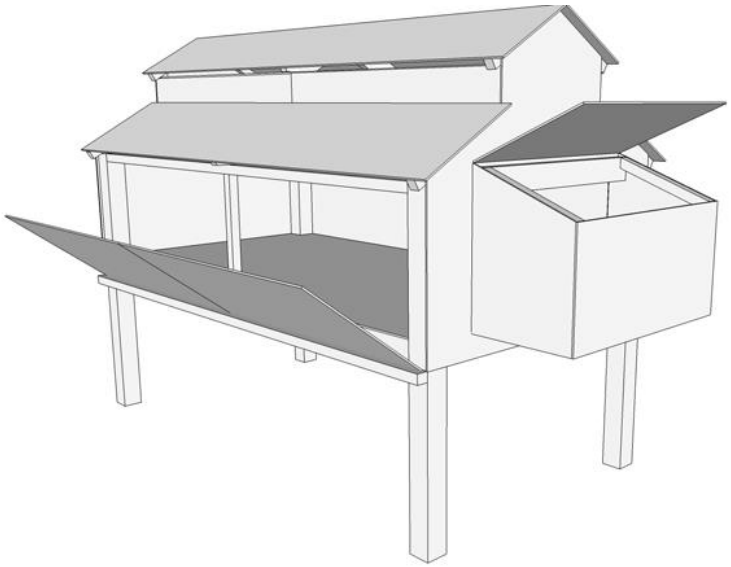
By Natalie Dalpias, TheCreativeMom.com



Supplies:

- Chicken Coop Plans
- 2- 4x4 posts (120”)
- 9- 2x4's (96")
- 10- 2x2's (96")
- 4- sheets plywood siding (4'x8')
- 1- 72" piano hinge
- 1- 30" piano hinge
- 3- sheets 1/2" OSB plywood (4' x 8')
- 12- 2x4 brackets (Simpson FB24Z ZMAX)
- 1- 2x8 (72")
- 15- 1x2 (96") for trim
- Red outdoor paint
- White outdoor paint
- Roofing of your choice
- Screws (2 1/2" should work great)
- 2- Window Bolts
- Hook for your basket

Tools Needed:

- Miter Saw
- Impact Driver
- Staple Gun
- Reciprocating Saw or Jig Saw
- Circular Saw or Table Saw (to cut your plywood)
- Kreg Jig (optional, but highly recommended)
- Measuring tape, pencil, eye & ear protection
- Wood Glue

Cut List:

4x4

- 4- 50 ½”, one end cut 30°. (measurement is on short side of angle)

2x4

- 2- 41”
- 1- 45”
- 2- 89”
- 2- 18” cut 30° on one end, and 60° on the other end, with ½” left square. (see pg 11)
- 2- 14 ½” cut 30° on one end, and 60° on the other end, with ¾” left square. (see pg 13)
- 1- 92” with 3 ½” notch on side (see pg 14)
- 1- 32”

Plywood Siding

- 2- 92” x 4 ½”
- 1- 92” x 23”
- 2- 46” x 22 ½”
- 2- 46 ¼”” x 48” (see pg 16)
- 1- 32 ½” x 16 ½”
- 2- 18” x 16 ½” (cut at 20°) with 3 ½” x 1 ½” notch *see plans

2x2

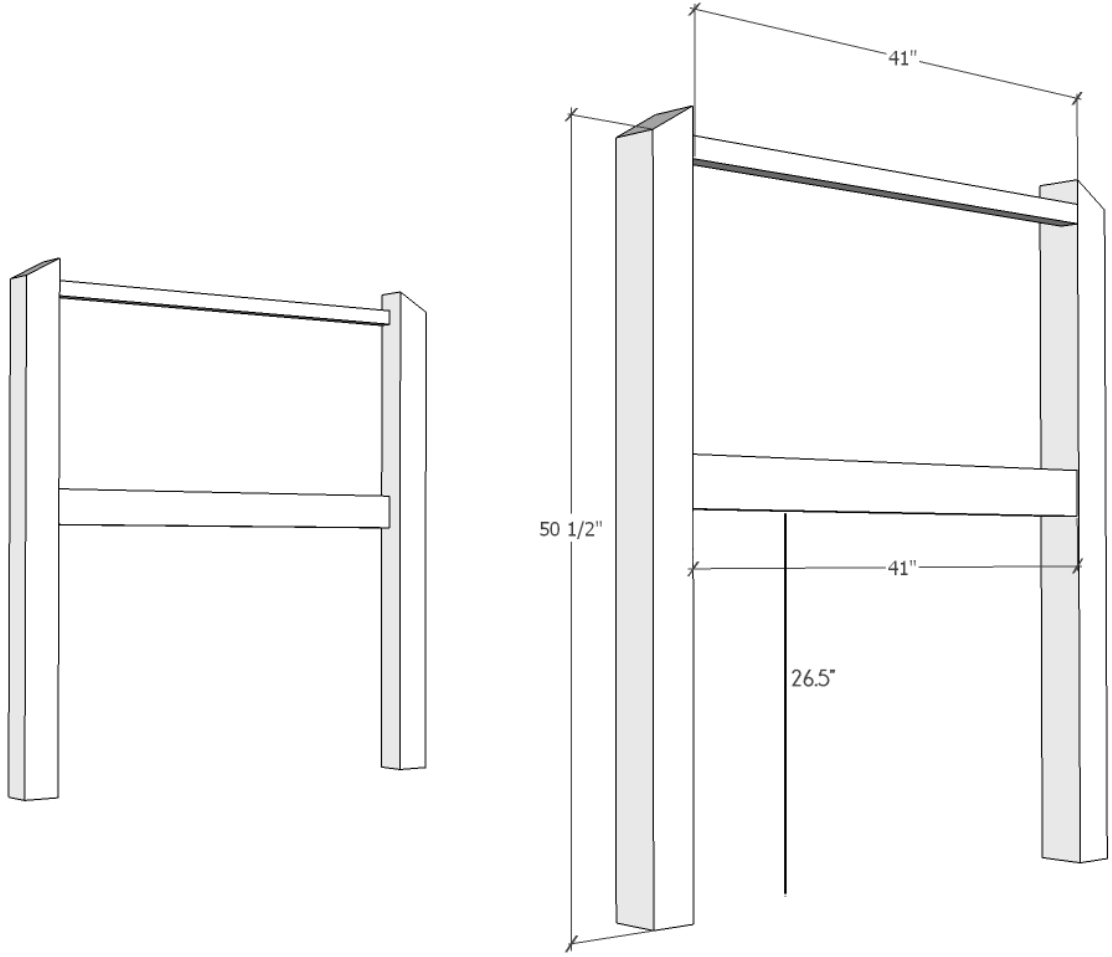
- 2- 41”
- 2- 85”
- 4- 19”
- 4- 89”
- 2- 13”
- 4- 14 ½” one end cut 30°. (on **LONG** side)
- 4- 14 ½” one end cut 30°. (on **SHORT** side)
- 4- 18” one end cut 30°. (on **LONG** side)
- 2-16 ½”
- 1- 32”
- 2- 13”
- 2- 16” (cut at 30° parallel on both ends)

1/2” OSB Plywood

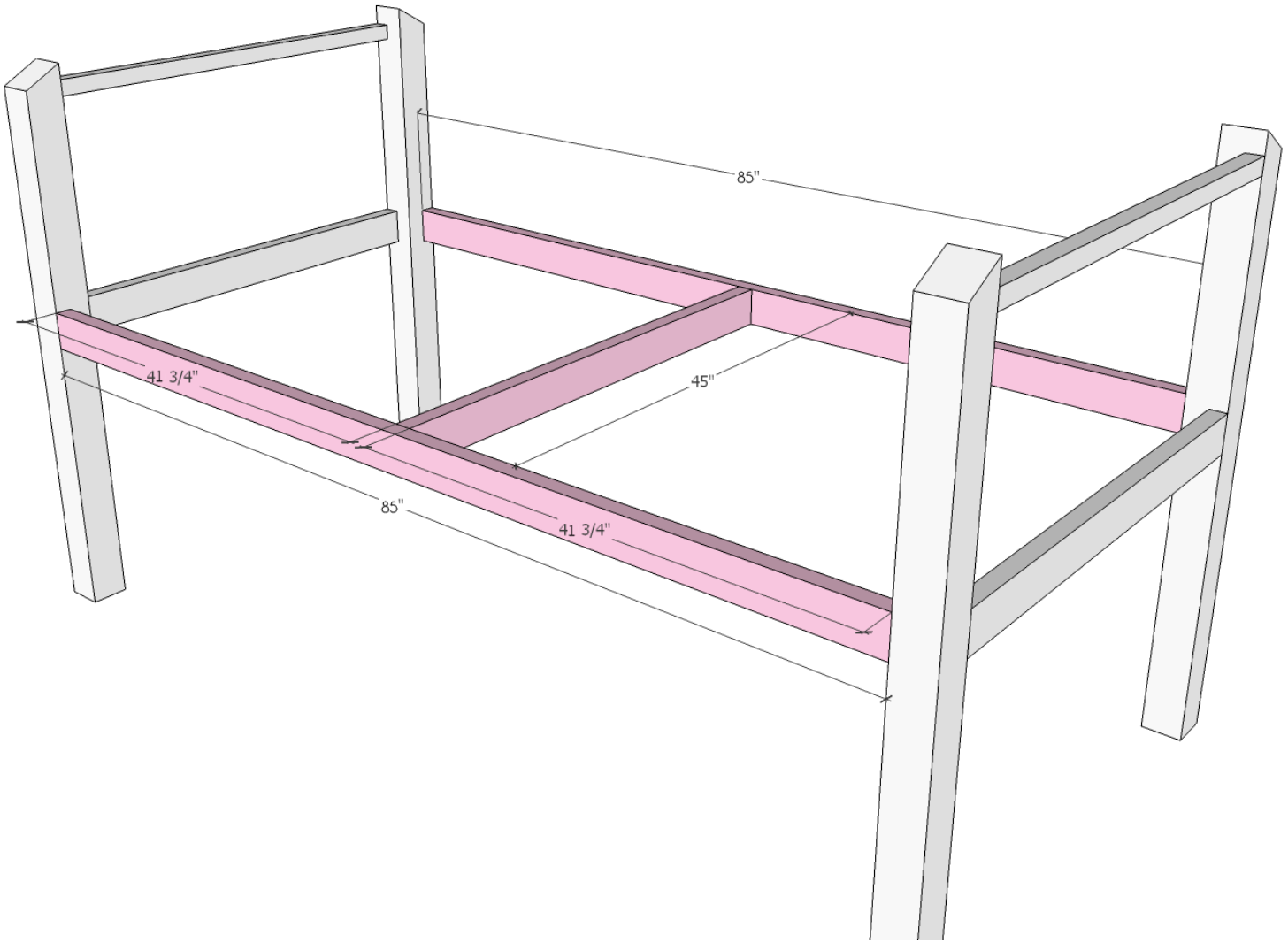
- 1- 92” x 48” with 3 ½” notches cut from each corner and on sides (see pg 7)
- 2- 14 ½” x 96”
- 2-17 ¾” x 96”
- 1- 32 ½” x 18” (nesting box floor)
- 1- 33 ½” x 18 ½” (nesting box roof)

Instructions:

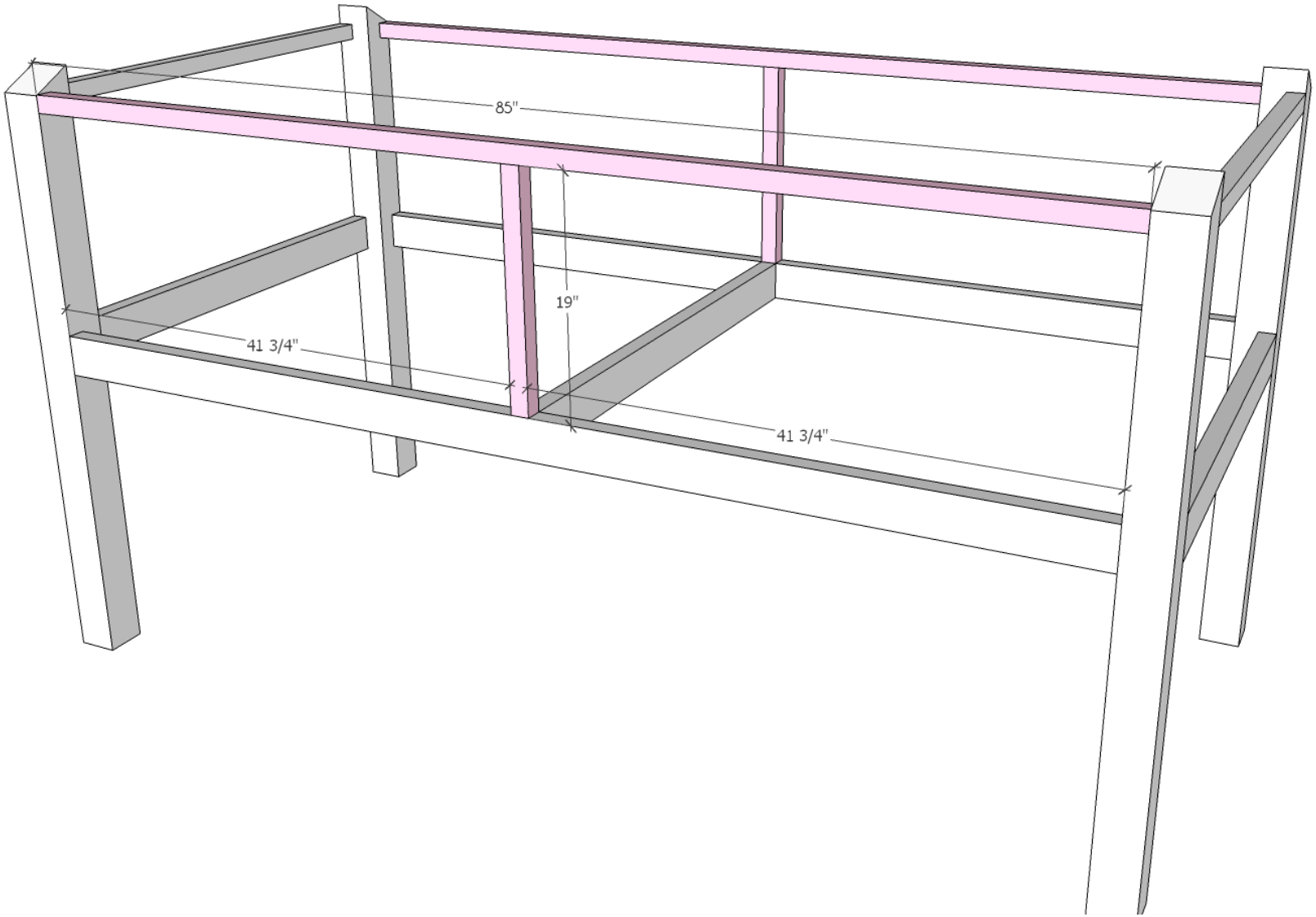
1. Cut your 4x4's (50 1/2" on short side of angle) with a 30° angle on top.
2. Attach your 2x4 (41") cross braces to your 4x4 posts with fence brackets (Simpson FB24R) or pocket holes. Make sure to use wood glue here and at all joints to ensure a stronger bond.



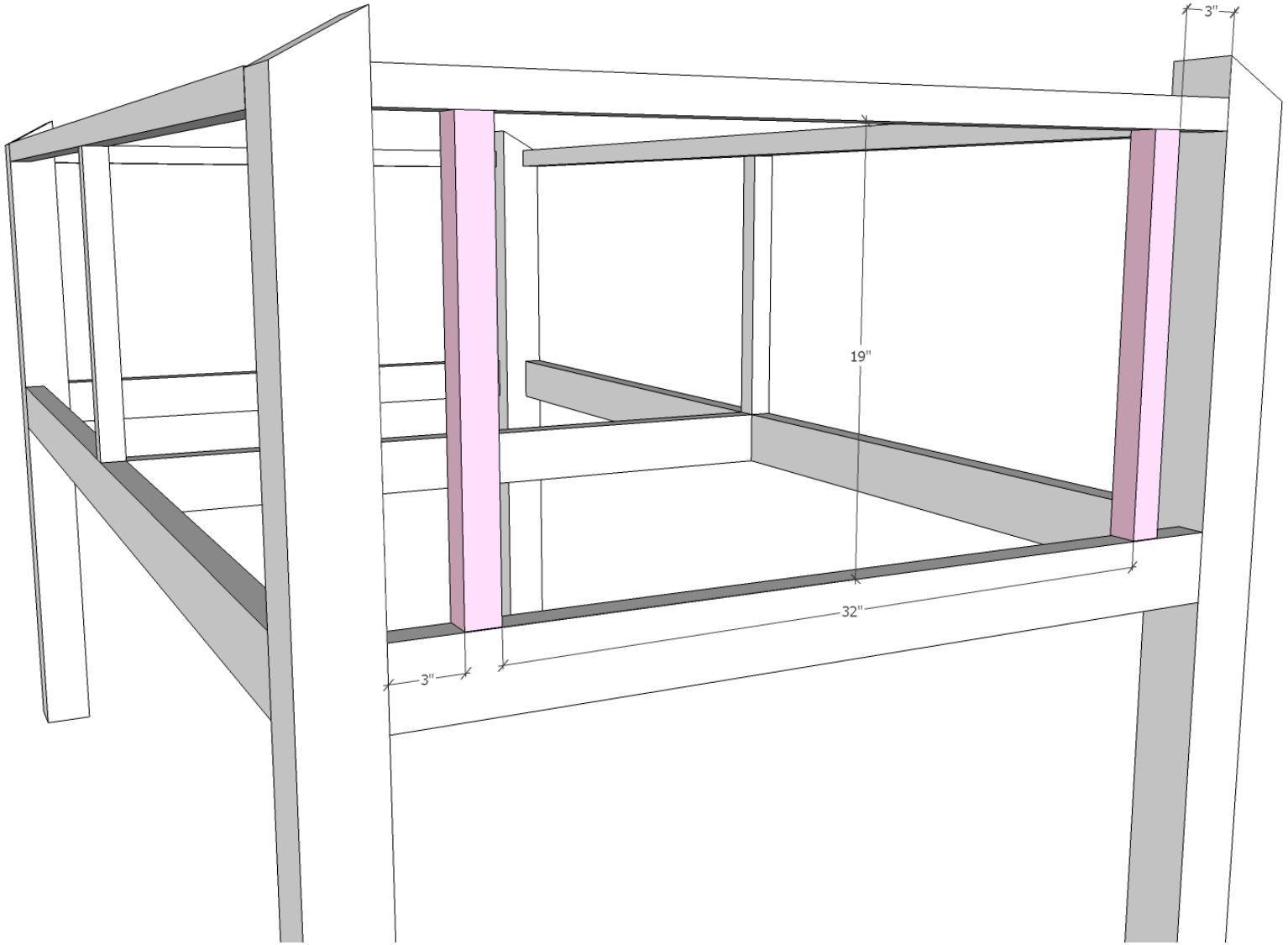
3. Attach the ends with 2x4 (85") stretchers. Use fence brackets (Simpson FB24R) or pocket holes
4. Insert a 2x4 (45") across the middle to support the chicken coop floor. You can just screw the middle 2x4 onto the side board with grabber screws or using pocket holes. No bracket is needed there.



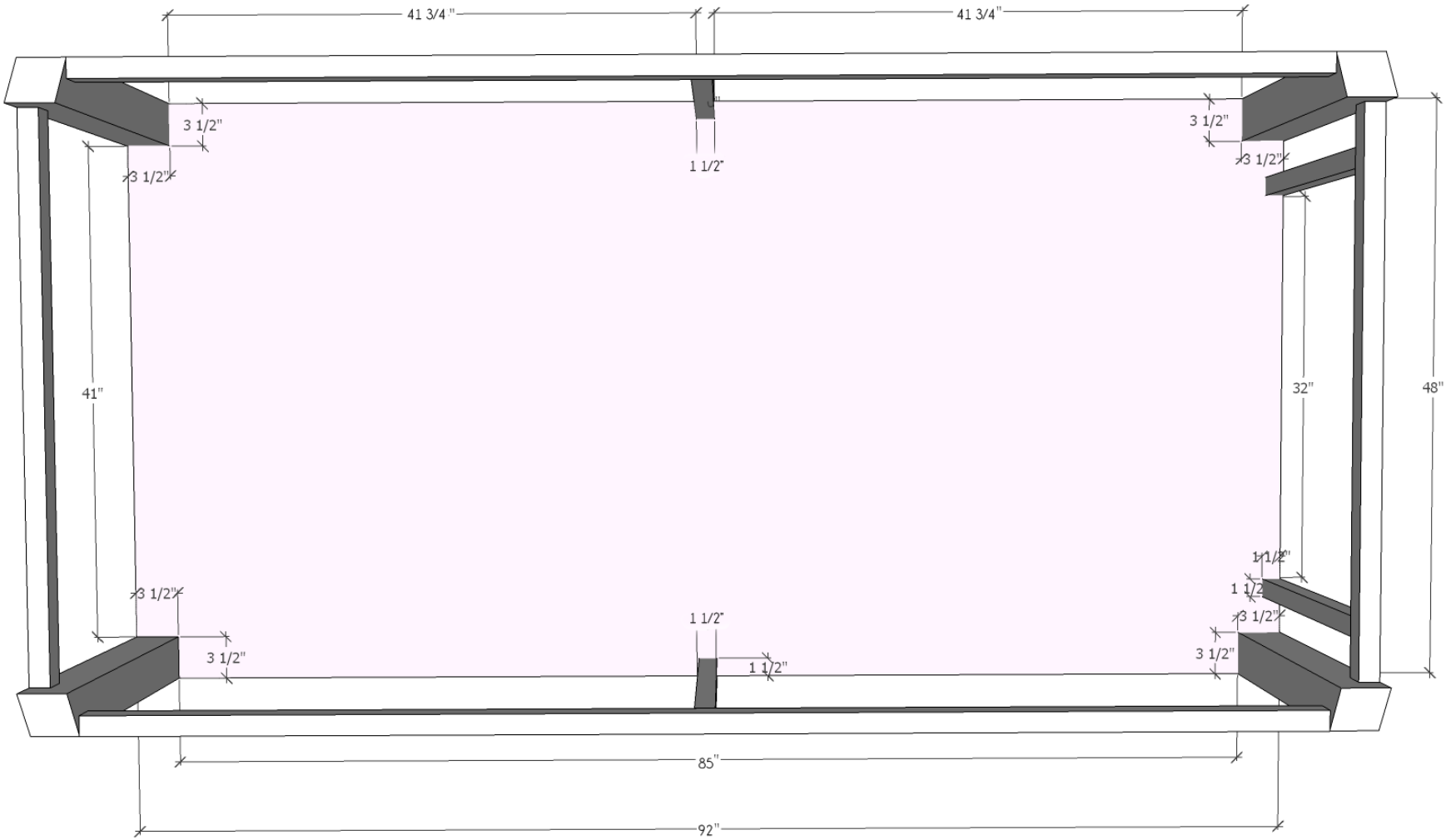
5. Now you'll add 2x2 horizontal stretchers (85”) and vertical (19") supports to the sides. We used brackets to attach our 2x4's in earlier steps, but we will attach our 2x2's using pocket holes. You can create pocket holes using a Kreg Jig, freehand pocket holes with a drill, or “toenail” it. Don’t forget to use wood glue at all joints.



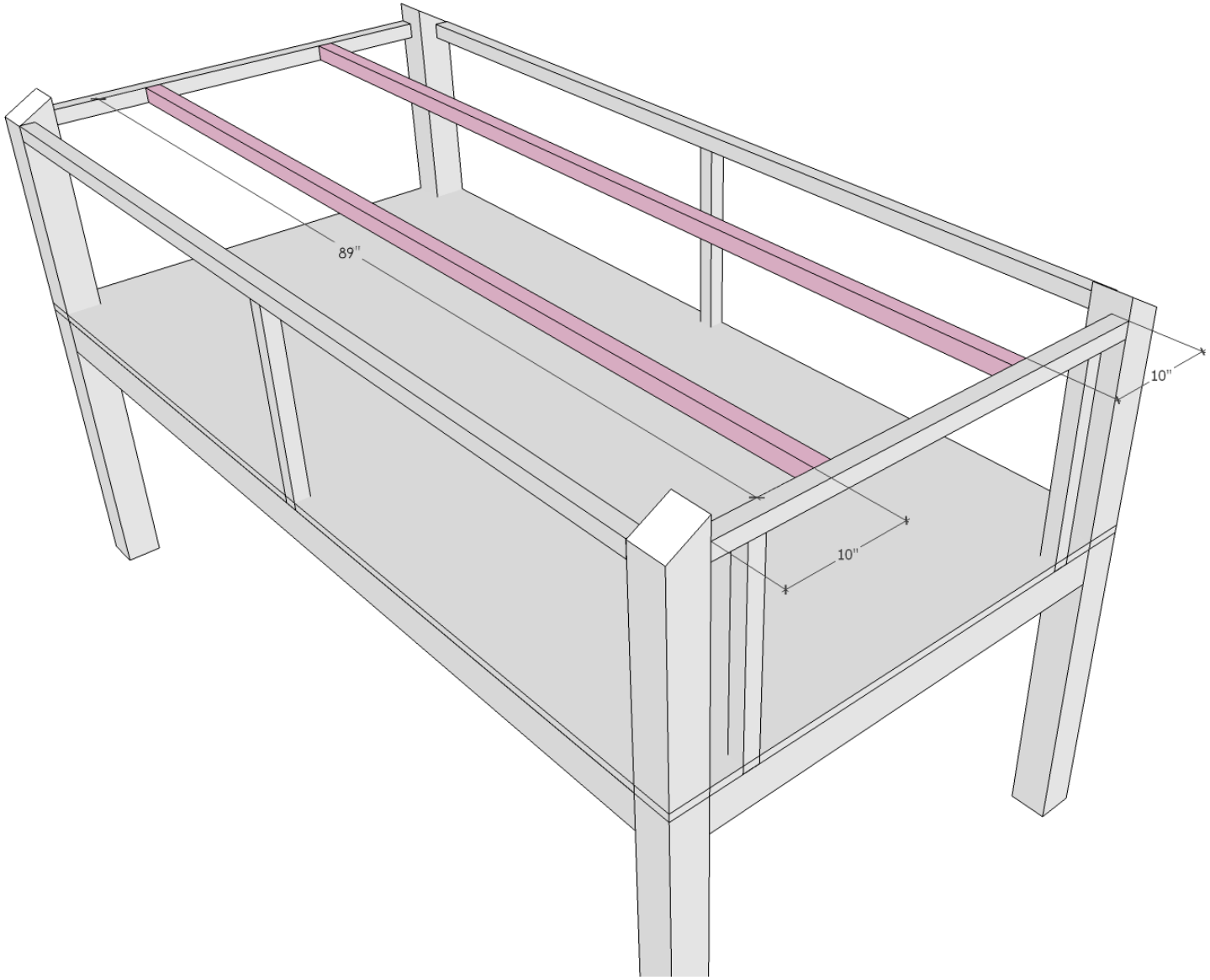
6. We will also add 2 (19") vertical 2x2's on the front end only (3" in from each side). Use pocket holes to attach these supports. These will support our nesting box later.



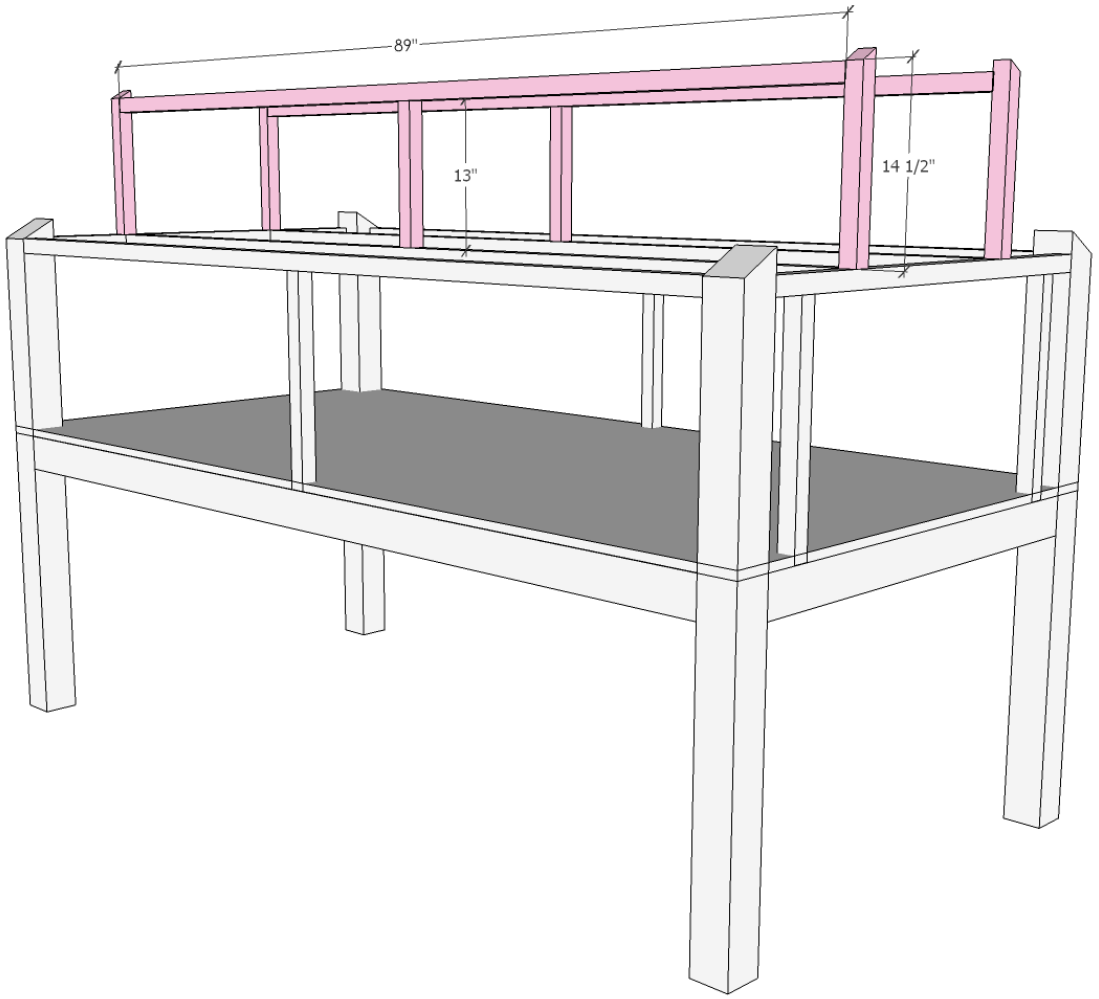
7. Next you will add the plywood floor. After it is cut to size, you will use jig saw or reciprocating saw and cut 3.5" x 3.5" inch notches in the corners to fit around your 4x4 corner posts. You'll also need to notch out the 2x2's on either side, and cut notches for the 2x2 supports we added for the nesting box.



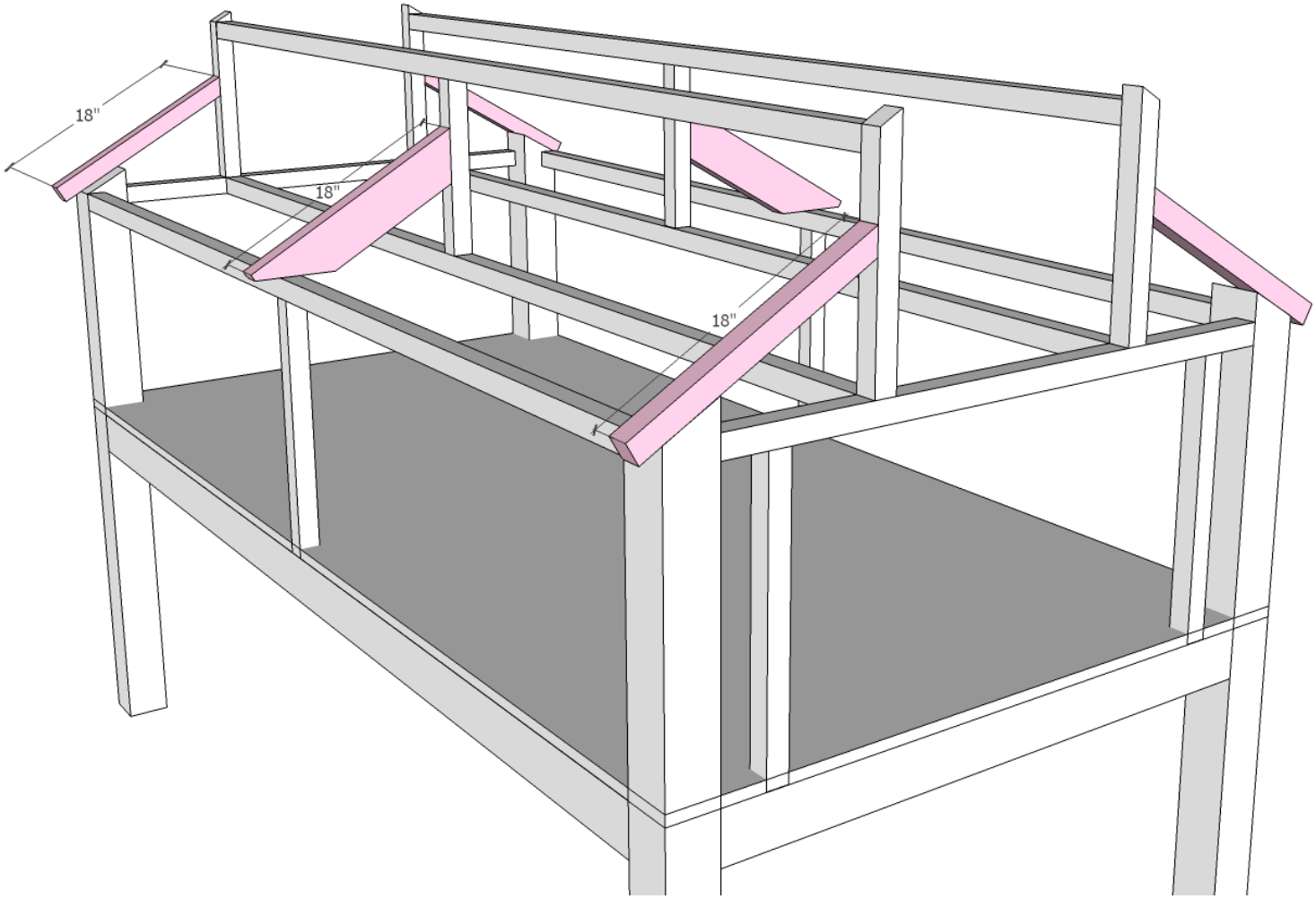
8. Next, we are going to start framing the roof. You'll add 2 horizontal 2x2's (89") 10" in from the 4x4 posts. Use pocket holes to attach to the horizontal 2x2's, or screw through the other 2x2. Remember, if you are screwing through a 2x2, you'll want to pre-drill your hole so you don't split the wood.



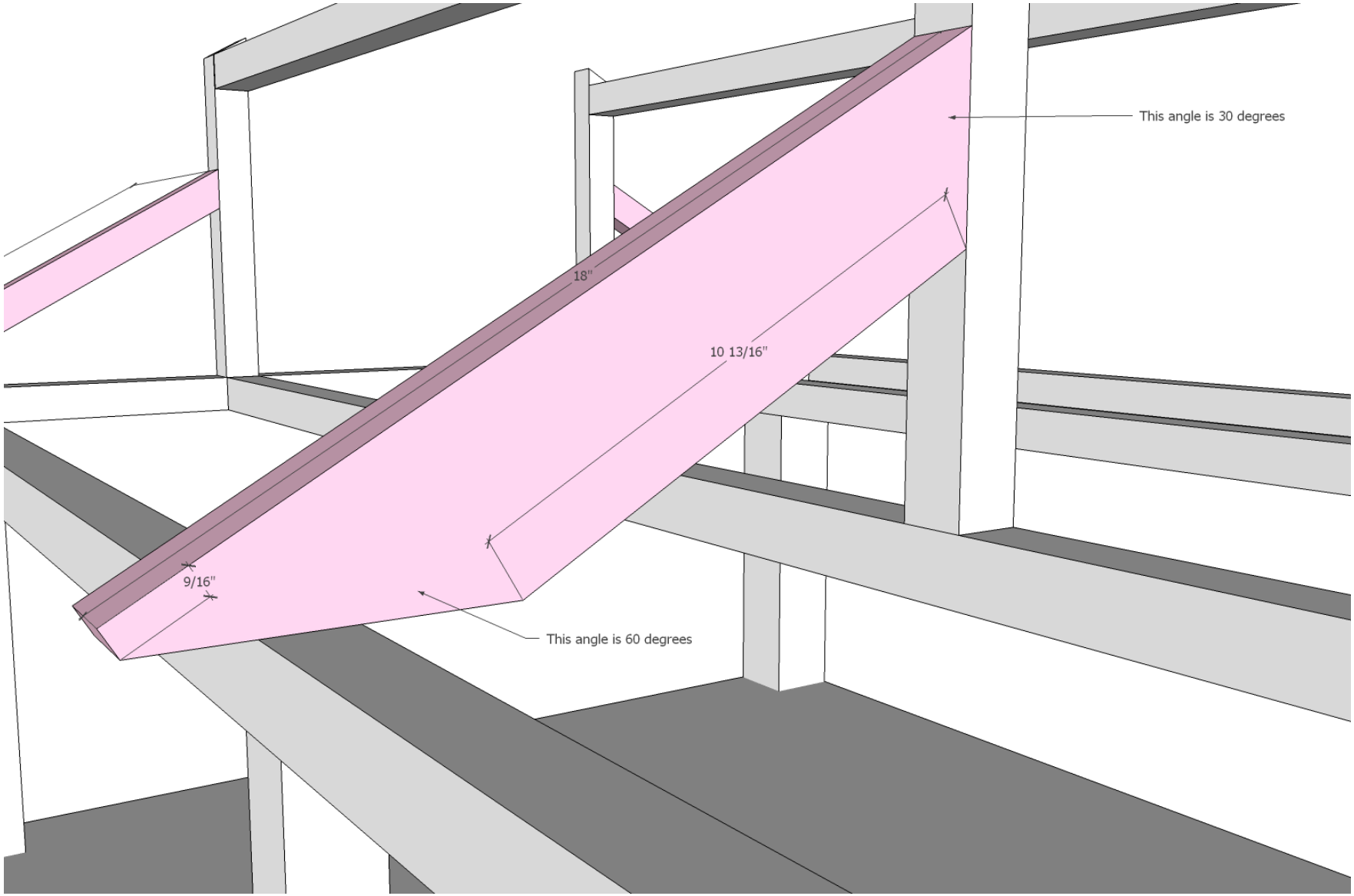
9. Next, you'll frame your upper walls, using vertical 2x2's (13" for the center and 14 ½" cut at 30 degrees for the ends- measurement is on the short side of the angle.)
10. Add a 89” 2x2 to the top , square with the short side of the angle on your 14 ½” end boards. Use pocket holes to attach to the horizontal 2x2’s, or screw through the other 2x2.



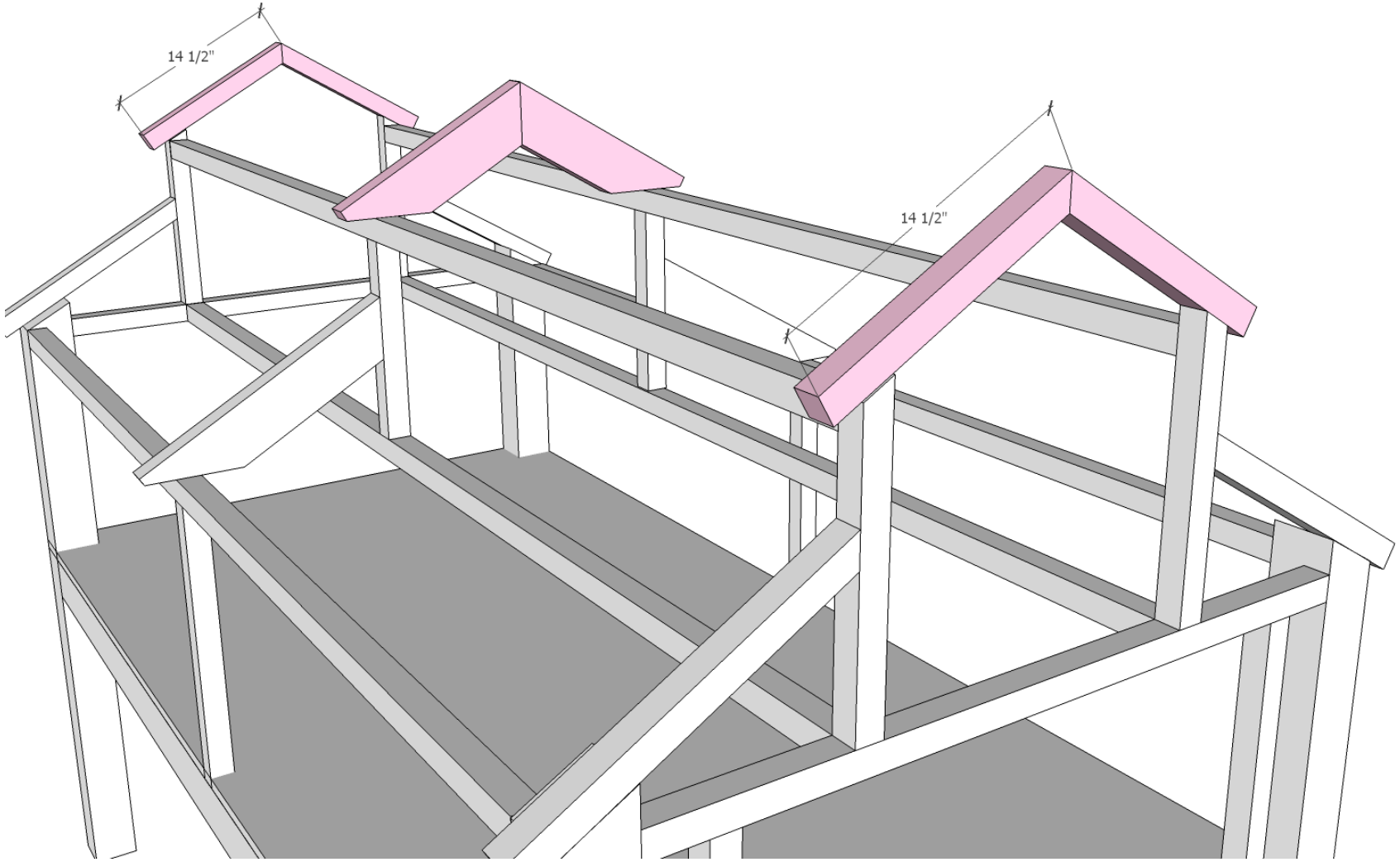
11. Next, we are going to start building our roof. Start with your corner “trusses”. They are 18” 2x2’s with one end square and the other end cut at 30 degrees. Please note that this measurement is taken on the LONG side of the angle, where the measurements on our previous cuts were taken on the short side of the angle. Attach all 4 corner trusses with wood glue and screws. You can use pocket holes to secure your boards, or predrill and screw through your 2x2 into the next board. See details in the next step for the middle support board.



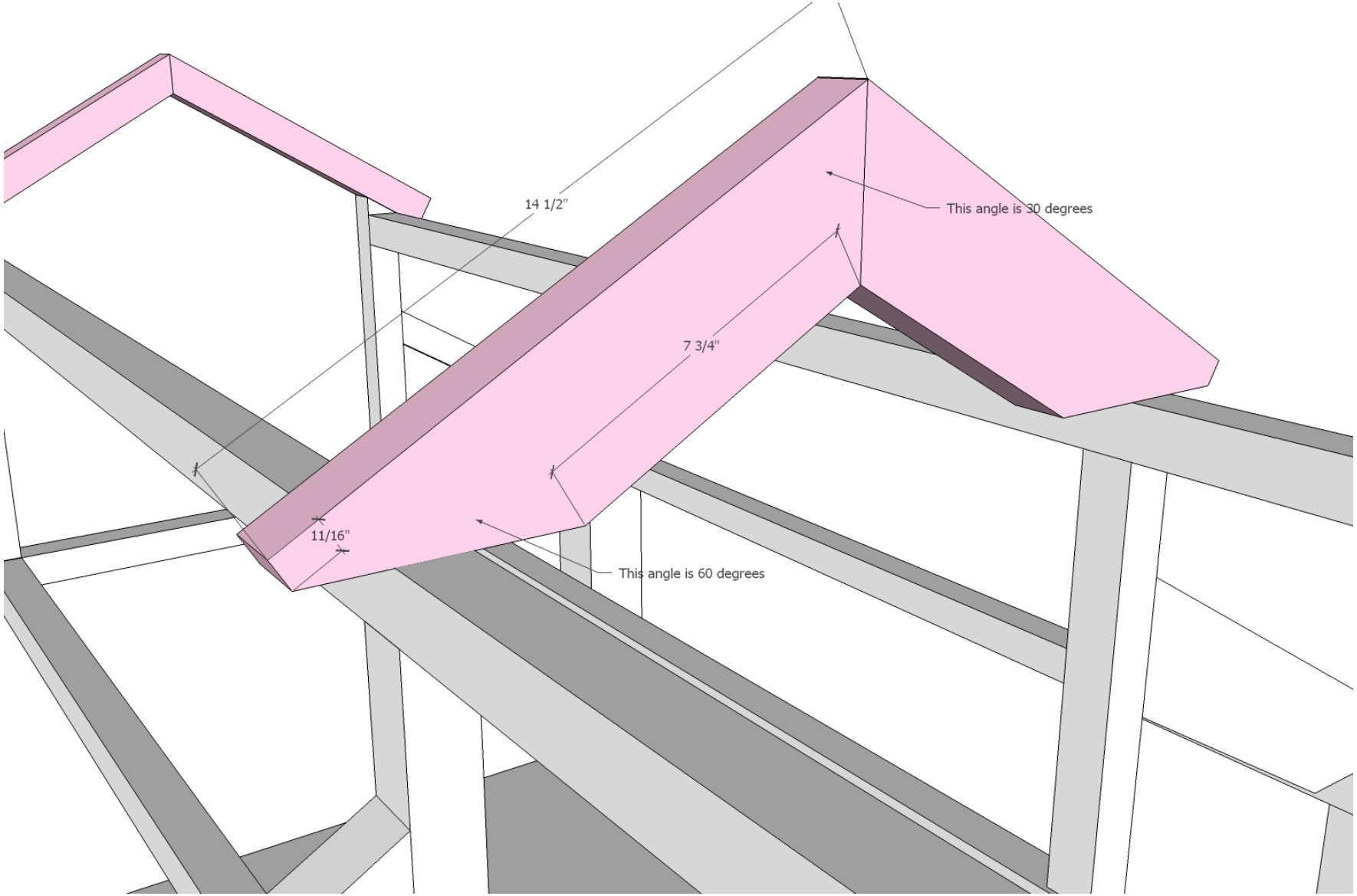
12. The middle “truss” is an 18” 2x4- please note that 18” is measured on the LONG side of the angle, with 10 13/16 on the short side of the angle. Cut one end at 30 degrees and the other at 60 degrees, leaving 9/16” square on the 60 degree end. See the diagram below for details.



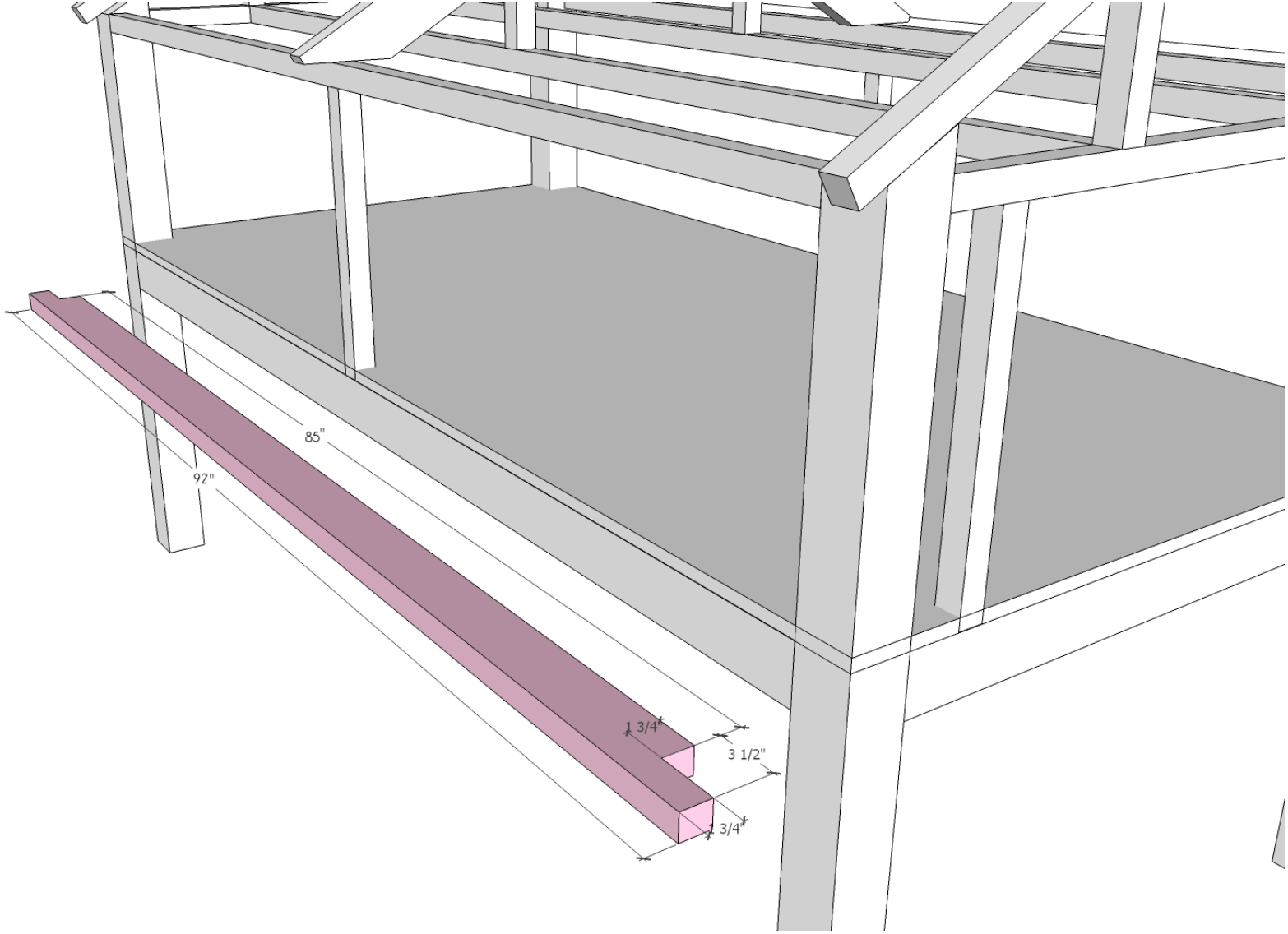
13. Now we are going to start building the upper part of the roof. Start with your corner “trusses”. They are 14 1/2” 2x2’s with one end square and the other end cut at 30 degrees. Please note that this measurement is taken on the LONG side of the angle. Attach all 4 corner trusses with wood glue and screws. You can use pocket holes to secure your boards, or predrill and screw through your 2x2 into the next board. You could also use a mending plate to keep your trusses together at the peak. See details in the next step for the middle support board.



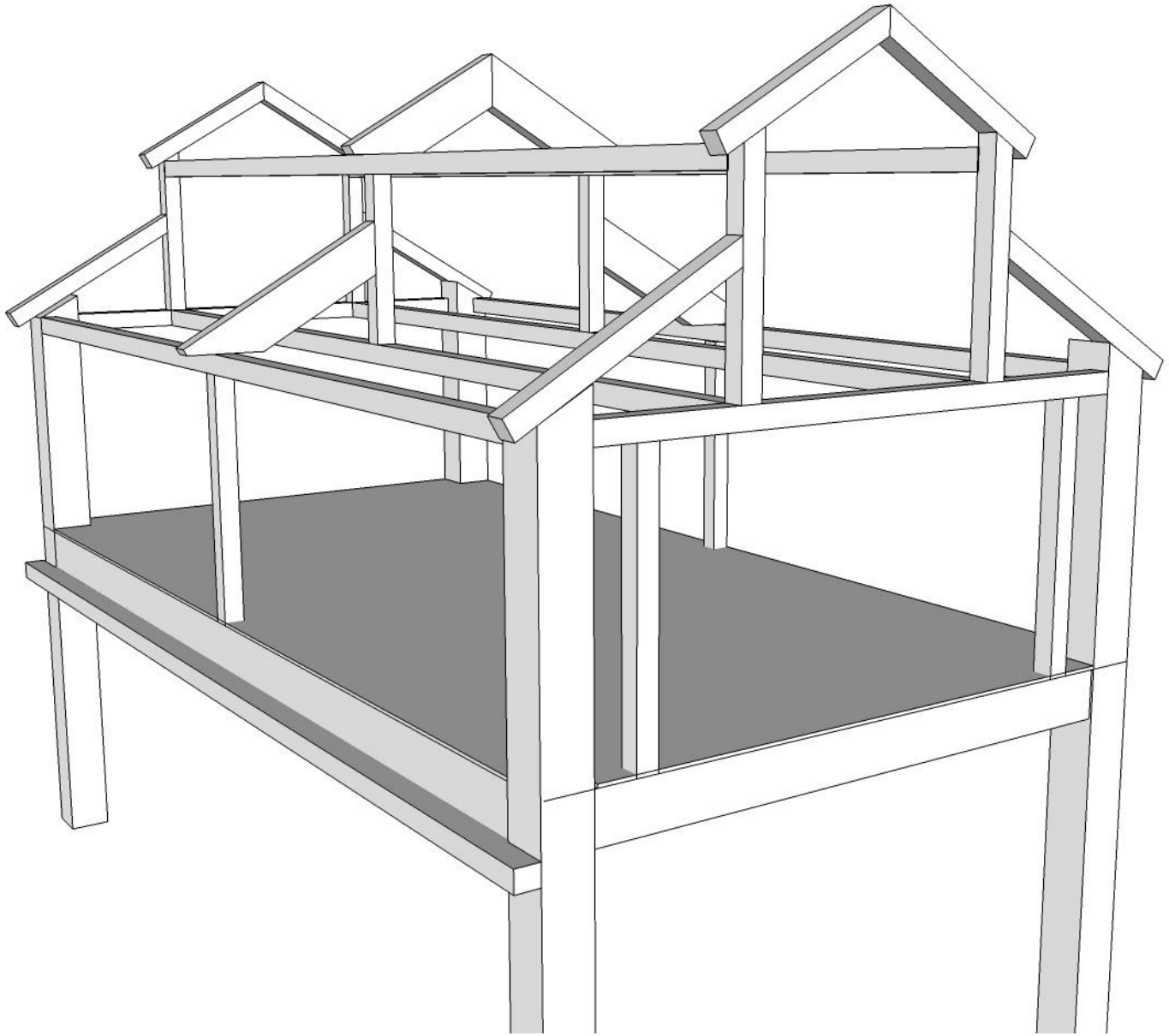
14. The middle “truss” for the upper part of the roof is a 14 1/2 ” 2x4- please note that is measured on the LONG side of the angle, with 7 ¾ “ on the short side of the angle. Cut one end at 30 degrees and the other at 60 degrees, leaving 11/16” square on the 60 degree end. See the diagram below for details.



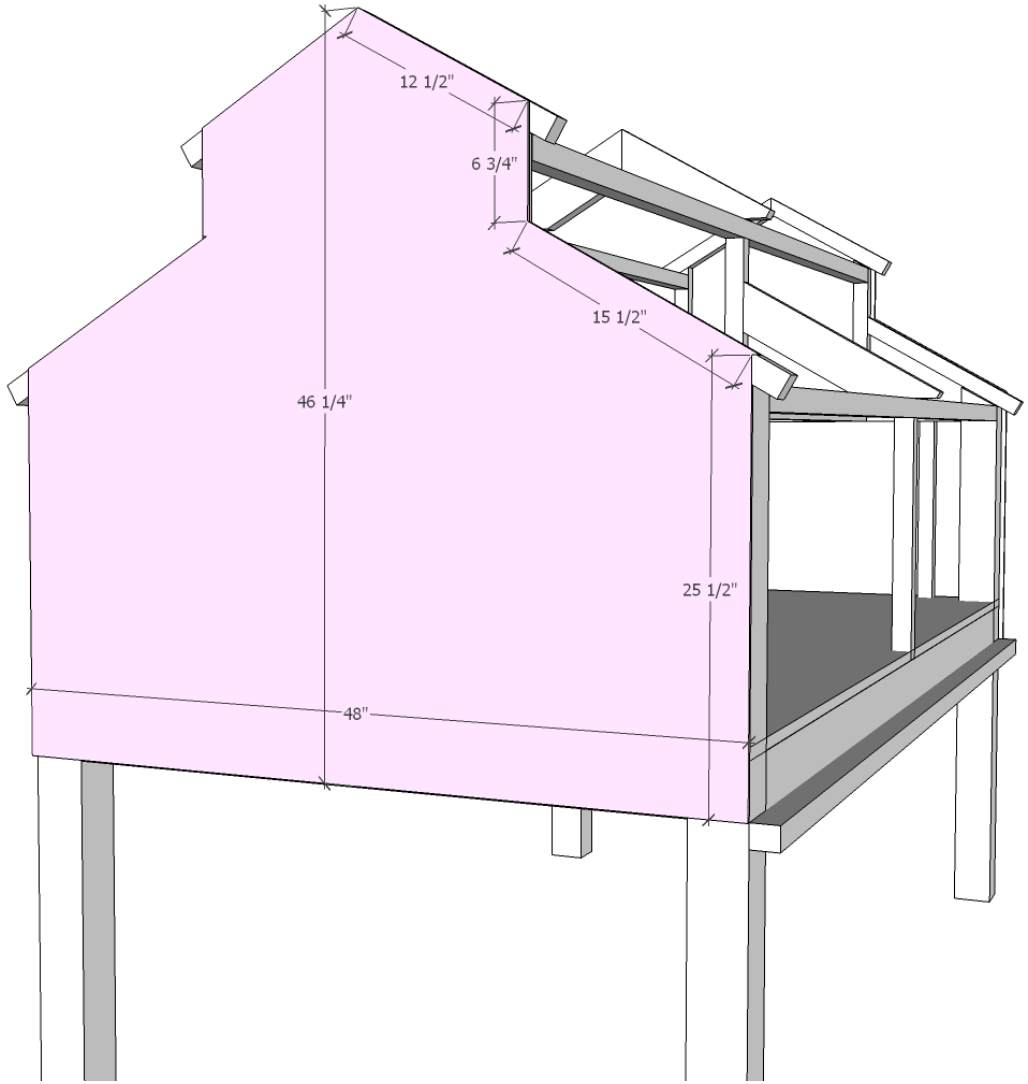
15. Now that the roof is framed, we are moving on to the side of the chicken coop that opens up for easy access for cleaning. Using a jig saw or reciprocating saw, cut a 3 1/2" square notch on each end of the 92” 2x4, and screw it in place right below the floor support.



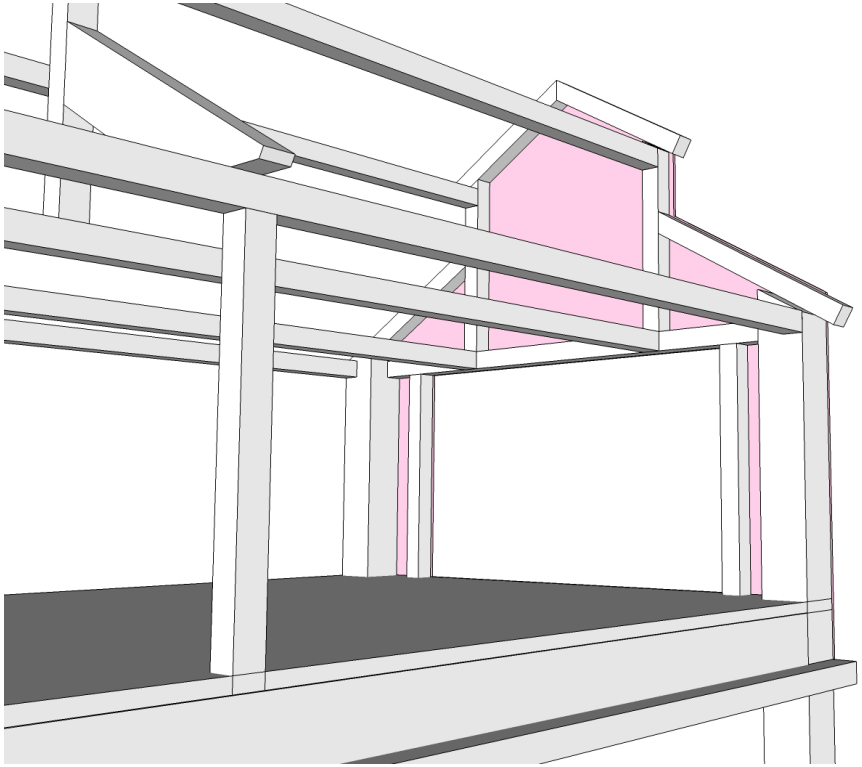
16. Once we have that 2x4 in place, we are all done framing (except for the nesting box), and it's starting to look like a chicken coop!

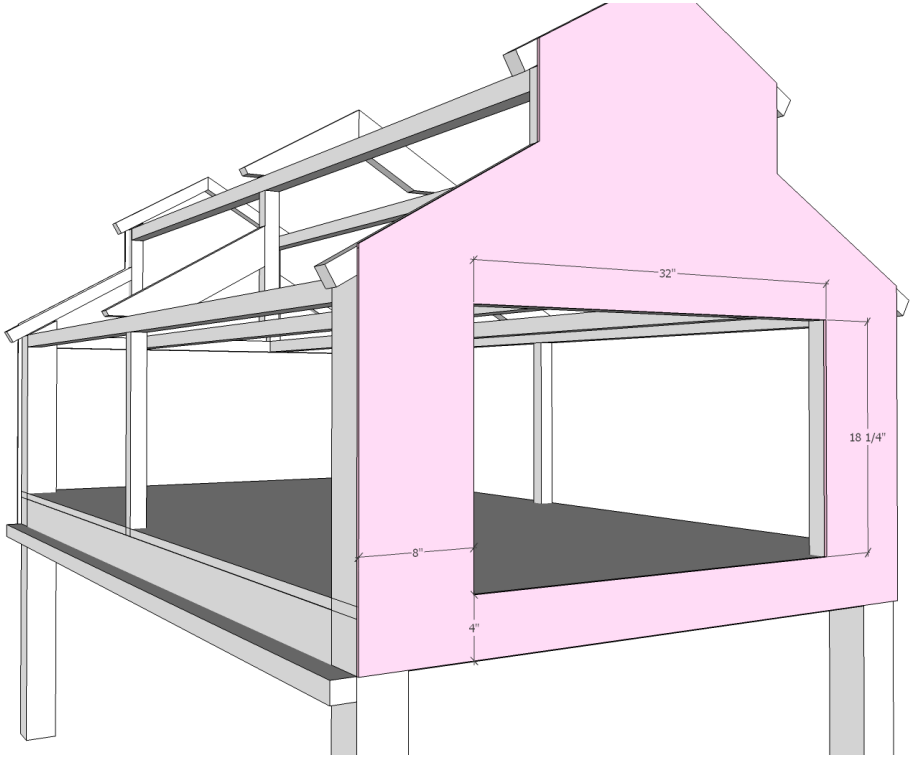


17. After everything is framed, we will add our plywood siding. I used T1-11 plywood siding, but you can use whatever you want here. I cut all my plywood siding to size, then I glued and stapled it up on my coop with a staple gun. You could also screw or nail it in place. I've included all my dimensions in these plans, but you may want to double check your plywood siding dimensions before you cut it. Remember all the angles on the roof are 30 degrees.

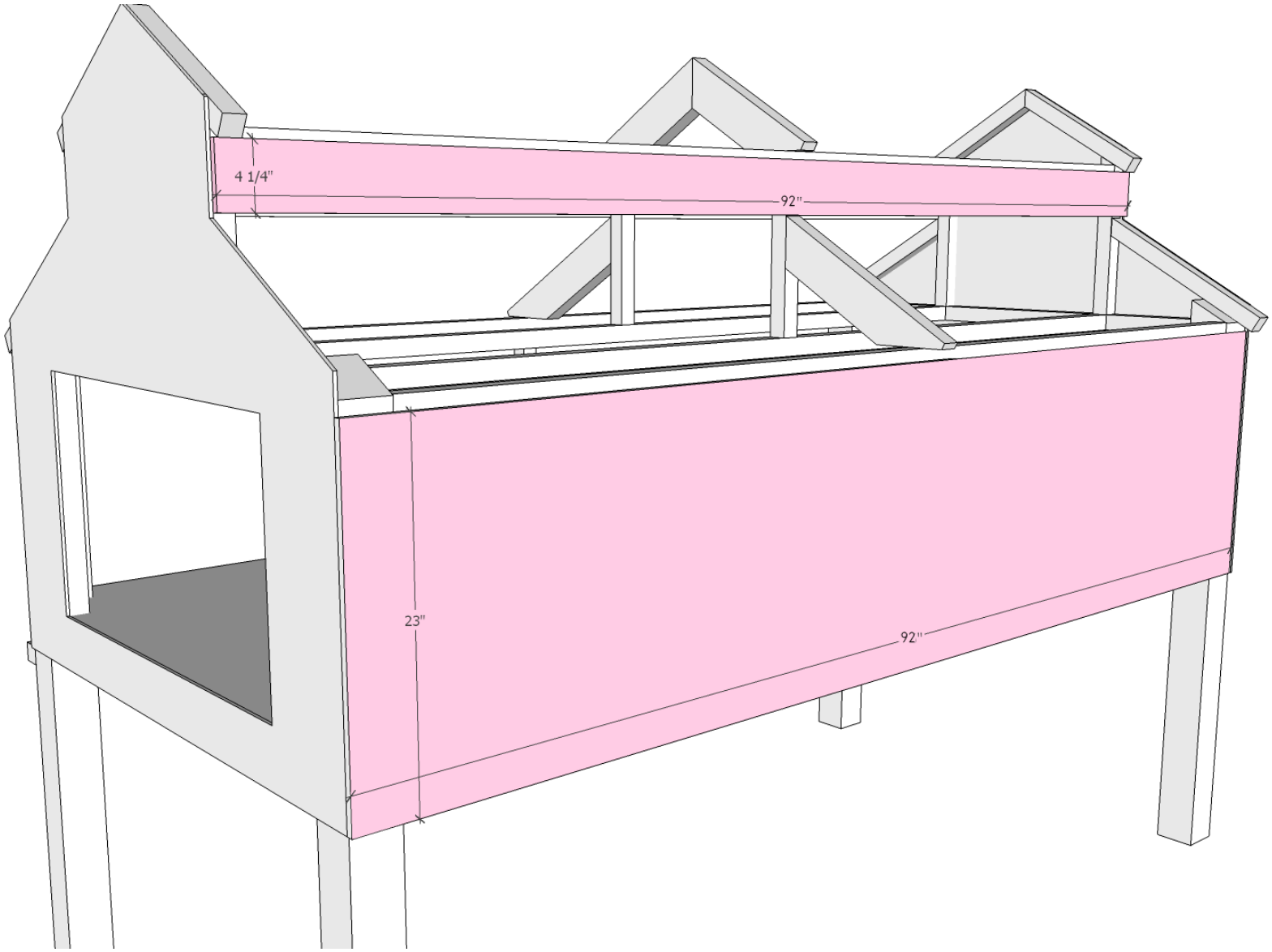


18. One end of the chicken coop will have the nesting box. You can decide if you want to cut the hole for the nesting box before or after you attach the plywood siding. I recommend cutting after you've attached the siding to the chicken coop frame. Use a jig saw or reciprocating saw, and cut the bottom of the hole even with the chicken coop floor, the top of the hole even with the horizontal 2x2 that runs across the end of the coop, and the sides will be even with the vertical 2x2's we attached earlier.

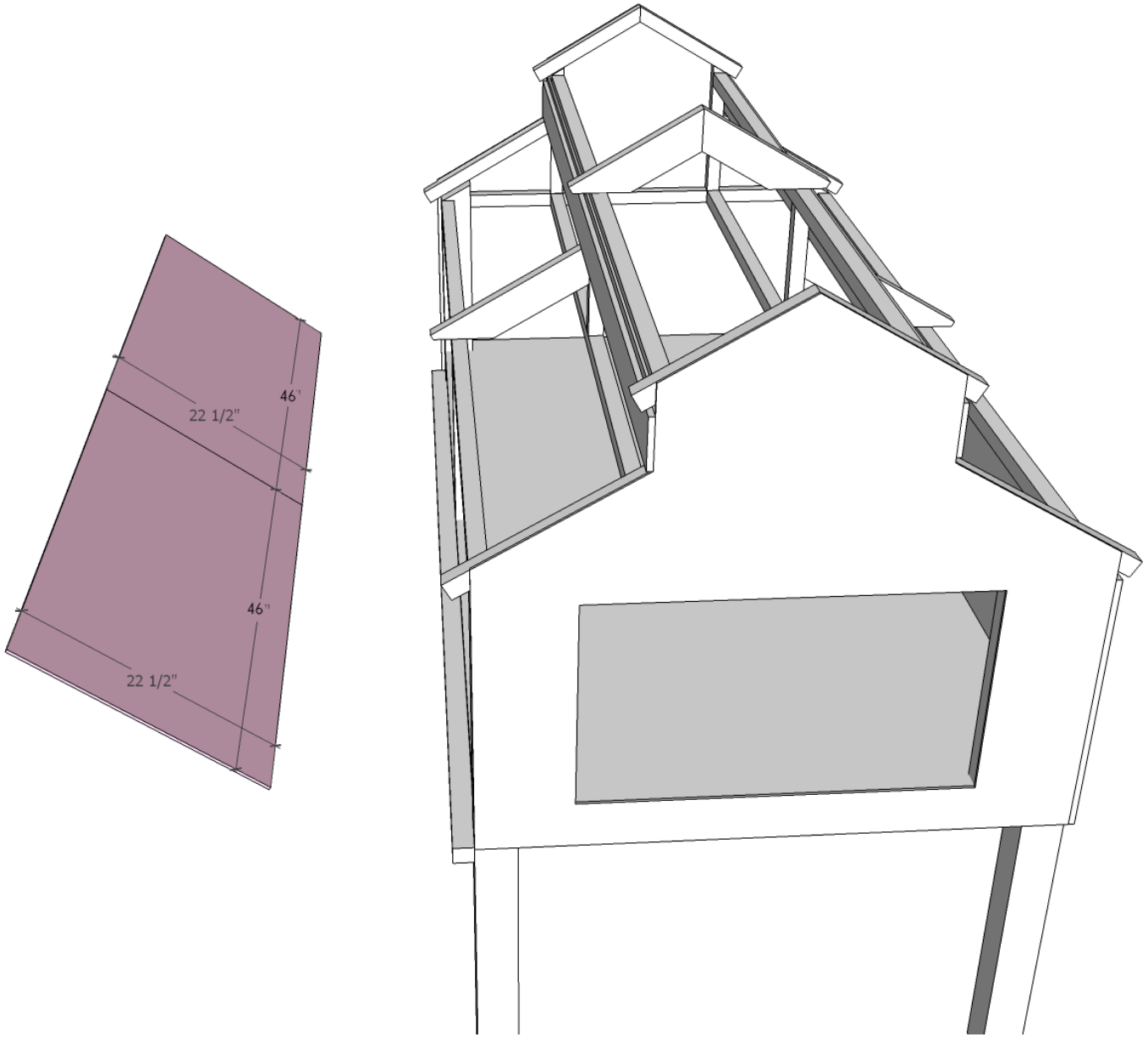




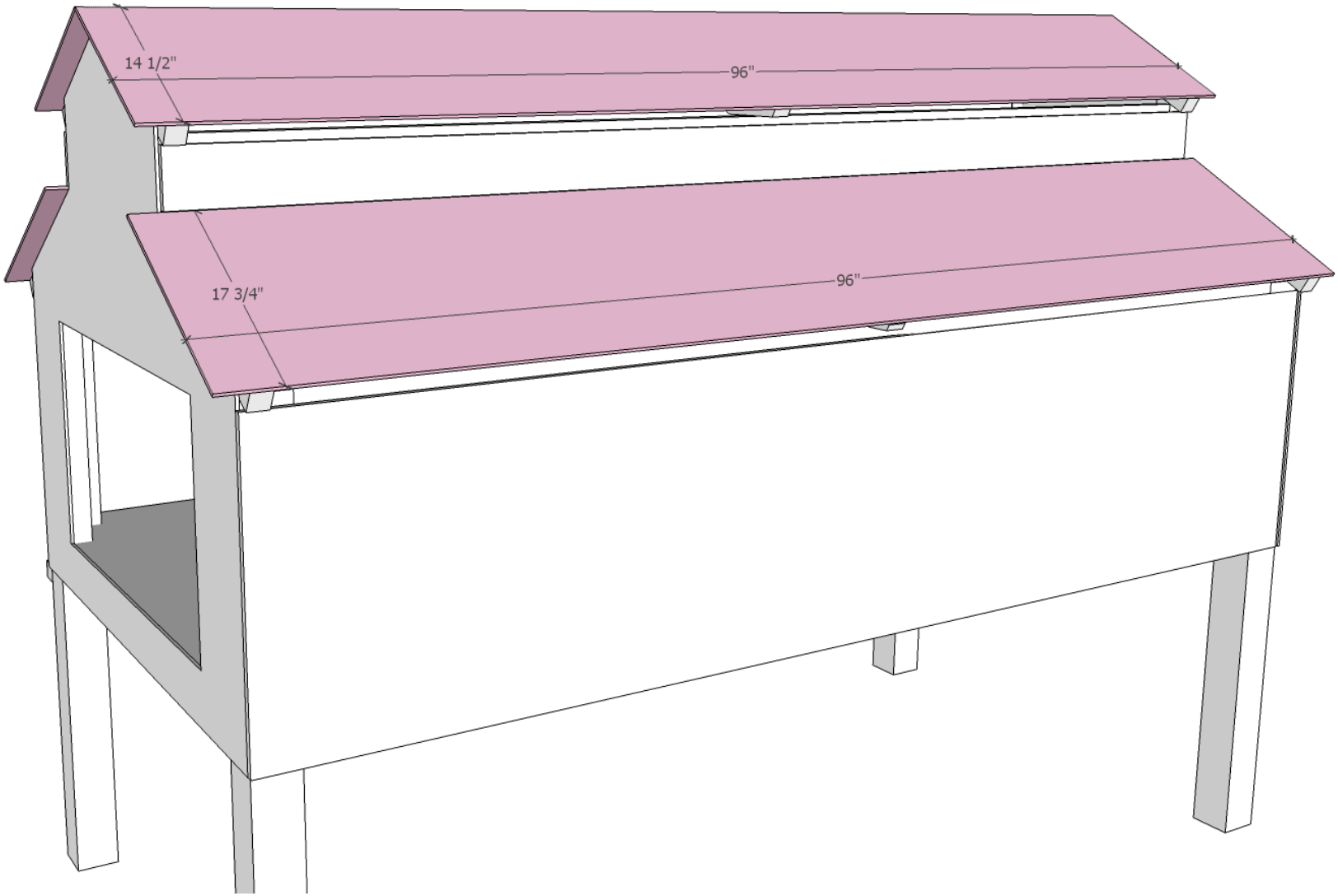
19. After you've attached your siding on the two ends, you will begin attaching the siding on the sides. Remember that one side of the chicken coop opens up for easy access and cleaning. We will build that side in the next step, but we won't attach it until the last step, so we can have easy access while building the rest of the coop. For the first side, glue and staple up your piece of plywood siding (23" x 92") onto the main wall. Then attach a piece on either side of the upper roof area- each should be 4 ¼" x 92".



20. For the side that hinges down, we will put together 2 pieces of plywood siding (46" x 22 ½ " each) then we will frame the OUTSIDE with our 1x2 trim (not shown). The finished dimensions will be 22 ½ “ x 92", which is slightly smaller than our other side. It will be smaller to allow for the side to hinge down. Set it aside until you are ready to paint. Or, if you think ahead, you might want to paint the siding before you attach the trim to the outside.

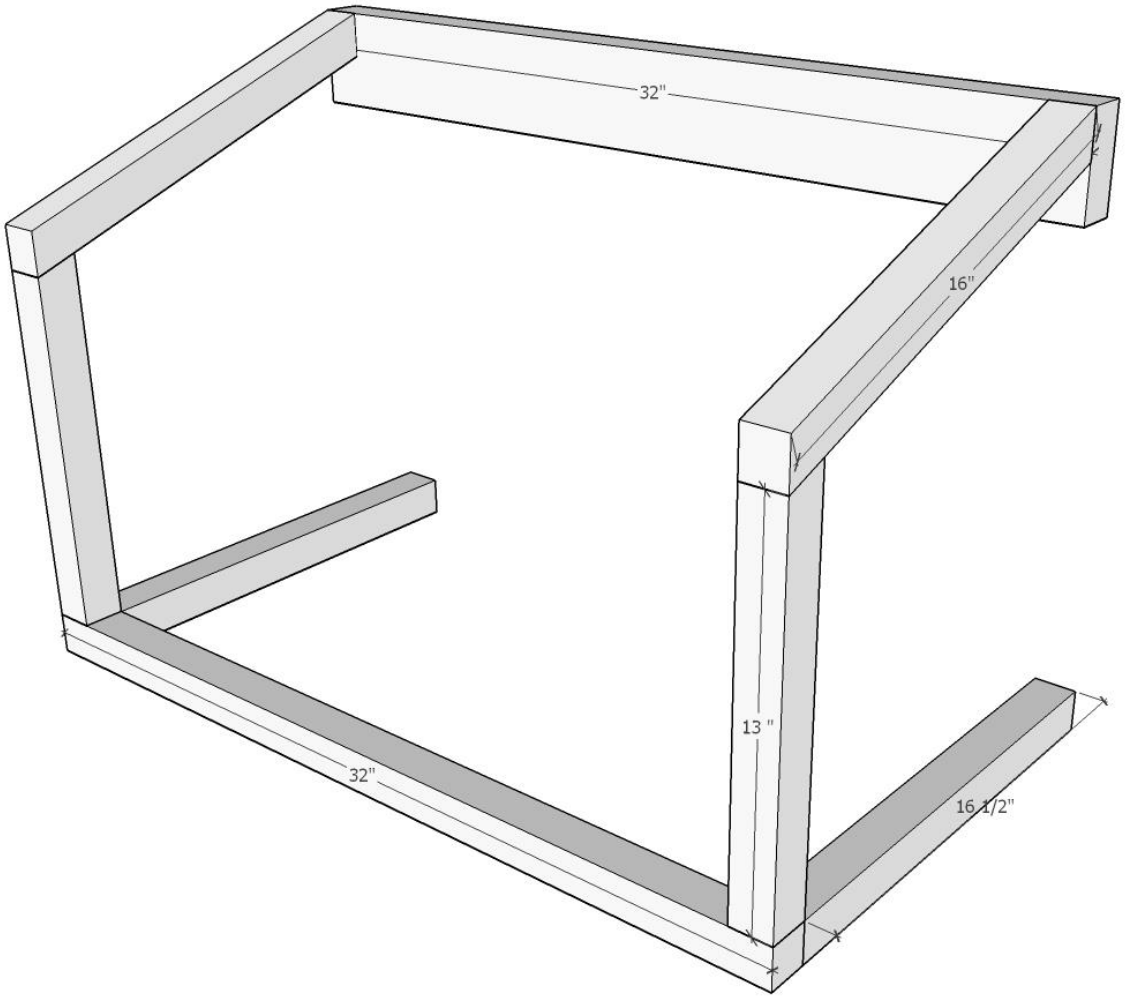


21. Now you can glue and staple on your plywood for you roof. The upper roof will be 96” x 14 ½” and the lower roof will be 96” x 17 ¾”. Do this on both sides.

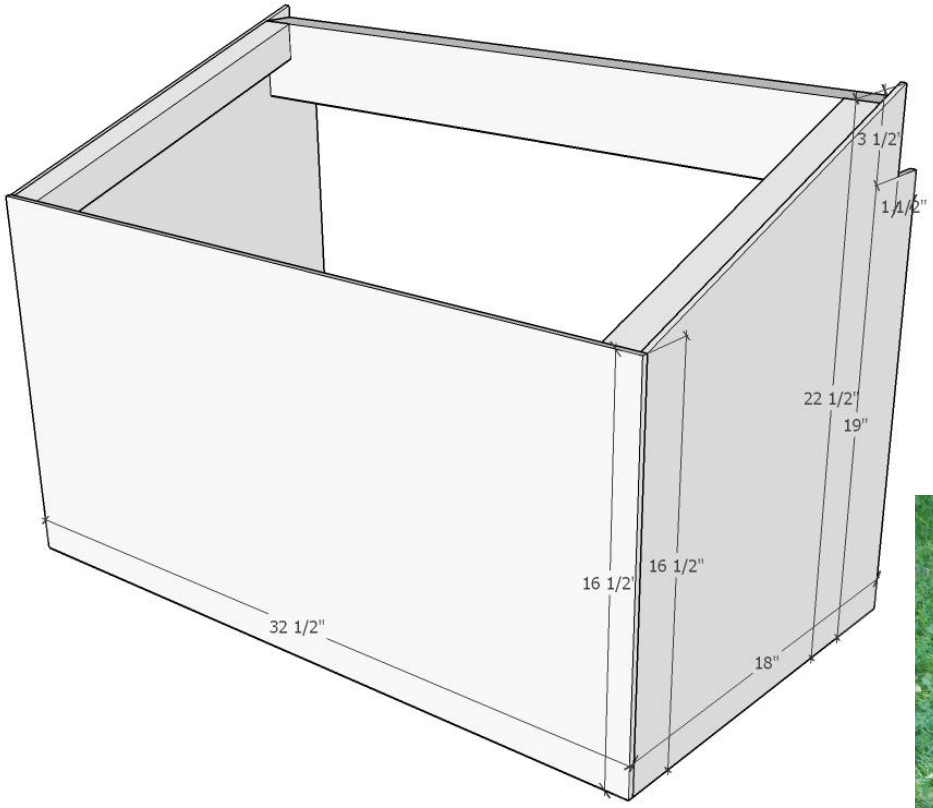


Nesting Box:

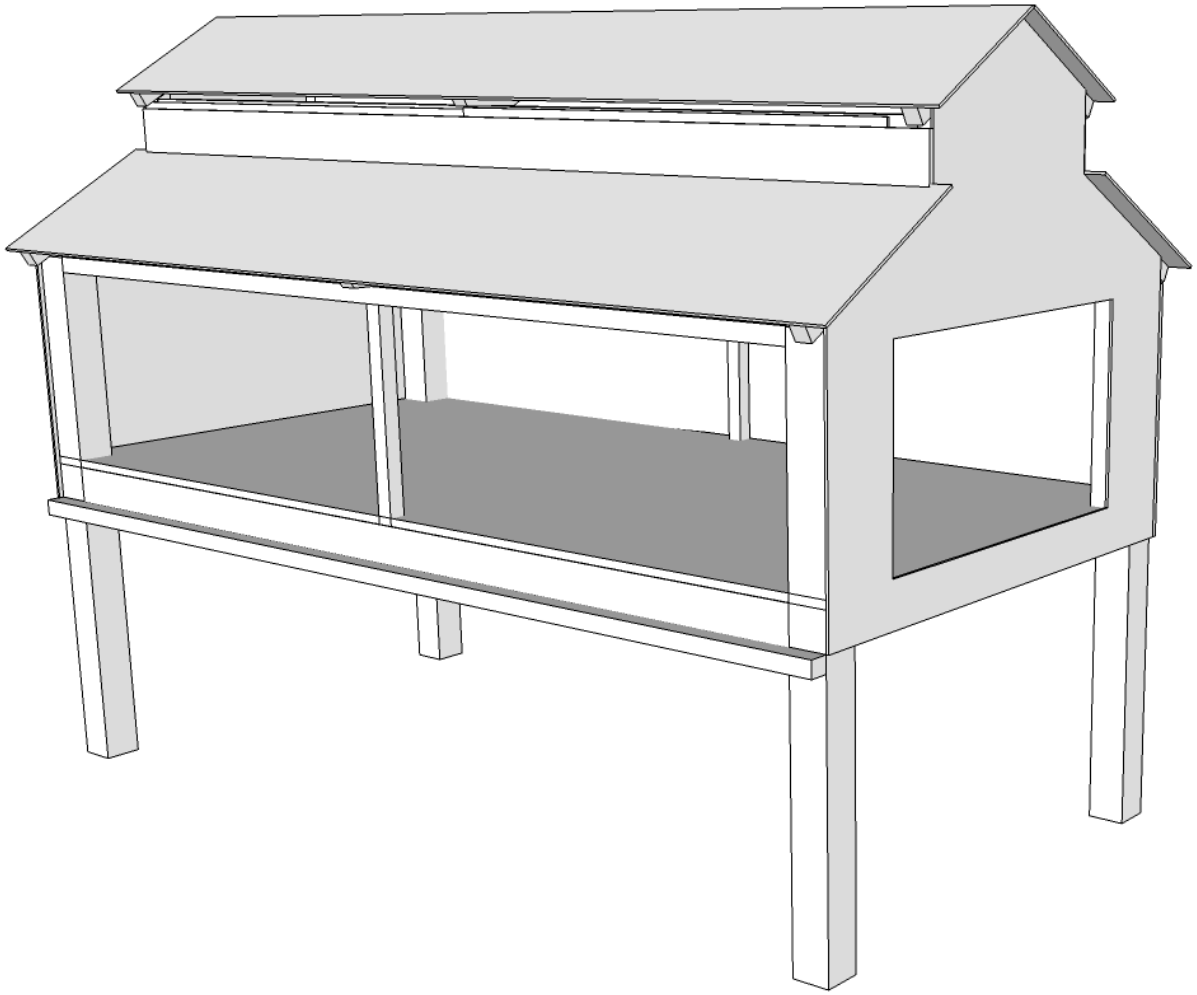
1. Your nesting box frame will be mainly 2x2's, with a 2x4 on the open edge, which is where it will attach to your chicken coop, and where you'll screw on your hinge for your nesting box roof.
2. All of our angles on our nesting box are all 20 degrees. (Not to be confused with all the 30 degree angles in the actual coop).

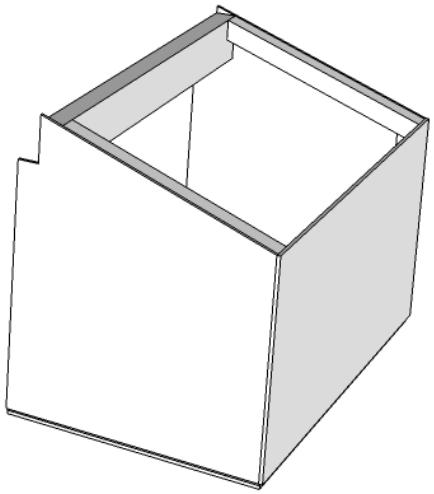


3. Once you have your frame built, cut the plywood siding and staple it onto your frame. Don't forget your nesting box floor. You can use regular plywood for this, or a scrap piece if you have one. It will be 32 1/2 " x 18".
4. You will notice the sides of the nesting box are notched out. We will use that notch to slide the nesting box into the hole in the coop, and attach the plywood siding sides to the inside of the 2x2's we already have in place on the front wall of the coop.

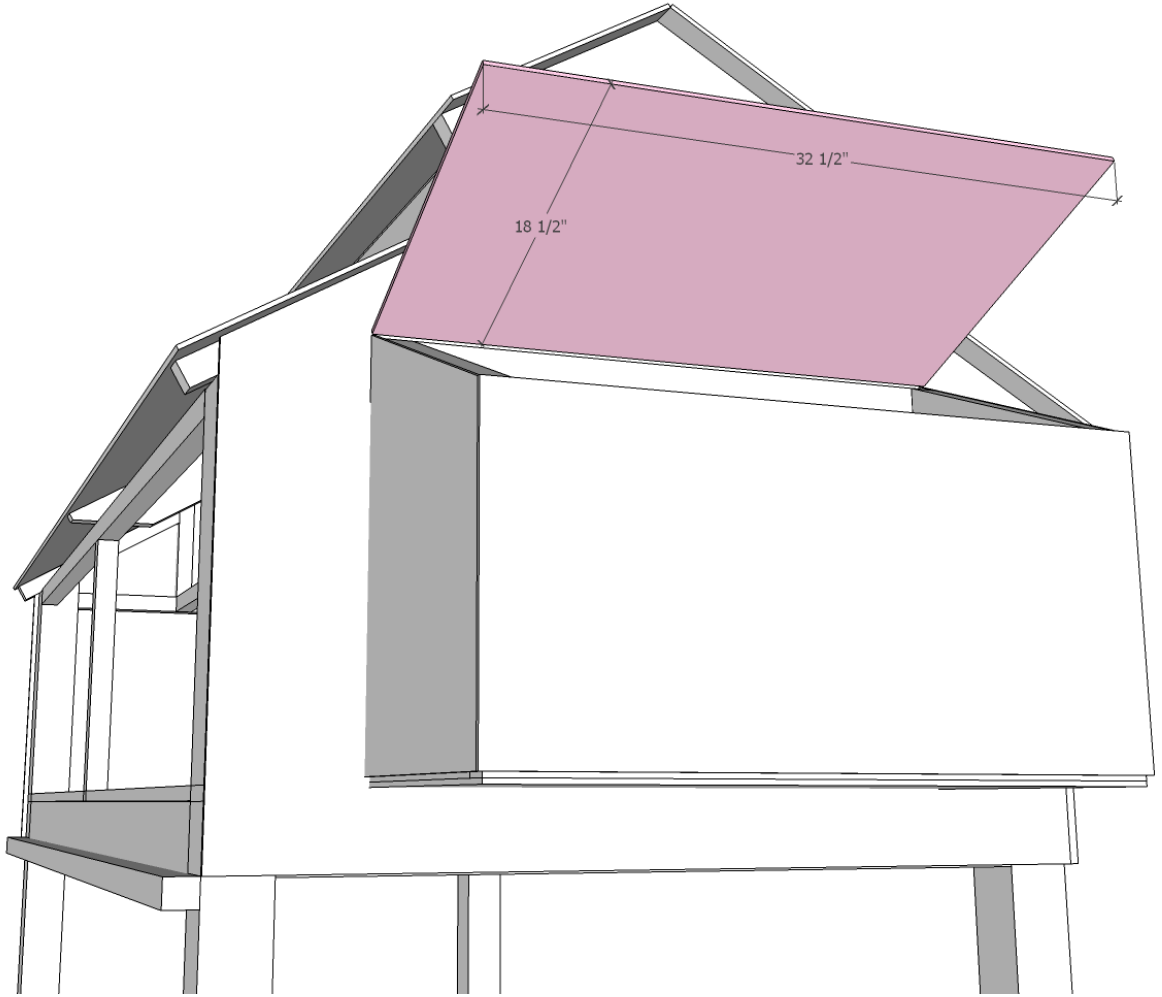


5. Paint everything now, before you add your nesting box
6. You'll want the nesting box to rest on the floor and frame of your chicken coop. Attach the nesting box with grabber screws through the 2x4 on the top of the nesting box, into the 2x2 on the frame. Then screw again through the floor and the sides of the nesting box.



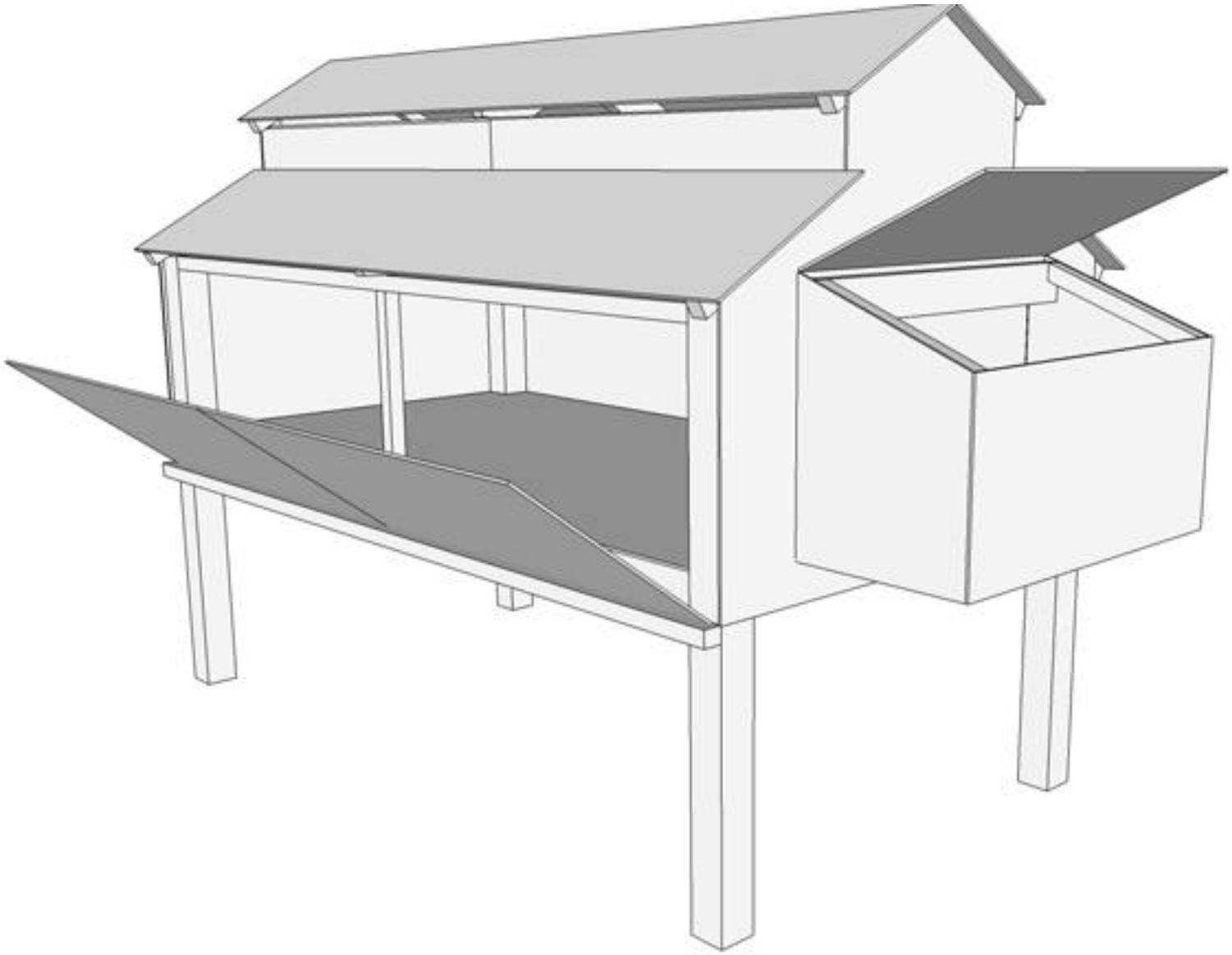


7. After your nesting box is securely attached to your coop, you'll add the nesting box roof, which will hinge open. The roof is regular plywood, 33 1/2" x 18 1/2". Screw your 30” piano hinge onto the edge of your roof first, then attach to your nesting box.



8. I also added a 2x2, with a 20 degree angled end to prop the roof open while we are gathering eggs. I screwed it on with a grabber screw that I didn't tighten all the way, so the board had freedom to hing up and down.

9. Once our nesting box is complete, we can attach the side that folds down. You might need a helper to hold the side up in place while you screw the piano hinge on. Screw a couple of screws in, then hinge it up and make sure it's straight before you finish screwing in all the rest of the screws.



10. You'll also need a ramp for the chickens to get into the coop. Cut a hole (about 10" x 10") in the back of the coop, 3 3/4" from the bottom.
11. You can add a door to this hole, if you are worried about weather or predators getting into the coop.
12. You'll also need to build a ramp for the chickens to get into the coop. I used a 6 foot long 2x8, and stapled scrap pieces every 5 inches to create the ramp. Then I painted it with my white outdoor paint.
13. To attach your ramp to your coop, add a 1x2 under the ramp to support it, then screw a 4 inch grabber screw at an angle through the ramp, into the support pieces.
14. Now you're all finished building your coop. All we have left is adding finishing touches, and trimming the coop!

15. I used regular 1x2's for my trim. I painted them before I cut them. I'm not going to include trim measurements, because if your trim is off by even 1/4", it makes a big difference. So just measure as you go. I used a narrow crown stapler to attach my trim- the same stuff I used for my plywood siding. When you're stapling your trim on, make sure you are flush and level on the corners and edges. For the corners, I stapled one edge on, then made sure my other corner piece fit right up against it, so there wasn't any overhang.
16. After everything is trimmed out, we can add a few finishing touches. Like window bolts to hold the side up, and a hook to hang your basket on while collecting eggs.
17. The last step is to add your roofing. I am not including roofing instructions in these plans. However, please note that in order for the nesting box roof to open, you cannot place the metal roofing all the way to the hinge. You will need to leave a gap on the roof, close to the hinge, about 2-3 inches, to allow for the roof to open. This will leave 2-3 inches of the OSB showing. I simply painted the OSB to waterproof it. You could also use a membrane if you are worried about water damage.

These plans were created by Natalie Dalpias, from The Creative Mom.

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If you use these plans to build a coop, I would love to see the final results, and share them on my website (with your permission). Please email photos to Nat@thecreativemom.com