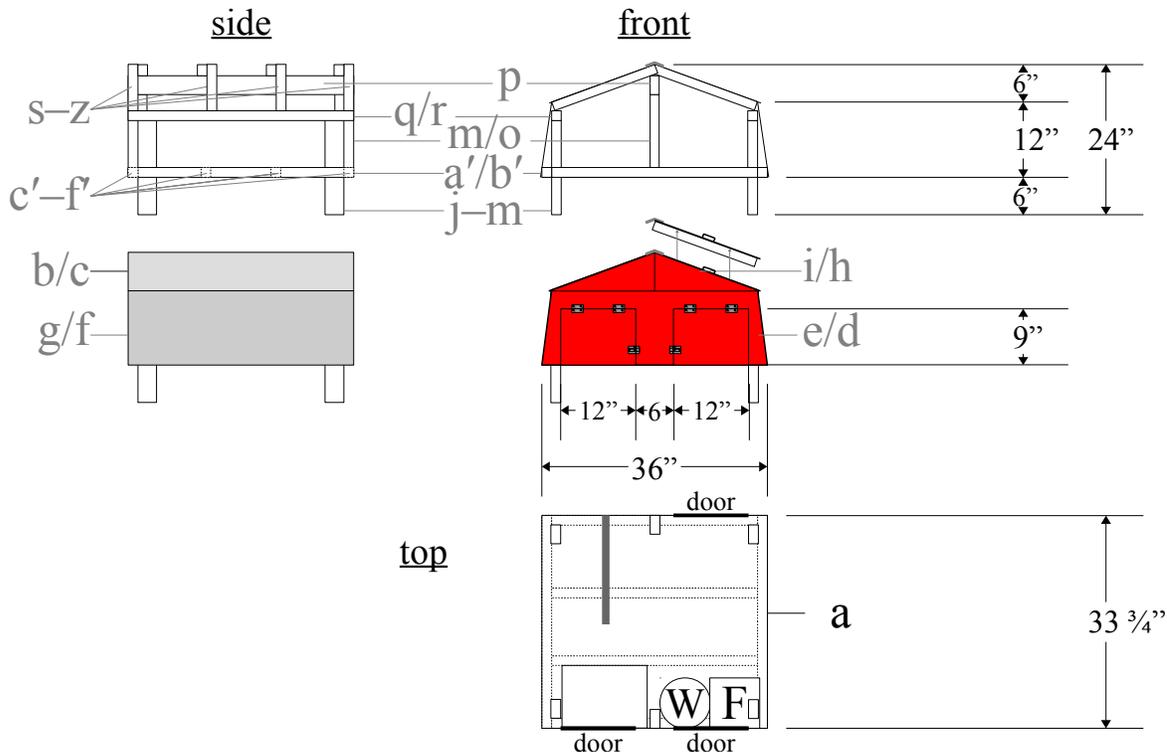


# Simple Coop

This coop can be built in under eight hours (although the first time may take longer) with simple tools and a minimum of materials (a single sheet of plywood and dimensional lumber). It is well-sized for two birds but could house three. It can also be used as a basic plan for expansion. It can be customized with insulation, an electric hookup, or other features. The legs could be extended, a ramp added, and ventilation created for use in a warmer climate.

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 If you use this plan, we'd love to see a picture.



## Materials

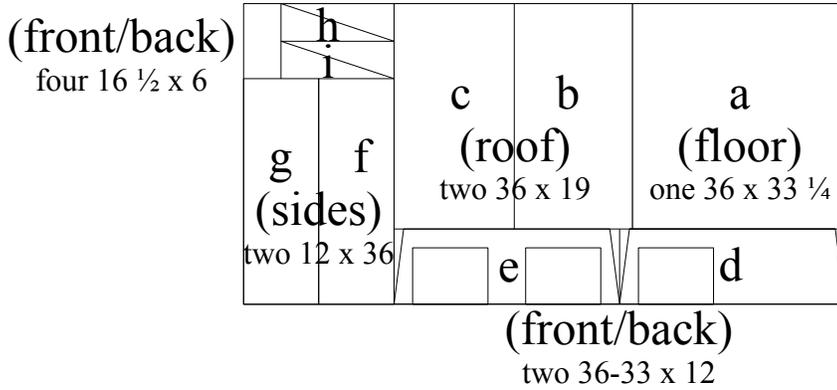
- 1 – 4' -x- 8' sheet of 1/2" or 3/4" plywood
- 1 – 10' 2" -x- 4" dimensional lumber
- 6 – 8' 2" -x- 2" dimensional lumber
- 1 lb – 2 1/2" screws
- 1 lb – 1 1/4" screws
- 15' – roofing material (rubber, tar paper, shingles, etc.)
- 3 – pair of 1" self-closing hinges (above doors) with screws
- 3 – slide latches with screws
- 3' – sheet metal ridge angle
- 2 – handle for roof removal

*Optional:* utility stapler, wood glue, paint

## Tools

- Circular Saw
- Jigsaw
- Drill
- Measuring Tape
- Screwdriver

## plywood sheet cut layout



### Cut List

#### *4' × 8' Plywood Sheet*

- a – 36" × 33 ¼" (floor)
- b/c – 36" × 19" (roof)
- d/e – 36" × 12" (front/back) then cut to trapazoid, measuring 33" across the top and 36" along the bottom; cut out measuring 12" × 9", two out of one and one out of the other.
- f/g – 36" × 12" (sides)
- h/i – 16" × 6" (front/back tops) rectangle cut corner to corner into triangles

#### *2" × 4" – 10' Dimensional Lumber*

- j/k/l/m – 15" (corner posts)
- n/o – 12" (center support)
- p – 33 ¼" (main beam)

#### *2" × 2" – 8' Dimensional Lumber*

- q/r – 36" (eave supports)
- s-z – 17 ¼" (roof rafters)
- a'/b' – 36" (floor headers)
- c'/d'/e'/f' – 33" (floor joists)

## Instructions

*Pre-drill all screws. Refer to schematic for measurements. Insure junctures are square.*

- 1) Cut all pieces on cut list.
- 2) Screw floor joists to headers (2 ½” screws) and attach floor (1 ¼” screws) – fig. 1.
- 3) Cut 3 ½” x 1 ½” rectangles in corners for posts to pass through and adjacent to joists and headers – fig. 1.
- 4) Put posts through holes, making sure they come in contact with joists and headers. Attach (2 ½” screws) – fig. 1.
- 5) Attach eave supports to tops of posts (2 ½” screws) – fig. 2.
- 6) Attach center support to floor (2 ½” screws), and roof beam to center supports; drill out a ½” hole about 1–1 ½” down so screws reach center supports – fig. 2.
- 7) Attach rafters to one side of roof (2 ½” screws) – fig. 3.
- 8) Attach sides to eave supports (1 ¼” screws), Insure top of side is flush with outer top corners of rafters on one side and identically spaced on the side without rafters – fig. 3.
- 9) Place—but do not attach—rafters on other side of roof. Position the roof over these rafters insuring the top ridge is right over the center. Attach roof to unattached rafters (1 ¼” screws) – fig. 4.
- 10) Attach ridge angle and handles to side with unattached rafters; put screws through into rafters (1 ¼” screws). Lift handles to insure the roof comes off smoothly (for cleaning coop) – fig. 4.
- 11) Attach hinges to top of doors and latches to door sides (included screws) – fig. 5.
- 12) Attach front and back to coop (1 ¼” screws). On the side with unattached rafters, put the screw into the end of the eave support – fig. 5.
- 13) Attach triangles to top of front and back (1 ¼” screws). Again, do not screw into unattached rafters – fig. 6.
- 14) Remove roof angle and attach or apply roofing materials. Reattach roof angle.
- 15) Paint the exterior if necessary or desired.

## Optional Additions

*Insulation:* Additional materials may be attached to the insides of the rafters, parallel to the roofing material, creating a space that can be insulated. The same can be done on the sides. Insulation materials include cardboard, batting insulation, blown insulation, and extruded insulation, but the trapped airspace will also provide some insulation.

*Electrical:* An outlet can be installed using a blue electrical box, outlet, faceplate and extension cord. The female end of the cord can be cut and run through a purpose-drilled hole, up a post, and to the rafters, where the box can be installed. Seek help if unfamiliar with this type of installation.

*Interior Decoration:* Add a roost, lay box, waterer, and feeder. It may be a good idea to buy the waterer and feeder ahead of time, as this small coop does not accommodate large types.

