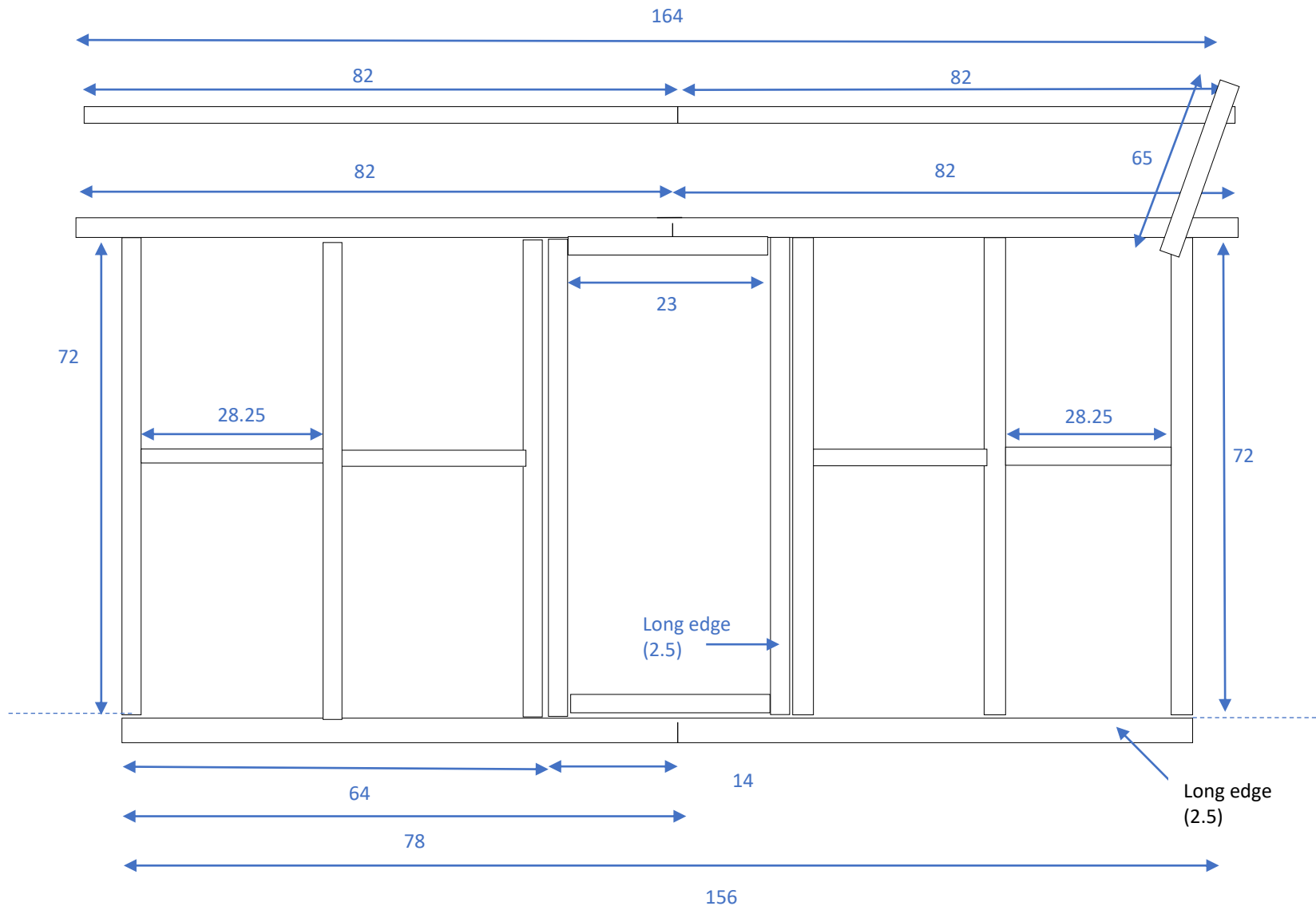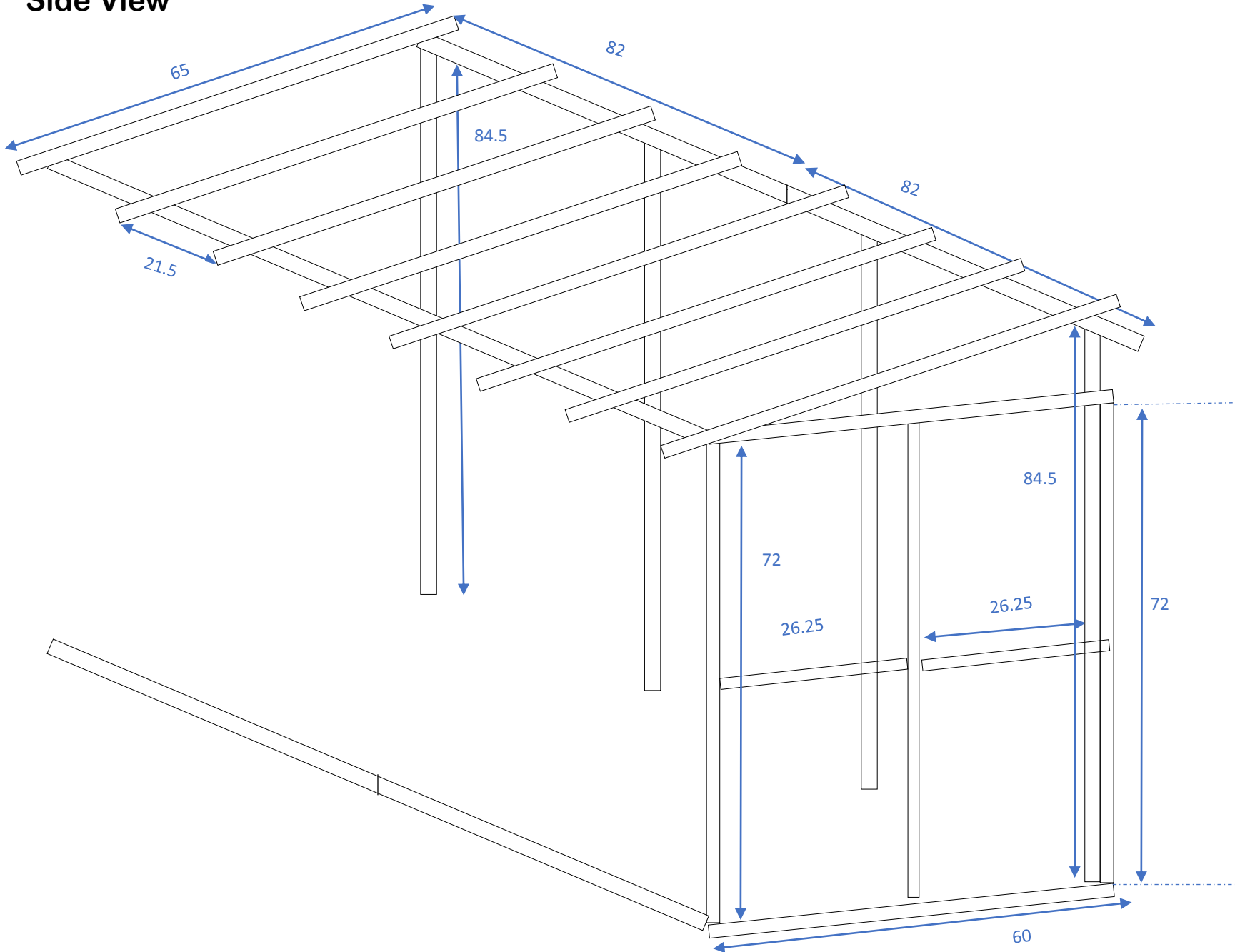# Chicken Run

- I used 2X3 studs (They actually measure 1.5"X2.5") for the body of the run. I know some may worry it's not strong enough or hard enough, but I had another run built of these studs for seven years, and it was completely solid when I tore it down to build a new one.

- I used a kreg jig to make pocket holes to connect the 90° angle pieces.

- This run is essentially four large pieces (two front and two sides) that you put together. Once you get the hang of using the kreg jig, it goes really fast. I assembled all four sections in about 3-4 hours.

- Stain all four large pieces before assembling (I found it easier). Beware: staining takes forever. I hated this step.   But it's necessary to protect it from the weather.

- The four long supports in the back can be drilled into a fence. The back of the run is the fence, so no wire needed in the back.

- I stapled ½" wire mesh on the bottom half and steel welded wire with larger holes (2" X 4") on the top. I decided to cover the run entirely with wire, leaving no holes for potential predators.

- I placed bricks in the ground for the run to be set on.

Front View

164

82   82

82   82

65

23

72

28.25   28.25

72

Long edge
(2.5)

Long edge
(2.5)

64   14

78

156

Tip: Wait until after attaching the vertical pieces before cutting out the 28.25 horizontal
pieces. Measure the space between them and then cut the pieces. The wood is not quite 2.5" long, so there is some
variability.

Side View

65

82

84.5

82

21.5

84.5

72

72

26.25

26.25

60

Roof

Attach the roof studs using hurricane ties. (I know the long ones are supposed to be installed vertically, but they fit best horizontally. And well, it works).

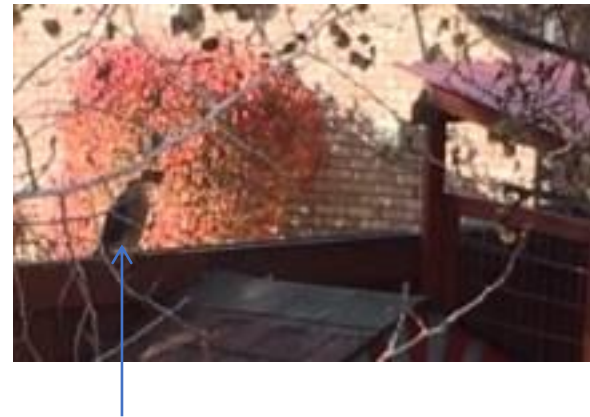Used for the back

Used for the front

Using 1X2 furring strips, I built a lattice on the 65" roof studs. (The picture is of the underside of the coop roof. You can see I wasn't too concerned with square angles for this)

Cut the roofing. Cut a 65" piece to match the roof stud, then use the leftover for the next section. Make sure to add a few inches of overlap when attaching a new section. I cut the roofing panels with tin snips. Worked fine!
I attached the roof panel with regular screws to the lattice work. Make sure the roof ridges run vertically so the rain will run down.

Wire

Staple on wire mesh. ½" on lower 3 ft, larger holes on top. I covered every open space with wire…just to be conservative about guarding against predators.
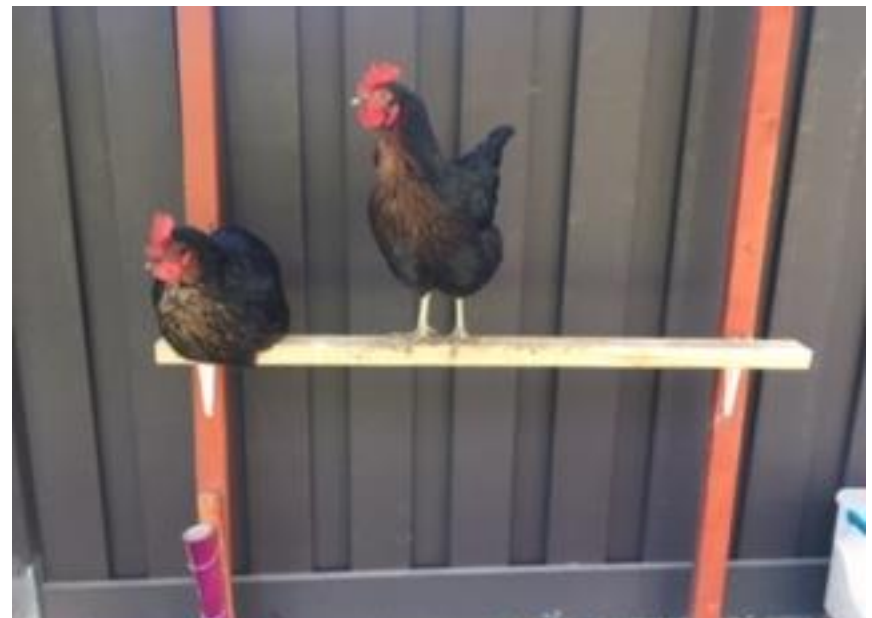

Hawk that often came to visit the chickens. I was glad I put wire all the way up!

Add-ons

I find it really handy to keep my tools where is use them. So I added a couple of hooks to hang the tools I use regularly out there.

If you do nothing else, add a roosting bar in the run. The chickens love to roost on it during the day. Just a couple of brackets and an extra piece of wood becomes their favorite piece of furniture!

Estimated Cost

Wood:

30 2 X 3 studs @ $2.07 =	$57.96
8 1 X 2 furring strips @ $1.18 =	$9.44
Mesh fence wire ½" holes X 3 ft X 25 ft:	$45
(may need an additional 10 ft @$12.97)	
Fencer wire 2 X 4 holes 3 ft X 50 ft:	$30
Hurricane ties: 8@$.48=$3.84, 8@$.86= $6.88 total:	$10.72
Roofing: 5 26"X8 ft sections@$18=	$90
Stain:	$10
Hardware (screws, staples, hinges, door handle) =	$15
Bricks for base: 35@$.25 (got a deal at Lowes)	$8.75
Total:	**$281.01**

*This is a rough estimate.

Link for polycarbonate roofing panel:

https://www.homedepot.com/p/Suntop-26-in-x-8-ft-Foamed-Polycarbonate-Roofing-Panel-in-Sedona-Brick-108971/100022182

Links for Hurricane ties:

https://www.homedepot.com/p/Simpson-Strong-Tie-H1-18-Gauge-Galvanized-Hurricane-Tie-H1/100375256

https://www.homedepot.com/p/18-GaugeHurricane-Tie-H2-5A/203302239