

Materials

3 sheets of $\frac{3}{4}$ " 4'x8' exterior grade plywood

7 2"x8"x 12' pressure treated lumber (cut with uphill and downhill angles) (Blue lines)

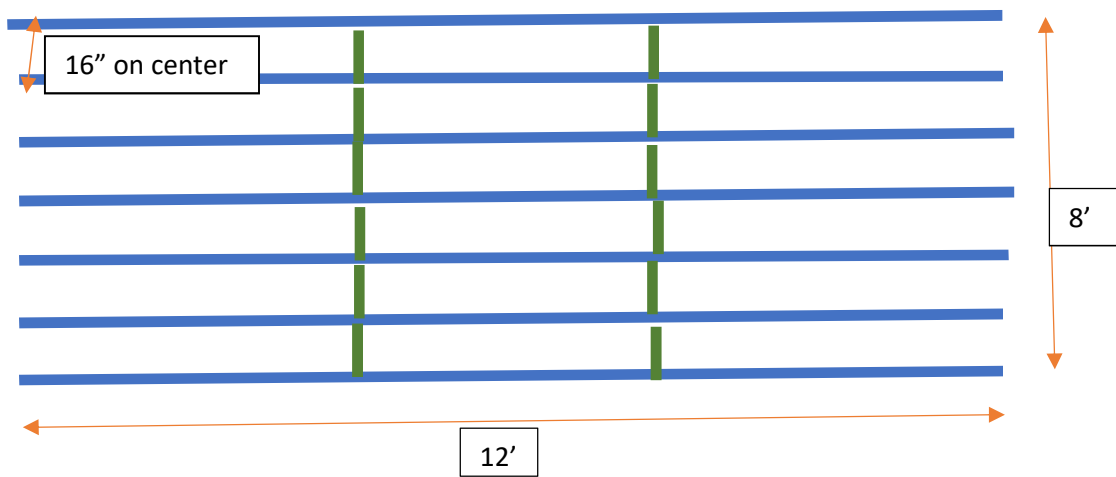
2 2"x8"x 8' pressure treated lumber (cut into 8 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ " lengths) (Green lines)

3" deck screws

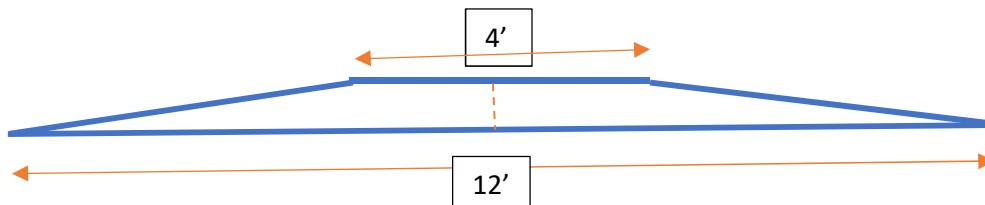
1.5" deck screws

24 joist hangers

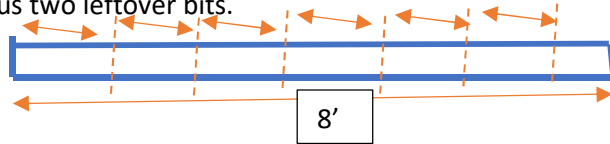
Top view:



1. Mark the center of all seven of the 2"x8" x 12's. Mark 2' on either side of center, so you have a 4' length marked directly in the middle of the board. Then from the ends of that 4' area, draw a diagonal line from one side of board to the other, making a long angle. Cut along the slope. Each board should look like this on the side view:



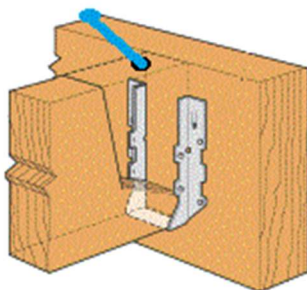
2. Mark the two 2"x8" x 8' in 14" sections. Cut on the lines. This will give you twelve 14" sections, plus two leftover bits.



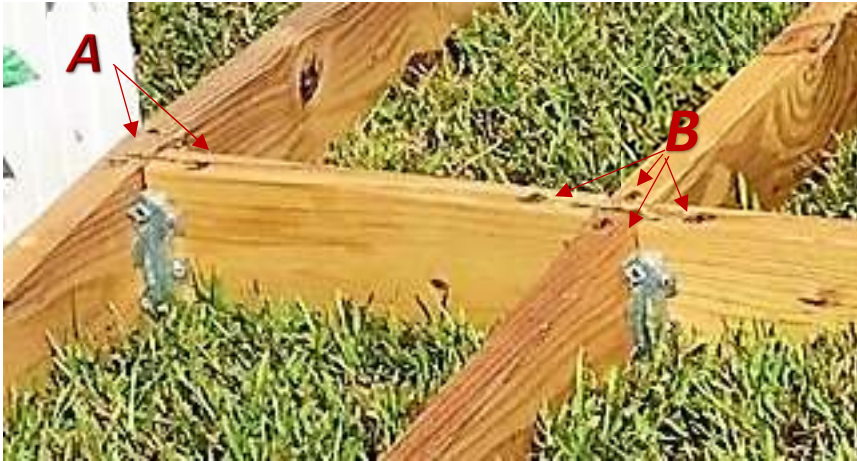
3. Lay the boards out, and attach the 14" spacers to 12' long planks with the joist hangers (attach hanger to plank with 1.5" deck screws). The frame should look like this:



4. I like to keep mine portable, so I pre-drilled holes for 3" deck screws to be set in at an angle, to hold the 14" spacers in place to the long plank, and when I'm done, I back the 3" screws out and can store the whole thing away. I leave the joist hangers in place, so never need to measure again. Blue line shows how long screw is set in at angle to anchor cross piece.



- I also used a Sharpie to mark the exact cross piece location so I always put it together the same. I write the letter "A" on the long piece and on the short cross piece at the end where it touches the long piece. Then I write the letter "B" on the other end of the short piece, and on the next long piece, where they touch. And so on, across the frame. Letters are a little fuzzy, but you should be able to see the "A"s and "B"s here:



- Once frame is screwed together, I lay the three sheets of plywood down, and put a screw in at corners and middle, with 1.5" deck screws. The 4'x8' sheets do not need to be cut – they should fit exactly onto the frame as is. And because they are pretty heavy, I don't worry to screw them down with more than 6-8 screws per sheet.



- A long bar-clamp is handy to hold the long planks together tightly when screwing in the cross pieces. I've also used a nylon ratchet/tie-down strap, and looped cross-wise around several of the long planks, tightening up until the screws go in.



If you have specific questions, feel free to email me!

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