

Use clip at all times to secure this latch.



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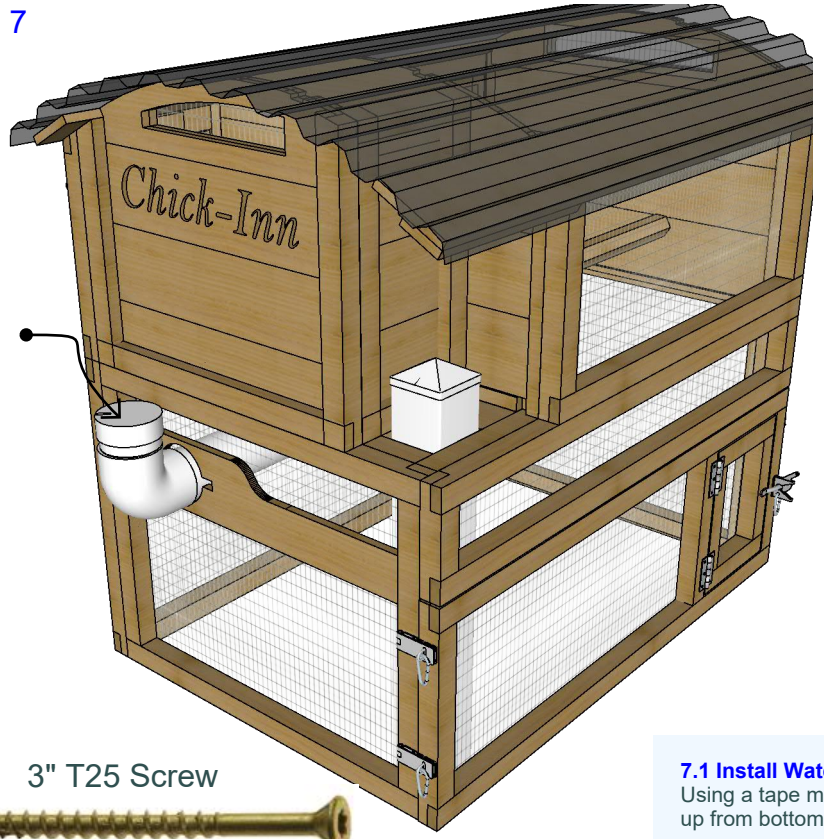
Step 6 - XL Model
Run & Door

Fig 7



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

3" T25 Screw

Color of screws may vary.

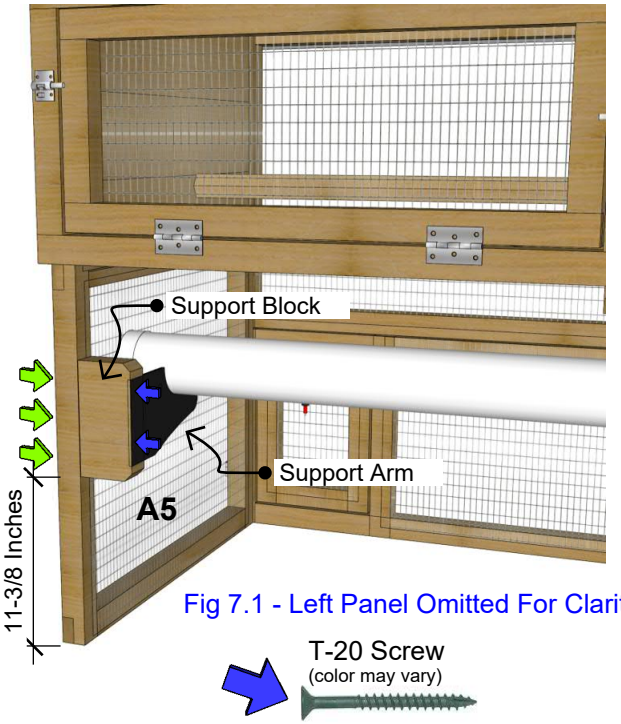


Fig 7.1 - Left Panel Omitted For Clarity

T-20 Screw
(color may vary)

7.1 Install 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 in the three pre-drilled holes.

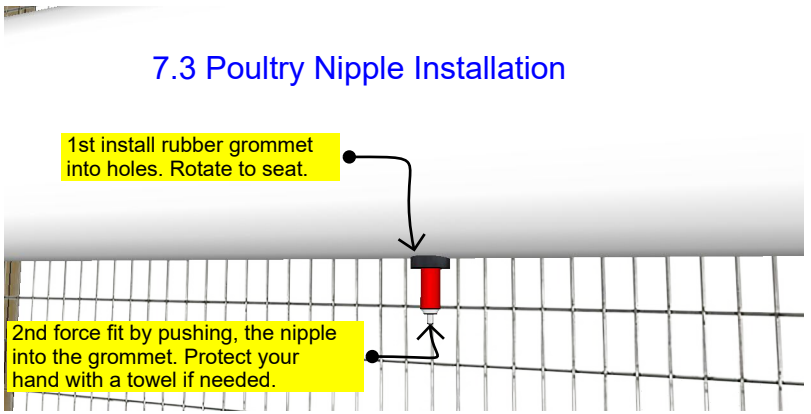
7.2 Install Feeder: Feeder drops in at an angle from the outside. Face the open cup area of feed delivery towards inside of coop. Feed cap may be inside your feed tube.

7.3 Install Poultry Nipples: Fig 7.3 illustrates installation of the standard poultry nipple. After inserting nipples, insert waterer into position as indicated in Fig 7 roating as needed for nipples to clear then fill after inserted and resting in the waterer bracket installed in Fig 7.1

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

Fig 7.2

7.3 Poultry Nipple Installation



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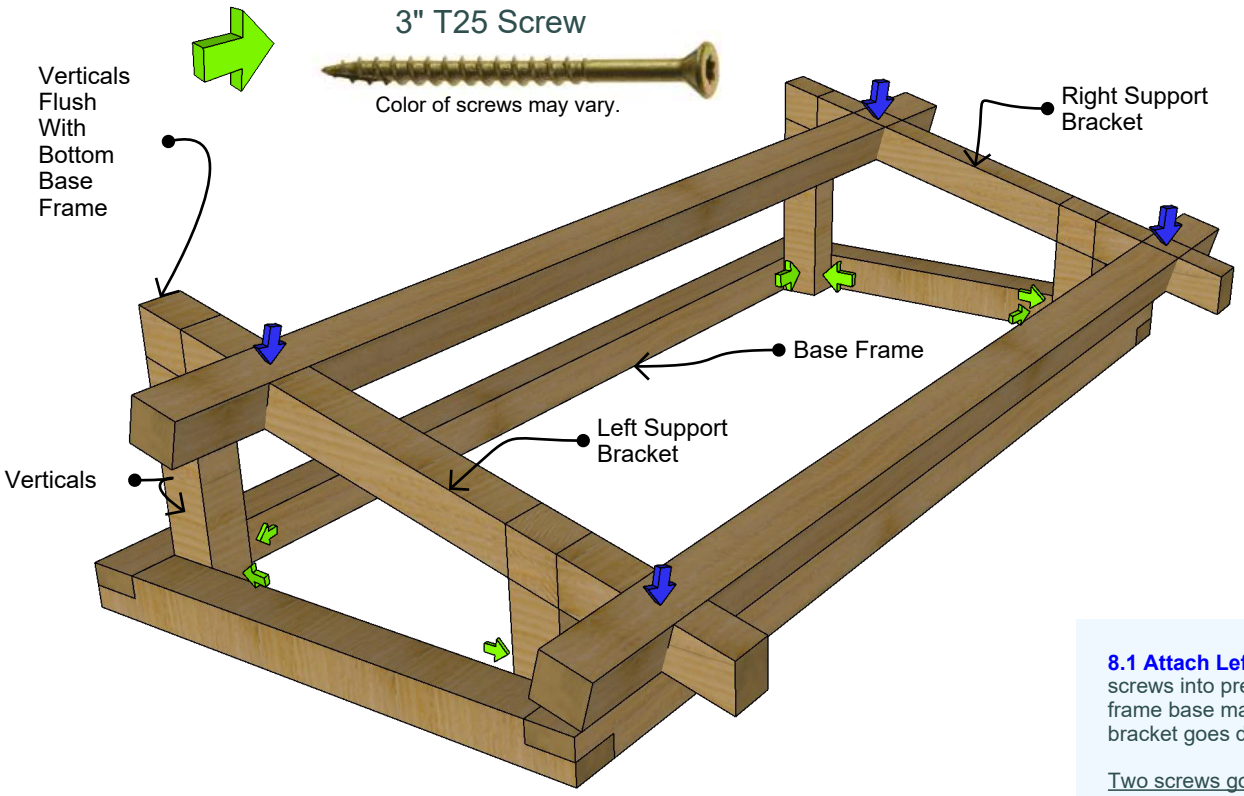
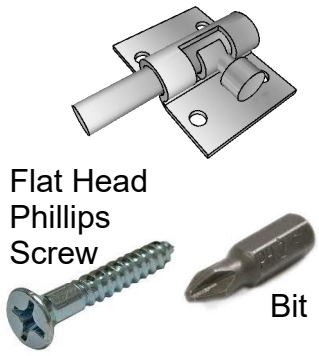
Step 7 - Optional Waterer & Feeder



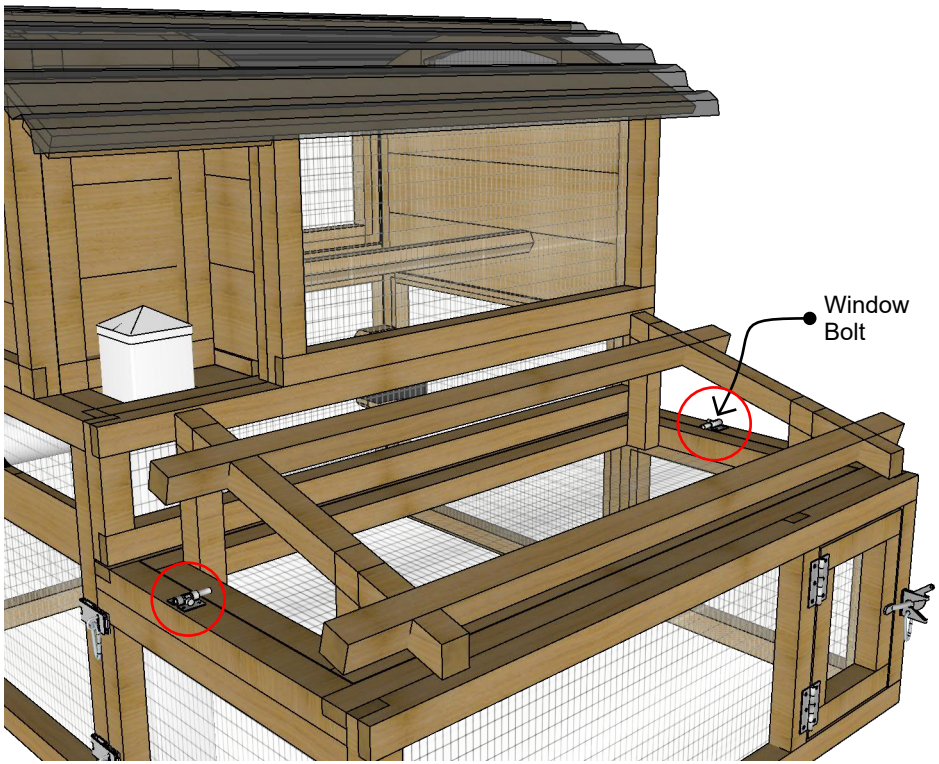


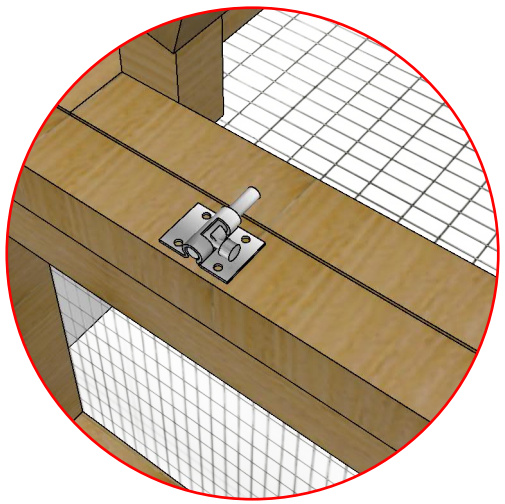
8.1 Attach Left & Right Support Brackets to Base Frame: Using T25 screws into pre-drilled holes, attach left and right support brackets to the frame base making sure the bottoms of the verticals in the support bracket goes down and inside the frame and flush to the bottom.

Two screws go in each corner to lock the assembly together.

8.1.1 Place the Frame: Place the frame into the top of the sunroom allowing it to rest on the roof. This will be the easiest position to be in to support the roof installation in the next step.

In the approximate positions shown, install two window bolts to hold the frame in place during strong winds. The window bolts will trap the frame, but also allow easy removal if you want to allow more sunlight in the run for your hens.





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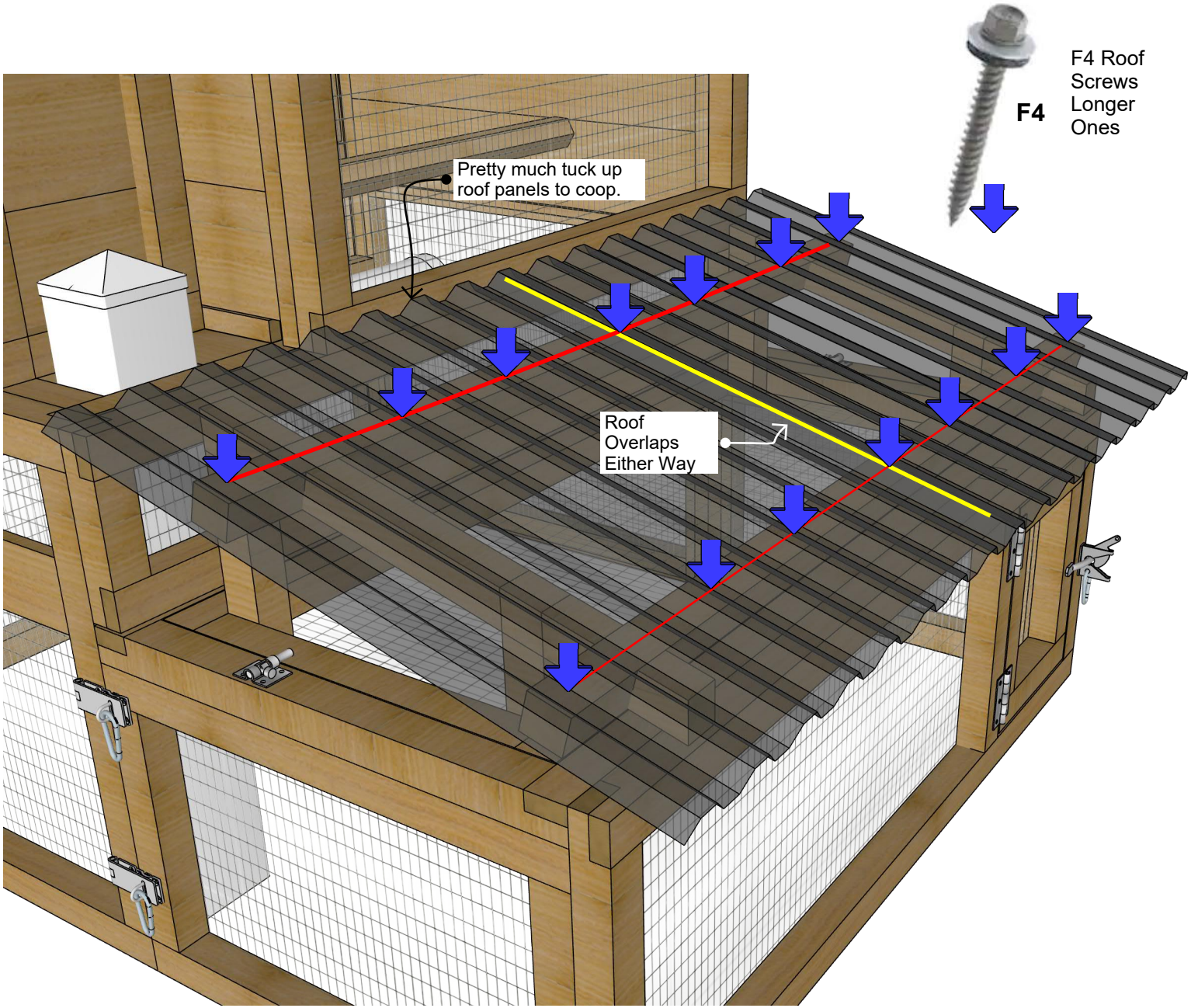
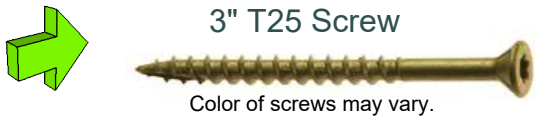
Step 8.1 - Optional Sunroom Shade - Frame



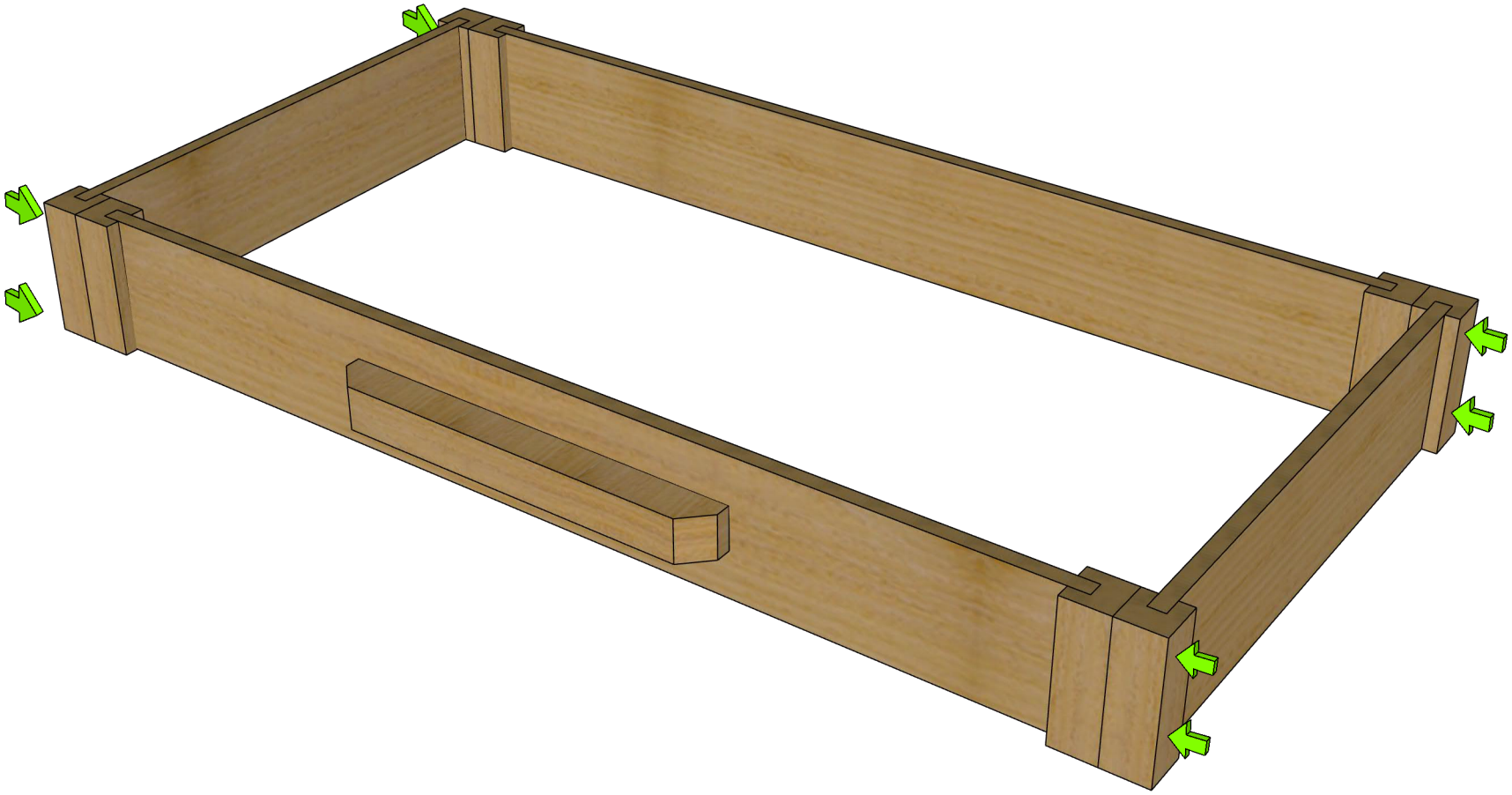
8.2 Attach Roof Panels: Using the longer F4 screws, layout and attach each roof panel in accordance with the above diagram. Center the panels and overlap one row. Place roof screws on the ridges of the panel piercing the panels with the screws and only tightening enough to just compress the rubber washers.

Shade structure is removable for when you would like your hens to get full sunlight. Need sun. If it's hotter than 85 or 90 outside, then the shade structure is a good idea. It will obviously help with rain and snow too during inclement weather.



Color of screws may vary.

2x Sides
2x Ends



9. 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.

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Step 9 - Dust Bathing / Herb Garden Box

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.

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

#1 Stake Method

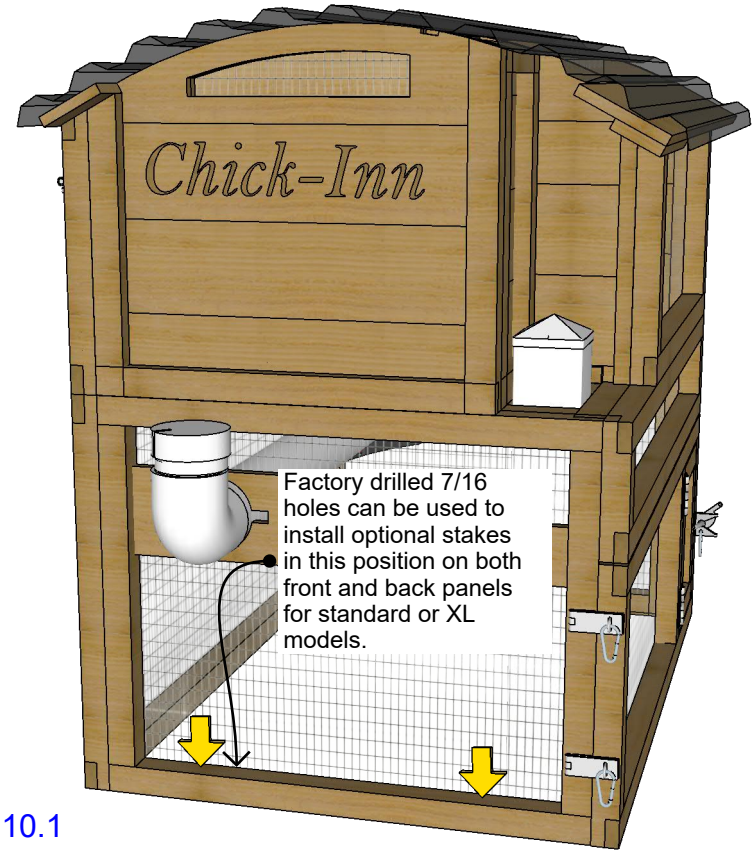


Fig 10.1

#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.

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

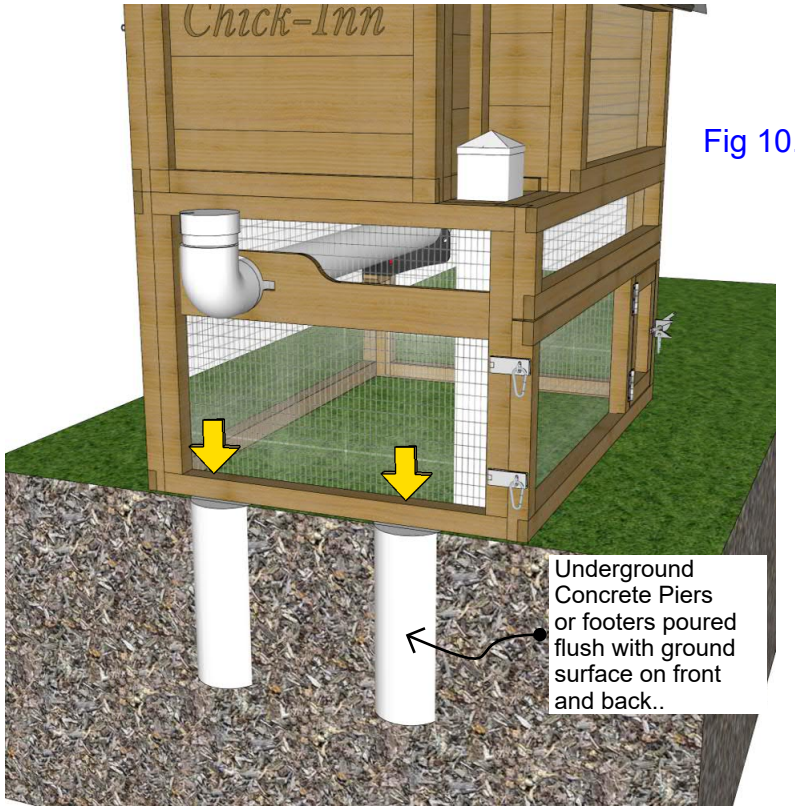


Fig 10.2

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.

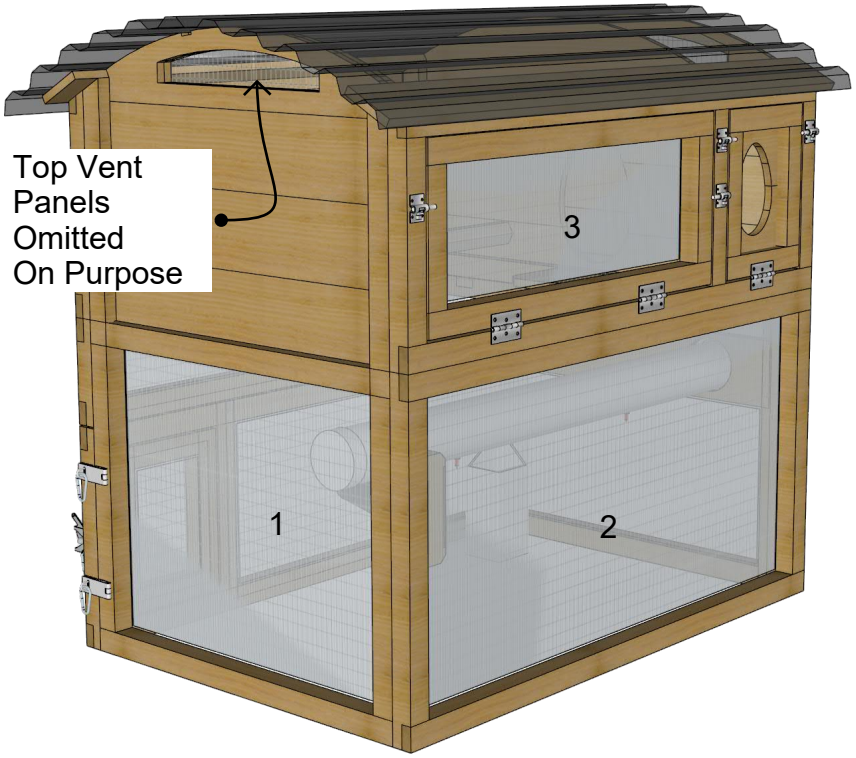
If you have hard clay or even rock that a 10" stake can reach into and grab firmly, you can drive a 3/8 inch diameter stake through holes in front and back panel bottom rails and this should hold your coop firm in all but hurricane force winds. See Fig 10.1

If you have sandy or sand 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 and back edge of coop and starting at least 2 inches away from the factory holes, drive some sort of concrete anchor 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.

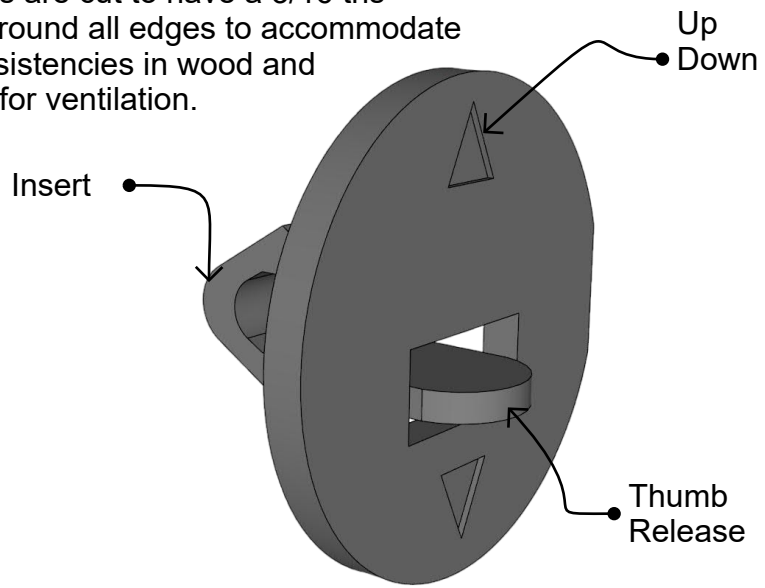
9 Panel Set (if purchased)

Top vent panels are omitted to assure proper airflow.



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.

Panels are cut to have a 3/16 ths 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.

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Assembly Instructions
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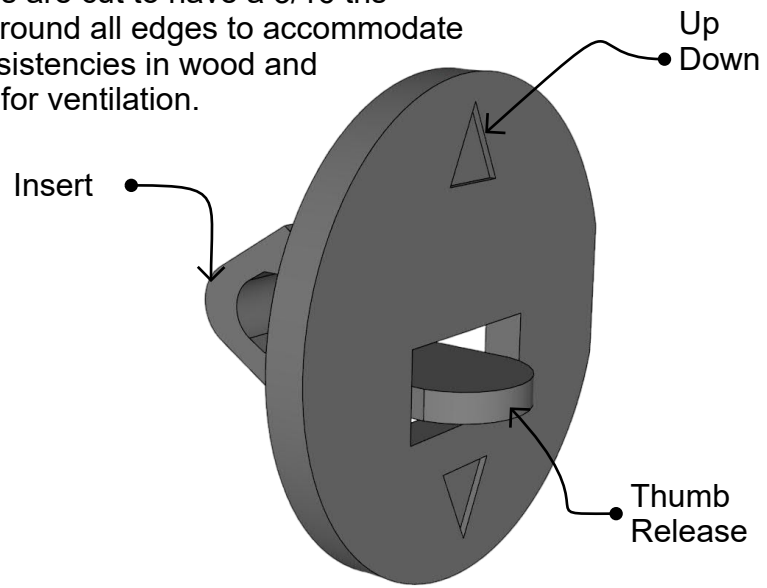
Step 11 - Optional Storm Panels Standard Model

12 Panel Set (if purchased)

Top vent panels are omitted to assure proper airflow.

Panels are cut to have a 3/16 ths 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.

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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Assembly Instructions
Starter Chicken Coop
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Step 11 - Optional Storm Panels XL Model

Some things to know about using your new Starter 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.

SNOW AREAS
If you live in a very snowy region you can add a full set of storm panels to keep snow out of the run too.

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Usage Tips