

CHICK BROODER PLANS

The Brooder that Grows with Your Flock

CHICK BROODER THAT HOLDS 15 CHICKS

This DIY chick brooder is roomy, easy to clean, and built to grow with your flock. Holds up to 15 chicks comfortably with front viewing and lift-up lid. This brooder is perfect to grow with your flock!

Beth | HenFolk™

Chick Brooder Plans

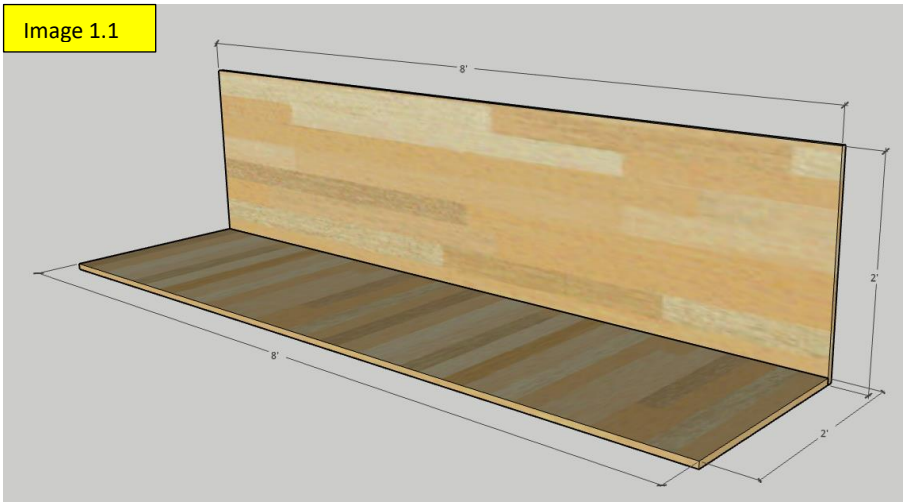
Materials:

- (2) ¾”x4x8 plywood sheets (½” can work and is lighter to move around but recommend ¾” for durability)
- (5-6) 2x2 boards (if you have a table saw and 2x4 boards you can cut them lengthwise in half)
    - 6 boards if you don’t have a pocket jig and screws to attach the plywood
- 2’x3’ 0.158” Clear polypropylene sheet (cut into three 8”x31”)
    - This is what we used from a hardware store but can use any clear acrylic or plastic
- 2’x10’ Hardware cloth (chicken wire can be used if the bottom is blocked to avoid chicks from squeezing through the holes)
- Hinges for the top
- Handles are recommended if moving around regularly
- Pocket jig if available to attach sides
    - If you don’t have a pocket jig and screws, you can add additional 2x2 to the bottom sides and back to secure into

1. <u>Cut the plywood sheets for the bottom, back, sides and top:</u>

- Cut first sheet lengthwise at 2’ *(Image 1.1)*
    - These will be used for the bottom and back of the brooder
- With the second sheet make the first cut at 2’¾” (24 ¾”)
    - This will be the top *(Image 1.5)*
- For the 2 sides, cut the remaining piece:
    - Each side should be 24”x23¼”
    - These should align flush when the back is butted against the bottom both at the top and front *(Image 1.2)*

Image 1.1



Note: Don’t attach anything at this time. Images show how they will fit together after adding 2x2 frames

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2. **<u>Cut the 2x2 boards to create an interior frame</u>**:
Mainly used to have visibility in the front but can add additional pieces to secure the back and sides of the plywood if you don't have a pocket jig and screws.



Image 1.2

- (3) 2x2 boards cut to length of 7'10 ½"
    - These will be placed in the front bottom and top along with the top of the back
    - Add a 4th if you don't have a pocket jig. This will be used at the bottom against the back
- Cut 2x2 board into 4 shorter lengths of 20 ¼"
    - These will be used in the front running vertically *(Image 1.3)*
- Cut the remaining 2x2 into 2 shorter lengths of 20 13/16"
    - These will run along the top between the front and back 7'10 ½" (*Image 1.4)*
    - If you don't have a pocket jig and need the full frame, cut 2 additional boards to run along the bottom between the front and back 7'10 ½"

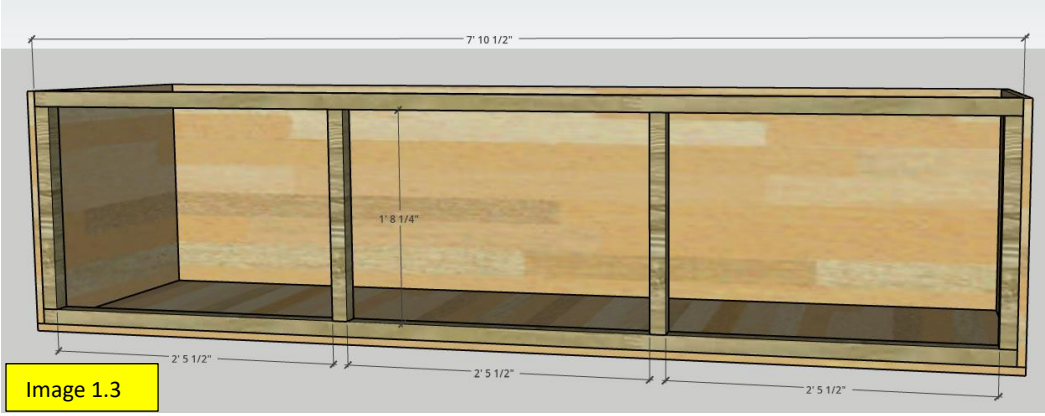


Image 1.3

3. **<u>Assembling the bottom, back and sides to the 2x2 frame:</u>**
- Assemble the front 2x2 frame first to make it easier to attach the plywood panels
    - Lay two of the 7'10 ½" boards on the ground parallel to each other
    - Attach the 20 ¼" boards vertically to the bottom board (*Image 1.3)*
        - We used pocket holes and screws plus wood glue
        - 2 boards will be flush to each end and will attach against the side panels
        - The other 2 will be approximately 29 ½" apart to create 3 equal sections
            - The exact spacing isn't critical for structure, only for equal sections to view the chicks
    - **Note**: If you don't have pocket hole jig and screws, building the entire 2x2 frame first will make attaching the plywood much simpler
- Lay the bottom sheet down and attach the 2x2 frame to the front flush with the edge
    - Ensure there is ¾" on each end to leave room for the side panels
        - If you have a 2nd person, one can hold an end panel in place while the other attaches the 7'10 ½" board
- Attach the 2 side panels to the vertical 20 ¼" boards and flush to the bottom sheet
    - Pocket holes and screws are a great way to attach the panels and 2x2s but not required

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- Attach the 20 13/16" boards to the top of the side panels and flush with the vertical boards running from front to back (*Image 1.4)*
- Take the back panel and place it vertically with the bottom side flush against the end of the bottom panel
    - The 2 ends should also be flush with the 2 side panels
- Add the 7'10 ½" board to the top of the back panel and should butt against each end of the 20 13/16" boards (*Image 1.4)*
    - *If no pocket jig and screws:* Add the 4th 7'10 ½" board to the back of the bottom board against the back panel
    - *If no pocket jig and screws:* Also add 2 more 20 13/16" boards running along the bottom between the front and back 7'10 ½" boards

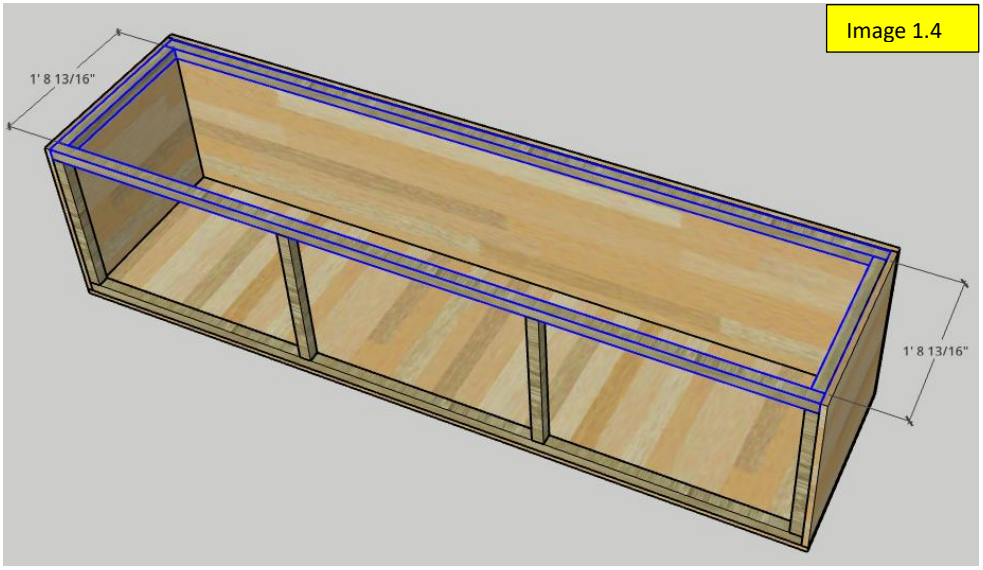


Image 1.4

- Complete attaching the remaining panel ends either using pocket holes or attaching to the 2x2
    - If using pocket screws, roughly 6"-12" apart along the long edges
    - *If no pocket jig and screws:* Also Spacing of construction screws to 2x2 should be every 16-18"

4. **<u>Assembling the bottom, back and sides to the 2x2 frame:</u>**
    - Attach the top panel with hinges against the back panel
        - Lay the top panel on top of the brooder frame to set into the correct position
    - Optional: Attach handles to each end of the brooder (recommend 2 on each end to balance the weight)

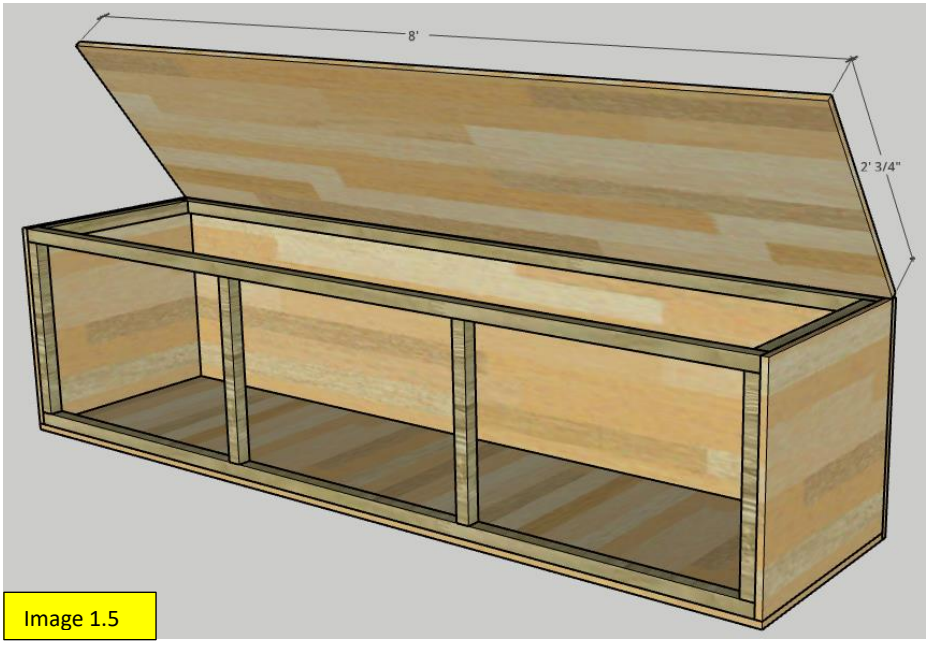


Image 1.5

5. **<u>Attach the clear polypropylene sheets and hardware cloth:</u>**
    - First cut the polypropylene sheet into 3 sections 8"x31" (should give ¾" overlap to 2x2 boards on each end)
        - Attach using washers 1" to overlap the wood and polypropylene sheet with screws OR pre drill holes for the screws
            - Recommend washers as polypropylene sheets break/crack easily
    - Last item is to attach the hardware cloth or chicken wire over the polypropylene sheets
        - Helps reduce wood shavings from falling out vs placing the polypropylene sheet over the hardware cloth

Optional: Drill a hole on the back panel 1" – 1 ½" in diameter. You'll want it to be slightly larger than electrical plugs needed for heat sources and lighting.

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Resources

If you're anything like me, you just want to know exactly what to buy for your chickens without overthinking it. These are the items I personally use and recommend for this brooder set up.

Heat Sources
Brooder Plate
Heat Panel
2-in-1 Heat plate and panel

Feeder and Waterer
Expandable Feeder and Waterer

Bedding (this can be bought at any local farm store)
Pine Shavings
Hemp Bedding

Feed
Chick Starter/Grower Feed
Chick Grit
Mealworms

Accessories
Brooder Lights (We attached these to the ceiling of the brooder for extra lighting)
Small Perches
Brooder Mirror

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