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Bill Krier  
Editor in Chief, WOOD magazine

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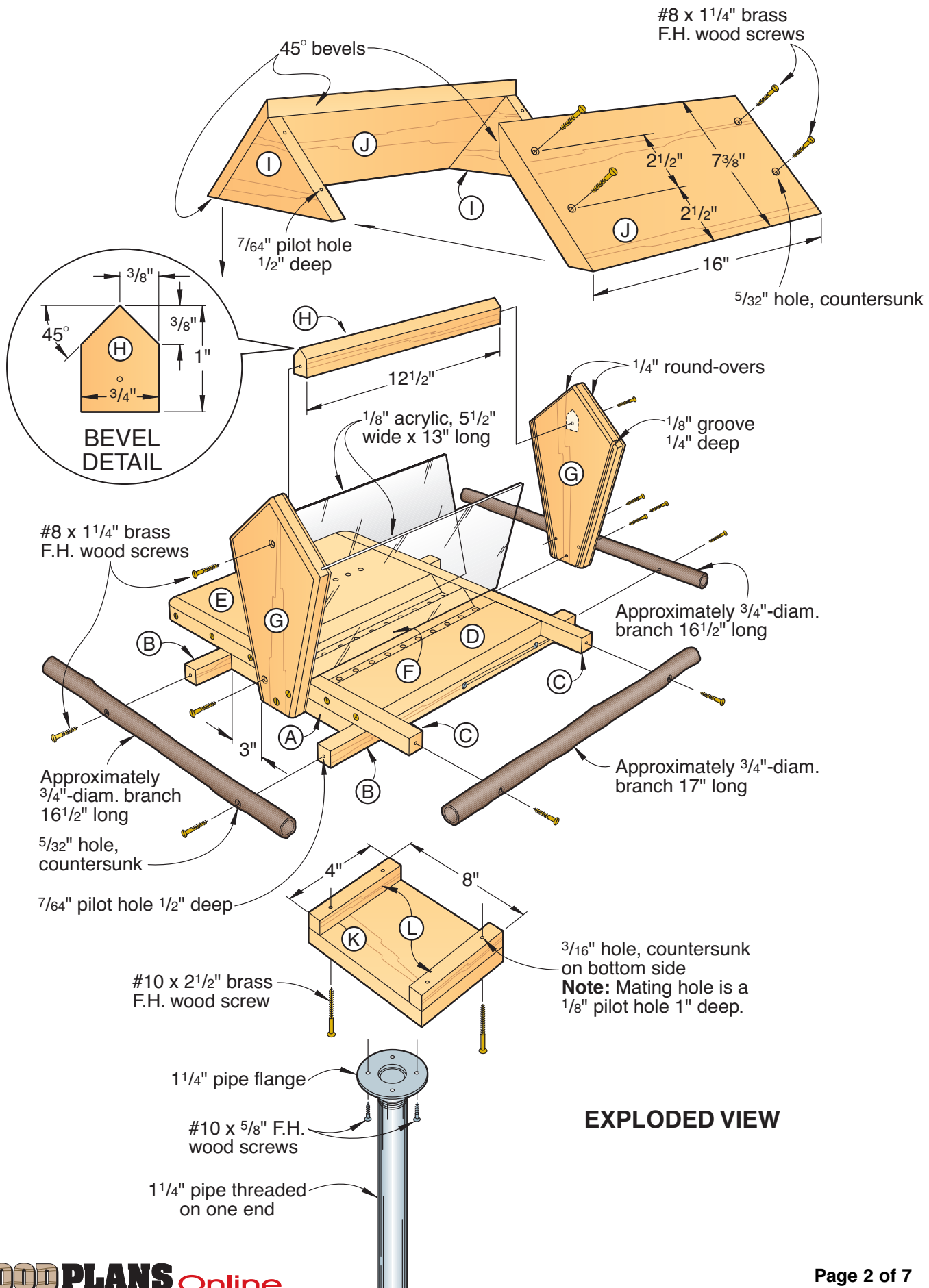
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# snack shop

We have offered bird feeders before, but none quite like this one, designed by Pat Schlarbaum, songbird specialist with Iowa's Department of Natural Resources. Read on to learn what makes this feeder special for your backyard feathered friends.





**EXPLODED VIEW**

## materials list

base	FINISHED SIZE			Matl.	Qty.
	T	W	L		
A feeder base	3/4"	8"	12 1/2"	C	1
B perch strips	3/4"	3/4"	16 1/2"	C	2
<b>platform</b>					
C ends	3/4"	3/4"	16 1/2"	C	2
D bottom piece	3/4"	3 1/4"	11"	C	1
E bottom piece	3/4"	8"	11"	C	1
F bottom piece	3/4"	1 1/2"	11"	C	1
<b>hopper and roof</b>					
G hopper ends	3/4"	5 1/2"	9 7/8"	C	2
H cross member	3/4"	1"	12 1/2"	C	1
I roof ends	3/4"	4 1/8"	8 1/4"	C	2
J roof tops	3/4"	7 3/8"	16"	C	2
<b>pipe flange bracket</b>					
K base	3/4"	4"	8"	C	1
L supports	3/4"	3/4"	4"	C	2

**Material Key:** C—cedar.

**Supplies:** #8x1 1/4" brass flathead wood screws, #18x1/2" nails (4), #10x5/8" flathead wood screws (4), #10x2 1/2" brass flathead wood screws (4), 4 1/4x12" metal screen, 1 1/4" pipe threaded on one end, 1 1/4" pipe flange, 1/8x5 1/2x13" acrylic (2).

## All feeders are not created equal

This bird feeder design appeals to a variety of birds and their feeding habits. In designing it, Pat Schlarbaum wanted to provide a healthy, durable structure that both people and birds could enjoy for a lifetime.

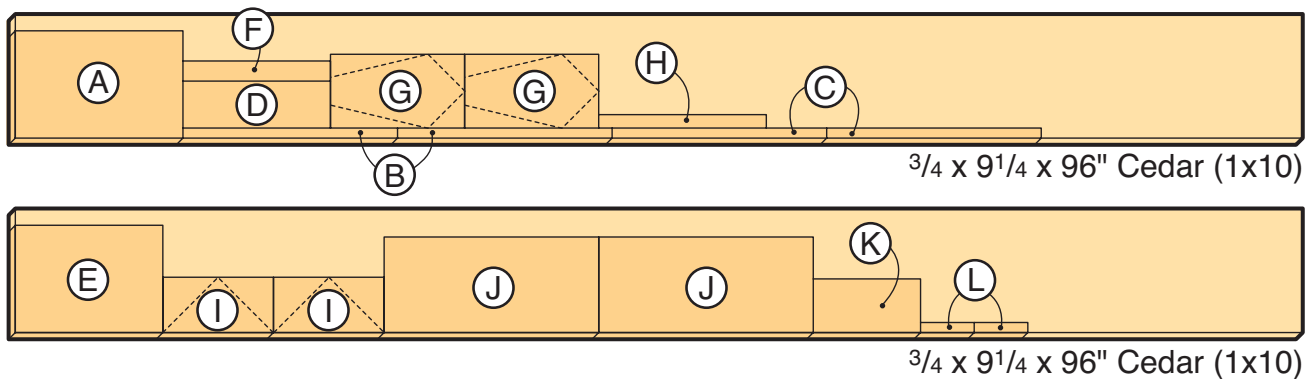
When songbirds feed from a seed supply that's damp and sometimes infested with aspergillosis (a fungal disease), it can kill them. For this reason, Pat designed a feeder that specifically keeps seed dry and minimizes the threat of this dangerous disease.

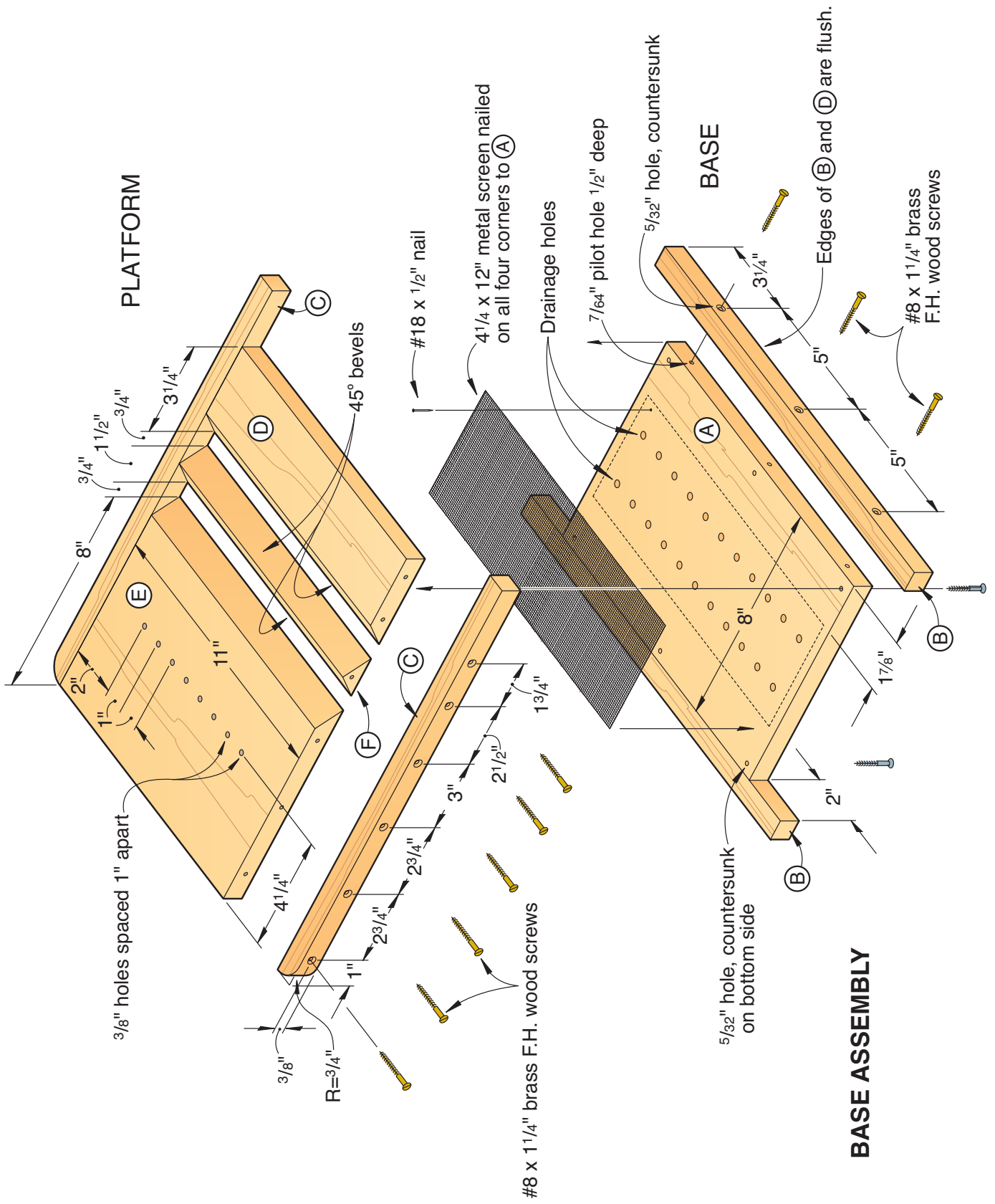
The proportions of the feeder include an overhang that aids in keeping the feeding area dry. The recessed trough controls seed waste. An attached screen underneath allows for aeration. The cedar feeder is designed to be large enough to let birds of different species, particularly territorial ones like the nuthatch, feed at the same time without bothering one another.

To hold seed between their toes while eating, such songbirds as chickadees and tufted titmice require perches or a branch. To accommodate both types of birds, Pat used tree branches for perches on his feeders. Oil (black) sunflower seeds are preferred by the most desirable species. They're widely available at home centers, hardware stores, and garden shops.

**Note:** For the construction of this feeder, we purchased 1x10" cedar boards at a local home center. Then, we selected areas between the splits and knots for the pieces. Our stock came 7/8" thick and planed on one side. We planed the rough opposite side for a 3/4" finished thickness.

## cutting diagram





**PLATFORM**

**BASE**

**BASE ASSEMBLY**

3/8" holes spaced 1" apart

4 1/4 x 12" metal screen nailed on all four corners to (A)

#8 x 1 1/4" brass F.H. wood screws

5/32" hole, countersunk on bottom side

#8 x 1 1/4" brass F.H. wood screws

Edges of (B) and (D) are flush.



### Start with the base

**1** Cut the feeder base (A) to size. Lay out and mark the centerpoints for the 1/2" drain holes, where dimensioned on the Parts View drawing below. Drill the holes.

**2** Cut the two perch strips (B) to size. Lay out, and then drill and countersink three mounting holes in each strip where located on the Base Assembly drawing.

*Note: So it can stand up to the elements, construct your feeder using Titebond II water-resistant glue, slow-set epoxy, or resorcinol.*

**3** Glue and screw the perch strips (B) to the feeder base (A).

**4** Cut a piece of metal screen to 4 1/4 x 12". Use masking tape or duct tape to hold the

screen in position, where shown on the Base Assembly drawing. Then, secure the screen with #18 x 1/2" nails. Remove the tape.

### Now set the table with a feeding platform

**1** Cut the platform ends (C) to size. Then, cut the platform pieces (D, E, F) to size, bevel-ripping the edges, where shown on the Base Assembly drawing. For safety, we started with a 5"-wide piece of stock, and bevel-ripped part F from one edge.

**2** Dry-clip the pieces together in the configuration shown on the drawing. Mark the centerpoints, and drill and countersink mounting holes through the C parts and into the ends of D, E, and F where shown.

**3** Glue and screw the platform (C, D, E, F) together. Mark the radii, and cut or sand the two rounded corners of the platform to shape, where shown on the Base Assembly drawing.

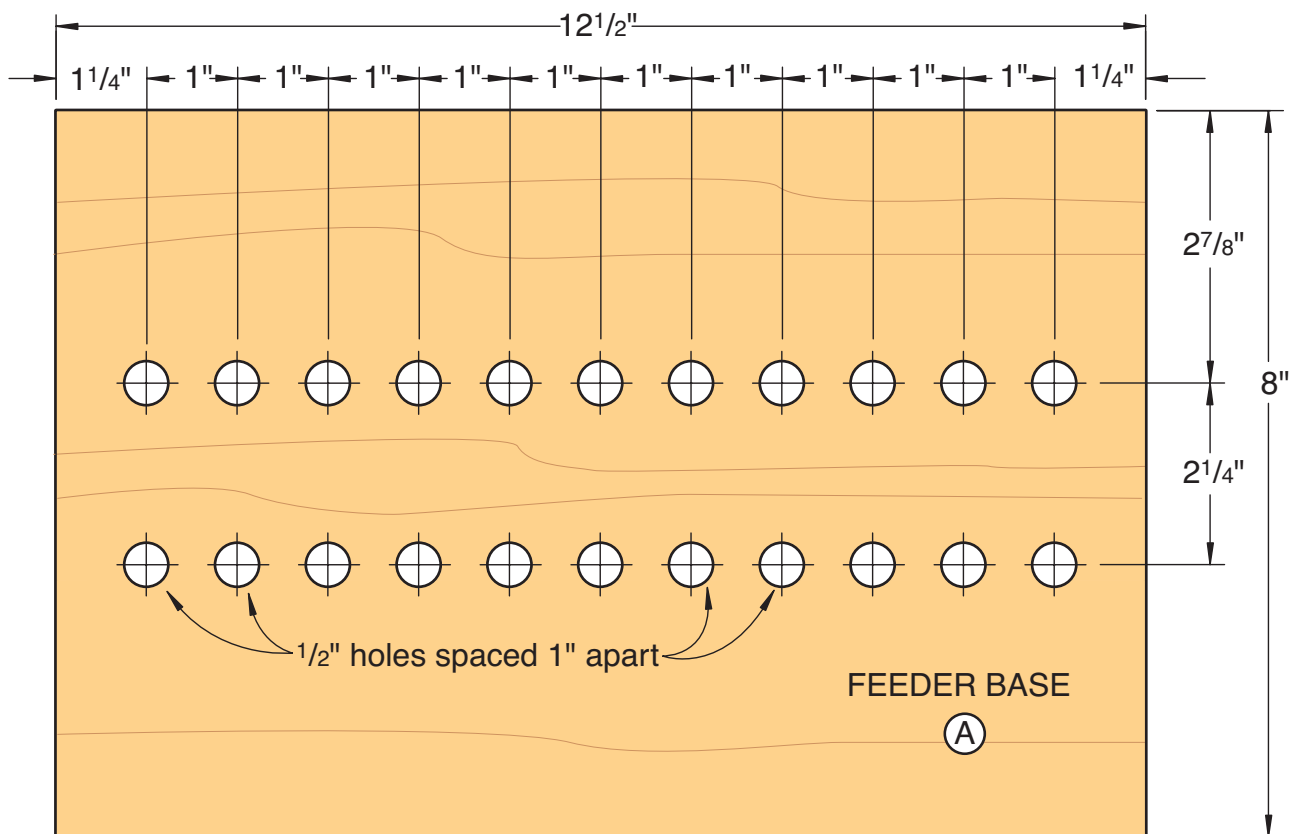
**4** Drill mounting holes, and then glue and screw the platform to the base, where shown on the Exploded View and Base Assembly drawings.

### Next, add the hopper and roof assemblies

**1** Using the dimensions on the Parts View drawing, lay out the hopper ends (G), drill the countersunk mounting holes and cut these pieces to shape.

**2** Cut or rout a 1/8" groove 1/4" deep 3/8" in from the edges, where shown on the Parts View drawing on page 6.

## PARTS VIEW



**3** Cut the cross member (H) to size, bevel-ripping the top edges. (See the Bevel detail on the Exploded View drawing.)

**4** Cut the roof pieces (I, J) to size. (See the Parts View and Exploded View drawings for reference.)

**5** Glue and screw the hopper ends (G) to the base and platform assembly. Secure the cross member (H) between the end pieces.

**6** Assemble the roof (I, J), as shown in the Exploded View drawing.

**7** Cut the pipe flange bracket pieces (K, L). Drill the holes, and glue and screw them to the bottom of the base, being careful not to cover the drainage holes drilled earlier.

**8** Have two pieces of  $\frac{1}{8}$ " clear acrylic cut to fit the hopper grooves. Secure a pipe flange to the bottom of the bracket (K, L).

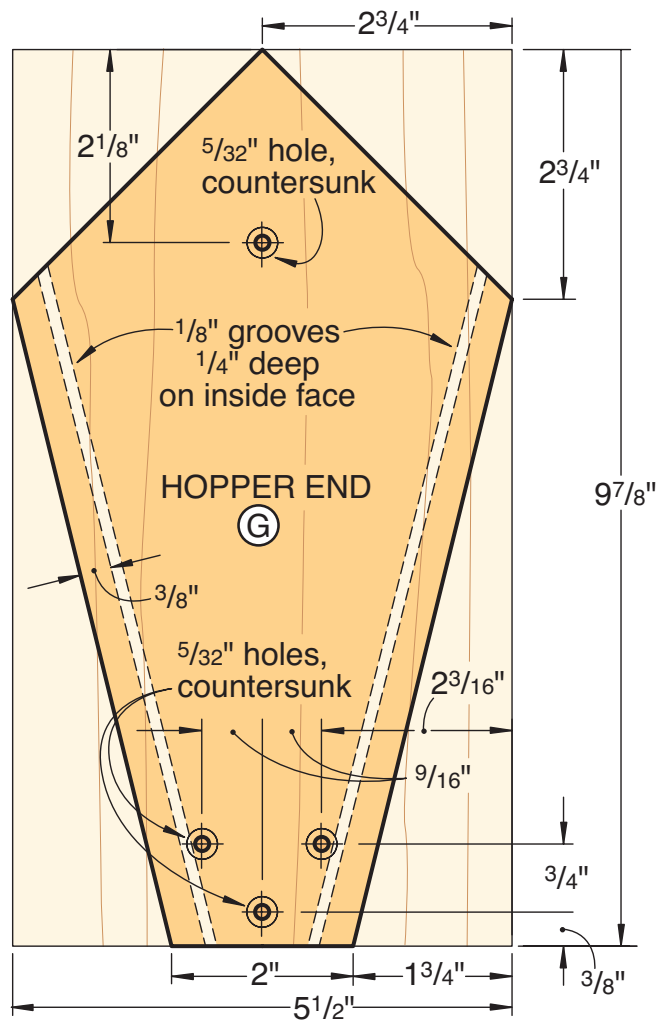
### Natural perches are for the birds

**1** Cut or prune straight branches about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter to the lengths shown on the Exploded View drawing. Seal the ends of the branches to prevent cracking.

**2** Drill the mounting holes through the branches and secure them to the perch strips (B) and platform ends (C), where shown on the Exploded View drawing. Mount the branches so they come in contact where they cross.

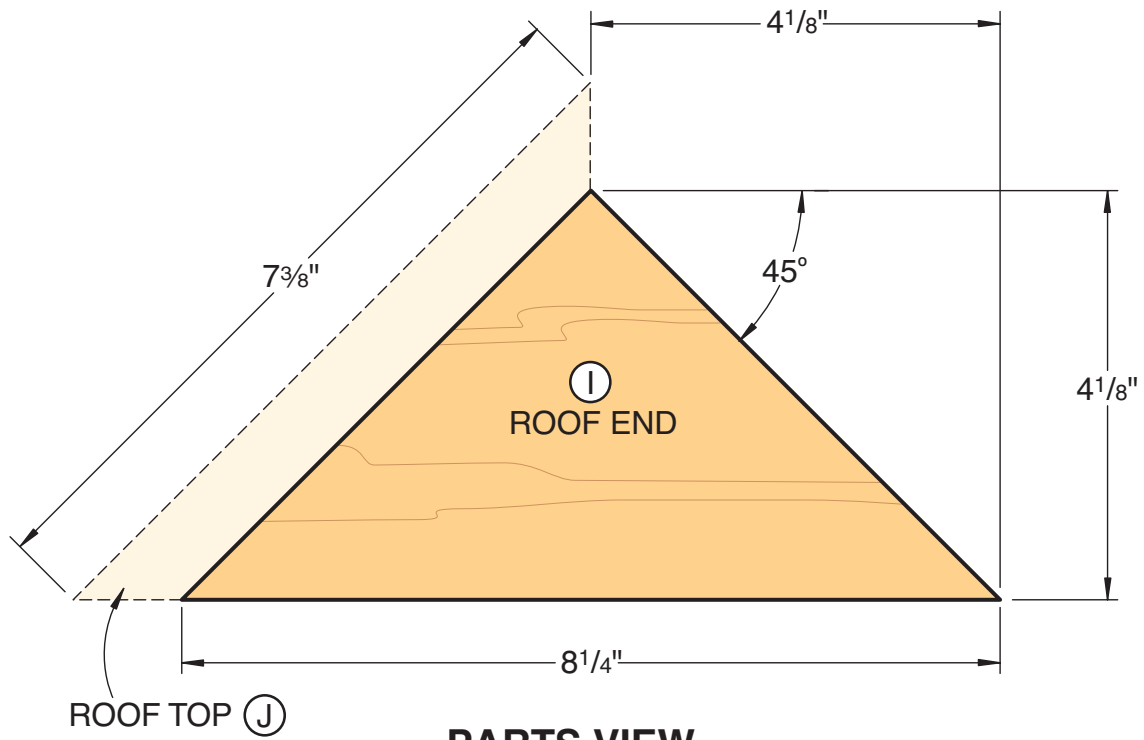
**3** Mount the feeder to  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " pipe that has the top end threaded to mate with the flange. If possible, position your feeder near bushes or evergreens for shelter and in an area protected from strong winds. Lift the roof assembly off the feeder, fill with bird feed, and watch the birds gather for dinner. 🐦

### PARTS VIEW



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Illustrations: **Kim Downing; Lorna Johnson**  
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**PARTS VIEW**



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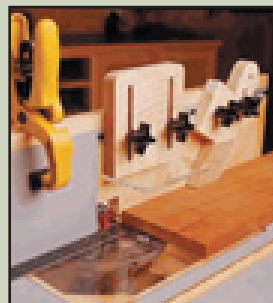


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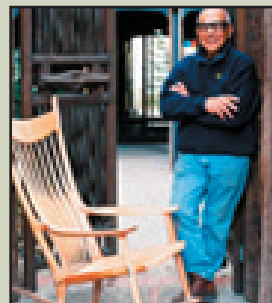
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