

## Raised Bed Plans:

The goal in the design of this raised bed was to make it so that the user could sit on the edge of the bed while gardening. This was achieved by making the bed 18 inches high and having a 5 ½ inch wide rim around the outside that the user could sit on. The overall width of the bed was kept to 4 feet so that the user would not have to reach more than 2 feet from either side to reach the middle of the bed. The construction of the bed was kept relatively simple and the only materials required are treated 2x6 boards and 3 inch deck screws. The materials used along with an approximate cost are shown in table 1.

*Table 1: Materials Used*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
8-foot treated 2x6 boards	9	\$8
12-foot treated 2x6 boards	2	\$12
3-inch deck screws	2 – 3 lbs.	\$11
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$129</b>

The first step of the project is to cut out all the parts. The different parts are shown in figure 1. The length dimensions as well as quantity for each part are shown in table 2. I used a miter saw with a stop to cut the side parts. I did all the long parts at once and then readjusted the stop and did all the short ones. Even though I used 8-foot boards for the sides I cut a small amount from each end to make sure the ends were square. Having square ends makes it easier to keep the box square for assembly. The rim parts have mitered ends. The dimensions for these are shown in figures 2 and 3. When I made this, I wanted to have a good fit on the miter for the rim, so I cut the long rim pieces oversize and then trimmed them to an exact fit.

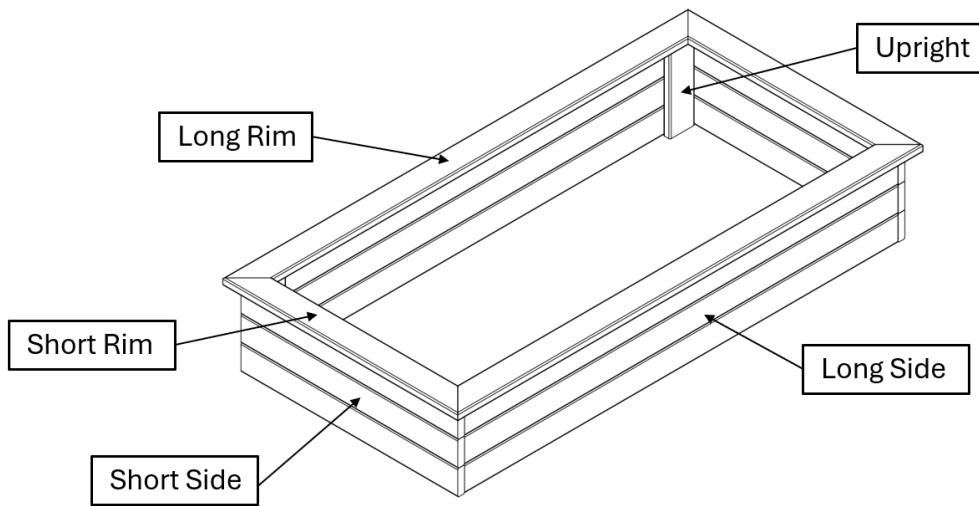


Figure 1: Raised Bed Components

Table 2: Parts Used

Component	Quantity	Length (inches)
Short Side	6	48
Long Side	6	96
Upright	4	16.5
Long Rim	2	103
Short Rim	2	52

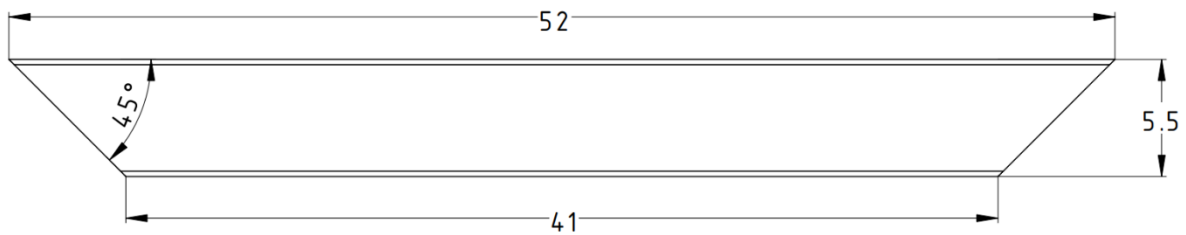
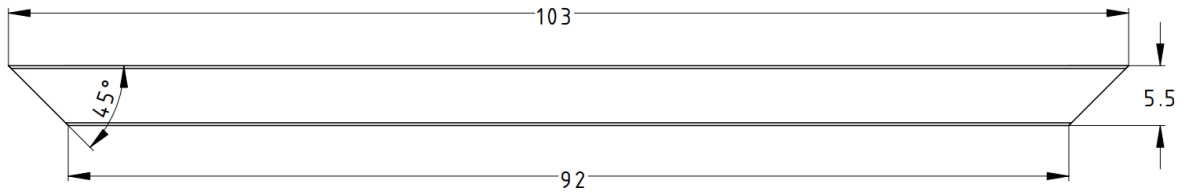


Figure 2: Short Rim Dimensions



*Figure 3: Long Rim Detail*

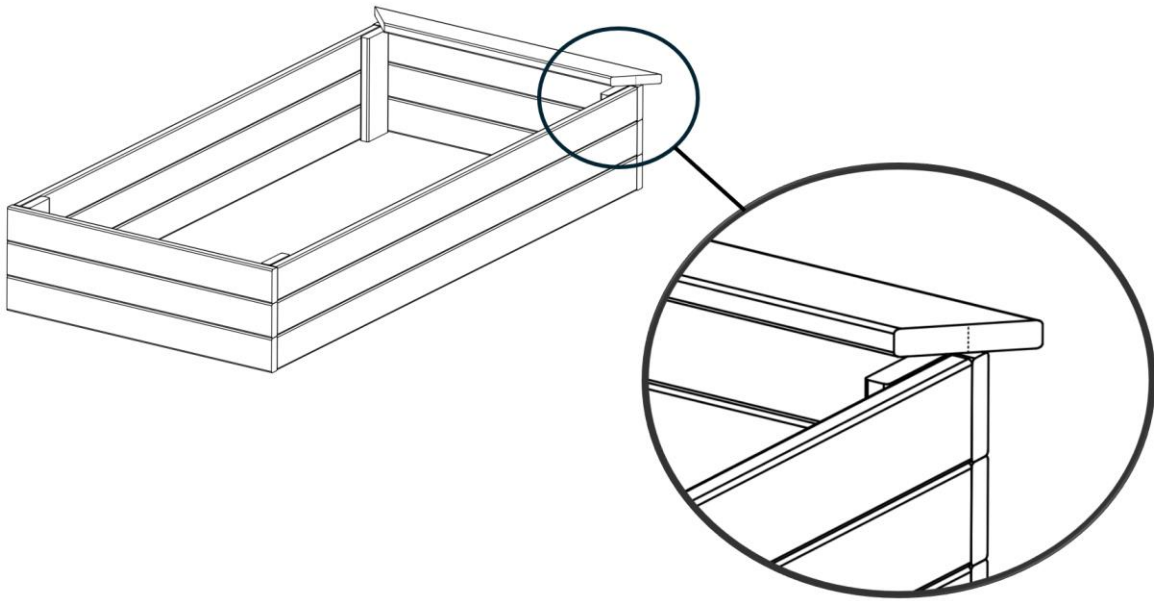
After the parts are cut out it is time to start assembling. To keep the bed straight and square it is helpful to start the assembly on a hard surface. I attached the bottom row of the sides to the upright pieces and then moved that to the final location before finishing it. I attached the short side to the long side at each corner and then added the upright. Since I had cut the ends of each board square this kept the whole assembly square. I then added in the uprights. The bed at this stage is shown in figure 4. The bed is much lighter at this stage, so it is a good idea to move it to the final location before continuing.



*Figure 4: Raised Bed Assembly*

After the bed is moved to the final location the rest of the side boards are attached. The boards are screwed to each other and to the uprights. After all the side boards are added it is time to install the rim. The rim boards are centered on the sides. To install it properly lined up I started with the short rim. I marked the center on each end and the center on the top of the side at the corner. I then lined up the center marks and screwed down the rim. Figure 5 shows the rim piece with center mark. The other end is installed the same way.

After installing the short rims, the long rims can be installed. The long rims may need to be trimmed down slightly if all the parts were not cut perfectly or the bed assembled perfectly. The long rim pieces are installed so that the miter lines up with the short end pieces. The finished bed is shown in figure 6. Once the construction is completed the bed can be filled with the desired material.



*Figure 5: Rim Install Detail*



*Figure 6: Finished Raised Bed*