

Osprey Nest Platform

Instructions Courtesy of Butch Lombardi

Images and examples are from a nest platform raised on March 30, 2017.

Overview

A set of photos can be viewed here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBHo3u>

Materials

1. Cement: probably 3-400 lbs. It comes in 40 lb. bags. those are the easiest to handle.
2. 2 - 8 ft. 6" x 6" pressure treated post. One of these will be the footing and the other will be cut up and used as spacers (stiffeners) between the 2x6's
3. 2 - 16 ft. 2" x 6" pressure treated boards. The platform will be a little higher than 16 ft. because of where it attaches to the support post.
4. 1 - 8 ft. 2" x 6" pressure treated board. This will be used for the base of the platform.
5. 4 - 8 ft. 2" x 4" pressure treated boards. I'll use these to build the platform.
6. Box of #9, 3" decking screws.
7. 2 - 1/2" diameter 9" or 10" long stainless bolts, with 2 washers and 2 nuts.
8. 2 - 3/8" diameter stainless lag screws, 10" long.

Cutting Schedule

1. 6" x 6" x 8': Do not cut (Foundation post)
2. 6" x 6" x 8': 24" + 12" + 12" + 12" + 12" (Spacers)
3. 2" x 6" x 16': do not cut
4. 2" x 6" x 16': do not cut
5. 2" x 6" x 8': 54" + 4 triangles of 6" x 6" (platform base + corner bracings)
6. 2" x 4" x 8': 40" + 37" + 18"* (platform edges and diagonal braces)
7. 2" x 4" x 8': 40" + 37" + 18"* (platform edges and diagonal braces)
8. 2" x 4" x 8': 40" + 40" + 15" (platform base and perch post)
9. 2" x 4" x 8': 23"* + 23"* + 6" (diagonal braces and perch post brace)

* these lengths have 45 degree ends.

Foundation

Excavate a hole for the concrete foundation. [FHF 2017-03-20]



The 6" x 6" post will be set vertically into the wet concrete about 2' to 2'-6".

FHF projects 6' above the ground.

The Platform

The platform is 40" square, with a perch for the osprey.

The perch must not have sharp edges, as this can hurt the osprey feet and give them "bumblefoot", an inflammatory condition. Use a pressure treated deck baluster.

Construct the platform as indicated in the 2 drawings below.

The platform and perch can be built off-site.

Use the 3" deck screws for all connections between the timbers. The platform will be attached to the post before the post is pulled upright. The attachment at top of post is by 2 stainless steel rag bolts, braced by a 2" x 4" on each of 4 sides under the platform.

Construction

The post support consists of 2 x 2" x 6" boards connected through 6" x 6" spacers.

The 2 x 2" x 6" boards will be placed horizontally and connected to the 6" x 6" base post using a ½" diameter 10" bolt, the platform will be connected to the post, then the 6" x 6" spacer pieces will be fixed between the 2" x 6" boards. Then the post will be swung into the vertical position and the second 10" long bolt inserted.

Place the 2 x 2" x 6" 16' long boards each side of the 6" x 6" base post, and clamp or screw temporarily to foundation post at the location of the top bolt.

Drill a 9/16" hole through the 2" x 6" and 6" x 6", insert the bolt.

Now fix the 24" long 6" x 6" top spacer. Fix using the 3" deck screws. Add the other 3 spacers, one will be near the base post, and the other 2 evenly spaced.

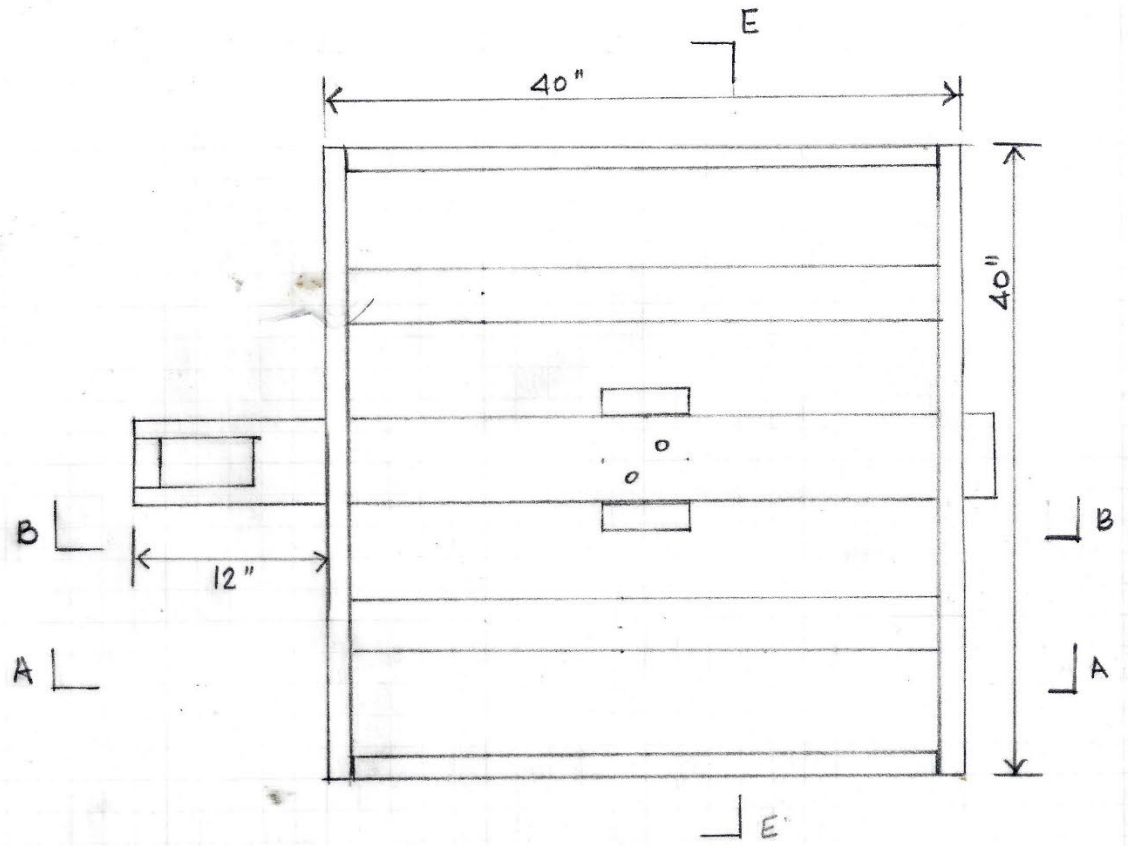
While the post is still horizontal, fix the platform to the top of the post using the 2 x 10" diameter stainless rag screws. Add the 4 x 2" x 4" diagonal bracing pieces.

Raise the post to the vertical

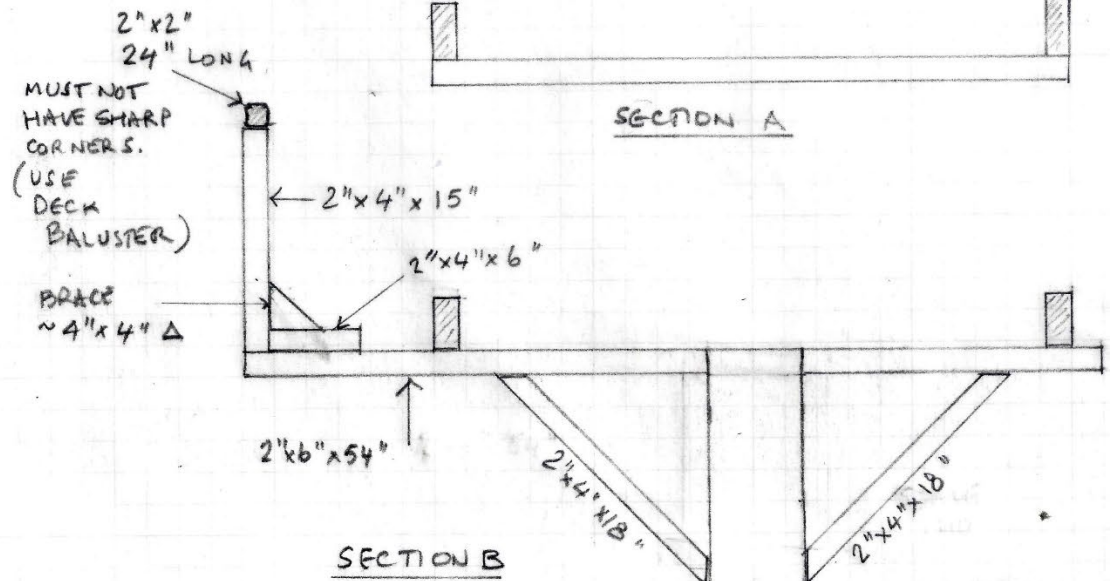
You will need 2 fairly long ropes, one on each side. With a couple of people pulling, lift the platform end as high as you can until the rope pulls it the rest of the way to vertical. The other rope will prevent the post falling over on the other side.

When the post is vertical, drill the 9/16" dia hole for the second ½" diameter galvanized 10" bolt. It is advisable to clamp the post in position (or temporarily screw in position) before drilling.





SECTION A

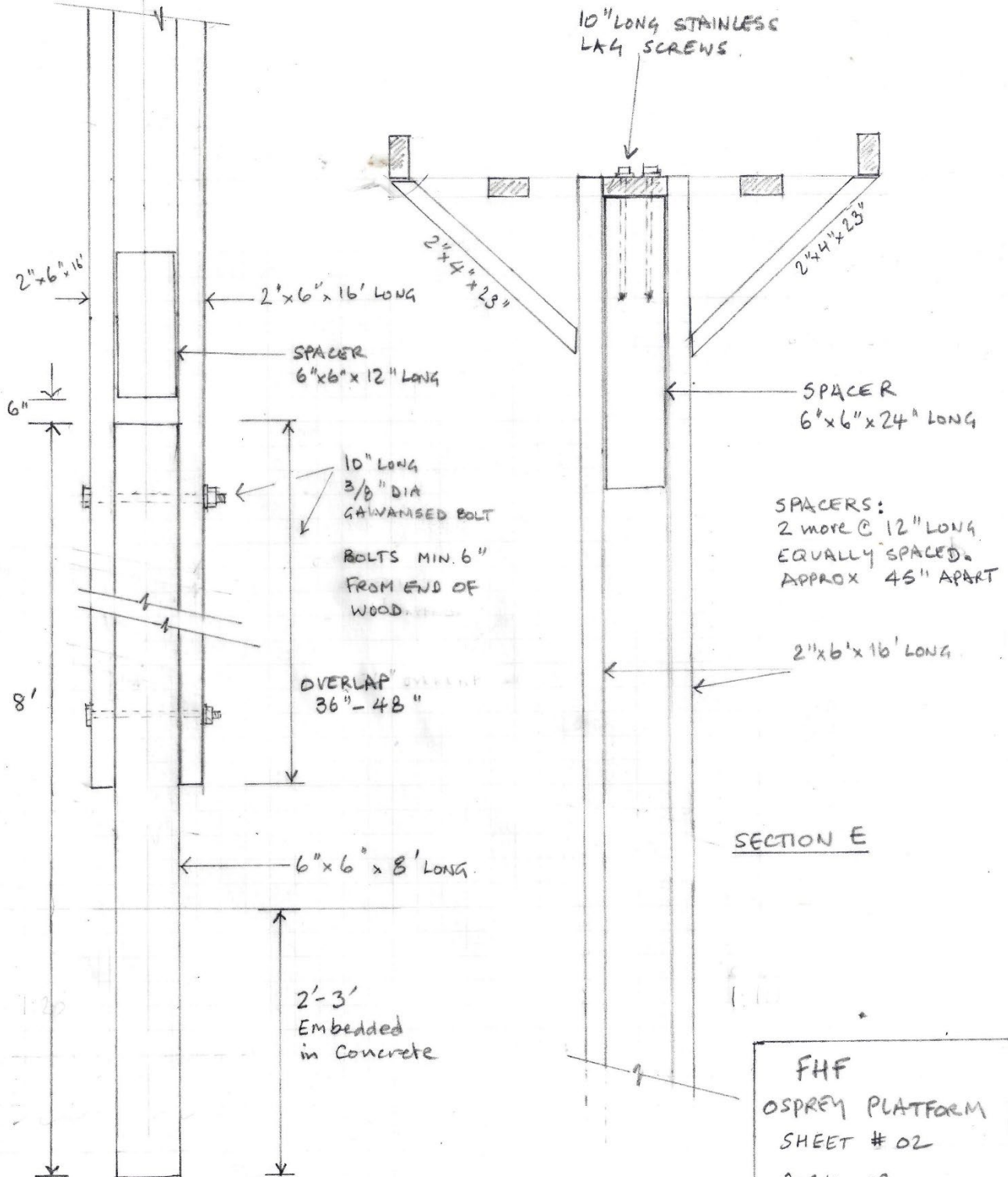


SECTION B

SCALE 1:10

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SECTION E (continued)





Drilling for the first $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter bolt.



The platform attached to the post



The bracing under the platform.



A different location, similar construction, before raising the platform.