

Dynamic Raised Garden Bed Plans

by

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Overview

Thank you for downloading my first “official” set of plans! I hope they help you out in your building endeavor! These plans are for a straightforward set of “dynamic” raised garden boxes that will allow easy reach at a convenient height. The beds also provide a wooden backdrop that you can line with chicken wire, hardware cloth, or similar material to provide support for tomato plants, vines, and other plants.

The garden beds are approximately 14' x 7', with a small cut out in the front center that allows you to more easily be able to reach your garden. The plans are fairly forgiving, so if you're hardware store cuts your lumber for free, their accuracy should be good enough.

Materials and tools list:

- A box of 3” outdoor wood screws
- Square
- Drill
- Saw (a wide miter saw or circular saw will work well for this project)

Cut list:

- 12 - 2x12 at 4' (front)
- 3 - 2x12 at 6' (front)
- 6 - 2x12 at 6'9" (left and right sides)
- 6 - 2x12 at 7' (back)
- 1 - 2x12 at 3' (joint support for back wall)
- 6 - 4x4 at 3' (mounting posts)
- 2 - 2x4 at 3' (joint supports)

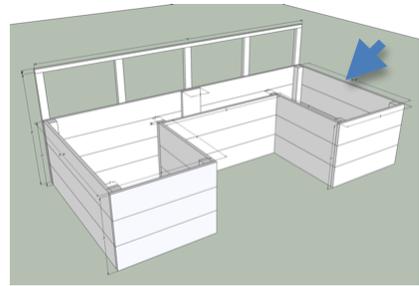
Optional backdrop:

- 5 - 2x4 at 5' (backdrop posts)
- 2 - 2x2 at 7' (backdrop top)
- Line level

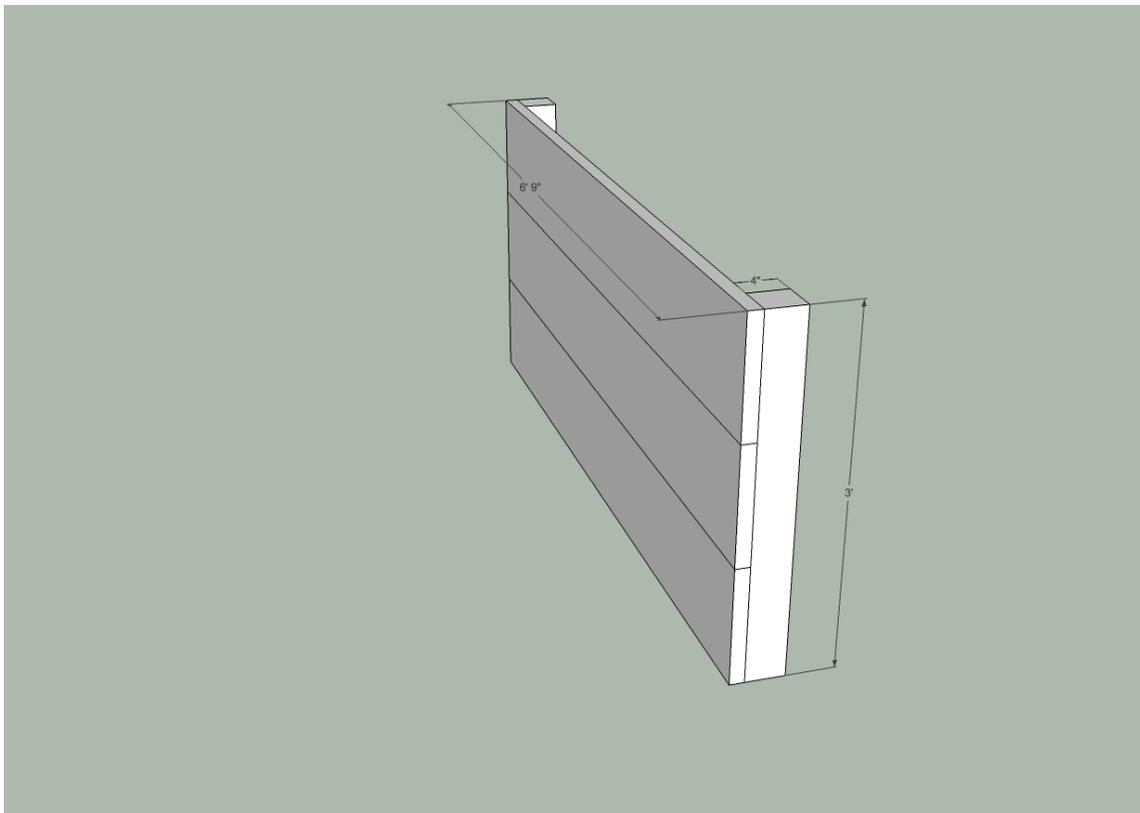
1. We'll start with putting together the outer left and right sides.

For each of the two sides, you'll need:

- 3 - 2x12 at 6'9"
- 2 - 4x4 at 3'



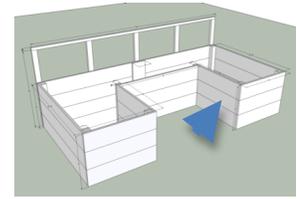
Lay the 4x4's on the ground and then lay the 6'9" panels on top of them. Align the edges of the panel boards on the 4x4, and carefully attach them into the 4x4 post, using six screws per panel board (three screws for each side). Then repeat for the other side. You should end up with something that looks like this:



2. Set those aside. Now we'll put together the inner left and right sides.

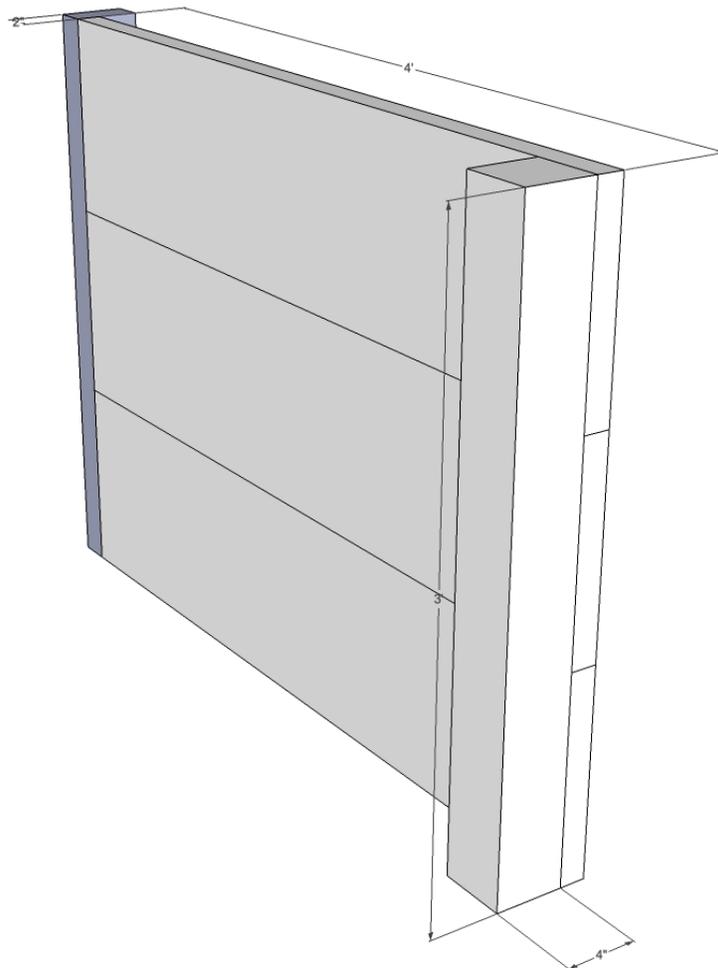
To do this step, you'll need the following for each side:

- 3 - 2x12 at 4'
- 1 - 4x4 at 3'
- 1 - 2x4 at 3'



This is probably the trickiest step. First, you're going to need to align the panel boards (2x12's) along the 4x4. Attach the 2x12's to the 4x4, just like you did the last one.

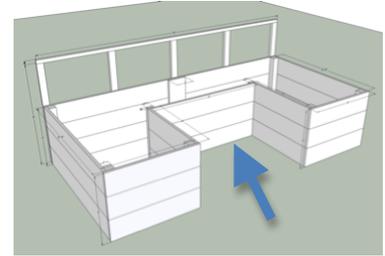
Here's where it gets tricky. You're going to lay the 4x4 on the ground so the panel boards are sticking up in the air. Then you're going to lay the 2x4 along the top of the panel boards (it will help a lot if you have someone there to hold the boards in place). Make sure that the 2x4 is sticking out in the opposite direction of the 4x4 (see below). Carefully screw the 2x4 to the 2x12's. This will provide necessary joint support in a few steps.



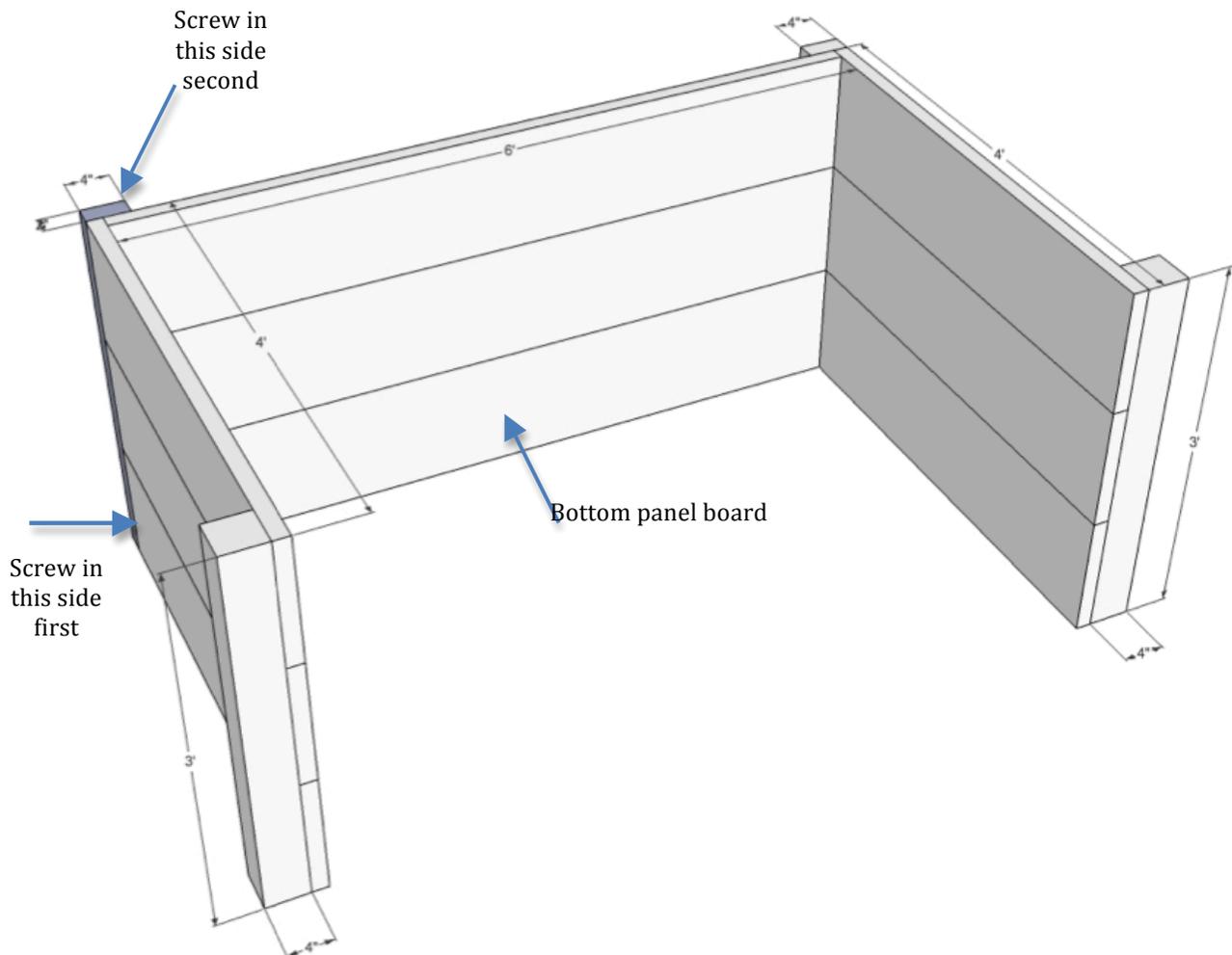
3. Now we're going to attach what we just made to the 6' 2x12's to make the inner cut out of the garden box.

For this step you'll need:

- 3 - 2x12 at 6'
- The two pieces you just made in step 2



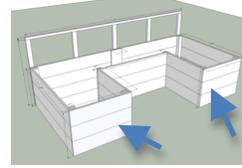
Take one of the pieces you just made (step 2) and stand it up on its side. We're going to start with the bottom panel and work our way up. Align one of the 6' boards inside the elbow shape you just formed with the 2x4 and panel boards in step 2. Now, attach this board by drilling in three screws through the 6' panel boards and into the 2x4 joint. Then secure it by also drilling three screws through the 4' panel boards (step 2) and into the side of the 6' panel board. Now attach this bottom panel board to the other side you created in step 2. Repeat for the middle and top 6' panel boards.



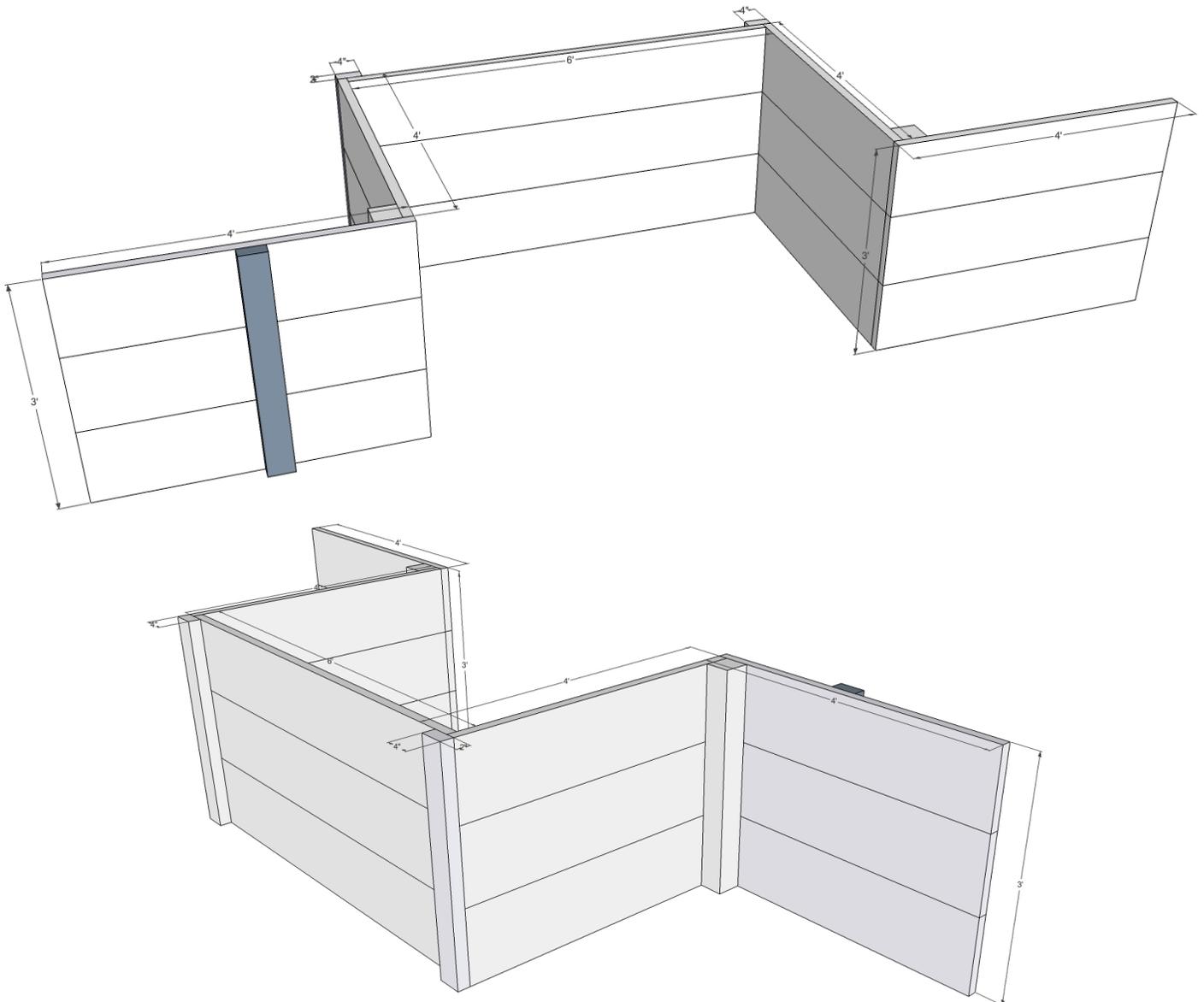
4. Now we will attach the front panels.

For this step, you will need:

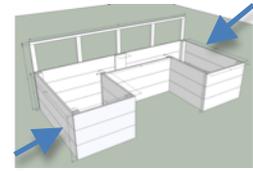
- The piece from Step 3
- 6 - 2x12's at 4'



For this step, it may be easier if you temporarily attach a 3' 2x4 to the 4' panel boards (see the grey box on the diagram below). This will make the panels more stationary and stable. Once you have temporarily aligned and attached 3 of the 4' panels, line the edge of these panels up with the edge along one of the side panel edges from Step 3 and attach using three screws per panel. Repeat for the other side. Your project should really start looking like some garden boxes at this point.



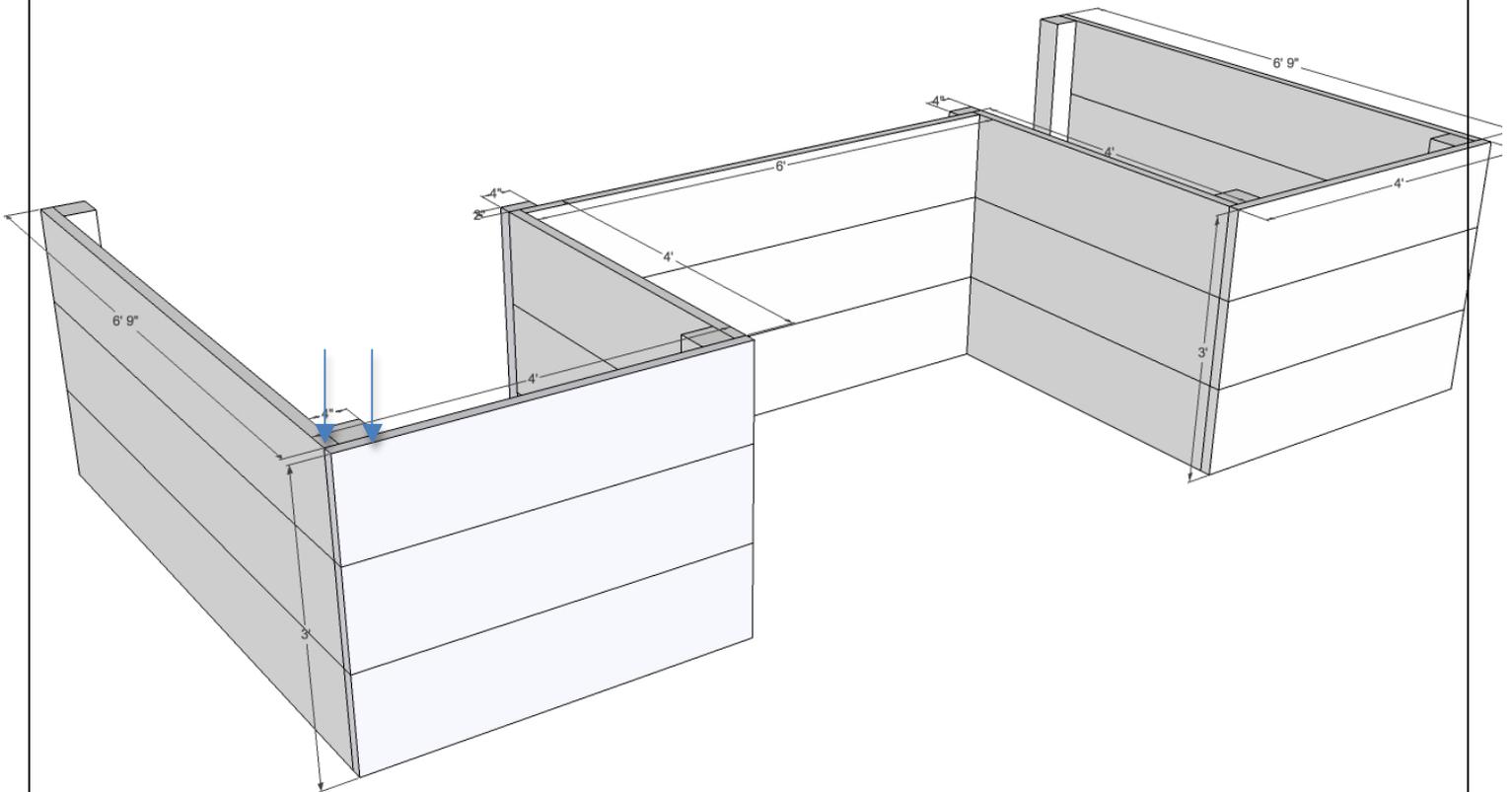
5. Now we'll attach the left and right side panels that we created in Step 1 to what you finished in Step 4.



For this step, you'll need:

- The panels you made in Step 1
- The garden box front you completed in Step 4

Start by aligning the front panel edge with the side panel as shown below. It will help if you have a friend hold up the panels as you attach them. You will use 6 screws to attach each front panel board to the side panel. Start with the top panel board. Drill three screws along the edge of the panel board so that they pierce the front panel board and the side panel board. Then drill a parallel set of three screws through the panel board so they pierce the front panel board and the 4x4 post (see arrows). This will make your garden boxes more secure. Repeat for the other two front panel boards. Then complete the other side in similar fashion.

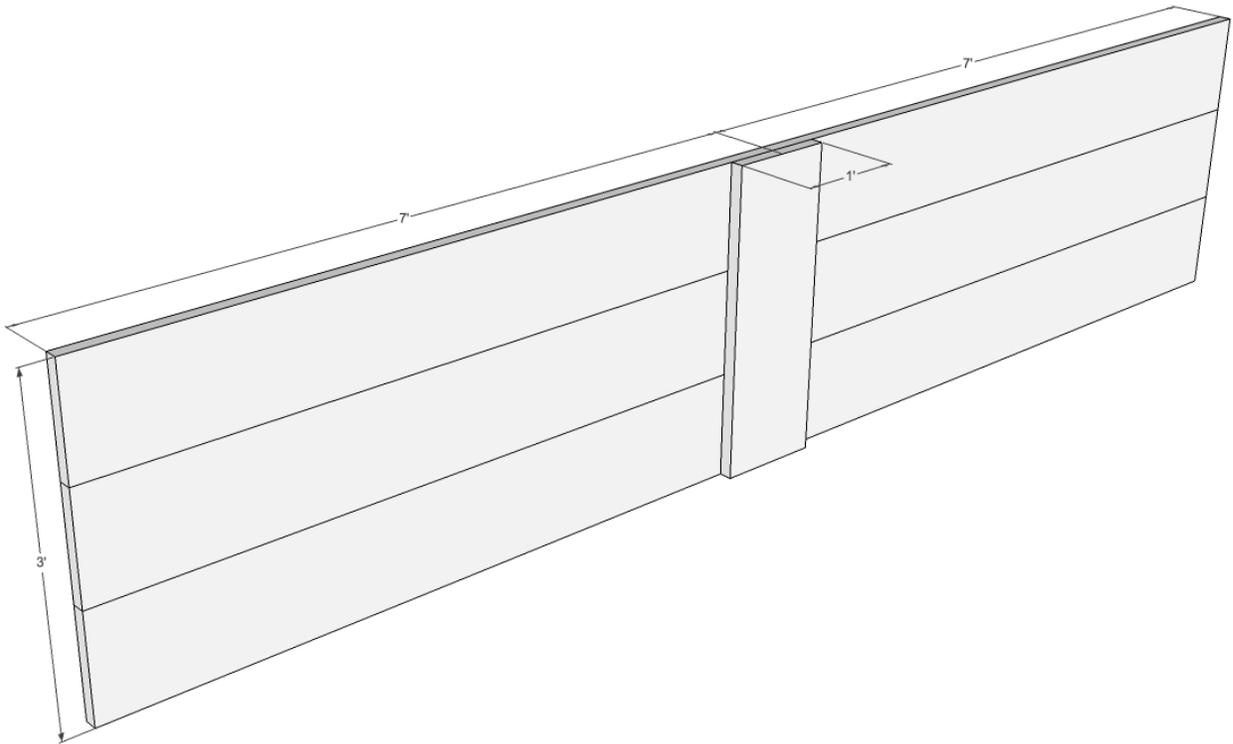


6. Now, we will make the back panel, which is very simple.

For this step you will need:

- 6 - 2x12's at 7'
- 1 - 2x12 at 3'

Draw a line down the center of the 3' 2x12. You will line your panels up along this line as shown below. Keep in mind that, for this step, it is easier if you place your 6 panel boards on the ground, line them up, and then place the 3' 2x12 joint support on top of them, then drill through the 3' joint support board and into the panel boards to attach them. Use 3 screws in a zigzag to attach each panel board to the support joint.



8. Optional backdrop.

For this step, you will need:

- 5 - 2x4's at 5'
- 2 - 2x2's at 7'
- A line level

Start by marking each of your 5' boards. You will measure 2' from one end, and draw a line. This is the line you will line up with your garden boxes. You can either line it up so that 3' stick up for the backdrop or so that 2' stick up for the backdrop. Just make sure you're consistent and do them all either 2' or 3'.

For now, we're going to do the easier one: 2' sticking up from the back of your box. Start by aligning the 2" edge with the left side edge of your back panel. Align the line you marked with the top of the garden box so that 2' stick out of the top. Have someone hold this, while you attach it with at least three screws spaced somewhat evenly.

Now go to the other side of your garden box and align the edges similarly. Using your line level, make sure the top of this backdrop post is level with the post you just attached. Once you've made sure it's level, attach the post.

Leaving the line stretched between the two posts, align the third post with the center joint on your back panel and attach. Now, measure 3.5' from the left side and make a mark. Measure 3.5' from the right side and make a mark. Align your last two backdrop posts with these marks, check that they're level, and attach.

Once your five posts are level and attached, you will lay your 2' 2x2 toppers on them. They will butt up against each other on the center of the center 5' post. Once you have them lined up, attach them by drilling two screws through the 2x2 per post.

